

Texas United Methodist Historical Society Newsletter

Winter, 2018 Vol. 9 #3

Editor's Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

Many of us have been thinking about one of the most significant events in Texas Methodist history—the creation of the United Methodist Church in 1968. Perhaps some of you reading this *Newsletter* were in Dallas on April 23, 1968 and heard Bishop Rueben Mueller (EUB) and Bishop Lloyd Wicke (MC) declare “Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church.” That the uniting occurred in Dallas was not without controversy. Since the creation of the Methodist Church in 1939, General Conference locations were rotated among the jurisdictions. The 1964 General Conference was in Pittsburgh and one of the last items on its agenda was receiving the report of the committee to determine the site of the 1968 General Conference. It was the turn of the South Central Jurisdiction, and the recommendation was Dallas.

In April 1964 Dallas was still in the international spotlight because of the Kennedy assassination just six months earlier. There were many media reports of Dallas school children cheering the news, and later news stories reported on the climate of hate and bigotry in Dallas

In 1964 Dallas was infamous for the strain of radical anti-integration rhetoric of Edwin Walker, H. L. Hunt, and W. A. Criswell, all of whom combined Christianity, anti-Communism, and segregation in sermons, tracts and *Life Line* radio programs. We knew about the bomb threat against Dr. Martin Luther King's 1963 Dallas appearance and the protests against Ambassador Adlai Stevenson which resulted in his being struck with a sign. Delegates in Pittsburgh knew about all this when they were asked to vote for Dallas at the 1968 General Conference site. Central Jurisdiction delegates to Pittsburgh voted against going to Dallas in 1968 where they knew they would be subjected to the humiliation of Jim Crow hotels, restaurants, public transportation, and a climate of hostility.

Less well known were the efforts of Mayor Earle Cabell, Juanita Craft, Bob Cullum, and Stanley Marcus (among others) who were working (often behind the scenes) for peaceful integration.

We Christians believe in Providence, and God was working through people and institutions to achieve greater racial justice in the years between 1964 and 1968. The Public Accommodations Act of 1964 was only one of several civil rights measures passed in the period. Thanks to federal legislation, delegates could stay in hotels of their choice. The segregationist tone of the *Dallas Morning News* was muted. Cabell moved from City Hall to Congress, replacing an avowed segregationist. DISD continued its painfully slow path to compliance to desegregation orders.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Methodist Church, let us renew our commitment to elimination of all forms of discrimination against all of God's children.

TUMHS  **2018**

Methodism On The Border

Texas United Methodist Historical Society Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 5, 2018 – Saturday, April 7, 2018



This year's annual meeting will be held at the Trinity-First UMC, located at 801 N Mesa St, El Paso, TX. This year's theme of Methodism on The Border encompasses a rich history of ministry in the border states of both the US and Mexico. Our time will be highlighted by the address of both Bishop Martinez and Bishop Bledsoe speaking on the past history, current issues, and present ministry along the border during our banquet on Thursday evening, *AND THEN* a celebration of the history and ongoing work of Lydia Patterson during a banquet to be held at Lydia Patterson on Friday.

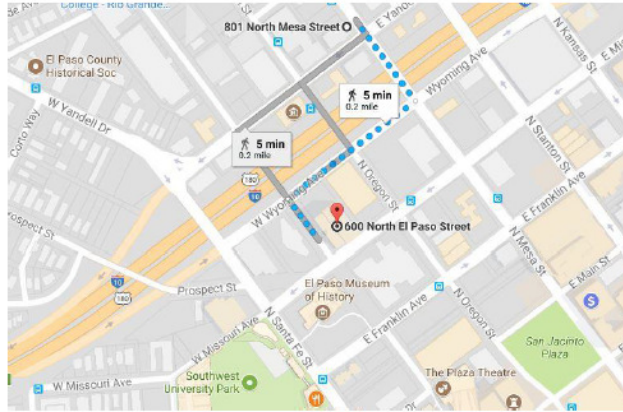


NOTES:

Some limited transportation will be available for the pre-conference tours. Please let us know if you will have a car and would be willing to transport a small group. Maps will also be provided. Lunch on Thursday will be on your own.



The Recommended Hotel for this event is the Doubletree/Hilton Hotel located at 600 N. El Paso Street, El Paso, Texas 79901. Call 1 915 532-8733 and mention TUMHS to receive the special rate of \$90 per night (regularly \$208). Reservations must be made *on or before March 23, 2018* to receive this rate. Free shuttle service to and from the Airport is available. Breakfast is available to purchase in the Hotel, ranging from a \$9 continental breakfast to a \$17 breakfast buffet. Trinity-First UMC is located a short distance away from the hotel. *See map*



Schedule Overview

Thursday, April 5

- 10:30am-4:30pm Pre-conference Tours/Lunch (on your Own)
 - History Room & Sanctuary of Trinity/First UMC
 - Emmanuel UMC (and/or El Divino Redemptor UMC)
 - Trolley Tour of Historic Downtown El Paso
 - A Visit to Concordia Cemetery
 - The Historic Catholic Mission Churches & Bond Memorial UMC
- 4:30pm-6:30pm Registration at Trinity/First UMC
- 6:00pm-8:00pm TUMHS Annual Banquet - *(Vegetarian entrée available on request)*

Friday, April 6

- 8:00am Board Meeting
- 9:00am Registration
- 9:30am Devotions to be led by Rev. Scott Meador
- 10:00-10:45am Presentation
- 11:00-12:00pm Business Meeting/Annual Conference Reports
- 12:00pm Box Lunch
- 1:30-2:15pm Presentation
- 2:30-3:00pm Presentation
- 4:00pm-5:30pm Special Tour of the Lydia Patterson Institute
- 6:00pm-8:00pm Dinner & A Celebration of the Lydia Patterson Institute!

Saturday, April 7

- 9:30am Devotions to be led by TUMHS
- 10:00-10:30am Presentation
- 10:30am-11:30pm Business Meeting/Awards

QUESTIONS? Contact Tim Binkley at 214-768-1989 tbinkley@smu.edu or Will Steinsiek at 505-385-3432 nmarchives@nmconfum.com

Registration

Please pre-register by sending payment to TUMHS, c/o Stewart Caffey, 5426 89th Street, Lubbock, TX 79424 by March 23, 2018.

Name(s) _____

Email Address OR Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

New Membership or Renewal - \$20 _____

Type of Registration: _____ Full Attendance - \$60 (includes both banquets)

_____ Daytime Events Only - \$25

_____ TUMHS Banquet Only - \$20.

_____ Lydia Patterson Banquet Only - \$20

Total enclosed: _____



Three African American Bishops of the United Methodist Church

December 15, 2017–April 27, 2018 Bridwell Library Entry Hall

An exhibition from the personal papers of
W. T. Handy, Jr., Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr., and Ernest T. Dixon, Jr.



Dr. Elaine P. Adams

February 6, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

CHAP: Prothro Hall Room 100

Rev. Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr.

February 6, 2017, 4:30 p.m.

Bridwell Library Blue Room



Dr. Elaine P. Adams will discuss her book *The Reverend Peter W. Clark: Sweet Preacher and Steadfast Reformer* and share about the work of the African American Methodist Heritage Center. **Open seating. No reservations required.** Co-sponsored by the Perkins School of Theology Black Seminary Association.



Rev. Dr. Zan Wesley Holmes, Jr., pastor emeritus of St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church, Dallas, will share memories of bishops Handy, Moncure, and Dixon.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP

<https://bridwell.libcal.com/event/3725277>

by February 1, 2018.

A reception will precede the lecture at 4:00 p.m.

BLACK ARCHIVES MATTER AT SMU

History of Methodist Church at Washington on the Brazos Published

One of the earliest Methodist churches in Texas, and one of the very few brick churches built before the Civil War was the church at Washington on the Brazos. The town occupied a strategic river crossing and enjoyed an era of prosperity during the steamboat era, but when the railroad construction created alternatives to riverboats, the town died, and so did the church.

The brick church was erected in honor of Martin Ruter who died in Washington in 1838.

Tom Stevens has written a history of the church based on deed records, quarterly conference minutes, memoirs, and newspaper accounts. Contact me for ordering information.

Historic Church Pictures

Each issue contains the picture of some historic church and asks readers to identify it. Here is the picture from the Fall 2017 issue



This magnificent old stone church is Lee Tabernacle UMC in Navasota. It was founded in 1860, and members shared

facilities with the Baptists. In 1866 the congregations were able to build a structure in what was called the “Freedmen’s Town” section of Navasota. Methodists organized separately in 1876 and were able to build this building in 1896. They worshiped in the basement while the walls of the building were being constructed.

There have been several changes to the building, including the addition of a choir room, but the exterior has remained true to the 1896 original design. The stained glass windows have been restored.

The pastor during construction was the Rev. Edward Lee. The church changed its name to honor him.

The members of this church hosted several sessions of Annual Conference. While Bishop Mallalieu was presiding at the Texas Conference of the MEC in this church that plans were put in place to move Martin Ruter’s remains from the abandoned cemetery in Washington to Navasota.

Here is the next historic church for you to identify.



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Membership/Registration Information

We do not send annual membership renewal statements. Our not doing so means that many of us neglect to send our annual dues. If you can't remember the last time you sent dues, it's probably time to send them again. Please print this page and send your dues and gifts to

Stewart Caffey
5426 89th St.
Lubbock, Tx 79424

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____ telephone _____

Annual dues

\$20 _____

(If you wish, you may join at the lifetime dues rate of \$300)