This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These items are associated with the centennial observance of Grace Methodist Church at Springfield in Greene County, Missouri, in May 1964. Included are a “Centennial Story” booklet, a congregational newsletter, and a church bulletin for the centennial service.

Grace Methodist Church was organized during the Civil War. A century later it was one of Springfield’s leading Christian congregations, located at Jefferson Avenue and Cherry Street a few blocks south of Central Square. The 66-page booklet is Centennial Story, 1864-1964: Grace Methodist Church. It was compiled and published by the church’s Records and History Committee and Centennial Committee. Included are an illustrated history of the congregation, historical photographs, and descriptions of contemporary church organizations, Sunday-school classes, choirs, and activities. The volume contains many individual portraits and group photographs, with all individuals identified in most cases.

The newsletter is issue No. 26, dated 13 May 1964, of The Methodist Ozarkian, which was the congregation’s weekly periodical. Its focus was the upcoming centennial service of observance. Also noted was a called meeting of the congregation (“Special Quarterly Conference”) to be held the following Monday evening, to consider a proposal to relocate the church “in the general area of Battlefield and South Fremont.” However, in 2003 Grace United Methodist Church was still located at 600 S. Jefferson Avenue, at Cherry Street.

The bulletin contains the order of worship for the “One Hundredth Anniversary Service” held on Sunday morning, 17 May 1964. The Rev. Clarence P. Folkins delivered the sermon, entitled “Second Century Christians.”
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