Fred D. Gealy papers

A Guide to the Collection

Overview

Creator: Gealy, Fred D. (Fred Daniel), 1894-1976

Title: Fred D. Gealy papers

Inclusive Dates: 1909-1977

Bulk Dates: 1920-1970

Abstract: This collection documents the life of Fred D. Gealy (1894-1976). Dr. Gealy was a Methodist minister, missionary, Bible scholar, and church musician. His career included teaching positions at Aoyama Gakuin University, Drew Theological School, Iliff School of Theology, Perkins School of Theology, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. The collection includes correspondence; personal materials; research, writing, editing, and teaching files; sermon notes; and publications.

Accession No: BridArch 105.07

Extent: 23 boxes (10 linear feet)

Language: Material is in English and Japanese
Historical Note

Scholar, educator, and church musician Fred Daniel Gealy was born on May 13, 1894, in Oil City, Pennsylvania, the son of William Jefferson and Emma Caroline Baum Gealy. He studied at Allegheny College (A.B., 1916), Boston University School of Theology (S.T.B., 1919; Ph.D., 1929), and Union Theological Seminary in New York (S.T.M., 1929). Gealy furthered his studies in Basel, Berlin, and Chicago. In 1937 Allegheny College honored him with a Doctor of Divinity degree.

Gealy became a Deacon in the Erie Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1917 and was ordained an Elder in 1921. From 1918 to 1920, he served as pastor of the West Congregational Church of West Peabody, Massachusetts. From 1921 to 1923 Rev. Gealy was appointed pastor of the Townville, Pennsylvania, Methodist Episcopal Church. On June 26, 1923, he married Mildred Gladys Reader of Rochester, Pennsylvania. They had three sons: William James, Fred Daniel, Jr., and John Robert.

In August 1923 the Gealys departed for Japan on missionary assignment. They arrived on September first, the day of the Great Kanto Earthquake. From 1923 to 1936 Dr. Gealy taught New Testament at Aoyama Gakuin (now Aoyama Gakuin University).

Between 1936 and 1939 Gealy accepted visiting professorships at Drew University, the University of Denver, and Southern Methodist University (SMU). He joined the faculty of the SMU School of Theology (now Perkins School of Theology) in 1940 as professor of New Testament Greek, missions, and church music. After retiring from Perkins School of Theology, Gealy joined the faculty of Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio, in 1960. Following his second retirement in 1969, he returned to Dallas, where he continued teaching occasionally at SMU. Fred Gealy’s published writings included numerous articles in scholarly journals and in the Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible (1962), the introduction and exegesis of the Pastoral Epistles in The Interpreter’s Bible (1955), Let Us Break Bread Together (1960), and Celebration (1969).

In addition to being a prominent scholar, Dr. Gealy was a popular conference speaker and a leading church musician. He was the organizing director of the Tokyo Oratorio Society (1924-1936) and the compiler of Hymns in English (Tokyo: 1937). Gealy founded the Seminary Singers at Perkins School of Theology in 1940 and conducted the group until 1959. From 1951 to 1959 he was the chapel organist at Perkins. He also served as organist at two Dallas churches: University Park Methodist Church (1941-1956) and at Casa View Methodist Church (1957-1960).


Sources:


Scope and Contents of the Collection

Through correspondence, personal papers, office files, and collected published writings, the Fred D. Gealy papers document the life of a noteworthy twentieth-century pastor, missionary, teacher, and church musician. Themes within the collection include Japan, missiology, biblical exegesis and translation, ministerial education, and Christian hymnody and worship.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is arranged in five series:

Series 1: Correspondence, 1913-1976
Series 2: Personal papers, 1909-1977
Series 3: Professional papers, circa 1916-1970
Series 4: Biblical studies, circa 1920-1970
Series 5: Published writings, 1933-1976

Restrictions

Access to Collection:
Collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights:
Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the Director of the Bridwell Library.

Copyright Statement:
It is the responsibility of the user to obtain copyright authorization.
Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms in the Southern Methodist University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring related materials may search the catalog using these terms:

- Gealy, Fred D. (Fred Daniel), 1894-1976.
- Southern Methodist University – Faculty.
- Methodist Church -- Clergy.
- Biblical scholars.
- Organists.
- Letters.

Related Material

Carlton R. Young papers, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
Acquired

Processing Information
Processed by Timothy S. G. Binkley, 2014.

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Encoded by
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Correspondence, 1913-1976
43 folders

Dr. Gealy’s general correspondence files are arranged chronologically. The folders in this series contain incoming letters with enclosures and carbon copies of outgoing letters. These items detail Gealy’s ministry, teaching positions, publishing projects, speaking engagements, and music leadership.

Box   Folder
1849A 01-09  Correspondence, 1913-1934
1849B 01-07  Correspondence, 1935-1940
1850A 01-08  Correspondence, 1941-1948
1850B 01-08  Correspondence, 1949-1959
1851A 01-05  Correspondence, 1960-1964
1851B 01-06  Correspondence, 1964-1976

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1909-1977
17 folders

This series begins with documents and publications relating to Dr. Gealy’s high school and university education. The personal papers end with folders of articles mentioning Gealy, including copies of his death notices.

Box   Folder
1851C 01  Oil City High School, 1918
     02-04  Boston University School of Theology, 1909-1948
     05  Boston University dissertation: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the Religious Experience of the Primitive Church, 1929
     06  Boston University convocation, 1970
     07  University of Basel, 1920
1852A 01  University of Berlin, 1921
     02  University of Strasbourg, 1924
Series 3: Professional Papers, circa 1916-1970
91 folders

This series contains topical office and project files organized alphabetically. Materials include sermon notes and prayers; worship bulletins; documents concerning Dr. Gealy’s work at educational institutions in Japan and in the United States; and papers from committees compiling the American Standard Bible, The Interpreter’s Bible, The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible, the Methodist Book of Worship, the 1966 Methodist Hymnal, and the Companion to the Hymnal.

Box Folder
1852A  10 Advent and Christmas lessons and songs, circa 1920-1970
      11 American Guild of Organists, 1952-1953
      12-16 American Standard Bible Committee, Old Testament Section, 1944-1950

1852B  01-06 American Standard Bible Committee, 1943-circa 1950

1853A  01-05 Book of Worship revision, circa 1960-1965

1853B  01 Bulmann translation “The Problem of Miracles,” 1956
      02 Casa View Methodist Church, 1957-1959
      03 Choral Conductors Guild of America, 1960
      04 Christian understanding of life and death, 1965
      05 Committee on Alternate Rituals, 1971-1972
      06-08 Companion to the Hymnal, 1964-1968

1854A  01-08 Companion to the Hymnal, 1964-1968
      09 Council of Southwestern Theological Schools, 1958
| 02 | Drew University, 1937-1938 |
| 03 | Hymnal Committee of the Methodist Church, 1964 |
| 04 | Hymnody in the early church, circa 1940-1970 |
| 05 | Iliff School of Theology, 1938-1946 |
| 06 | *Interpreter's Bible*, 1947-1948 |
| 07 | *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, 1956-1960 |
| 08 | Japan: American School in Japan yearbook *The Chochin*, 1936 |
| 09 | Japan: Aoyama Gakuin publications, 1920-1957 |

| 1854C | 01 | Japan: Articles, 1934-1935 |
| 02 | Japan: Arthur Daniel Berry, 1931 |
| 03 | Japan: Bible Class of Aoyama First Church, 1926 |
| 04 | Japan: Japan Mission Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1929 |
| 05 | Japan: Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai (Society for International Cultural Relations), 1937 |
| 06 | Japan: Kyo Bun Kwan (Christian Literature Society of Japan) hymnals, 1937-1951 |
| 07 | Japan: Publications in Japanese, circa 1923-1936 |
| 08 | Japan: Radio addresses, 1943-1945 |
| 09 | Japan: Wesley Foundation, 1932 |

| 1855A | 01 | Lectionary notes, 1962 |
| 02 | Lectures, circa 1950-1970 |
| 03 | Lecture: Educational Task of the Church, circa 1920-1960 |
| 04 | Lecture: Introduction to the Book of Romans, circa 1956-1970 |
| 05 | Lecture: Methodists and the Scriptures, 1967 |
| 06-08 | Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 1959-1976 |
| 09 | Ohio Wesleyan University conference on the nature of the church-related college, 1962 |
| 10-11 | Prayers, circa 1920-1970 |
| 12 | Quinlan Methodist Church Holy Week services, 1965 |

| 1855B | 01-12 | Quotations and clippings notebooks, circa 1920-1970 |
1856A 01 Sermon for the funeral service of Wesley Clifton Davis, November 1, 1975
02-04 Sermon notes, circa 1916-1970
05 Sermons and communion meditations, circa 1940-1970
06 Southern Methodist University, 1939-1962
07-08 Southern Methodist University “Let’s Discuss It!” forum, 1945-1946
09 St. Louis Convocation on Worship, 1969
10 Textual criticism, 1941-1966

1856B 01 Theology of mission panel discussion, 1959
02-03 University Park Methodist Church, 1953-1955
04 Wesley Hymn Book, 1958-1960

Series 4: Biblical Studies, circa 1920-1970
21 folders
The papers in this series document Fred D. Gealy’s work in the areas of New Testament translation and exegesis. The folders are arranged in canonical order.

Box Folder
1856B 05 The Synoptic Problem, 1930-1970
06 Mark in Japanese, circa 1925-1970
07-08 Mark in Romaji, circa 1925-1970

1857A 01-02 Mark, circa 1920-1970
03 Luke, circa 1920-1970
05-06 Romans, circa 1920-1970
07 1 and 2 Corinthians, circa 1920-1970
08 Galatians, circa 1920-1970

1857B 01 Ephesians, circa 1920-1970
02 Philippians, circa 1920-1970
03 Colossians, circa 1920-1970
04 Thessalonians, circa 1920-1970
05 1 Timothy, circa 1920-1970
06 2 Timothy, circa 1920-1970
01 Pastoral epistles, 1951-1954

1857C
02 1 Peter, circa 1920-1970
03 Revelation, circa 1920-1970

Series 5: Published Writings, 1933-1976
20 folders
The final series contains copies of monographs, articles, and book reviews written by Dr. Gealy and published between 1933 and 1978. The works are grouped in folders by year of publication.

Box   Folder
1857C 04-06 Publications, 1933-1937
1858A 01-11 Publications, 1938-1959
1858B 01-06 Publications, 1962-1976