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Patricia Wilson-Kastner papers5635472

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Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Wilson-Kastner, Patricia
Title:	Patricia Wilson-Kastner papers
ID:	5635472
Date [inclusive]:	1944 -- 1998
Physical Description:	15 linear feet 15 linear feet; 34 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Patricia Wilson-Kastner was a Roman Catholic nun, United Church of Christ pastor, Episcopalian priest, and Trinity Church Professor of Preaching at General Theological Seminary in New York City. The collection contains correspondence, sermons, publications, course material, notes, and photographs related to Wilson-Kastner's parish and academic career.

Preferred Citation

Item description, AWTS: Patricia Wilson-Kastner papers, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

Patricia Ann Wilson was born on September 18, 1944 in New York City to Woodrow and Mary Wilson, the oldest of 4 children. She grew up in Dallas, Texas and graduated from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in 1962, and was voted Most Likely to Succeed by her peers. She joined the Order of Sisters of St. Mary Namur in Dallas in 1962. She was named Sister Jeremy after the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah, an agitator, who was thrown into a cistern by his enemies. During her six years in the Order, Sister Jeremy became an English and Religion teacher at Nolan High School in Dallas, Texas. The nuns encouraged her to be better educated in philosophy and theology, but as her education progressed she found that her doubts made it impossible to continue in that part of the church. She was forced from the Order of St.

Mary because of her political activity in 1968, when she led a rump convention for Eugene McCarthy in Fort Worth. When she made the front page of the papers in her religious habit, the Mother Superior said she was not to show her face at the motherhouse again. Later that same year, she was gassed in Grant Park in Chicago during the demonstrations surrounding the Democratic National Convention at which Hubert Humphrey was nominated for President. Wilson graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1967 and received a Master of Arts in Theology in 1969, both from the University of Dallas. She moved to Iowa City, Iowa to pursue a doctoral degree in world religions at the University of Iowa. During this time Wilson changed her denominational affiliation. In 1973 she joined the United Church of Christ, and served as Pastor of the Welsh Congregational Church in Iowa City, Iowa for two years. After changing her area of study, she received a PhD in religion from the University of Iowa in 1973. There she met her future husband, George Ronald Kastner, a doctoral student in comparative literature. They were married in Iowa City on May 26, 1974. In 1975 she became the first woman faculty member of United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota. Wilson-Kastner first became Assistant for three years, then Associate Professor for four years of Historical and Constructive Theology. During this time she also was a visiting faculty member at Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. But by 1976 Wilson-Kastner was beginning to feel she wanted more theology and liturgy than the United Church of Christ could give her. She met with the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese in Minnesota; was interviewed by the faculty at Seabury Western, the Episcopal seminary in Chicago; and read the appropriate books in preparation for a second ordination. In April 1979, she was ordained a deacon, and then in September of that same year she was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Minnesota. While continuing as professor at United Theological Seminary, she served three years as Priest Associate at St. Christopher's Church in Roseville, Minnesota. In 1982 Wilson-Kastner became the Trinity Church Professor of Preaching at General Theological Seminary in New York City. During her seven years there she also served as a Priest Associate at the Church of the Holy Apostle (two years) and then at Christ and St. Stephen's (four years), both in Manhattan. Feeling the need for a less academic focus in her life, in essence wanted to 'practice what she preached,' Wilson-Kastner decided to seek full time parish work. In February 1989 she became the Rector of the Church of the Resurrection in North Carolina. Three months after taking on the responsibilities as rector, Wilson-Kastner underwent surgery. A lengthy recuperation seemed to drive a wedge between her and members of the church community. On her return to work, Wilson-Kastner began changing the liturgy from the monastic model that the congregation was used to, to liturgy that followed the prayer book more closely. In 1992, Wilson-Kastner became Rector of St. Ann's and the Holy Trinity Church in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn. Soon after arriving at St. Ann's, Wilson-Kastner attempted to evict the St. Ann's Center for Restoration and the Arts (SACRA) from the church, with the support of the vestry (the church governing board). High-level meetings between the diocese, the SACRA board and Wilson-Kastner led to a peaceful resolution of the situation in 1993.

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Biographical / Historical

In February 1995, Wilson-Kastner again moved to evict the St. Ann's Center from the church, with the backing of Bishop Walker. This time, however, the vestry was not in support of the action and passed a resolution opposing the eviction. Wilson-Kastner began legal proceedings in civil court (City of New York) to enforce the eviction. The vestry counter-sued stating that the rector could not evict without the approval of the vestry. In May 1995, the vestry formally asked the bishop to dissolve the pastoral relationship. Within weeks Wilson-Kastner asked the bishop to remove her as rector of St. Ann's, but the bishop made no decision. In December 1995, the vestry voted to change the bylaws of the parish. In January 1996, Wilson-Kastner and Clarence Clark (a previous senior warden on the vestry) filed a restraining order in New York State Supreme Court claiming that the election of the new vestry was illegal because, according to church law, only the rector can call for a vestry election and must preside over the meeting. The Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island, Orris Walker, rendered a decision known as a "Godly Judgment" on the matter in March 1996. He would dismiss the rector providing that all the members of the vestry resign and that all physical properties be handed over to the bishop. Members of the vestry refused to resign. The stalemate lasted a year. The bishop surprised Wilson-Kastner on January 24, 1997 with a "Godly Judgment" dissolving her pastoral relationship with St. Ann's and the Holy Trinity church effective January 31, 1997. Wilson-Kastner had taped a letter of resignation to Bishop Walker's office door the previous week. That gave Wilson-Kastner only one week to leave the church. Although this ended her professional relationship with the church, she was still connected to the church because of the newly elected vestry's refusal to pay the agreed upon compensation package and back wages. Disagreements remained, however, over financial matters involving Wilson-Kastner, the parish and the diocese as well as responsibility for the conflict itself. In the fall of 1996, while the conflict at St. Ann's was in its final stages, Wilson-Kastner became adjunct professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois. In the spring of 1997, she was appointed an adjunct at Auburn Seminary, New York City. At the time of her death, January 1998, Wilson-Kastner was Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Mercer Theological School in Garden City, NY. She was also serving as interim priest at the Church of the Holy Apostles in the Windsor Terrace neighborhood of Brooklyn.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of notes, sermons, and subject files relating to Wilson-Kastner's work in the ordained ministry. Also included are correspondence, lecture notes, church bulletins, diplomas, journals, published articles, clippings from magazines and newspapers, and a small amount of audiovisual material.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 8 series: 1. Early life and the Order of Sisters of St. Mary Namur; 2. University of Iowa; 3. United Theological Seminary and St. Christopher's Church; 4. General Theological Seminary; 5. Church of the Resurrection; 6. St. Anne's and the Holy Trinity; 7. Restricted material; and 8. Oversized materials.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2024-07-16

Conditions Governing Access

This collection contains some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is located offsite. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

G. Ronald Kastner, husband of Patricia Wilson-Kastner, donated her papers to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 1999. Additional materials were received in 2000.

Custodial History

For appendices including PWK's bibliography and computer files, please consult the legacy finding aid by contacting Burke staff.

Processing Information

When the Burke Library acquired Wilson-Kastner's papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order she imposed throughout the course of her career. Sermons are grouped by church year, and then by liturgical calendar (for example, Palm Sunday before Good Friday, Easter before Pentecost, Ordinary time, Advent, Epiphany). Dates are followed when they are provided. When Wilson-Kastner preached at two different churches within the same time period, they are organized by church when possible and then by liturgical calendar. Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied on acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. Computer files from Wilson-Kastner's desktop and laptop computers were transferred to a CD-ROM. A listing of these files may be found in an appendix of the legacy finding aid, though much of this material is restricted (please contact burkespecial@library.columbia.edu for more information). In 2024, Box 1 and Box 39 were deaccessioned from the collection due to their contents being out of current collecting scope; also in 2024, the contents of Boxes 36-38 were added to Box 35. The finding aid was created by Leslie Reyman in 2000, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2024.

Conditions Governing Use

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Wilson-Kastner, Patricia -- : Archives

Burke Library record group:

Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship (AWTS)

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Collection Inventory

Series 1: Early life and the Order of Sisters of St. Mary Namur, circa 1944 -- 1969

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged by format. Where applicable, arrangement is alphabetical by subject.

Scope and Contents

This series documents much of Wilson-Kastner's childhood and family life, and contains a birth certificate, family photos, and early journal writings.

Title/Description	Instances
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Certificates, photographs, and writings, circa 1944 -- 1969	box 2
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Series 2: University of Iowa, circa 1970 -- 1974

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by format. Where applicable, arrangement is alphabetical by subject.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence, course syllabi, and teaching notes from Wilson-Kastner's PhD work at the University of Iowa. Her certificate of ordination, wedding photos and marriage certificate are also in this series.

Title/Description	Instances
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Magazines, newspapers, certificates, Institute of Public Affairs University of Iowa, and photographs , circa 1970 -- 1974	box 3
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Series 3: United Theological Seminary and St. Christopher's Church, circa 1975 -- 1983

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series consists of course notes for teaching and notes for writing, church bulletins, sermons, and photos.

Title/Description	Instances
Newspapers, correspondence, notes, Native American, Syllabi, circ 1975 -- 1981	box 4
Notes, bulletins, photos, poems, sermons 1-4, circa 1975 -- 1981	box 5
Sermons 5-12, circa 1975 -- 1983	box 6
Articles, book reviews, General Theological Seminary, circa 1975 -- 1981	box 7

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Series 4: General Theological Seminary, circa 1975 -- 1991

Physical Description: 4 linear feet 4 linear feet; 8 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series consists of extensive notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and writings regarding the ordination of women in the Anglican Church worldwide. Notes and drafts of journal articles are included, as are reviews of Wilson-Kastner's books. Also included are clippings, correspondence, course syllabi, hand written lecture notes and chapters copied from other textbooks. Reports and notes

pertaining to ecumenical dialogue between the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches are included as well as committee meetings on incorporating inclusive language into the Eucharist, notes on stewardship within the church, and sermons preached at Christ and St. Stephen's Church and Church of the Holy Apostles, both in Manhattan.

Title/Description	Instances
Newspapers and magazines, circa 1975 -- 1981	box 8
Correspondence 1-7, 1982 -- 1988	box 9
Syllabi, notes, articles and resources, copied chapters, circa 1975 -- 1988	box 10
Ecumenical Dialogue, Inclusive Language, 1986 -- 1988	box 11
Awake, the watchtower, Justice Peace and the integrity of Creation, Abortion, Notes, Stewardship, Photos, circa 1984 -- 1988	box 12
Sermons, circa 1982 -- 1989	box 13
Women's Ordination. notes, Eames Commission, clippings, circa 1981 -- 1989	box 14
Published articles, Preaching Stewardship, Journals, book reviews, circa 1982 -- 1991	box 15

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Series 5: Church of the Resurrection, circa 1980 -- 1992

Physical Description: 4 linear feet 4 linear feet; 8 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series consists of clippings, correspondence, conference notes on ecumenical dialogue and inclusive language, notes on stewardship and women's ordination, sermons and journal writings, drafts of books, photos of church members and church functions, and correspondence related to the conflict in the parish.

Title/Description	Instances
Magazines and newspapers, correspondence, 1988 -- 1992	box 16
Ecumenical Dialogue #1-3; Ecumenical Dialogue incl. Anglican-Methodist, Episcopal-Roman Catholic, Methodist-Roman Catholic; Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations, circa 1980 -- 1992	box 17

COCU proposals; Liturgies for Inauguration of Covenanting; 17th Plenary of the Consultation; Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue III, circa 1991	box 18
Inclusive Language conference and program; Committee on Inclusive Language Liturgy of the Standing Liturgical Commission; Consultation on an inclusive church; A Report; Trial "issue" of Inclusive Language in Worship, circa 1980 -- 1992	box 19
Parish Assessment, Life, Manual, Profile; National Annual Stewardship conference at Kanuga; Personnel Profile and Update Form; The Church of The Resurrection; Kip Papers (Resurrection Conflict); The Resurrection Trumpet; photos , circa 1989 -- 1992	box 20
Sermons #1-7, circa 1989 -- 1992	box 21
Sermons #8-10, circa 1989 -- 1992	box 22
Women's Ordination correspondence, incl. re: "Eames Report"; Women's Ordination: A Theological Response to the Archbishops' and Primates Report Women's Ordination reviews, 1989 -- 1992	box 23

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Series 6: St. Anne's and the Holy Trinity, circa 1990 -- 1998

Physical Description: 3.5 linear feet 3.5 linear feet; 7 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series consists of clippings, course syllabi and notes, files on ecumenical dialogue, inclusive language, and sermons preached at St. Ann's and Holy Apostle's church in Brooklyn, New York. Files on the continuing struggle for the ordination of women are included.

Title/Description	Instances
Clippings and correspondence, 1992 -- 1998	box 24
Course resources, including notes and History of Christianity I, circa 1996	box 25
Organizational materials, reports, and correspondence, circa 1992 -- 1998	box 26

Scope and Contents

1996 National workshop on Christian unity COCU
Theology Commission 1997 Handbook for Ecumenism
Theology Commissions Report Anglican/Methodist
Dialogue 1992 COCU Anglican-Methodist Interim
Report Sharing in the Apostolic Communion, 1995
Resolutions Anglican Response to Sharing the
Apostolic Communion Anglican and Methodists in
North America Anglican/Methodist Correspondence,
1995 Anglican-Methodist International Commission

Correspondence and personal materials, circa 1984 -- 1998 box 27

Scope and Contents

Inclusive Language Principles for liturgical language
Celebration of a new Ministry Correspondence Recipes
Bulletin Wkadykawa Grabias Maureen Mackey Adult
Education Schedule 1984-1985 Notes, sympathy cards
Patricia's death

Sermons, circa 1995 -- 1997 box 28

Drafts and publishing materials, circa 1990 -- 1998 box 29

Scope and Contents

Women's Ordination -resolution LuraMedia-publishing
agreement—Rattling Those Dry Bones Draft of book
History, Hope and Stewardship Prospectus Augsburg
Fortress-Publishing Agreement-February 10, 1992
Review

Sympathy cards, circa 1990 -- 1998 box 30

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Series 7: Restricted material, 1967 -- 1997

Physical Description: 1 linear feet 1 linear foot; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This material is restricted until 2044.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence and other materials including minutes, statistics, reports, items related to Patricia's death, and an Autobiographical sketch Psychotherapy journal.

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, 1967 -- 1996	box 31
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access	
This material is restricted until 2044.	
<hr/> Correspondence and other materials, circa 1993 -- 1997	
box 32	
<u>Conditions Governing Access:</u> Conditions Governing Access	
This material is restricted until 2044.	

Scope and Contents

Correspondence 1996-Sept.-Dec. Correspondence
 1997 January – June Correspondence Correspondence
 1997-report of investigation St. Ann and the Holy
 Trinity Gazette" and "...and the truth shall set you
 free" Vestry meeting minutes Financial accounts at St.
 Ann's and the Holy Trinity, 1994-1996 Case of St. Ann
 and the Holy Trinity Parochial Report Statistics 1993
 and 1994 Affidavits and Summons agenda and notes
 Items related to Patricia's death Autobiographical
 sketch Psychotherapy journal (This is from her time in
 therapy-GTS)

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Series 8: Oversized materials, circa 1970 -- 1990

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

Scope and Contents

This series contains diplomas, prints and artwork, certificates, calendars, and guest books, as well as books written by Wilson-Kastner and copies of journals in which she is published. Also included are one

audiotape and one videotape of her last service, celebrated on January 11, 1998 at Holy Apostle's Church in Brooklyn.

Title/Description	Instances
Oversized materials, circa 1970 -- 1990	box 33
Calendars, circa 1970 -- 1990	box 34
Books, journals, writings and scholarly articles , circa 1970 -- 1990	box 35

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