

**Guide to the Papers of the Christ Chapel  
Community Welfare Program**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Devin McKinney  
October 2015**

## **MS – 186: Papers of the Christ Chapel Community Welfare Program**

(1 box, .27 cubic feet)

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*October 2015*

Inclusive dates: 1967-71

Bulk dates: 1968-70

### **Collection size**

The papers consist of 1 box containing 6 folders; 2 boxes; and 8 envelopes.

### **Provenance**

No records are available to document the provenance of the collection. It most likely originated within Christ Chapel and was donated to Special Collections by a member thereof, possibly in conjunction with other chapel materials.

### **Historical note**

The Community Welfare Program grew from the socially engaged ministry of Rev. John Vannorsdall, chaplain of Gettysburg College from 1962 to 1976. Vannorsdall had instituted, in 1964, a tutorial service pairing students from the college with at-risk local youths; Community Welfare, launched in the summer of 1968, sought to expand these services. Coordinating (not always smoothly) with local agencies, Gettysburg students provided recreational and cultural opportunities for children from the predominantly African-American Third Ward, and with adults worked on economic and child-care issues. The program also reached out, in the form of educational and athletic programs, to migrant farm workers and their families in nearby Hunterstown.

For three successive summers, student program members planned and supervised such activities as softball games; swimming parties; movie showings; parties at the local “Soul Shack”; and field trips to Camp Nawakwa, near Arendtsville. But the insoluble challenges that were encountered, combined with a lack of firm goals and chronic shortages of money, time, and training, made it impractical to continue the program as it stood. Instead, in the summer of 1971, students volunteered with local agencies to give specific assistance through preexisting services. This effectively ended the Community Welfare Program, though the original tutorial component continued for the remainder of Vannorsdall’s chaplaincy.

### **Scope and content note**

Though small and fragmentary, this collection contains important evidence dating from a crucial historical moment. It is particularly valuable to understanding how Gettysburg College responded to heightened pressures (from within and without) to diversify, engage, and reach across lines of race, economics, and social status.

Included are ephemeral announcements of program activities; inter-office memos; purchase receipts; correspondence between and from program members; questionnaires filled out by community children; and photographs taken at program activities.

Special Collections possesses several other resources that usefully augment these papers. Among them are

- RG 3-4: Offices of the Chapel and Student Christian Association
- MS-069: The Papers of John W. Vannorsdall
- RG-2.0.10: Office of the President, Carl Arnold Hanson, 1961-1977, in particular
  - Box 11, Folder 3 – Chaplain’s Office
  - Box 11, Folder 4 – Christ Chapel, 1970-1971
  - Box 11, Folder 6 – Christ Chapel, 1969-1970
  - Box 11, Folder 8 – Chaplain’s Office
- *Junto* (Chapel Council publication), 1967-1972
- Articles from *The Gettysburgian*, 1967-1972

## **Box 1**

### **Series I. Folders**

#### **1-01. Supplemental materials**

- Finding aid
- Chapel Council group photographs, 1968-70
  - Names of individuals in photographs

#### **1-02. Correspondence**

- Earle and Akie Reynolds to Jeff Weber, May 24, 1969
- Sen. Hugh Scott to Rev. John W. Vannorsdall, July 10, 1969
- Sen. Charles E. Goodell to Ms. G.C. Flynn, November 5, 1969
- John Vannorsdall to Jean Smith, May 23, 1970
- JV to “Lee” (Rev. Lee Lawhead), June 3, 1970
- JV to Father Alphonse Marcincavage, June 22, 1970
- JV to Gerald Vande Mark, June 22, 1970
- JV to Church Council, St. James Lutheran Church, June 22, 1970

- JV to Rev. Lee Lawhead, June 22, 1970
- JV to John W. Amatucci, July 1, 1970
- JV to Barbara Eames, February 2, 1971
- JV draft letter for financial contributions, undated
- JV memo on use of swimming pool, undated (*clipped to envelope*)

### **1-03. Ephemera**

- “Animal Unit” itinerary, August 1969
- Week’s itinerary for Chapel Council activities, February 15-21, 1970
- Play program for world premiere of *The Last Thanksgiving*, April 4, 1970
- Flyer announcing trip to Children’s Musical Theatre, Rockville, MD, July 8, 1970
- Newspaper ad for Children’s Musical Theatre show
- Typed flyer for screening of *World of a Girl*, July 15, 1970
- Handwritten flyer for screening of *World of a Girl*, July 15, 1970
- Data sheet on “Well-Baby Clinic,” c. 1970
- Data sheet on Gettysburg clothing banks, c. 1970
- “Rules and Regulations for Summer Recreational Swim Program,” c. 1970
- Sheet of poems by African-American writers, c. 1970

### **1-04. Memos, notes, and miscellany**

- “Chapel Council to Sponsor Community Welfare Program,” *The Gettysburgian*, May 15, 1970
- “Plans for Summer 1970”
- 5 phone message memos
- Receipt from Modern Talking Picture Service, Inc.
- Several pages of handwritten notes, lists, names, and numbers
- List of Gettysburg area associations, clubs, and fraternal orders
- Typed list of suggestions for program, signed by student program members
- Memo from John Vannorsdall to program members
- “Reflections on a Summer’s Experience – written after Several Months of Procrastination” (unsigned essay by program member)
- Attendance chart, Red Cross Swim Program, July 13-24, 1970

### **1-05. Children’s writing and drawing**

- 12 questionnaires filled out by community children
- Crayon drawing by Teresa Johnson

**1-06. Photo set 9**

— Chapel service, 1969-70 (6 photos)

**Series II. Photo sets**

**Box 1a. Photo sets 1-4**

- 1. “Party given for kids in Knoxville Exchange Program – 1st Semester 1967 – At Vic and Nancy Myers” (8 photos)
- 2. “Rehersal [sic] for Christmas Play – December 1967 – Children of 3rd Ward practicing at Presbyterian Church” (10 photos)
- 3. “First Men’s Basketball Game – Eddie Plank Gym – 9 November 1967 – Phil Grayson, Photographer – Chuck Grubb, Sports Coordinator” (17 photos)
- 4. “Men’s Basketball Game” (14 photos)

**Box 1b. Photo sets 5-8**

- 5. “Women’s Basketball Game in Plank Gym – Thursday night, 9 Nov. 1967 – Older girls of Ward 3 – Y cap Program” (23 photos)
- 6. “8 pictures of migrant softball team organized by Mike Pounder & Sady [sic] Cantone Class 68” (8 photos)
- 7. “12 pictures of trip to Camp Nawakwa with migrants. Summer 1968” (13 photos)
- 8. “3 pictures of Toddlers group – Summer 1968” (3 photos)

**Series III. Photo negatives**

- Envelope 1. Negatives for photo set 2
- Envelope 2. Negatives for photo set 3
- Envelope 3. Negatives for photo set 4
- Envelope 4. Negatives for photo set 5
- Envelope 5. Negatives for photo set 6
- Envelope 6. Negatives for photo set 7
- Envelope 7. Negatives for photo set 8
- Envelope 8. Negatives for unknown shots