1921, preparing for the semi-centennial of Mount Vernon Place Church, the officials revoked the provision for pew rentals and adopted an "open-door" policy. The choir and accompanying organ music became quite famous and drew large crowds to regular services and special concerts.

Lynn Harold Hough, Oscar T. Olson, Albert E. Day and Harold A. Bosley are among the distinguished pastors who have served Mount Vernon Place. The church continues to minister to downtown Baltimore under the leadership of Edwin A. Ankeny.

BOOK REVIEWS


Among the treasure of books issued for the Bicentennial of American Methodism is this reprint, first published in 1960 for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Richard Allen. After brief introductory comments by George A. Singleton, the volume includes Allen's autobiography, his articles of association for the operation of Bethel Church in Philadelphia, three short treatises on faith, hope and love, his apologetic on the actions of black people during the 1793 epidemic in Philadelphia, thoughts on slavery, and words of encouragement for black people and those who would help them.

Obviously, this material is valuable for understanding the life of one of the most important American church leaders in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Allen was a devoted Methodist whose discouragement with the white church resulted in the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The reader will be reminded that the disappointment and hurt experienced by Allen and caused by the racial attitudes of white Methodists is of long standing and, unfortunately, is not unknown to black people today in their contemporary experience.

Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.


Harold Lawrence, a ministerial member of the North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, has succeeded in arranging for the reprinting of this very valuable set of the *Minutes* of early Methodism. Here the reader will find primary source materials for understanding early Methodist history in America as well as listings of all the preachers in the original conferences.
Book Reviews

The quality of the printing and binding of this volume is excellent. Only a limited number of volumes are available. Order from Magnolia Press, P.O. Box 3, Swainsboro, GA 30401. The price is $25.00 per copy plus $2.00 for postage and handling.

Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.


This attractively bound volume constitutes a valuable contribution to the history of American Protestantism. The author has previously published an article on Methodism and the social gospel (Methodist History, October, 1978). Mainline Protestant denominations moved toward ecumenism and an "established religion," largely in response to the challenges of materialism and rationalism. Not least among their opponents, they felt, was the Roman Catholic Church, as an authoritarian institution governed from abroad. The Evangelicals were also somewhat anti-foreign in view of the threat of inundation by non-Protestant peoples from southern and eastern Europe. Inevitably, Evangelicals became involved in politics and social reform. The author merits praise for his scholarly presentation of a difficult and controversial subject, in which Methodism befriended exploited laborers and appealed for a wider application of the democratic spirit.

Arlow W. Andersen


Many readers will recognize this as a Second Edition of Charles Ferguson's Organizing to Beat the Devil, issued in 1971, and reviewed in this journal in July, 1971, by Dr. Albea Godbold, a classmate of Ferguson at SMU "some years" ago. This Bicentennial Edition contains a dozen pages of Update covering events since 1970, provided by the Reverend Gordon D. Cassad, District Superintendent of the Dallas-Denton District, North Texas Conference.

Dr. Godbold's earlier review praised the book highly: "the best book of its kind this reviewer has read ... historical accuracy is commendable ... moves swiftly, accurately, convincingly, and is delightful reading." Can be ordered through United Methodist Reporter, Box 221076, Dallas, Texas 75222 or by telephone at 214-630-6495.

Walter N. Vernon