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Manuscripts submitted for publication and all other correspondence should be addressed to Editor: METHODIST HISTORY, P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940. Prospective authors are advised to write for guidelines or visit www.gcah.org.
CONTRIBUTORS

SCOTT KISKER is Professor of the History of Christianity at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He specializes in Wesley studies and pietist studies. He is currently researching cultural transitions in nineteenth-century Methodism. He earned degrees from Swarthmore College; the Divinity School of Duke University; and Drew University, where he earned his Ph.D. His most recent book is *Longing for Spring: A New Vision for Wesleyan Community*, co-authored with Elaine Heath (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2010).

MARTIN WELLINGS is Superintendent Minister of the Oxford Methodist Circuit, and minister of Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, UK. A graduate of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he was President of the World Methodist Historical Society 2006-2011. He has co-edited *The Ashgate Research Companion to World Methodism*.

JOSEPH DIPAOLO is senior pastor of the Wayne (PA) United Methodist Church, president of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Historical Society, and secretary of the NEJ Commission on Archives and History. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, and as editor of the annual historical journal *Annals of Eastern Pennsylvania*. 
EDITOR’S NOTE

What an honor and privilege it is to take the editor’s chair for Methodist History. I follow in the tradition of two highly-esteemed and effective annotators of this important journal, Drs. Charles Yrigoyen and Robert Williams. Their guiding wisdom and consultation, along with the careful eye of my Executive Assistant, Michelle Merkel-Brunskill, have been invaluable in getting this issue to print.

October’s Methodist History is a typical thoughtful, diverse offering of scholarship:
Scott Kisker’s subject is Bishop Matthew Simpson, one of American Methodism’s most powerful and far-reaching figures. His paper, “Methodist Abroad: Matthew Simpson and the Emergence of American Methodism as a World Church,” has much to offer both its immediate historical context and the denomination’s contemporary experience as a being a global church.
Martin Wellings’ paper comes from a member of the worldwide Methodist family. “Renewal, Reunion, and Revival: Three British Methodist Approaches to ‘Serving the Present Age’ in the 1950s” challenges assumptions of a weakening religious life, citing evidence of revival in the decade and a half after World War II. The paper’s exploration and assessment of the church’s strategies “to serve the present age,” in times of revival or retreat, still speaks to Methodism’s engagement with the wider society.
Closer to home, Joe DiPaolo’s paper is a character study of nineteenth-century Evangelical Association preacher, Moses Dissinger, “A Very Singular Man” indeed. In addition to the tracing the faith and ministry journey of a Civil War-era preacher who turned pugilism into piety, the paper offers valuable insight into the views of leaders and lay people from an antecedent strain of United Methodist DNA.

Alfred T. Day III