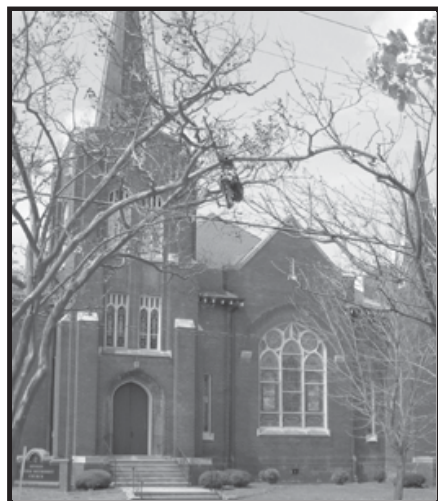


## GREETINGS FROM THE NC CONFERENCE COMMISSION OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NC CONFERENCE!

You have received a copy of this Newsletter because you are a member of the Historical Society, a member of the Commission, you are a District Superintendent or other leader in our Conference or your church has entered your name in the online database as the local church historian. If there needs to be a correction in your address, please let us know at The NC Conference Archives, 1307 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27605. or [archives-history@nccumc.org](mailto:archives-history@nccumc.org)



THANKS TO BENSON UMC FOR HOSTING US FOR THE SPRING MEETING

The NCC Historical Society welcomes all persons interested in preserving our history. For more information for joining or planning Church History Workshops, you may contact:

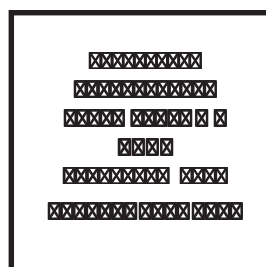
Rev. W. Arthur Warren, Chairman of the NC Conference Commission on Archives and History  
Murfreesboro United Methodist Church  
PO Box 392  
Murfreesboro, NC 27855-0392  
252-398-4551  
[awarren@nccumc.org](mailto:awarren@nccumc.org)

Ms. Jane Greeson  
Rocky Mount District Historian  
VP of NC Conf Commission  
252-446-1523  
[janeegreeson@aol.com](mailto:janeegreeson@aol.com)

John Mitchell, secretary  
NC Conference Historical Society/Commission  
622 Wimbleton Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
[John\\_C\\_Mitchell@msn.com](mailto:John_C_Mitchell@msn.com)

Laura Bailey  
Conference Staff  
800-849-4433 ext 264  
[archives-history@nccumc.org](mailto:archives-history@nccumc.org)

**NC Conference**  
**The United Methodist Church**  
**1307 Glenwood Avenue**  
**Raleigh, NC 27605**



## Saddlebags The North Carolina Conference Historical Society Newsletter

Saddlebags is  
a bi-annual  
publication of  
The NC Conference  
Historical Society  
Volume 4  
September 2006

N  
C  
C  
H  
S

### FALL MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The NC Conference Historical Society will be meeting at St. James United Methodist Church in Greenville, NC. Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 the meeting will begin. Everyone who is interested in the history of our Conference is invited to come. See the details below.

"On February 26, 1952 a meeting of interested persons was held at the Rotary Club Building" [in Greenville]. "At this meeting, the decision was made to form a new suburban Methodist church. In May, Rev. E. L. Earnhardt, Jr. was sent by the Conference to help organize this church". Creative fund raising to help with the building of the church included an Easter time production of the Passion play. "The play was given at East Carolina College for four nights and played for thousands." In later years a chapel was built with a large stained glass "Methodist Window". Kenneth Gray Hite says in a booklet published by the church in 1974, "St. James looks forward to establishing in Greenville a spiritual body of Christian Believers, whose zeal and record of accomplishment will bear favorable comparison to any church in this locality, and it looks forward to expanded services in enlarged quarters in the near future, all dedicated to the Glory of God." Come to the meeting October 7<sup>th</sup>, and to hear more about this promising story of St. James United Methodist Church.

St. James United Methodist Church was a Ten Dollar club church started under the Garber administration. Bishop Garber was

also instrumental in the establishment of the Methodist Retirement Homes. Today, The United Methodist Retirement Homes is comprised of four continuing care retirement communities and one affordable housing community. Cypress Glen is one of those communities. This year UMRH is celebrating 50 years of ministry. After the meeting of the NC Conference Historical Society the group will be going to Cypress Glen for a brief tour and lunch. The



meeting of the NC Commission on Archives and History will follow immediately after lunch..

#### Directions to Cypress Glen:

Cypress Glen is located on the eastern side of Greenville. The physical address is: 100 Hickory Street. Hickory Street is adjacent to 3rd, 4th and 5th streets. Directions from St. James UMC: Going East on E. 6<sup>th</sup> St turn left it becomes Bownea Dr. Go one block, Turn right onto E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, turn left at the next street which is Hickory. Continue to the end of the street to reach Cypress Glen (about 3 blocks)

### Directions to St. James United Methodist Church

2000 E. 6th Street, Greenville, North Carolina

The address of the church is: 2000 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Greenville. From Greenville Blvd. in Greenville, Go East on 10<sup>th</sup> street toward ECU. Make a right on Forest Hill Circle (first right after Papa John's Pizza) Go 2 blocks and the church will be on your right. For more detailed directions, contact Laura Bailey or the church.

The Fall Meeting of the Historical Society will be held at St James United Methodist Church, Greenville, NC, Saturday, October 7;10:30-Noon. With a reservation, lunch will be served at Cypress Glen Retirement Community at 12:15. Everyone is invited to meet for lunch. Please call or email John Mitchell 919-787-3311 or [John\\_C\\_Mitchell@msn.com](mailto:John_C_Mitchell@msn.com) or Laura Bailey 800-849-4433 ext 264 or [lbailey@nccumc.org](mailto:lbailey@nccumc.org) to make a lunch reservation by October 2. A donation of \$7.00 will be collected to cover the costs of the meal. The Fall Meeting of The NCC Commission on Archives and History will meet after lunch. The meeting will take place at Cypress Glen.

## NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

April 1, 2006

The spring meeting of the North Carolina Conference Historical Society met on Saturday, April 1, 2006, at Benson United Methodist Church in Benson, North Carolina. There were 17 present: John Mitchell, Rev. W. Arthur Warren, Jr., Betty Aiken, Janet Wilson, Beverley S. Pierpoint, Snodie B. Wilson, Nancy Grady Wilson, Harold Kiser, Rebecca F. Warren, Vivian Mitchell, Jane Greeson, Rev. James Caviness, W. A. Johnson, Jr., Harold Medlin, John Allen, Walter H. Stancil, and Laura Bailey.

Rev. W. Arthur Warren, Jr., president, welcomed the Society to Benson UMC. He announced that the North Carolina Conference Commission on Archives & History would meet at the church after lunch. The agenda was to have our business session, a sharing of the history of Benson UMC, and a look at the Archives Room and a display that is set up in the Fellowship Hall. After lunch, we were to go down to the Benson Museum. Mrs. Helen Smith would be there for us at 1:00 p.m. The museum is open on Wednesday afternoons.

The devotional was given by Arthur. He used The Upper Room devotional for April 1, 2006. The scripture was Psalm 27:10.

Rev. Para Drake (Newbegun UMC, Elizabeth City District) was nominated for president. Vivian Mitchell moved that Para Drake be

elected as president of the NC Conference Historical Society. The motion was accepted and Para Drake was elected. Vice-President Jane Greeson and Secretary/Treasurer John Mitchell will continue to serve in their offices.

The location of the next meeting of the NCCCHS and the NCCCAH will be discussed at the afternoon Archives & History meeting. Arthur asked if we had any suggestions for a location for the October meeting. Beverley Pierpoint offered the William Randolph Few Chapel at Croasdaile Village Retirement Home in Durham, NC. (Beverley works in the Corporate Office there and is a member of A&H.) The date of the meeting has not been set yet. The Methodist Retirement Homes were 50 years old last year.

The minutes of the October 1, 2005 meeting were read by the secretary. (Vol. 3, February, 2006, of the Saddlebags newsletter was bulk-mailed. The mailing disappeared and the US Postal Service has not found out what happened to it. Saddlebags is available through the NC Conference Archives web site). Laura Bailey, the editor, arrived with copies of Saddlebags. Laura is our staff representative from the Methodist Building to the commission and the society and also administers the Media Center. The minutes were approved on a motion by Rev. James Caviness.

Saddlebags included information on the meeting in June of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society at the Duke University Divinity School and a registration form for the meeting. This year's meeting is being hosted by the NC Conference Commission on Archives & History and the NC Conference Historical Society. The theme for the meeting is "The Gather Era", February 1951 to July 1968. We need people to greet the attendees and to pick up people from the airport. Laura said that if you make a reservation to stay at the Millenium Hotel during the SEJHS meeting, you need to let them know this a Duke Divinity School event in order to get the \$75 rate for 1-2 people. Additional people in a room would cost about \$15 each.

There was also an article about the destruction of the Gulfside Assembly at Waveland, MS by Hurricane Katrina. Gulfside Assembly was the old Central Jurisdiction of Black churches' equivalent of the Southeast Jurisdiction's Lake Junaluska Assembly. An Advance Special, #761337 Gulfside Assembly Program or #760235 Gulfside Assembly Capital Fund has been set up for donations to help rebuild Gulfside. Donations may also be sent to: SEJ Gulfside Assembly Fund, P.O. Box 67, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745.

Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Collins, first president of North Carolina Wesleyan College, was to be our

## DECEASED CLERGY AND SPOUSES

### Clergy

Robert Lee Nicks  
March 16, 1916-February 12, 2006  
Husband of Loula Price Nicks

Osmond Kelly Ingram  
August 22, 1918-February 20, 2006  
Husband of Geraldine Dysart Ingram

William Earl Worley  
January 2, 1925-March 8, 2006  
Husband of Nancy Lee Jones Worley

Helen Gray Crotwell  
October 8, 1925-April 10, 2006

Ronald Dale Cyr  
August 23, 1946-April 11, 2006

James Robert Lancaster  
June 7, 1922-April 14, 2006  
Husband of Louise Brown Lancaster

Arthur William Winstead  
June 23, 1923-May 5, 2006  
Husband of Margaret Truesdale Winstead

Paul Casto Browning  
August 28, 1923-June 25, 2006  
Husband of Winifred Lore Browning

Carol D. Hayes  
December 18, 1951-July 7, 2006

Christian White  
December 25, 1920-July 18, 2006  
Husband of Sarah Margaret Walker White

Jerry Stephen Dodson  
October 28, 1950-July 21, 2006  
Husband of Wanda Hamilton Dodson

Clyde Hugh Dunn  
April 8, 1927-July 22, 2006  
Husband of Betty Ziegler Dunn

Brooks Bivens Little  
April 7, 1916-August 7, 2006

### Spouses:

Katherine L. Aldridge Freeman  
August 30, 1916-February 5, 2006  
Widow of William Lawrence Freeman

Mary Elizabeth Heath Phillips  
November 10, 1905-February 28, 2006  
Widow of James Godfrey Phillips

Marie Davis Snypes  
January 26, 1924-March 1, 2006  
Widow James Grayson Snypes

Elizabeth McGee Desrosiers  
June 9, 1944-April 8, 2006  
Widow Norman Alfred Desrosiers

Helen Hunter Brodie  
October 25, 1916-April 10, 2006  
Widow of Robert Stewart Brodie

Mary Alderman Shiver  
August 2, 1913-April 16, 2006  
Widow of James Henry Shiver

Hazel Vandalia Cline Stephenson  
April 5, 1918-April 16, 2006  
Widow of Marion Osborne Stephenson

Catherine Parrish Lee  
December 21, 1935-May 15, 2006  
Wife of Henry Westbrook Lee

Helen Wortham Mitchell Pollard  
April 27, 1934-June 27, 2006  
Widow of John David Mitchell

Janette J. Riordan Singley  
August 27, 1951-July 15, 2006  
Wife of Kenneth Carl Singley

Barbara L. Robinson Hayes  
June 1, 1954-July 27, 2006  
Wife of James Hinton Hayes

Hattie Lewis Musser  
June 8, 1922-August 12, 2006  
Wife of Benjamin Franklin Musser



## AWARDS ARE ANNOUNCED

The General Commission on Archives and History announces the recipients of two of its award programs. Receiving the 2006 Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American United Methodist History Research Grant are Jodi Skipper, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin, for her historical research at St. Paul Church, Dallas; and Andrew Witmer, a doctoral candidate at the University of Virginia writing on "God's Interpreters: African Missions and the Social Construction of Race in America, 1865-1910". The John Harrison Ness Award recognizes two outstanding papers written by M.Div. candidates. This year's winners are Jessie Shuman Larkins for the paper, "John Wesley Among the Colonies:

Wesleyan Theology in the Face of the American Revolution" and J.E. McConnell, II, for the paper, "The Character of Methodism in George Eliot's Adam Bede". Both recipients of the Ness Award are students at Duke Divinity School and were students of Dr. Richard Heitzenrater. While the dollar amounts are modest, these awards are a way for the General Commission to encourage students and scholars to research and write on Methodist history. Good work is being done and we are pleased to recognize such accomplishments. Information for all awards and grants can be found on the GCAH web site at <http://www.gcah.org/AwardsGrants/GrantsLinks.htm>.

## LEGACY & HISTORY FEATURED IN TWO SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"The celebration of the historic 1956 General Conference decision to confer full clergy rights upon women captured the attention of the [2006] NC Annual Conference with its evocative theme and costumed actors.

The highlight of the presentation was the sight of more than 100 clergywomen being led in procession by liturgical dancer, Suzanne Dornsmith. The overwhelming numbers of women in pastoral and extension ministry necessitated the singing of "A Charge to Keep I Have" twice!

"Guide My Feet — Journey of Women into Ordained Ministry" featured vignette conversations between historic figures in our history. John Wesley spoke with his mother, Susannah, and Sarah Crosby, the first woman to receive "permission" to exhort — and without the use of scripture. In the early 1800's Jarena Lee twice implored African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Richard Allen to ordain her; he refused, citing that ". . . our *Discipline* has no provision for women preachers."

Anna Oliver and Anna Howard Shaw each took different routes in their call to ministry: Anna Oliver did not leave the Methodist Episcopal Church while Anna Howard Shaw accepted the invitation of the Methodist Protestant Church to be fully ordained. Both women preached and taught, however. Georgia Harkness, known as a theologian, was encouraged by mentor Henry Brightman and became a strong-voiced laywoman for the cause of women's full clergy rights. She was present when the decision was made.

Our record of women's ordained ministry in the North Carolina Conference gives us a deeper understanding of ourselves. In 1968, Lynn Testerman Wall was ordained as Deacon by Bishop Garber rather than as Elder because she was a woman and married to a clergyman. In 1976, Gladys Williford and Helen Crotwell were ordained as the first Elders in Full Connection."

*From Para Drake's article in the July 2006 issue of the NC Conference Christian Advocate*



presenter on Higher Education at the SEJHS meeting. Dr. Collins died December 12, 2005. Bill Billings of Methodist College has agreed to be our presenter. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of NC Wesleyan College and Methodist College.

2006 is also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of full clergy rights for women by the 1956 General Conference. Rev. Patricia Thompson, a pastor in the New England Conference "on loan" to the Troy Conference and the president of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, will be our presenter on the history of United Methodist women's ministry and ordination at the Thursday night banquet. Pat recently published [Courageous Past, Bold Future — The Journey Toward Full Clergy Rights for Women in the United Methodist Church](#).

The Thursday bus tour will stop at Croasdaile Village for a presentation on the history of the Methodist Retirement Homes, have lunch and a program on camping at Camp Rockfish, and have a presentation at Prospect UMC, the largest Native American congregation east of the Mississippi River. A drive-through is planned for Methodist College and for the Wesley Pines retirement home in Lumberton.

Richard Heitzenrater,  
Professor of Church History and

Wesley Studies at Duke Divinity School will be the keynote speaker. Dick is the person who broke the code that John Wesley used in his journals.

Meals will be discussed at the commission meeting in the afternoon. All meals at Duke University must be catered by the university.

Paul Neff Garber was Dean of the Duke Divinity School when he was elected bishop in 1944. He was appointed to the Geneva Area (Europe), but started his work in North Africa before World War II ended in Europe. When the bishop of the Area (Virginia and North Carolina Conferences) died, Bishop Garber was appointed as our bishop in February, 1951. He became the first bishop of the Raleigh Area in 1960 when the North Carolina Conference was given its own bishop. During Bishop Garber's tenure "Youth Caravans" were sent to help with the rebuilding of Europe after World War II, two (instead of the original one) colleges were started in 1956 while keeping Louisburg College open, "No Silent Pulpit" during Lent led to the lay speaker program, four camps were set up, and the \$10 Club was created to raise money to help start new churches. In 1968 General Conference voted to merge the Central Jurisdiction, almost all of the Black Methodist churches in the United States, into the five geographical jurisdictions. At Bishop Garber's last annual

conference as Presiding Bishop, the NC Conference voted to merge immediately instead of delaying the merger until as late as 1972 when it had to be completed. This was the same year the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.

Arthur Warren presented the program on the history of Benson United Methodist Church. This was based on research done by Ralph and Nicki Delano.

After the history presentation the meeting was adjourned to look at the Archives Room before lunch. During lunch a presentation was made on church music history.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mitchell  
Secretary

President:  
Rev. Para Drake  
Newbegun United Methodist Church  
129 Terrilyn Way  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
pdrake@nccumc.org

Secretary/Treasurer  
John Mitchell  
622 Wimbleton Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
John\_C\_Mitchell@msn.com

# "THE GARBER ERA" - SEJ SOCIETY MEETS AT DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL



Duke Chapel

The Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society, June 27-30, 2006, was hosted by the NC Conference Commission on Archives and History and The NC Conference United Methodist Historical Society at Duke Divinity School on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School. The theme for our gathering was "The Garber Era" honoring the leadership of Bishop Paul Neff Garber. Bishop Garber served our Conference from February 1951 to July 1968. The first years of his ministry as Bishop of the NC Conference took place while the Conference was part of the Richmond Area until the Bishop's residence was located in Raleigh, NC in 1964 and it became the Raleigh Area.

Paul Neff Garber was born at New Market, VA, July 27, 1899. He was ordained in the WNC Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1926 and became the first professor of church history at the new School of Religion at Duke University that year. He became the Dean of the School in 1941 and was elected Bishop in 1944 serving the Geneva Area until coming to the Richmond Area. He married Orina Winifred Kidd, August 21, 1927 and upon her death July 18, 1959, married Nina Fontana of Geneva, Switzerland on April 27, 1963. He died in Geneva on December 19, 1972.

The excitement began as friends from around the Southeast began to arrive for our annual meeting. We are very much like a family reunion. It is a joy to renew our friendships and meet those who are attending for the first time. We had about 80 participants at this year's gathering. Mrs. Thelma Crowder, President of the SEJ Historical Society, welcomed everyone and shared opening remarks for



Thelma Crowder, SEJ Historical Society President & Nell Thrift

the week's activities at the opening session of our meeting. Dr. Richard Heitzenrater presented the keynote address about the life of Bishop Garber that was enlightening and challenging for our future ministry. Dean Gregory Jones shared the morning devotion on Wednesday. Mr. Tim Pyatt, Archivist at Duke University, shared about the history of the University and the Divinity School and led a tour in the afternoon of the Divinity School, Duke Chapel and other attractions nearby. Dr. Stephen C. Compton, Director of Congregational Development, shared about the Growth of our Conference through new churches and the support of the Ten Dollar Club. Mr. Bill Billings,

Methodist College historian and director of Monarch Press, shared about the influence of Bishop Garber on the building of two new colleges in our Conference, Methodist College in Fayetteville and North Carolina Wesleyan in Rocky Mount in 1956 with continued support for Louisburg College in Louisburg. Dr. Charles Michael Smith provided wonderful musical entertainment with his singing and accompaniment by Mr. David Witt, Pianist and Mrs. Gayla Collins, Flutist after our evening meal. Dr. Bill Simpson, Rocky Mount District Superintendent, shared information about the history of the United Methodist Building and the beginnings of the Raleigh area. He commented on the strong Clergy and Lay leadership in the Conference when the Bishop resided in Richmond. Mr. Tom Walden, Conference



Dr. William Quick & Rev Para Drake talking with a participant



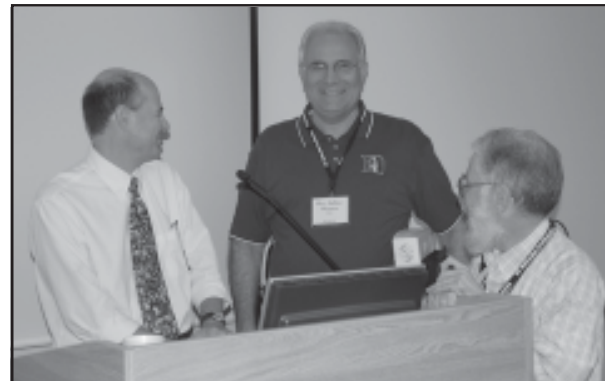
Dr. Steve Compton, Mrs. & Mr. Bill Billings



Tom Walden tells the story of layspeaking

Kenneth Locklear. We then returned to Durham for our evening banquet at Duke Memorial UMC with a delightful meal. Then the history of the Ordination and Full Clergy Rights of Women was shared by Rev. Patricia Thompson, president of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church and author of the book "Courageous Past, Bold Future – The Journey Toward Full Clergy Rights for Women in the United Methodist Church".

On Friday morning we concluded the business of the Society with the introduction of Rev. Robert J. Williams, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. Our closing worship with a Memorial Service with Communion was led by Bishop Alfred Wesley Gwinn, resident Bishop of the Raleigh Area. The Memorial Service is to recognize those from around the Jurisdiction who have contributed to the work of historical preservation and education and have died in the past two years.



Tim Pyatt, Duke University Archivist with Rev. W. Arthur Warren & John Mitchell

Lay Speaking Ministry and Lay Witness Missions, shared about the beginnings of the "no silent pulpit" in Lent and the outgrowth of our present Lay Speaking program. He learned from experience that he had better have a sermon ready, since he never knew when he might be called on to speak in the early days of this ministry. Mrs. Robbie Barrett, Ministerial Relations Office, shared about her experience with the Youth Caravan overseas in rebuilding areas following World War II and helping to improve relationships through their work.

Our meals and refreshments were catered by Bon Vivant Catering in the Divinity School Refectory and were enjoyed by everyone on Tuesday and Wednesday. We had our usual ice cream social on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with Resurrection UMC Durham, NC providing it on Wednesday.

Our bus tour on Thursday was exceptional with Mrs. Beverly S. Pierpoint, Director of Annual Giving and Special Projects, The United Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc., sharing about the history of the Retirement Homes. Lunch was at Camp Rockfish with Mr. Wray Stephens, Director of Camping ministry, sharing about our camping history. The Prospect U M C shared refreshments with us and told the story of the Native American heritage in our Conference with the guidance of their pastor Rev.



Elizabeth Mitchell Carnes and Marie Christine Carnes help serve ice cream and smiles

It is with grateful hearts that we thank everyone who made this event possible and shared with us in the experience. We look forward to next year's meeting as we go to Washington, D. C., July 20-22, 2007, to have the Sixth Historical Convocation, Historical Society UMC and SEJ Historical Society Annual Meeting in celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Charles Wesley.



Robbie Barrett & the Youth Caravan experience