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.

FALL MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY - OCTOBER 3, 2009

Thank you, Jerusalem UMC, for hosting our meeting in May 2009. 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.

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From hand written records the church was organized prior to May 1841 as Beaver Creek Camp Ground, Rockfish Circuit, South Carolina Conference Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1850 it was placed in the Wilmington District of the North Carolina Conference and in 1854 it was removed to the newly formed Fayetteville District.

The deed of record dated January 5, 1858, to The Methodist Episcopal Church from Archibald McKay conveyed to the trustees of Beaver Creek Camp Ground Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the church, Arbor, grave yard, 9 ½ acres of land.

Located at the dead end of a country road, in a large farming area, it became Camp Ground United Methodist Church after the three branches of Methodism re-united in 1939.

Progress was made in the early 1940's with the coming of electric lights, the erection of the Bundy Hut in 1943. In 1952 a ten (10) room education Building was added. It was dedicated in 1954. This year it left the circuit to become a station church.

The need for a new church had been on the minds of its members for sometime. This became a reality in 1964 with the erection of a new sanctuary. According to tradition, The First Place of Worship at Camp Ground was a Brush Arbor, which stood on the spot where the new Sanctuary now stands. Later, a Log Building was erected and used for worship, until some years later it was destroyed by fire. The historic two-story Colonial Church edifice, still standing on the Church property, was the Third Place of Worship. That old Sanctuary was standing in 1858, according to a Deed, recorded in Cumberland County Court House.

The meeting will be held starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Old Sanctuary Building. There will be a business meeting, devotion and a sharing of news and resources. Lunch will be at Noon. Please contact Robin Harry by September 28th at the Methodist Building to let us know if you will be staying for lunch. rharry@nccumc.org or 800-849-4433 ext 252.

A map to Camp Ground UMC can be found on their website: http://www.campgroundumc.com/ or contact Rev. Dennis Lamm at the church.
It was a grand day for the Historical Society as we joined with Jerusalem/Warren Plains Charge to celebrate its Fourth Annual Heritage Day. Society members and guests attending were Dr. John K. Bergland, Rev. Jack M. Benfield, Rev. Dennis Lamm, Dr. William Simpson, Mildred Swain, Jane Greeson, Laura Bailey, Jane Benfield, Becky Warren, Bill Johnston, John Mitchell, and Vivian Mitchell bringing our total attendance for the day to approximately 141!

The Reverend Dr. John Bergland welcomed us to the event held at the Apple Yard (1010 Hinton Mill Road, Boydton, VA, Smith Creek on Lake Gaston) where Bobby and Janie Coley’s restored 1800’s farm house stands. Everyone joined together in singing “Shall We Gather at the River”. Reverend Arthur Warren gave the opening prayer.

The Reverend Dr. Bill Simpson, Conference Historian, told of the history in the Roanoke River Valley being the cradle of Methodism. Jerusalem UMC, one mile south of the Roanoke (now Lake Gaston), was established in 1773 by the Irish street preacher and colonial circuit rider, Robert Williams. Bishop Francis Asbury said of him, “No one has awakened more souls for Christ than has Robert Williams.” You may read more of the church’s history at: www.jerusalemumc.org/who.html.

Mr. Harvey Powers shared history about Yeargain’s Chapel which was built by Samuel Yeargain in the 1770’s and located near the Roanoke River of what is now Warren County, NC. Bishop Francis Asbury as noted in his travel journal visited Yeargain’s Chapel. Many believe it is an area now under Lake Gaston.

A special soloist for the day was Miss Sarah Bergland, granddaughter of Dr. John Bergland. We enjoyed her heartfelt singing of “Blessed Assurance” a cappella.

After the morning program of singing and heritage stories, Mr. Brody Tubbaugh, Duke Divinity student from Iowa, asked the blessing on our meal. We all enjoyed a bountiful dinner on the grounds with grilled chicken, pork and Brunswick Stew that was provided by the host charge and accompanied with an array of side dishes and desserts.

Following our noon meal, the Rev. Mack McMillan, Rocky Mount District Superintendent, portraying a circuit rider arrived by horseback and preached from St Matthew 10.

Following adjournment, the NCC Commission on Archives and History gathered for their spring meeting at Jerusalem UMC, 850 Paschall Station Road, Wise, NC scheduled for 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Warren
2009 Joint Meeting of the SEJ Historical Society and the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church

It was a gala event featuring a gathering of both the 2009 Annual Meeting of The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society Annual Meeting. Gathering at Lambuth Inn, at Lake Junaluska, NC, from Monday, June 29 through midday Thursday, July 2, 2009, some seventy persons heard reports, attended workshops and celebrated the heritage of the Connection.

The Reverend Arthur Warren, of the North Carolina Annual Conference, presided over the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society. Highlights included addresses by Dr. George Freeman, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council; Dr. Robert Sledge, The United Methodist Historical Society’s first president; The Rev. Bill Lowry, Lake Junaluska Historian; Mrs. Gerry Reiff, past Director of the Heritage Center; Dr. Joe Hale, General Secretary Emeritus, World Methodist Council; and Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., General Secretary Emeritus, General Commission on Archives and History. Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., Chairperson, SEJ CAH and Dr. Robert Williams, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History gave dedications.

One of the moving actions of the SEJHS and the Archives and History Commission of the Southeastern Jurisdiction was the announcement of the creation of a Frances Hart Memorial to honor the memory of the first director of the Heritage Center. A special offering was taken to help fund this project.

Workshops were offered regarding various aspects of the work of United Methodist historians. Dr. L. Dale Patterson, Archivist-Records Administrator on the staff of the General Commission, led a large group in the relatively new area of preserving digital records. This included the position of the Commission that digital preservation does not take the place of actual physical preservation of documents and materials. According to Dr. Patterson, a digital record is not an historical record. Of interest were the formats determined to be best for keeping digital records. This included written records and photographs with appropriate attention to backup of materials for preservation.

Other workshop agendas included Gulfside Assembly, Hinton Rural Life Center, Intentional Growth Center and assisting conference commissions and historians in their work in assisting and advising local church historians. With increasing interest in preserving the heritage of churches and conferences, historians are encouraged to preserve oral histories as well as written records.

The Southeastern Historical Society welcomed historians from across the nation in grand style. A tour of the Archives introduced many persons to the resources at Lake Junaluska. Outings included a boat tour of Lake Junaluska and an ice cream social at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Art Swarthout, Former GCAH staff member, World Methodist Museum director and SEJ Heritage Center Director.

Our meeting concluded with Worship and Holy Communion on Thursday morning. The Preacher and Celebrant was Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Charlotte Area, Western NC Conference and assisted by The Rev. Jim Morris, Vice President of The Historical Society.

The 2010 meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society will be held at Madison United Methodist Church, Madison, Mississippi, near Jackson, Tuesday, July 6 – Friday, July 9, 2010. The general theme of the meeting will be “The Lambuth Connection”. Bishop Walter Lambuth was missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was born in Shanghai, China, Nov. 10, 1854 and died in Yokohama, Japan, Sept. 26, 1921. His great-grandfather was a Methodist pioneer in the Mississippi Territory. His grandfather was missionary to the Indians, and his father was missionary to China. Bishop Lambuth was sent to America to study and graduated from Vanderbil Medical School. He went back to China and directed medical and evangelical missions throughout Asia. Plans for the Mississippi celebration include visiting historical sites in Mississippi. Further information on the 2010 meeting may be obtained from Arthur Warren, awarren@nccumc.org or Bill Simpson bsimpson@nccumc.org.

by William C. Simpson, Jr. NC Conference Historian

Question from one of our local church historians.....

"Two years ago I attended a wonderful conference on Heritage Preservation at Lake Junaluska. At the conference it was mentioned that another one would happen in two years. Do you know if anything is planned and when and where? I learned so much of value that I would love to attend another one."

Answer..... Yes! On the next page of this newsletter is the registration form for the next workshop opportunity that will be sponsored by the SEJ Commission on Archives & History.
Will Our Future Have a Past?
Caring for Electronic Records
Dale Patterson
United Methodist Archivist
General Commission on Archives and History
12:00 - 1:30   Lunch Hour
1:45 - 4:30   Workshops
(Choose One)
Words of Witness: Preserving Memories and Present Witness Through Oral History
Jim Havron
Archivist, Tennessee Conference
Caring for Records in the Local Church
Mary Ann Pickard
Retired Archivist, Huntingdon College and Alabama-West Florida Conference
5:30 - 7:00   Dinner Hour
7:30  Tour of World Methodist Museum
Special Exhibit: “Francis Asbury and Early Frontier Methodism”

SUNDA
Y, NOVEMBER 15
2 - 5:00   Registration—Welcome Center
Open House—Heritage Center
4:00         Pictorial Lake Tour with the Rev. Bill Lowry, Junaluska Historian and author of the forthcoming history of the Lake
5:30 - 7:00   Dinner Hour
7:00     Opening Session
Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr. presiding
Keynote Address: “The Priest Has Given Me a Book”
J. Lawrence McCleskey, Retired Bishop and Former president, General Commission on Archives and History
Later:   Video and Popcorn Fellowship
“Memory and Ministry”
SA
TURDA
Y, NOVEMBER 14
7:30 - 8:30    Breakfast Hour
9:30 - 11:45  Workshops (Choose One)
Writing Your Church History
Rev. Harold Lawrence
North Georgia Conference Pastor, Historian and Poet
From the Cotton Field to University: A History of Methodist University 1956-2006
Has your local church sent in a history to be kept at the conference archives? It is very helpful to other researchers for family information, information about pastors and circuits, for relatives of deceased pastors who would like to know about the places that their loved ones served, and even as examples to other local churches planning to publish their histories.

**Please Return Your Registration by November 6th**