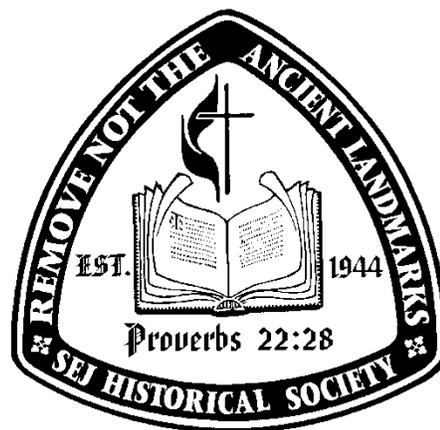


# SEJ / HS NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Volume 18

APRIL 2018

Number 1

## The President's Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As I begin this letter, my thoughts and prayers are focused on preparation for the days of Holy Week, Christ's passion, death, and then the worship and celebration of the Resurrection and the promise of eternal life. This is the main message of the Church, the story we are commissioned to share with the world in making disciples of Jesus Christ. At the same time, those of us who have an interest in and are deeply involved in the "ministry of memory" in our beloved United Methodist Church, are called to another kind of commission, that of collecting, preserving, and making accessible our history as the people called Methodists.

With that reminder of our tasks as 'keepers of our history', may I encourage everyone who receives this issue of SEJ/HS NOTES to consider registering for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, hosted by the Virginia Conference Historical Society, in Williamsburg, VA. Why not recruit someone from your conference, with an interest in church history to come with you? Activities begin Tuesday, July 17th and will adjourn with the Closing Memorial Service, Friday morning, July

20th. (See the registration material for agenda, activities, and lodging information).

- We will be electing officers this year... the nominating committee selected last year (Leah Pittard, Carleton Casey, and Bob George) will bring recommendations to this year's session. Nominations may also be made from the floor.
- At last year's annual meeting, it became apparent there was a need to clarify several areas of our by-laws and constitution. In November, the Executive Committee named Nell Thrift, Roger Gramling, and James Pyatt to review our By-laws and Constitution, and bring recommendations for revision to this meeting of the SEJ/HS. We will anticipate their report.
- Every two years (even years) the closing worship service includes a Memorial Observance, to celebrate the lives of those persons from throughout the jurisdiction who have been SEJ/HS members, officers, participants, or related in some way to the "ministry of memory" in the churches and annual conferences of the SEJ.

**We are still seeking a host conference for the 2019 meeting of the SEJ/HS.** If your annual conference "historical

society/commission on archives and history" has not hosted the annual meeting lately, and you would like to share some of the Methodist history from your area with the rest of us, contact one of the officers of the SEJ/HS. We have been notified by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church (HSUMC) that they would like to meet with us in 2020. So, as soon as possible, we also need to determine the date and location for that meeting.

Lest we forget, there are some important dates and issues, related to or possibly affecting our history as United Methodist (gleaned from the GCAH website). "On April 23, 1968, fifty years ago, Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Bishop Rueben H. Mueller and Methodist Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke joined hands over a table laden with symbols—the Bible, hymnals, books of Discipline and a 307-page "Plan of Union." 1,300 delegates and 10,000 visitors met in Dallas, Texas on April 23, to proclaim the formation of the newly-constituted United Methodist Church. 10.3 million Methodists and 750,000 members of the EUB Church merged into one of the largest Protestant denominations in the world, the United Methodist Church. Flags from fifty-three countries testified to the breadth of the new reality. At the same time, the systematic racism of the former Methodist Church's segregating Central Jurisdiction began dismantling. A celebration of this event will be included in the program for our gathering in Williamsburg. The theme for this year's **Heritage Sunday** is also this major event in our domination: **May 20, 2018.**

Finally (I hesitate in using that word), even as we celebrate our historic past, we need to be praying for the future of the UMC. Our

timeline as the 'People called Methodist' dates back to the mid-1700's, and since the 1784 Christmas Conference we have experienced the founding of various "Methodist" related denominations, then divisions, splits, and mergers. Since 1968, in addition to the UMC, there are still other "Methodist" related church bodies that are still not formally a part of the UMC.

The reminders of these dates designated for celebration of our uniting efforts and heritage, comes at a time when we are once again faced with challenges that threaten the unity of the Church. Even as this is being written - the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward is meeting in Los Angeles (March 19-22) to prepare a final report to be submitted to the Council of the Bishops for consideration by the bishops at their April/May meeting. At that meeting, the bishops, in collaboration with the collective work of the Commission, will decide on a proposal to be presented to the Special Session of the General Conference called for February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Our history informs us of the many theological and social issues we have overcome and survived over the past 234 years. May we all be praying for the will of God to be made known. That led by the Holy Spirit, the body of Christ known as "Methodists" will continue to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God's grace, by loving God and neighbor, thus continuing to seek the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world."

Your servant in Christ,  
Leland T. Carden, Jr.

## Heritage Sunday

May 20, 2018

### "Jubilee: The 50th Anniversary of the United Methodist Church."

Resources on General Commission's website include:

- ✚ PowerPoint of forming churches & leaders
- ✚ Short Video
- ✚ Liturgical – Reading – Educational items
- ✚ For churches & annual conferences

Available at [www.gcah.org](http://www.gcah.org) NOW!

**GET READY...REMEMBER...  
CELEBRATE!!!**

## SEJ/ Historical Society Memorial Observance

Closing Worship Of  
Annual Meeting - July 20, 2018

Please send names, dates of death, annual conference affiliation, and biographical info – for SEJ/HS Members or others concerned about the “ministry of memory” to: Rev. Leland T. Carden

836 Midway St.

Lewisburg, TN 37091 OR

[lthornburg5143@bellsouth.net](mailto:lthornburg5143@bellsouth.net)....

**by June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## Notes from Nancy

For the most part it has continued to be “business as usual” here in the Heritage Center. So far this year we have had 701 visitors, many of whom were youth preparing for confirmation. We have completed processing of the records for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association for Native American Ministries (SEJANAM) and the processing of the records from the Southeastern Jurisdiction Administrative Council (SEJAC) is almost complete.

There is some exciting news! Many of you may already be aware that the Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees met recently and selected Ken Howle as the new executive director of Lake Junaluska. Ken has worked for Lake Junaluska for the past 14 years as director of advancement and marketing. In this position he helped raise over \$7.5 million in charitable support and he has served as a member of the executive team for the past 12 years. The relationships that Ken has formed during his time here will be of great benefit as Lake Junaluska moves into the future.

I have enjoyed working closely with Ken on a number of occasions, beginning with preparations for the Lake Junaluska centennial celebration that took place in 2013. He has a thorough understanding of, and appreciation for, the work of the Heritage Center. One of his first requests after his appointment was for a selection of Lake Junaluska photos and memorabilia from the archives for display in his office. I look forward continuing to work with Ken.

## A Little More than Money

I am happy to report that all 15 Annual Conference's Commission on Archives and History support the SEJ Historical Society. However, financially, the Memphis Conference Commission has joined the Tennessee Conference Commission as one unit this year. And, the Red Bird Missionary Conference Commission has no budgeted funds as the conference has different funding issues from the rest of the conferences. Since they have no budgeted funds, Red Bird welcomes anyone who could volunteer their time to help maintain their archives as mandated by the Discipline. Each Conference Commission is mandated to collect, preserve and make accessible the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies. They are to provide an archival depository for future research and maintain historic sites in their Conferences. Each Commission submits a budget to the Annual Conference yearly to be included in the Annual Conference's budget. Some Conferences consider the Commission as more administrative and others see it more as a "Mission of Memory". The Commissions may organize a Conference Historical Society for the purpose of promoting interest in the study and preservation of the history of the conference and its antecedents. Some Conference Historical Societies are supported by the Commissions and meet with them. Others are supported by membership dues and have annual meetings for fellowship and to highlight historical churches,

person(s) or events(s) in the Conference. We have 10 Historical Societies out of the 14 Conferences that support the SEJ Historical Society. Kentucky, North Georgia and Red Bird do not currently have active Conference Historical Societies.

The SEJ Historical Society serves the same purpose as the Conference Historical Societies in that we promote interest in the study and preservation of the history of the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) of the United Methodist Church. We support the SEJ Commission on Archives and History as they collect, preserve and make accessible the historically significant records of the agencies and ministries, both past and present, that operate at the jurisdictional level. We support the SEJ Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska which houses the SEJ records. The Society's membership dues come from the SEJ Annual Conference's Commissions and Historical Societies along with individual memberships. We hold an annual meeting each year in one of the SEJ Annual Conferences highlighting historical areas of interest in that Conference.

As we move into the 21st century, more Commissions and Historical Societies are establishing web sites and digitizing their records. This provides access to more of the history of our Southeastern Jurisdiction Conferences beyond the membership. Check out some of these web sites and learn more about our historical Methodist movement in the SEJ.

Submitted by Linda Collier, Treasurer



General Ledger Number 100		Account Labels			
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## **The Past...Today**

### **Christian Advocate - December 10, 1903, page 8...A MATTER OF CHURCH HISTORY**

It is cause for no little surprise that so few of our Methodist Churches pay any attention to the preservation of the data of local Church history. We have served only one charge in a pastorate of fourteen years where we found any apparent attempt to preserve, for their historic value, the books of record. Personal observation and inquiry lead to the conviction that the charge that carefully keeps on file its registers and records is a rare exception. When a new record book of Church or Quarterly Conference is bought, the old one is thrown away or allowed to lie about in whatsoever place it may fall, until it is finally lost. It not infrequently occurs that when a new Church register is bought, the names are transcribed to it in alphabetic order, without designation as to the time and manner of the member's reception, or indication of the pastoral administration under which they were received. The old book is then given to the fire or the trash pile. By and by some one wants to trace the Church history of an individual, or of a family, or of a society, and he finds absolutely no data. The long succession of valuable documents has vanished. This is a species of vandalism that falls heavily upon posterity, and that deserves unmeasured censure.

Our churches should be provided with archives for the preservation of these precious documents. Their loss is due in many instances to the fact that the old books are left in the hands and homes of the secretaries. In the removal and breaking up of families, they thus are lost. There should be a depository in every church for its books of record, where each volume may be religiously preserved.

Our attention was first called to the importance of this matter while in the pastorate of Tuscaloosa. Deposited in the pastor's study, there is the most complete chain of records we have ever seen. We undertook to write a paper on the history of this, one of the oldest Churches in the States, and discovered to our disappointment that some of the links in the chain were missing. We spent some weeks of diligent investigation before we were able to make out a chronological roster of the pastors back to the beginning. In the course of the preparation of this paper, in searching these old records, we discovered facts touching individuals, families, and local Church affairs that were simply invaluable. More than once we called down blessings on the memory of the men who had the intelligence and thoughtfulness to preserve these old books.

The official who carelessly loses or wantonly destroys a church register or record book, needs a vigorous "going over" for his short-sightedness. Take care of the books. One day they will be worth their weight in gold.

---Alabama Christian Advocate

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### **Ground Breaking for the Burdine Lodge Restoration Project**

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Burdine Lodge Restoration Project was held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, at the Hagood Mill Historic Site in Pickens, South Carolina.

Representatives of Pickens County, the Pickens County Historical Society, the Hagood Mill Historic Site, Anderson District United Methodist Men, the South Carolina Conference, and the South Carolina Conference Historical Society spoke briefly at the site of the planned reconstruction. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Resident Bishop of the Columbia Area, led a dedication service for the site where the home of Samuel Burdine will be reconstructed and restored.

Built in the 1760's, the historic log house was moved in the 1790's to Old Vinland School Road in the Dacusville Community of what was known as the Pendleton District. In 1796 the house became the home of Samuel Burdine, an early Methodist in the area, and a lodging place for Bishop Francis Asbury when traveling from North Carolina into South Carolina through the Saluda Pass. In his journal Asbury documented visits with Samuel Burdine in November, 1800, accompanied by Bishop Richard Whatcoat, and again in November, 1802. The Burdine home also became a meeting place for a Methodist Society which today is known as Antioch United Methodist Church of the North Easley Charge in the Greenville District of the South Carolina Conference. The reconstruction project is expected to take at least a year.

The Hagood Mill Historic Site, located at 138 Hagood Mill Road just off Highway 178 approximately three miles north of Pickens, is home to a number of historic buildings.

---Submitted by Roger Gramling, SC

**The Virginia Conference  
Historical Society  
Invites you to join us for  
“Religious Liberty In the  
Historical Advance of Virginia  
Methodism”**

**The 2018 Annual Meeting  
Southeastern Jurisdiction  
Historical Society  
United Methodist Church  
In Williamsburg, Virginia  
July 17 – 20, 2018**

Brief look at Program Events:

**Tuesday, July 17**

- 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Registration, Lodging, Check-in  
3:00 p.m. – SEJ/HS Steering Committee  
5:00 p.m. - Dinner  
7:00 p.m. - Opening Session, Williamsburg United Methodist Church..  
Welcome, Greetings, Video Presentation & Keynote Speaker  
8:30 p.m. - Ice Cream Social



**Wednesday, July 18**

- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast on your own  
9:00 a.m. - Tour of the Historic Churches of Colonial  
12 Noon - Lunch on your own  
1:30 p.m. - Business Session  
3:00 p.m. - Break  
3:30 p.m. – Presentation  
4:30 p.m. - Business Session  
5:30 p.m. - Dinner (Williamsburg UMC)  
7:00 p.m. – Presentation with Panel

**Thursday, July 19**

- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast on your own  
9:00 a.m. - Tour of Historic Jamestowne  
12 noon - Lunch on your own  
1:30 p.m. - Presentation  
2:30 p.m. - Break  
3:00 p.m. - Business Session, if needed  
4:00 p.m. - Presentation  
6:30 p.m. - Banquet

**Friday, July 20**

- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast on your own  
9:00 a.m. - Closing Memorial Service, Holy Communion and Adjournment at Williamsburg UMC

**Registration and Fees**

**Final date to register – July 10, 2018**

- \$85.00 registration fee** includes tours & evening meals; accommodations not included.  
**\$30.00 day rate** includes tour & evening meal.  
**\$25.00 banquet only**

To register by mail: form available on-line  
Virginia Conference Historical Society c/o  
Rev. Helen Casey-Rutland  
500 Jamestown Road  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

To register online:  
[www.vaumc.org/SEJHistoricalSociety2018](http://www.vaumc.org/SEJHistoricalSociety2018)

This year's SEJ Historical Society's Annual Meeting theme is *Religious Liberty in the Historic Advance of Virginia Methodism* with emphasis on the Colonial Era; the Old Brunswick Circuit; and Chesapeake Methodism and other regions. We will also celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Uniting Conference with emphasis on the Central Jurisdiction and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in the Valley of Virginia. Special speakers will address each of these aspects of our Wesleyan Heritage in Virginia. Everyone is welcome!

The four-day event will include tours of Colonial Williamsburg and Historic Jamestowne with historical interpreters along the way. We will enjoy special music, including a Christian men's quartet performance the evening of the Uniting Conference celebration, banquets and plenty of fellowship with folk from throughout the Southeastern Jurisdiction

### Some of our Event Participants:



Keynote Speaker - *Religious Freedom in the Colonial Era*

David L. Holmes, Emeritus: W&M



Presentation – *Origins of the Old Brunswick Circuit*, and Panel Preface

Rev. Michael H. Browder, PhD



Historical Interpretation – *James Ireland, Persecuted Baptist Preacher*

Stephen Moore



Presentation – *African Americans & Religious Liberty in VA Methodism*

Rev. Samuel & Brenda NeSmith



*Reminiscences of the 1968 Uniting Conference*

Bishop Peter D. Weaver, Retired



Celebrant – *Holy Communion*

Bishop H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Retired

### Lodging

Reference "SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY" when making reservations

#### Country Inn and Suites Williamsburg-East

7135 Pocahontas Trail  
Williamsburg, VA 23185 [www.countryinns.com](http://www.countryinns.com)  
Reservations: 757.229.6900; 800.830.5222  
Complimentary hot breakfast  
\$88.20--Rooms: Double queen; king  
Reservation cut-off date: May 15, 2018 (or availability)...2.6 miles from venue

#### Fairfield Inn and Suites (Marriott)

1402 Richmond Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
[www.fairfieldinnsuiteswilliamsburg.com](http://www.fairfieldinnsuiteswilliamsburg.com)  
Reservations: 757.645.3600; 888.236.2427  
Complimentary continental breakfast  
\$119.00--Rooms: double/double; standard king  
Reservation cut-off date: June 17, 2018  
2.0 miles from venue

#### Courtyard by Marriott

470 McLaws Circle  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/phfwb-courtyard-williamsburg-busch-gardens](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/phfwb-courtyard-williamsburg-busch-gardens)  
Reservations: 800.321.2211; 757.221.0700  
\$120.00--Rooms: double queen  
Reservation cut-off date: June 20, 2018  
3.9 miles from venue

#### Williamsburg Lodge 310 S. England Street Williamsburg, VA 23185

[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/stay/williamsburg-lodge](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/stay/williamsburg-lodge)  
Reservations: 888.965-7254; 757.220.7976  
\$169.00 (\$189.00-deluxe) - Rooms: queen  
Reservation cut-off date: June 17, 2018  
.9 miles from venue

Applicable state and local taxes currently 11%, plus a \$2.00 flat rate room tax

## SEJ/HS NOTES

SEJ Heritage Center  
P O Box 1165  
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745  
Phone: 828-452-2881, ext. 781  
E-mail: heritage@sejumc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SEJ/HS NOTES is a semi-annual letter of  
the Southeastern Jurisdiction  
Historical Society of the  
United Methodist Church.  
Items for publication should be sent to the  
Editor. Next issue: OCTOBER 2018  
Copy due: Monday, September 24th

### SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – current

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[grace.yoder@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:grace.yoder@asburyseminary.edu)

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2017-2019: Carlton Casey, 315 E. Landing, Williamsburg, VA 23185-8254

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919-771-6883

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