President’s Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

Texas Methodists have celebrated centennials since at least 1839 when a series of camp meetings was held in honor of the formation of Methodist Societies in England in 1739. In 1884 Texans (both MEC and MECS) went to Baltimore to participate in the remembrance of the Christmas Conference of 1784. In 1919 there was a joint campaign of the Northern and Southern branches of the church to raise funds for seven designated mission emphases in honor of the first Methodist mission to the Wyandot Indians in 1819. In 1934 there was a grand historical celebration in San Antonio to celebrate what organizers called the Texas Methodist Centennial. In 1936 annual conferences in Texas met in joint session in Houston and toured the San Jacinto Battlefield as part of the Texas Centennial celebration.

We are in the middle of another season of centennial and sesquicentennial celebrations. The Southwest Texas Conference is concluding its year-long sesquicentennial celebration in Goliad on Nov. 14. The Northwest Texas and Central Texas Conferences are in centennial celebration mode as we speak. Texas in 1910 was a town promoter’s heaven. New towns sprang up in the Gulf Coastal Plain, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Panhandle Plains. Methodist preachers quickly organized churches in these new towns. The result is that many of our local churches are celebrating or will soon celebrate their centennials.

The TUMHS is eager to support these observances. Send us information about special historic celebrations. If there is a printed history in conjunction with the celebration, please enter it in the Kate Warnick competition. If you need a speaker, help with the historical research, bibliographic assistance, or any other help, let us know. We would be happy to publicize any celebrations, heritage center openings, or historical publications.

The response to the first edition of the TUMHS Newsletter which we distributed via email was gratifying. Several people forwarded it to friends and relatives. If you know of anyone who would appreciate knowing about the work of the TUMHS, send an email to wchardt@gmail.com, and I will add that person to the distribution list. The next edition of the Newsletter should arrive in your inbox about February 1, 2010. It will contain information about the Annual Meeting in Lubbock and constitutional amendments the Executive Committee is proposing.
Dr. David Murrah to Keynote 2010 Annual Meeting

Dr. Rob Sledge, TUMHS Vice President and Program Chair has announced that Dr. David Murrah will speak at the banquet at the Annual Meeting on Friday, March 26, 2010 in Lubbock.

Dr. Murrah’s keynote address will be *Created by Man, Divided--by God!*

Many of you know Dr. Murrah as the author of “*And Are We Yet Alive*” *The History of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church* (2009)

Dr. David J. Murrah is a vice president and Senior Historian with Southwest Museum Services at Houston. Dr. Murrah retired in 1996 from Texas Tech University after a 25-year career as archivist and director of the Southwest Collection. A native of Gruver, Texas, Murrah holds a BA degree from Hardin-Simmons University and MA and Ph.D. degrees in history from Texas Tech. Prior to his association with the Southwest Collection in 1971, he taught in Texas public schools (Springtown and Morton) for five years.

He is a member of several historical and archival professional organizations. Dr. Murrah is a past president of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) and the West Texas Historical Association (WTHA). He was given SSA's Distinguished Service Award in 1988, and was awarded a lifetime membership by WTHA in April 1991. The Texas Tech Ex-Students Association honored him in 1992 with its Distinguished Service Award. He has also served on the Lubbock Libraries Board, the Lubbock Urban Design and Historical Commission, the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Texas Review Board of the National Register of Historic Places.

Dr. Murrah has written or edited six books related to Texas history and more than forty other publications. Among those works are *C.C. Slaughter: Rancher, Banker, Baptist* (1981) and *Oil, Taxes, and Cats: A History of the DeVitt Family and the Mallet Ranch* (1995).

The complete program, registration materials, housing information, and transportation information will be in the Feb. 1, 2010 TUMHS Newsletter.
Central Texas Conference Centennial Plans

The Rev. Michael Pattison, Chair of the Central Texas Conference Commission on Archives and History supplied the following about the CTC centennial.

When Enoch Mather Marvin arrived late at the 1866 General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South being held in New Orleans, he found he had been elected to the episcopacy. During his first year, he presided over the inaugural session of a new annual conference in Waxahachie. The Texas Conference had been divided and had given life to the Northwest Texas Conference. By 1910 that conference had become the largest in the state, so it was divided again. The present Northwest Texas Conference was given the name and the present Central Texas Conference was given the archives from the founding conference. 2010 marks the centennial of both conferences.

The Central Texas Conference has never had a published history, so a volunteer committee of lay and clergy members is working to produce one in 2010.

Dr. Henry Radde chairs a committee that is planning a centennial celebration which will be held in Fort Worth in the autumn of 2010.

Texas Methodist History on the Internet

The weekly blog, This Week in Texas Methodist History is completing its 4th year—that’s 200 columns. You may read all of them at http://txmethhistory.blogspot.com/

More Texas Methodist History on the Internet

Carol Roszell, Central Texas Conference Archivist, has informed us that many Methodist archival materials are now available at the Portal to Texas History. http://texashistory.unt.edu/

The Portal is a project of the University of North Texas that began in 2002. It provides scanned images of documents, photographs, and physical objects from the collections of museums and archives around the state.

The user can access Central Texas Conference and Northwest Texas Conference (pre-1910) Journals, 198 historic photographs from the CTC Archives, and other valuable sources.

The site features a powerful search engine. New items are constantly being added so check back often.

Executive Committee Meets January 11

The TUMHS Executive Committee will meet at the Central Texas Conference office, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, at 10:00 a.m. on January 11.

Executive Committee meetings are open. We encourage attendance and participation by the membership. We usually have committee chairs, annual conference Commission members, and interested observers.

If you have an agenda item you would like to bring before the meeting, email President Hardt at wchardt@gmail.com.
Sesquicentennial Celebration in Goliad

The summer edition of the *Newsletter* had an article about the Southwest Texas Conference Centennial Celebration. The culminating event is to be held in Goliad on November 14.

More information and registration for the meal can be found at the conference website.
http://www.umcsjwtx.org/anniversay.html?lnum=15350620

Please register by November 1.

Membership

Annual dues in the TUMHS are $12.50 per year for individuals and $15.00 for couples. A life membership is $200. To become a full member in the TUMHS, send your dues to the Rev. John C. Johnson, Treasurer, 6766 Silver Saddle Road, Fort Worth, TX 76126. Current members should report address changes to Rev. Johnson so we can assure delivery of the *Heritage Journal*. His email address is jcjohn0100@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Johnson reports that less than one half of the members are current with their 2009 dues. If you are not sure about your dues status, email Rev. Johnson.

Your dues support the TUMHS programs including the Essay Contest for college and seminary students, the publication of the *Heritage Journal*, and annual meeting expenses.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE BUILDINGS?

Texas Methodists have created many institutions including schools, hospitals, retirement homes, and homes for children. Can you identify the institution pictured here?

The answer will appear in the next edition of the TUMHS *Newsletter*.

LOOKING AHEAD

2010 Annual meeting—Lubbock, March 26/27

2010 South Central Jurisdictional Convocation of Archivists—July, Central Methodist University, Fayette, MO, July 8-10.

2011 Annual Meeting of the TUMHS—Chappell Hill

2011 Historical Society of the UMC—Oklahoma City

All information is subject to change.