NO FALL MEETING

HYMNALS IN EARLY METHODISM

What is your favorite hymn? Methodists have been known as a singing congregation since we became an official denomination.

Before the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784 at the Christmas Conference at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, MD, there were a collection of hymnbooks adopted by Methodist Societies.

The first of these was published in Charleston, SC by John Wesley during his mission efforts in Georgia. This first hymnal was called A Collection of Psalms and Hymns by John Wesley 1737. This was also the first hymnal published in America!

The second hymnal was named A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists by J. Paramore in 1780. This collection of hymns was known as the “Large Hymn Book” and was one of the most influential hymnbooks in early Methodism. It was divided into five main sections: (1) Containing Introductory Hymns; (2) Convincing; (3) For Penitents and Backsliders; (4) For Believers; and (5) For the Society. These divisions were further broken down into sub-sections helping make it easier for people to locate hymns quickly. This became a model for Methodist hymnals since.

The third hymnal was a pocket collection of hymns published in 1781 by Robert Spence. Spence had not gotten permission from John Wesley to publish the hymnal, so Wesley published his own in 1785. Wesley’s reasoning for publishing his 1785 edition was to discourage the extensive use of Spence’s hymnal. Wesley published a second pocket hymnal in 1787.

After the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the 1784 Christmas Conference, Bishop Francis Asbury ordered a hymnal published for Methodists which was approved by the 1808 General Conference. This hymnbook was named A Selection of Hymns from Various Authors, Designed as a Supplement to The Methodist Pocket Hymn Book. The eighth official hymnal by the Methodist Episcopal Church was published in 1878.

A copy of the 1878 Hymnal of the Methodist Episcopal Church was published by Nelson & Phillips in New York. The 1878 hymnal was divided in ten main sections: (1) Worship; (2) God; (3) Christ; (4) The Holy Spirit; (5) The Scriptures; (6) The Sinner; (7) The Christian; (8) The Church; (9) Time and Eternity; and (10) Miscellaneous.

As has been the tradition from the 1780 A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists, the first hymn published has traditional been O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing. This was true of the 1878 Methodist hymnal.
Unlike hymns of today which display the music, early hymnals showed the 'metrical meter' used for a particular hymn. For example, O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing follows the 'metrical meter' C.M. known as Common Meter (8.8.8.8).

If you look at hymn # 57 in the 1989 The United Methodist Hymnal, the hymn O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing displays the Meter Meter and Tune Name. If you look at the bottom of #57, to the right you will see AZMON and below that CM. AZMON designates the tune name and CM is the meter.

One hymn in the 1878 hymnal by Isaac Watts found of 659 follows the C.M. meter is entitled Heavenly Rest Anticipated. This hymn is found in the section under 'The Christian' and sub-section of 'Trial, Suffering, and Submission'. Try to sing it in your mind:

1 - When I can read my title clear
To mansions in the skies,
I bid farewell to every fear,
And wipe my weeping eyes.

2 - Should earth against my soul engage,
And fiery darts be hurled,
Then I can smile at Satan's rage,
And face a frowning world.

3 - Let cares like a wild deluge come,
Let storms of sorrow fall,
So I but safely reach my home,
My God, my heaven, my all.

4 - There I shall bathe my weary soul
In seas of heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.

During this Fall season, take time to sing some of your favorite hymns and maybe find some new favorites too!

Bryan Huffman

Archives Receives Gifts

The North Carolina Conference Archives has recently received two nice gifts. The largest gift ever received came from the estate of the late Rev. L. Franklin (Frank) Grill, former historian and Archivist of the North Carolina Conference. This gift consisted of most of his library and all of his personal and research papers on various subjects. At the present time we have only been able to receive part of the gift as the Pandemic has interfered with our being able to pick up the second half of the gift. This is not only one of the largest private gifts of new material that the Archives has ever received but it is of tremendous value to someone researching the numerous subjects covered by the gift.

A second gift came to the Archives from a family member of the late Rev. Chancie D. Bardlift. This gift consisted of a large number of papers concerning Charlie Soong, who was at one time a member of Fifth Street UMC and who returned to China to spread the gospel. He was also the father of Mayling Soong Chiang (Madame Chiang Kai-shek). There also were a nice number of documents on Women's Society history and various other subjects.

We would hope that there might be others in our Conference who have books, papers and other memorabilia of our Conference that they would consider giving to the Archives. You can email the Archives at archives-history@ncumc.org or call Dennis Lamm @ 252-521-1452. We appreciate any and all gifts!

DECEASED CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Clergy:

Hector Manuel Millan
January 7, 1955 – March 16, 2020
Husband of Rafaela Lara Millan

Amanda Jan
January 28, 1978 – March 30, 2020

Roger Addison Armistead
March 14, 1938 – April 30, 2020
Husband of Diane W. Armistead

James Michael Durner
December 9, 1945 – May 5, 2020
Husband of Janice Ellen Durner

John Earl Richardson Sr.
February 11, 1918 – May 9, 2020
Father of Betty Richardson Bailey

Madison Newton Hankal
March 3, 1963 – May 13, 2020

John Wayne Yount
September 20, 1947 – May 20, 2020
Husband of Connie Chapell Yount

Hubert Howard Hodgson
February 12, 1934 – May 24, 2020
Father of Hubert Hodgson Jr. & Susan Hodgson

John Sidney Paschall
November 19, 1938 – June 5, 2020
Husband of Connie A. Paschall

Gilbert W. Beeson Jr.
October 21, 1938 – July 9, 2020
Husband of Barbara P. Beeson

Daniel Thomas Earnhardt
October 2, 1939 – July 30, 2020
Husband of Patricia Stagen Earnhardt

Spouses:

Erma B. Woodworth
October 10, 1925 – October 12, 2019
Widow of Douglas R. Woodworth

Carol W. Midgett
September 4, 1944 – December 21, 2019
Widow of Peleg D. Midgett II

Priscilla McDougald Thompson
January 24, 1938 – January 7, 2020
Widow of James Frederick Thompson, Jr.

Spouses continued

Colleen Dennis Newman
November 29, 1928 – March 1, 2020
Widow of William Winter Newman

Leatrice Smith Creech
September 24, 1938 – March 11, 2020
Widow of Clyde McGee Creech

Grace Stafford
December 21, 1931 – March 12, 2020
Widow of Sidney Earl Stafford

Luella Eller Ellis
March 4, 1928 – March 22, 2020
Widow of Wallace Martin Ellis

Nancy Pitzer Thomas
June 6, 1933 – April 11, 2020
Widow of Wayne Esmond Thomas

Jean Carol Tilley
March 11, 1949 – April 15, 2020
Wife of Robert Cox Tilley

Martha P. Brown
April 9, 1924 – May 23, 2020
Widow of James Collins P. Brown

James A. Sawyer Jr.
October 16, 1937 – June 4, 2020
Husband of Jennifer D. Sawyer

Sylvia J. Teachery
August 20, 1939 – June 6, 2020
Widow of Wilbur Carol Teachery

Lillie H. Horne
March 22, 1927 – June 9, 2020
Widow of Herbert F. Horne

Sarah L. Cole
June 2, 1931 – June 14, 2020
Widow of James Henry Cole

Willie Davis Johnson
April 6, 1931 – June 17, 2020
Widow of Harvey Bynum Johnson

Sarah O. Meadows
August 19, 1914 – June 25, 2020
Widow of Daniel Edgar Meadows
HYMNAL IN METHODISM

I. Prior to the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784
1737 A Collection of Psalms and Hymns. The first Methodist Hymnal was published by John Wesley at Charleston, SC. The first hymnal was published in America.
1790 A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists. This hymnal was published in London, printed by John Wesley by J. J. Paramore. It was later called the "Large Hymnal Book.
1791 A Pocket Hymn Book. This was a collection of hymns from various authors. Most of these hymns were taken from compilations of the Wesleyans, but without their knowledge or permission. This hymnal was published by Robert Spence.
1785 A Pocket Hymn Book, for the use of Christians of all denominations. This hymnal was published John Wesley. It was aimed at preventing the extensive use of Spence's hymnal.
1787 A Pocket Hymn Book, for the use of Christians of all denominations. John Wesley reprinted Spence's hymnal, but without some of the hymns in that collection condemned as "grievous doggerel".

II. Starting with the organization of the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church in 1784
1784 A Collection of Psalms and Hymns for the Lord's Day.
1790 A Pocket Hymn Book: Designed as a Constant Companion for the Piouls. A collection from various authors.
1802 The Methodist Pocket Hymn Book, revised and improved; Designed as a Constant Companion for the Piouls of all Denominations. A collection from various authors.
1808 A Selection of Hymns from various authors, designed as a Supplement to The Methodist Pocket Hymn Book, compiled under the direction of Bishop Asbury and published by order of the General Conference.
1814 The Large Hymn Book.
1821 A Collection of Hymns for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, principally from the Collections of the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., late Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford.
1836 A Collection of Hymns for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, principally from the Collection of the Rev. John Wesley.
1849 Hymns for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
1878 The Methodist Episcopal Hymn and Tune Book.

III. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South
1847 A Collection of Hymns for public, social and domestic worship.
1851 Songs of Zion: A Supplement to the Hymn Book of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
1859 The Wesleyan-Hymn and Tune Book: comprising the Entire Collection of Hymns in the Hymn Book of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with appropriate Music adapted to each Hymn.
1870 Songs of Zion.
1874 A Collection of Hymns and Tunes for Public, Social, and Domestic Worship.
1880 The New Hymn Book.
1889 Hymn Book of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

IV. The Methodist Protestant Church
1830 A Compilation of Hymns, adapted to public and social Divine Worship.
1838 Hymn Book of the Methodist Protestant Church.
1839 Hymn book of the Methodist Protestant Church.
1840 Hymn Book of the Methodist Protestant Church.
1872 The Voice of Praise and Methodist Protestant Hymn Book.
1901 The Methodist Protestant Hymnal.

V. Joint Hymnals
1895 The Methodist Hymnal. This hymnal was published in New York, Cincinnati, and Nashville, and it was a joint project of the M.E. Church and the M.E. Church South. It contained tunes, readings, and ritual. This hymnal served as the official hymnal of both churches for thirty years.
1915 The Methodist Hymnal. This hymnal was published in New York, Cincinnati, Baltimore, and Nashville, it was a joint project of the M.E. Church, M.E. Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church. This hymnal expanded the sources of hymns to include The Scottish Psalter, translations or renderings of Latin, Greek, German, Scandinavian, Welsh, and French sources, as well as texts from other denominations and Jewish and Roman Catholic sources. It also contained sacred poetry from twelfth century writers.
1930 The Coleridge Worship Hymnal. This hymnal was published in New York and Nashville. It contained tunes, readings, and ritual. This hymnal was published for "those who like to sing in Church".
1964 The Methodist Hymnal. This hymnal was printed in Nashville and authorized by the 1960 General Conference. This hymnal drew on the heritage of ecumenical hymnody, including the Wesleyan tradition. It aimed at providing "sufficient diversity to allow for the variety of religious experiences". It included a Psalter, other acts of praise, prayers, aids to worship, the ritual of the church, and service music.
1989 The United Methodist Hymnal. This hymnal was approved by the 1988 General Conference and printed in Nashville. It embodies the former Methodist and former Evangelical United Brethren traditions, and it is the first substantial revision of content and format since the 1870's. It has more "sizable qualities" and "contains a broader base of musical styles" than any of its predecessors. It contained Afro-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Native American heritages. It contained 17 canticles from traditional and contemporary sources with sung or spoken recitations. It contained a Psalter, Rituals, affirmations of faith, and prayers.
2000 The Faith We Sing. This hymnal was a supplement to the 1989 The United Methodist Hymnal. The hymnal comprised of 284 songs with many hymns written between 1985 and 2000 from around the world. The Pew Edition was more streamlined edition than the Singer's Edition (for choirs and soloists).

The North Carolina Conference Historical Society was in existence as early as 1893. At that time all clergy were members of the society. In 1978, the Commission on Archives and History reorganized the Historical Society and opened its membership to anyone interested in the history of the United Methodist Church. The purposes included in the bylaws of the newly formed Society included: the collection and preservation of materials related to the history of the United Methodist; promotion of writing and historical research; training local church historians; and publicizing information and news.

At present the NC Conference Historical Society meets twice a year - once in the spring at a church or location of historical interest, and once in the fall at the United Methodist building in Garner, NC. Meetings may include speakers on historical topics of interest, information for local church historians to share in their own churches, fellowship and a meal.

Society meetings are open to all!

For more information contact:
Rev. Bryan Huffman, President of NCC Historical Society
2315 Elizabeth Ave.
New Bern, NC 28562
bryanhuffman@nocumc.org

Support for Church Historians and others interested in church history is available through participation in the NC Conference Historical Society. Renew your membership today!

Membership in the N.C. Conference Historical Society
Dues are for a year and payable to: N.C. Conference (please put "Historical Society" on the memo line)
Mail to: Archives & History, 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner NC 27529

Student $3.00 
Regular $7.00 
Life $100.00 
Patron $10.00 

Name: 
Address: 
City, State & Zip: 
Telephone: 
Email: 

Doug Jonas, Chr. of NCC Commission on Archives and History
209 Berlin Way 
Morrisville, NC 27560
Dou Jonas2000@gmail.com