

**Furnace Street Mission / Victim Assistance Program Collection
Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

ACCESSION # 2013-25

ACQUISITION: Donated by Reverend Robert Denton of the Furnace Street Mission (FSM) and Victim Assistance Program (VAP) May 30, 2013.

ACCESS: Restricted access; materials fragile; access by request at Akron-Summit County Public Library's Main Library Special Collections division only.

VOLUME: 11 boxes, 10 binders, 3 scrapbooks; 11 linear feet.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Collected by the Denton family.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Documents and pictures of the Furnace Street Mission and Victim Assistance Program, including information on the founder of the FSM, Reverend William "Bill" Denton, the second generation of FSM and founder of VAP, Reverend Robert "Bob" Denton, and family from 1926-2000s. Further Akron Beacon Journal articles relating to FSM/VAP and associates can be searched online.

ARRANGEMENT: The collection is divided into two series: Furnace Street Mission (FSM) and the Victim Assistance Program (VAP). Each series is grouped by like materials and in general chronology when available.

INVENTORY:

SERIES 1: FURNACE STREET MISSION (FSM)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Photographs and documents from the early days of FSM with Rev. Bill Denton to the continuation of the Mission with Rev. Bob Denton. Each subseries is sorted chronologically by decade when available.

Box 1

Subseries 1: Photographs

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Some of the photographs were taken out of the binders and scrapbooks as well as the mission trip files. Note: There is also a separate 1930s video made by Bill Denton in Special Collections.

Envelope #
1-84 (1910s-1930s)

Box 2

Envelope #
85-150 (1940s)

**Furnace Street Mission / Victim Assistance Program Collection
Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

Box 3

Envelope #
151-251 (1950s-1960s)

Box 4

Envelope #
252-328 (1960s)

Box 5

Envelope #
329-392 (1970s-2000s)
393 oversized – Akron Furnace St. Mission Gospel Car circa 1929
394 oversized – “Preaching in the Underworld” from the back of the bus circa 1929
395 oversized – preaching over the public address system, parking lot facing FSM circa 1929
396 oversized – food line, FSM Charity Department circa 1930
397 oversized – Early Furnace St. Missionary with Rev. Bill Denton circa 1930
398 oversized – portrait of Bill Denton and two unidentified men, Radio Cuba 1939
399 oversized – First tabernacle (outside) with Ray Shelhorn, Japan circa 1950s
400 oversized – First tabernacle (interior), Japan circa 1950s
401 oversized – Evansong poster, no date (***Subseries 8: Miscellaneous***)

Box 6

Subseries 2: Correspondence

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: General correspondence that was not filed in specific folders. Some correspondence may be found in other subseries folders.

Folder #

- 1 Correspondence 1930s
- 2 Correspondence 1940s
- 3 Correspondence 1950s
- 4 Correspondence 1960s
- 5 Correspondence 1970s
- 6 Letters and list of attendees for commemorative 50th anniversary dinner, 1977-1978
- 7 Correspondence 1980s
- 8 Correspondence 1990s
- 9 Correspondence 2000s
- 10 Correspondence undated

Furnace Street Mission / Victim Assistance Program Collection Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library

Subseries 3: Newspaper articles, Scrapbooks, and Binders

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: The binders were put together like scrapbooks with plastic binder sleeves. These were kept in original order and housing, except all photos were removed and arranged with the FSM subseries photographs. Both the scrapbooks and binders are mixed dates but mainly early articles on Rev. Bill Denton and the FSM. Loose scrapbook pages with articles were photocopied.

Folder #

11 Furnace Street Mission newspaper articles

12 miscellaneous articles photocopied from loose scrapbook pages

Scrapbooks are stored separately on shelf

Scrapbook #

1 Titled: Bill Denton 1938 (khaki cover)

2 brown cover

3 red cover

Binders are stored separately on shelf

Binder #

1 Blue

2 Black

3 Black

Subseries 4: Denton, William (Bill)

Folder #

13 Photocopied news articles/clippings

14 Stencil sample

15 Handwritten sermon notes

16 Last part of sermon Underworld Time (1st part missing), summer 1929

17 Radio (WADC and others) documents

18 Korea orphans/widows home (Taejon), bought/outfitted by FSM; now run by World Vision

19 Japan church, 1 or 27 started by FSM sponsored Ray Shelhorn

20 Japan mission books 1951-2001

21 Prison Inmate Files – Arthur Maul, 1929

22 Prison Inmate Files – George Wells, circa 1930s

23 Prison Inmate Files – Gust Tangles, Bert Walker, James Rowes, Jack Ellis, Robert Snow, John Richardson, Ralph Still, circa 1930s

24 Prison Inmate Files – Pretty Boy Floyd, circa 1930s

25 Prison Inmate Files – Sam Sheppard, circa 1950s

26 Prison Inmate Files – Joe Lancaster (clemency 4/25/1958), circa 1950s

27 Prison Inmate Files – Lowell Skinner, circa 1950-60s

28 Prison Inmate Files – Roger Kegg, 1960

29 Prison Inmate Files – James (Jim) Buck, last man Bill led to electric chair (June 1962)

30 Prison Inmate Files – Craig Fox (son of Grant Scott), circa 1965

**Furnace Street Mission / Victim Assistance Program Collection
Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

Subseries 5: Denton, Allen Robert (Bob)

Folder #

- 31 Photocopied newspaper articles/clippings [some articles may pertain to VAP]
- 32 Old broadcasts, handwritten sermon notes, 1960s-1970s
- 33 Old broadcasts, typed sermon notes, 1960s-1970s
- 34 Typed sermons, 1960s
- 35 Typed sermons, 1970s

Box 7

Subseries 5 continued: Denton, Allen Robert (Bob)

Folder #

- 36 Sermon notes/outlines (handwritten and typed), undated
- 37 Sermon notes/outline (handwritten), undated
- 38 Sermon notes/outline (handwritten) continued, undated

Subseries 6: Denton House

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Home for parolees and probationers, opened officially August 1965. Branch of the Furnace Street Mission and a member of the International Halfway House Association.

Folder #

- 39 Newspaper articles
- 40 Publications
- 41 Documents (including house rules and list of residents)

Subseries 7: Publications, Newsletters, Promotional Media

Folder #

- 42 Newsletters from Bill Denton, 1969-1981
- 43 Newsletters from Bob Denton, 1976-2000s
- 44 Newsletters, 1970s-2000s
- 45 Publications/promotional media, early FSM
- 46 Publications/promotional media continued, early FSM

Box 8

Subseries 8: Miscellaneous

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: One oversized poster, Evansong, is in Box 5, envelope 401.

Folder #

- 47 Documents, 1930s
- 48 Documents, 1950s
- 49 Documents, 1960s
- 50 Documents, 1970s
- 51 Documents, 1980s

**Furnace Street Mission / Victim Assistance Program Collection
Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

- 52 Bob Page's notes on Rev. Bill Denton's book, early 1980s
- 53 60th anniversary historical calendar, 1987
- 54 Documents, 2000s
- 55 Denton genealogy, no date
- 56 Bob's work awards
- 57 Board meeting minutes, Articles of Incorporation, Agreement for purchase of real estate
- 58 Stories of Rev. Bill Denton's work (handwritten notes)
- 59 David L. Burnham's thesis on the History of FSM, Jay D. Green's thesis on Lost Soul, Get Right with God
- 60 Stationary/letterhead
- 61 Documents, mixed dates
- 62 Realia- Christmas stamp and bookmark

SERIES 2: VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VAP)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Victim Assistance Program began to advocate for victims in early 1972. This series is sorted chronologically by decade within each subseries when possible.

Box 1

Subseries 1: Newspaper Articles, Binders

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: The binders contain newspaper clippings documenting area crime and violence. They were left in original order, except photographs were removed and arranged with the VAP subseries photographs. Further VAP related articles from 1984-present can be searched in the Akron Beacon Journal index online.

Folder #

- 1 photocopied newspaper articles and clippings 1970-80s

Binders are stored separately on shelf

Binder #

- 1 VAP 1992-1996
- 2 VAP 1994, 25th anniversary Mardi Gras, misc dates
- 3 VAP 2002, 2005, 2007, 1982 women's shelter article
- 4 VAP 2004, 2005, 2006
- 5 VAP 2007
- 6 VAP 2010, 2011
- 7 Police Chaplaincy

Subseries 2: Documents

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes newsletters, agendas, pamphlets, and promotional media.

Folder #

- 2 VAP pamphlets
- 3 Assorted documents 1970s
- 4 Assorted documents 1980s
- 5 Assorted documents 1990s (includes timeline of VAP within parent organization 1926-1994)
- 6 Assorted documents 2000s (part 1 of 2)

**Furnace Street Mission / Victim Assistance Program Collection
Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

7 Assorted documents 2000s (part 2 of 2)

8 Assorted documents various dates unknown

Subseries 3: Realia

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes VAP wooden angel with bell and VAP badge

Folder #

9 Realia

Subseries 4: Photographs

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes many candid photos of staff and VAP events

Box 2

Envelope #

1-64 (1970s-1990)

Box 3

Envelope #

65-100 (1990-2010, date unknown)