Biography

Rev. Dr. J.D. Slay, a clergy member of the Mississippi Conference, United Methodist Church, was born in 1908. Beginning in 1933, he pastored churches, served as district superintendent, and for one year as a vice-president at Millsaps College, which awarded him an honorary Doctorate in 1956. In addition to his ministerial duties, Slay served on the board of trustees of Millsaps College and Methodist-Hattiesburg Hospital. He was married to Alice Watts Slay, with whom he had two sons. J. D. Slay, Sr. died in 2000.

Scope and Contents

The collection, donated by son Bill Slay in January 2014, contains personal and family artifacts, photos, and records, including genealogical data on his wife’s Watts family. Documents from his Methodist ministry include pastor’s diaries, church bulletins, audio and video tapes of his sermons, news clippings, books, academic papers. The collection gives insight into both the formal and personal aspects of a minister’s life. Processed by Jim Bowers and Elizabeth Doyle, 2014.

BOX 1  Artifacts

Eye glasses

Gavel

Guest book for 50th anniversary reception Heidelberg UMC

Keys and driver’s license in leather case

Plaster cast of human teeth

Pen drawing by C.W. Slay, 1974

Two trustees appreciation plaques, 1972, Millsaps and Methodist-Hattiesburg Hospital

Four clergy stoles

One academic hood

One ministerial robe

3 VHS tape—detail listing in A-V materials list (Box 3)
BOX 2        Pastor’s Pocket Record Books and Year Books

Pastor’s Record Books
Official Church Rolls, Funerals, Baptisms, Marriages, Quarterly Conference Reports, Salary, Conference Claims, Sunday Schools, Sermons Preached

1934
1935-1936

1936: **Collins**, MS

1937: *The Cokesbury Marriage Manual*

1941-1942: **Ellisville**, MS, misc. funeral records 1941-1978


1943: Sermon list, by date

1953-1954


Personal Year Books (used as journals)

1934
1948
1950
1952
1959
1995
## Audio/Visual Materials

Audio Recordings: Sermons preached by J.D. Slay., 7-inch Scotch reel-to-reel tape, copied to CD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bible Pictures of God &amp; Easter message</td>
<td>Feb. 9, 1969 &amp; April 6, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Great Methodist Church &amp; Paul’s Prayer</td>
<td>Feb. 16, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defending our Democratic Way of Life &amp; Publish Good Tidings</td>
<td>March 9, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Journey of Life &amp; Rise Up, O Men of God</td>
<td>March 16, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views of the Holy Spirit &amp; The Vision Splendid</td>
<td>March 23, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wondrous Cross &amp; Worship Alone can Save Us</td>
<td>April 13, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portraits of the Master &amp; A Good Layman</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Audio Recordings: Sermons preached by J.D. Slay, Cassette tapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our Great Methodist Church</td>
<td>Feb 16, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Prayer for Holy Living &amp; the Man Who Did Not Blunder</td>
<td>Oct. 17, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord of All &amp; Signs Along the Way</td>
<td>Sept. 10, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We Are the Church &amp; New Life in Christ</td>
<td>Oct. 22, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day &amp; The Loveliest Way</td>
<td>May 13, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He Ascended into Heaven &amp; One Thing I Know for Sure</td>
<td>June 3, 1973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Video Recordings: Sermons preached by J.D. Slay, VHS tapes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keeping 3 Clocks Ticking &amp; Our Kingdom Task</td>
<td>Aug. 26/ Sept.2, 1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter (at McFarland Presbyterian)</td>
<td>April 15, 1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views of the Holy Spirit
Good News

May 24, 1992
July 30, 1995

Commercial Video Tapes- moved to Box 1

Don Wildmon: An American Treasure, 1997 by American Family Association


United Methodist Hour of Mississippi: A Study of Philippians by Dr. John McCormick, n.d.

BOX 4 Ministry Papers

1936 Pastor’s book by R. L. Love

1994 Being Made a Minister by Dr. J. D. Slay, Sr.

f 1 Sermons

f 2 Selected Bulletins: 1955-1981

f 3 News clippings: 1950-1983

f 4 “Philosophy of Religion” and “The Genius of the Doctrine of Methodism” academic papers by J. D. Slay, Sr.

f 5 Compilation of Wisdom from the Ages manuscript, dedicated to Dr. J. D. Slay., Sr.

BOX 5 Personal Papers

f 1 Photos

f 2 Personal Papers #1: Power of Attorney, Wills, Deeds, Burial Policies, Pension and Bank Information
M 109  SLAY, (James Dudley, Sr.) Papers  1933-2000

f 3  Personal Papers #2: Obituary, Millsaps Commencement program 1956 when given an honorary degree, delivery bill Emory Hospital 1933, personal correspondence

f 4  Watts Family History and Records

f 5  Neva Fortenberry Thompson Daughters of the American Revolution application

BOX 6  Oversized materials

Photo of church, no name given
Jesus and Scripture Calligraphy print
Photocopies of family tree inside Watts Family Bible, certified by the State of Mississippi