

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013 vol. 4, #1

Editor's Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

The Annual Meeting of the TUMHS at Marvin UMC in Tyler was a huge success. I can state without fear of contradiction that no Annual Meeting was ever hosted with more enthusiasm. The local arrangements committee did an outstanding job in providing hospitality. Participants were treated to tours, re-enactments, historical papers, music, and inspiring devotions. I hesitate to list the names of the Marvin members who made it possible for fear of omitting someone. Thank you so much!

C. D. Barrington gave his camera a real workout during the meeting. He has created a Shutterfly site so everyone can access the results of his efforts. You will see that the images are grouped into separate folders for each of the three days of the meeting. You will also see that it is possible to order prints of the images. The url <http://tumhsmetings.shutterfly.com/> C. D. has performed a valuable service to the TUMHS for making this resources available, and we thank him very much.

As we continue to revel in the memories of the 2013 Annual Meeting it is time to turn our attention to 2014 which promises something out of the ordinary. Previously our friends in San Antonio extended a generous invitation to host the 2014 Jurisdictional Convocation of Archivists. Such convocations are held biennially, usually in the summer. The Executive Committee of the TUMHS had previously chosen San Antonio as the site for the 2014 Annual Meeting, usually held in March.

As the Convocation planners talked to the Annual Meeting planners, it made more and more sense to combine the two meetings. We don't have a date yet, but we do have a destination, and what a destination it is! San Antonio is well known for the Alamo, the Spanish missions, San Fernando Cathedral, the Riverwalk, the Institute of Texan Cultures, and so on.

Its Methodist heritage is less well known even though in 1934 Texas Methodist historians chose San Antonio as the host city for the Centennial Celebration. San Antonio is one of the best places to consider the German, Spanish, and English speaking streams of Texas Methodist history. In addition to the historic Travis Park and La Trinidad UMCs, there are also two distinctive Methodist heritage sites in the area. Just of the south of San Antonio there is United Methodist Historic Site #1—the John Wesley DeVilbiss grave. Bandera boasts Polly's Chapel, a monument to the preacher who built it—José Polycarpo Rodríguez. Both men were giants of the faith and are appropriately honored.

News From Bridwell Library

You still have a few days to visit the two exhibits at Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, SMU. *Catechisms* closes May 10, and *The First Four Centuries of Printed Bible Illustration* in the Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries will be open through May 18. Both exhibits can be accessed on line via Bridwell's web page, <http://www.smu.edu/Bridwell>

There are two other exciting developments at Bridwell of interest.

Archivist Timothy Binkley has informed us that the Bishop William C. Martin Papers are now processed and available for research purposes. Bishop Martin (1893-1984) is well known to readers of this *Newsletter*. After pastorates in Houston, Port Arthur, Little Rock, and Dallas, Martin was elected bishop in 1938. His first assignment was to the Pacific Coast, but he came back to Texas and served the Dallas-Fort Worth Episcopal Area with great distinction.

The papers, now available for research, cover a wide variety of topics and include correspondence with many of the leading figures in America in the 20th century.

On Sunday, May 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. there will be a celebration of the Digital Access and Preservation of the Recordings of Rabbi Levi A. Olan. In addition to his leadership at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Olan was lecturer on Judaism at Perkins School of Theology. Perkins has digitally preserved 210 of Rabbi Olan's radio programs. See the Bridwell web site for more details.

Montgomery UMC Celebrates 175th

The congregation at Montgomery UMC celebrated its 175th anniversary on April 21 with a birthday cake, special music, and a commemorative program. Bishop Janice Huie preached a powerful sermon appropriate for the occasion.

Our church at Montgomery was organized by Ike Strickland in December 1838 as part of the Mississippi Annual Conference. It became an important center for circuit riders and camp meetings, but the town went into decline after the court house was moved to Conroe.

Montgomery is booming, thanks to population growth on the western shores of Lake Conroe. The church is prospering. We wish them 175 more years of proclaiming the Gospel.



Heritage Journal

Rob Sledge continues to do a fine job as editor of the *Heritage Journal*. One reason we all look forward to the Annual Meeting is knowing that Rob will hand-deliver the latest volume to TUMHS members. (We save lots of \$\$ on postage by distributing them this way. Members who do not attend the Annual Meeting receive their copies via the United State Postal Service.)

We are now at volume #9. Since some of you receive the *Newsletter*, but not the *Heritage Journal*, I thought you would be interested in the contents. It's not too late to pay your dues and get your own copy.

Heritage Journal: An annual publication of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society, Volume 9, 2013.

Evan Jones, *Holy Whore: How the World's Oldest Profession Shaped the History of the Methodist Church in Texas.*

David W. Music, "Just a Little Talk": *Stamps-Baxter and Texas Methodists.*

Jane Marshall and the Dallas Church Music Salon.

Book Review: *Sketches of Texas in 1840* by Orceneth Fisher.

Inventory of Methodist Primary Materials at McMurry University.

Voices from the Past: John W. Fields Letters

Voices from the Past: German Missions by J. A. G. Rabe

Voices from the Past: Early Texas Methodist Historical Societies

Summary of the Minutes of the Society
Robert W. Sledge, *Through A Glass—Lightly.*

News from GCAH

Our good friend Dr. Robert Williams has announced his retirement as of July 1, 2014. In his Easter message he informed us that a committee has been formed to conduct a search for his successor.

Bob Williams is no stranger to us in Texas Methodist history circles. He has made several trips to Texas during his tenure as General Secretary of the Commission on Archives and History and made friends with each visit. Details concerning the search for the next General Secretary can be found at

<http://www.gcah.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=ghKJIOPHIoE&b=3389549&ct=8074069¬oc=1>

The GCAH also helps congregations celebrate Heritage Sunday, May 19, 2013. The theme this year is *The Power of Place: The Contemporary Mission of Heritage Landmarks and Historic Sites*. Materials may be found at

<http://www.gcah.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=ghKJIOPHIoE&b=3133329&ct=7675679¬oc=1>

Here is one such historic church. Can you identify it?



Fiscal matters

Stewart Caffey wishes to thank the Annual Conferences which have remitted their annual dues of \$100 to the Society.

Southwest Texas Conference
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference
Northwest Texas Conference
Central Texas Conference

The other annual conferences may consider this a gentle reminder. Please remit.

Directory

President

Dr. Garry L. Nall
7206 Versailles Drive
Amarillo, Tx 79121
806-355-1450
gnall@att.net

Vice President

Rev. Dr. Dan Flores
P. O. Box 64394
Fort Worth, Tx 76164
817-625-8311
dflores@gmail.com

Secretary

Rev. Ms. Barbara Huggins
901B Palestine St.
Jacksonville, Tx 75766
903-586-2494
bh@jacksonvillemethodist.org

Treasurer

Mr. Stewart Caffey
5426 89th St.
Lubbock, Tx 79424
stewacs@aol.com

Warnick Awards Chair

Rev. Dr. William J. Bryan III
P. O. Box 750133
Dallas, Tx 75172
214-768-4900
wbryan@smu.edu

Heritage Journal Editor

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Sledge
3141 Chimney Circle
Abilene, Tx 79606
rsledge@mcm.edu

Newsletter Editor

Wm. C. Hardt
10375 New Wehdem Rd.
Brenham, Tx
979-830-5210
wchardt@gmail.com

Membership/Registration Information

The good works of the TUMHS including the Warnick Award, the Walter Vernon Student Essay Award, the Annual Meeting, the publication of the *Heritage Journal*, and lifting up the UM heritage depend upon the dues and gifts of its members. Your dues and gifts are used exclusively for these programs. We pay no rent, utilities, or insurance. Board members are not reimbursed for travel expenses. The membership benefits are a real bargain. The *Heritage Journal* alone is worth the \$20 annual dues. Please send your dues and gifts to the address below.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ telephone _____

Annual dues

\$20 _____

(If you wish, you may join at the lifetime dues rate of \$300)

Please print this page and mail with a check to
Stewart Caffey
5426 89th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79424