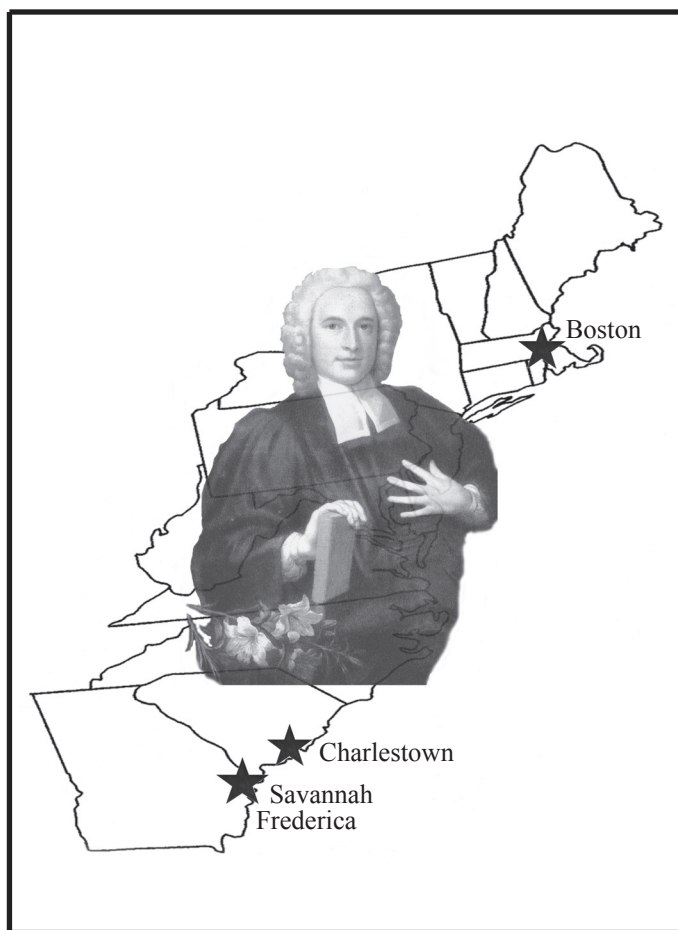


METHODIST HISTORY

January 2007

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CHARLES WESLEY IN AMERICA



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Cover: For about five months in 1736 (March 9-July 26) Charles Wesley (1707-1788) served in the Colony of Georgia as a missionary of the Church of England and sojourned briefly in Charlestown (July 31-August 11, 1736; the town name later became Charleston, South Carolina) where he departed by ship for England. He spent about a month in Boston (September 24-October 26, 1736) when the ship docked there for repairs. Charles Wesley image courtesy of Drew University, Madison, New Jersey. Cover design by Mark C. Shenise.

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Robert J. Williams, Editor

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue is a departure from the long standing practice of publishing several articles by devoting this entire issue to a single article by a single author. The importance of this work and the significance of the tercentenary year of Charles Wesley's birth, compels this decision. The importance of the American section of Charles's *Journal* is unquestioned and the forthcoming publication of the entire *Journal* by Abingdon Press is eagerly anticipated. This introduction and two chapters which follows will be a useful aid in reading that work.

The contributor to this issue is Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr., currently the Bell Scholar at the Theological School of Drew University. He is an authority on the works of Charles Wesley and has authored *Lost in Wonder* and *A Heart to Praise My God: Hymns of Charles Wesley for Today*.

With O. A. Beckerlegge, he has edited *The Unpublished Poetry of Charles Wesley*, 3 volumes. He has also edited *Orthodox and Wesleyan Spirituality*, and *Orthodox and Wesleyan Scriptural Understanding and Practice*. He was a charter member and the first president of the Charles Wesley Society and will be one of two recipients of the 2007, Distinguished Service Award granted by the General Commission on Archives and History.

Many events will mark the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley including the Sixth Historical Convocation, July 20-22, 2007, in Washington, DC. Details can be found at the Commission's web site: www.gcqh.org. Registration deadline is June 1. The Charles Wesley website (www.wesleysociety.org), the Global Praise section of the General Board of Global Ministries website (www.globalpraise.org), and the General Board of Discipleship website (www.gbod.org) have useful information. The theme for Heritage Sunday, May 20, is an observance of the life and ministry of Charles. It was on May 21, 1738, that Charles had a profound experience of faith, predating his brother John's Aldersgate experience by three days.

I am grateful to all those who make the production of this journal possible. Michelle Merkel, Administrative Assistant for the Commission handles many details of working with the printer and the post office; Dale Patterson and Mark Shenise, Archivists, find the images for the cover; and for several years, Dr. Paula Cameron has served as proofreader, now having relinquished that position. Many thanks to her for her careful and critical work. The Editorial Board offers valued advice to the editor.

Robert J. Williams