

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

HISTORICAL BULLETIN

VOLUME 32

COMBINED FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER ISSUE, 2003

JIM UDY, FORMER CHAIRPERSON

Jim Udy, former chairperson of our Historical Society, died Monday, February 24th, after battling with ill health for some time. The funeral was held Monday, March 3rd at the Galston Uniting Church, Australia. Condolences may be sent to Jim's wife, Anne, at 28 Nolland Road, Arcadia, NSW 2159, Australia.

2006 World Methodist Conference

Seoul, Korea has been selected as the site for the 19th World Methodist Conference in 2006. Our Historical Society will be meeting in conjunction with that event, so watch for the specific dates for placement on your calendar.

WORLD PARISH AVAILABLE

WORLD PARISH is the bi-monthly publication of the World Methodist Council. Members of the Historical Society may request to be added to the mailing list by writing: World Parish, PO Box 518, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745, USA. There is no cost.

WORLD METHODIST MUSEUM EVENT

Arrangements are being completed to display the paintings by John Hurst of the places in the life and times of John Wesley in October at the World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska, NC, USA. The Friends of the World Museum will see the series of paintings and sketches on Saturday, October 18th, and the public will see them at an open house Sunday afternoon, the 19th. Mr. Hurst will come from England to tell of his experiences in selecting and drawing the locations, and to autograph copies of his book containing the watercolors.

NEW BRAZILIAN SECTION

According to Joao Wesley Dornellas, a new Brazilian section of our World Historical Society, was established May 3rd in a meeting attended by two bishops and other authorities of the Church. They elected an 11-member board to begin work and prepare a constitution. They plan a general meeting in January or February, 2004. They have 50 members and will allow others to join them as Founders through December 31st.

Wesley Dornellas, our reporter, was elected President. Dr. Duncan Alexander Reily was named honorary president in light of his major contributions to the history of Methodism and Wesleyan doctrine.

A message from Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., our general secretary, was translated, read and given to each participant at the organizing session. They promoted a thanksgiving service on June 17th in the chapel of the Methodist Church in Catete, their first Brazilian church, built in the late 19th century. An itinerant exhibition about Wesley will be available at several locations.

You Are Still Invited To Attend
THE FIFTH HISTORICAL CONVOCATION
The United Methodist Church
Thursday, August 14 - Sunday, August 17
At Drew University and Xavier Center, NJ
"JOHN WESLEY: HIS LIFE AND LEGACY"
Celebrating the 300th Anniversary of His Birth

Co-sponsors of this event include the North American Section, World Methodist Historical Society; the Charles Wesley Society; and the World Methodist Council. For registration form and advanced program announcement, write: GCAH, PO Box 127, Madison, NJ -7940, USA.

PLATES, PLATES ... AND MORE PLATES!

Barbara and Tom Southwell paid \$1.00 for a commemorative Methodist church plate at a yard sale in Kansas City, MO, USA in 1988, 15 years ago. That was the beginning of a collection of over 1,450 plates today - with additional plates contributed nearly every week. They have plates from all the United States as well as a number of other countries. The plates are all Methodist related - and include Primitive Methodist, Free Methodist, Evangelical United Brethren, AME, CME, ME, ME South, and United Methodist. In addition to local church plates, others tell about colleges and universities, hospitals and homes, and missions.

Last October the Southwells displayed "The Ebenezer Collection - Plates of Remembrance" at St. Luke's UM Church in Memphis, TN, USA on 70 8' tables! They were attempting to meet all the requirements to establish it as the World's Largest Commemorative Methodist Heritage Plate Collection according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The process was finished very recently and we await the results.

If you wish further information - or might like to donate one or more plates to the collection, contact the Southwells at 4070 Barron Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111, USA.

e.mail: Tom87Barb@highstream.net

website: www.ebenzercollection.com

They have a database that identifies each plate and its donor.

The Friends of the World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska, NC, USA are considering a future exhibit of some or all of the collection. The collection has been bequeathed to the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church to remain together in perpetuity. - AWS

- 2003 Anniversary Celebration -

NOTE TO YOU! Please send us information on events related to the celebration of the 300th anniversary of John Wesley's birth, both before and after your programs. Thank you very much!

ART'S ATTIC

This and That from Here and There
Compiled by Ye Olde Editor

Our apology for this late and combined issue of our Society Bulletin. We simply did not hear from our readers and contributors from around the Church. Therefore, we had nothing to share!

Our inquiry in the last issue with a series of questions about the death mask of John Wesley has brought no responses. It makes us even more curious. Who knows the answers? And yes, we are still seeking the location of the other mourning ring.

Here's a little something I wrote recently. What do you imagine in the future of our heritage? Please share.

ONE WONDERS ...

... if among all our bishops, superintendents, and other leaders, there is anyone writing a journal of the nature of Wesley and Asbury and other early leaders - the story of dealing with theological and contemporary issues - the record of feelings and thoughts of a leader in the Christian movement of this generation, day after day, year after year. Will we have anything more than the sterile records of conferences and meetings?

... If any lay persons is intentionally including their spiritual pilgrimage as a part of their diary or journal. What was really involved at the time of a change of pastor or a building program was underway? How are folks involved in mission and ministry in any particular country, a local church and a community?

... If perhaps our present generation is the poorest of all in recording our history and maintaining our church archives. Who keeps any record of the decisions made in telephone conversations? How quickly e.mail is deleted by sender and receiver? How often are the contents of a computer memory thrown out with the old computer? How often do we rework a document on the screen and all the earlier drafts are actually

lost, with no trace of the development of an idea or a program, sometimes over an extended time period?

... If you, as a leader in the historical community of our Church, are recording and preserving your own unique ministry in the church. How hard will it be a generation or two to establish what on earth you did for the glory of God?

... If you have already destroyed important records of the Church when you moved into a new office, or a new home, or a new community.

... If you will continue to go forth and make history AND actively preserve our heritage. What do you often wish earlier generations of church leaders had done to preserve history? Are you improving on their record? One wonders ...

One of the major concerns in today's church is the preservation of electronic records. Though the news release that follows this column is addressed to United Methodist church leaders, it ought to concern leaders throughout the world Christian community. To make it even more applicable, we asked L. Dale Patterson, the archivist at the United Methodist Archives and History Center in Madison, NJ, USA, to answer a specific concern of the historian in a local congregation. What we think we have saved on disks or in electronic files we may not be able to retrieve!

Until you read me again, do share the story!

- Art Swarthout, Editor

GENERAL COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY WARNS OF DRAWBACKS TO ELECTRONIC RECORDS

(From the United Methodist News Service)

Saving official church records is not always as simple as it may appear, according to the General Commission. A particular concern is that some annual conferences are considering publishing

their annual journals electronically as a cost-saving measure.

In a March 27th letter to all Annual Conference secretaries, the Commission's "basic suggestion is that regardless of the publication process, the conference should still create a limited number of paper copies of the conference journal on acid-free paper."

"With the continued rapid change of technology there is no guarantee that an electronic journal will be readable in five to 10 years," GCAH said.

Data stored 15 years ago on 5.25-inch and 3.5-inch floppy discs has been lost if it has not been transferred to more recent formats, the letter noted.

"In addition to the fact that the physical storage medium will change over time, there is also the problem of being able to read a file for the long term. Already, earlier versions of Word documents cannot be read by the current Word program."

A conference journal needs to be accessed for at least 50 years in dealing with personnel issues, such as pastors' pensions, said L. Dale Patterson, archivist and records administrator for the Commission.

"The electronic solution is to migrate files whenever the technology changes," he said. "This is often treated as a trivial exercise, but it is not. It costs time and money to migrate a file from one medium or one program to another." The time when the tools for accomplishing this are available is usually limited and the loss of data or formatting is a real risk.

Patterson pointed out that The United Methodist Church's *Book of Discipline* requires that two copies of the conference journal be sent to the General Commission on Archives and History, and two copies to the conference archives. At the very least, these should be paper copies, he said. He urged that additional paper copies be given to the bishop, district superintendents and the conference office.

Reprinted from The United Methodist Church
Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society
News Notes, June, 2003 issue with permission:

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: I am historian for our local church. Both the church secretary and our office computer have recently been replaced. I have been given all the discs from the old computer for our history collection. How do I store them? I do not know exactly what is on the discs. How do I find out and create some kind of index? How do I even gain access? The computer is gone. Help!

Answer: This type of challenge will become more common for the Local Church Historian in the years to come. The immediate issue is dealing with these backup files. You must have access to a computer, any computer, to solve the problem. If you are not sure how to manipulate a computer than find someone willing to help who is.

Then take a look at the files on the disk. You will see one of two possibilities: 1) If the church secretary copied the files directly from the original computer's hard disk to the diskettes, then you should see individual files. The solution then is to print out those files and decide which ones should be kept and which should be tossed. You will find access to the same programs which created these files in order to print them out. Check with your church office. Place the printed material in your church archives and dispose of the diskettes. 2) If you see only one file, or just a couple, then it is possible that the church secretary used a special backup program to save the files. Such a program compacts the files into one or two special files and saves space, allowing a person to store more on a diskette. In order to view the files you must have access to the same backup program. The backup program will allow you to "unpack" the files onto your computer and then you can print them out and decide which to keep and which to toss. If you, or others in your church, can't find the backup program, then the files are effectively lost. There is nothing you can do. Go ahead and toss the diskettes.

You can see that my main recommendation is to print the files to paper. With modern technology still in a rapid flux there is no way that diskettes, or files, created today can be guaranteed to be read tomorrow. Printing out the information and storing the appropriate material in your local church archives is the best way to preserve your church's heritage.

To attempt to leave the files in electronic format means that every time there is an operating system change, or format change, you would need to copy the files from the old format to the new. That can get expensive. Material will get lost. Already some companies are selling computers without diskette drives.

That said, computer literacy is critical for the church historian. You need to be familiar with the programs the church office is using. You need to learn how to use and manage a computer. In addition to learning about proper storage and preservation issues, you will also need to learn some computer basics. It is something we all need to learn nowadays. Make friends with the new secretary. Find out what he or she is using on their computer. Even more, make use of your conference's local church retention schedules, or get our guidelines from our web site, so that the church office is preserving its important documents in a format which can easily be used in the future. Your church office will appreciate you for it. You can learn more about this at our web sit: <http://www.gcah.org/confsched.html>

Hope this helps. If you have other questions please feel free to contact me at:
d.patterson@gcah.org.

- L. Dale Patterson
Archivist/Records Administrator
General Commission on Archives and History
P. O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940, USA

Editor's Note: In reading Dale's response to the question, we are reminded that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. Remember the church historian who provided acid-free paper on a shelf near the copy machine in the church office and asked the secretary to make a copy of any material she copied. The

historian even had a special box where this extra copy was placed. She emptied it regularly into her archives for sorting and filing. Maybe the best long-range solution with computer content is the same request to the secretary. "Please make me a copy on acid-free paper of items you print out from your computer. Please consider doing this same thing before deleting anything from your files. If in doubt, print."

A second thought: Keep all such items for at least a year. Then ask the questions: Is this information available anywhere else now? If I were writing the story of this congregation 25 or 50 years from now, would I want to know what is on this page? Save not just the bare bones of your history, but the flesh and spirit of God's people of previous generations.

Example: In reviewing the old records of a local church in Nebraska, USA, the most revealing item was a beat-up notebook that contained the details of food sales by the church women at the various property auctions in the area over an extended time period. The prices were almost unbelievable. But what really had value was the various lists of names of the families that donated and the women who worked ... and, yes, who sold what farm or ranch, and when.

- 2003 Anniversary Celebration -

WORLD METHODIST HEADQUARTERS BUILDING DEDICATED AT JUNALUSKA

The formal service of dedication for the new Royce and Jane Reynolds Headquarters for World Methodist was held on Friday, July 12, 2002 at Lake Junaluska, NC, USA. A gift of more than \$1 million from the Reynolds made construction of the new building possible. The Queen Anne architecture replicates one of Methodism's most historic sites, the Epworth Old Rectory, Epworth, England. The World Methodist Council owns the original Old Rectory in England, also.

Dedication ceremonies were led by Bishop Thomas Hoyt, Jr., President of the North American Section of the World Methodist Council, along with Dr. Frances M. Alguire,

Honorary President; Ms. Maggie Petreska of Skopje, Macedonia, World Methodist Council Summer Intern for 2002 and 2003; Bishop Robert Fannin, United Methodist Church, Birmingham, AL; and members of the WMC Executive Committee. Several hundred local residents and special guests participated in the service and open house which followed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new building houses the administrative offices of the World Methodist Council.

Plans are underway to remodel the space in the World Methodist Museum, formerly office space, to expand the display areas.

- 2003 Anniversary Celebration -

ASIAN METHODIST COUNCIL FORMED

Asian Methodists now have a common platform to do mission work and a voice in world forums with the recent formation of the Asian Methodist Council (AMC). It was established at the First Asian Methodist Convention in Seoul, Korea, June 14-18, 2002, and was attended by some 300 participants from 14 Asian countries. Bishop Robert Solomon of the Methodist Church in Singapore delivered the keynote address, "Asian Methodism: All to Jesus, Together for Christ."

A constitution, drafted by the Fellowship of Asian Methodist Bishops, was presented as a working document to be improved and presented at the 1st General Assembly of the AMC in three years.

Bishop Chang Kwang Young of the Korean Methodist Church, was elected chair of the AMC Executive Committee. He declared: "Today is the day when we proclaim the life of prophets who spread the word of salvation. Today is the day when we start to build up the Asian community." He outlined three duties the Asian churches should perform to help build God's kingdom: to expand the mission area; to be disciplined and diligent in faith even as they reach out through social services; and to foster solidarity and to cooperate and exchange information among Asian churches.

- Peter Teo

OFFICERS 2001-2006**PRESIDENT:** Heigo Ritsbek, P. O. Box 342, 10503 Tallinn, Estonia**VICE-PRESIDENTS:**AFRICA: Joan A. Millard, P.O. Box 996, Cramerville, Sandton 2060, Republic of South Africa
David K. Yemba, Africa University, P. O. Box 1320, Mutare, Zimbabwe

AMERICAS: Luis Wesley de Souza, Brazil

Marilyn Fardig Whiteley, 226 Exhibition Street, Guelph, Ontario N1H 4R5, Canada

ASIA: Deepak Kenneth Benjamin, Opposite P.W.D. Inspection House, Civil Lines - II, Bijnor, U.P.
246701, India (dkben@rediffmail.com)

Takeo Kega, 4-25 Shibuya 4-Chome, Shibuya-Ju, Tokyo 150, Japan

EUROPE: Peder Borgen, Nannestadgata 3, 2000 Lillestrom, Norway

Febe Rossi, V. lo Speronetto 8, 35033 S. Biagio di Teolo, Padova, Italy

GREAT BRITAIN/IRELAND: Thomas Kingston, 220 Barton Road East, Dundrum, Dublin 14, Ireland

Tim Macquiban, Wesley and Methodist Studies Centre, Brookes University, Oxford OX2 9AT, U.K.

OCEANIA: Daryl Lightfoot, P. O. Box 574, Toronto 2253 NSW, Australia

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: E. Dorothy Graham, 34 Spiceland Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 INS, U.K.

Lorna Lok Nah Khoo, 20 Jalan Sahabat, Singapore 1954

Martin Wellings, 53 Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2BP, U.K.

GENERAL SECRETARY: Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., P. O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940-0127, USA**TREASURER:** Robert J. Williams, 327 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, USA**DIRECTOR, WORLD CATALOGUE OF METHODIST MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS:**

Mary K. Calkin, 3800 N. Fairfax Drive # 502, Arlington, VA 22203-1703, USA

EDITOR, HISTORICAL BULLETIN: (E-mail: awswarhout@ioa.com)

Arthur W. Swarhout, P. O. Box 268, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745-0268, USA.

PAST PRESIDENT: Zablon J. Nthamburi, P. O. Box 47633, Nairobi, Kenya**HISTORICAL BULLETIN**

WORLD METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Box 268, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745, USA

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PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR SOUTH PACIFIC AREA CONFERENCE IN 2005

Barry Neal, secretary of the Wesley Historical Society in New Zealand, has alerted us to plans for an area event, probably in the southern part of Auckland City in the year 2005. The hope is that the conference will be actively exploratory of the history of Methodist missions in the whole region and contribute to the Church's understanding of current cultural and inter-cultural attitudes. An invitation is out for all interested persons to help in planning. The last South Pacific Conference was in 1987. To indicate your interest and offer suggestions for the program, you may e.mail Mr. Neal at <thehuianeals@clear.net.nz>. They are also seeking financial support to help persons travel from the Pacific island countries.

"KNOWING JOHN WESLEY IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT" CELEBRATION AT AFRICA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

David K. Yemba, Dean of the School of Theology at Africa Methodist University, reports a series of events last October and November to celebrate the tercentenary of John Wesley's birth. The theme was explored by University scholars with attention to Wesley's life, family, time, thought and ministry. The University has plans to publish the research papers. Some of the weekly events were scheduled in local churches.

The Dean spoke on "A Catholic Spirit: John Wesley and Ecumenism." Dr. James Ndyabahika lectured on "John Wesley, His Family and His Time." Professor Jean Lambert shared "John Wesley's Theology in Hymns." Dr. Philemon Chikafu and Mr. David Bishau both spoke about "John Wesley and the Bible." "Preaching in John Wesley's Ministry" was the topic for Dr. Eben Nhiwatiwa. Professor John Kurewa talked

about "Evangelism in the Theological Thought of John Wesley." Vice Chancellor Rukedzo Murapa gave the final presentation on "John Wesley and Social Justice."

HISTORY OF METHODISM EVENT HELD IN ARGENTINA

Argentina's first event on the history of Methodism was held July 16 - 18, 2003, on the Colegio Ward campus in Buenos Aires. Pastors from Argentina participated in workshops on theological, historical, and musical topics related to John Wesley. The opening address was made by Bishop Nelly Ritchie of the Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church. (from *New World Outlook*, November-December 2003)

COMING EVENTS

"Women in Methodism"

April 5-8, 2005, at York, England

This is the next Wesley Historical Society Conference. Inquiries should be addressed to Mrs. Sheila Himsworth, 22 Broadway Road, Evesham WR11 1BG, England. Note the year!

The Canadian Methodist Historical Society Will Host The Historical Society, The United Methodist Church, Thursday - Sunday, August 19 - 22, 2004 at the Ambassador Hotel, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Focus on Barbara Heck. Friday will feature a bus tour to the Heck Monument and other nearby locations and an evening banquet. Saturday will include an overview of Canadian Methodist History. For further information, contact J. William Lamb, 24 Princess Margaret Boulevard, Toronto M9A 1Z4, Canada. The Rev. Patricia Thompson, president of The Historical Society, will share the final address Sunday afternoon.

The United Methodist Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society Annual Meeting at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia, USA, Wednesday - Saturday, July 21 - 24, 2004. Theme: Wesley in Georgia - Prelude To Aldersgate. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., our general secretary. He will set the stage for Wesley's experience in Georgia. Then participants will walk where John Wesley walked among the oaks of Frederica and on the streets of Savannah as they tour the area. Closing communion will be celebrated by Bishop B. Michael Watson of the South Georgia episcopal area.

Friends of the World Methodist Council Museum Annual Dinner Friday, July 9, 2004 Paul Rader of the Salvation Army will be the speaker. At Lake Junaluska, NC, USA.

Charles Wesley Society 2004 Annual Meeting Friday-Saturday, October 1 - 2 at Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA, USA. Theme: "Charles Wesley and Worship"

We would be delighted to include your future events in upcoming issues of this Bulletin. Please send us the details and include a contact person for further information.

FROM EPWORTH OLD RECTORY Childhood Home of John & Charles Wesley

As anticipated 2003 has been an exceptionally busy year with thousands of visitors from all over the world visiting this tercentenary year. In fact we have had visitors from 76 different countries.

Prior to the Old Rectory opening for the season 12 prints which had been to the conservationist for cleaning and preservation work were returned and put back on display.

The season started with the launch of the book, "John Wesley: A Pictorial Journey." John Hurst, a local artist, had been commissioned to produce a book of paintings of Methodist heritage sites in the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. The paintings and sketches have been on display in the refectory at the Old Rectory and have been

viewed by many thousands of people. The exhibition, accompanied by the artist, is going to the World Methodist Council at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina where it will be on show.

(Editor's Note: The works of John Hurst were very well received here at the World Methodist Museum, Lake Junaluska. The executive council of the Friends of the World Methodist Museum has voted to purchase the Hurst collection and will launch a fund-raising effort soon. The art is in storage at the moment.)

With the Old Rectory now being a registered museum, we have been fortunate enough this year to have on display some previously unseen letters from John Wesley to an Ann Tindall from Scarborough on loan from the British Library. These have proved on great interest to our visitors. This exhibition involved quite a considerable expense but fortunately the cost was covered by sponsorship from a local tile company, Sandtoft Tiles, who also provided and exported the tiles used for the replica building of the Old Rectory at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, USA.

On Bank Holiday Monday 26 May a BBC film crew came from the BBC Songs of Praise programme and filmed in the house and in the garden. The part of Susanna Wesley was portrayed admirably by Rachel Newton. Two local children were also used to play John and Charles Wesley. This was shown the following Sunday on Songs of Praise.

On Tuesday 17 June a birthday party arranged by Wesley Memorial Church was held at the Old Rectory to celebrate John Wesley's 300th birthday with the cake being cut by the president of the Conference, Rev. Ian White accompanied by Professor Peter Howdle, vice president. BBC Radio Humberside were at the Old Rectory from 8 am that morning and BBC Look North and Yorkshire Television were filming in the afternoon for a live presentation in the early evening.

Plans for the new Visitor Centre continue and the fund raising committee meets regularly. They are most grateful for all the donations from the

churches and other sources. Fund raising activities continue and any contributions towards the Visitor Centre will be most welcome.

A play entitled "Mister Wesley" written by Roy Clarke (writer of Last of the Summer Wine programme) was performed on five occasions in the grounds of the Old Rectory in June. The play was well attended and a great success.

A portrait has recently been produced by David Keal, one of our volunteer guides of Rev. Samuel Wesley which is now hanging next to Susanna in the entrance hall in the Old Rectory. This portrait was unveiled and dedicated jointly by Rev. Barbara Walls (Superintendent Minister) and Canon Derek Brown (Rector of St. Andrew's Parish Church).

- Andrew Milson, Curator

(Reprinted from *Archives and History Newsletter 2004*)

BOOK: JOHN SCOTT LIDGETT, 1854-1953

This first biography of this multi-faceted leader in the English church was written by Alan Turberfield and published last July by SCM Canterbury Press Ltd. Lidgett was a social reformer, educator, political party leader, theologian, journalist, ecclesiastical statesman, Free Church and Methodist observer, and passionate ecumenist, almost all simultaneously, as founder and warden of the Bermondsey Settlement in the slums of London. Uniquely for a Methodist minister, he was both elected Vice Chancellor of London University and made a Companion of Honour. He was a principal architect of the Methodist Union in 1932. The book is available from SCM Canterbury Press Ltd., St Mary's Plain, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 3BH, England (L25.00, plus L2.50 postage)

ART'S ATTIC

This and That from Here and There
Compiled by Ye Olde Editor

Again my apology for another late issue of our Society Bulletin. It is another combined issue because we did not hear from our readers and contributors from around the Church. Therefore,

we have little to share!

We invite our readers to make a new year's resolution: "I will send at least one article to the *Historical Bulletin* in 2004." Thank you!

The title of the article caught my attention, and the content raised even more questions for me. "When Did Methodism Begin? Who Cares? Questions That Will Not Go Away" by David Tripp appears on pages 96 - 102 of the April 2003 issue of *Methodist History* (General Commission on Archives and History, The United Methodist Church).

So what is your answer? When did Methodism begin? Did it start with the Holy Club at Oxford and its methodical life style in 1729? Or with the events of 1738 including Aldersgate? Or maybe 1739? Do you make a distinction between when Methodism was a movement and when it took the form of a church?

You are invited to respond to this article and the questions it raises by writing "ye olde editor."

In mid-2002 we shared an article about the church plate collection of Thomas and Barbara Southwell in Memphis, TN, USA. It numbered 1,100 plates at that time, and the collection is almost 1,700 now. Word has reached us that the Guinness Book of World Records has declared it the largest church plate collection. One of their latest additions is a plate produced shortly after Wesley's death, about 1794.

For further information or to contribute to the collection, contact the Southwells at 4070 Barron Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111-7208, USA. The collection has been bequeathed to the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church.

The papers delivered at the 4th Historical Convocation of The United Methodist Church at Madison, NJ August 14-17, 2003 on "John Wesley: His Life and Legacy" will appear together in a future issue of *Methodist History*.

- Art Swarthout, Editor

OFFICERS 2001-2006

PRESIDENT: Heigo Ritsbek, P. O. Box 342, 10503 Tallinn, Estonia

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

AFRICA: Joan A. Millard, P.O. Box 996, Cramerville, Sandton 2060, Republic of South Africa
David K. Yemba, Africa University, P. O. Box 1320, Mutare, Zimbabwe

AMERICAS: Luis Wesley de Souza, Brazil

Marilyn Fardig Whiteley, 226 Exhibition Street, Guelph, Ontario N1H 4R5, Canada

ASIA: Deepak Kenneth Benjamin, Opposite P.W.D. Inspection House, Civil Lines - II, Bijnor, U.P.
246701, India (dkben@rediffmail.com)

Takeo Kega, 4-25 Shibuya 4-Chome, Shibuya-Ju, Tokyo 150, Japan

EUROPE: Peder Borgen, Nannestadgata 3, 2000 Lillestrom, Norway

Febe Rossi, V. lo Speronetto 8, 35033 S. Biagio di Teolo, Padova, Italy

GREAT BRITAIN/IRELAND: Thomas Kingston, 220 Barton Road East, Dundrum, Dublin 14, Ireland

Tim Macquiban, Wesley and Methodist Studies Centre, Brookes University, Oxford OX2 9AT, U.K.

OCEANIA: Daryl Lightfoot, P. O. Box 574, Toronto 2253 NSW, Australia

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: E. Dorothy Graham, 34 Spiceland Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 INS, U.K.

Lorna Lok Nah Khoo, 20 Jalan Sahabat, Singapore 1954

Martin Wellings, 53 Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2BP, U.K.

GENERAL SECRETARY: Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., P. O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940-0127, USA

TREASURER: Robert J. Williams, 327 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill NJ 08002, USA

DIRECTOR, WORLD CATALOGUE OF METHODIST MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS:

Mary K. Calkin, 3800 N. Fairfax Drive # 502, Arlington, VA 22203-1703, USA

EDITOR, HISTORICAL BULLETIN: (E-mail: awswarhout@ioa.com)

Arthur W. Swarhout, P. O. Box 268, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745-0268, USA.

PAST PRESIDENT: Zablon J. Nthamburi, P. O. Box 47633, Nairobi, Kenya

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Box 268, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745, USA
