

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 347

Title: Koinonia

Extent: 11 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1956-2017

Language: English

Geographic Location: Americus, Georgia

Abstract: This collection consists of product catalogs, newsletters and general correspondence.

Historical Notes: Koinonia Farm was founded in 1942 by Clarence and Florence Jordan and Martin and Mabel England as a "demonstration plot for the kingdom of God." This meant a community of believers sharing their lives and resources, following the example of the first Christian communities as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Other families soon joined, and visitors to the farm were invited "to serve a period of apprenticeship in developing community life on the teachings and principles of Jesus. Koinonians shared not only faith and resources, but also work. We farmed for our livelihood and sought ways to work in partnership with the land, "to conserve the soil, God's holy earth" (Clarence Jordan). We shared, taught and were members of local churches. Koinonians emphasized the brotherhood and sisterhood of all people. When we could afford to hire seasonal help, Black and White workers were paid a fair, equal wage. When the community and its guests prayed or ate a meal, we all sat together at the table, regardless of color. Our commitment to racial equality, pacifism, and economic sharing brought bullets, bombs, and a boycott in the 1950's as the Ku Klux Klan and others attempted to force us out. We responded with prayer, nonviolent resistance, and a renewed commitment to live the Gospel. We created a mail-order business, which continues to sustain our community today. As the threats of violence dwindled, we focused on the poor quality of local housing and began a project to build decent, affordable homes for our neighbors. Clarence also focused on a passion he held, to pen a version of the New Testament from the original Greek to South Georgia vernacular. From his writing shack nestled in the pecan orchards, Clarence wrote the Cotton Patch Version, prepared for nationwide speaking engagements, and, in 1969, while working on a sermon, it is where he died suddenly. The Koinonia community carried on Clarence's legacy. The partnership housing ministry evolved into Habitat for Humanity International under the leadership of Millard and Linda Fuller, former Koinonia members. When they left Habitat in 2005, Millard and Linda made certain that the first board meeting of their new organization, the Fuller Center for Housing, took place at Koinonia. They wanted the Fuller Center's birthplace to be at Koinonia Farm as well. Koinonia has been instrumental in the founding of other organizations, such as Jubilee Partners, a community that welcomes refugees from war-torn countries, and many others that work for social justice. Through our renewed commitment to the Gospel today, we seek to Feed the Hungry both physically and spiritually. In 2008, we re-committed to farming as a way of life. We grow a variety of natural produce, pecans, grass-fed beef, and other livestock. Through our ministry of hospitality, countless individuals are renewed and transformed. Our internship program is thriving, with people of all ages and backgrounds coming to explore Christian community and discipleship. **Sources:** [Koinonia](#)

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; Christian life; Christian ethics; Christian stewardship; Social justice

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Koinonia Newsletter. Americus, GA (May 1979), (August 1979), (November 1979), (January 1980), (Summer 1980), (Fall 1980), (Fall 1980 [not a duplicate]), (Spring 1981), (Fall 1981), (Winter 1981), (Spring 1982), (August 1982), (Winter 1982), (February 1983), (Spring 1983), (Summer 1983), (Fall 1983), (January 1984), (Spring 1984), (August 1984), (October 1984), (January 1985), (August 1985), (November 1985)	1979 - 1985	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 14-E
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General Information	1976	- 1978	Filing Cabinet	Folder	5	Filing Cabinet 14-E	
"Koinonia Updated." The Christian Century. Vol. 93: no. 32 (October 13, 1978), pgs. 868-872	1978		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E	
Mraz, Barb. "Carter Country Commune."	n.d.		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E	
"Koinonia: Habitat's Birthplace." in Fuller, Millard and Diane Scott. No More Shacks! The Daring Vision of Habitat for Humanity. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1986. pgs. 25-33	1986		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E	
Crowe, Avis. "Peacemaking and Compassionate Living." Friends Journal. Vol. 26: no. 8 (1980), pgs. 8-9	1980		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E	
"Door Interview." The Wittenburg Door. no. 17 (February/March 1974), pgs. 6-23	1974		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E	
Amerson, Philip. "The Emergence and Function of Ritual in a Marginal Community: The Koinonia Experiment."	1975		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E	

Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 1975						
Field, Arthur. "Investing in the Kingdom." Presbyterian Survey. August 1981	1981		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E
"Embattled Koinonia." Time, Vol. 69: no. 17 (April 29, 1957) pgs. 44-45	1957		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E
"Where There's So Much Smoke." Sojourners. Vol. 8 (1979), pgs. 19	1979		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E
"Embattled Fellowship Farm." Time. Vol. 68: no. 12 (September 17, 1956), pgs. 79-80	1956		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E
Blaker, Charles W. "The Koinonia Community: 1942-Not by Might, Not by Power." Christianity and Crisis. Vol. 40: no. 19 (November 24, 1980) pgs. 330-333	1980		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E
"The Revolution." in Hedgepeth, William and Dennis Stock. The Alternative: Communal Life in New America. NY: Macmillan, 1970. pgs. 175-181	1970		Filing Cabinet	Folder	6	Filing Cabinet 14-E
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