OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Church of the Advent, Seattle, Washington, History

Collection Date(s): circa 2001

Extent and Forms of Material: One 29-page booklet and one loose sheet of paper.

Creator: St. Clement’s Episcopal Church (Seattle, Wash.)

Abstract: The Church of the Advent, Seattle, formerly St. Phillip’s mission, was a historically African American Episcopal congregation that was closed in 1958 by the Right Reverend Stephen Bayne, Bishop of Olympia. Most of its members that remained in the Episcopal union transferred their membership to St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, Seattle. The information in this collection provides a microcosm of the impact of integration and the closing of so-called segregated churches during the 1950s and early 1960s.


Collection Number: RG A11
INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright held by creator and/or heirs.

Preferred Citation: Church of the Advent, Seattle, Washington, History, African American Episcopal Historical Collection, Virginia Theological Seminary Archives, box number X, folder number XX

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative History:
In 1926, St. Phillip’s Mission, Seattle was organized under the sponsorship of St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, Seattle as a “mission for the colored people.” In 1954, St. Phillip’s Mission moved from rented space in a house at 227 23rd Avenue East to a new church building at the corner of 22nd Avenue East and East Thomas Street, changing its name to the Church of the Advent. In 1958, after supporting the creation and growth of the Church of the Advent over the years, the Diocese of Olympia decided to discontinue this mission. In a May 14, 1958 letter from the Right Reverend Stephen Bayne to all members of the Church of the Advent, Bishop Bayne cited “the appearance of maintaining a segregated church” as the reason for this action. He suggested that Church of the Advent members seek membership at other local parishes. The mission was closed on June 30, 1958. After the closure of the Church of the Advent, most of its members that remained in the Episcopal union transferred their membership to St. Clement’s Episcopal Church.

Scope and Content:
The Church of the Advent, formerly St. Phillip’s mission, was a historically African American Episcopal congregation that was closed in 1958 by the Right Reverend Stephen Bayne, Bishop of Olympia. This collection consists of one booklet titled, “A Book of Memories Reflecting Seventy-five Years of Intentional Ministry among and by African Americans in the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, May 1926-May 2001, prepared for a Reunion of Members from St. Phillip’s Mission and Church of the Advent, Seattle.”

The booklet contains a variety of remembrances that recount the events leading up to the closing of the Church of the Advent and the impact this had on its minority members as they were absorbed by local churches, such as St. Clements Episcopal Church. The information in this packet provides a microcosm of the impact of integration and the closing of so-called segregated churches during the 1950s and early 1960s. It includes correspondence between parishioners, clergy and leaders such as the Bishop of Olympia, the Right Reverend Stephen F. Bayne, and members of the Urban League, including Lewis Watts. Also included are newspaper clippings detailing the opening and closing of
the church as well as church activities while the mission was open. It contains recollections of former parishioners, as well as photographs of various churches in the region including St. Clements and the St. Philips Mission. In addition to the booklet, there is one loose sheet of paper that includes details about the first African American acolyte in the State of Washington.

The clergy who served this community include Reverend Lincoln Paul Eng (former deacon of Church of the Advent, eventual Rector), Father Ralph Carskadden, Father Arnold Krone, and Father Malcolm Lattimore.

**Finding Aids:** An earlier version of this finding aid was written by Kimberly Robinson in May 2006. Danleigh Kaplan updated and revised this finding aid in March 2007.

**Acquisition Information:** Gift of the Rev. Constance Moorehead, Rector St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, Seattle, WA, 2003.

**Related Archival Materials:** Archives of the Diocese of Olympia, for more information contact Ms. Diane Wells, Archivist, dwells@ecww.org.

**Access Points:**
- African American Episcopalians
- Church of the Advent (Seattle, Wash.)
- St. Clement’s Episcopal Church (Seattle, Wash.)
- Diocese of Olympia of the Episcopal Church (Wash.)

**CONTAINER LISTING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title/Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Church of the Advent, Seattle, Washington, History, circa 2001</td>
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</tbody>
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