

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, #1, SUMMER 2009

President's Letter by Wm. C. Hardt

The Executive Committee of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society has decided to change its *Newsletter* to an email format. You are now viewing the first digital issue.

Some of you are long time members of the TUMHS, and others are receiving this newsletter because you previously expressed interest in some area of Texas Methodist History or genealogy. It is likely that some of you are not familiar with the TUMHS so let me introduce us.

The Texas United Methodist Historical Society was founded in 1975. It claims as its province the United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations; the Methodist Church, the Evangelical United Brethren, Methodist Protestant Church, MECS, MEC, etc. Its geographic range is defined by annual conferences—The Texas, North Texas, Southwest Texas, Central Texas, Rio Grande, Oklahoma Indian Mission, New Mexico, and Northwest Texas. All of those conferences have churches in Texas.

The TUMHS is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of officers elected for two year terms; the chairs of the annual conference Commissions on Archives and History; and members of the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church who reside in our constituent annual conferences. The Board meets annually at the same time as the Annual Meeting or in special called session.

The main programs of the TUMHS are

- The Kate Warnick Awards for best local church histories
- The *Heritage Journal*
- An Essay Contest for college and university students
- An Annual Meeting at which historical papers are presented, tours of historic sites are conducted, and the business of the Society is conducted

We anticipate that the Newsletter will be distributed quarterly. If you have items of interest, please send them to me, Wm. C. Hardt, at wchardt@gmail.com. If you wish to be removed from the email distribution list, please tell me. If you know of other persons interested in Texas Methodist history, please send me their email address. You are welcome to forward this *Newsletter*.

TUMHS 2010 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN LUBBOCK



First United Methodist Church Lubbock

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society will be held March 26/27 at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock. The meeting will be a special one because it will celebrate the centennial of the division of the old Northwest Texas Conference into the Central Texas Conference and the present Northwest Texas Conference in 1910. The approaching centennial has created quite a stir in both conferences. The NWT Conference has already published a centennial history (see related story), and the CT Conference expects to have one ready next year.

Southwest Texas Conference Celebrates Sesquicentennial

The MECS General Conference of 1858 created the West Texas Conference by dividing the Texas Conference. The eastern portion retained the name Texas Conference while the western portion was named the West Texas Conference. That conference name was later changed to the Southwest Texas Conference. The SWT Conference is in a year-long celebration of its sesquicentennial. The kick off event was last December 1 at FUMC Austin.

In June 2009 a highlight of annual conference was a timeline that stretched 172 feet and represented the 150 years of the conference's history. The banner will be on display at Bethany UMC in Austin in July and August.

Our own vice-president, Dr. Robert Sledge is contributing 8 articles to the Conference newsletter about events that occurred in 1858/1859.

Bishop Jim Dorff will lead the worship service on Saturday, November 14 at the Goliad Memorial Auditorium. The event kicks off at 11:30 am, followed by barbeque lunch (\$10) at noon. From 1-3 pm, there will be worship, site visits, buggy rides, and more. Reservations are requested via Dr. Austin Frederick, Jr., 16400 Huebner Road, San Antonio 78248-1693. Groups are invited – youth, Sunday school, UMW, UMM, etc. Dress is informal – most of the program will be outside.

Essay Contest Winner Announced

One of the highlights of the 2009 Annual Meeting was the presentation of the TUMHS Essay Contest winner, Eric Nichols, by Dr. Garry Nall. Nichols's essay was "Robert S. Hyer's Methodist Vision," and was written under the direction of Dr. Ted Campbell in his course on Texas Methodist History at Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

The Executive Committee has extended the Essay Contest. If you know of a student enrolled in college, university, seminary, or graduate school with an interest in Texas Methodist history, please encourage that student's participation. There is a cash prize!

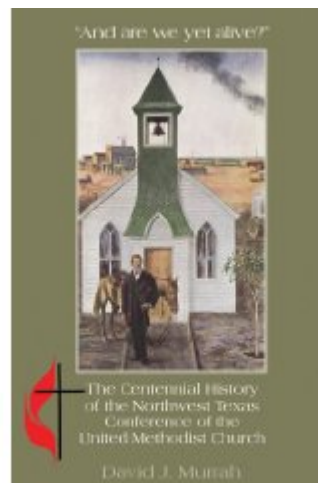
For more information contact Dr. Nall at
7206 Versailles Drive
Amarillo, TX 79121
gnall@att.net

Texas Methodist History on the Web

Did you know that your Newsletter editor also writes a weekly column, *This Week in Texas Methodist History*? It may be accessed at
<http://txmethhistory.blogspot.com>

Note that it is in the form of a blog. Your comments and corrections are welcome.

And Are We Yet Alive



As noted above, the Northwest Texas Conference is celebrating its centennial and has a centennial history ready for the celebration. Dr. David Murrah is the author of *Are We Yet Alive*.

This important addition to Texas Methodist historical scholarship is a must-read for anyone wishing to understand the Methodist experience in Texas in the 20th century. It may be obtained from Amazon http://www.amazon.com/Are-Yet-Alive-Centennial-Conference/dp/1933337354/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1247663169&sr=1-2

Help Wanted

Perhaps you would like to become more involved in the TUMHS. We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- A webmaster
- A graphic designer to design a membership brochure
- A membership chair

Call or email Bill Hardt 979-830-0136
wchardt@gmail.com

Kate Warnick Awards

The business session of the Annual Meeting of the TUMHS traditionally closes with the announcement of the Kate Warnick Award winners for best local church histories published during the preceding year. This year's winners came from Simpson United Methodist Church in Austin and from Mason County.

Kate Warnick was a long time librarian at Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology who helped many local church historians with their research. The competition is organized into the categories of small, medium and large churches.

Churches that have published their histories in 2009 are invited to send three copies to Dr. William J. Bryan at P.O. Box 750133, Dallas, TX 75275. If you have questions, you may email Dr. Bryan at wbryan@smu.edu

Historian's Corner

Each annual conference in the United Methodist Church is directed by the *Discipline* to care for its official documents and materials of obvious historical importance.

Some of the annual conferences archives are located at Methodist universities or colleges. Others maintain them at conference headquarters.

The United Methodist Church's denominational archives are housed at Drew University in Madison, NJ. The website of the General Commission on Archives and History contains a directory of all the annual conference and jurisdictional archives. That website <http://www.gcah.org/site/c.ghKJIOPHIoE/b.2858857/k.BF4D/Home.htm> is often the place to start one's research into Methodist history or genealogy. They have a helpful suggestions for beginning researchers and links to a variety of useful historical articles. The staff is experienced in answering questions from everyone—from beginners to professional historians. I encourage everyone with an interest in Methodist history to access the GCAH homepage and explore some of the resources available there.

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 Rev. John C. Johnson, Treasurer, 6766 Silver Saddle Road, Fort Worth, TX 76126. Current members should report address changes to Rev. Johnson so we can assure delivery of the *Heritage Journal*. His email address is jcjohn0100@sbcglobal.net

