

# METHODIST HISTORY

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*Cover: A page from the first catalogue of the Methodist Book Concern or Publishing House issued by John Dickens in 1795. See Endicott's article on page 81.*

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# METHODIST HISTORY

Robert J. Williams, Editor

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## CONTENTS

Contributors .....	74
Editor's Note .....	75
The Paradox of African American Methodist History <i>by Bishop Forrest C. Stith</i> .....	76
Settling the "Printing Business": John Dickins and the Methodist Episcopal Book Concern from 1789 to 1798 <i>by Lucas Endicott</i> .....	81
"Till Charity Wept": 1844 Revisited <i>by Robert W. Sledge</i> .....	92
Albert C. Outler and the Heart of the Christian Tradition <i>by Ted A. Campbell</i> .....	113
Book Reviews .....	125
Calendar of Events for 2010 .....	130
Statement of Ownership .....	134

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue includes three essays that were first delivered at important gatherings. The first was delivered by Bishop Forrest C. Stith as his response to receiving the Distinguished Service Award granted by the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church on September 11, 2009. The award is granted annually. Recipients have included K. James Stein; Karl Heinz Voigt; S T Kimbrough, Jr.; Patricia Thompson; Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.; Justo Gonzalez; Jean Miller Schmidt; Joe Hale; and Russell Richey among others. Bishop Stith was recognized for his distinctive and tireless leadership of bringing to fruition the vision of Black Methodists For Church Renewal for an African American Methodist Heritage Center. The work of the Center is carried out in close partnership with the General Commission and its offices are at the Archives Center at Drew University. Satellite centers for artifacts and documents will be developed. The address was a very personal and insightful glimpse of the place of African Americans within the Methodist movement.

The second address that is included in this issue was by Dr. Robert Sledge, delivered at the 20th annual meeting of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church. Dr. Sledge was the first president of the Society and his essay articulates how rhetoric can have such profound consequence to the point that "charity weeps." This essay also appears in *Proceedings*, Southern Jurisdictional Historical Society, 2009.

The third address was delivered by Dr. Ted Campbell as a lecture during Ministers Week at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, in January, 2008. The program was in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Albert C. Outler.

Robert J. Williams