

# TEXAS UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Editor's Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

As you already know, the TUMHS Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the South Central Jurisdiction Convocation of Archivists in San Antonio. Both organizations benefitted from the joint meeting even though the October meeting represented a departure from the usual schedule. TUMHS usually meets in March and SCJCA usually meets in July or August. The October date was chosen to try to avoid the summer heat in San Antonio. Program planners envisioned many tours, so October made more sense than August since participants would be outdoors at least some of the time.

Archivists and historians from throughout the Jurisdiction responded to the invitation. Participants came from all the conferences in the Jurisdiction except Louisiana and Arkansas. It's always disappointing not to have 100% participation, and that's something for us to continue to work on.

Perhaps part of the problem is a misunderstanding that the event is just for the Conference Archivists. It's really for all interested persons—local church historians, members of the Conference Commissions on Archives and History, members of Conference Historical Societies—for all levels of historical interest and experience.

I am always enriched by my visits with archivists and historians from other annual conferences, and my knowledge of Methodism has been greatly increased by such association. Our Methodist historical community is a microcosm of the denomination. All conferences have archivists and Commissions on Archives and History, but the scope of how annual conferences meet the Disciplinary requirements to have them is really wide and dependent upon local conditions. Some annual conferences have full time professionally trained archivists. Others have part time self-trained staff. Some conference archives are in the conference headquarters; others are in university libraries. Some annual conferences have Historical Societies distinct from the Commission; others do not. Some conferences have excellent facilities with climate control, security, and archival lighting standards: others are not so blessed.

All this variation makes me think about how annual conferences conduct other ministries, and always adapt a common denominational vision to local conditions—whether in Education, Mission, UMM, UMW, or whatever. Our annual conferences vary in their membership, resources, needs, and opportunities.

At the conclusion of the meeting in San Antonio, NWT Conference Archivist Beryl Waddell indicated that Lubbock would be a good site for the next such event. That would be in 2016. Watch this space for more information.

## Rob Sledge Honored by Historical Society of the UMC

Our own Dr. Robert W. (Rob) Sledge received the Distinguished Service Award of the Historical Society of the UMC in ceremonies at Drew University this past September 13.

The award was richly deserved and based on decades of contributions to the cause of Methodist history. Space prevents a complete listing of Dr. Sledge's many contributions to the field. He is the author of books and articles that span the whole range from the local church history to the whole denominational. He is the editor of all ten editions of the *TUMHS Heritage Journal*.

Rob has also been dedicated to UM historical organizations. He was the first president of the Historical Society of the UMC, one of the founders of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society, and has served as officer and/or committee chair in both organizations. He is currently chair of the Saddlebags Committee of the HSUMC which recognizes excellence in Methodist history books.

The Award recipient is allowed to designate a person to present the award, and this pleasant task went to another one of our own, Jean Traster, Rob's life-long friend, loyal member of the TUMHS leadership team, and former South Central Jurisdiction Archivist. Here are some photos from the awards ceremony.



## Jurisdictional Convocation Huge Success

We did something different this year. The TUMHS and South Central Jurisdiction Archivists held a joint meeting. San Antonio was the host city, and it turned out to be a marvelous event. The success was due to the painstaking efforts of the local organizers, especially C. D. and Freda Barrington.

Here are some scenes from the event.



*President Nall congratulates the Walter Vernon Essay Contest winner, David Riveria.*



*C. D. and the Rev. James Amerson of St. Paul's UMC, San Antonio, a gracious host.*



*We were blessed with the presence of guests from the Korean UMC.*



*Beryl Waddell thanks the St. Paul's UMC presenter.*



*Travis Park UMC proudly remembers John Wesley Devilbiss in stained glass.*

Huge thanks to our friends at the churches we visited-- La Trinidad, St. Paul's, Travis Park, University, and also to Providence Place, the Conference Office, and our hosts at the Oblate Retreat Center! We appreciate your hospitality.

## Save the Date!

Those of you who still use a paper calendar---sharpen your pencil and put these dates in—March 12-14, 2015. Those of you with electronic devices of all sorts, skip the pencil sharpening, but add those same dates. Those are the dates of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the TUMHS.

We will return to Dallas to celebrate SMU's Centennial. The largest United Methodist university in our region opened its doors to students in 1915 after several years of planning. and the university has been enjoying its centennial for several years now.

There are so many intriguing historical questions about SMU's history, and I know that the local arrangements committee is lining up a great program to answer them.

The February 1 issue of this *Newsletter* will have full program details and registration materials. Look for it.

## Bridwell Exhibits

Speaking of SMU, don't forget the current exhibits at Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

The Entry Hall exhibit consists of Bibles and Testaments printed in various languages as part of the missionary efforts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Prothro Gallery exhibit highlights recent additions to Bridwell collection. Both exhibits may be accessed at <http://www.smu.edu/bridwell>

Both exhibits will continue to the first weeks of December.

Bridwell Archivist Timothy Binkley is already hard at work preparing the exhibit that will be on display during our Annual Meeting. TUMHS members will be especially interested in the exhibit of previous Warnick Award winners. The Warnick Awards are given annually to recognize the best local church histories.

The Warnick Awards Chair, Dr. William J. Bryan, reported that no entries were received so no awards were given at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

That should be an incentive! Get to work local church historians—Dr. Bryan will be happy to tell you more and give you encouragement. The conference archivists and the Bridwell staff are all eager to help you with your local church history projects.

Remember, the longer you put off writing your church's history, the more history you will have to include.

## Historic Church Pictures

Each issue asks you to identify one of our many historic churches. Here is the one from the previous issue.



This is Hubbard UMC located between Brookshire and Hempstead in rural Waller County. You know all about itinerating preachers, but did you know about itinerating churches? This one is!

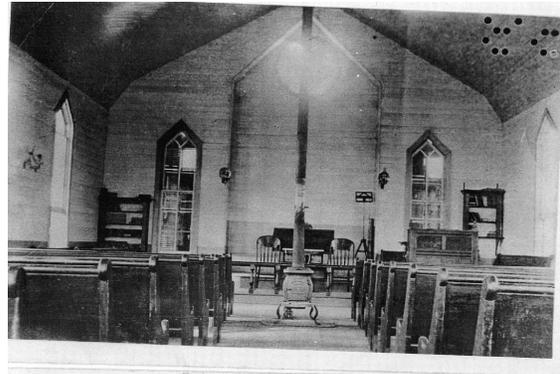
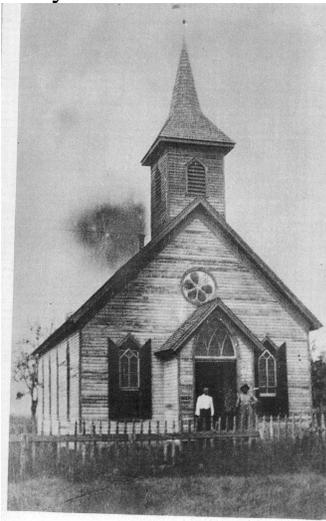
This church building was originally constructed at Phillipsburg in southern Washington County, about 7 miles south of Brenham on the Gulf Coast & Santa Fe Railway.

The area was booming with MEC German activity. Blinn College was getting into full swing. German immigration was continuing, and the families wanted a church. They built this one, pictured below. Phillipsburg became sort of a nursery for preachers. Readers of this column will perhaps know sons and daughters of the congregation who accepted the call to parsonage life—Menking, Bohmfalk, Weiss, Schlechte families were all connected with this church..

Unfortunately the Lutheran Church at Phillipsburg was even larger so when the community built a school, it went to the Lutheran Church instead of the Methodist one.

As transportation improved, members drifted away to the churches at Brenham and Industry.

The building itself was loaded onto rail cars and moved to Pattison where it served as the house of worship for the MEC German congregation there which was on a circuit with Sealy.



(Interior)

After Union, the MECS and MEC churches in Pattison united so the church was no longer needed. The church building was moved to its present location where it continues to provide a venue for worship, service, and fellowship.

Somewhere in its moves it lost the steeple but gained a vestibule. The original building had a very expensive bell, but I have been unable to find it.

Here is your next historic church to identify.



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## Membership/Registration Information

We do not send annual membership renewal statements. Our not doing so means that many of us neglect to send our annual dues. If you can't remember the last time you sent dues, it's probably time to send them again. Please print this page and send your dues and gifts to Mr. Caffey's address shown above.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

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

