

GREETINGS FROM THE NC CONFERENCE COMMISSION OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NC CONFERENCE!



THANK YOU
MURFREESBORO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR HOSTING THE FALL 2007
MEETING

The NC Conference Commission on Archives & History:
Visit the website: www.nccumc.org/defaultarchives.htm

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Saddlebags
The NC Conference Commission
on Archives & History

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SPRING MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY - APRIL 5, 2008

Two-Thousand Seven marks eighty-four years since a group of families gathered around a community known as Evans Hill to begin our church. In 1923, the church began meeting at the home of Mrs. Bell Thompson McCallum. In that same year, the membership grew so rapidly that the congregation had to move to a larger house on the corner of Evans Avenue and McLean Street. Later a house one block away on Frolic Street was purchased as a permanent place for worship.

The first minister was Rev. Lloyd McQueen. The first church structure was erected in 1928 under the leadership of Rev. J. B. Meekins. The building on Vann Street burned and the membership relocated to a standing structure on Herring Street which had been vacated by a group of the Holiness Faith. Reverends L. W. Henderick and M. M. Patrick were the pastors who served the congregation at the new location.

Rev. Robert B. McRae, 1954-1961, led the congregation in purchasing the site

and building for the new church. In 1958, the Wesley Chapel Congregation held its first worship service in the new church on the corner of Frolic Street and Cumberland Street. It was at this time that the name was changed to John Wesley.



Many pastors have served the John Wesley congregation since its meager beginning. We give thanks to God for each of these ministers who made John Wesley what it is today.

Church Historians:
Oxygenia Hughley
Frances Thomas

**Directions to John Wesley United Methodist Church
616 Cumberland Road, Fayetteville 28301**

From I-40 East Raleigh area, merge onto I-95 S Via Exit 328A toward Benson/Fayetteville; Merge onto I-95 BR S/US-301 South via Exit 56 toward Fayetteville/Fort Bragg/Pope AFB; Turn Right onto Grove St/NC-210/NC-24; Turn right on Ramsey Street; Turn left on Cumberland Street; to 616 Cumberland Street. Church phone number: 910.483.5052.

The Spring 2008 Meeting of the Historical Society will be held at John Wesley United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, NC. April 5th, 10:00 to Noon. Plans are to go together as a group with members of the Commission on Archives and History to lunch at the Golden Corral . 3901 Ramsey Street, Directions from the church parking lot: Left on Fontana St; Left on Cumberland St; Left at first traffic light onto Hillsboro St; Hillsboro Street will run into Ramsey Street. Left at traffic light onto Ramsey St; Travel north on Ramsey St. for a couple of miles. Golden Corral is on the left after McDonald's. Please RSVP by April 4th to John Mitchell, 919-787-3311 or Laura Bailey 800-849-4433 ext 264. lbbailey@nccumc.org Everyone will order and pay as individuals. The meeting of the Archives and History Commission will meet after lunch back at the church (1:30)

The fall meeting of the North Carolina Conference Historical Society met on Saturday, Saturday, September 22, 2007, at Murfreesboro United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, North Carolina. Present: John Mitchell, Rev. W. Arthur Warren, Jr., Jane Greeson, Becky Warren, Shirley Perry, Don Bennett, Dr. Cleveland M. Hawkins, Doris S. Hawkins, Donald Prout, Ruth G. Copley, Edna Hammel, Mildred S. Swain, Vivian Mitchell, Doris M. Ferguson, Jane Wilkes Gill, and Rev. Para Drake.

President Para Drake asked us to pray to consider whether God is calling one of us to fill the office of president of the NC Conference Historical Society. Para will not be able to continue as president after this meeting.

Para gave a devotional based on II Chronicles 3-5:4, a description of Solomon's temple. It was about the building and the process of building. A reminder of where we come from is critical; it gives us a sense of rootedness. Solomon took what belonged to the Lord and put to the service of the Lord. It all belongs to God. What we are preserving today is not just the edifice but the story of Methodists, of people of God. Preservation is for our future.

Everyone introduced themselves. If you come up with the name of someone who you think might be good for the president of the NCCHS, give it to Arthur Warren or Para Drake. Any names submitted will be given to the nominating committee. Officers are elected for a two-year term.

The minutes of the April 14, 2007 meeting were approved as printed in the Saddlebags newsletter on a motion by Arthur Warren.

Treasurer's Report:

The brochure Laura Bailey prepared about the NCCHS had several responses since its debut at Annual Conference in June. \$476 was

deposited. BB&T checking account balance: \$2,725.50. Investment in the United Methodist Development Fund (New York, NY): \$1,000. We receive a check quarterly from the UMDF.
Program:

The history of Murfreesboro UMC was presented by Doris Ferguson. Rev. W. Allen Wentz, a pastor in the 1970s, was instrumental in writing the church history. For the church's bicentennial celebration in 2004, his widow, Shirley (who attends Murfreesboro UMC), made the "All Ordained to Serve" banner that hangs in the church. She used Allen's stoles so that the liturgical colors can be changed for each season of the Christian church calendar.

The history of Murfreesboro was presented by Jane Wilkes Gill. Wesleyan Female Academy was a Methodist college next to Chowan College (Baptist) from 1855 until it burned in 1877. The college was rebuilt and reopened in 1881. It burned again in 1893 and was not rebuilt. A state historic marker commemorating Wesleyan Female Academy was erected downtown on Main Street in 1976.

Arthur Warren said that Rev. Wentz also tried to get Archives & History to place a marker where Bishop Francis Asbury came to Murfreesboro. Bishop Asbury went to too many places in North Carolina for the Research Branch to approve it. If we want a marker, we will have to do it ourselves.

Geraldine Harris is the church historian. She set up the display that is in the History Room.

Announcements by Arthur Warren:

The Southeast Jurisdictional Historical Society will meet at Athens, TN, near Chattanooga, starting July 8, 2008. The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church will meet during the same week in Mitchell, SD,

We will try for John Wesley UMC in Fayetteville the first weekend of April for our next meeting the NCCHS.

The NC and WNC Conference Commissions on Archives & History are discussing updating a jointly published history of Black Methodist churches in North Carolina, written by Dr. Linda Addo (WNCCConf.) and Rev James McCallum (NCCConf.), that covered up to 1968. That was when General Conference voted to dissolve the Central Jurisdiction (Black churches) and merge them into the United Methodist Church, which was created by the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. We may do this if we can get the finances for it.

The SEJHS biennial History Preservation Workshop will be held in October at Lake Junaluska Conference Center.

Pamphlets for the NCCHS were available. Memberships: \$3 Student, \$7 Regular, \$10 Patron, \$25 Contributing, \$100 Life. Other United Methodist historical society rates: \$10 SEJHS, \$30 HSUMC, and \$5 World Methodist Historical Society.

Saddlebags had an article about the SEJHS/HSUMC meeting in Chevy Chase, Md. last July. Arthur and Becky Warren and Vivian and John Mitchell attended the meeting. We were celebrating the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth.

The meeting adjourned with a tour of the History Room of Murfreesboro UMC.

Respectfully submitted,
John Mitchell, Secretary

These minutes are to be voted on and approved in the April meeting of the NC Conference Historical Society



The Historical Society
The United Methodist Church
Southeastern Jurisdiction

January 9, 2008

Annual Conference Commissions on Archives and History
Annual Conference Historical Societies
District Historical Societies

Dear Friends,

The SEJ Historical Society, in cooperation with the SEJ Commission on Archives and History, provides several services to assist you in maintaining and celebrating our common heritage as United Methodists.

Our most visible asset is the Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska, which houses the SEJ Archives, located in the Harrell Center next door to Stuart Auditorium. Visitors to "The Lake," researchers, and often confirmation classes from local churches visit to learn about aspects of United Methodism that they may very well miss without the experience.

The *SEJ/HS Notes*, an occasional newsletter, keeps members of the society informed about events and items of interest throughout the year. Items include annual conference events, interesting studies underway, and offerings by the SEJ and General Conference Commissions and Societies. Articles from your Societies and Commissions are welcome and sought.

The Annual Meeting, which rotates through the several Annual Conferences, brings people together to study in depth some aspect of our heritage at a very high level of scholarship and competence, as well as providing a wholesome vacation-type experience. Recent meetings were held in Charleston, SC, in 2005 and at Duke University Divinity School in 2006. In 2007, we met with the Sixth Historical Convocation and the Charles Wesley Society in Chevy Chase, Maryland. **In 2008, the meeting will be at Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tennessee.** In 2009, the SEJ HS will host the Twentieth Anniversary Meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC, at Lake Junaluska. You and all the members of your group are invited to attend. Following each meeting, papers and reports are published in *Proceedings* to form a permanent record of the Society's interests. Copies are available for a nominal cost.

The combined SEJ organizations also sponsor a heritage preservation workshop at Lake Junaluska in the fall every two years, with excellent leadership in the pleasant setting of our assembly grounds. The next workshop will be held in 2009.

The SEJ HS depends on two sources for funds: membership dues from individual members and churches at \$10 per year, and dues from Commissions and Societies across the jurisdiction. Members of the Annual Conference Commissions and Historical Societies are encouraged to become individual members, as well as anyone interested in the work of the SEJ Historical Society. Life memberships for individuals and churches are also available at \$100. A list of current Life and Honorary Members is included here.

We hope that you will strongly consider our mutual interests and support the SEJ Historical Society with your group dues and your encouragement to your members to join individually and attend our functions.

Grace and peace,

Franklin B. Buie, Treasurer

ONE VOICE FOR CHRIST, THE WESLEYAN FAMILY

An informative brochure has been produced by the Pan Methodist Commission. The Commission has given permission for the timeline from this brochure to be printed in this issue of the newsletter. Short histories of the The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, The Union American Methodist Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church are also featured in the brochure. If you would like to have a copy of this brochure, there are several in the NC Conference Archives, 800-849-4433 ext 264 or archives-history@nccumc.org. You may find out more about the work of the Pan Methodist Commission on the website: www.gccuic-umc.org/panmeth/index.htm.

TIMELINE

1738	John Wesley – renewal movement, Church of England	1830	Methodist Protestant Church
1760s	Philip Embury, Barbara Heck & Robert Strawbridge – “Methodist Societies” in America	1843	Wesleyan Methodist Church of America
1784	Christmas Conference – Freeborn Garrettson & Harry Hosier – Methodist Episcopal Church, Frances Asbury & Thomas Coke appointed joint superintendants.	1844	Methodist Episcopal Church, South
1787	Richard Allen – African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia	1860	Free Methodist Church of North America
1796	James Varick – African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, New York	1870	Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church)
1800	Martin Boehan and Philip Otterbein – Church of the United Brethren in Christ	1881	New Congregational Methodist Church
1803	Jacob Albright – Evangelical Association (Evangelical Church)	1894	Evangelical Methodist Church
1813	Union American Methodist Episcopal Church	1939	Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church & Methodist Episcopal Church, South form Methodist Church
		1946	Church of the United Brethren in Christ & Evangelical Church form Evangelical United Brethren Church
		1968	Evangelical United Brethren Church & Methodist Church form The United Methodist Church

THREE SIMPLE RULES, EASY TO REMEMBER, A LIFELONG CHALLENGE

In *Three Simple Rules, A Wesleyan Way of Living*, Rueben Job offers an interpretation of John Wesley’s General Rules for today’s readers. Published in the fall of 2007 by Abingdon Press, this pocket sized 77-page book takes us back to the basics.

Considering the three commands, “first do no harm, do all the good you can, and stay in love with God,” Job reminds us that, although there are only a few words used in these statements, the results when applied have caused and could still cause a “radical change of direction” for our world. This book is available through Cokesbury. ISBN9780687649662

DECEASED CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Clergy

Herman Fred Davis
November 7, 1926 – August 23, 2007
Widower of Prudence (Polly) Cobb Davis

Luther Martin Peele, Jr.
January 20, 1929 – November 16, 2007
Husband of Myra Miller Peele

Daniel Mercer Forbes, Jr.
May 27, 1928 – October 15, 2007
Husband of Louise Dawson Forbes

Paul Cecil Millwood
May 27, 1934 – December 6, 2007
Husband of Patricia Nash Millwood

Ralph Isaac Epps
November 3, 1920 – January 3, 2008
Husband of Pinear Windley Epps

Haywood Linwood Harrell
April 4, 1913 – February 11, 2008
Widower of Dorothy Stallings Harrell

Spouses:

Edith Mangum Fowlkes Berry
November 30, 1931 – November 7, 2007
Widow of Ralph Eugene Fowlkes

Dorothy Anita Thompson Dillon
March 29, 1927 – November 10, 2007
Widow of Frederick Fairfield Dillon

Roberta Fields Carruth
January 6, 1919 – November 10, 2007
Widow of Paul Carruth

Etolia Stribling Vale
February 28, 1920 – November 14, 2007
Widow of Charles Edward Vale

Susan Waller Miller
April 8, 1921 – January 8, 2008
Wife of James Herbert Miller, Jr.

Alice Blanche Houser Crew
April 29, 1912 – February 21, 2008
Widow of John Rogers Crew, Jr.

Elma Bundy Fulford
August 15, 1928 – February 16, 2008
Widow of William Nelson Fulford



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Within a church history of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church written by Rev. Denny Wise in 1976 appears a chapter of notes from the memory of Miss Margaret Dowdy. This history is found in one of the county files in the archives with information about local churches that has been sent in and collected through the years. Miss Dowdy mentions such milestones as the gift of a communion set 100 years ago, the original pump organ replacement in 1920, people being leery of the addition of an “unchurchly” piano, electricity coming in 1937 and various additions and repairs through the years.

Her last entry is: “Tragedy struck the evening of Ash Wednesday, March 3, 1976. A fire of undetermined source completely demolished our church building. Yet over the ruins, we the people of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church see the task

ahead of us and still look forward to the future.” The Reverend Norwood Jones (1923-2004) was the District Superintendent of the Elizabeth City District at the time of the fire. He was presented with a memento of the old church which is a cross constructed from the large handmade nails taken from the ruins of the original building. His widow, Helen Jones, has recently donated the cross to the NC Conference Archives. Helen says that at the time of the fire, Mt. Zion was one of the oldest church buildings in the Conference.

SHARED CALLING

It may not be unusual to have a preacher in the family, but what about when virtually everyone for three generations follows that same path?

Sometimes the family ties that bind are in the form of a shared vocation, one that continues to be the prominent livelihood from one generation to the next. Like a family business, a career shared by siblings and cousins blends common history, values, and workaday goals, and it's not uncommon to find families that share a passion for a career in firefighting, police work, or teaching school.

By: Diane Silcox-Jarrett

If you grew up in eastern North Carolina in the past several decades and were Methodist, chances are you've at least heard of the Tyson family; in fact, there's a good chance that one of them has been your minister. The Tysons and their ancestors have shared the gospel with, wed, and buried hundreds of North Carolinians over the past 70 years. The family members are tied together by a respect for one another's individual talents and their shared love of God. "We dream the same dreams, do work worthy of doing, and are bonded by our calling and vocation," explains Vernon Tyson, a second-generation Tyson minister.



He is one of six Tyson brothers who followed such a calling. Brothers Dewey, Tommy, George, Earl, Vernon, and Bobby also had one sister, Merle, who, according to Bobby, "served the Lord as well, if not better than, any of us."

The Tyson children grew up around eastern North Carolina. Their father, Marvin Earl Tyson, known as Jack, started out as a minister with the Free Will Baptist Church. "My dad had to quit school in eighth grade to help out on the farm," says Vernon. Then at age 26, Jack felt the spirit move in him, and he began to hold gatherings. Word got around how gifted a speaker he was, and the number of people who came to hear him grew.

One man offered to pay Jack \$50 a month if he would go back to school and take some classes to improve his mind. "My father couldn't believe it; \$50 a month was a lot of money in those days," says Vernon. Jack took the courses and was then put in charge of a Free Will Baptist Orphanage in Middlesex.

The orphanage was in dire straits, and Jack worked hard to improve it. Then, after five years, he decided he wanted to transfer to the Methodist Church Conference. The Methodist Church initially turned him down because of his lack of education. Still, the district superintendent at the time saw promise in Jack and decided to allow him to take correspondence courses while serving as a circuit minister to three churches.

Thus began Jack's career as a Methodist minister, moving his family from town to town in eastern North Carolina serving small churches. His wife, the former Irene Hart, was from a line of ministers herself. "Her grandfather and father were both ministers," explains Bobby, Sr.

Raise up a child

Although raised in a minister's home, Vernon says they were not an especially pious family. "We come from deep religious roots, and my family is a family of faith. You might think we were seven sweet children all washed up and perfect, but we were like any other children. There were fights, doors slamming, and we made enough noise sometimes the neighbors would complain," he says with a laugh.

"Dewey, the oldest, was the most handsome of us all," says Vernon, laughing as he describes his oldest brother. "He had the Tyrone Power look. He even dated Ava Gardner.

"Tommy was a people person and an evangelist," he continues. "He founded the Aqueduct Conference Center in Chapel Hill. People still go there to explore what it means to live a life of faith."

George was the next in line. He loved books and longed to be a professor but died from leukemia at age 48. "When Uncle George died, it seemed that part of all the brothers died," says Bobby Jr.

The next brother, Earl, had a surprise when he went to the dean of admissions at Duke. "He was told that they didn't have room for any more Tyson brothers," says Bobby Jr. Earl was given a six-church circuit in Virginia, and it was then that he decided to attend the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

Vernon is the Tyson most remembered for his stance for racial

equality during the 1960s and '70s. His story is related in a book titled *Blood Done Sign My Name* by his son, Tim Tyson, history professor at Duke University.

Vernon admits that dealing with inter-racial tensions and situations formed a large part of his ministry for many years. "I was given the race issue by God and had to handle it the way I knew he wanted me to. You know, people always talk about it, but during that time, I served the Lord in a lot of other ways. I baptized a lot of babies, buried a lot of devoted church members, and taught at a lot of Bible schools."

Bobby, Sr., the youngest of Jack's children, was known as something of the maverick in the family. Like his father, Bobby Jr. has enjoyed serving mostly rural churches.

Passing the torch

The third generation of Tyson ministers has much admiration for the six brothers and their unique strengths. "Once you get to know us, you know we are not from a cookie-cutter mold," explains Merle's daughter, Beth Hood, superintendent of the Greenville district of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. "We each had to wrestle with our own calling. We became ministers because of who we are, not because of our family."

"I knew how hard a minister's life was, and I really didn't want to become one," admits Bobby Jr. "I was making good money and had a career in front of me that would have given me a good life, but there was a gnawing on me that something was

missing. I was helping my dad with his evangelism in Raleigh. I kept telling him and others I was only going to do administrative work. It took me two years to answer my call," he explains.

The first female Tyson to be ordained, Beth found that her journey to the ministry also took some time. "Other people saw it in me first," she says. "When I asked my Uncle



Dewey if he was surprised I was becoming a minister, he said he was just surprised it took me so long."

For her first appointment, Beth was able to leverage some of the Tyson wisdom by serving under her Uncle Vernon. "He was serving at St. Luke in Sanford, and I was appointed his associate minister," she explains. "The years I was with him taught me so much. Some of the things I do best, I learned from him."

Vernon is equally appreciative of having had his niece with him during his last two years serving as a minister. "When you love your craft, you have the desire to teach it to the young," he says. "I was able to show her how to do some things — and she learned how not to do some things."

There are moments in one's life when it's nice to have family by your side. "When I was ordained, I could have two ordained ministers of the church, one family member, and the Bishop lay their hands on me," she

says. "I was able to have Vernon, Bobby, and my mother with me. I can't tell you what a powerful moment that was."

Although different in their approach to ministry, the Tysons all share an up-front style and a keen sense of humor. When they do have the opportunity to get together as a family, that sense of humor predominates. "We really don't talk shop that much," says Vernon, adding, "We do play Spades and have to keep each other from cheating."

Beth says she remembers her mother's house as being a place where her uncles could come and get away for a little while. Those were special times for the Tysons, times when the generations could relax and be themselves and maybe think back to how their family has evolved and of the blessings they share in the ministry.

Vernon sums it up with a quote from Psalm 16: "The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places: Yes, I have a good inheritance."



This article was first printed in the November 2007 issue of Our State, Down Home in North Carolina Magazine and is used with permission of the author. Diane Silcox-Jarrett lives in Raleigh.