

**Finding Aid for the
DeGray Baptist Church records
ABSC.2011.008**



**OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

*Archives & Special Collections
Riley-Hickingbotham Library
Ouachita Baptist University
410 Ouachita Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71998*

Repository: Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University

Title: DeGray Baptist Church records

Dates: 1853-1974

Quantity: 0.63 c.f.; 2 boxes

Abstract: Records from the Clark County, Arkansas, church including church minute books (with member names), and attendance record books from Baptist Training Union, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible Schools, and a minute book of the Ladies Aid Society. Also includes a program from the 1970 dedication of the new building, copies of land deeds recording transactions between the church and Cashes and original Bethel Union membership list.

Identification: ABSC.2011.008

Languages: English

Acquisition Information: Provenance unknown.

Access and Use Restrictions: This collection is non-circulating and available for in-house use only. The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies of other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation: DeGray Baptist Church records, Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR.

Scope and Contents

Records from the Clark County, Arkansas, church including church minute books (with member names), and attendance record books from Baptist Training Union, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible Schools, and a minute book of the Ladies Aid Society. Also includes a program from the 1970 dedication of the new building, copies of land deeds recording transactions between the church and Cashes and original Bethel Union membership list.

Historical Summary

DeGray Baptist Church was originally founded as the Bethel Union Church in the DeGray community, Clark County, Arkansas. The church was established on 20 August 1853, with Rev. Samuel Stevenson as moderator and William T. Crawley as clerk. Charter members were James and Amanda Cash, William Shaw, Lydia Meadows, and Elizabeth Thompson. James and Amada Cash provided the land for the church.

The congregation worshipped in a small log building until a larger church was built in 1883-1884. The name was changed from Bethel to DeGray in 1874. The first Sunday School organized on 8 January 1887, and the first Baptist Training Union on 8 January 1925. DeGray Baptist Church is a member of the Red River Baptist Association in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Keywords

Arkadelphia (AR.)
Baptists
Bethel Union Church
Cash, James (1808-1863)
Cash, Amanda Bledsoe (1806-1863)
Clark County (AR.)
Community churches
Red River Baptist Association

Related materials: Jeff Vining, “Punishment of Vices: DeGray Baptist Church Discipline Between 1853 and 1900” (1985). R976 V785b.

Originally processed by Gail Hennagin, updated by Dr. Lisa Speer, 2025.

Box Contents Inventory

Box 3489¹	Description	Date(s)
Item 001	Record of Bethel Union Church.	1853-1874
Item 002	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1885-1902
Item 003	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1903-1924
Item 004	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1925-1938
Item 005	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1934-1944
Item 006	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1938-1944
Item 007	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1944-1954
Item 008	DeGray minute book with membership list.	1960-1972
Box 3490	Description	Date(s)
Item 001	Baptist Training Union record book.	1954-1955
Item 002	Baptist Training Union record book.	1955-1956
Item 003	Baptist Training Union record book.	1957-1958
Item 004	Baptist Training Union record book.	1958-1959
Item 005	Vacation Bible School record book.	1969
Item 006	Vacation Bible School record book.	1970
Item 007	Vacation Bible School record book.	1974
Item 008	Sunday School record book.	1956-1957
Item 009	Sunday School record book.	1958-1959
Item 010	Sunday School record book.	1959-1960
Item 011	Sunday School record book.	1960-1961
Item 012	Sunday School record book.	1961-1962
Item 013	Sunday School record book.	1963

¹ Ledgers are not in folders.

Item 014	Ladies Aid Society minute book.	1879-1882
Folder 001	Bethel Union Church original members list [photocopy].	1853-1869
Folder 002	Land deeds [photocopies.	1881, 1900, 1946
Folder 003	Building dedication program and responsive reading.	1970