

COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Inventory of the  
Margaretta P. Childs African-American  
Church Records Project, 1849 - 1985**

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Margaretta P. Childs African-American Church Records Project,
<b>Dates:</b>	1849 - 1985
<b>Creator:</b>	Childs, Margaretta P.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Margaretta Pringle Childs (1912-2000) worked as an archivist at the College of Charleston, was head archivist for the City of Charleston, and a field archivist for the South Carolina Historical Society. In addition to her archival work, Childs was a member of the Charleston Interracial Committee and a Civil Rights activist.</p> <p>The materials in this collection form the working files of Margaretta P. Childs's attempted project to collect and house the records of Charleston's black churches at the South Carolina Historical Society. The collection contains mostly photocopied correspondence from Childs to various ministers regarding church records and brief histories of some of the churches. Also included are photocopies of many Work Projects Administration (WPA) church surveys (1936) for the Charleston area, which include address, building description, listings of any known records and erection dates for each church, as well as programs of yearly meetings and church services. Of note is a photocopied letter (1908) from Arthur L. MacBeth and a musical program (1940) from the Centenary (Church) Players.</p>
<b>Extent:</b>	.5 linear feet(1 archival box)
<b>Repository:</b>	Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
<b>Call Number:</b>	AMN 1013
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Material in English

## Biographical Note

Margaretta Pringle Childs (1912-2000) worked as archivist at the College of Charleston, was head archivist for the City of Charleston, and a field archivist for the South Carolina Historical Society. In addition to her archival work, Childs was a member of the Charleston Interracial Committee and a Civil Rights activist.

## Collection Overview

The materials in this collection form the working files of Margaretta P. Childs's attempted project to collect and house the records of Charleston's black churches at the South Carolina Historical Society. The collection contains mostly photocopied correspondence from Childs to various ministers regarding church records and brief histories of some of the churches. Also included are photocopies of many Work Projects Administration (WPA) church surveys (1936) for the Charleston area, which include address, building description, listings of any known records and erection dates for each church, as well as programs of yearly meetings and church services. Of note is a photocopied letter (1908) from Arthur L. MacBeth and a musical program (1940) from the Centenary (Church) Players.

## Collection Arrangement

1. Administrative Files
2. Church Files
3. Miscellaneous

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

### Copyright Notice

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## Subject Headings

African American churches -- Records and correspondence.

Archives -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Archivists -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)

Childs, Margaretta Pringle, 1912-2000.

Church archives -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

MacBeth, Arthur L.

Morris Street Baptist Church (Charleston, S.C.)

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church (Charleston, S.C.)

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Charleston Branch (Charleston, S.C.)

Police brutality -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

South Carolina Historical Society.

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard, b. 1891.

Zion-Olivet United Presbyterian Church (Charleston, S.C.)

## Administrative Information

## Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Margareta P. Childs African-American Church Records Project, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

## Processing Information

Processed by Lance Brodrero, March 2006

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010

Funding from the **Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation** supported the processing of this collection.

Funding from the **Council on Library and Information Resources** supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### 1. Administrative Files, undated

Box 1 Folder 1 Materials regarding Childs's project to collect and microfilm Charleston, South Carolina black church records for the South Carolina Historical Society.

### 2. Church Files, 1849-1985

Box 1 Folder 2 WPA Church Surveys, 1936

Information for Charleston area black churches includes address, building description, listings of any known records and erection dates for each church.

Box 1 Folder 3 Calvary Episcopal Church, 1849

Photocopies of correspondence regarding church and Civil Rights records, as well as newspaper clippings regarding Calvary. Photocopy of an 1849 letter of consecration for the church.

Box 1 Folder 4 Centenary United Methodist Episcopal Church, 1908-1940.

Programs for centennial, 115th, 123rd and 126th anniversaries. Photocopy of letter from Arthur L. MacBeth regarding his resignation as a trustee. Program of the Centenary Players, "Aunt Minnie from Minnesota."

Box 1 Folder 5 Central and Morris Street Baptist Church, 1865

Photocopies of minutes and photograph of Morris Street church. Photocopies of newspaper clippings of both Morris and Central Baptist churches.

Box 1 Folder 6 Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, 1917

Photocopied clipping from "Charleston Illustrated" concerning Mt. Zion. Photocopy of a brief history of Mt. Zion by Reverend N. B. Sterret.

Box 1 Folder 7 Old Bethel United Methodist Church, 1983

Newspaper clipping regarding Reverend Frank Portee.

Box 1 Folder 8 Plymouth Congregational Church, 1942-1958

Includes dedication program, newsletter, membership pamphlet, annual meeting programs, and Church service program. Letter to church members regarding lack of contributions. Reports of various committees.

Box 1 Folder 9 St. John's (John's Island) and Grace Chapel (Rockville) Church, 1856

Photocopy of a letter from Reverend C.H. Hall resigning from St. John's and a clipping regarding Grace Chapel, Rockville.

Box 1 Folder 10 St. John's and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1930-1986

Photocopy of article on the Reformed Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Program of St. Mark's church service. Photocopied article regarding St. Mark's and the "color line"

among colored people." Photocopied title page, "Work Among the Colored People," and photocopied letter regarding the history of St. John Episcopal Church.

Box 1 Folder 11 Zion-Olivet United Presbyterian Church, Circa 1900-1985

Includes installation invitation and program, photocopy of program for National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Lincoln-Douglass Memorial meeting, a copy of a photograph of Reverend Frierson and family, and a photocopy of a short history of the church.

Box 1 Folder 12 East-Side Churches

Information concerning various churches on Charleston's East Side. Also various materials regarding city planning and the East Side.

Box 1 Folder 13 Presbyterian Churches, 1966-1984

Regarding Edisto Island, John's Island, Hebron, Promised Land, St. James, Wallingford and Moving Star Hall. Photocopies of photographs of Edisto Island Presbyterian, Promised Land, Hebron, John's Island Presbyterian and Moving Star Hall. Docket for spring meeting of the Presbyterian of the Atlantic. Photocopy of a brief historical sketch of the Presbyterian church among southern blacks.

### 3. Correspondence, 1941-1984

Box 1 Folder 14 Correspondence, 1984

With the Presbyterian Library in Montreat, North Carolina concerning Charleston black church records.

Box 1 Folder 15 Miscellaneous Correspondence

Concerning the set up of black church records at the South Carolina Historical Society. Photocopy of a letter by Samuel Gaillard Stoney regarding alleged police brutality against a black woman at St. James Goose Creek church.