

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Bradford Edward Ableson Papers

RG 222



Kristen Albert and Martha Lund Smalley

2010

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 222

CREATOR: Ableson, Bradford Edward

TITLE: Bradford Edward Ableson Papers

DATES: 1978-2010

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11 linear feet (26 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: These papers include correspondence, sermons, writings, and other documentation of the life and work of Bradford Edward Ableson, a Yale Divinity School graduate, Captain in the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Navy, and clergyman. A prominent chaplain with a distinguished 25-year naval career, Captain Ableson provided combat ministry with Marines during Operation Desert Storm in the first Gulf War. From 1996 to 1999, he assumed Presidential Service duties as the Chaplain at Camp David, Maryland during the Clinton Administration. In 2004, he was promoted to the rank of Navy captain and assumed responsibilities as Command Chaplain of the U.S. Strategic Command.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.222>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.222>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Julia Tevis Narz Ableson, 2009

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Ownership and copyright have been transferred to Yale University.

Preferred Citation

Bradford Ableson Papers (RG 222), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1959 Jan 2	○ Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Winston A. Ableson and Juanise Davis Ableson. Born 7 1/2 weeks prematurely, he weighed 4 pounds, 4 ounces at birth and spent 31 days in an incubator before being released from the hospital.
1977	○ Graduated from Charles C. Mason High School where he had played on the Mason Patriot Football team as an offensive guard.
1977-1980	○ Attended University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma, B.A. magna cum laude.
1980-1982	○ Attended Boston University School of Theology, Master of Theological Studies in Psychology and Pastoral Counseling.
1983	○ Attended Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, Certificate of Special Studies
1983	○ Death of his first wife, the former Gina Marie Benzel
1983-1985	○ Attended Yale University Divinity School, Master of Divinity. Received Yale's Mersick Prize for public speaking, 1985.
1984 Mar 28	○ Commissioned: Ensign, U.S. Navy Theological Student Program
1984-1987	○ Naval Reservist: Naval Chaplains School, Newport, RI, summer 1984; Recruit Training Command, San Diego, California, summer 1985; USS Lexington (AVT-16), Pensacola, Florida, summer 1986.
1985 Jun 2	○ Ordained Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
1986 Sep 30	○ Married Julia Tevis Narz of Louisville, Kentucky.
1987-1988	○ Naval Weapons Station, Concord, California, served as Station Chaplain and Marine Barracks Chaplain.
1988-1990	○ USS MARS (AFS-1), Oakland, California, served as Ship's Chaplain and took part in the Persian Gulf, <i>Operation Earnest Will</i> escorts.
1990-1991	○ Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac, El Toro, California, performed combat ministry, <i>Desert Storm</i> .

Date	Event
1991-1993	○ Marine Air Control Group 38, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac, El Toro, California, served as Group Chaplain for 6 fleet units homeported at Camp Pendleton, El Toro and Tustin, California.
1993-1996	○ Submarine Squadron 2, Groton, Connecticut, served as Squadron Chaplain for the largest submarine squadron in the Navy and as Waterfront Ministry Coordinator, Naval Submarine Base, New London.
1996-1999	○ Camp David, Maryland, Presidential Service.
1999	○ Received Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. Recipient of Columbia's Sanders Prize for theology and Columbia's Telford Award for social justice. Dissertation: "Fields of Blood: A Theological Critique of United States Landmine Policy in Light of the 1997 Ottawa Process"
1999-2001	○ Chief of Chaplains Office, Washington, DC, served as Deputy Executive Assistant to the Chief of Navy Chaplains.
2000	○ Basic Military Free Fall Parachutist, U.S. Air Force, Colorado Springs, CO.
2001-2002	○ Attended United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. Received M.A. in National Security & Strategic Studies (Distinguished Graduate).
2002-2004	○ USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), Norfolk, Virginia, served as Command Chaplain. Combat operations: <i>Operation Enduring Freedom</i> and <i>Operation Southern Watch</i> , 2002.
2004-2007	○ United States Strategic Command, Omaha, Nebraska, served as Command Chaplain. Promoted to the rank of Navy captain, 2004..
2006	○ Became Episcopal priest under the Diocese of Kentucky. Priest-in-Residence at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Omaha
2007	○ Established the Bradford E. Ableson Prize for Ecclesiastical Leadership at Yale Divinity School, a commencement prize for the YDS student whose judgment and character are best suited for church leadership.
2007 Jun 29	○ Received the Defense Superior Service Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service for the Armed Forces of the United States. Other awards received by Ableson during his career included three Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medals, campaign and unit award, Basic Parachutist Wings, and the Presidential Service Award.
2007-2009	○ Special Advisor to Command Chaplain, United States Strategic Command, Omaha, Nebraska
2008 Oct 14	○ Received the <i>Lux et Veritas</i> award from Yale Divinity School. The <i>Lux et Veritas</i> award is awarded to someone who has demonstrated excellence and distinction in applying the compassion of Christ to the diverse needs of the human condition through the wider church, institutional ministries, ecumenical organizations, not-for-profit organizations, government, or industry.
2008	○ Inducted into the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma Alumni Hall of Fame.
2009 Feb 17	○ Died in Omaha, Nebraska of cancer.

Date	Event
2009 Sep 22	○ Dedication ceremony for the Bradford E. Ableson Memorial Library on the USS George Washington (CVN-73)

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the life and work of Bradford E. Ableson, distinguished Yale Divinity School alumnus and prominent U.S. military chaplain. First a Presbyterian minister and later an Episcopal priest, Ableson was decorated for his service during the Persian Gulf War and served as Command Chaplain aboard the USS George Washington aircraft carrier, one of the largest warships in the world. From 1996 to 1999 Ableson served as chaplain at Camp David during the Clinton administration, providing pastoral care to the President, his family, and support staff at the Maryland retreat. Correspondence, writings, sermons, and subject files provide detailed documentation of Ableson's thought, leadership skills, and dedication to his work. From early on in his career as a Navy chaplain, Ableson recognized the profound disconnect between Christians from the West and citizens in the Muslim world, and in the 1980s he emerged as an expert on preparing service members with knowledge and understanding that would make them respectful visitors in Muslim countries. Ableson's journal written during operation Desert Storm (1991) provides valuable documentation about the work of a chaplain in a combat setting.

Series I, Correspondence is primarily related to Ableson's work as a naval chaplain and contains letters and memos to and from the Department of the Navy and the Marines. Photocopies of letters received from President Bill Clinton and a small amount of personal correspondence with family and friends is also included. Ableson's letters to and from President Clinton, as well as photographs and a stole, were sent to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library by his family in 2009.

Series II, Writings and Notes, is divided into three subseries: School Papers, Articles and Papers, and Journal. The School Papers include class notes, final exams and term papers from Ableson's graduate work at Boston University, Yale Divinity School, Columbia Theological Seminary, and the Naval War College. The Articles and Papers include published articles and papers written primarily for military and chaplaincy publications. The Journal is comprised of the hand-written journal Ableson kept while serving as chaplain in Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm. The journal pages were removed from the original three ring binder for better preservation. Portions of Ableson's Caribbean journal and Desert Storm journal have been restricted until 2035.

Series III, Sermons and Speeches, is divided into two subseries: Chronological Sequence and Memorials. The Chronological Sequence is primarily made up of sermons given by Ableson at Camp David from 1996-1999. In addition to the typed copies of the sermons and service programs, there is also a CD which contains electronic files of the sermons. The Chronological Sequence also contains untitled and undated sermons. The Memorials include typed and handwritten memorial services conducted by Ableson. Captain Ableson did not want to have his sermons published because they were intended as oral presentations and in some cases may have contained unattributed quotations and stories. Captain Ableson realized that it would take a great deal of research to track down and provide specific attribution for these quotations and stories, and he felt it was unwise to allow publication when individuals quoted were still active. A twenty-five year restriction has been placed on any publication of the Ableson sermons; the Yale Divinity Library recognizes the value of Captain Ableson's sermons and their reflection of the context in which he delivered them, but will caution anyone who may want to publish sermons or excerpts from them in the future regarding Captain Ableson's concerns.

Series IV, Personal Items and Memorabilia includes biographical documentation arranged chronologically, military service records, awards and certificates, material from conferences and programs attended, photographs, and plaques. Of special interest in this series are Ableson's naval uniform and a handmade liturgical stole worn by him during Operation Desert Storm.

Series V, Subject Files are arranged alphabetically. These files were created by Ableson and kept as he labeled them.

Series VI, Resources contains books, pamphlets, periodicals and manuscripts written by others. The resources are organized into three general areas of interest: Naval Chaplaincy, Military, and Ministry resources. These resources have been retained as a sampling of the materials Captain Ableson used in his military and ministerial work. Other resources received with the Ableson papers have been added to the Yale Divinity Library's cataloged collection.

Series VII, Audiovisual contains primarily ministry related cassette tapes, CDs, and videotapes. Of special interest is a recording of an interview of Chaplain Ableson with Barbara Witcher of KBRT, July 4, 1992.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1980-2010
- II. Writings and Notes, 1980-2002
- III. Sermons and Speeches, 1987-2008
- IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1978-2009
- V. Subject Files
- VI. Resources, 1983-2008
- VII. Audio-visual Material, 1984-2007

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1980-2010

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the name of the recipient or sender other than Ableson.

b. 1, f. 1-4	A-Z (minor correspondence)	1984-2003
b. 1, f. 5	Ableson, Buddy	1991
b. 1, f. 6	Ableson, Julia	1989
b. 1, f. 7	Baker, Hannah	2009
b. 1, f. 8	Camp David	1995-1998
b. 1, f. 9	Clinton, President William J.	1998-2009
b. 1, f. 10	Cumberland Presbyterian Church	1980-1995
b. 1, f. 11-24	Department of the Navy	1985-2008, n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	Fellowship of Christian Athletes	1992-1996
b. 1, f. 26	Holloway, Rev. Richard	1984
b. 1, f. 26A	Lawrence, Archie (includes article written by Lawrence about a reunion facilitated by BEA and letter to BEA's mother)	2007-2010
b. 1, f. 27	Lykins, James E.	1986
b. 1, f. 28	Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel	1984-1994
b. 1, f. 29	Smith, Captain Victor H., CHC, USN	1996-1999
b. 1, f. 30	Tanner, Rand E.	1988-1998
b. 1, f. 31	United States Marine Corps	1989-1999
b. 1, f. 32	The White House	1998-2009
b. 1, f. 33	Yale University	1983-1996
b. 1, f. 34	Unidentified	1997-2000

Series II: Writings and Notes, 1980-2002

School Papers

Boston University

b. 2, f. 1-3	Binder of class notes	1980-1981
b. 2, f. 4-9	Binder of class notes	1980-1982

Yale Divinity School

b. 3, f. 1-7	Class notes	1983-1985
b. 3, f. 8	Theology of Martin Luther Study Questions	1983
b. 3, f. 9	Christian Doctrine II class notes	1984
b. 3, f. 10	Systematic Theology class notes	1985
b. 3, f. 11	Term Papers and Final Exams	1983-1985
b. 4, f. 1-2	Term Papers and Final Exams	1983-1985

Columbia Theological Seminary

b. 4, f. 3	Personal statement, Term papers	1993-1997
b. 4, f. 4	Class notes	1994-1995
b. 4, f. 5	"The Chaplain as Model for Religious Ministry"	1994
b. 4, f. 6	"Theological Primer on Christian-Muslim Dialogue for Christian Chaplains in the United States Navy"	1995
b. 4, f. 7	"Theory of Ministry: Revisiting the Chaplain Model"	1996
b. 4, f. 8	"The Normative Position of Just War Thinking for American Christians"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 9	Journal Caribbean Theology HD 644 Portions of the journal are restricted until 2035	1997
b. 4, f. 10-11	"Fields of Blood: A Theological Analysis of American Landmine Policy in Light of the 1997 Ottawa Process" (dissertation)	1999, n.d.

Naval War College

b. 4, f. 12-13	Papers	2001-2002, n.d.
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Articles and Papers

b. 5, f. 1	"It's not always fair - but it's life." Flight Jacket	Aug 1990
b. 5, f. 2	"Advanced Preparations for Short-Fused Deployments." The Navy Chaplain	1991
b. 5, f. 3	"Lest we forget the righteous gentile." Flight Jacket	Feb 1992
b. 5, f. 4	"Some rules are made to be broken." Flight Jacket	Feb 1993

Articles and Papers (continued)

b. 5, f. 5	"Point Paper: Mid-year School Transfers of Navy Dependents Forced by Acceptance of Government Quarters"	Sep 1993
b. 5, f. 6	Articles in "The Dolphin"	1995, 1996
b. 5, f. 7	"A Time for Conversion." Joint Force Quarterly	2002
b. 5, f. 8	"Following Seas: Crisis at Home"	n.d.
	Journal	1991
	Portions of the journal are restricted until 2035	
b. 5, f. 9	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	3-19 Jan 1991
b. 5, f. 10	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	21-30 Jan 1991
b. 5, f. 11	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	5-21 Feb 1991
b. 5, f. 12	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	22 Feb-10 Mar 1991
b. 5, f. 13	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	12-19 Mar 1991
b. 5, f. 14	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	21 Mar-14 Apr 1991
b. 5, f. 15	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Journal	16 Apr-12 May 1991

Series III: Sermons and Speeches, 1987-2008

Chronological Sequence

b. 6, f. 1	The Bread of Life	14 Jun 1987
b. 6, f. 2	The Christmas Message	24 Dec 1987
b. 6, f. 3	Antidote is God	14 Jun 1990
b. 6, f. 4	Give to Caesar that which is Caesar's	03 Mar 1991
b. 6, f. 5	Easter Reflection	31 Mar 1991
b. 6, f. 6	USMC/USN Chapel program	28 Apr 1991
b. 6, f. 7	The Enemies of Jesus Wanted to Entrap Him	18 Jun 1995
b. 6, f. 8	CD of Camp David Sermons	1996-1999
b. 6, f. 9	The David Mentality	16 Jun 1996
b. 6, f. 10	Not All Seeds Grow	14 Jul 1996
b. 6, f. 11	Weeds in the Flowers	21 Jul 1996
b. 6, f. 12	Fed Through Compassion	04 Aug 1996
b. 6, f. 13	Water Over the Bow	11 Aug 1996
b. 6, f. 14	Good Results from Bad Intentions	18 Aug 1996
b. 6, f. 15	From Big House to Dog House	01 Sep 1996
b. 6, f. 16	What Do I Owe You?...And Other Hard Questions	08 Sep 1996
b. 6, f. 17	The Choice that Heals	15 Sep 1996
b. 6, f. 18	Bean Counters Beware	22 Sep 1996
b. 6, f. 19	Great Law, Greater Grace	06 Oct 1996
b. 6, f. 20	Does God Audit?	20 Oct 1996
b. 6, f. 21	Love Within the Zip Code	27 Oct 1996
b. 6, f. 22	Buried Treasure	10 Nov 1996
b. 6, f. 23	Some Dates Don't Wait	17 Nov 1996
b. 6, f. 24	Sheep, Goats, and Other Options	24 Nov 1996
b. 6, f. 25	One Turned Back	28 Nov 1996
b. 6, f. 26	The Race with Grace	01 Dec 1996
b. 6, f. 27	A Desert Pit Stop	08 Dec 1996
b. 6, f. 28	Marked for Life	15 Dec 1996

Chronological Sequence (continued)

b. 6, f. 29	The Old Familiar Story	24 Dec 1996
b. 6, f. 30	Room for Everyone	29 Dec 1996
b. 6, f. 31	Clueless at Christmas	05 Jan 1997
b. 6, f. 32	Waiting for this Moment	28 Sep 1997
b. 6, f. 33	Commissioning Ceremony, Ensign Mark Whittaker, U.S. Navy	01 Oct 1997
b. 6, f. 34	To Speak for God	05 Oct 1997
b. 6, f. 35	The First Steps after Healing	26 Oct 1997
b. 7, f. 1	Disorganized Religion	02 Nov 1997
b. 7, f. 2	Kings are Un-American	23 Nov 1997
b. 7, f. 3	Straight Shooter	07 Dec 1997
b. 7, f. 4	Body Language	14 Dec 1997
b. 7, f. 5	Three Kinds of Givers	21 Dec 1997
b. 7, f. 6	Christmas Eve	24 Dec 1997
b. 7, f. 7	Dropped through the Cracks	29 Dec 1997
b. 7, f. 8	Reflected Glory	04 Jan 1998
b. 7, f. 9	What Kind of Baptism?	11 Jan 1998
b. 7, f. 10	For the Joy of It	18 Jan 1998
b. 7, f. 11	One for All	25 Jan 1998
b. 7, f. 12	Focus After the Fact	22 Feb 1998
b. 7, f. 13	Neon not Required	01 Mar 1998
b. 7, f. 14	Affirmative Commands in the Old Testament	18 Mar 1998
b. 7, f. 15	When Nothing is the Wrong Answer	15 Mar 1998
b. 7, f. 16	Peace Movement	17 May 1998
b. 7, f. 17	Obnoxious Religion	15 Feb 1998
b. 7, f. 18	Welcome Tells the Story	14 Jun 1998
b. 7, f. 19	One for All	03 Jan 1999
b. 7, f. 20	High Noon in the Holy Land	7 Mar 1999
b. 7, f. 21	A Play in Six Acts	14 Mar 1999
b. 7, f. 22	Wake Up Lazarus	21 Mar 1999
b. 7, f. 23	Both Ends of the Road	28 Mar 1999

Chronological Sequence (continued)

b. 7, f. 24	No Dead End	04 Apr 1999
b. 7, f. 25	Unlocked for Service	11 Apr 1999
b. 7, f. 26	The Road to Recognition	18 Apr 1999
b. 7, f. 27	Jesus at the Gate	25 Apr 1999
b. 7, f. 28	The Road to Royalty	02 May 1999
b. 7, f. 29	The Spirit Factor	09 May 1999
b. 8, f. 1	The Sign of Glory	23 May 1999
b. 8, f. 2	Left Adrift	30 May 1999
b. 8, f. 3	Memorial Day	30 May 1999
b. 8, f. 4	Run of the Mill Greatness	27 Jun 1999
b. 8, f. 5	Camp David - Evergreen Chapel Programs	1 Oct 1995, 16 Jun 1996-28 Dec 1997
b. 8, f. 6	Camp David - Evergreen Chapel Programs	4 Jan 1998 -27 Jun 1999
b. 8, f. 7	Chief of Chaplains Prayer Breakfast Speech Faith that Makes a Difference	2000
b. 8, f. 7A	Poem / prayer, most likely presented at Navy function in DC BEA reflects on his illness.	2008
b. 8, f. 8	Happy Birthday	n.d.
b. 8, f. 9	It was High Noon in the Middle East	n.d.
b. 8, f. 10	There's a lot of Darkness in the World...	n.d.
b. 8, f. 11	The Tyranny of Fairness	n.d.
b. 8, f. 12	What's a Wretch Like Me Doing in a Place Like This	n.d.
b. 8, f. 13	Genesis 16:1-6	n.d.
b. 8, f. 14	Judges:4-6, 16-22	n.d.
b. 8, f. 15	1 Sam 17:32-37	n.d.
b. 8, f. 16	2 Kings 5:1-	n.d.
b. 8, f. 17	2 Kings 5:1-9, Luke 5:12-1	n.d.
b. 8, f. 18	Psalms 59:16-17	n.d.
b. 8, f. 19	Psalms 92:1-4	n.d.
b. 8, f. 20	Ecclesiastes 2:14-15	n.d.
b. 8, f. 21	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	n.d.

Chronological Sequence (continued)

b. 8, f. 22	Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12	n.d.
b. 8, f. 23	Isaiah 30:19-21	n.d.
b. 8, f. 24	Isaiah 49:1-7	n.d.
b. 8, f. 25	Isaiah 63:16-64:8	n.d.
b. 8, f. 26	Matthew 3:13-17	n.d.
b. 8, f. 27	Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13	n.d.
b. 8, f. 28	Matthew 5:1-12	n.d.
b. 8, f. 29	Matthew 20:1-15	n.d.
b. 8, f. 30	Matthew 22:37-40	n.d.
b. 8, f. 31	Matthew 25:14-30	n.d.
b. 8, f. 32	Matthew 27:46	n.d.
b. 8, f. 33	Mark 6:7, Psalms 16	n.d.
b. 8, f. 34	Mark 6:17-29	n.d.
b. 8, f. 35	Mark 8:27-38	n.d.
b. 8, f. 36	Luke 2.1 ff	n.d.
b. 8, f. 37	Luke 4:1-13	n.d.
b. 8, f. 38	Luke 9:18-25 (missing pp.2-4)	n.d.
b. 8, f. 39	Luke 10:25	n.d.
b. 8, f. 40	Luke 11:1-13	n.d.
b. 8, f. 41	Luke 12:29-31	n.d.
b. 8, f. 42	Luke 14:1, 7-4	n.d.
b. 8, f. 43	Luke 20:27-38	n.d.
b. 8, f. 44	Luke 23:33-43, Colossians 1:11-20	n.d.
b. 9, f. 1	John 1.	n.d.
b. 9, f. 2	John 2:1	n.d.
b. 9, f. 3	John 2:13-16	n.d.
b. 9, f. 4	John 3:1-17	n.d.
b. 9, f. 5	John 9:1-41	n.d.
b. 9, f. 6	Acts 7:54-60	n.d.
b. 9, f. 7	Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	n.d.

Chronological Sequence (continued)

b. 9, f. 8	Romans 4:13-17	n.d.
b. 9, f. 9	Philippians 4:13	n.d.
b. 9, f. 10	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	n.d.
b. 9, f. 11	1 Peter 1:3-9	n.d.
b. 9, f. 12	2 Peter 3:8-14	n.d.
b. 9, f. 13	2 Peter 16-21, Matthew 17:1-9, Psalms 2:6-11	n.d.
b. 9, f. 14	1 John 3:1-2	n.d.
b. 9, f. 15-20	Sermons, no title	n.d.
b. 9, f. 21	Partial Sermons and Notes	n.d.
b. 9, f. 22	Sermon - Illustrations	n.d.
b. 9, f. 23	Sermon Notes	n.d.
b. 9, f. 24	Sermon Ideas	n.d.
b. 9, f. 25	Ordination - Ferrol, Ruben	n.d.
b. 9, f. 26	Retirement Speech for MSCS (SS/DV) Mark Martin, USN	n.d.
b. 9, f. 27	Retirement Speech for EOCS (SCW) John T. Morris, USN	n.d.
b. 9, f. 28	More than Conquerors, Virginia Military Institute Memorial Chapel Service	n.d.
b. 9, f. 29	Speeches, no title	n.d.
Memorials		
b. 9, f. 30	Deborah Lee House	31 Aug 1992
b. 9, f. 31	LCDR Elliot F. Larose, USN (Ret.)	10 Sep 1993
b. 9, f. 32	Luke Gregory Martin	29 Jul 1998
b. 9, f. 33	Barbara Vorenkamp	16 Sep 1998
b. 9, f. 34	Buddy Ableson (BEA's Father)	04 Dec 1999
b. 9, f. 35	Reflections on Captain Schirra	21 May 2007
b. 9, f. 36	A Celebration of Life, RDML Charles Henry Griffiths, Jr.	14 Mar 2008
b. 9, f. 37	Rose Alice Ball	n.d.
b. 9, f. 38	CPO David Caraway, U.S. Navy	n.d.
b. 9, f. 39	A Tribute to Paul Edward Davis (BEA's Uncle)	n.d.
b. 9, f. 40	SGT John Mory	n.d.
b. 9, f. 41	SGT Tony Smith	n.d.

Memorials (continued)

b. 9, f. 42

Jamie

n.d.

Series IV: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1978-2009

Biographical Documentation

Chronological Sequence

b. 10, f. 1	Transcripts	1978-2005
b. 10, f. 2	Curriculum Vitae	1982-2002
b. 10, f. 3	Naval Chaplains School	1984
b. 10, f. 4	Yale University Commencement Program	1985
b. 10, f. 5	Marriage Certificate (photocopy)	1986
b. 10, f. 6	Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 1984 (GI Bill) Application	1989
b. 10, f. 7	Desert Storm	1991
b. 10, f. 8	Groton-New London Navy Chaplain Team	1993-1996
b. 10, f. 9	The Divinity School, Yale University, Class of 1985	1995
b. 10, f. 10	Holiday Letter	1996
b. 10, f. 11	The Commencement Service of Columbia Theological Seminary	1999
b. 10, f. 12	USAF Academy Basic Freefall Parachuting Program, AM-490	2000
b. 10, f. 13	College of Naval Warfare Class of 2002	2002
b. 10, f. 14	Travel Orders	2002-2004
b. 10, f. 15	USS George Washington; includes CD containing miscellaneous files from BEA's computer	Jul 2002-Mar 2004
b. 10, f. 16	National Defense University, Joint Forces Staff College, Class 04-2, Graduation Exercise	25 Jun 2004
b. 10, f. 17	Application-Diocese of Kentucky	2006
b. 10, f. 18	Yale Summer Scholarly Exchange Program for Religious Leaders Gulf and Middle East Region	2008
b. 10, f. 19	Memorial Blog Post, by George E. Packard	17 Feb 2009
b. 10, f. 20	Obituaries, Yale Divinity School News, USAO News and Events	18,21 Feb 2009
b. 10, f. 21	The Early Life of Bradford E. Ableson (brief version) by Juanise Ableson Stockdale (BEA's mother)	31 Mar 2009
b. 10, f. 22	The Early Life of Bradford E. Ableson Birth to Age 18, by Juanise Ableson Stockdale	24 Apr 2009
b. 10, f. 22A	Program and photographs from dedication ceremony of Bradford E. Ableson Memorial Library, USS George Washington (CVN-73) The Bradford E. Ableson Memorial Library comprises the media center, lounge, and library and is visited by 900 Navy personnel daily.	2009 Sep 22

Biographical Documentation (continued)

Military Service Records

b. 10, f. 23-26	U.S. Navy Officer Service Record	1984-2004
b. 11, f. 1-4	U.S. Navy Officer Service Record	1984-2004
b. 11, f. 5	U.S. Navy Quarterly Reports	1989-1996
b. 11, f. 6	U.S. Navy Physical Fitness Record	1984-2002

Awards and Certificates

b. 11, f. 7	Certificates and Awards	1984-2008
b. 11, f. 8	Citations	1986-2004
b. 11, f. 9	U.S. Navy Personal Award Recommendations	1988, 1990
b. 11, f. 9A	Defense Superior Service Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service for the Armed Forces of the United States, award and citation, photograph	29 Jun 2007
b. 11, f. 10	University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Centennial Homecoming Program, Bradford Ableson inducted into Hall of Fame	2008

Conferences and Programs Attended

b. 11, f. 11	1992 National Prayer Breakfast	12 Mar 1992
b. 11, f. 12	The Ethical Use of Force: The Responsibility to Intervene	15-16 Nov 1993
b. 11, f. 13-15	Menninger Suicide Awareness and Prevention	Mar 1994
b. 11, f. 16	USS Columbia SSN 771 Commissioning	9 Oct 1995
b. 12, f. 1-3	Integrity Task Force: Character is Destiny	1998
b. 12, f. 4	Ethics and Leadership	16-17 Nov 1998
b. 12, f. 5	The Joseph A. Reich, Sr. Distinguished Lecture on War, Morality, and the Military Profession	18 Nov 1998
b. 12, f. 6	Student Guide for Airmanship 490 Basic Freefall Parachuting	1 May 1999
b. 12, f. 7	Generation X Presentation Notes	Jan 2000
b. 12, f. 8	The Arc of Instability: Challenges for U.S. Policy & Strategy in the Greater Middle East	6-7 Mar 2002
b. 12, f. 9-10	Human Factors in Conflict Management	Nov 2002
b. 12, f. 11	Department of Defense, Care for Victims of Sexual Assault Conference	20-24 Sep 2004
b. 12, f. 12-14	The Navy Chaplain Corps Strategic Communications	2006
b. 13, f. 1	Critical Incident Stress Training	n.d.
b. 13, f. 2	3D MAW Awards Seminar	n.d.

Photographs

Biographical Documentation > Photographs (continued)

b. 13, f. 3	Portraits (includes negatives)	
b. 13, f. 4	Memorial Video Presentation Capt Bradford E. Ableson 02 Jan 1959-17 Feb 2009 (includes photos of Bradford Ableson and family)	
b. 13, f. 5	Life Events, including CD of images from BEA ordination rehearsal	
b. 13, f. 6	Official Military Photos Performing Various Sacraments for the US Navy	1988-2008
b. 13, f. 7	Playing Hockey	10 Mar 1994
b. 13, f. 8	Receiving Camp David Award	
b. 13, f. 9	Submarines (signed photos)	
Memorabilia		
b. 13, f. 10	Poem: "One Day at a Time", by Buddy Ableson (BEA's father)	
b. 13, f. 11	Identification Cards	1984, 1985, 1999, n.d.
b. 13, f. 12	100th Yale Harvard Football Game Program and Newspaper Clippings	Nov 1983
b. 13, f. 13	Yale Divinity School Student Directory	1984-1985
b. 13, f. 14	Camp David stationery	n.d.
b. 13, f. 15	Change of Command Ceremony Programs	1987-2000
b. 13, f. 16-17	Ephemera (including post cards, programs, brochures)	n.d.
b. OV14	Bradford E. Ableson's naval uniform	
b. OV14	Desert Storm Liturgical Stole (handmade)	1991
b. OV14	Photograph: Yale Divinity School Class of 1985	1985
b. OV15, 16	Plaques from Various Duty Stations	

Series V: Subject Files

b. 17, f. 1	Accommodation Issues
b. 17, f. 2	After Action Reports
b. 17, f. 3	Alcoholism
b. 17, f. 4	Articles
b. 17, f. 5	Awards Information
b. 17, f. 6	Battle Shock
b. 17, f. 7	Bible Study
b. 17, f. 8	Bible Study Outlines
b. 17, f. 9	Billet Justifications
b. 17, f. 10	Biography
b. 17, f. 11	Blended Families
b. 17, f. 12	Briefings
b. 18, f. 1	CACO
b. 18, f. 2	Catholic Lay Eucharist Service
b. 18, f. 3	Chaplain
b. 18, f. 4	Church/CHC File
b. 18, f. 5-7	Classics
b. 18, f. 8	Combat Stress Briefing
b. 18, f. 9	Command Religious Programs
b. 18, f. 10	Common Navy Acronyms and Terms
b. 18, f. 11	Confirmation Materials
b. 18, f. 12	Conscientious Objection
b. 18, f. 13	Critical Incident Stress Training
b. 18, f. 14	Currents
b. 19, f. 1	Death
b. 19, f. 2	Depression Stress
b. 19, f. 3	Domestic Violence
b. 19, f. 4	Emergency/Privation Issues
b. 19, f. 5	Ethics

b. 19, f. 6	Family
b. 19, f. 7	Family Advocacy Program
b. 19, f. 8	Family Assistance Contact Team
b. 19, f. 9	Fraternization
b. 19, f. 10-11	Funerals
b. 19, f. 12	Generational: Boomers vs. Busters
b. 19, f. 13	Grief
b. 19, f. 14	Gulf War Materials
b. 19, f. 15	Heritage
b. 19, f. 16	Hockey
b. 19, f. 17	Immigration and Naturalization Information
b. 19, f. 18	Instructions
b. 19, f. 19	Items of Interest
b. 19, f. 20	Joint Ministry
b. 19, f. 21	Landmines
b. 19, f. 22	Marriage Materials
b. 19, f. 23	Medal of Honor
b. 19, f. 24	Memoranda
b. 20, f. 1	Mentoring
b. 20, f. 2	Mess Bill Receipts
b. 20, f. 3	Mission Guidance
b. 20, f. 4	Model of Ministry
b. 20, f. 5	Morale
b. 20, f. 6	Naval Order of the United States
b. 20, f. 7	Naval Support Facility
b. 20, f. 8	Navy Chaplain Foundation, Inc.
b. 20, f. 9	Newsletters/USN
b. 20, f. 10	Ombudsman
b. 20, f. 11	Planned Ministry Objectives (PMO)
b. 20, f. 12	Prayer Breakfasts

b. 20, f. 13-14	Prayers
b. 20, f. 15	Predeployment
b. 20, f. 16	Recruiting
b. 20, f. 17	Reports of Chaplaincy
b. 20, f. 18	Reserve Chaplain Program
b. 20, f. 19	SUBRON 2 CRP Brief
b. 20, f. 20-23	Suicide Prevention
b. 21, f. 1	Suicide Prevention Model Brief
b. 21, f. 2	Tasking File
b. 21, f. 3	Two Bell Ceremony
b. 21, f. 4	Uniforms/Personal Equipment
b. 21, f. 5	USS Mars
b. 21, f. 6	Welcome Aboard

Series VI: Resources

Naval Chaplaincy Resources

Books, Pamphlets, and Manuscripts

b. 21	Armed Forces 2002 Sexual Harassment Survey, by Rachel Lipari and Anita R. Lancaster
b. 21	Book of Worship for United States Forces, by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board
b. 21	Chaplain's Handbook: Guidelines for Ministry & Worship for Chaplains Endorsed by the Bishop Suffragan for Chaplaincies, by the Episcopal Church
b. 21	Courage Under Fire: Epictetus's Doctrines in a Laboratory of Human Behavior, by James Bond Stockdale
b. 21	The Fleet Religious Support Activity, by Lieutenant Stephen O. Wallace, CHC, USNR
b. 21	For All Who Go Down to the Sea in Ships, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
b. 21	History of the Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, Vol. X, Biographies 1982-1991
b. 22	Marriage and Military Life for Dating and Married Couples
b. 22	Military-Civilian Teamwork in Suicide Prevention, by Meyer Moldeven
b. 22	Military Funerals
b. 22	New Naval Chaplains and Their Spouses
b. 22	A Prayer Book for the Armed Services
b. 22	Preaching, Chaplain Resource Board
b. 22	Program Perspectives on Suicide Prevention: Guidelines for Chaplains
b. 22	The Story of the United States Coast Guard Memorial Chapel, The United States Coast Guard Academy
b. 22	Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault, April 2004, U.S. Department of Defense
b. 22	There is Hope: A Chaplain's Manual for Suicide Prevention, LCDR Thomas W.S. Logan, Jr., CHC, USNR
b. 22	World Religions: A Resource for U.S. Army Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants

Periodicals and Articles

b. 23, f. 1	The Military Chaplain	2002, 2008
b. 23, f. 2	The Navy Chaplain	1983, 1991, 1993, 1997-1999

Naval Chaplaincy Resources > Periodicals and Articles (continued)

b. 23, f. 3-5 Naval Chaplain Resources - Articles		
Military Resources		
b. 23, f. 6	Manuscript - The Ethics of the Movement for Nuclear Disarmament in Historical Perspective, by Kurt Pfothenhauer	9 May 1985
b. 23, f. 7	Articles pertaining to the Military	n.d.
b. 23, f. 8	Military Newsletters	1992-2002
b. 23, f. 9	Navy Recruiting Materials	1985, n.d.
Ministry Resources		
b. 24	Augsburg Sermons 3: Gospels, Series A	
b. 24	Beyond the Headlines, by Gordon Thiessen	
b. 24	The Book of Occasional Services 2003	
b. 24	God is One: The Way of Islam	
b. 24	Islam: Between Ignorant Followers and Incapable Scholars, by Abdul Quader Audah	
b. 24	Living in a Troubled World: Selections from the Writings of William C. Menninger, MD	
b. 24	Ministry with the Sick	
b. 24	Mixing Religion and Politics, by William Muehl	
b. 24	A "New and Improved" Jesus? Sermons for Lent and Easter, by Barbara Brokhoff	
b. 24	Object Lesson: Old Testament-Series A, by Edward C. Grube	
b. 24	Stories for the Journey, by William R. White	
b. 24	Why Preach? Why Listen?, by William Muehl	
b. 24	Wide Awake and Staring: Readings for 3:00 a.m., by Bruce Scott	
b. 24, f. 1	Sermons and Speeches by others	
b. 24, f. 2-3	Sermon Resources	

Series VII: Audio-visual Material

Cassette Tapes and CDs

b. 25	Robert C. Johnson "Christian Doctrine II"	12, 17 Apr 1984
b. 25	Beecher Lectures: William Muehl 1-4	1985
b. 25	Seven Keys to a Happy Life, William C. Menninger, MD	1988
b. 25	Maj. Gen. John Grinalds, Irvine Community Church	13 Jul 1990
b. 25	Praise and Promise	1991
b. 25	Chaplain Ableson Interview w/Barbara Witcher KBRT radio	4 Jul 1992
b. 25	Psalm 150 "What Else Can We Do the Sunday After Easter?" Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr., Boston Avenue Church, Tulsa, OK	23 Apr 1995
b. 25	William Barclay's Daily Study Bible Series: NT	11 Jul 2000
b. 25	Coalition Strategic Alternatives, Prof. John English	22 Feb 2002
b. 25	USS George Washington 2004 Cruise CD Operation IRAQI Freedom	2004
b. 25	A Biblical/Spiritual/Ecclesiological Reflection on General Convention by the Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade	2006
b. 25	Homiletics on CD	Jan-Feb 2007, May-Jun 2007
b. 25	Somebody's Prayin', The Flying W Wranglers	2007
b. 25	Chief of Chaplains Continuing Education Tape prepared for U.S. Navy Chaplains, Dr. Robert Clyde Johnson, Dr. John Killinger, Fr. Francis S. MacNutt (2 tapes)	n.d.
b. 25	Dr. Peter Marshall's Sermons	n.d.
b. OV26	Charlton Heston Presents "The Word" Audio Series	1997

Video Tapes

b. OV26	The Conversion of Colonel Bottomly	1985
b. OV26	Hidden Keys to Loving Relationships: The Gary Smalley Series 1-3, 5-8 (2 copies of tape 2, does not include tape 4)	1993

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Military chaplains
Operation Desert Shield, 1990-1991 -- Personal narratives, American
Persian Gulf War, 1991 -- Personal narratives, American