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Frank Bateman Stanger ARC 1988-003 Part 1

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Asbury Theological Seminary

Special Collections Department

Manuscript Collection

Frank Bateman Stanger

Personal Papers

ARC1988-003

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Personal Papers

88-M-002

Introduction

The Frank Bateman Stanger Personal Papers primarily span the years of 1934 to 1986. These years include his student days, his years in the pastorate, his administration at Asbury Theological Seminary and retirement years. The materials in the collection deal with a wide diversity of topics reflecting many of his experiences and interests on a personal as well as a professional level. As requested by Dr. Stanger, the papers were given to the Specials Collections Department by the Stanger family after his death.

The Collection is composed of biographical materials, correspondence, subject files, reports, literary productions, scrapbook material, printed material, photographic material and audio recordings. The vast majority of the collection is contained in the subject files. The subject files are a highly significant portion of the collection containing the materials he collected on areas of special interest such as healing, methodism, the Bible, biographies, life and work of the minister, theology, Jesus Christ and spiritual formation. The literary productions contains many of his writings including his books, sermons and some of the materials used for sermon preparation, messages to ministers, theses and various other articles and addresses. Each section of the collection gives insight into the life and work of Frank Bateman Stanger.

The majority of the collection may be used with the permission of the Seminary Archivist. Permission to publish a book length work from the Stanger collection will require the approval of the Seminary Archivist and a representative of the Stanger family. The condition will remain in effect as long as any of Dr. Stanger's children survive. The finding aid was prepared by Linda E. Deeks in June 1990.

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Biographical Sketch

Frank Bateman Stanger, son of Francis A., Jr. and Sarah Bateman Stanger, was born on August 31, 1914 in Cedarville, NJ. His education began in the public schools in Cedarville and Bridgeton, NJ. After graduation he traveled to Wilmore, KY where he attended Asbury College. Graduating with an A.B. degree (magna cum laude) in 1934, he spent another year in Wilmore studying at Asbury Theological Seminary (1934-1935). He then went to Princeton Theological Seminary from which he earned his Th. B. in 1937. Furthering his studies at Temple University School of Theology, he received his S.T.M. in 1940 and his S.T.D. in 1942. In addition he received honorary degrees from Philaetha College, D.D. (1953); Houghton College, LL.D. (1962); Asbury College, L.H.D. (1970); Asbury Theological Seminary, D.S.L. (1982).

While studying at Asbury College he met and fell in love with Mardelle Amstutz. On June 2, 1937 H.C. Morrison, president of the Asbury Institutions, officiated at their marriage. Into their home three children were born: Marilyn (Mrs. John Woodruff) in 1939, Frank, Jr. in 1944, and Jane in 1948.

Dr. Stanger began his ministry at a mission charge, Union church in High Bridge, Kentucky. In 1935 he received his first appointment in the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1936 was admitted to that conference on trial. Two years later he was elected to full membership. From 1935 to 1959 he served seven churches in the Southern New Jersey Conference: Woodruff and Rosehayn (1935-1936); Aldine (1936-1938); Pedricktown (1938-1941); Woodstown (1941-1944); Haddon Heights (1944-1951); and First Church, Collingswood (1951-1959). While in New Jersey he was also active in conference activities. During these years and in the years that followed, he attended several jurisdictional, general conferences and World Methodist Conferences.

During his years in New Jersey he received several offers for employment from both Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary. These offers were for professorships and administrative positions. Before his death, H.C. Morrison wrote Dr. Stanger indicating his desire for FBS to come to head the Seminary after he earned his doctorate. J.C. McPheeters later approached FBS about the position of Executive Vice-President; accepting the position, he began in the fall of 1959. In this position Stanger trained for the presidency which he assumed upon McPheeters retirement.

FBS served as president of Asbury Theological Seminary from 1962-1982. During this period he provided excellent leadership which resulted in growth in every area of the Seminary. This is demonstrated in the following statistics: enrollment increased from 257 to 783; faculty increased from 22 to 48; physical facilities increased from six major buildings and 40 apartments/ duplexes to 14 major buildings, 56 apartments/ duplexes, President's home, three missionary homes, and the acquisition of 50 acres of land for housing; and a growth in assets from \$6,309,063 to \$19,504,955. Dr. Stanger was President Emeritus from 1982-1986.

In addition to his administrative positions he also served as Professor of Pastoral Work and Preaching from 1959 until his death in 1986. In this position he taught courses on preaching, The Life and Work of the Minister, Healing and the Christian Religion and United Methodist Policy and Discipline. In addition he also served as an advisor for Doctor of Ministry students and as a field supervisor for Supervised Ministries.

Retirement found Dr. and Mrs. Stanger moving to a new home in Lexington, Kentucky. He continued to teach at the Seminary and was in great demand for speaking engagements. Many of these speaking engagements were in the areas of spiritual formation and healing. The healing ministry of the church was an area of study and expertise for Dr. Stanger.

Dr. Stanger was also an author. Among his books include [A Workman That Needeth Not To Be Ashamed, Would You Be Made Whole?, He Healed Them, and God's Healing Community.](#) Numerous articles and editorials were also published particularly in [The Herald](#).

Dr. Stanger died on April 17, 1986 following a battle with cancer.

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Scope and Content

The Frank Bateman Stanger Personal Papers span the years 1847-1986; however, the bulk of the collection is from the years 1934-1986. These years include Dr. Stanger's days as a student, as a Methodist minister in the Southern New Jersey Conference, as an administrator at Asbury theological Seminary and as a retired individual who remained very active as a speaker, preacher and teacher. The Special Collections Department of the B.L. Fisher Library also holds the Frank Bateman Stanger Presidential Papers (87-R-006). It is in this collection that most materials relating to Dr. Stanger's administration at Asbury will be found; however, some materials from this period can also be found in the personal papers. Together the two collections reflect the life, work and person of Frank Bateman Stanger.

The **Biographical Material**, which comprises .5 cubic feet of the collection, includes biographical sketches used in various publications, curriculum vita, diplomas, documents of ordination and woodcuts of his signature. Many of the diplomas and documents of ordination are housed in the Frank Bateman Stanger Conference Room. These highlight some of the achievements of Dr. Stanger's life.

In the **Correspondence Series** the overlap of the Presidential and Personal Papers is apparent. While this series does contain personal correspondence, it also contains in its 1.5 cubic feet, correspondence of a more professional manner written during Dr. Stanger's presidency. One would be advised to consult both collections when searching for correspondence from a particular individual or organization. It should also be noted that correspondence is located in several other locations in this collection. This correspondence has been left in these areas since Dr. Stanger maintained his files in this manner. Generally additional correspondence is located in the subject files. The following subseries should be consulted: Ashrams, Biographies, Healing--Conferences, Holy Spirit--Holy Spirit in the Theology of John Wesley-- Course at Iliff School of Theology, Speaking Engagements, Spiritual Formation, Yokefellows.

The **Subject Files Series** compose 91 of the 131 cubic feet of the collection. It appears that subject file, as they are here, began as part of Dr. Stanger's clippings file during the early years of his ministry. As the years passed, his files grew. During the processing of the collection a description for the arrangement of his resource materials was found; it has been included in the finding aid (pages 7, 8 and 9) to show the similarity that exists between his arrangement in 1956 and its final arrangement today. Because his arrangement of materials by specific topics was very apparent, they have been maintained in these sections. At times it was necessary to move entire sections to make them more accessible to the researcher. However, most folders maintain their original arrangement.

Since a list of the subseries of the subject files series is available in the Series Description (page 12 and 13), they will not be listed here. One glance at the list reveals the diversity and wealth of information available in the subject files. At times discovery of a particular item may be hindered by the volume of material, but the reward will be well worth the effort. While the subject files are significant for the materials they provide, experiences, and expertise of Frank Bateman Stanger they provide.

Many of the fruits of Dr. Stanger's pastoral ministry are recorded in the **Reports Series**. Here are the pastoral records of baptisms, funerals and marriages performed, and of new members received. Also included are the quarterly conference reports.

The **Literary Productions Series** displays Dr. Stanger's creativity and mastery of words. The series contains a variety of writings. A list of the subseries is available in the Series Description (page 13); however, attention must be drawn to two Sermons subseries. In the arrangement of the subseries "Sermons--Materials for preparation--Index cards" and "Sermon--Numbered" Dr. Stanger's organization as outlined in his description of his resource files (pages 9, 10 and 11) has been maintained. The materials contained in these subseries are fascinating providing hundreds of illustrations, poems, and quotes and nearly 1500 sermons preached by Dr. Stanger.

As with the correspondence series, literary productions are also located in the subject files series. Works are located in the following subseries of the subject files series: Bible, Evangelical Christianity, Healing, Holy Spirit, Life and Work of the Minister, Methodism, Methodist Bible School, Speaking Engagements, and Spiritual Formation.

In one cubic foot is contained the **Scrapbook Material Series**. The section contains various memorabilia of a personal nature which was collected by Dr. Stanger. The largest subseries is "Travel Materials" highlighting some of the many places to which he traveled.

The **Printed Material Series**, also contained in one cubic foot, is comprised of awards and certificates presented to Dr. Stanger and various writings of other persons. While some of these awards and certificates are actually in the collection, most of them are on display in the Frank Batemen Stanger Conference Room.

Recording history by photographic means was another interest of Dr. Stanger. In the **Photographic Materials Series** are several thousand positive transparencies (slides) which give us a visual record of many of his interests. As before, a list of the subseries is available in the Series Description (page 14). The documentation of the ATS Singing Seminarians' annual tour is particularly strong since Dr. Stanger traveled with nearly every group during his presidency. The positive transparencies have been arranged alphabetically by subseries; however, within the subseries the original arrangement has been maintained.

The final series is the **Audio Recording Series**. It is contained in .5 cubic feet. Here Dr. Stanger himself speaks to us presenting several messages, sermons and even a Sunday School class lesson. The testimonies and messages of other persons are also included.

SUBJECT HEADINGS FOR A MINISTER'S FILES

These lists of subject headings were compiled by Dr. Frank B. Stanger, Collingswood, N.J. for his own files. His Freitas Lecture on the minister and "His continuing Preparation" delivered at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, Nov. 14, 1956, aroused wide interest in ministers' filing systems. He very generously granted the A.T.S. Library permission to duplicate his lists as follows:

I use four filing systems for my resource materials: a clipping file, an illustration file, a quotation file, and apoetry file. I have adopted the following headings for my clipping file:

Alcohol	Jesus Christ	- Holy Week
Amusements		- Death
Apostles' Creed		- Easter
Archeaology		- Second Coming
Atheism	Christianity	- Other Religions
Bible - O.T.		- Apologetics, Evidence
- History & Introduction		- The Gospel
- Survey		- Ethics
- Bible Characters		- Christian Life
- Books of the O.T.		- Sociology
Bible - NT	Church - Economic	
-Introduction	- Loyalty Crusade	
-Survery	- Membership and Attendance	
-Bible Characters	- Planning Conference	
-Books of the N.T.	Church and State	
Biographical Sketches	Church and State - Communism	
Boy Scouts	- Shintoism	
Jesus Christ	- Nazism	
-Birth	- Fascism	
-Life	- (Par? Schools)	
-Sermon on the Mount	Stewardship	
- Parables	Suffering - Trials	
-(?)	Sunday	
Religion & Education - Church School	Ten Commandments	
-Weekday Church	Thanksgiving	
School	Theology	
-Daily Vacation		
Bible School		
-Teachers		
Religion & Patriotism		
Religion & Personality		

Religion and the Home
Religion - Philosophy of
Religion and Science
Religion and Sex
Salvation
Sin - Satan
Social Questions

United Nations
War and Peace
Woman
Worship
Y.M.C.A.
Young People

As far as possible I use the same general headings for my other three files. Illustrations, quotations, poetry. Here are the topics in my illustration file, and with few exceptions the same topics appear in the other two files: (3 x 5 cards)

Alcohol
Amusements
Atheism?
Backsliding?
Bible?
Character
Children
Christ
Christian Experience
Christian Life
Christianity
Christmas
Church History

Church
Consecration
Courage
Criticism
Death
Determination
Friendship
God
Gospel
Happiness
Heaven - Hell
Heredity
Holy Spirit - Methodist Doctrine of
Christian Perfection

Church History - Early Christianity
-Reformation
-Roman Catholic Church
-American Christianity-
- Baptists
- Protestant Episcopal
- Presbyterians
- Quakers
-Eastern Orthodox (Ch ?)
Churches
-Christianity in England
-Augustine
-Church Councils

Immorality
Islam
Jew
Kingdom of God
Laymen
Life
Love
Methodism
Methodism - Relationship to Church of
England
- John Wesley
- Francis Asbury
-What Methodists Believe

-Mysticism
-Devotional Writings

Christian Unity
Confucius
Cults
Devotional Materials
Evangelism
Friendship
Faith
Father
Gambling
God
Greek
Healing
Hebrew
Holy Spirit - Pentecost
Holy Spirit
Home?
Hope
Immortality
Individuality
Influence
Judgement
Laughter
Life
Love
Man
Missions
Mother
Music
Nation
Nature
Negro
Old Age
Opportunity
Preaching
Pride
Psalms
Salvation

Minister - Life & Work
- Ministerial Aids
- Preaching

Missions
Modernism
Mother
Music
Negro
New Year
Oxford Group
Paul - Pauline Writings
Peter
Prayer
Red Cross
Religion - History fo

Society
Soul-Winning
Spiritual Awakening
Stewardship
Successes
Suffering - Trials
Sunday
Superstition
Temptation
Ten Commandments
Thanksgiving
Thoughts
Tolerance
Trail Markers
Trifles
Truth
Vicarious Suffering
Vision
War
Woman
Work
Wonder
Worry

Science
Service
Sin

Worship
Youth

I likewise file my sermons according to a self-devised system/ Each sermon is placed in an envelope and given a number. All sermons in the same series are given the same number, with consecutive letters after that number. I then classify the sermon and its particular code-number in a handy notebook which contains the listing of all my sermons. However, in my Index of Sermons the listing is always made according to topic. In my Index I use different pages for listing sermons relating to each of the following topics:

Alcohol	Kingdom of GOD
Anniversary	Labor Day
Apostles Creed	Methodism
Ascension	Miscellaneous
Amusements?	Missions
Baccalaureate?	Mother's Day
Bible?	Music
Bible Characters?	Nature
Children?	New Year
Children's Day?	Nation - Patriotism
Christian Life?	Prayer
Christmas?	Prayer Meetings
Church?	Peace
Church Membership - Church Loyalty	Protestantism
Church Finances	Race
Commencement	Radio Messages
Church School	Rural Life
Christian Unity?	Sacraments
Eschatology	Sanctification
Evangelism	Series of Sermons
Evangelistic Sermons	Stewardship
Father's Day	Sunday School
Funerals	Sunday
Gospel	Satan
Healing	Thanksgiving
Holy Spirit	War
Home	Worship
Immortality?	Young Adults

Jesus Christ - Person

- Birth
- Life
- Miracles
- Parables and Teachings
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Death - Cross
- Seven Words from the Cross
- Resurrection
- Post Resurrection
- Ascension
- Second Coming

Young People

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Series Description

Biographical Materials

Subseries

Biographical Sketches, Curriculum Vita, Diplomas, Documents of Ordination,
Signature

.5 cubic feet

1926-1986

Arranged alphabetically by subseries and chronologically by sub-series,
many folders maintain their original arrangement

Includes biographical sketches used for various publications, his vits,
diplomas from various institutions, and copies of his signature.

Correspondence

1.5 cubic feet

1940-1986

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically

Includes letters written and received by FBS from various individuals
including bishops in the United Methodist Church and other
denominations, members of the Ciceronia Round Robin, and family
members.

Subject Files

Subseries

Asbury College, Asbury Theological Seminary, Ashrams, Biographies, The Church, Church History, Course Notebooks--Student Days, Communism, Evangelical Christianity, Evangelical Theology, Evangelicals, Newton Grice Estate, Healing, Holiness, Holy Spirit, Honors Accorded to FBS, Immortality, Jesus Christ, Life, Life and Work of the Minister, Methodism, Methodist Bible School, Music, Pastorates Served, Paul, Peter, Prayer, Religion, Religion & ..., Retirement, Retreats, Reunions, Rotary Club, Social Issues, Speaking Engagements, Spiritual Formation, Thanksgiving, Theology, Wesleyan Theology, Yokefellows

91 cubic feet

1895-1986

Arranged alphabetically by subseries, sub-series are arranged alphabetically, chronologically or in an arrangement logical for that subseries; many folders maintain their original arrangement

Includes correspondence, reports, literar productions, legal documents, financial documents, scrapbook materials, printed materials, photographic materials and various materials dealing with the subseries.

Reports

Subseries

Pastoral Records and Quarterly Conference Reports

.5 cubic feet

1933-1983

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically

Includes records of baptisms, funerals, and marriages performed by FBS, new members received, and quarterly conference reports given.

Literary Productions

Subseries

Addresses, Articles, Bible Studies, Bibliographies, Books, Book Reviews, Nooklets, Devotionals, Interviews, Leaflets, Lectures, messages, Messages to Ministers, Messages to ..., Notebooks, Papers, Series, Sermons, Talks, These

34.5 cubic feet

1931-1987

Arranged Alphabetically by subseries, sub-series are arranged alphabetically, chronologically or in an arrangement designated by FBS for that subseries; many folders maintain their original arrangement

Includes many of FBS' literary works.

Scrapbook Materials

Subseries

Asbury College, Autograps, Family Members, Friends, Gavels, Membership Cards, Methodist Cards, Methodist Church, Retirement, Travel Materials

1 cubic foot

1847-1986

Arranged alphabetically by subseries and sub-sub series

Includes memorabilia collected by FBS.

Printed Material

Subseries

Articles, Awards, Books/Booklets, Certificates, Courses, Manuscripts Poetry, Stories, Tracts, Various materials which remained unfiled at the time of FBS' death

1 cubic foot

1935-1986

Arranged alphabetically by series and sub-series; some folders maintain their original arrangement

Includes materials written by various individuals and awards and certificates FBS received.

Photographic Materials

Subseries

Positive prints, positive transparencies

1 cubic foot

1954-1982

Arrange alphabetically and chronologically

Includes slides of Asbury College buildings and campus, Asbury Theological Seminary buildings and campus, institutional events, Singing Seminarians, staff, faculty, campus personalities, students/alumni, trustees and visitors to campus, Colleges/ Universities, Seminaries and events in FBS' life.

Audio Recordings

Subseries

Cassette tapes, Reel to Reel tapes

.5 cubic feet

1953-1972

Arranged alphabetically

Includes messages, sermons, Sunday School lessons and testimonies given by FBS and others.