

**JAMES P. WESBERRY COLLECTION**  
PP0137

**Descriptive Summary**

*Creator* Wesberry, James P., 1906-1992

*Title* James P. Wesberry Collection

*Accession Number* PP0137

*Physical Description* 10 Hollinger boxes

*Inclusive Dates* 1927-1987

*Language Note* English

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**Administrative Information**

*Repository*

Mercer University Library  
Archives and Digital Initiatives  
1501 Mercer University Dr.  
Macon, Georgia 31207  
478-301-2968  
archives@mercer.edu

*Citation*

[after identification of item(s)], James P. Wesberry Collection. Archives and Digital Initiatives, Mercer University Library, Macon, GA.

*Acquisition*

Gift of James P. Wesberry, Jr.

*Processing note*

Inventory prepared by Michelle B. Arnold (1996) and Jahni Jules (2022)

*Restrictions on access*

Unrestricted access. All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

*Restrictions on use*

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**Collection Description***Biographical Note*

James Pickett Wesberry received the A. B. (1929) and A. M. (1930) degrees from Mercer University and the B. D. degree from Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. Wesberry served as a pastor in both South Carolina, his home state, and Georgia, but rose to prominence during his 31-year pastorate at Morningside Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Wesberry also served as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention (1956-1958) and the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference (1956), and he also served 17 years on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, one of the longest tenures. In later years, he would serve as recording secretary of the Georgia Baptist Convention (1971-1991) and as director of the Lord's Day Alliance. Wesberry held several notable public positions, as well. For twenty-one years, he served as chairman of the Georgia Literature Committee, a group created to fight pornography. He served on the Atlanta area draft board during the Vietnam War. Wesberry also briefly served as acting U. S. House Chaplain. He died at age 86 in 1992.

*Scope and Content Note*

Every effort has been made to retain the original order of the papers. Titles were taken from Wesberry's original folders. Sermons were arranged according to the numbering system used by Wesberry, and titles of folders are approximations assigned by processor.

*Subjects*

Baptists—Clergy  
Baptists—Georgia—History  
Georgia Baptist Convention  
Georgia—Church history

*Related Material*

None

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**Series Description**

- Series 1: Dates, Clippings, Articles, and Awards  
Series 2: Loose Items, The People's Pulpit  
Series 3: Sermons and Essays  
Series 4: Newspaper Box  
Series 5: Index Card File

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**Container List**

SERIES 1: DATES, CLIPPINGS, ARTICLES, AND AWARDS

- Folder 1/1: "Ten Mile Community News," 1927
- Folder 1/2: Picture—News clipping Ministerial Student 1928
- Folder 1/3: Mercer Report Cards 1927-29
- Folder 1/4: Clippings—Mercer Student Politics, 1930
- Folder 1/5: Soperton Church Articles, 1930
- Folder 1/6: Clippings—Barnwell, South Carolina, 1933
- Folder 1/7: Articles/Clippings, 1935
- Folder 1/8: Bamberg Baptist Church, 1937
- Folder 1/9: Biographical and Picture—*Watchman Examiner*, 1947
- Folder 1/10: Maryland Call, 1948
- Folder 1/11: Scrapbook Items, 1949
- Folder 1/12: Ministry in Congress, 1949
- Folder 1/13: Address—Southern Baptist Convention, May 9, 1950
- Folder 1/14: 1950
- Folder 1/15: Morningside Baptist Church, 1951
- Folder 1/16: 1952
- Folder 1/17: 1953
- Folder 1/18: Obscenity News clippings, 1953
- Folder 1/19: 1954
- Folder 1/20: 1955
- Folder 1/21: 1956
- Folder 1/22: 1957
- Folder 1/23: 1958

Folder 1/24: Hays, Brooks, 1958  
Folder 1/25: 1959  
Folder 1/26: 1960  
Folder 1/27: Protestant Preaching Mission, October 1960  
Folder 1/28: 1961  
Folder 1/29: 1962  
Folder 1/30: Prayer Ruling, 1962  
Folder 1/31: 1963  
Folder 1/32: 1964  
Folder 1/33: 1965  
Folder 1/34: 1966  
Folder 1/35: 1967  
Folder 1/36: 1968  
Folder 1/37: 1969  
Folder 1/38: Biography—Anniversaries, Twenty-fifth (1969)  
Folder 1/39: 1970  
Folder 1/40: 1971  
Folder 1/41: 1972  
Folder 1/42: Biography—Awards, Man of the South (1972)  
Folder 2/1: 1973  
Folder 2/2: 1974  
Folder 2/3: 1975  
Folder 2/4: Biographical—Congressional Correspondence

- Folder 2/5: Jewish Services
- Folder 2/6: Bio—O. P. Gilbert
- Folder 2/7: (No Title)
- Folder 2/8: American Council of Churches
- Folder 2/9: Biography—Anniversaries, Tenth
- Folder 2/10: Manifesto, Ministers
- Folder 2/11: Sermons, Addresses, Articles
- Folder 2/12: Morningside Baptist Church
- Folder 2/13: No Date
- Folder 2/14: Biographical—President and Board Member, Highview Nursing Home
- Folder 2/15: Selective Service Local Board #62, 1967
- Folder 2/16: Political Questions and Personal Answers
- Folder 2/17: Georgia Baptist Convention
- Folder 2/18: J. P. W. Scrapbook Items
- Folder 2/19: Miscellaneous
- SERIES 2: LOOSE ITEMS, THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT

- Folder 2/20: Loose Items I
- Folder 2/21: Loose Items II
- Folder 2/22: Loose Items III
- Folder 2/23: The People's Pulpit, 1962 I
- Folder 2/24: The People's Pulpit, 1962 II
- Folder 2/25: The People's Pulpit, 1963 I
- Folder 2/26: The People's Pulpit, 1963 II

Folder 2/27: The People's Pulpit, 1962 II

Folder 2/28: The People's Pulpit, 1964

SERIES 3: SERMONS AND ESSAYS

Folder 3/1: Baptist Distinctives (I-1 thru I-17)

Folder 3/2: The Bible (II-1 thru II-8)

Folder 3/3: Biographical (III-1a thru III-12)

Folder 3/4: Surveys of Biblical Books (IV-1 thru IV-11)

Folder 3/5: For Boy Scouts (V-1 thru V-3)

Folder 3/6: About Brotherhood (VI-1 thru VI-3)

Folder 3/7: Christian Living (VII-1 thru VII-38)

Folder 3/8: Christianity (VIII-1 thru VIII-7)

Folder 3/9: Christmas (IX-1 thru IX-55)

Folder 3/10: The Church (X-1 thru X-35)

Folder 4/1: The Lord's Supper (XI-1 thru XI-40)

Folder 4/2: The Ten Commandments (XII-1 thru XII-14)

Folder 4/3: Denominational Events (XIII-1 thru XIII-39)

Folder 4/4: The Cross (XIV-1 thru XIV-27)

Folder 4/5: Deacons (XV-1 thru XV-5)

Folder 4/6: Devotionals (XVI-1 thru XVI-27)

Folder 4/7: The Resurrection (XVII-1 thru XVII-28)

Folder 4/8: Death and the Afterlife (XVIII-1 thru XVIII-5)

Folder 4/9: Fatherhood (XIX-1 thru XIX-10)

Folder 4/10: God (XX-1 thru XX-43)

- Folder 4/11: Jesus (XXI-1 thru XXI-7)
- Folder 5/1: Marriage, Family, and the Home (XXII-1 thru XXII-49)
- Folder 5/2: Christ (XXIII-1 thru XXIII-8; XXIII-A1 thru XXIII-A19; XXIII-B1 thru XXIII-B35; XXIII-C1 thru XXIII-C54; XXIII-D1 thru XXIII-D65)
- Folder 5/3: Christian Living (XXIV-1 thru XXIV-59)
- Folder 6/1: Christian Living (XXIV-60 thru XXIV-202)
- Folder 6/2: Christian Ministry (XXV-1 thru XXV-13)
- Folder 6/3: Current Events and Ministries (XXVI-1 thru XXVI-52)
- Folder 6/4: Faith, Grace, and Salvation (XXVII-1 thru XXVII-79)
- Folder 7/1: Faith, Grace, and Salvation (XXVII-80 thru XXVII-192)
- Folder 7/2: Missions (XXVIII-1 thru XXVIII-30)
- Folder 7/3: Motherhood and Children (XXIX-1 thru XXIX-15)
- Folder 7/4: Sermons from Nature (XXX-1 thru XXX-14)
- Folder 7/5: New Year Sermons (XXXI-1 thru XXXI-28)
- Folder 7/6: Prayer (XXXII-1 thru XXXII-31)
- Folder 7/7: World Religions (XXXIII-1 thru XXXIII-6g)
- Folder 7/8: The Gospel and Revival (XXXIV-3 thru XXXIV-44l)
- Folder 8/1: The Gospel and Revival (XXXIV-44m thru XXXIV-55)
- Folder 8/2: Sickness and Death (XXXV-1 thru XXXV-15)
- Folder 8/3: Sin (XXXVI-1 thru XXXVI-78)
- Folder 8/4: Evangelism (XXXVII-1 thru XXXVII-35)
- Folder 8/5: Giving and Stewardship (XXXVIII-1 thru XXXVIII-44)
- Folder 8/6: Alcohol (XXXIX-1 thru XXXIX-10)
- Folder 8/7: Thanksgiving (XL-1 thru XL-19)

Folder 8/8: Worship (XLII-7)

Folder 8/9: Aging (XLIII-12, XLIII-18)

Folder 8/10: Humanity (XLIV-1, XLIV-2)

Folder 8/11: Political Issues (XLV-2, XLV-3)

Folder 8/12: Labor Day (XLVI-1)

Folder 8/13: The United States (XLVII-1 thru XLVII-5)

Folder 8/14: Worship (XLVIII-1)

Folder 8/15: Education (XLIX-1 thru XLIX-4)

Folder 8/16: Pastoral Anniversaries (XLX-1 thru XLX-6)

Folder 8/17: Special Events (XLXI-2 thru XLXI-12)

Folder 8/18: Funerals (XLXII-1 thru XLXII-14)

Folder 9/1: Miscellaneous Sermons (168 Unnumbered)

Folder 10/1: Programs and Bulletins

Folder 10/2: Newspaper and Magazine Clippings

Folder 10/3: Miscellaneous Sermon Notes I

Folder 10/4: Miscellaneous Sermon Notes II

Folder 10/5: Miscellaneous Sermon Notes III

Folder 10/6: Miscellaneous Sermon Notes IV

Folder 10/7: Senoia Baptist Church Budget

Folder 10/8: Damascus Baptist Church (Appling, GA) Bicentennial & Homecoming

Folder 10/9: In Light of the Como Martyrdom of Dr. Carlson & Others, Have Missions Failed?

Folder 10/10: Good Tidings of Great Joy

Folder 10/11: Good News from Bethlehem

Folder 10/12: The Greatest Sight in the World/The Marvel of Christmas

Folder 10/13: The Call of the Cross

Folder 10/14: America's Stake in the Christian Home

Folder 10/15: The New Birth

Folder 10/16: A Call to Consecration

Folder 10/17: Higher Things/Do Better Now, My Child

Folder 10/18: A House or A Home?

Folder 10/19: Home, Sweet Home

Folder 10/20: What We Owe the Babe of Bethlehem

Folder 10/21: The Birth of Jesus

Folder 10/22: After Easter Appointments

Folder 10/23: How to Have a Merry Christmas

Folder 10/24: What We Owe Christ

Folder 10/25: Personal Pentecostal Power

Folder 10/26: God's Call to Repentance

Folder 10/27: Prayer—Sunday Before Christmas, 1956

Folder 10/28: The Person Christ Uses

Folder 10/29: Don't Leave God Out

Folder 10/30: Twenty-fifth Anniversary in New Building

Folder 10/31: The Message of Easter

Folder 10/32: What Every Church Member Should Know

Folder 10/33: Retirement from Morningside, Response

Folder 10/34: Conquering Goliaths

Folder 10/35: Life's Greatest Experience

Folder 10/36: When the Sun Shone at Night

Folder 10/37: The True Meaning of Christmas

Folder 10/38: The Spiritual Significance of Christmas

Folder 10/39: The Deeper Meaning of Christmas

Folder 10/40: A Crusade, Not A Picnic

Folder 10/41: Jesus Associated with Undesirables

Folder 10/42: Fiftieth Anniversary of Morningside Baptist Church

Folder 10/43: I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel

Folder 10/44: Comfort for Troubled Hearts

Folder 10/45: When the Shadow of the Cross Falls Upon Us and Soaks In

Folder 10/46: Angelic Companionship

Folder 10/47: The Love Filled Life

Folder 10/48: The High Road to Magnanimity

Folder 10/49: Some Things I Have Learned in My Fight Against Obscenity

Folder 10/50: Guaranteed Triumph

Folder 10/51: After Death, What?

Folder 10/52: If We Would Know Christ Better

Folder 10/53: Lord's Day Alliance, Various Speech Notes

Folder 10/54: Happy New Year

Folder 10/55: Some Things We Should Leave Behind

Folder 10/56: Research to Write a Biography, a Church History, or Other Stories of the Past

Folder 10/57: The Glowing Heart

Folder 10/58: Personal Spiritual Power

Folder 10/59: Christ-Possessed

Folder 10/60: Other Christs

Folder 10/61: The Grateful Heart

Folder 10/62: Be of Good Cheer

Folder 10/63: The Conquerors, Harry Kemp

Folder 10/64: Getting Along with your Parents and the Whole Family

Folder 10/65: The Satisfying Christ/The All-Sufficient Christ

Folder 10/66: Counting the Cost

Folder 10/67: Steps to Victory

Folder 10/68: Ten Commandments for Christmas

Folder 10/69: The Twenty-third Psalm

Folder 10/70: When Living is Sublime

Folder 10/71: Determining Right from Wrong

Folder 10/72: How to Tell Right from Wrong?

Folder 10/73: Atlanta Law School Commencement-September 5, 1987

Folder 10/74: Why I Choose Christ

Folder 10/75: The Lordship of Christ

SERIES 4: NEWSPAPER BOX

Folder 11/1: Scrapbook devoted to JPW's tenure on the Georgia State Literature Commission

SERIES 5: INDEX CARD FILE

Folder 12/1: Notes on Church members (white cards)

Folder 12/2: Sermon index by subject (green cards)

Folder 12/3: Sermon index by scripture (yellow cards)