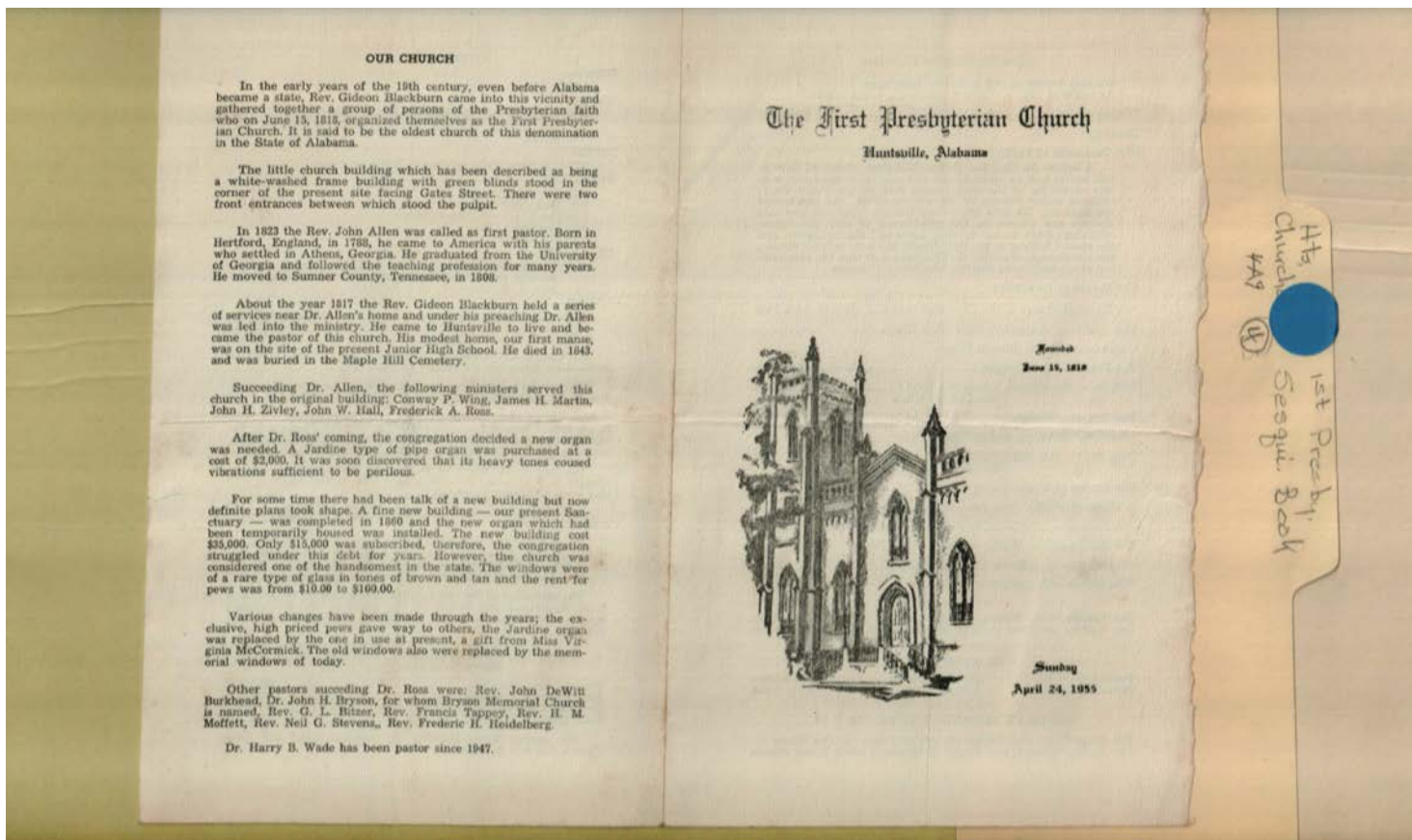


**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4
Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book**

Image 1 r04a09-04-000-0064 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Allen, John, Rev.	Burkhead, John	McCormick, Virginia,	Tappey, Francis, Rev.
Bitzer, G. L., Rev.	DeWitt, Rev.	Miss	The First Presbyterian
Blackburn, Gideon,	Hall, John W.	Moffett, H. M., Rev.	Church
Rev.	Heidelberg, Frederic	Ross, Frederick A.	Wade, Harry B., Dr.
Bryson, John H., Dr.	H., Rev.	Stevens, Neill G.,	Wing, Conway P.
	Martin, James H.	Rev.	Zivley, John H.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

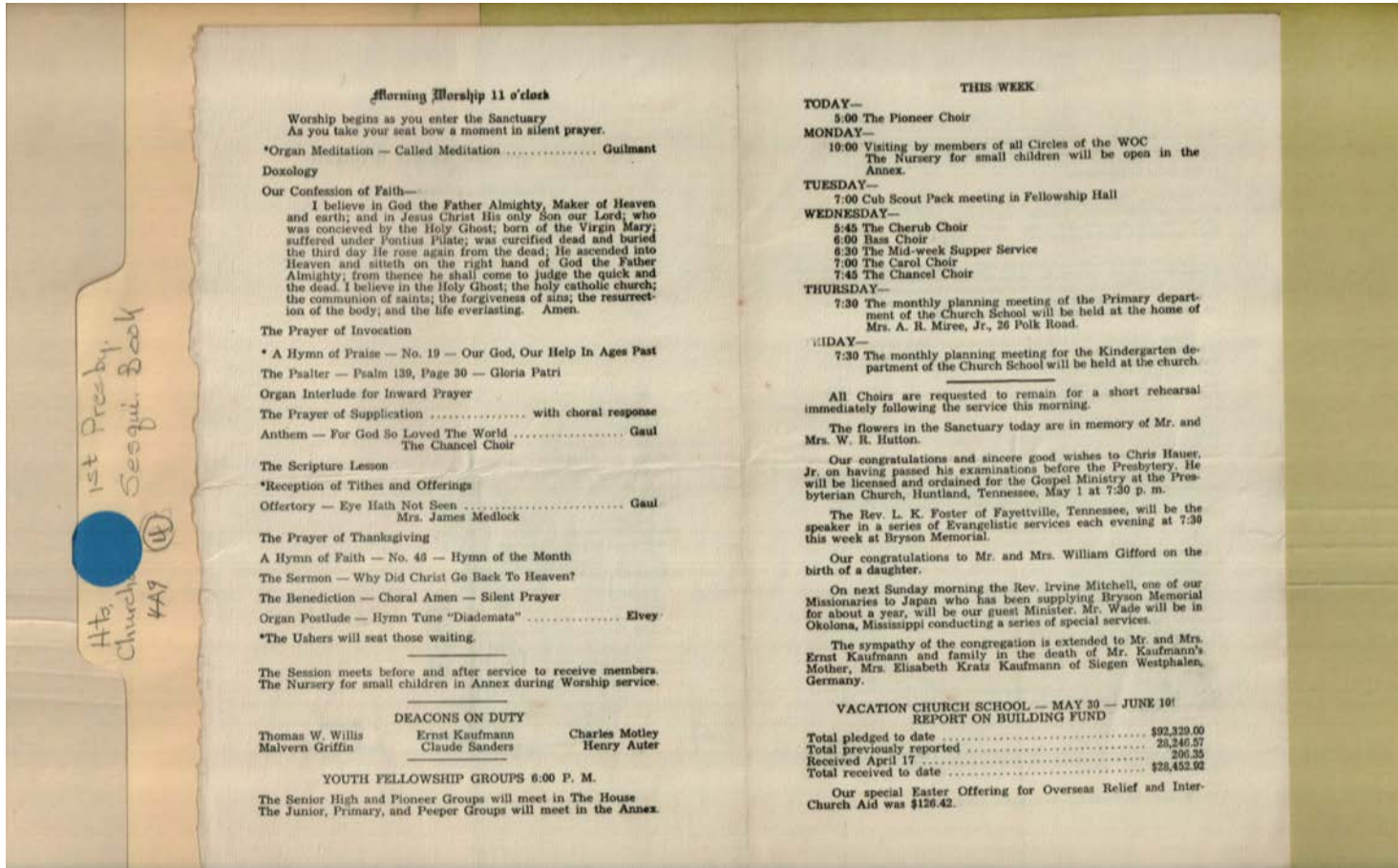
bulletin history

Dates:

April 24, 1955 June 15, 1818

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 2 r04a09-04-000-0065 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Auter, Henry
 Foster, L. K., Rev.
 Gifford, William
 Griffin, Malvern

Hauer, Chris, Jr.
 Hutton, W. R.
 Kaufmann, Elizabeth
 Kratz

Kaufmann, Ernst
 Medlock, James, Mrs.
 Miree, A. R., Jr., Mrs.
 Mitchell, Irvine, Rev.

Motley, Charles
 Sanders, Claude
 Wade, Harry B., Dr.
 Willis, Thomas W.

Places:

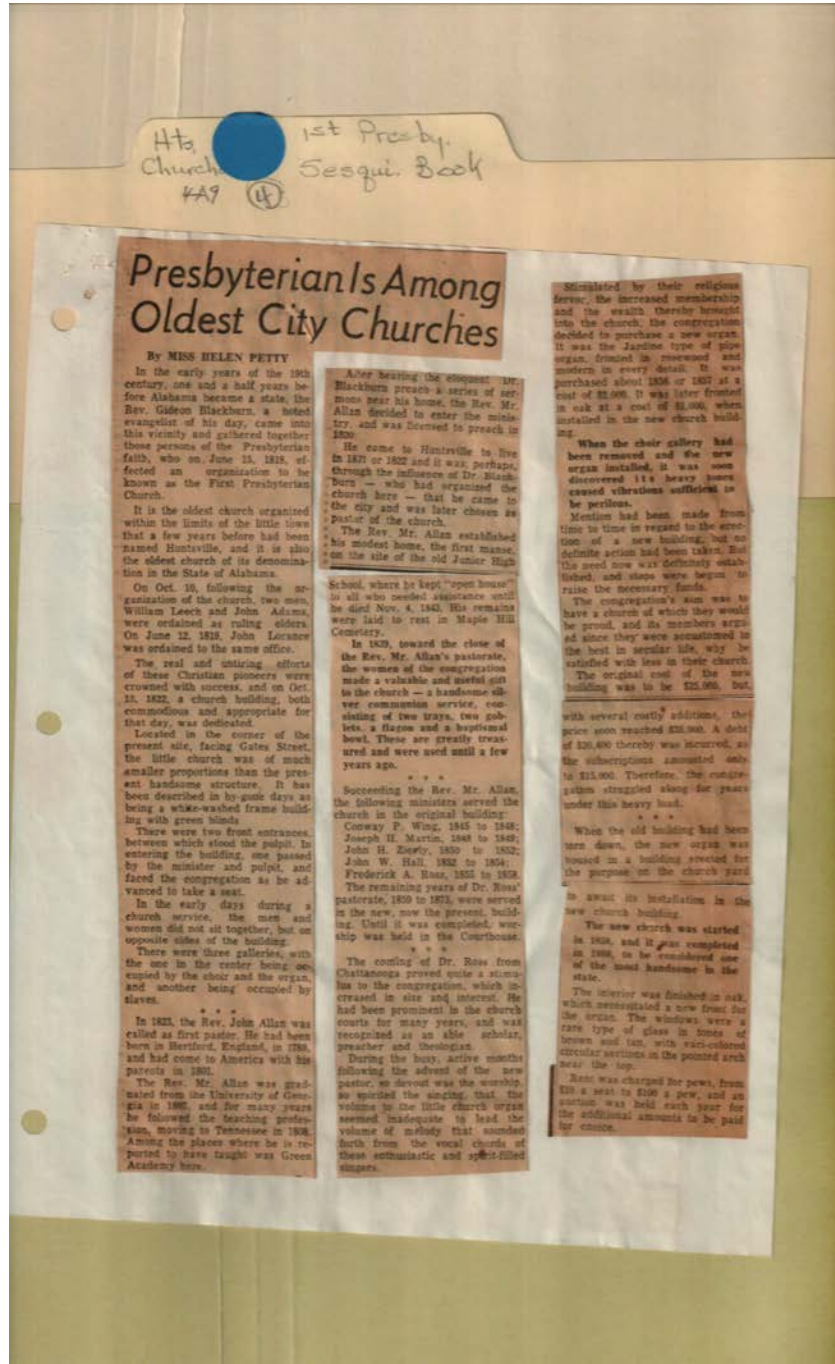
Huntsville, AL

Types:

bulletin

Dates:

April 24, 1955



Names:

Adams, John
 Allan, John, Rev.
 Blackburn, Gideon,
 Rev.

Hall, John W.
 Leech, William
 Lorange, John
 Martin, James H.

Ross, Frederick A.,
 Dr.
 Wing, Conway P.
 Zivley, John H.

Presbyterian is
 Among Oldest City
 Churches

Places:

Huntsville, AL

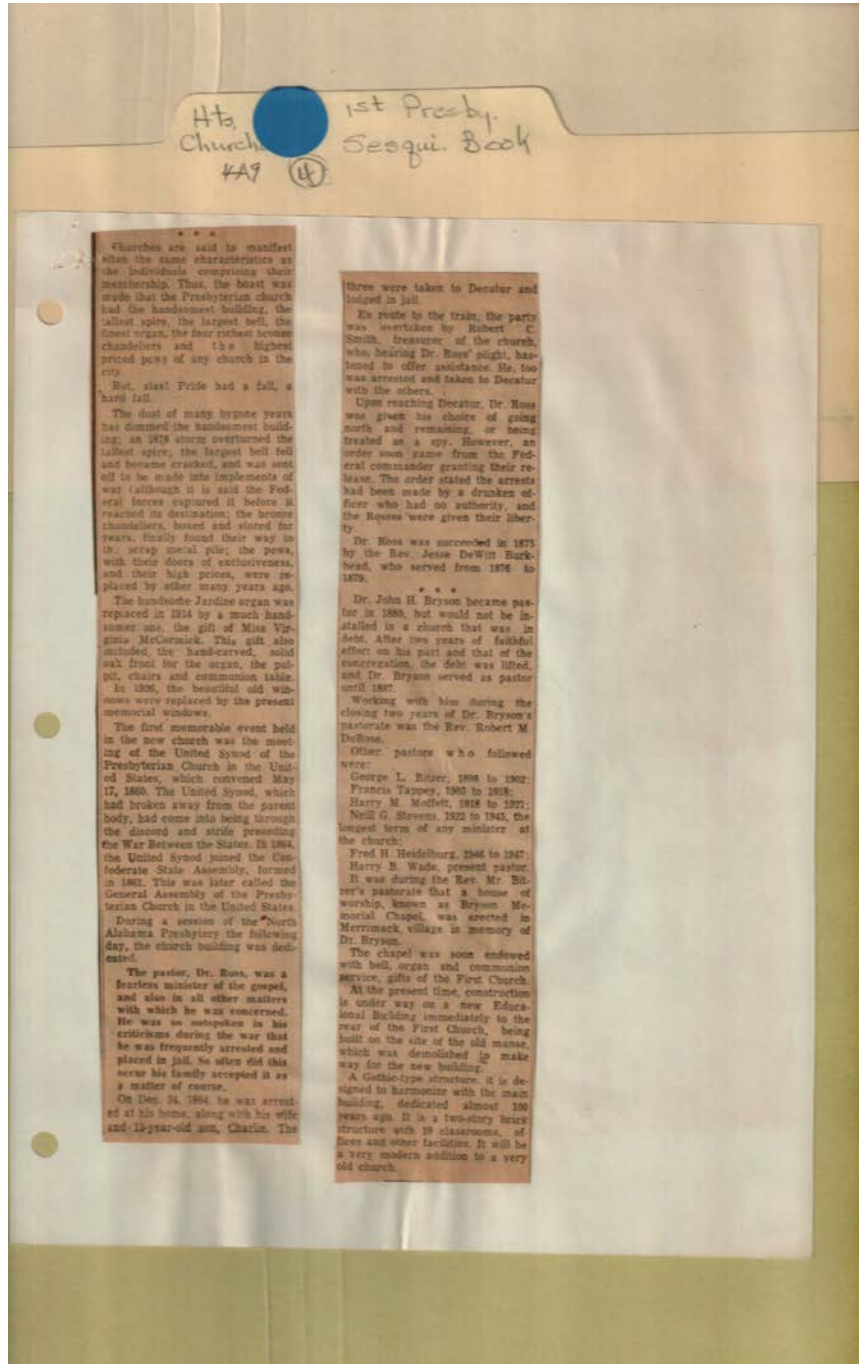
Types:

newspaper article

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 4 r04a09-04-000-0067 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Bitzer, George L.,
Rev.
Bryson, John H., Dr.
Burkhead, John
DeWitt, Rev.

DuBose, Robert M.,
Rev.
Heidelberg, Frederic
H., Rev.
McCormick, Virginia,
Miss

Moffett, Harry M.,
Rev.
Ross, Charlie
Ross, Frederick A.,
Dr.
Smith, Robert C.

Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.
Tappay, Francis, Rev.
Wade, Harry B., Dr.

Places:

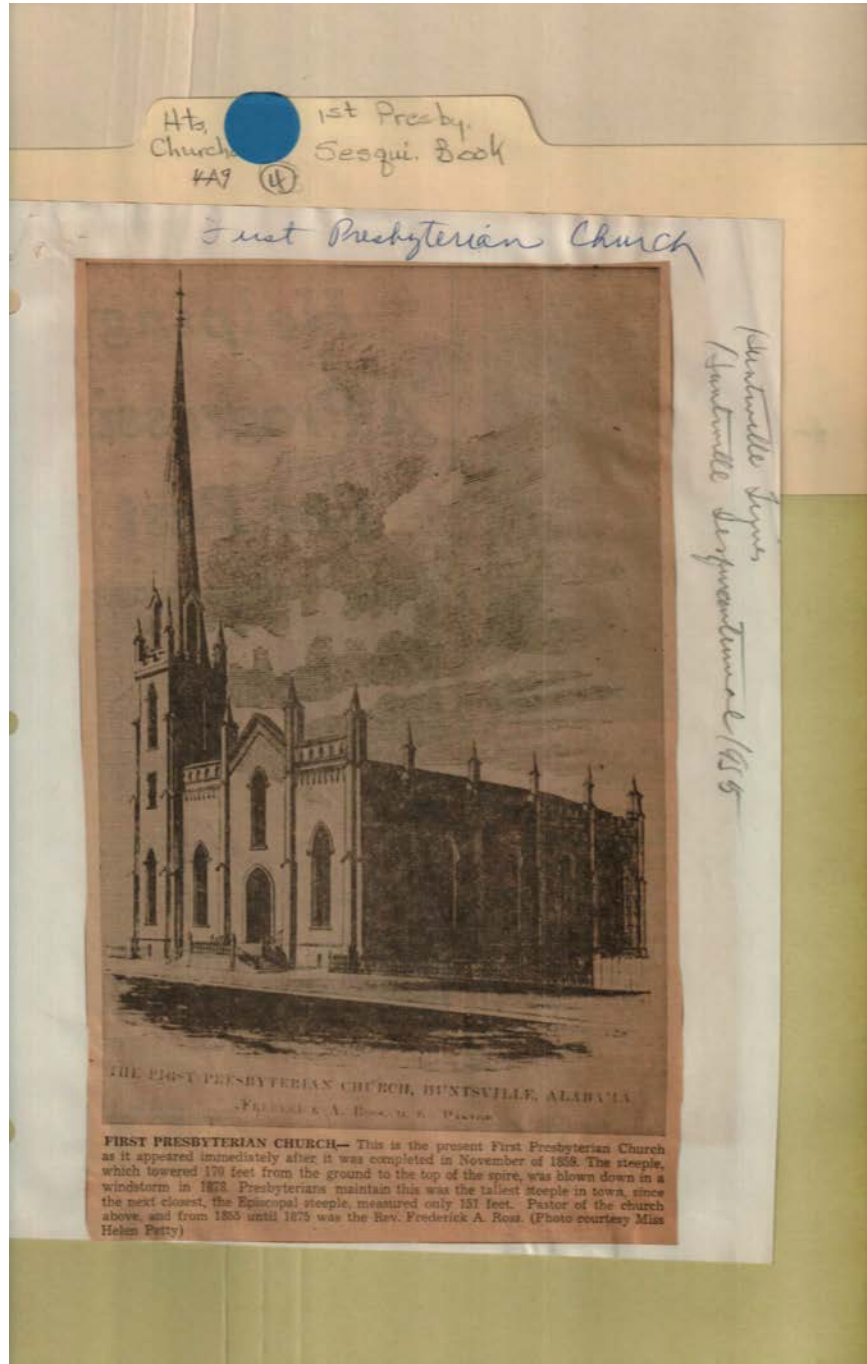
Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4
Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 5 r04a09-04-000-0068 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

First Presbyterian Church

Ross, Frederick A.,
Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

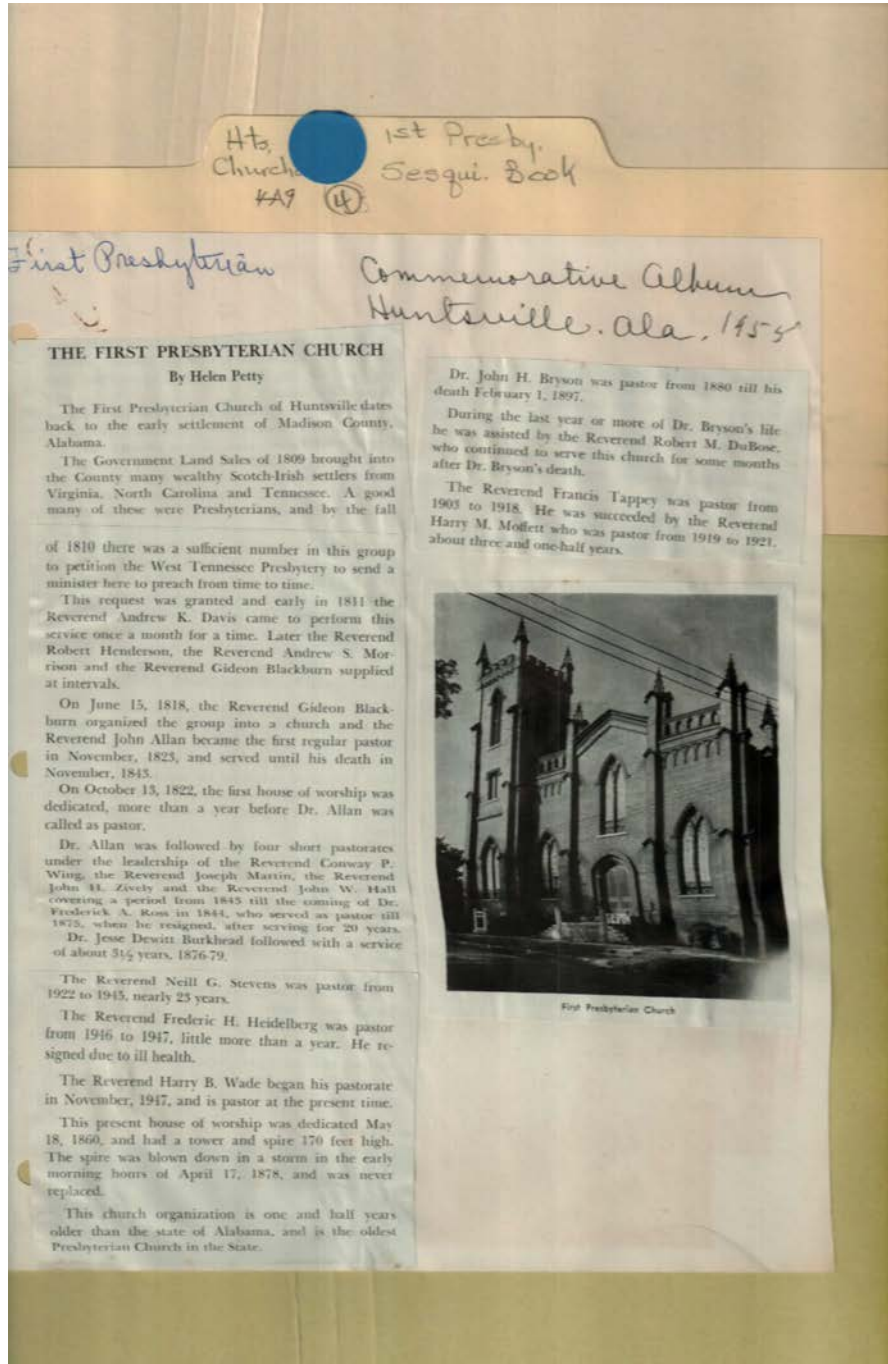
Types:

newspaper article

photograph

Dates:

1955



Names:

Allan, John, Rev.
Blackburn, Gideon,
Rev.
Bryson, John H., Dr.
Burkhead, John
DeWitt, Rev.
Commorative Album
Davis, Andrew K.

DuBose, Robert M.,
Rev.
First Presbyterian
Church
Hall, John W., Rev.
Heidelberg, Frederic
H., Rev.
Henderson, Robert,
Rev.

Martin, James H.,
Rev.
Moffett, Harry M.,
Rev.
Morrison, Andrew S.,
Rev.
Petty, Helen
Ross, Frederick A.,
Rev.

Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.
Tappey, Francis, Rev.
The First Presbyterian
Church
Wade, Harry B., Rev.
Wing, Conway P.,
Rev.
Zivley, John H., Rev.

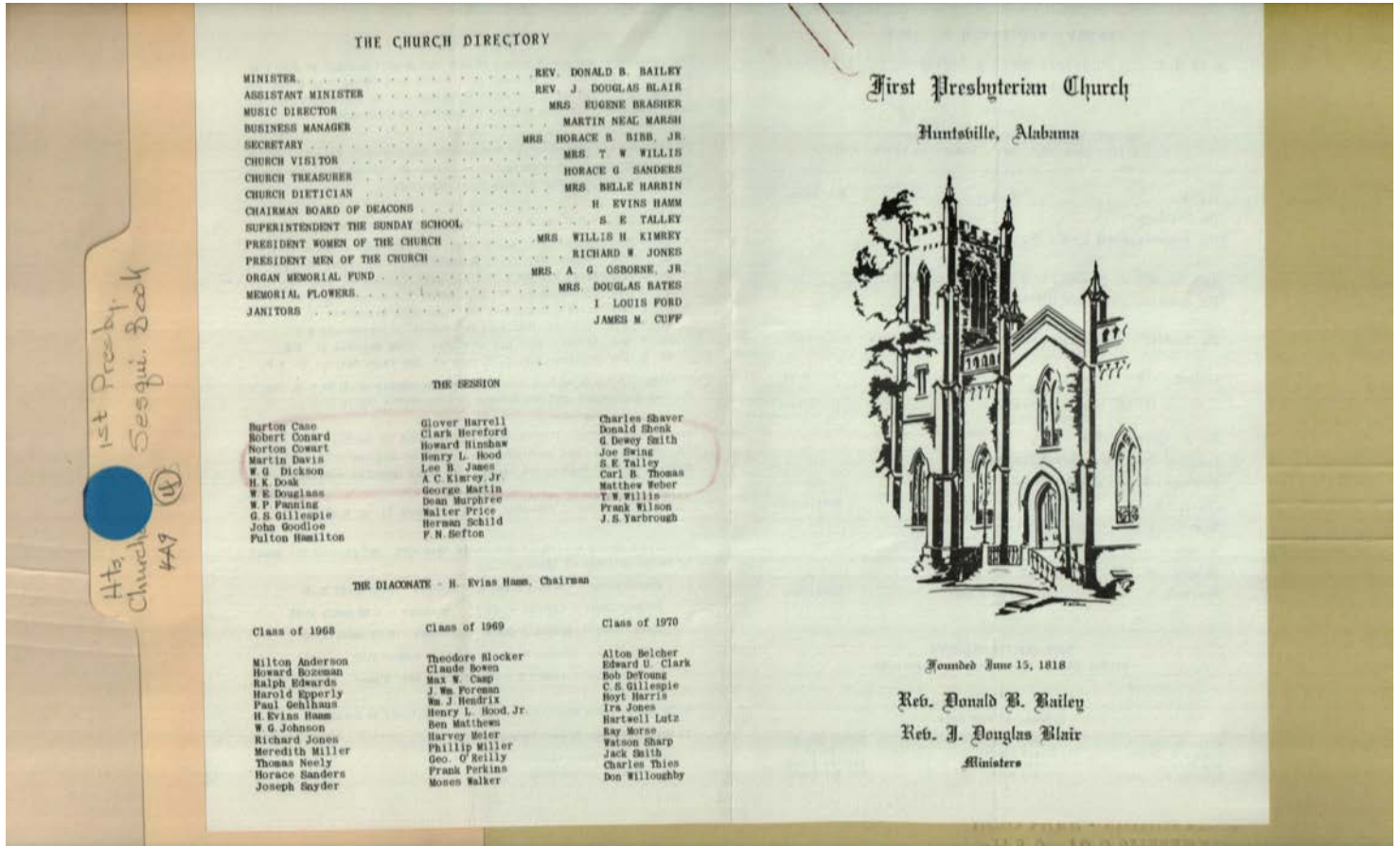
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:
article

photograph

Dates:
1955



Names:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Anderson, Milton | Dickson, W. G. | Hood, Henry L., Jr. | Sanders, Horace G. |
| Bailey, Donald B.,
Rev. | Doak, H. K. | James, Lee P. | Schild, Herman |
| Bates, Douglas, Mrs. | Douglass, W. E. | Johnson, W. G. | Sefton, F. N. |
| Belcher, Alton | Edwards, Ralph | Jones, Ira | Sharp, Watson |
| Bibb, Horace B., Jr.,
Mrs. | Epperly, Harold | Jones, Richard W. | Shaver, Charles |
| Blair, J. Douglas,
Rev. | Fanning, W. P. | Kimrey, A. C., Jr. | Shenk, Donald |
| Blocker, Theodore | First Presbyterian
Church | Kimrey, Willis H.,
Mrs. | Smith, G. Dewey |
| Bowen, Claude | Ford, I. Louis | Lutz, Hartwell | Smith, Jack |
| Bozeman, Howard | Foreman, J. William | Marsh, Martin Neal | Snyder, Joseph |
| Brasher, Eugene,
Mrs. | Gehlhaus, Paul | Martin, George | Swing, Joe |
| Camp, Max W. | Gillespie, C. S. | Matthews, Ben | Talley, S. E. |
| Case, Burton | Gillespie, G. S. | Miller, Meredith | Thies, Jack |
| Clark, Edward U. | Goodloe, John | Miller, Phillip | Thomas, Carl B. |
| Connard, Robert | Hamilton, Fulton | Morse, Ray | Walker, Moses |
| Cowart, Norton | Hamm, H. Evins | Murphree, Dean | Weber, Matthew |
| Cuff, James F. | Harbin, Belle | Neely, Thomas | Willis, T. W., Mrs. |
| Davis, Martin | Harrell, Glover | O'Reilly, George | Willoughby, Don |
| DeYoung, Bob | Harris, Hoyt | Osborne, A. G., Jr.,
Mrs. | Wilson, Frank |
| | Hendrix, William J. | Perkins, Frank | Yarbrough, J. S. |
| | Hereford, Clark | Price, Walter | |
| | Hinshaw, Howard | | |

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

church bulletin

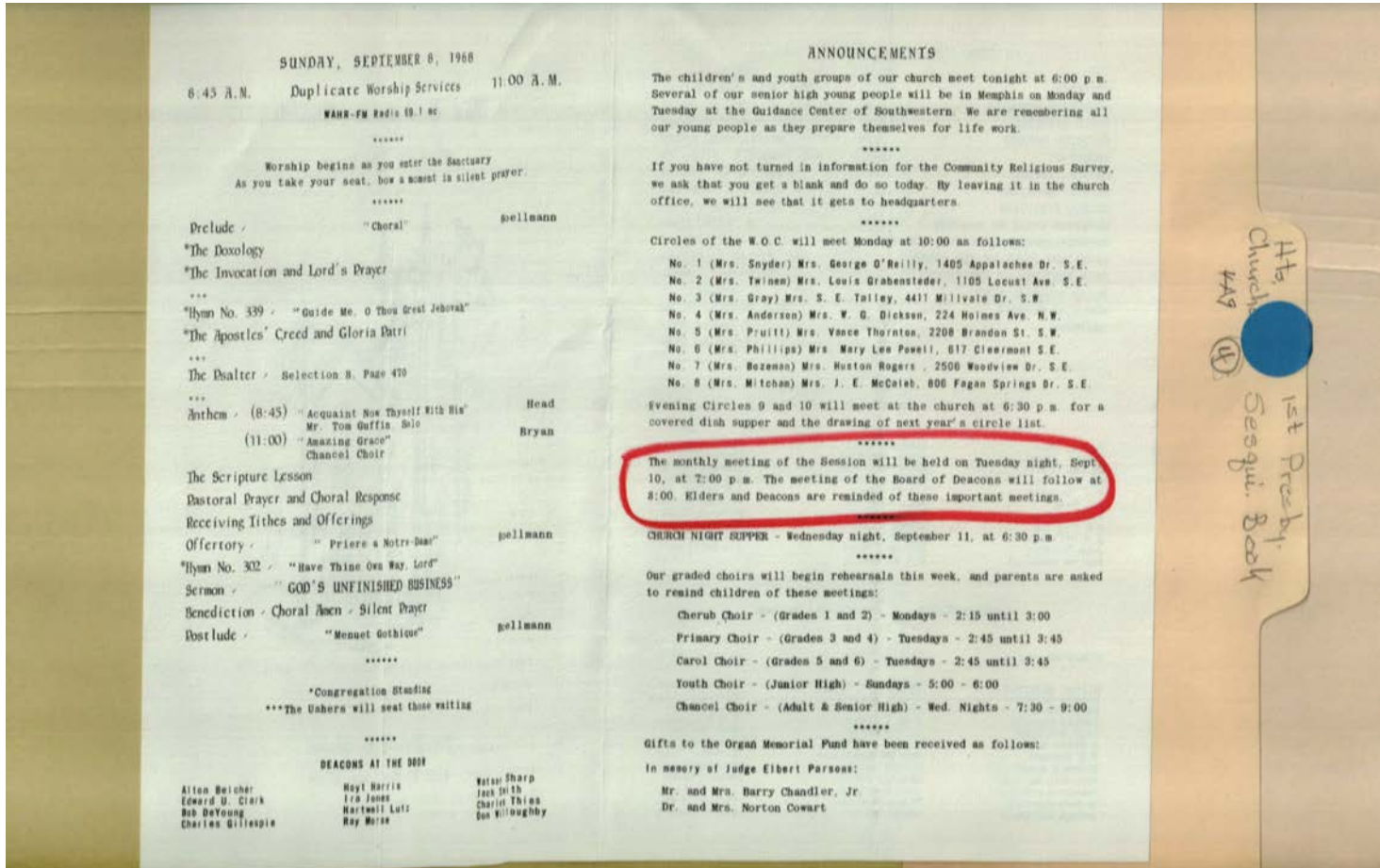
Dates:

Sept 8, 1968

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 8 r04a09-04-000-0073 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Belcher, Alton | Gillespie, Charles | Morse, Ray | Talley, S. E., Mrs. |
| Chandler, Barry, Jr. | Grabensteder, Louis, | O'Reilly, George, | Thies, Jack |
| Clark, Edward U. | Mrs. | Mrs. | Thornton, Vance, |
| Cowart, Norton, Dr. | Guffin, Tom | Powell, Mary Lee, | Mrs. |
| DeYoung, Bob | Harris, Hoyt | Mrs. | Willoughby, Don |
| Dickson, W. G., Mrs. | Jones, Ira | Rogers, Huston, Mrs. | |
| First Presbyterian | Lutz, Hartwell | Sharp, Watson | |
| Church | McCaleb, J. E., Mrs. | Smith, Jack | |

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

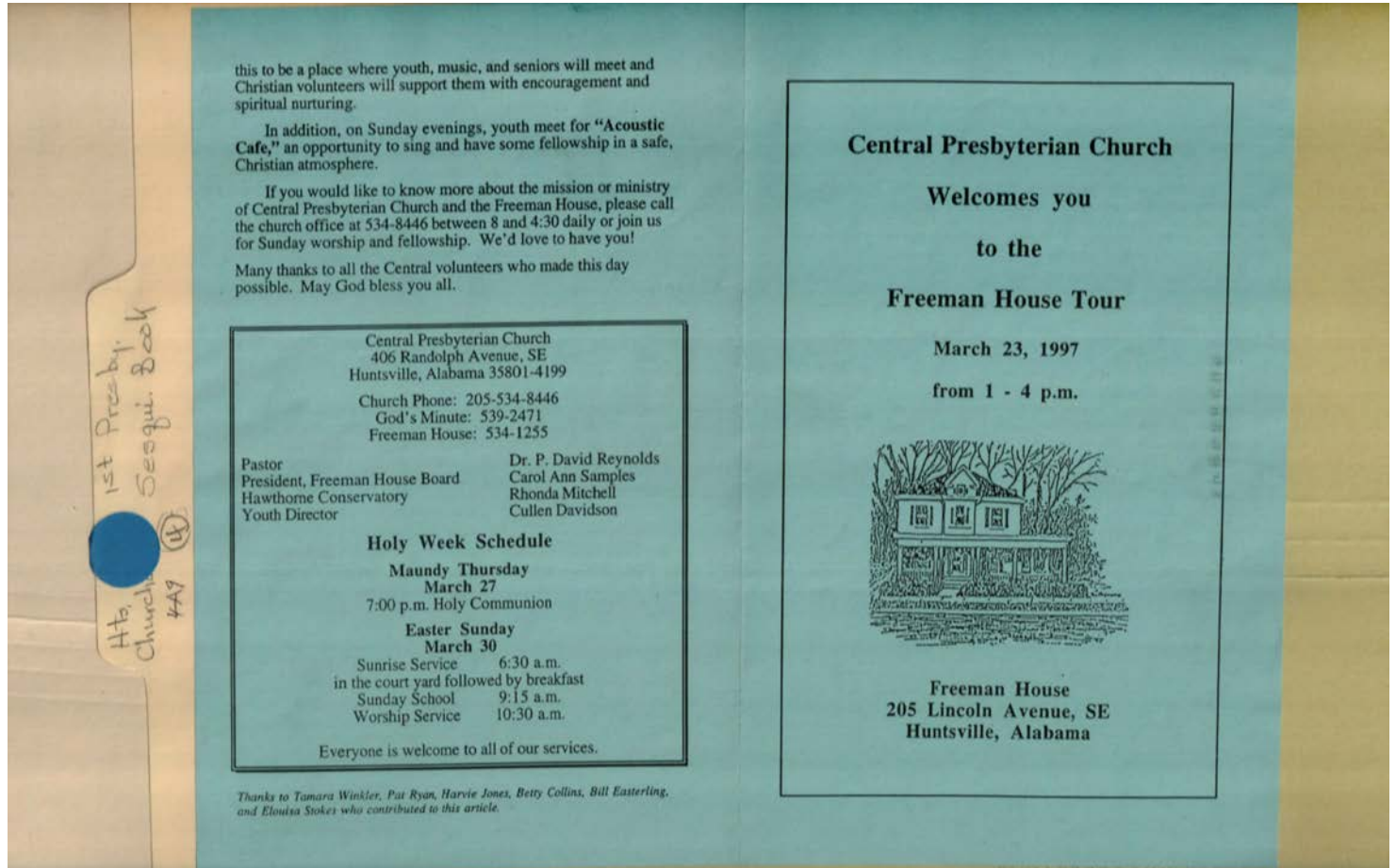
church bulletin

Dates:

Sept 8, 1968

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

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Names:

Central Presbyterian
Church
Davidson, Cullen

Freeman House Tour
Mitchell, Rhonda

Reynolds, P. David,
Dr.
Samples, Carol Ann

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

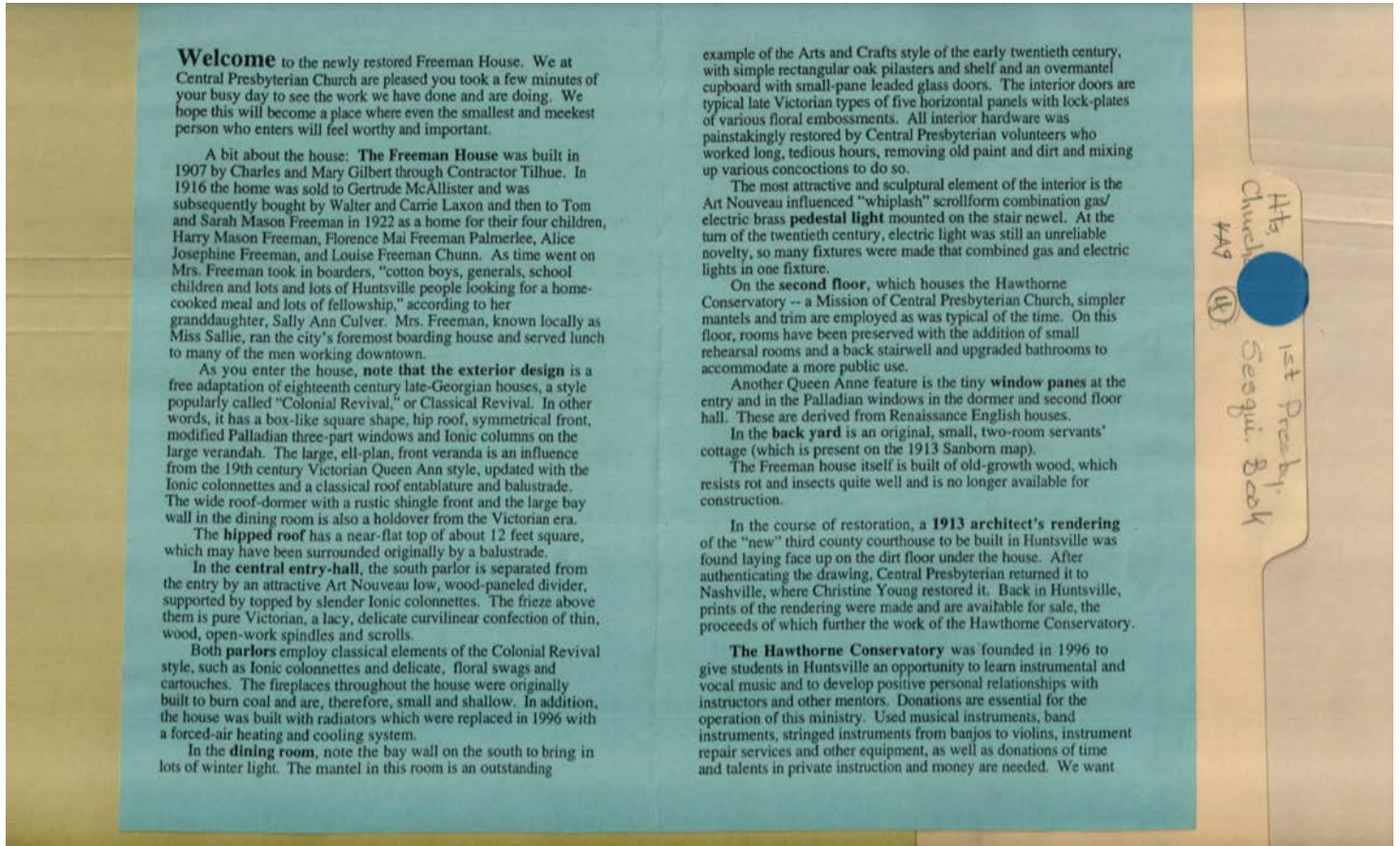
Dates:

Mar 23, 1997

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 10 r04a09-04-000-0075 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Chunn, Louise	Freeman, Harry	Hawthorne	Palmerlee, Florence
Freeman	Mason	Conservatory	Mai Freeman
Culver, Sally Ann	Freeman, Tom &	Laxon, Walter &	Young, Christine
Freeman House	Sarah Mason	Carrie	
Freeman, Alice	Gilbert, Charles &	McAllister, Gertrude	
Josephine	Mary		

Places:

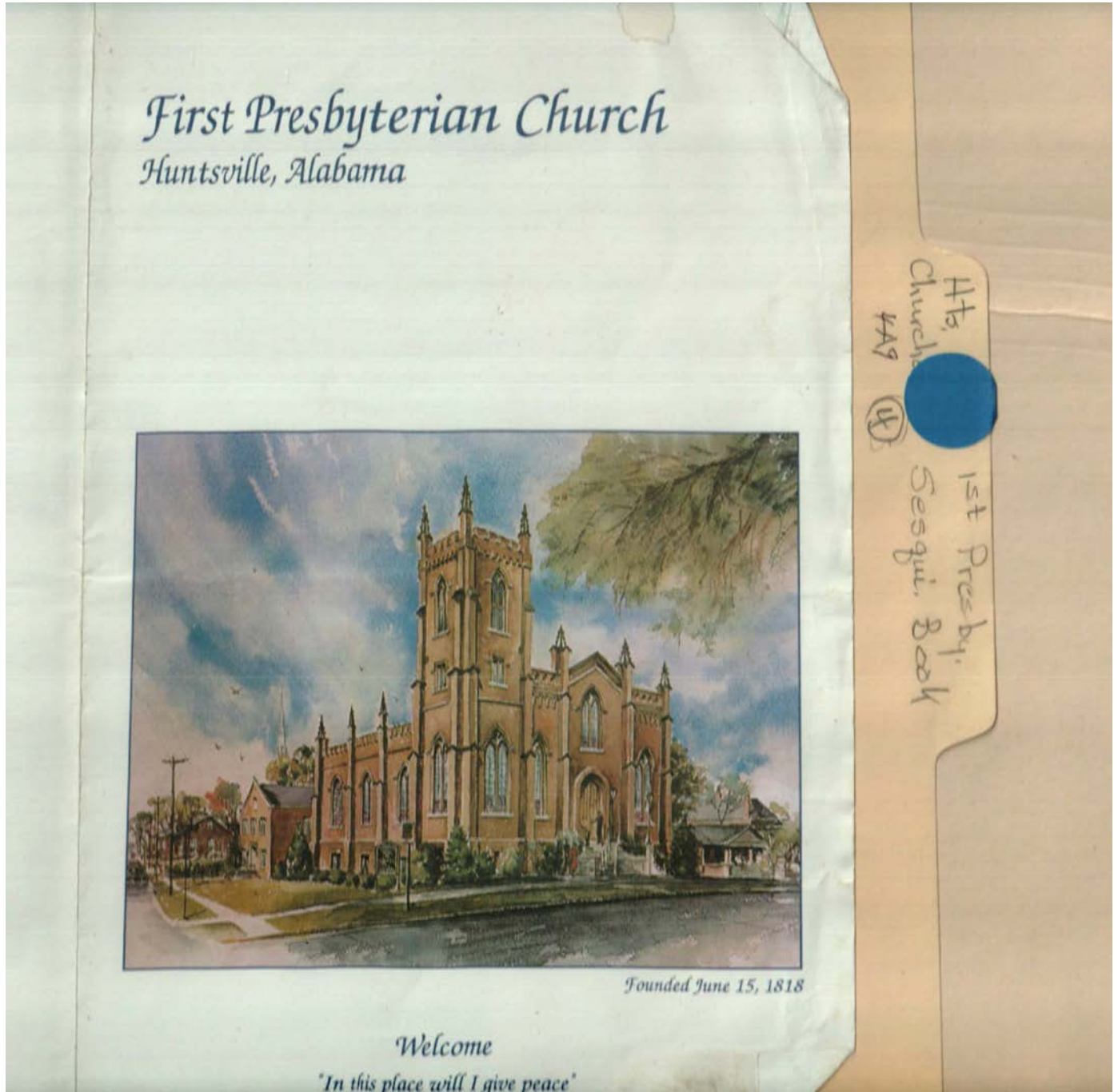
Huntsville, AL	Nashville, TN
----------------	---------------

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Mar 23, 1997



Names:

First Presbyterian
Church

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

church bulletin

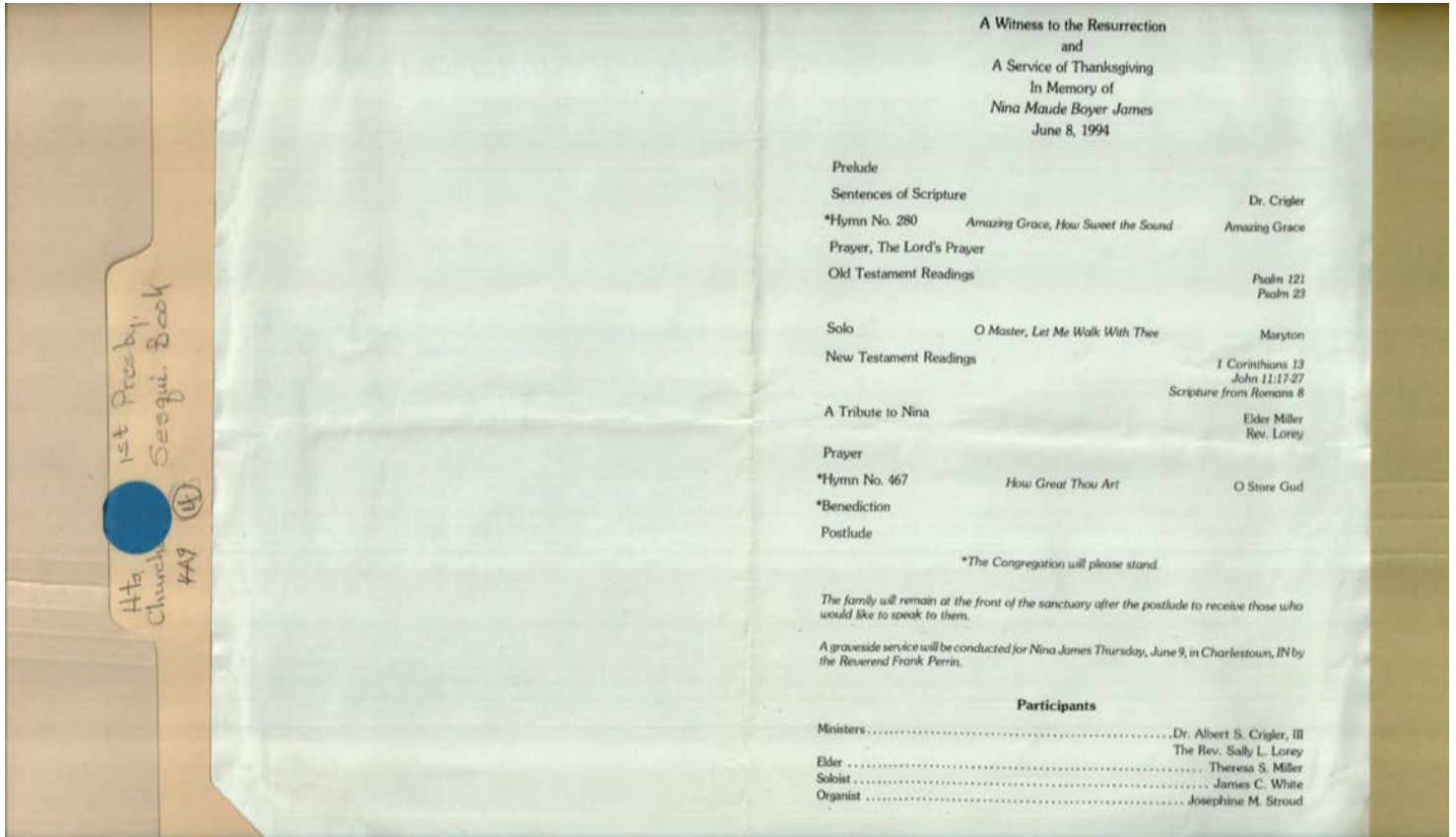
Dates:

June 8, 1994

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 12 r04a09-04-000-0077 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Crigler, Albert S., III,
Dr.

James, Nina Maude
Boyer

Lorey, Sally L., Rev.
Miller, Elder

Stroud, Josephine M.
White, James C.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

church bulletin

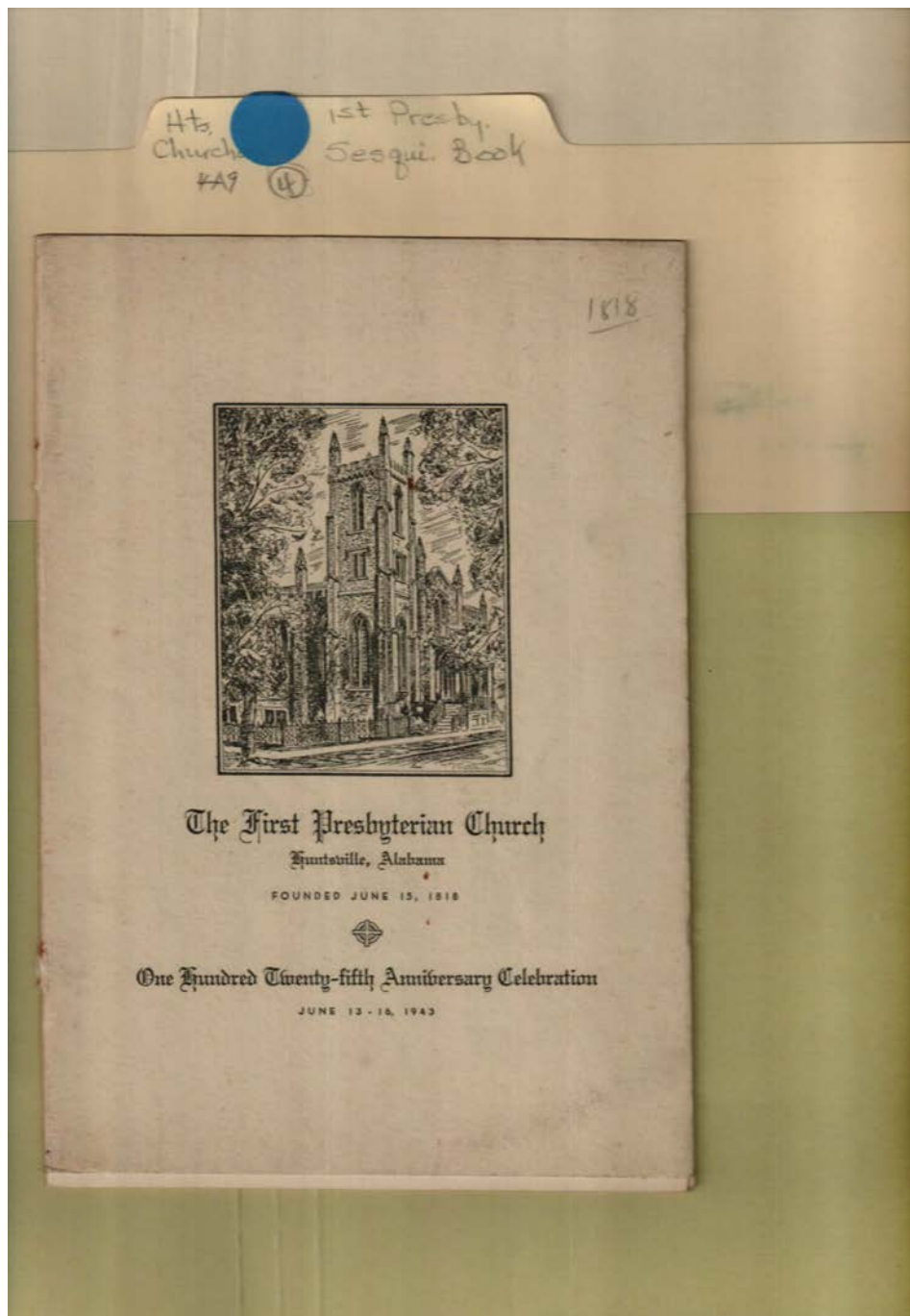
Dates:

June 8, 1994

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 13 r04a09-04-000-0079 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Robinson, William
C., Rev.

Places:

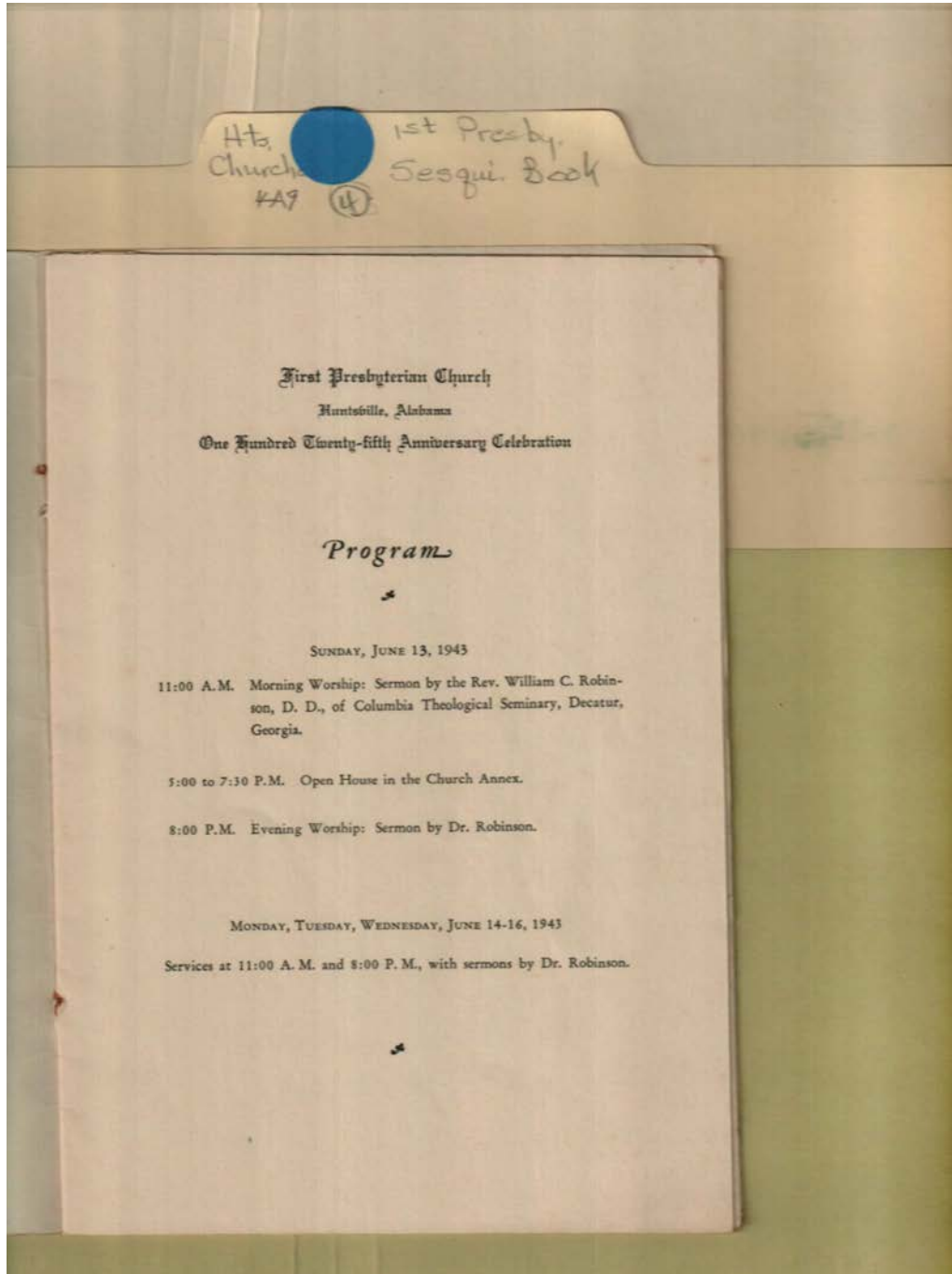
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

June 13-16, 1943



Names:

Robinson, William
C., Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

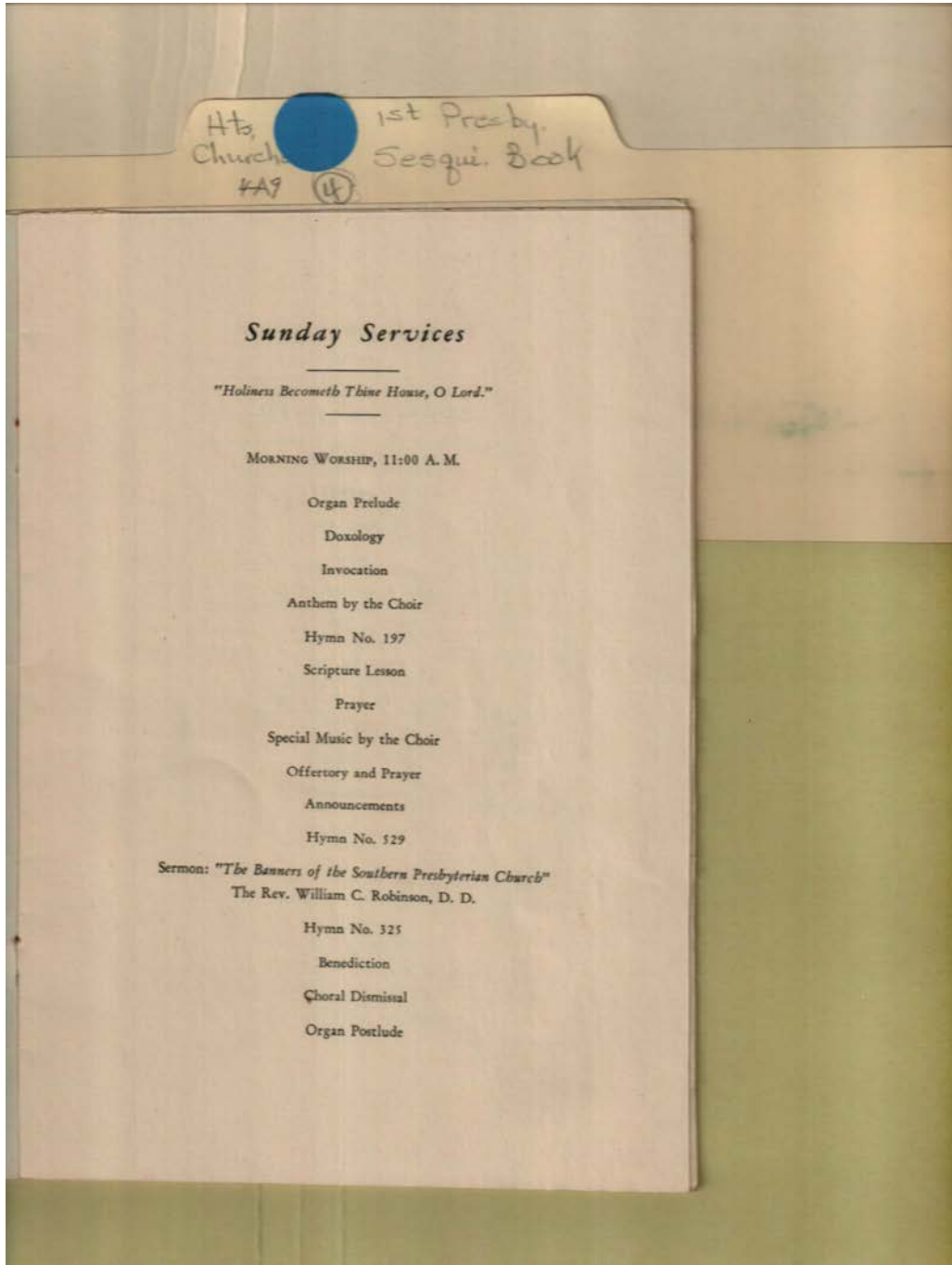
Dates:

June 13, 1943

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 15 r04a09-04-000-0081 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Church Directory
(The First

Presbyterian
Church)

Places:

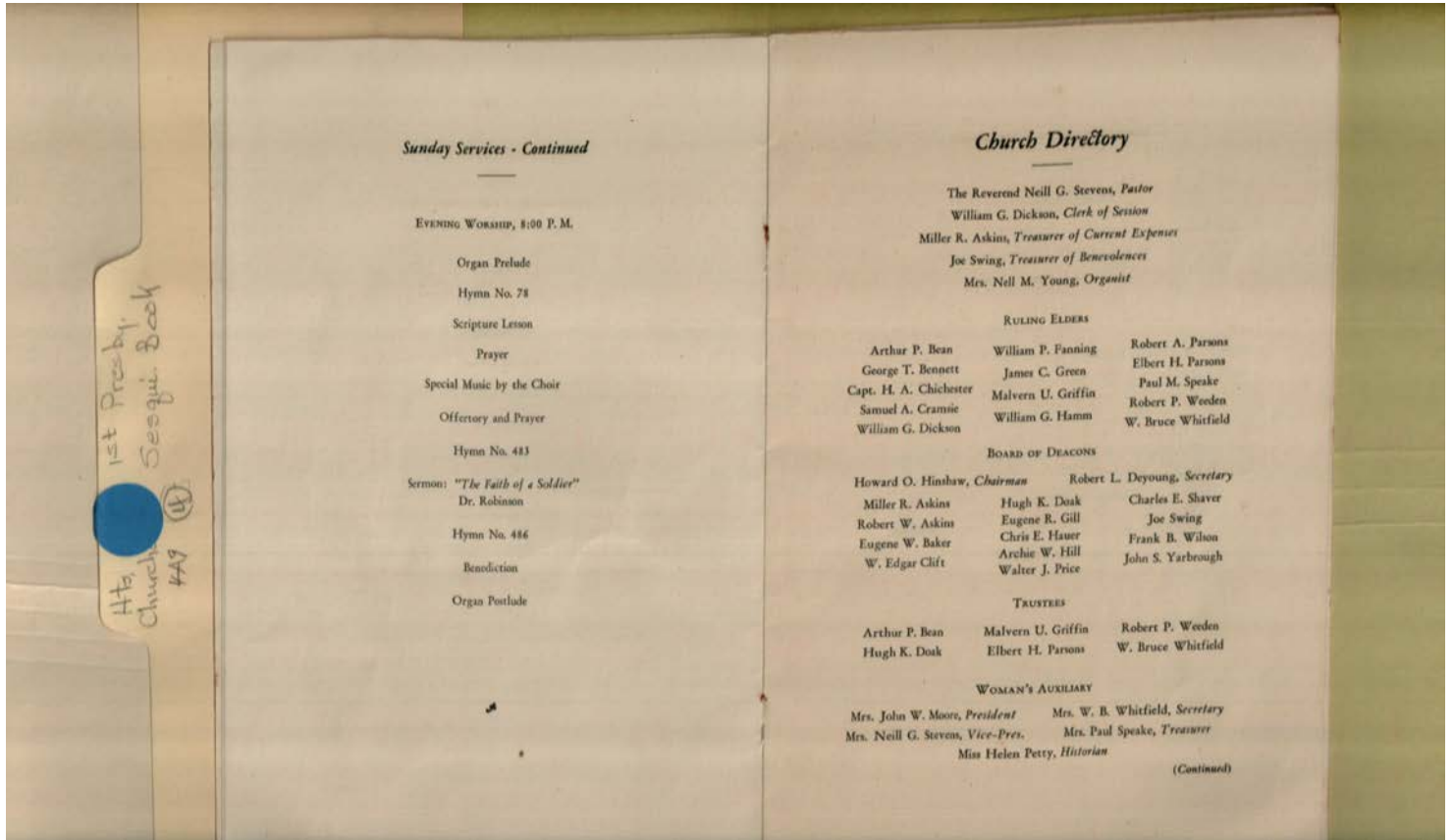
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

June 13, 1943



Names:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Askins, Miller R. | Dickson, William G. | Moore, John W., Mrs. | Stevens, Neill G., Rev. |
| Askins, Robert W. | Doak, Hugh K. | Parsons, Elbert H. | Swing, Joe |
| Baker, Eugene W. | Fanning, William P. | Parsons, Robert A. | Weeden, Robert P. |
| Bean, Arthur P. | Gill, Eugene R. | Petty, Helen | Whitfield, W. B., Mrs. |
| Bennett, George T. | Green, James C. | Price, Walter J. | Whitfield, W. Bruce |
| Chichester, H. A., Capt. | Griffin, Malvern U. | Shaver, Charles E. | Wilson, Frank B. |
| Clift, W. Edgar | Hamm, William G. | Speake, Paul M. | Yarbrough, John S. |
| Cramsie, Samuel A. | Hauer, Chris E. | Speake, Paul, Mrs. | Young, Nell M. |
| DeYoung, Robert L. | Hill, Archie W. | Stevens, Neill G., Mrs. | |
| | Hinshaw, Howard O. | | |

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

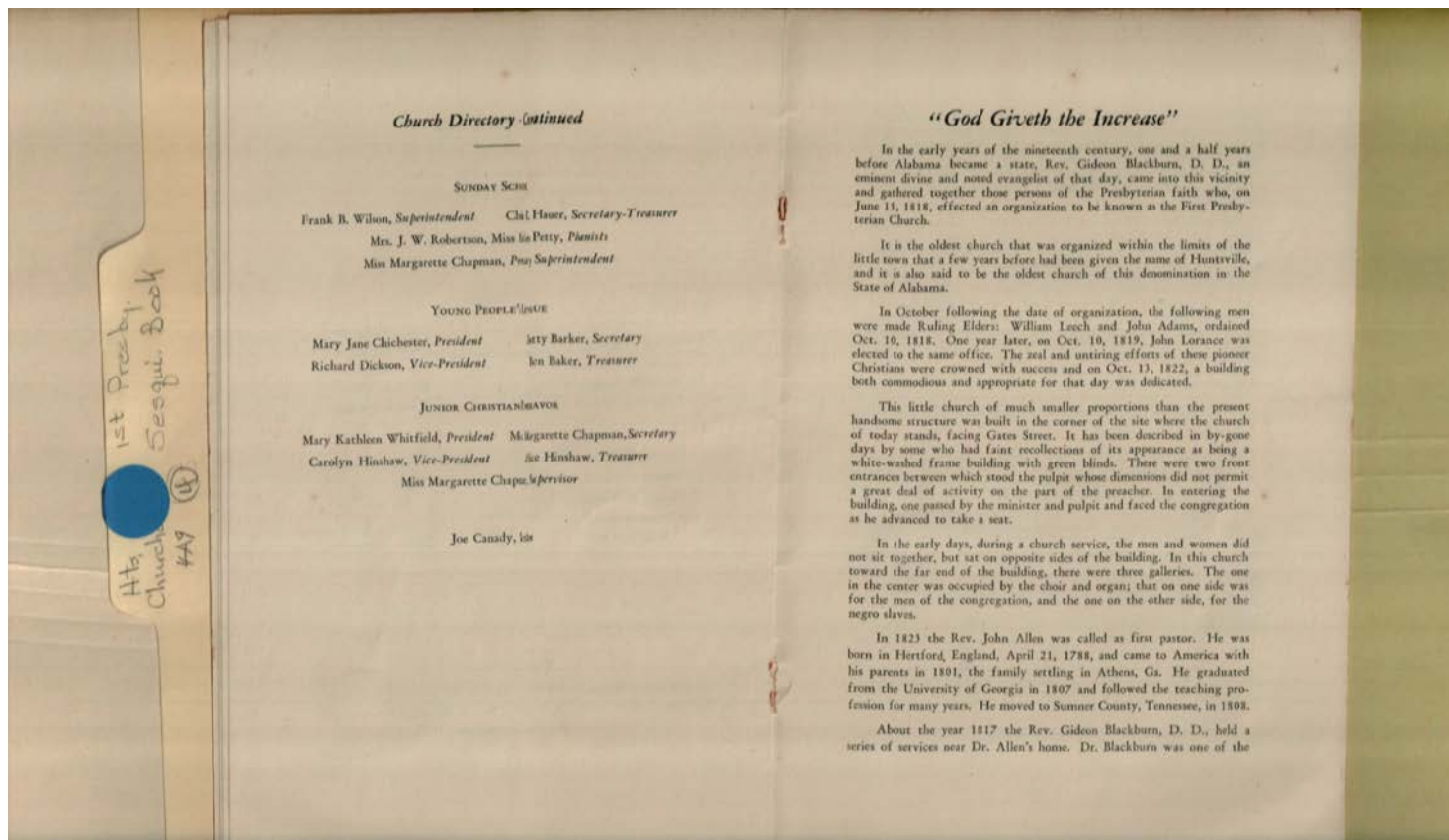
Dates:

June 13, 1943

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 17 r04a09-04-000-0083 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Adams, John
Allen, John, Rev.
Baker, Ben
Barker, Betty
Blackburn, Gideon,
Rev.

Canady, Joe
Chapman, Margarette
Chichester, Mary
Jane
Church Directory
(The First

Presbyterian
Church)
Dickson, Richard
Hauer, C.
Hinshaw, Carolyn
Leech, William

Lorance, John
Petty, Helen
Robertson, J. W.,
Mrs.
Whitfield, Mary
Kathleen

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

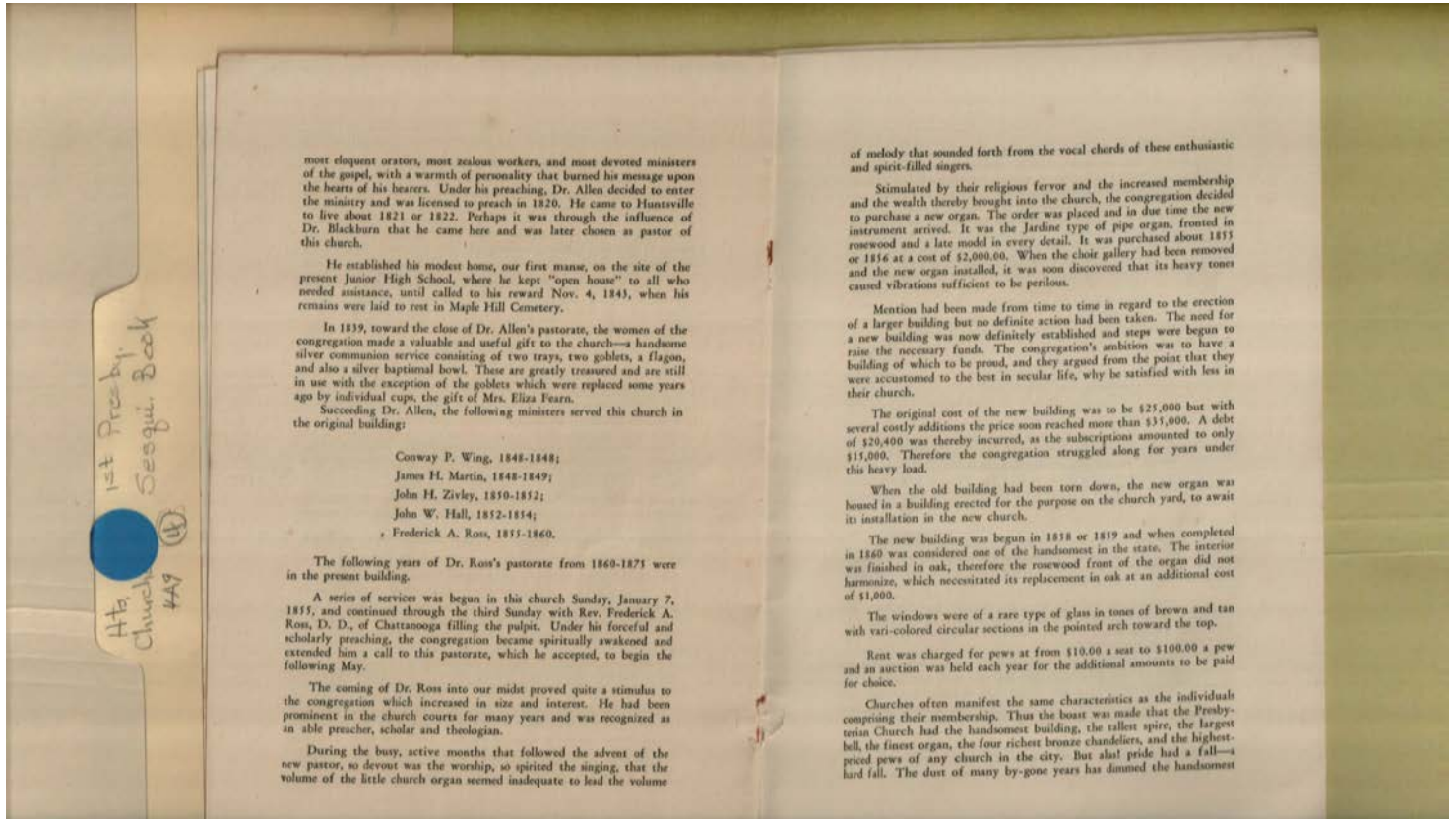
Dates:

June 13, 1943

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 18 r04a09-04-000-0084 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Allen, John, Rev.
Fearn, Eliza
Hall, John W., Rev.

Martin, James H.,
Rev.

Ross, Frederick A.,
Rev.

Wing, Conway P.,
Rev.
Zivley, John H., Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

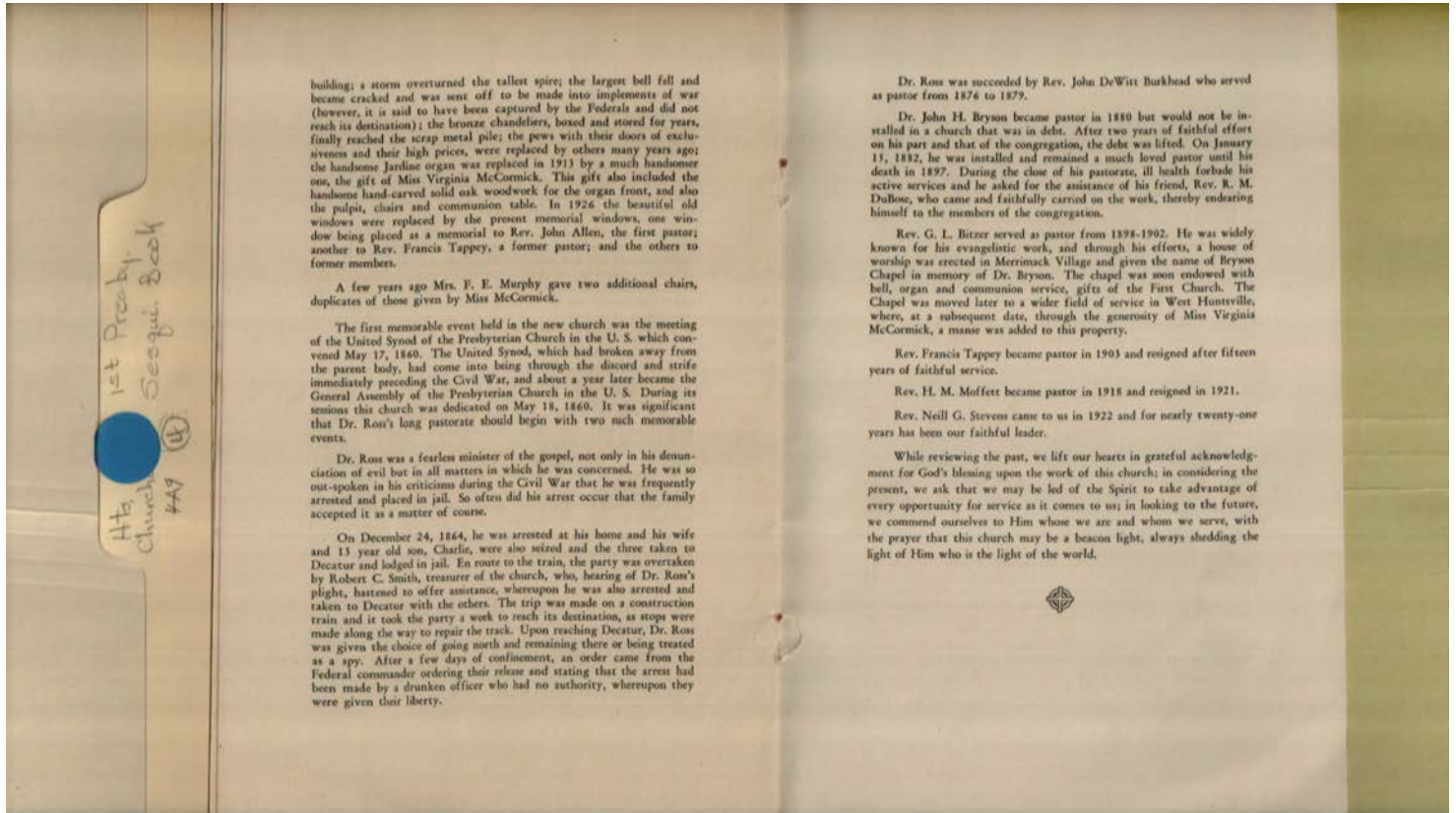
Dates:

June 13, 1943

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 19 r04a09-04-000-0085 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Allen, John, Rev.
Bitzer, G. L., Rev.
Bryson, John H., Dr.
Burkhead, John
DeWitt, Rev.

DuBose, Robert M.,
Rev.
McCormick, Virginia,
Miss
Moffett, Harry M.,
Rev.

Murphy, F. E., Mrs.
Ross, Charlie
Ross, Frederick A.,
Rev.
Smith, Robert C.

Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.
Tappey, Francis, Rev.

Places:

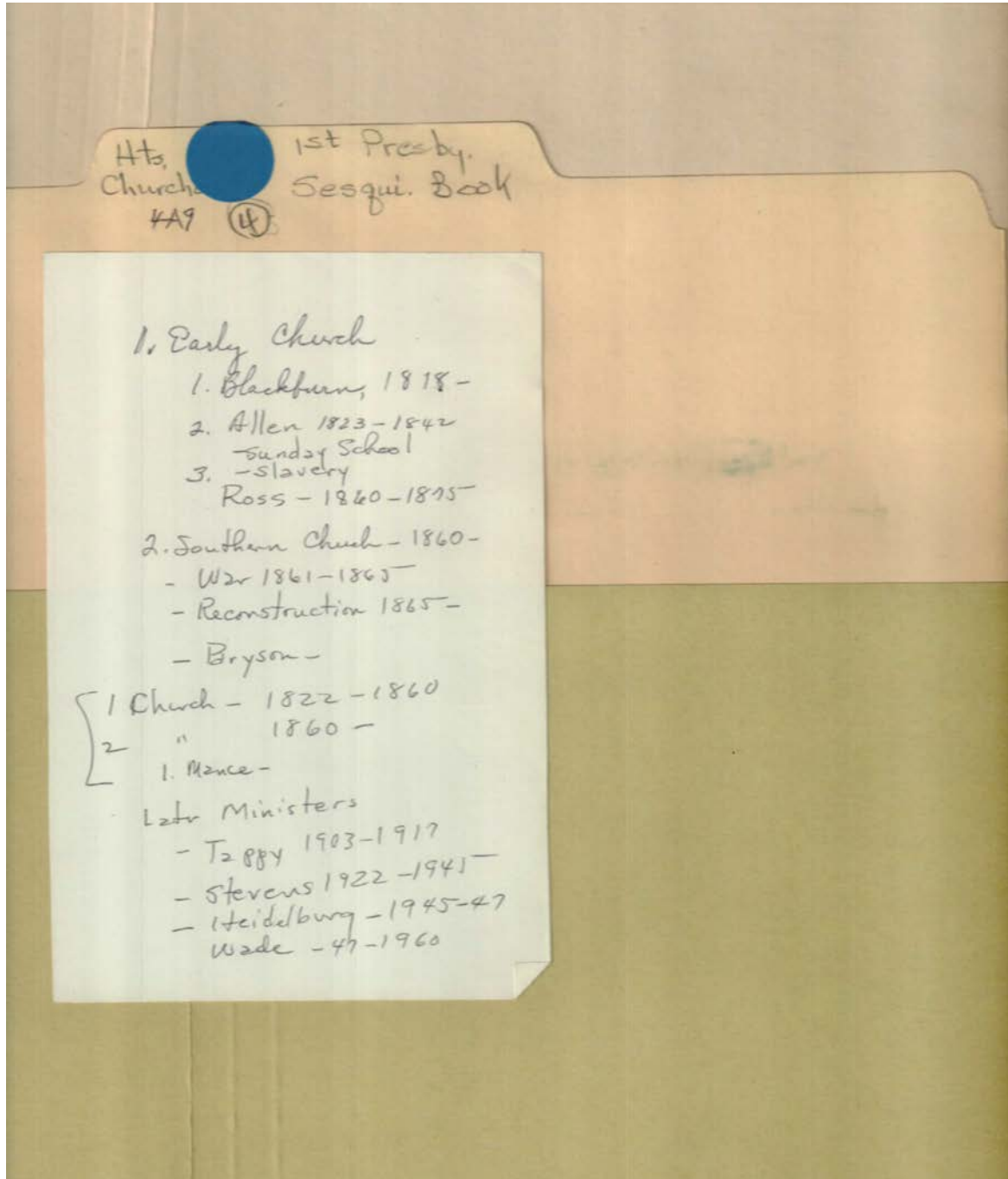
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

June 13, 1943



Names:

The First Presbyterian
Church

Places:

Huntsville, AL

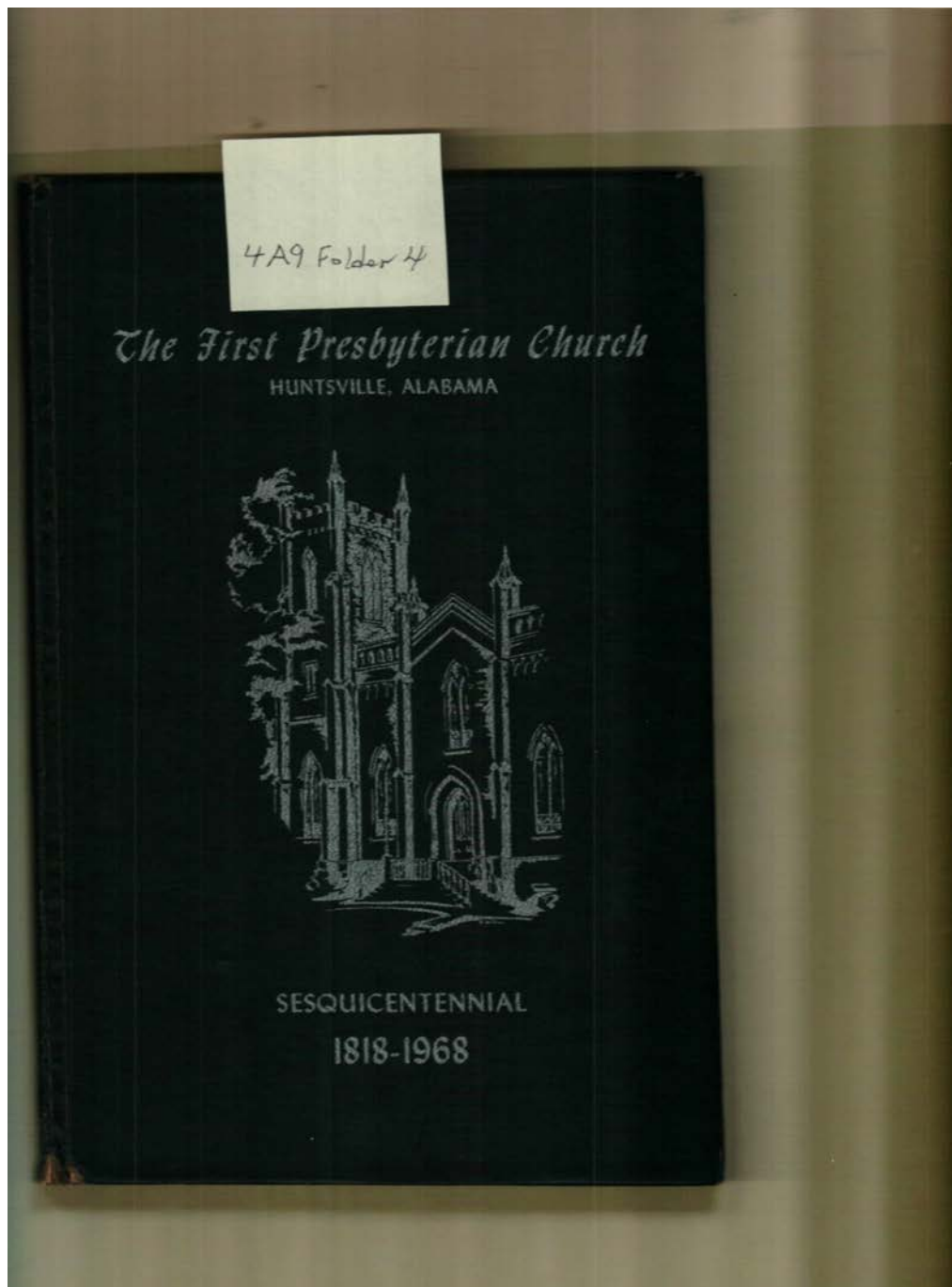
Types:

notes

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 21 r04a09-04-000-0087 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

The First Presbyterian
Church

Sesquicentennial

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1968

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 22 r04a09-04-000-0088 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

The First Presbyterian
Church

Types:

photograph

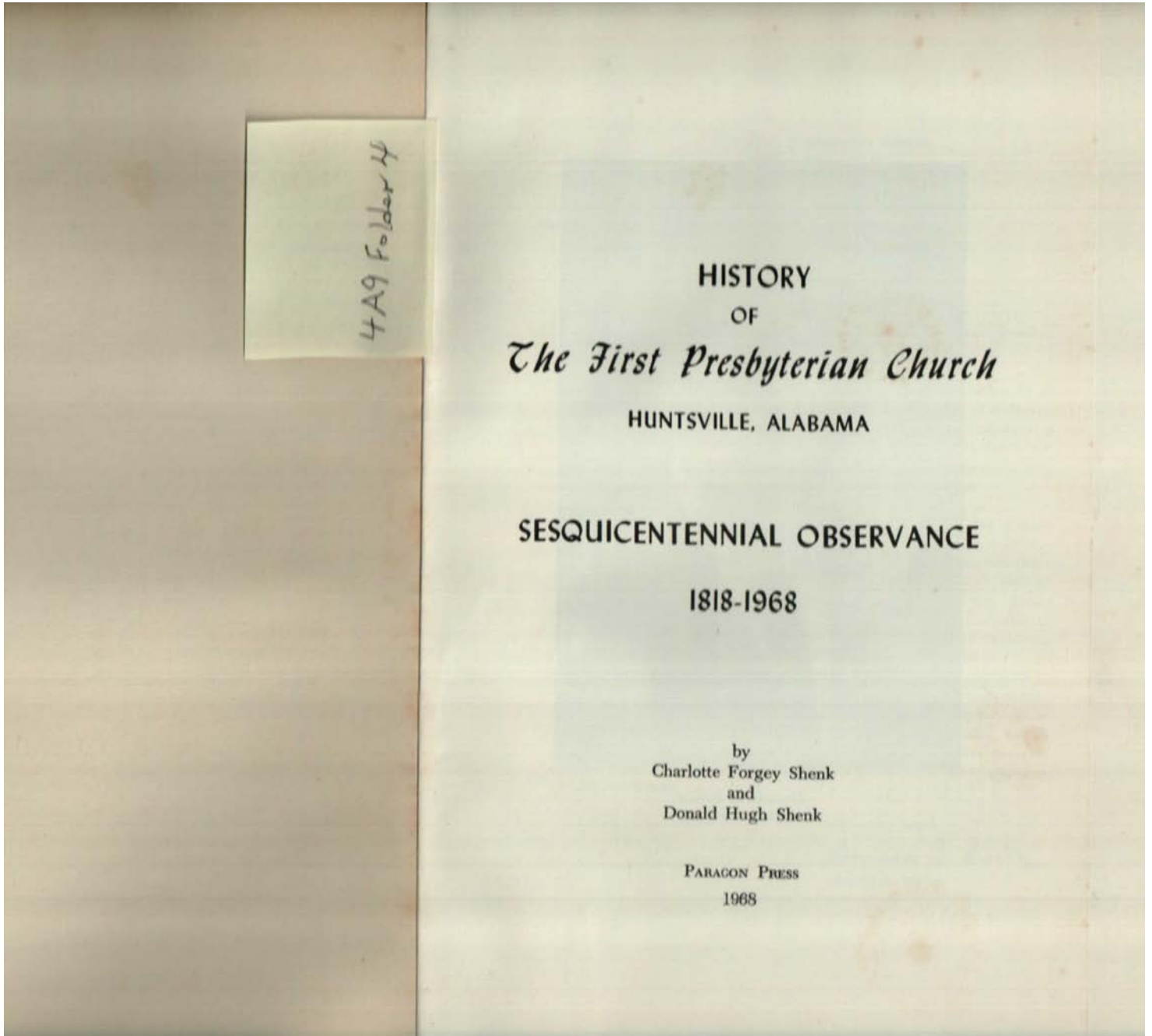
Dates:

1968

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 9, Folder 4

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

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Names:

History of The First
Presbyterian

Church

Shenk, Charlotte
Forgey

Shenk, Donald Hugh

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1968



Names:

Bailey, Donald B.,
Rev.

Places:

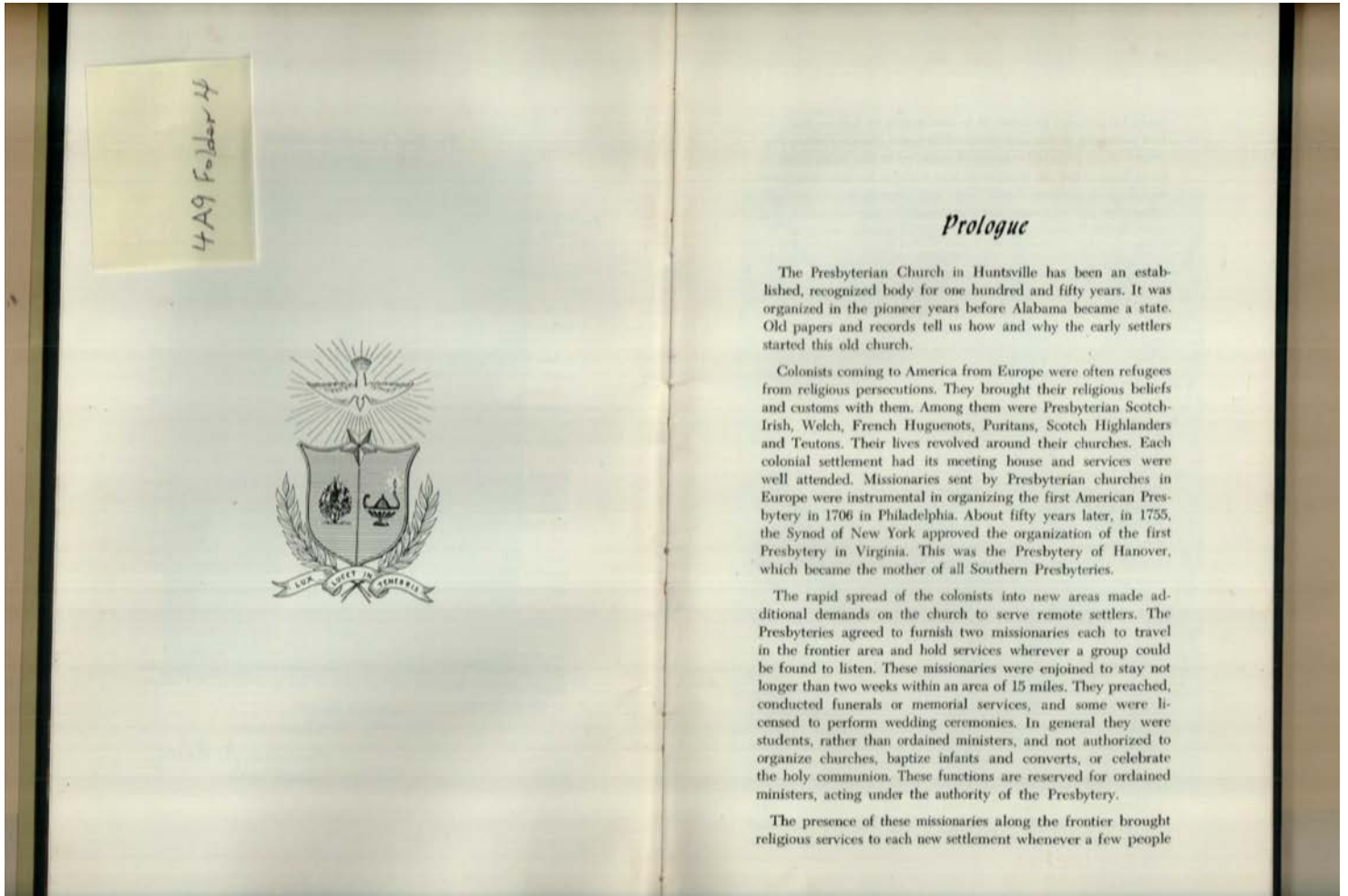
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet photograph

Dates:

1968



Names:

Presbyterian Church
in Huntsville,

Prologue

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

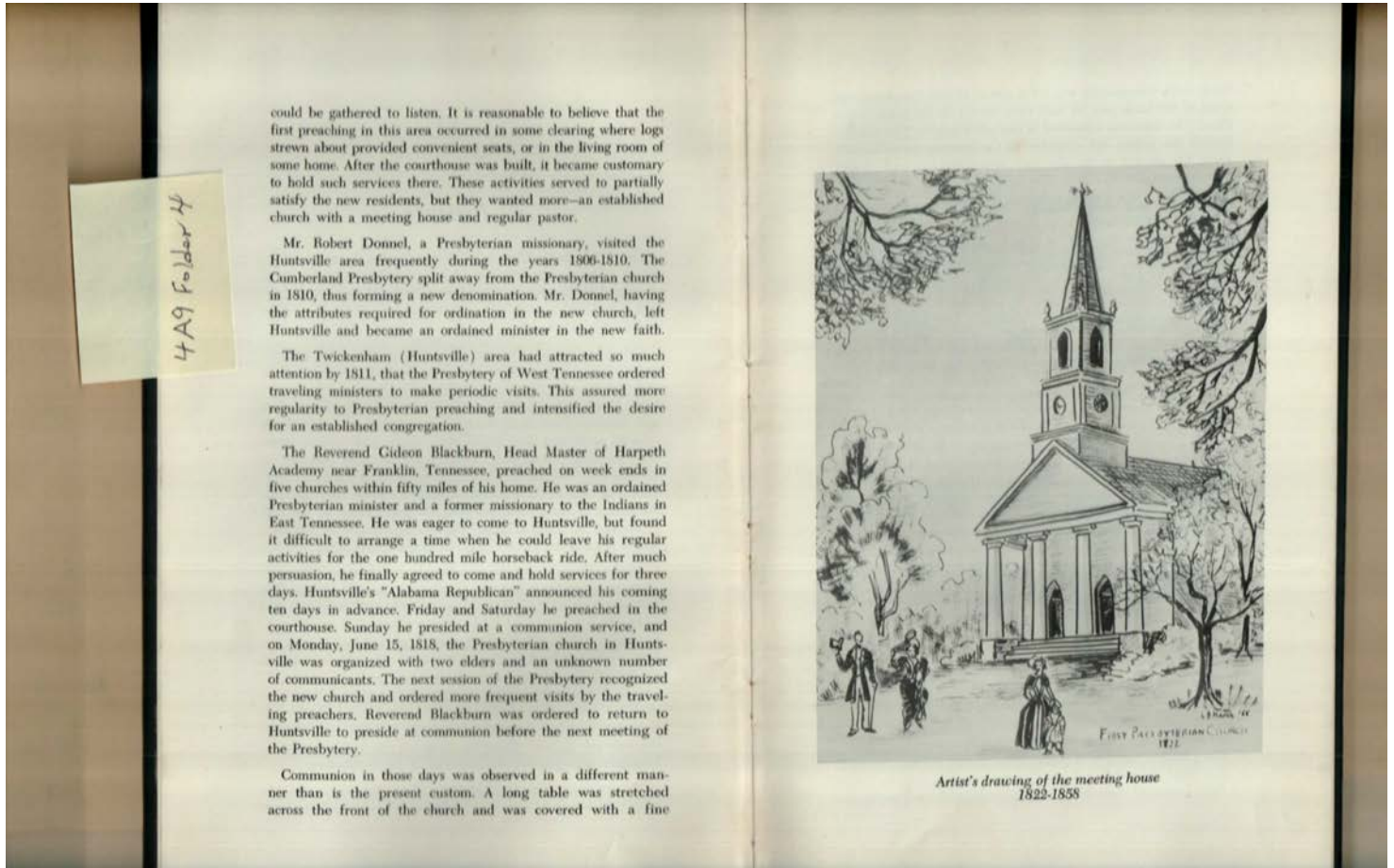
booklet

Dates:

1968

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

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Names:

Blackburn, Gideon,
Rev.

Donnel, Robert

Presbyterian Meeting
House

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

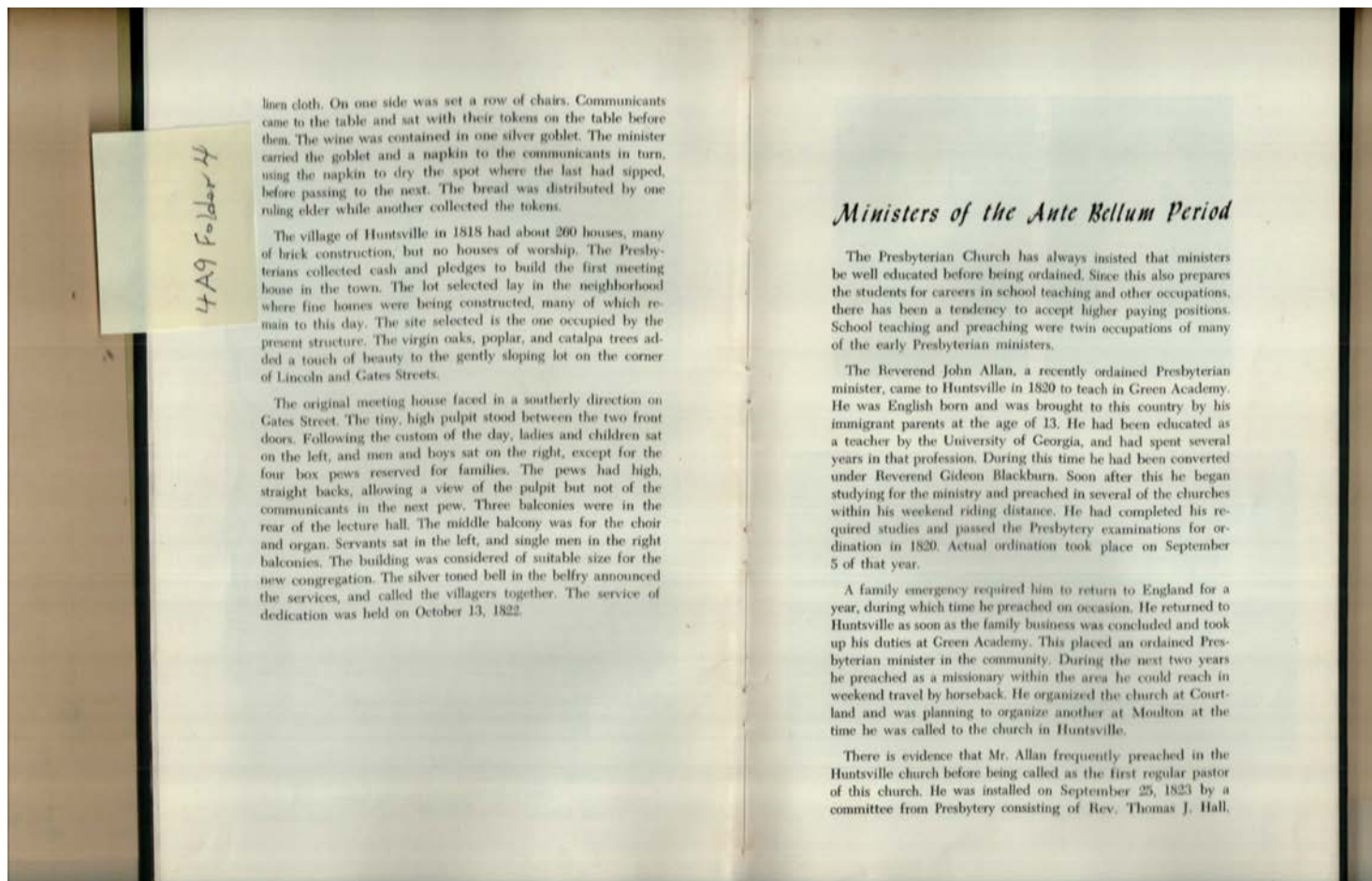
drawing

Dates:

1806-1810

1822-1858

1968



Names:

Allan, John, Rev.

Blackburn, Gideon,
Rev.

Green Academy
Hall, Thomas J., Rev.

Ministers of the Ante
Bellum Period

Places:

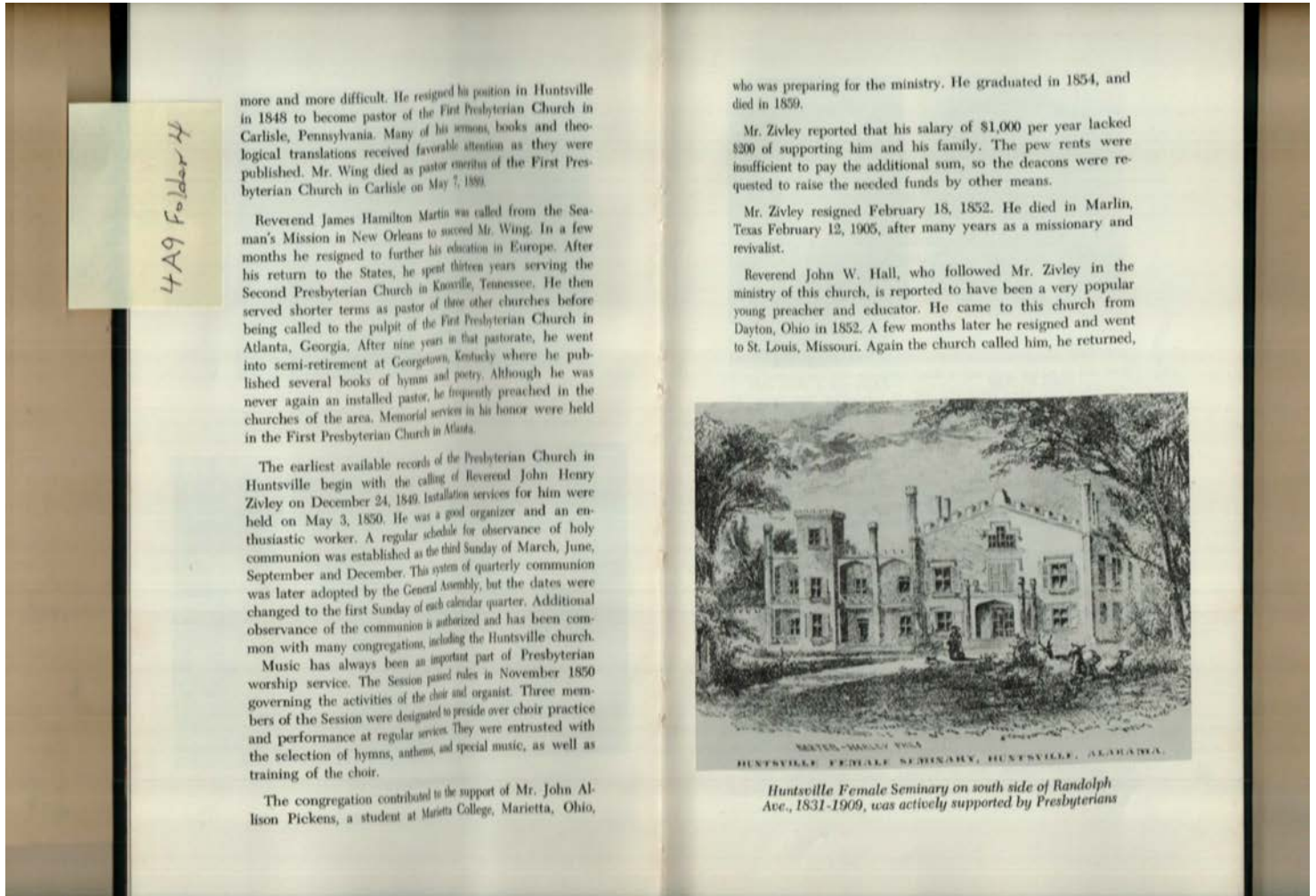
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1968



Names:

Hall, John W., Rev.
Huntsville Female
Seminary

Martin, James
Hamilton, Rev.
Pickens, John Allison

Wing, Conway P.,
Rev.

Zivley, John Henry,
Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

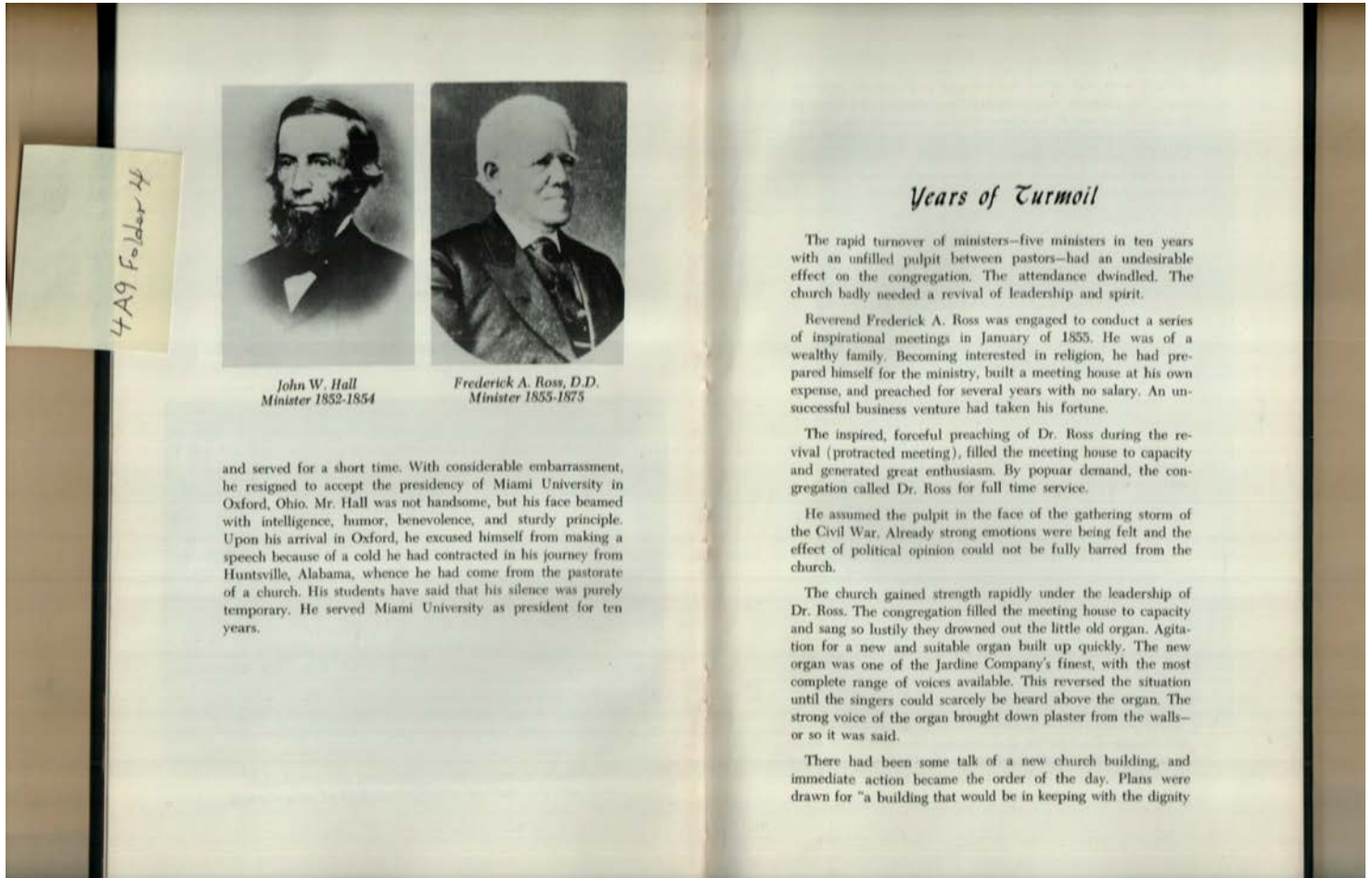
Types:

booklet

drawing

Dates:

1968



Names:

Hall, John W., Rev.

Ross, Frederick A.,
Dr.

Ross, Frederick A.,
Rev.

Years of Turmoil

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

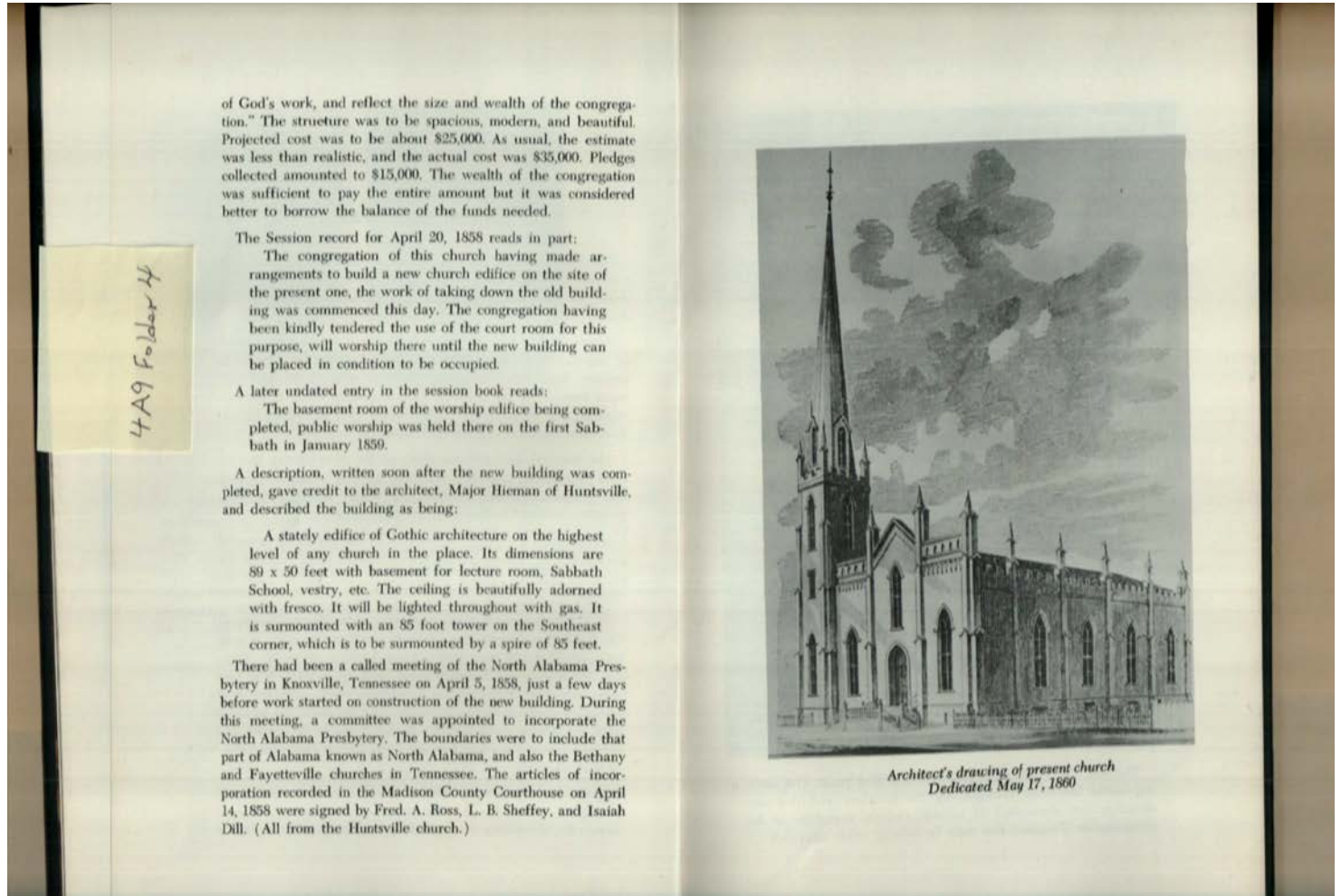
photograph

Dates:

1968

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

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Names:

Dill, Isaiah

First Presbyterian
Church

Hieman, Major
Ross, Frederick A.

Sheffey, L. B.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

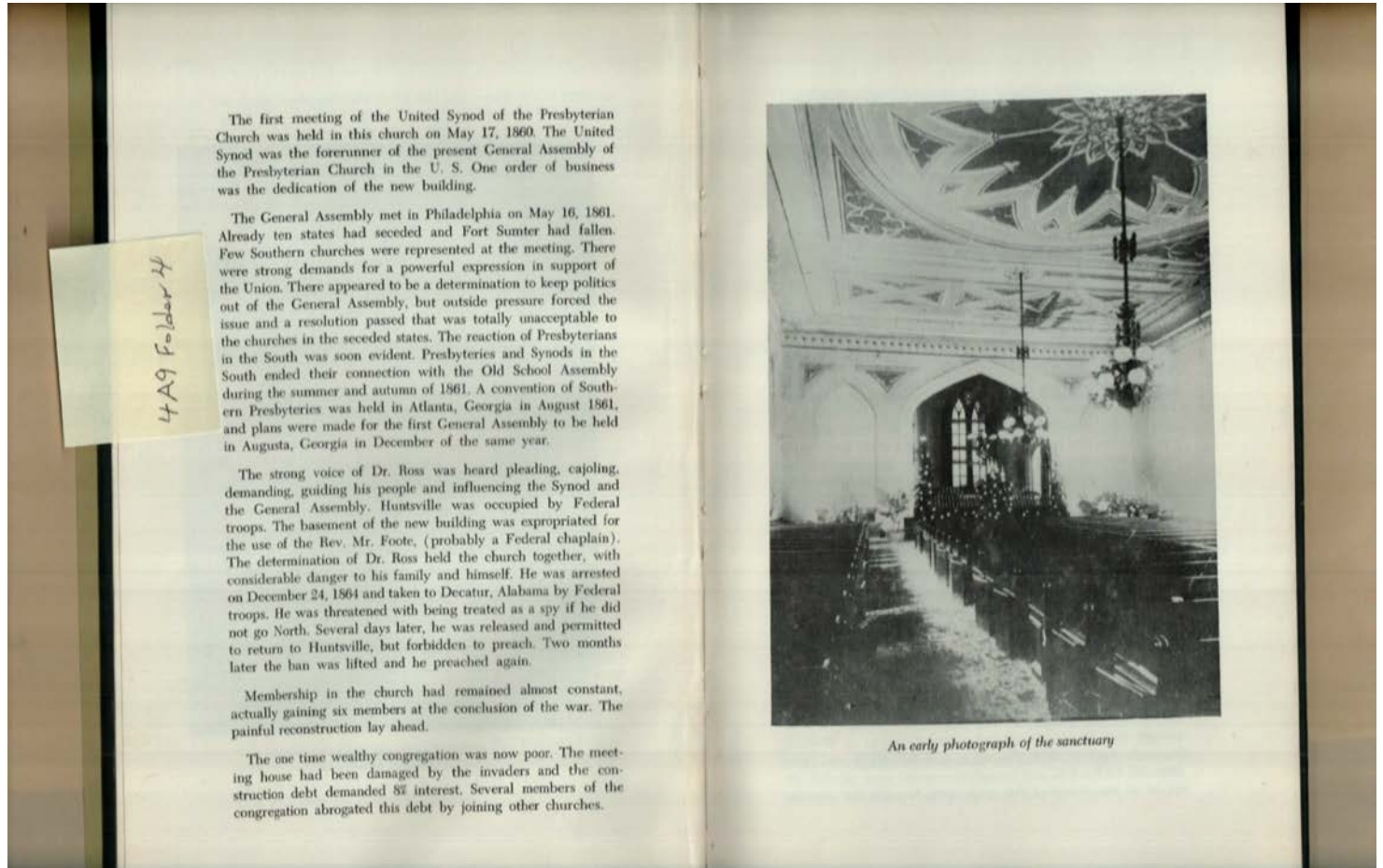
drawing

Dates:

1968

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

Image 32 r04a09-04-000-0099 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



The first meeting of the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church was held in this church on May 17, 1860. The United Synod was the forerunner of the present General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. One order of business was the dedication of the new building.

The General Assembly met in Philadelphia on May 16, 1861. Already ten states had seceded and Fort Sumter had fallen. Few Southern churches were represented at the meeting. There were strong demands for a powerful expression in support of the Union. There appeared to be a determination to keep politics out of the General Assembly, but outside pressure forced the issue and a resolution passed that was totally unacceptable to the churches in the seceded states. The reaction of Presbyterians in the South was soon evident. Presbyteries and Synods in the South ended their connection with the Old School Assembly during the summer and autumn of 1861. A convention of Southern Presbyteries was held in Atlanta, Georgia in August 1861, and plans were made for the first General Assembly to be held in Augusta, Georgia in December of the same year.

The strong voice of Dr. Ross was heard pleading, cajoling, demanding, guiding his people and influencing the Synod and the General Assembly. Huntsville was occupied by Federal troops. The basement of the new building was expropriated for the use of the Rev. Mr. Foote, (probably a Federal chaplain). The determination of Dr. Ross held the church together, with considerable danger to his family and himself. He was arrested on December 24, 1864 and taken to Decatur, Alabama by Federal troops. He was threatened with being treated as a spy if he did not go North. Several days later, he was released and permitted to return to Huntsville, but forbidden to preach. Two months later the ban was lifted and he preached again.

Membership in the church had remained almost constant, actually gaining six members at the conclusion of the war. The painful reconstruction lay ahead.

The one time wealthy congregation was now poor. The meeting house had been damaged by the invaders and the construction debt demanded 8% interest. Several members of the congregation abrogated this debt by joining other churches.



An early photograph of the sanctuary

Names:

First Presbyterian
Church Sanctuary

Foote, Rev.

Ross, Frederick A.,
Dr.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

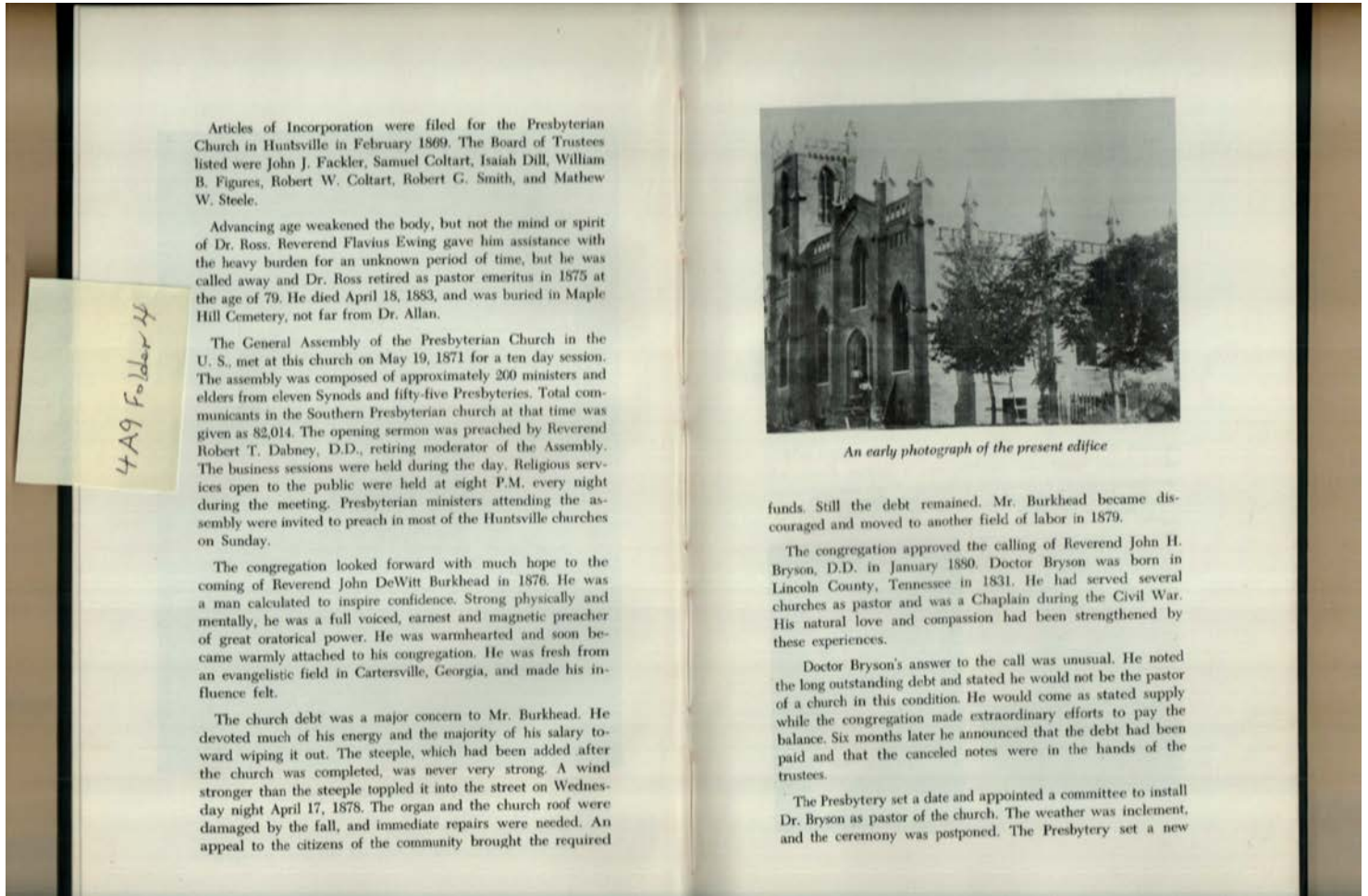
photograph

Dates:

1968

Concerning Presbyterian 1st Sesquicentennial Book

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Names:

Allan, John, Rev.
Bryson, John H., Rev.
Dr.
Burkhead, John
DeWitt, Rev.

Coltart, Robert W.
Coltart, Samuel
Dabney, Robert T.,
Rev.
Dill, Isaiah

Ewing, Flavius, Rev.
Fackler, John J.
Figures, William B.
First Presbyterian
Church

Ross, Frederick A.,
Dr.
Smith, Robert G.
Steele, Mathew W.

Places:

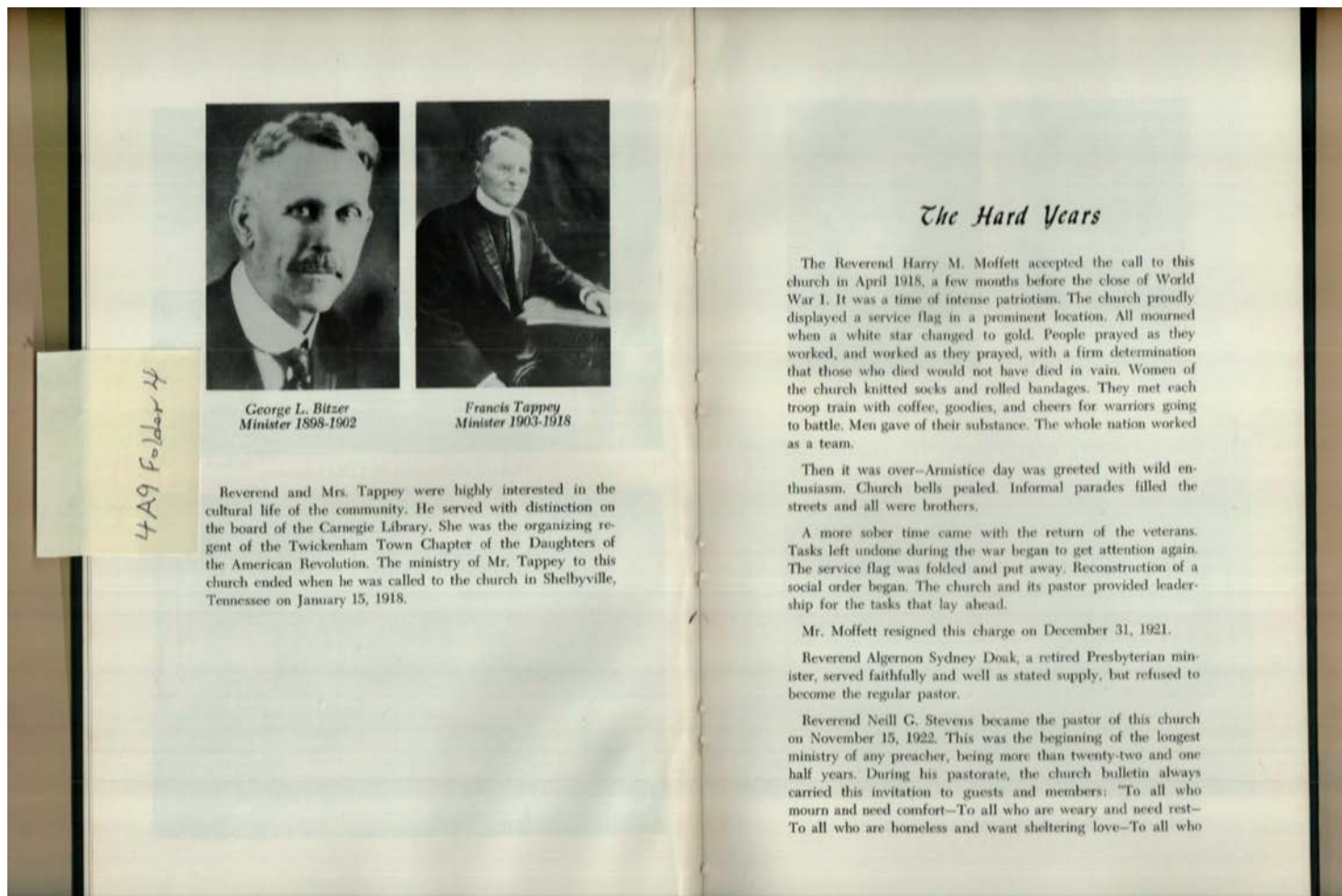
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet photograph

Dates:

1968



George L. Bitzer
Minister 1898-1902



Francis Tappey
Minister 1903-1918

Reverend and Mrs. Tappey were highly interested in the cultural life of the community. He served with distinction on the board of the Carnegie Library. She was the organizing regent of the Twickenham Town Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The ministry of Mr. Tappey to this church ended when he was called to the church in Shelbyville, Tennessee on January 15, 1918.

The Hard Years

The Reverend Harry M. Moffett accepted the call to this church in April 1918, a few months before the close of World War I. It was a time of intense patriotism. The church proudly displayed a service flag in a prominent location. All mourned when a white star changed to gold. People prayed as they worked, and worked as they prayed, with a firm determination that those who died would not have died in vain. Women of the church knitted socks and rolled bandages. They met each troop train with coffee, goodies, and cheers for warriors going to battle. Men gave of their substance. The whole nation worked as a team.

Then it was over—Armistice day was greeted with wild enthusiasm. Church bells pealed. Informal parades filled the streets and all were brothers.

A more sober time came with the return of the veterans. Tasks left undone during the war began to get attention again. The service flag was folded and put away. Reconstruction of a social order began. The church and its pastor provided leadership for the tasks that lay ahead.

Mr. Moffett resigned this charge on December 31, 1921.

Reverend Algernon Sydney Doak, a retired Presbyterian minister, served faithfully and well as stated supply, but refused to become the regular pastor.

Reverend Neill G. Stevens became the pastor of this church on November 15, 1922. This was the beginning of the longest ministry of any preacher, being more than twenty-two and one half years. During his pastorate, the church bulletin always carried this invitation to guests and members: "To all who mourn and need comfort—To all who are weary and need rest—To all who are homeless and want sheltering love—To all who

Names:

Bitzer, George L.,
Rev.

Doak, Algernon
Sydney, Rev.

Moffett, Harry M.,
Rev.

Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.

Tappey, Francis, Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

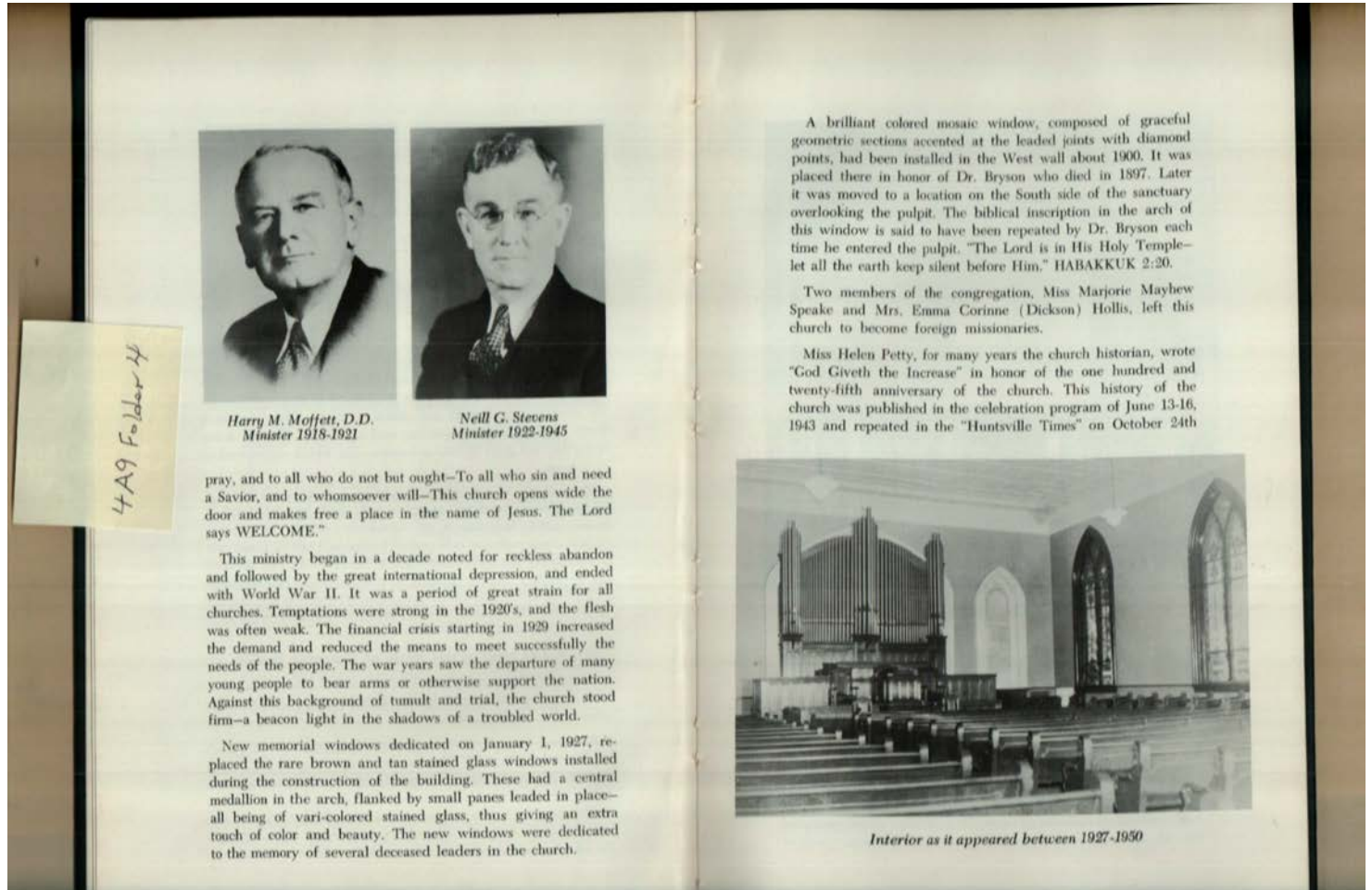
Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

1968



Names:

Bryson, John H., Dr.
First Presbyterian
Church Interior
1927-1950

Hollis, Emma Corrine
Dickson
Moffett, Harry M.,
Rev.

Petty, Helen, Miss
Speake, Marjorie
Mayhew, Miss

Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

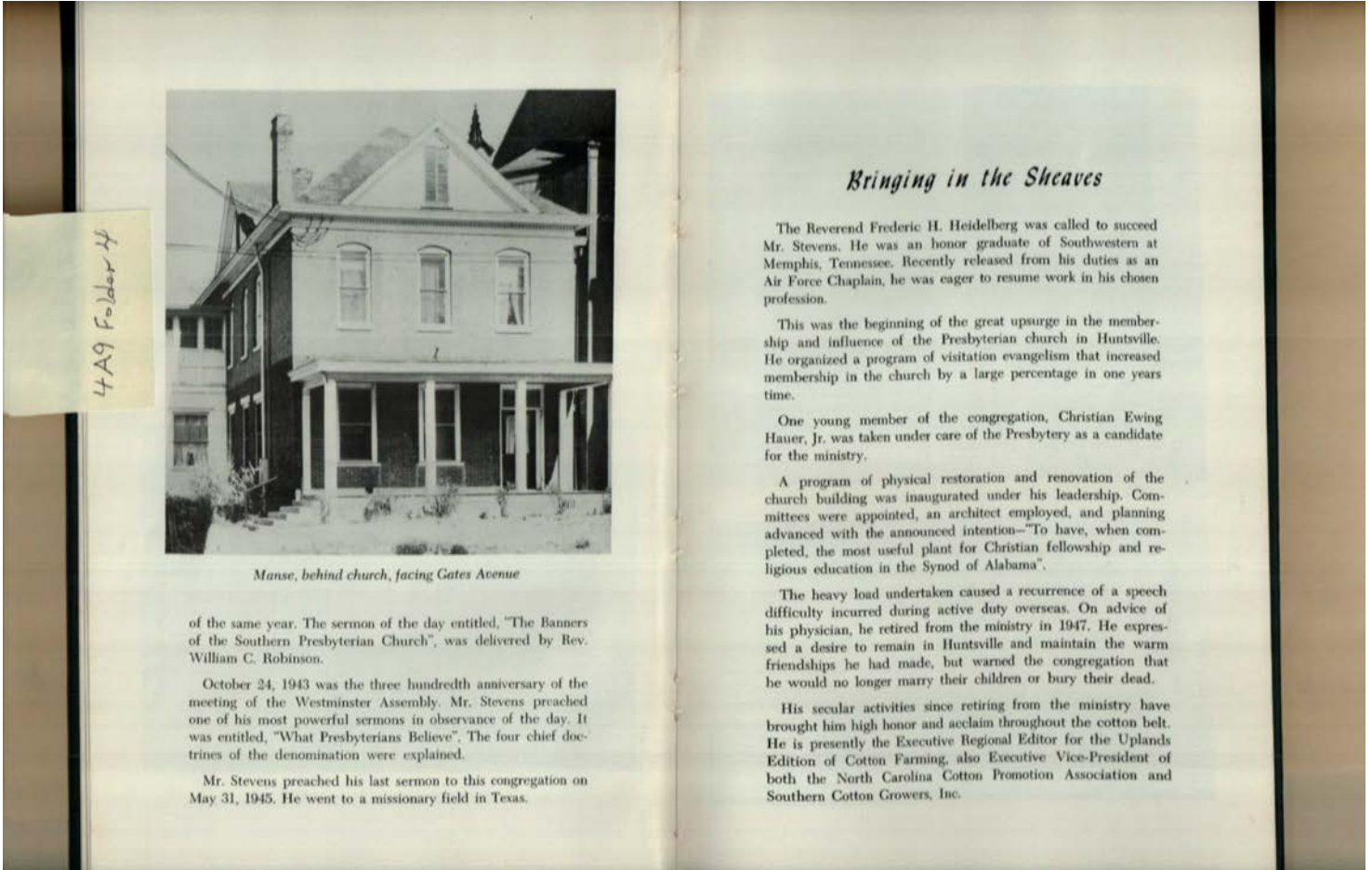
Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

1968



Names:

First Presbyterian
Church Manse
Hauer, Christian
Ewing, Jr.

Heidelberg, Frederic
H., Rev.
Robinson, William
C., Rev.

Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

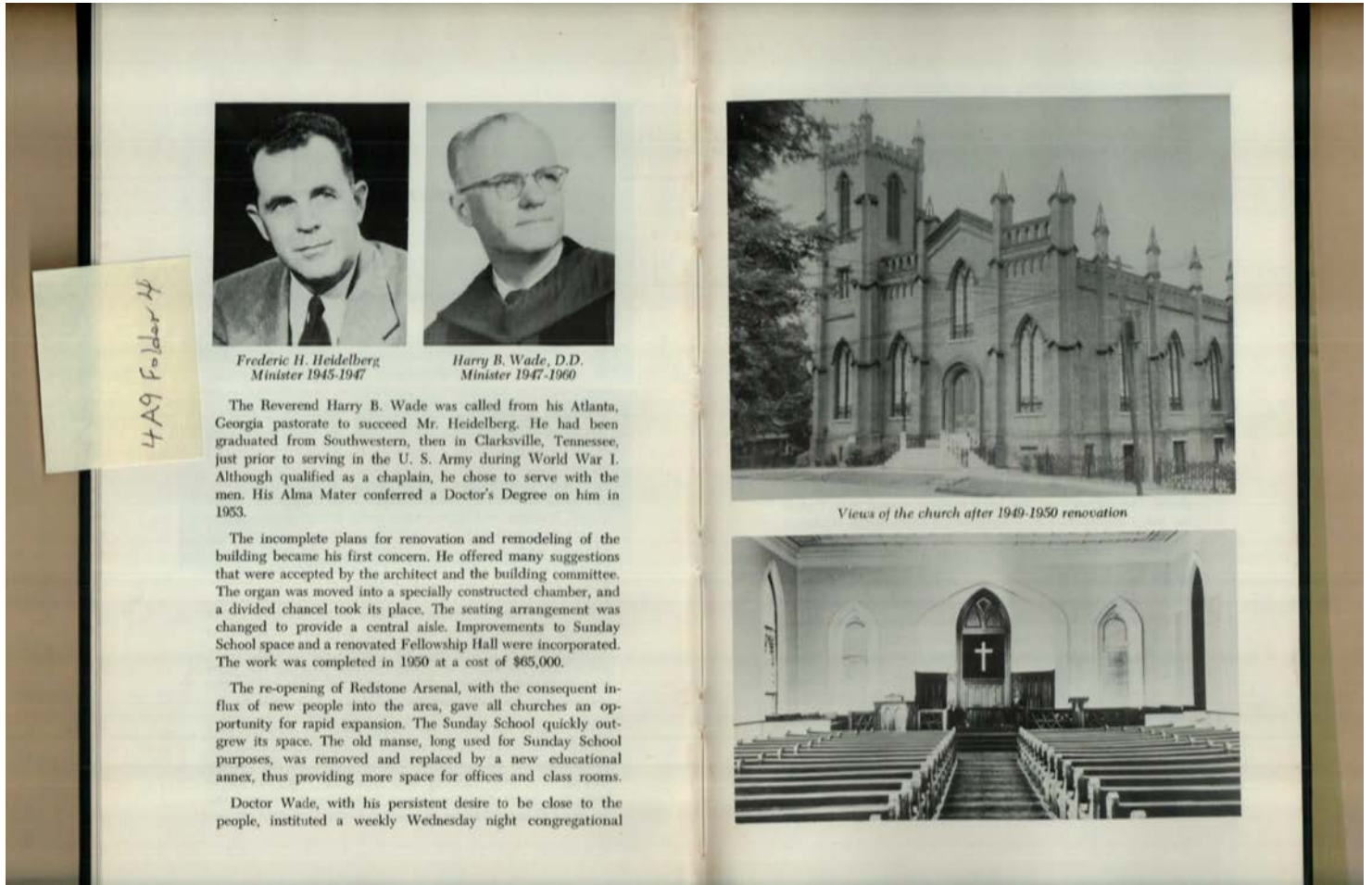
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booklet

photograph

Dates:

1968



Names:

First Presbyterian
Church Views

1949-1950

Heidelberg, Frederic
H., Rev.

Wade, Harry B., Dr.
Wade, Harry B., Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

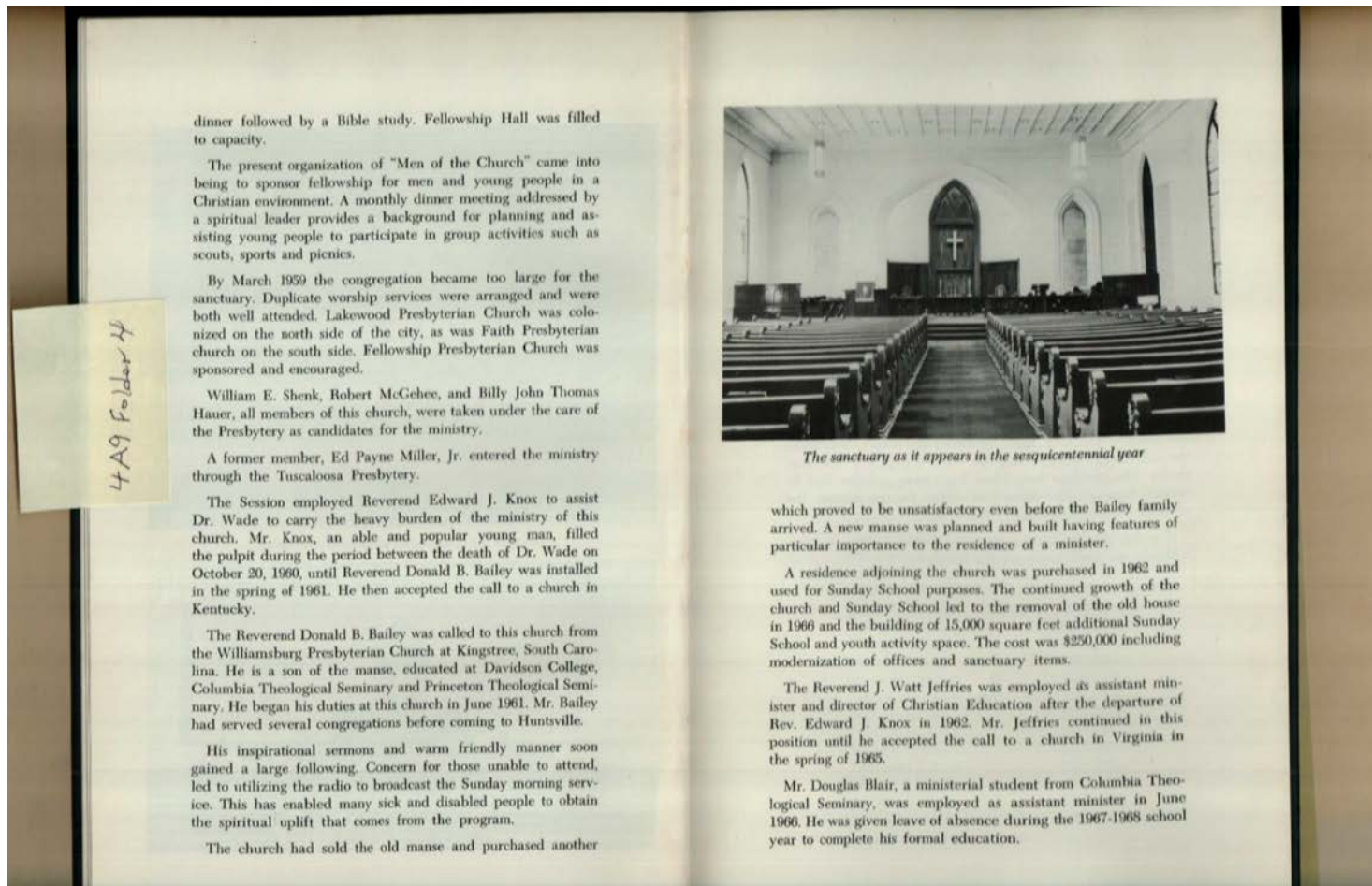
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Rev.
Blair, J. Douglas,
Rev.

First Presbyterian
Church Interior
Hauer, Billy John
Thomas

Jefferies, J. Watt,
Rev.
Knox, Edward J.,
Rev.

McGehee, Robert
Miller, Ed Payne, Jr.
Shenk, William E.
Wade, Harry B., Dr.

Places:

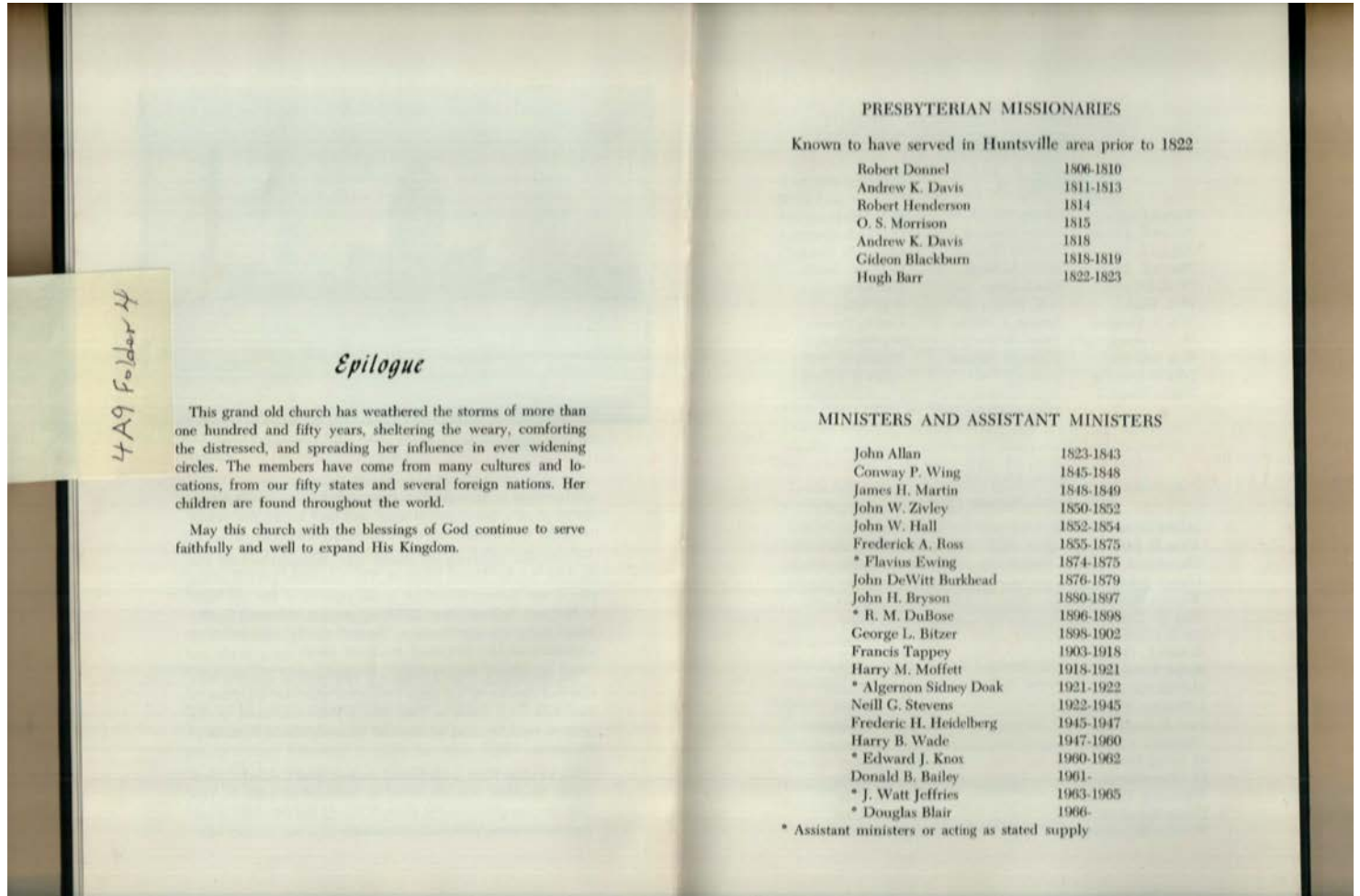
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booklet photograph

Dates:

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Names:

Ministers and
Assistant Ministers
of First

Presbyterian
Church

Presbyterian
Missionaries in
Huntsville

Places:

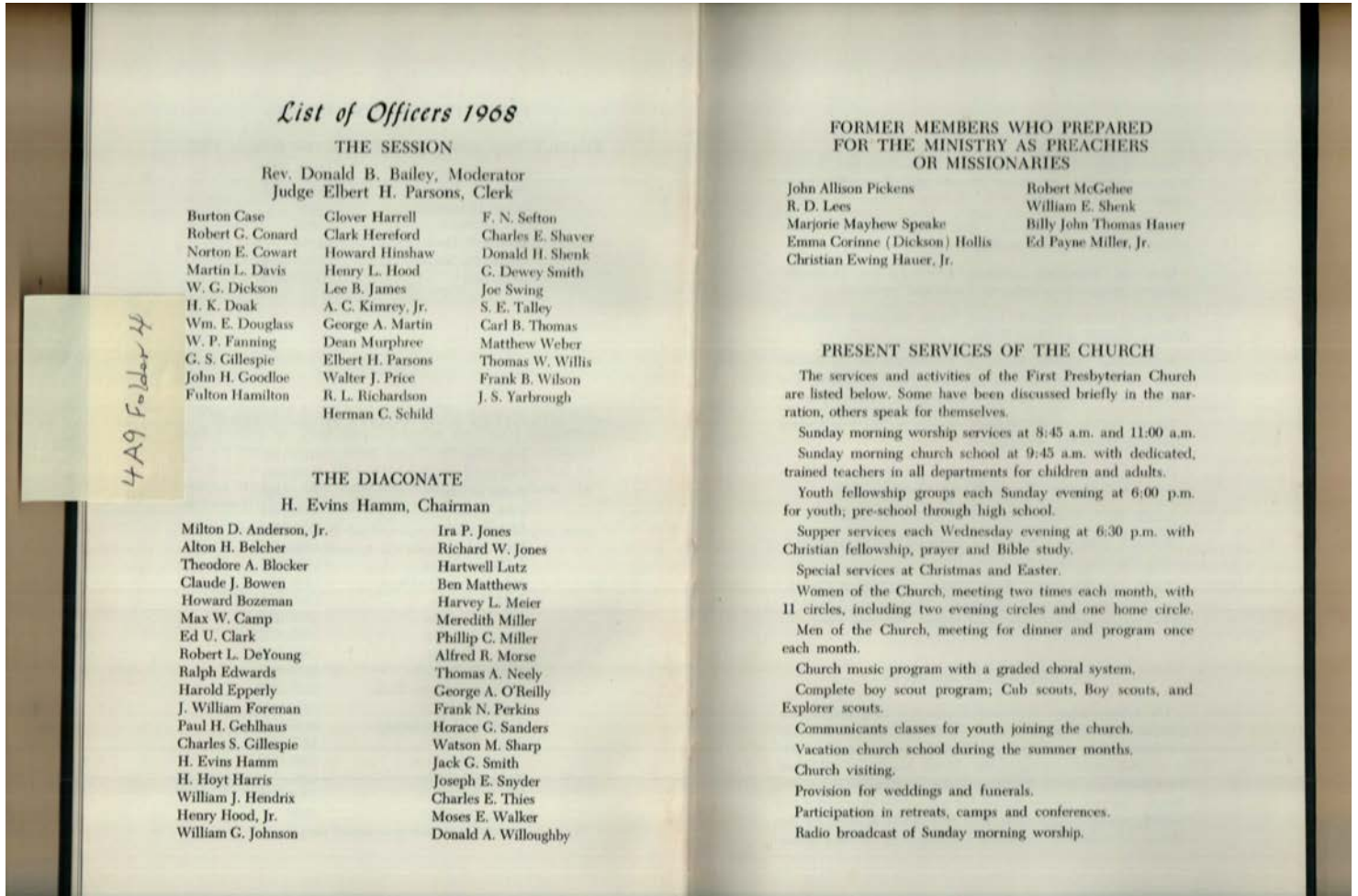
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Types:

list

Dates:

1968



Names:

First Presbyterian
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 Ewing, Jr.

Hauer, Billy John
 Thomas
 Hollis, Emma Corrine
 Dickson

Lees, R. D.
 McGehee, Robert
 Miller, Ed Payne, Jr.
 Pickens, John Allison

Shenk, William E.
 Speake, Marjorie
 Mayhew

Places:

Huntsville, AL

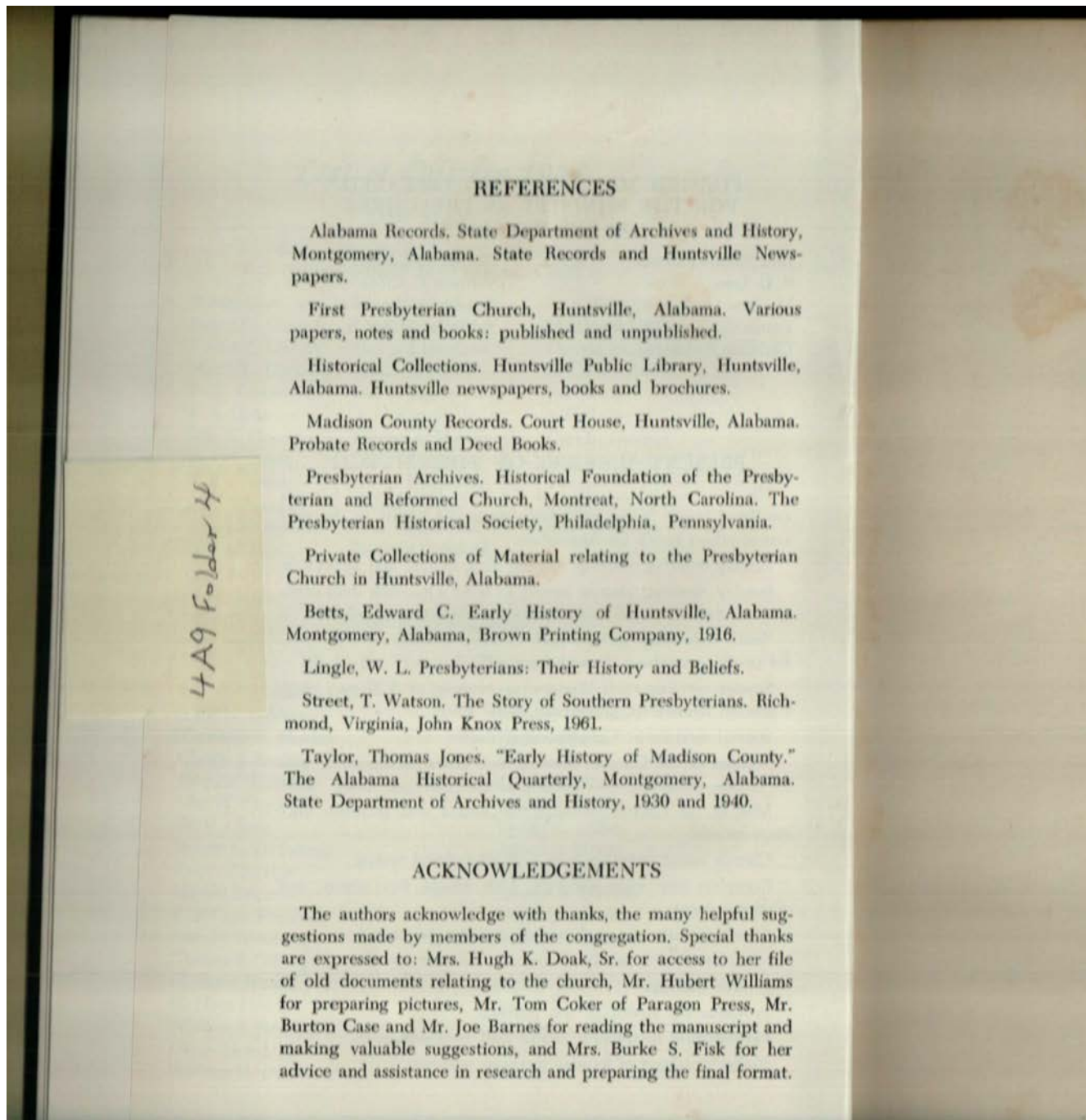
Types:

booklet

list

Dates:

1968



4A9 Folder 4

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Madison County Records. Court House, Huntsville, Alabama. Probate Records and Deed Books.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Names:

Barnes, Joe
Case, Burton

Coker, Tom

Doak, Hugh K., Sr.,
Mrs.

Fisk, Burke S., Mrs.
Williams, Hubert

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Names:

Seal of the
Presbyterian

Church

Types:

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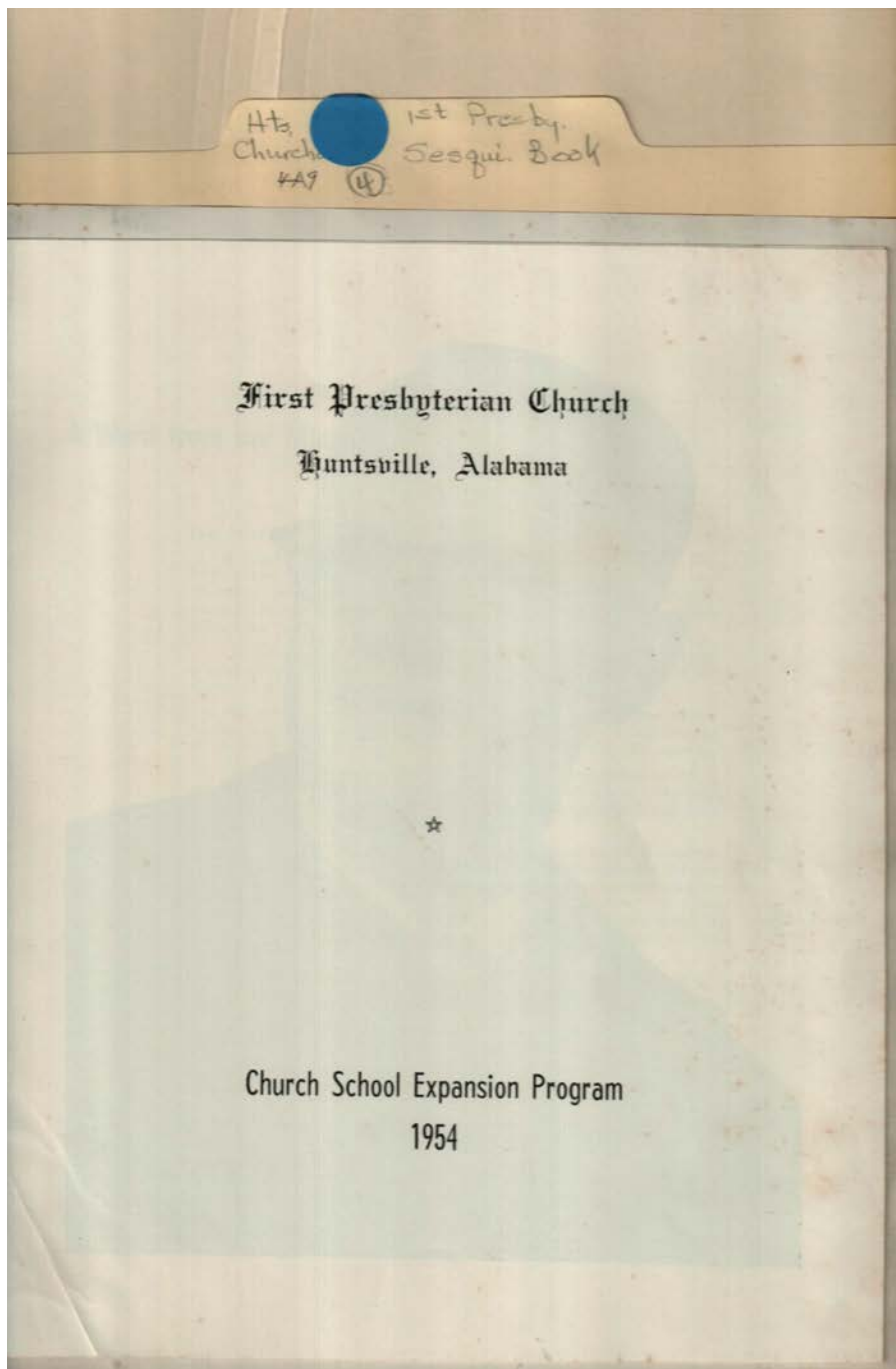
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Church - Church

School Expansion
Program

Places:

Huntsville, AL

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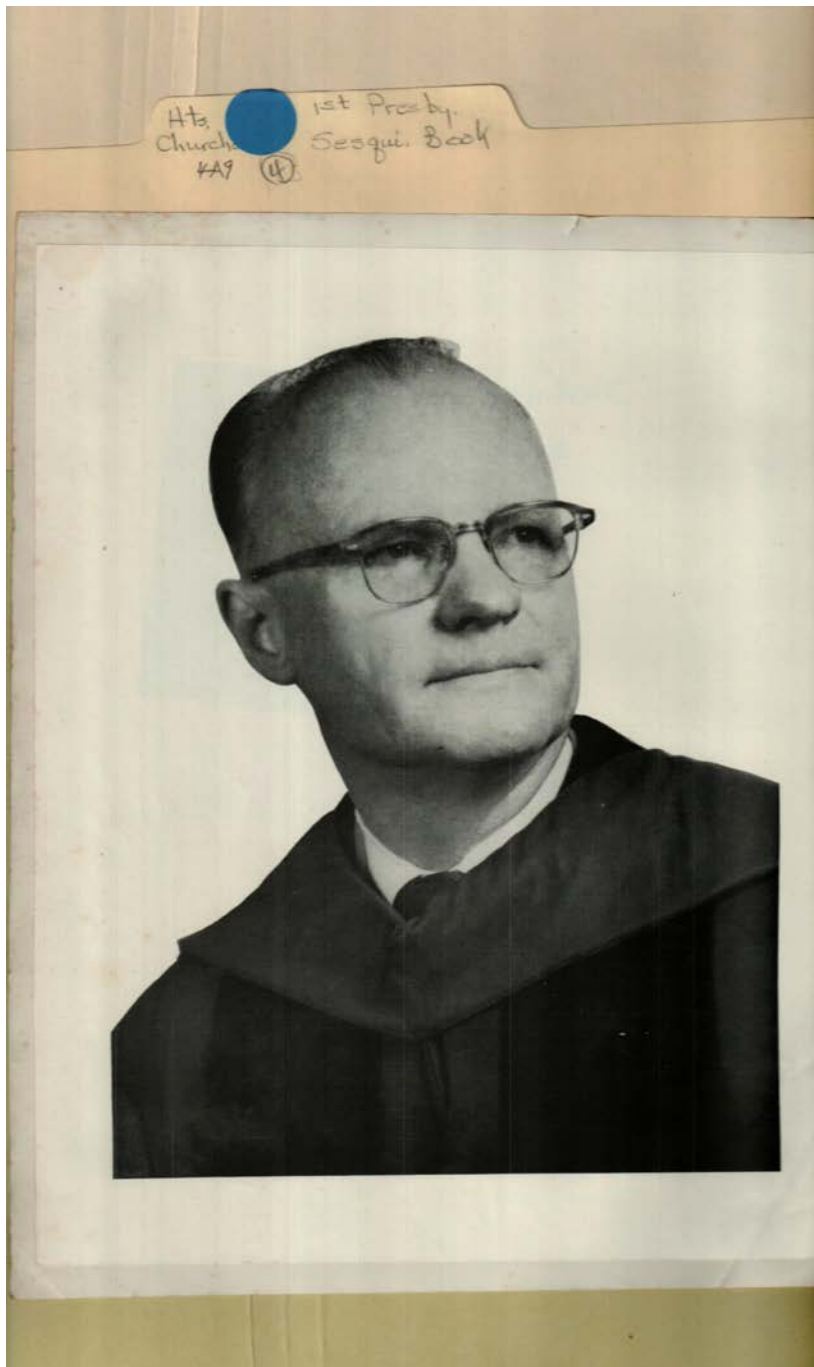
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Wade, Harry B., Rev.

Places:

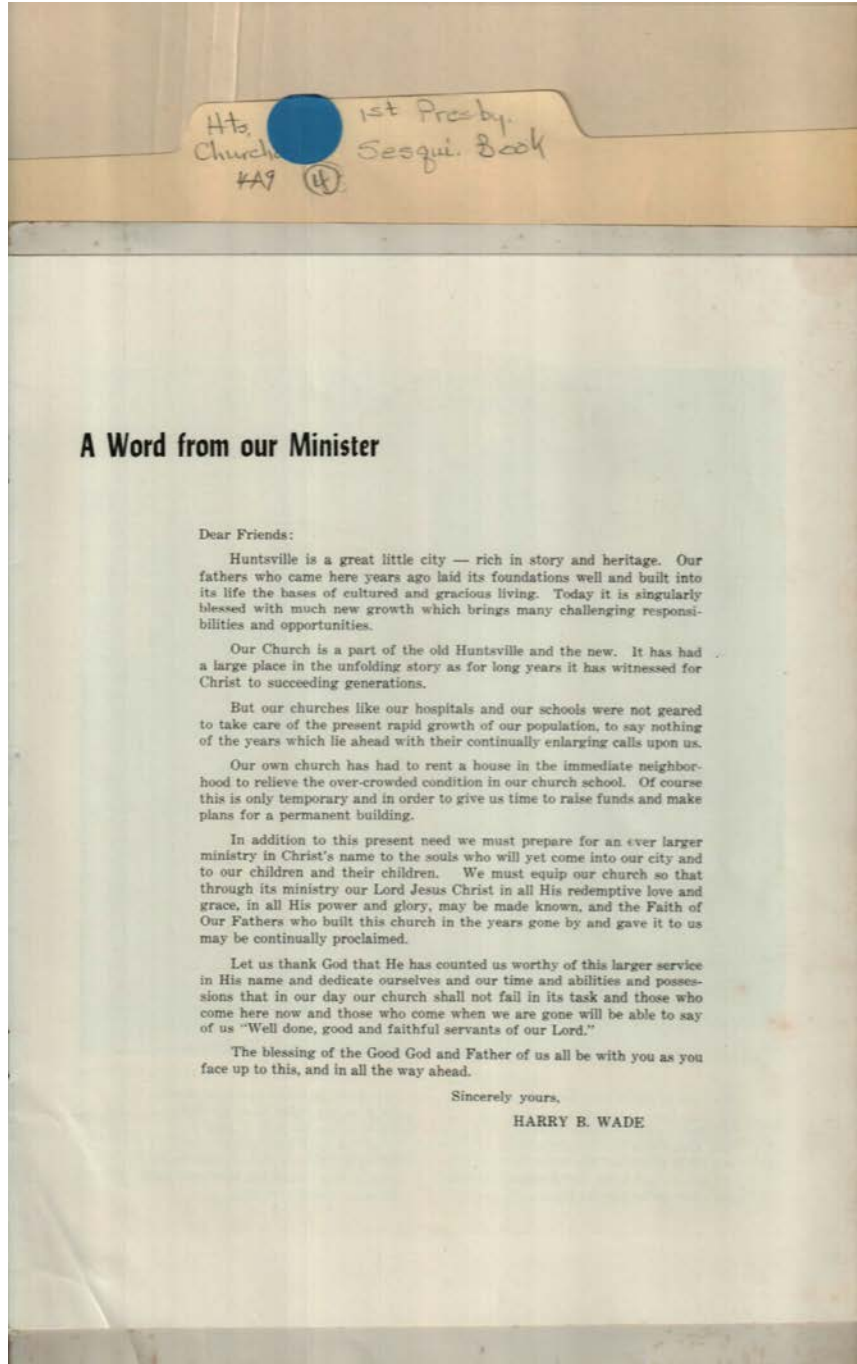
Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

1954



Names:

Wade, Harry B., Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

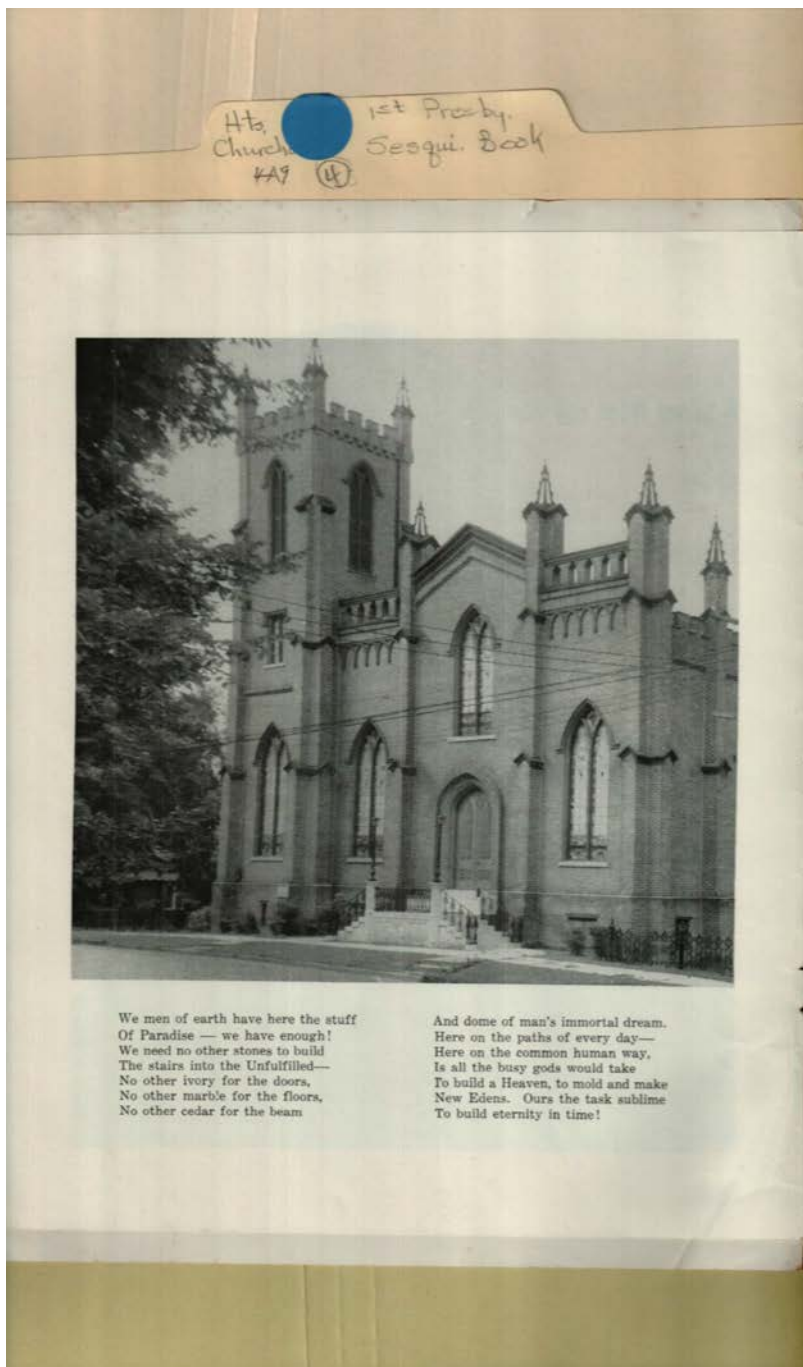
booklet

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First Presbyterian
Church

Places:

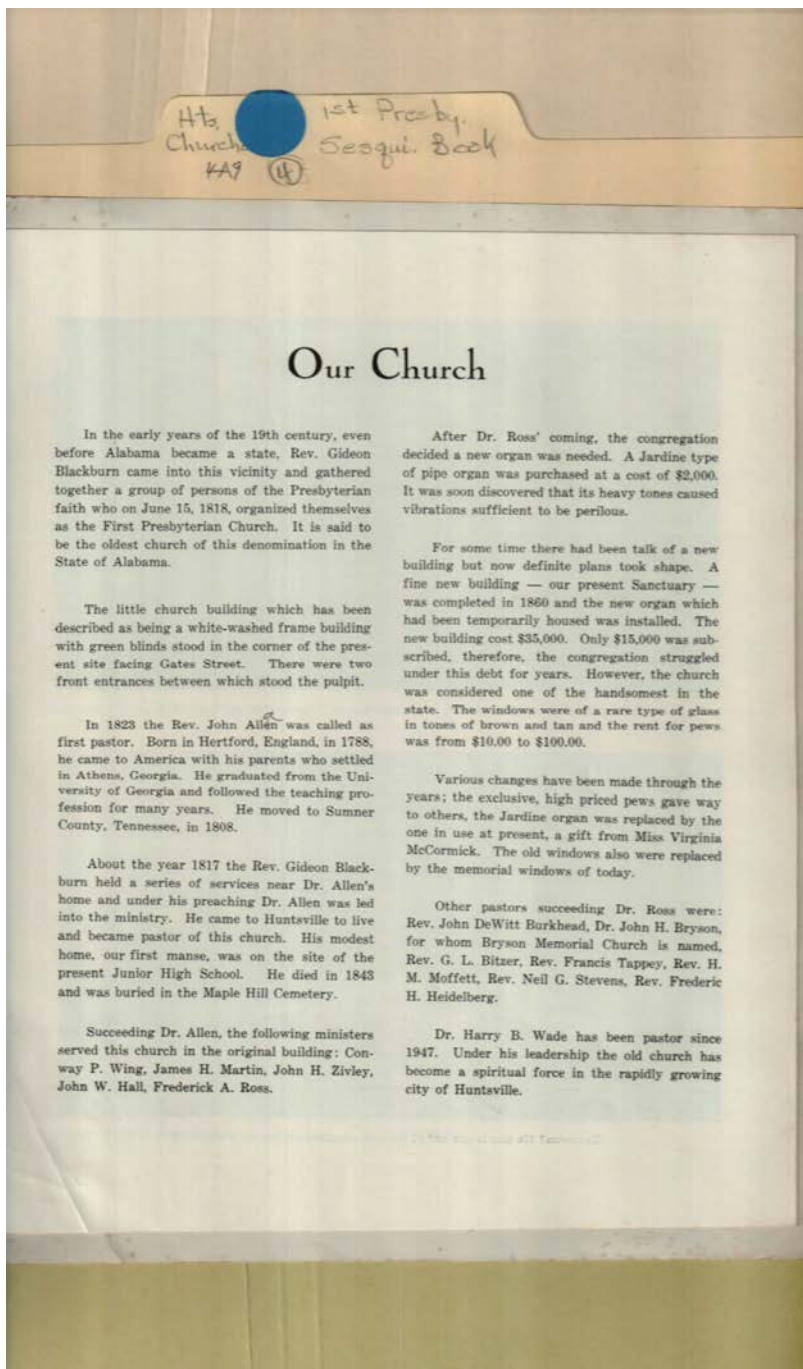
Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

1954



Our Church

In the early years of the 19th century, even before Alabama became a state, Rev. Gideon Blackburn came into this vicinity and gathered together a group of persons of the Presbyterian faith who on June 15, 1818, organized themselves as the First Presbyterian Church. It is said to be the oldest church of this denomination in the State of Alabama.

The little church building which has been described as being a white-washed frame building with green blinds stood in the corner of the present site facing Gates Street. There were two front entrances between which stood the pulpit.

In 1823 the Rev. John Allen was called as first pastor. Born in Hertford, England, in 1788, he came to America with his parents who settled in Athens, Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia and followed the teaching profession for many years. He moved to Sumner County, Tennessee, in 1808.

About the year 1817 the Rev. Gideon Blackburn held a series of services near Dr. Allen's home and under his preaching Dr. Allen was led into the ministry. He came to Huntsville to live and became pastor of this church. His modest home, our first manse, was on the site of the present Junior High School. He died in 1843 and was buried in the Maple Hill Cemetery.

Succeeding Dr. Allen, the following ministers served this church in the original building: Conway P. Wing, James H. Martin, John H. Zivley, John W. Hall, Frederick A. Ross.

After Dr. Ross' coming, the congregation decided a new organ was needed. A Jardine type of pipe organ was purchased at a cost of \$2,000. It was soon discovered that its heavy tones caused vibrations sufficient to be perilous.

For some time there had been talk of a new building but now definite plans took shape. A fine new building — our present Sanctuary — was completed in 1860 and the new organ which had been temporarily housed was installed. The new building cost \$35,000. Only \$15,000 was subscribed, therefore, the congregation struggled under this debt for years. However, the church was considered one of the handsomest in the state. The windows were of a rare type of glass in tones of brown and tan and the rent for pews was from \$10.00 to \$100.00.

Various changes have been made through the years; the exclusive, high priced pews gave way to others, the Jardine organ was replaced by the one in use at present, a gift from Miss Virginia McCormick. The old windows also were replaced by the memorial windows of today.

Other pastors succeeding Dr. Ross were: Rev. John DeWitt Burkhead, Dr. John H. Bryson, for whom Bryson Memorial Church is named, Rev. G. L. Bitzer, Rev. Francis Tappey, Rev. H. M. Moffett, Rev. Neill G. Stevens, Rev. Frederic H. Heidelberg.

Dr. Harry B. Wade has been pastor since 1947. Under his leadership the old church has become a spiritual force in the rapidly growing city of Huntsville.

Names:

Allan, John, Rev.
Bitzer, George L.,
Rev.
Blackburn, Gideon,
Rev.
Bryson, John H., Rev.
Dr.

Burkhead, John
DeWitt, Rev.
Hall, John W., Rev.
Heidelberg, Frederic
H., Rev.
Martin, James H.,
Rev.

McCormick, Virginia,
Miss
Moffett, H. M., Rev.
Ross, Frederick A.,
Rev.
Stevens, Neill G.,
Rev.

Tappey, Francis, Rev.
Wade, Harry B., Dr.
Wing, Conway P.,
Rev.
Zivley, John H., Rev.

Places:

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booklet

Dates:
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Names:

Primary Class - First
Presbyterian

Church

Youth Group - First
Presbyterian

Church

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

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Our Janitor's Supply Room on Sunday is more than a broom closet. These Primary children use it for a classroom.

Our Needs

We are now using the same Church School facilities which we were using in 1933, twenty years ago. At that time, and for some time thereafter, these facilities were adequate.

During the last five years, however, our church membership and Church School attendance have virtually doubled. This tremendous growth has made our plant woefully inadequate to handle our present enrollment and our crowded conditions are discouraging many who would otherwise attend. We are now crowding our children into class-room space that, by minimum standards, is 50% too small. We are holding classes in hallways, ante-rooms, and even the kitchen. Four of our classes or departments have no piano. Much of our Church School furniture and equipment is obsolete or delapidated.

We have arrived at the point of having to choose between two paths:

1. Closing our doors to additional children and tolerate the deplorable space situation we now have, Or,
2. Providing adequate and suitable facilities for those who want to worship with us—and for our children who are even now forming their first impressions of God's house and of the regard which we, their parents, have for God's house.

Yet another and deeper need in this vital program for building is the need for Better Givers. To meet the building needs of our Church, we must erect new spiritual buildings in our hearts and minds. We must ask for God's guidance to lead us into spiritual rebirth and a new way of Christian living based on sacrificial giving. For it is only by the most selfless kind of sacrificial giving that we can complete this work of God's Kingdom.

Names:

Primary Class - First
Presbyterian

Church

Places:

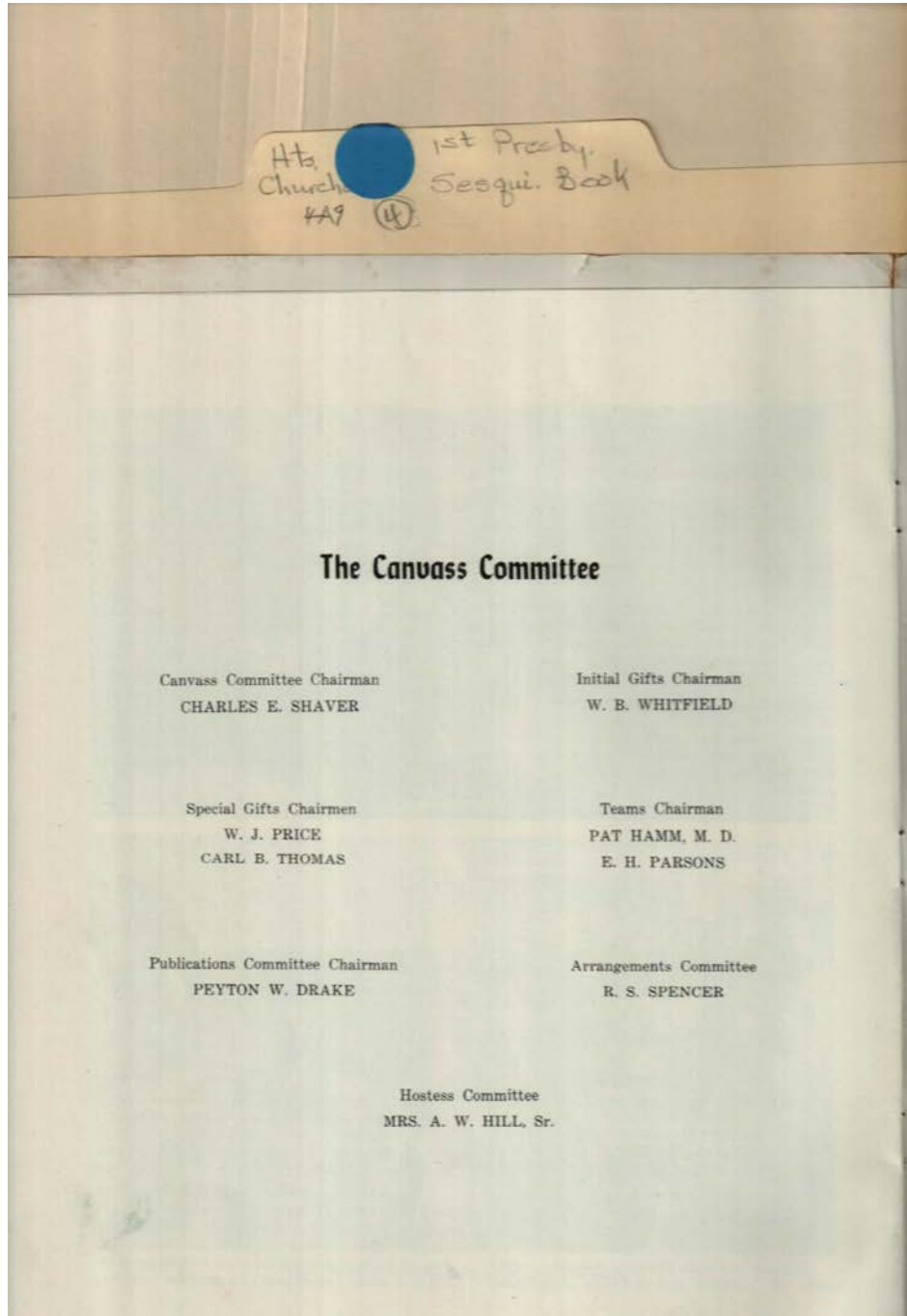
Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

1954



First Presbyterian Church

Names:

Drake, Peyton W.
Hamm, Pat, M. D.
Hill, Archie W., Sr.,
Mrs.

Parsons, Elbert H.
Price, Walter J.
Shaver, Charles E.
Spencer, R. S.

The Canvass
Committee
Thomas, Carl B.
Whitfield, W. B.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

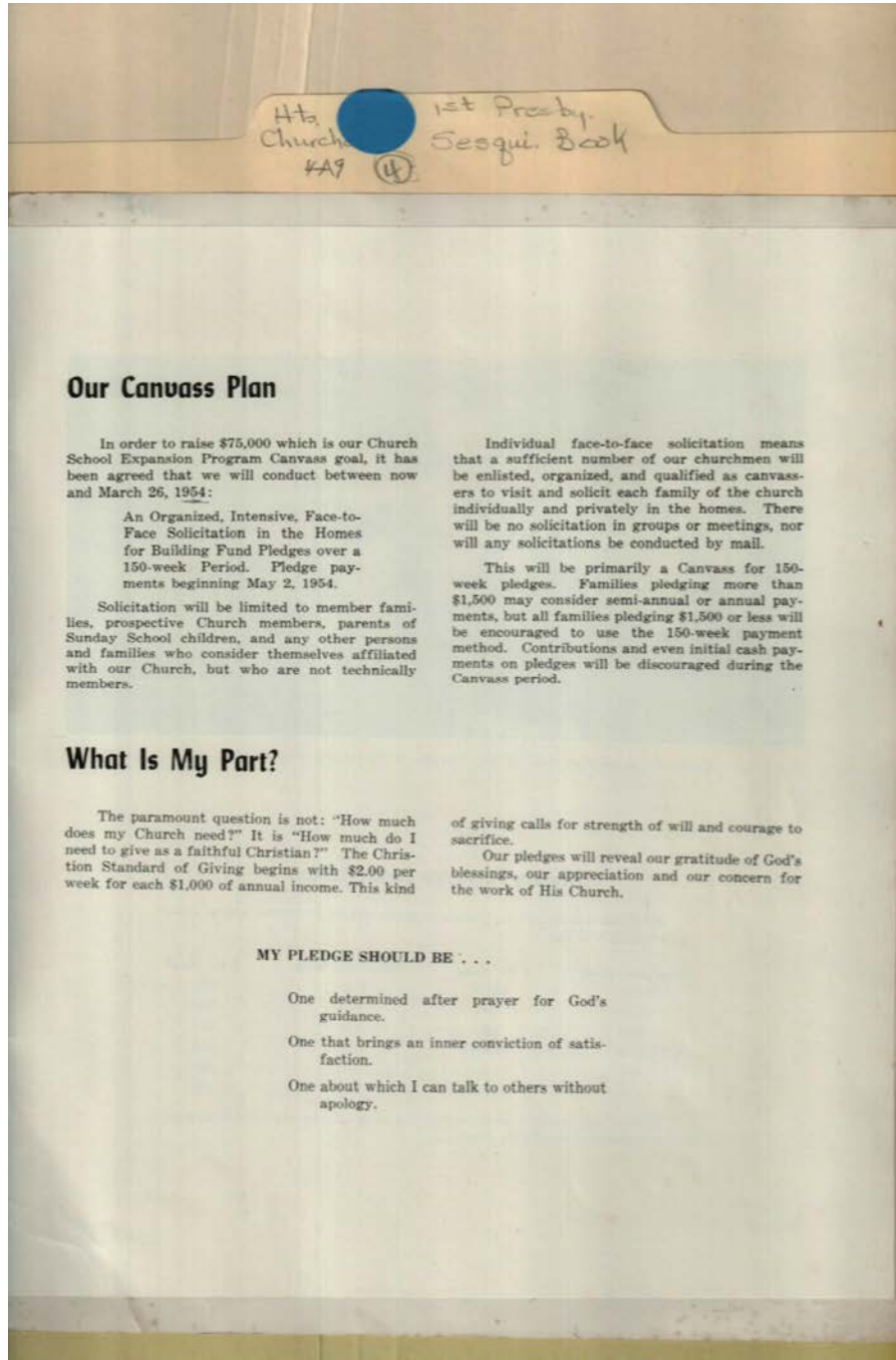
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Dates:

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Names:

Church School
Canvass Plan

Places:

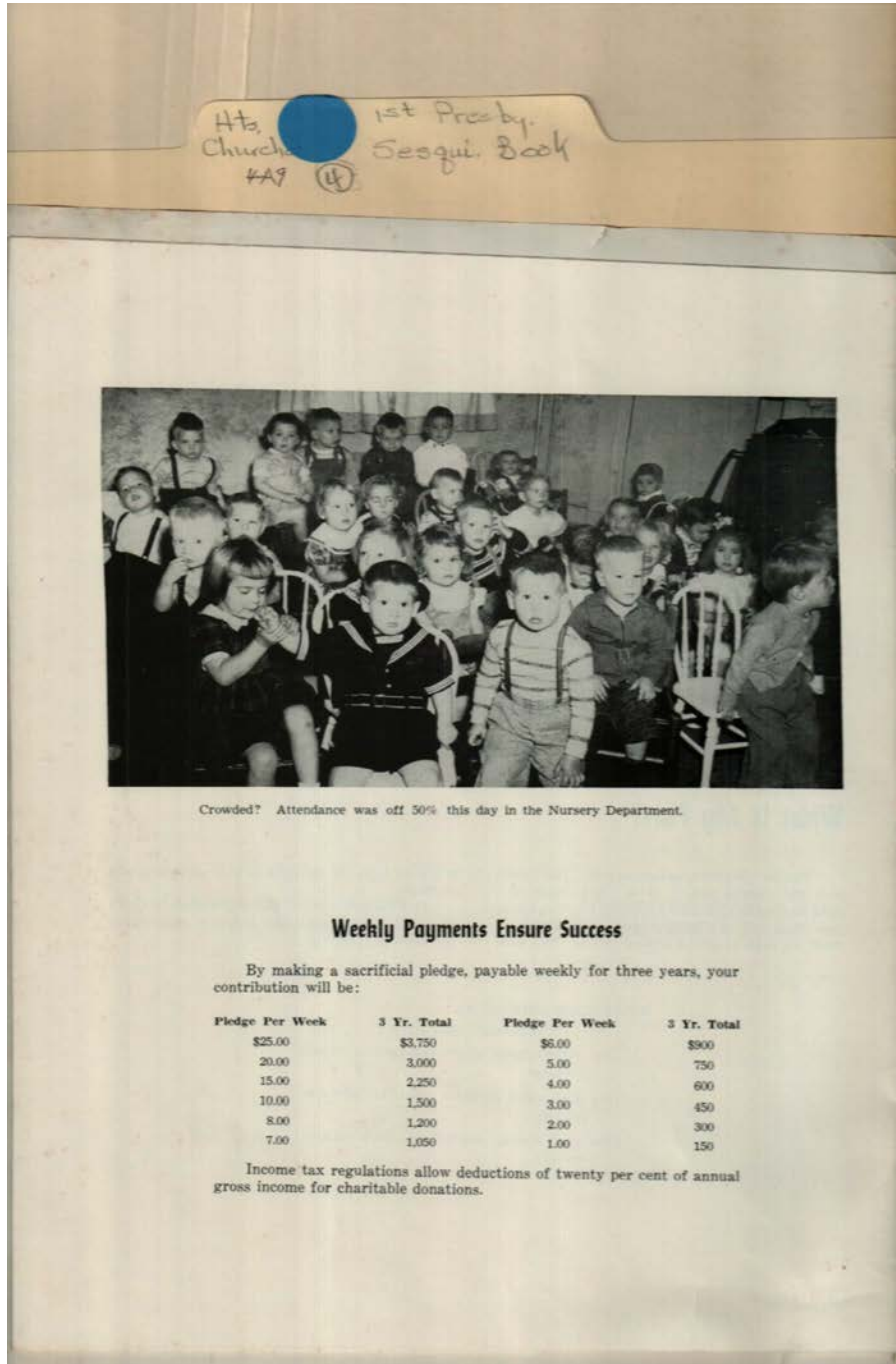
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1954



Names:

First Presbyterian
Church Nursery

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Dates:

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