

# TEXAS UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010 vol. 1, #4

## President's Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

The 2010 TUMHS Annual Meeting is now history. Vice President Rob Sledge's summary of the meeting appears elsewhere in this issue. Since he has covered the events of the meeting so well, I would like to add a few personal notes.

Historical and geographical understanding always involves an understanding of scale. In my career as a teacher, I always looked for ways to help my students with the concept in both history and geography. I should confess that I was not always successful, perhaps because a certain amount of life experience that comes only with age may be necessary to understand scale.

Our meeting location in Lubbock provided plenty of opportunity for reflection on scale. Time and distance both seem to stand out distinctively on the Plains. My route to the Annual Meeting took me from Fort Worth to Lubbock via Highways 199 and 114. By travelling that route, it is possible to drive more than 250 miles and never be in a city with a population of 5,000 or greater. Journeys like that can stimulate the historical imagination. One reflects on the early circuit riders like Gravis, Annis, and Hosmer. They travelled over some of that same country looking for one more sinner to save. One should travel the same ground to appreciate the scale of ministry of the early circuit riders.

The foundations laid by the circuit riders took off after the construction of railroads and the transition from ranching to farming. Farming became mechanized and the population of the Plains became concentrated in the cities. Small towns shrank or disappeared, and cities grew. David Murrah has provided us with an excellent history of how these events impacted Methodism in his *Are We Yet Alive?*. Since his was a centennial history, the events of which Dr. Murrah wrote took place during the lives of our parents and grandparents—in other words during a time scale to which we can personally relate.

The Methodists of Lubbock and the Northwest Texas Conference showed why West Texans have a reputation for hospitality. Betty Carr of Lubbock FUMC thought of everything! The staff at Lubbock FUMC and the NWT Conference Office extended so many courtesies I could not begin to list them all. The NWT Commission on Archives and History provided a model for hosting Annual Meetings. We should give special thanks to Garry and Annette Nall. The next time you see Annette, ask her for her sandwich loaf recipe.

# 2010 JURISDICTIONAL CONVOCATION ANNOUNCED FOR MISSOURI, JULY 8-10

Texas Methodist archivists, local church historians, and conference commission members are already marking the dates of July 8-10 on their calendars, checking airline schedules, and planning their summer vacations around the biennial Convocation of Archivists for the South Central Jurisdiction.

The Missouri Annual Conference will host the gathering at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri. The program theme is *To Be A Witness*. . . and promises to be a fine one and includes a mixture of hands-on tips for preservation and an insight into our Methodist heritage.

We Texans owe much to our Missouri connections. The first Methodist preachers to preach in Texas were from the Missouri Conference. William Stevenson, among others, preached along the Red River settlements even before Mexican independence from Spain. Bishop Enoch Marvin was a Missourian who came to Marshall in the Civil War and upon his election to the episcopacy in 1866 became one of the best-loved bishops in Texas. Marvin UMC in Tyler is a reflection of the affection Texans had for him.

The location at CMU highlights another connection. The convocation sessions will be held in McMurry Hall. That's the same McMurry as in McMurry University in Abilene.

Registration begins at noon on Thursday, July 8 in McMurry Hall. The event lasts through Saturday at noon.

Participants may register for \$60 without lodging or \$80 if they wish to stay in an air conditioned dormitory. Linens are not provided, but rooms have in-room shower facilities. The registration fee includes meals and tour to Glasgow, Missouri.

Joy Flanders is managing registration, and she has provided the following contact information:

Missouri United Methodist Archives  
Attn: Joy Flanders  
411 Central Methodist University  
Fayette, MO 65248-1198

Telephone; 660-248-6279 or 888-CMU-1854

Email [jdflande@centralmethodist.edu](mailto:jdflande@centralmethodist.edu)

It's always great to meet Methodist archivists and historians from across the denomination. The programs are interesting and useful, the friendships forged by our common interest are gratifying, and the opportunity to see historic Methodist sites in other states is always an inspiration. See you in Missouri in July!



## ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Vice President Robert Sledge was kind enough to supply a summary of the Annual Meeting.

It's a 21st Century problem – can an electronic production considered a “publication?”

The Texas United Methodist Historical Society held its 35th annual meeting at Lubbock First United Methodist Church March 25-26. The Society is sponsored by the eight annual conferences with appointments in Texas. Each year the organization presents Kate Warnick Awards to the best local church histories produced by congregations in the eight participating annual conferences. Dr. William J. Bryan III of Perkins chairs the awards committee. This year the Warnick Awards went to Chapel Hill UMC of Farmer's Branch, a medium sized church, and Christ UMC of Plano, a large church. The compromise solution to the question of electronic publication was to allow such works, but with the provision that three hard copies be submitted as well.

Some forty persons were in attendance. The meeting's theme was an observance of the 100th anniversary of the separation of the old Northwest Texas Conference into two parts, the older half taking the name Central Texas Conference and the conference records; the newer half kept the name Northwest Texas.

Both conferences planned to produce books celebrating their 100 years of existence. The Northwest Texas volume, written by Dr. David Murrah, is entitled *And Are We Yet Alive?* and appeared last year. It is a nominee for the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church's Saddlebag Selection. Murrah, former professor at Texas Tech and former head

of Tech's distinguished “Southwest Collection,” was the featured speaker at the event. The Central Texas Conference's forthcoming volume is being produced by a committee of writers, two of whom, Michael Patison and Carol Roszell, also addressed the meeting.

A fourth speaker was Betty J. Brownsted, winner of the TUMHS's prize for a student essay on an aspect of Texas Methodist history. Her paper was nominated by Perkins professor Ted Campbell.

At the business session, the TUMHS elected officers for the next biennium. They are William C. Hardt of Brenham, president; Robert W. Sledge of Abilene, vice president; Daniel Flores of Fort Worth, secretary; and Jean H. Traster of Arlington, treasurer. The Society unveiled the sixth volume of its annual *Heritage Journal*, the thickest edition thus far and the first to receive “perfect binding.” The 2011 meeting will be held in Chappell Hill, focusing on the theme of “Robert Alexander and His World.” Alexander was one of the three first Methodist missionaries sent to the Republic of Texas in 1837, and by far the longest-lived of the three.

### **John and Helen Johnson**

Circumstance and distance prevented John and Helen Johnson from attending the Annual Meeting. They have provided faithful service in making sure the Society's financial house was in order. John's financial reports are clear, easy-to-read, and complete.

John and Helen, we all look forward to your return to Texas.

## BRIDWELL ARCHIVES UPDATE

The TUMHS has a special relationship with Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology at SMU. One part of that relationship consists of the Warnick Awards. Timothy Binkley, Archivist at Bridwell, has recently made changes to the website that many of you will wish to access. The image of Kate Warnick is from the Bridwell Archives. It shows her at Commencement in May 1961. Perhaps you were there.

Perkins School of Theology's Bridwell Library provides services and scholarly resources to students, faculty, and other patrons doing research in theology, ministry, and the humanities. Its holdings include a broad-ranging general collection, a remarkable collection of rare books and manuscripts, and an extensive collection of Methodist studies resources.

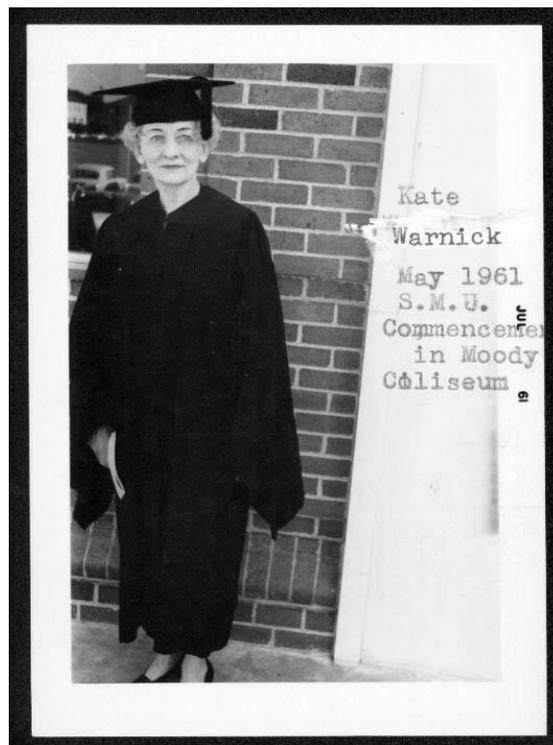
For many years, Bridwell Library has collected and preserved archival materials documenting the history of Perkins School of Theology, Bridwell Library, and Methodism in the South Central United States. These three archives and the three externally-managed United Methodist archives that reside at Bridwell Library (the North Texas Conference Archive, the Rio Grande Conference Archive, and the South Central Jurisdiction Archive) contain more than 3000 linear feet of published and unpublished research materials.

In order to build greater awareness of the Archives at Bridwell Library, Archivist Timothy Binkley has recently posted a web page (<http://smu.edu/bridwell/specialcollections/>

[Archives/index.htm](#)) and linked documents interpreting the program and its more than 175 named collections of personal and professional papers, institutional records and publications, images, recordings, and ephemera. As new inventories and Finding Aids are completed, they are added to the website. Completed Finding Aids are also published on the Texas Archival Resources Online website

(<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/index.html>) where scholars can search across the collections of twenty-seven archival repositories in Texas.

Bridwell Library's Special Collections and Archives are open to the public Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 p.m. For more information about the Archives, or to schedule an appointment, please contact Timothy Binkley at [tbinkley@smu.edu](mailto:tbinkley@smu.edu) or 214-768-1989.



## Have You Paid Your Dues?

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 Jean Traster, 2014 Iron Horse Ct. Arlington, Tx 76017  
[jeanhtraster@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanhtraster@yahoo.com)

Don't you just hate the pledge drives on NPR and PBS! I promise not to become as irritating. On the other hand, I don't think the TUMHS will ever offer coffee mugs, tote bags, or DVD's as incentives for membership contributions. I won't even use shame and guilt as they sometimes do. I would like to point out one real advantage dues-paying members have.

That advantage is a subscription to the *Heritage Journal*.

Journal Editor Rob Sledge recently distributed volume six. It just keeps getting better and better. The *Heritage Journal* began because so many members requested copies of papers presented at the Annual Meeting. Rob agreed to edit those papers, add additional material, and manage the production and distribution of the finished product.

The first five volumes were warmly received by the Texas Methodist historical community. Buoyed by the positive response, the Board of Directors decided to upgrade the *Heritage Journal* even more by changing the stapled version to a "perfect binding." The upgrade increased costs, but was justified by the increased usefulness of the publication.

Your dues support the publication of the *Journal*, the Warnick Awards, the Student Essay Contest, and the Annual Meeting. Certainly you will receive \$12.50 worth of benefit from advancing these worthy causes. If this appeal doesn't work, I'll get to work on the tote bag promotion.

The Editor

