Historical Note
The First Congregational Church of San Buenaventura and Santa Clara Valley, the parent organization of Church of the
Foothills, was formally organized on November 21, 1869, and incorporated according to the laws of the State of California in
August, 1884.

Even before formal organization, the following preliminary steps took place:
Union Sabbath School was established in 1862, with George S. Gilbert as Superintendent.
Sent by the American Home Missionary So ci ety (A.H.M.S.), Rev. M. B. Starr began to preach in Ventura in the autumn of
1867.
The first meeting for church organization took place about January 1, 1868.
Congregational minister Rev. S. Bristol began to preach here, alternating with Rev. M. B. Starr. Rev. Starr left after one year
and was succeeded by Rev. Bristol.
The congregation met and labored together as a church, maintaining church ordinances, although their organization was
incomplete.

Scope and Content note
This collection consists of archival records of the First Congregational Church of San Buenaventura and Santa Clara Valley,
the parent organization of Church of the Foothills, formally organized on November 21, 1869, and incorporated according to
the laws of the State of California in August, 1884.

Acquisition Information
The above information and the archival files were presented to the Ventura County Museum of History and Art by Church of
the Foothills in September, 1995.

Related Material
Additional historical information related to this material may be accessed by referring to the following subjects in the
museum’s card catalog:
Congregational Church of San Buenaventura
First Congregational Church of San Buenaventura
Saticoy Community Church
Ventura Community Church

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Church of the Foothills

Church of the Foothills collection

Box 1  The Pilgrim Pastor’s Register, First Congregational Church, Ventura. Calif., #5,
1896-1905
Box 1  Book: Roll and Record Book, S.C.L. of the 1st Cong. Church, Ventura
Box 1  Book: First Congregational Church, Ventura, Calif., Letters of Transfer To/From Other
Churches, April 4, 1858 to August 29, 1904
Box 1  Book: Our Church Guests
Box 1  Book: Our Church Guests
Box 1  Book: “Church Register,” Book 3, Property of First Congregational Church, 1869-1926
Box 1  Book: “Minutes,” Property of First Congregational Church, January 1903 to January
1916 to February 12, 1919
Box 1  Book: “Minutes,” Corporation and Congregational Church, October 4, 1884 to 1902
| Box 1                     | Book: Church Register, First Congregational Church of San Buenaventura & Santa Clara Valley |
| Box 1                     | Book: Children's Class, 1st Congregational Church, Ventura, November 13, 1891 to October 4, 1895 |
| Box 1                     | Book: Book of Records, No. 2, of the Corporation of the First Congregational Church of San Buenaventura and Santa Clara Valley, November 27, 1901 to 1927 |
| Box 1                     | Book: Junior Christian Endeavor, 1st Congregational Church, Ventura, 1892-1896 |
| Box 1                     | Book: Property of First Congregational Church "Ladies Aid," January 4, 1926 - January 6, 1927 |
| Box 1                     | Book: Ladies Aid, Congregational Church, January 20, 1921 to 1925 |
| Box 1                     | Book: First Congregational Church, Ventura, Ladies Aid, July 17, 1902 to November 1913 |
| Box 1, Folder 1           | Church Council, Saticoy |