

JAMES (JIM) NORMAN GRIFFITH
1926- 2015
Journalist, Baptist Preacher, Mercer Trustee, President of GBC
Mercer Alumna

Contact Information

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Biographical Note

James (Jim) Norman Griffith was born on January 19, 1926. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Ben W. Griffith. His brother is Dr. Ben Griffith of Carrollton, Georgia (address available). Griffith had three children- two of which were named Doren and Sundy Lu.

Griffith attended Lanier High School in Macon, Georgia. He married Mildred Scott Rhonda of West Palm Beach, Florida, whom graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia.

He attended Mercer University from 1944 to 1949, where he majored in journalism. He was a member of the Inter- Fraternity Council (1945-46) and Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Griffith was the Assistant Editor of the *Mercer Cluster* (1947-48). He received an A.B. degree from Mercer University in 1949.

Griffith became a Sports writer for the *Macon Telegraph*. He is a graduate of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina. In 1952, he was ordained by First Baptist Church in Lanett, Alabama. He was a member of Cherokee Heights Church in Macon, Georgia, but was ordained at the church where he grew up.

He was the pastor of St. Simons First Baptist Church for many years. Beech Haven Church in Athens, Georgia called to him in 1966.

In 1968, he received an Honorary Degree from Atlanta Law School. He was also a Trustee of Mercer University from 1971 to 1975. Griffith received an MD and Th. D from Luther Rice Seminary before 1973. He received an Honorary Degree from Mercer in 1977.

Griffith preached sermon at Convention in 1973. In 1979, he was the President of the Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC). He became the Executive Secretary of the Georgia Baptist Convention in 1980.

Griffith is the author of three books: *Sure You Can* and *Stepping Stones*, Broadman Press, and *From Pulpit to Pew*. He was a contributing author to the book, *The Lord's Day*. For almost 25 years, he was the author of the humor column, "Pulpit to Pew", which was published weekly in the *Christian Index* of the GBC and *The Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*. Griffith's sermons and writings have been published by *Reader's Digest*, *Pulpit Digest*, *Proclaim Magazine*, *North Carolina Biblical Recorder*, *Baptist Program*, *Florida Baptist Witness*, *Western Recorder*, *Christian Advocate*, *The Australian Baptist*, *Open Windows*, and other publications.

Scope and Content Note

The James (Jim) Norman Griffith collection contains his sermons, course material, photographs, scrapbooks, audio and visual tapes, books, publications, and miscellaneous materials.

Subjects

Christian life -- Baptist authors
Christian Index
Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC)
Mercer Cluster
Mercer University
Southwestern Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, NC)

Restrictions

Restrictions on access

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Separated Material

None

Administrative Information*Citation*

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

Processing

List revised April 2018 by Hannah Hinton and Gabrielle Hale.

Finding Aid Note

Finding aid available in repository.

Series Description

BOX 1	Miscellaneous
BOX 2	Sermons
BOX 3	Publications, flat (listed from top to bottom)
BOX 4	Publications, vertical
BOX 5	Publications, boxed

BOX 1 Miscellaneous

- 1/1 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, course materials, 4"
- 1/2 Scrapbooks, 1939- 2005; Miscellaneous Photographs, 5.5"
- 1/3 Audio and Audio- Visual tapes, 5.5" (Audio tapes: James N. Griffith, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1990, 1993, n.d.; Louie D. Newton, 1981?; Dr. Lawhead, n.d.; Vance Havner, n.d.; J. Thorton Williams, 1984; Sara Powell and Anna Laura Page, 1980) (Audio visual tape: James N. Griffith, 2005)

BOX 2 Sermons

- 2/1 "Sermons in the Rough," 6"
- 2/2 "Sermons: Old Testament texts, 1.5"
- 2/3 "Sermons, New Testament texts, 2.5"
- 2/4 "Topical sermons and other addresses, 2.5"

BOX 3 Publications, flat (listed from top to bottom)

- 3/1 Advertising (rolled)
- 3/2 "The Last Straw" (Macon, Morganton), 1946- 1948, 1950, n.d. (see Box 5)
- 3/3 "And- In This Corner" (Macon), 1945, 1946, n.d.
- 3/4 "The Last Straw" (Newnan), 1998
- 3/5 Miscellaneous: News stories; advertising; Lanier High School, 1942- 1944; *Baptist Chronicle* (Louisiana), 1919; *Mercer Cluster*, 1944; "Pulpit to Pew," full pages, 1976 (see Box 4)

BOX 4 Publications, vertical

- 4/1 Early: fiction, free verse (Macon, Morganton) n.d.
- 4/2 "Pulpit to Pew" (*The Christian Index*, Atlanta), 1956- 1977, 1979- 1980 (see Box 3)
- 4/3 "Pulpit to Pew," 1961- 1964, n.d. (see Box 3)
- 4/4 "Looking Up" (*The Christian Index*, Atlanta), 1990- 1997, 2000- 2003, n.d.
- 4/5 "Looking Up," 1992, 1993, n.d.
- 4/6 *Open Windows*, 1993
- 4/7 Four autographed books: *Sure You Can* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978); *Stepping Stones* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980); *From "Pulpit to Pew"* (Atlanta: *The Christian Index*, 1981); *Looking Up* (Macon: Mercer University Press, 1993)

BOX 5 Publications, boxed

- 4/8 "The Last Straw" (Macon), 1946- 1949, boxed (see Box 3)