The President's Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The seasons come and the seasons go... as in the calendar year, so it is with the historic Christian calendar. From Christmastide to Epiphany, Transfiguration, then the season of Lent. And as I prepare this document, we are fast approaching Palm Sunday (Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and His Passion); Holy Week in which we are reminded each year of His rejection, arrest, trial, persecution, suffering, crucifixion, and entombment. Then comes Easter, the Resurrection, as Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, arose from the grave, conquering death, and making eternal life possible for all who will believe in Him, receive Him as Lord and Savior and enter into a spiritual relationship that lasts for eternity, in which "He shall reign forever and ever!".

For those of us with a passion for history, particularly the history of the Judeo-Christian faith communities, the Christian year enables us to recall, remember, and share the "Good News" of God's love from God's Word. Faith history is condensed, compacted, and distilled in such a way that "The "Word" represents thousands of years of God's activity... and this has been preserved and recorded, and continues to be told and retold, and shared with each succeeding generation.

The history of the people of God known as United Methodists is but a small portion of this story. Thus, we in the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, are not much more than a grain of sand in the bigger picture of historical ministry. However, we stand on the foundation of generations of Christians called "Methodist" who committed their time, talent, effort, and resources to witnessing to their faith, saving our 'stories', and remembering the unending line of witnesses who have made it possible for us to know "our history".

In about two months annual conferences will begin convening to share their stories of ministry and faith, and to once again record and preserve the names of clergy and laity who have given their all to the cause of Christ, and to seek inspiration and discernment of God's 'will' for our future. We will celebrate the events and activities of the past, and they will become a part of our history.

Mark the dates July 09-12, 2019 on your calendar. The Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society's annual gathering will convene on the campus of Historic Emory University in Atlanta, GA, hosted by the Pitts Theological Library of the Candler School of Theology. Think about the 'history' that is embedded in those names.

We hope you will make plans to attend, and learn more about these historic facilities and educational environs. (Registration info is included in this edition of "Notes".) We will also hear of plans for our 2020 meeting to be held at the Moore Museum on St. Simon's Island.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Leland T. Carden, Jr., President
Notes from Nancy…

“Are you settled in yet?” These days that qualifies as the most frequently asked question. The answer? Yes and no. All of the collections are here and I feel truly at home in the new space, but if you have ever moved you know that the “settling in” process takes a while. The movers were fantastic and I would definitely recommend them, but when they were packing they didn’t take note of the fact that many of the top shelves were empty or contained small, lightweight items. So, of course, although everything is in exactly the same order as before, the records that I reference most often ended up on those top shelves. My husband and I are working together to gradually make the necessary adjustments.

And then there’s the office. To be honest, I wouldn’t quite trust an archivist with a truly tidy office because working with archives is just plain messy! But as I explain to visitors, the stacks of file folders do change from day to day as records are brought in, researched and/or organized, and returned to the shelves. Beside that, there is the process of moving from one computer network to another, setting up and learning a new email address, a new telephone number, new computer software, and, eventually, creating a website for the Heritage Center. All while responding to the usual requests for information, giving visitors tours around the “new digs,” working with confirmation groups each weekend, and preparing for a busy summer season.

But, really, all is well with the Heritage Center and I look forward to the exciting opportunities that are ahead. Thanks to all who have offered words of support and encouragement. Photos are of our new office and stack space.

Please make note of our new contact information:

Telephone: 828-356-5065
Email: nhwatkins@sejcah.org
Physical address: 125 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska
Mailing address: PO Box 1165, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 (No change)
Turning Points in Georgia Methodism

2019 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction

July 9-12, 2019

Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta GA

Schedule

**Tuesday, July 9**

2:00-5:00 pm - Registration
3:00 pm - SEJHS Steering Committee
5:00 pm - Dinner
7:00 pm - **Welcome**
7:30 pm - Keynote Address
   Russell Richey – The Costs of Division: Methodism’s Nineteenth Century Experience
8:30 pm - Ice Cream Social

**Wednesday, July 10**

7:00 am - Breakfast on your own
9:00 am - **Morning Session 1**
   Gary Hauk – Emory University as a Historically Methodist Institution (30 min)
   Brandon Wason – The Wesleyana Collection at Emory (30 min)
   Anne Burkholder – Georgia Methodism and Race in the Early Twentieth Century: Jessie Daniel Ames and William J. Simmons. (30 min)
10:30 am - Break (15 min)
10:45 am - **Morning Session 2**
   Sonny Seals – Historic Rural Churches of Georgia (45 Min)
   John Beyers – William Ragsdale Cannon, Dean and Bishop (30 min)
12:00 pm - Lunch on your own
1:30 pm - Business Session
3:00 pm - Break (view the exhibition gallery)
3:30pm - **Afternoon Session**  
Alicia Jackson – CME Church in Georgia (30min)  
Brandon Wason – The MEC (Northern Church) in Georgia (30min)

4:30pm - Business Session

6:00pm - Dinner and reception (honoree Herchel Sheets)

**Thursday, July 11**

9:00am - Meet at School of Theology and depart for Oxford, GA
10:00am - Tour of Emory College and Oxford, GA  
Tour guides: Lyn Pace and Nancy Watkins
12:00pm - Lunch (boxed lunches at Oxford)
1:30pm - Travel to Salem Campground
2:00pm - **Afternoon Session**  
Tom Elliott - Tour of Salem Campground (60min)  
Kristofer Roberts - The History of Salem Campground (30min)
Cari Goetcheus, The Historic Landscape of Salem Campground (30min)

4:00pm - Return to Druid Hills campus
5:00pm - Business meeting
6:00pm - Dinner on your own
7:30pm - **UMW Video and Conversation**  
Susan Rae Raymond and Sally Askews

**Friday, July 12**

7:00am - Breakfast on your own
9:00am  Closing Communion Service  
Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster presiding

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**LODGING**

There are numerous hotels in the Emory/Decatur area.  
The two recommended hotels for the conference are:

**The University Inn at Emory**
[https://www.univinn.com/](https://www.univinn.com/)
1767 N Decatur Road NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
Phone: 404-634-7327  
Conference Rate = $134 per night

**Emory Conference Center and Hotel**
[https://www.emoryconferencecenter.com](https://www.emoryconferencecenter.com)
1615 Clifton Road NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329  
Phone: 404-712-6000  
Conference Rate = $174 per night
Registration Form
The cost is $89 for each person registering, which includes the banquet reception, one lunch, one dinner, and transportation to Oxford College and Salem Campground. Guests may attend the reception at an additional cost of $30 per guest. This form must be received by June 30, 2019. Please direct any questions to Brandon Wason (404-727-1222 / bwason@emory.edu).

To register online, please visit http://pitts.emory.edu/sejhs/

Prefix: ________
First Name: ______________________________________________
Last Name: ______________________________________________
Preferred Name: ___________________________________________
Suffix: ________
Professional Suffix:________
Address:  ______________________________________________
Email Address: ___________________________________________
Telephone:  ___________________________________________

Check box if you do not wish to have your name shown on the attendee list [ ]

Banquet Guest information
Fill out the following information and include an additional $30 if you would like to bring a guest for the reception.

Full Name of Banquet Guest: ________________________________

Please include a check for $89 per registrant ($119 if bringing a guest to the reception). Make the check payable to Candler School of Theology with SEJHS in the memo. Include this form with the check and send it to the following address:

Pitts Theology Library
ATTN: Brandon Wason / SEJHS
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560
Atlanta, GA 30322
2020 SEJ/HS Annual Meeting
Convening at The Moore Museum
St. Simon’s Island, GA
August 4 – 7, 2020
National Historical Society will join us!
Mark your calendar today!!!
Special Event
Co-Sponsored by
Heritage Center
Lecture on Dr. John Wesley Gilbert
By
Dr. John W. I. Lee, Associate Professor of History at the University of California Santa Barbara

If you are familiar with the early history of Lake Junaluska, you know that Dr. John Wesley Gilbert was an African American scholar and linguist who attended the first meeting held here in June of 1913 and accompanied Bishop Lambuth as he established mission work in the Belgian Congo. But did you also know: That Dr. Gilbert was born into slavery? That he graduated from Paine College in Augusta, Georgia? That he earned his BA from Brown University? And that while working on his MA at Brown he became the first African American to study in Greece at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens?

Please join us at the Foundation for Evangelism at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2nd, as Dr. John W. I. Lee, Associate Professor of History at the University of California Santa Barbara, shares his research on the life of Dr. John Wesley Gilbert. Dr. Lee’s visit is co-sponsored by the Heritage Center, the Junalskans, Lake Junaluska Assembly and the World Methodist Museum.

For more information about Dr. Lee, visit his webpage at http://www.ucsb.edu/faculty/john-w-i-lee.

Membership Notes
By Frank Buie, Membership Secretary

The addition of annual conference Commission on Archives and History members to our mailing list has greatly increased our publicity range. Using e-mail for most of our complimentary subscriptions has reduced our cost! Keeping the list current has become an interesting task.

Beginning in January, we sent out lists of all in each annual conference on the mail list and asked for updates, especially for the Commissions. Several responded with extensive changes! Virginia had the most changes; Mississippi had the most additions! Commission chairs are asked to check with their people to make sure we have current names with street and e-mail addresses. Contact me directly by e-mail (fbbuie@hotmail.com) when you have a change! Thanks!


Before the Annual Meeting at Emory University, we plan to notify all Annual Members who receive SEJ HS NOTES by e-mail of their membership status. Members who prefer US Mail will note their membership status on the mail label: a number for the end of the expiration year or an abbreviation for other types of membership. Annual Members who are not current are invited to renew soon. If your address information has not changed, a simple note with your check will be sufficient.
IS IT TIME TO JOIN THE SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY – TO RENEW OR GIVE A MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND?

Annual memberships in the SEJ Historical Society follow the calendar year, but dues paid after September apply to the next year, as all general activities have ended for the current year. Lapsed memberships are easily renewed: send in your dues for the current year! Honorary and Life Memberships do not expire, but gifts are most welcome!

Friends who currently serve on United Methodist Annual Conference Commissions on Archives and History are granted complimentary subscriptions to SEJ HS NOTES and invited to join the Society.

Churches, UM Historical Sites and Institutions may officially join to receive and contribute to the newsletter.

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Individual/Institution Membership /// Address Correction \\ Gift to the Society

NAME ________________________________________________________________

STREET __________________________________________________________________________________

CITY ____________________________ STATE ____  ZIP+4 _________________

TELEPHONE _____________________  E_MAIL ____________________________________________

(For E-Mail newsletter and SEJ HS use only. WILL NOT BE SHARED!)

I WOULD LIKE THE NEWSLETTER SENT BY: E-MAIL _____ FIRST CLASS USPS ______

ANNUAL CONFERENCE__________________________________________________________

THIS IS A GIFT MEMBERSHIP, PAID BY _____________________________________________

STREET _______________ CITY _______________ STATE ____  ZIP+4 ________________

DONOR’S E-MAIL __________________________

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

ONE YEAR $15 _______ TWO YEARS $27 _______ THREE YEARS $40 _______ GIFT $__________

LIFE MEMBERSHIP $125 _____

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY MEMBERS AND BISHOPS COMPLIMENTARY

LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERS

LIFE□  HONORARY□  ADDRESS UPDATE___________ GIFT $ ____________

INSTITUTION OR LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP $25 _______ (E-MAIL NEWSLETTER PRIVILEGES)

THE SOCIETY INVITES MEMBER INSTITUTIONS TO SHARE NEWS AND INFORMATION WITH ARTICLES FOR SEJ HS NOTES

SEND ITEMS TO LEAH PITTARD, EDITOR rockpitt2@verizon.net

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEND THIS FORM (OR COPY) ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK, TO:

REV. FRANKLIN BUIE  209 JABAY DRIVE  COLUMBIA, SC  29229-4348

OR

E-MAIL INFORMATION TO fbbuie@umcsc.org AND SEND THE CHECK TO ADDRESS ABOVE.

TO CORRECT ANY ADDRESS OR TO DISCONTINUE MEMBERSHIP: E-MAIL fbbuie@umcsc.org
Treasurer's Report:

The following budget for 2020 was proposed by the Executive Committee to be voted on at our July meeting at Emory. The only change was an increase of $250 for the Heritage Center to help with all the increase expenses in the Heritage Center move. If you have a question about any of the line items in the budget, please contact me at lkcollier@gmail.com. If you have any proposed changes to the budget, let me know so I can contact the Executive Committee for review before July.

SEJ Historical Society
Proposed Budget for 2020

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Alabama-West Florida

Pelham United Methodist Church, Edna, AL

Pelham UMC is an example of an increasingly rare intact rural church. It has a highly pitched front-facing gable roof, and two sets of double doors. Local tradition states that the church originated a couple miles down the road as the circa 1838 Bethlehem Methodist Church. Portions and materials of this early church were likely incorporated into the 1888 Pelham Church. The interior is original with windows along the sides, wood walls and ceilings and early pews. It also contains a pulpit and flanking lamp stands that appear to be from the late-antebellum period.

This church was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage in 2012. It is located on Choctaw CR 42 approximately 8 miles northwest of Pennington, AL in the community of Edna (GPS coordinates 32.279458, -88.117473).

The AWF Circuit Writer’s Winter 2018-2019 issue also highlighted the First United Methodist Church of Mexico Beach, which was destroyed in last October’s Hurricane Michael – and the restoration begun by UMCOR and others. It was also noted that in recent tornado activity in Alabama another church was greatly damaged. Prayers were requested for these and others affected by disasters.

Jim Young
Alabama-West Florida Historian

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Florida

The Florida Conference is celebrating its 175th anniversary during 2019 and 2020. A video tracing the history of the conference, which was authorized by the General Conference in 1844, will be shown at annual conference in June. Next February a special service will be held in Trinity United Methodist Church in Tallahassee, where the first session of the conference was held on February 6, 1845, one month before Florida was granted statehood.

Nell Thrift
Florida Conference Archivist
North Carolina

Dr. William Simpson, Conference Historian, was welcomed by The North Carolina Conference Historical Society to its Fall 2018 meeting. Dr. Simpson shared a presentation entitled “The Beginning of a New Church and the End of Segregation: 1968-2018”. He shared the history of the beginnings of the North Carolina Annual Conference as well as the impact which the merger of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) had in North Carolina. Dr. Simpson explained that "from the perspective of belief the Merger was in no way controversial for North Carolina Methodists, especially as there were no EUB churches within the bounds of the two conferences. One significant change came, however, with the agreement to abolish the segregated Central Jurisdiction and to make the two North Carolina conferences truly inclusive of all races.” Nevertheless, soon after the merger, some churches resisted the addition of the word 'United'. Bishop William R. Cannon advised them that the “new name would be applied throughout the Conference.”


Bishop Joseph Bethea served the North Carolina Annual Conference as a District Superintendent in the Rockingham and Raleigh districts and was elected Bishop in 1998. Dr. Bethea was the first of four bishops in the United Methodist Church elected from the North Carolina Conference. He was followed by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward (2004), Bishop Paul L. Leeland (2008), and Bishop Leonard E. Fairley (2016).

The Historical Society expressed its sincere appreciation to Dr. Simpson for his informative and rich presentation on the first fifty (50) years of United Methodism in the North Carolina Conference.

Rev. Bryan Huffman
President, NC Conference Historical Society

Mississippi

The discovery of “lost manuscripts” in 2009 solved a mystery that perplexed several generations of Mississippi annual conference leaders. The recovery allowed the conference to complete the publication of the four volumes *A Complete History of Methodism as Connected with the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church South* in 2015, one hundred and forty-three years after Rev. John Griffing Jones began his research.

Jones completed his research and writing in four years, but the conference did not have the resources to print the history in 1876, so it was in limbo until 1887 when Jones and his son, Rev. J. A. B. Jones, gave five hundred dollars to the conference book agent to have volume I of the four volume manuscript printed. Jones died the next year.

The son took possession of his father’s manuscripts and made volume II available for publication in 1908. Before his death in 1910, the son passed the complete set of manuscripts to his sister Matilda Jones Holloman, who in turn donated the original hand-written manuscripts of the two printed volumes to the Mississippi Conference Historical Society, retaining possession of the unpublished volumes III and IV.
Unable to acquire the two unpublished manuscripts, conference leaders assumed they were lost and commissioned two conference preachers to write a history of the conference covering the years 1844 – 1870. This one volume history came out in 1939.

The status of the “lost volumes” remained unchanged until 2009 when two grandchildren of Mrs. Mary Letitia Holloman Scott discovered “old papers” in their grandmother’s trunk. Mrs. Scott, a step-daughter of Matilda Jones Holloman, probably had the documents in 1929 when the historical society attempted to acquire them from the family.

Henry and his sister Rosemary sifted through the family papers from the trunk and realized some documents were Methodist materials. In 2009 they donated fourteen pieces of writing, unaware of the historical value of the papers and their own relationship with the writer.

When she received the manuscripts from Henry Scott and Rosemary Scott Ainsworth, Debra McIntosh, Millsaps College archivist, recognized the handwriting on the documents and was able to verify the donation as the “lost manuscripts” of John Griffing Jones. McIntosh supervised the preservation of the documents, their indexing and transcription, and guided the project through to publication in 2015.

(Editor’s note: To read about the years of the “lost manuscripts” in this edited article, or how to purchase the last two volumes, contact the SEJ/HS NOTES editor at the information on the Executive Committee page.)

-Sej/notes-  -sej/notes-  -sej/notes-

**South Carolina**

The South Carolina Conference Historical Society provided a brief History of the Evangelical United Brethren Church for distribution at its exhibit table at the 2018 Session of the Annual Conference in recognition of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the 1968 merger of the Methodist Church with the EUB Church along with a display of items related to that important anniversary. Near the close of the 2018 Session the Historical Society’s President, the Reverend J. Robert Huggins, presented a medallion commemorating the 1968 merger to Bishop Holston for addition to the Conference Archives.

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina Conference Historical Society met on October 5, 2018, at Wofford College. Attention was given to a number of pending items including the development of a South Carolina United Methodist Heritage Trail. Work on the Heritage Trail is proceeding under the capable leadership of the Reverend Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., the South Carolina Conference Historian. The design of the project is to compile a list of locations and sites which are broadly representative and inclusive of the history of United Methodism in South Carolina. A South Carolina Conference was one of the six original annual conferences organized by the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

The Reverend J. Robert Huggins, President of the South Carolina Conference Historical Society since 2016, resigned effective January 21, 2019, due to family responsibilities. Ms. Joyce E. Plyler, who has served as Vice President for the last three years has assumed the responsibilities of the office as Acting President and will serve until the 2019 Fall Annual Meeting when officers are normally elected. Ms. Plyler had served previously as President 2013-2015.

Roger M. Gramling, D. D.  
Secretary-Treasurer  
South Carolina Conference Historical Society
**Tennessee**

Tennessee Conference newly appointed Archivist, Gratia Strother, says “We have our own personal ‘great cloud of witnesses’ as United Methodists. The stories of those who have come before us, laying the foundations of Methodism, interweave with our own stories to make a beautiful tapestry of witness to God’s faithfulness. I have seen how hearing these stories has solidified a young pastor’s foundation of faith and become a warm blanket of comfort to a church member struggling with health issues.” With Gratia’s hire, and the appointment of David Martin as Conference Historian, the Tennessee Commission on Archives and History is redoubling efforts at working collaboratively with churches to record and share church history. Gratia considers herself a history evangelist, “We live in a time when people are searching for their identity. Just one online genealogy service of many, Ancestry.com has over 3 million subscribers and that number grows every day. As Christians, our identity is in Christ, and our story is interwoven with that of other believers as the church. The archives’ ministry of memory is truly a mission to strengthen our faith and embolden our witness.” Contact Gratia at 615-601-1581 or gratia.strother@tnumc.org if you have stories of Tennessee churches, members, and pastors that need to be preserved as part of our communal history.

Bethel United Methodist Church, Rutherford County, Tennessee, completed its bicentennial year celebration with a dedication service for being designated as National Methodist Historic Site no. 546 by the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. The service was held in December 2018, with the address delivered by the Rev. Von Unruh, recently retired Historian and Archivist for the Tennessee Conference.

The Reverend Ebenezer Macgowan founded Bethel Meeting House after holding services in his home until more room was needed. The first one-room log building, erected in 1818, survived the near by Civil War Battle of Stones River, but was replaced with the present structure in 1887. The Reverend David Campbell Kelley gave the dedicatory sermon with over 1500 people in attendance.

Dee Dee Stockard
Bethel UMC Church Historian
Tennessee Conference
Stones River Circuit

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**See you this summer for**

**Turning Points in Georgia Methodism**

**2019 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction**

**July 9-12, 2019**

**Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta GA**
April 2019

SEJ/HS NOTES

SEJ Heritage Center
P O Box 1165
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
Phone: 828-356-5065
E-mail: nhwatkins@sejcah.org
Physical address: 125 N Lakeshore Dr.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  FIRST CLASS MAIL

SEJ/HS NOTES - a tri-annual newsletter of
the Southeastern Jurisdiction
Historical Society of the
United Methodist Church.
Items for publication should be sent to the
Editor. Next issue OCTOBER 2019
Copy due: Friday, October 4, 2019

SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – current

President – Leland Carden, 836 Midway Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091-4127
         931-359-8436                               lthornburg5143@bellstouth.net
Vice President – Grace Yoder, Asbury Seminary, 204 N. Lexington Ave, Wilmore, KY 40390
          859-858-2352                           grace.yoder@asburyseminary.edu
Secretary – Kerri Shoemaker, P.O. Box 1087, Wadley, GA 30477
           229-848-3264                                      kerrishoe@zebra.net
Treasurer – Linda Collier, 1903 Shenandoah Trail, Lebanon, TN 37087
             615-828-7985; 615-449-1492                    lkcollier@gmail.com
At-Large Members from Steering Committee –
  2017-2019: Carlton Casey, 315 E. Landing, Williamsburg, VA 23185-8254
          727-229-3075                                 cdcewc@verizon.net
  2017-2019: Doug Jonas, 209 Berlin Way, Morrisville, NC 27560
          919-771-6883                                 dcjones2000@gmail.com
Membership Coordinator – Franklin Buie, 209 Jabay Dr, Columbia, SC 29229
          803-865-2121                            fbbuie@hotmail.com
Editor of NOTES – Leah Pittard, 1450 S Jefferson Ave, Sarasota, FL 34239
          941-586-0185                                rockpitt2@verizon.net
Ex-Officio – Chair, SEJ Commission on Archives and History: Jim Pyatt,
             P.O. Box 146, New London, NC 28127; 704-961-8450       jpyatt@wnccumc.net
Ex-Officio – Director, SEJ Archives and History/Heritage Center: Nancy Watkins
The Heritage Center, P O Box 1165 Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
Physical address, 125 N. Lakeshore Dr. Lake Junaluska, NC
          828-356-5065 (new physical address & phone #)    nhwatkins@sejcah.org