



HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Volume XLV Number 1

Spring, 2005

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

HS UMC & TX UM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Information about the 2005 Annual Meeting of the HSUMC has been announced. This will be a joint meeting with the Texas UM Historical Society. Housing will be at the Clarion Hotel and the program will take place at First United Methodist Church on W. 5th St. in Fort Worth.

Banquet speakers include Dean Jim Kirby, Bill Bryan as David Ayers—a pioneer layman and Joe Specht—speaking about Texas country music. Registration opens up on Thursday, April 21 at noon. The first “event” begins at 1pm, a welcome and devotional time. The Annual Meeting will close after worship at the First UMC on Sunday morning.

Other highlights include HSUMC Section programs, a bus/walking tour of the Stockyards complete with Bar-B-Q lunch and the Annual Meeting (plenary) of the HSUMC. Speakers will share information about Texas and the Fort Worth area as Methodism swept the country.

Meals for the event can be provided with registration—except for breakfast. The Clarion Hotel offers a continental breakfast, laundry facilities, computer access and free passes to

the FW YMCA (pool and workout room.)

Hotel reservations are the responsibility of the conference attendee. You can contact the Clarion Hotel on 600 Commerce Street in Fort Worth at 817-332-6900 (fax 817-338-1919). Room rates have been guaranteed at \$65 + tax per room (single, double, or quad.) These rates are guaranteed through March 20, 2005. Those who register late will pay full going rate for their room.

A registration form is included with this newsletter. It is also available on the HSUMC website.

For more information, contact Registrar, Rev. John Johnson (817-560-1591 or email jjgonefishin@aol.com) or Dr. Rob Sledge (325-793-4699 or email rsledge@mcm.edu).

*April
21-24
Fort
Worth,
Texas*

RENEWAL REMINDER

Please look at the address label on this newsletter. Above your name you will find the expiration date of your membership. If you see the date January 2005 or any earlier date, **the time to renew your membership is now.**

Send your checks, payable to HSUMC to :
**General Commission, Archives & History
PO Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940**

inside...

Moments from Our Past
President's Column
Bylaws / Strawbridge Shrine
Section Notes

page 2
page 3
page 4
page 5

MOMENTS FROM OUR PAST ...

BY LYLE JOHNSTON

BISHOP ASBURY'S MEDICINE CHEST

Read Asbury's Journals and you cannot help but know how much this man suffered. Poor health dogged his steps. At first one might think him a hypochondriac. But then you realize that he never used his illness as a reason to miss his appointments. In all kinds of weather traveling over treacherous trails, fording rivers, sleeping little and eating a diet which invited illness, it's no wonder this man hardly knew a well day. One of his biographers tabulated his health problems, "He suffered terribly from boils, fevers, inflammatory rheumatism, sore throat, weak eyes, bronchitis, asthma, toothache, ulcers in the throat and stomach, neuralgia, intestinal disorders, swollen glands, skin diseases, and finally galloping consumption."

When you finish tabulating Asbury's illnesses, however, another observation comes to mind. The greatest enemy to his health may have been what I call his medicine chest. Granting that most of his contemporaries also suffered from poor medical care, Asbury seemed to go out of his way to treat his illnesses. He was enamored of medical remedies. Having read on the subject, as did John Wesley, he made prolific use of Wesley's Primitive Physic and also Dr. Henry Wilkens' Family Advisor. Actually, Asbury sponsored Wilkens' book and published it together with Primitive Physic for the benefit of Methodists and all others desperate enough to try the remedies. Some of the remedies were typical of medical practice at the time. Blood-letting was popular and Asbury was an avid user. Another strange phenomenon called blistering also caught Asbury's fancy. In this practice a mustard plaster was placed on the of-

fending part of the anatomy until a blister was formed. He noted, for instance, that he created a blister under his ear and this removed the pain in his head. In 1813 he noted with amusement that a Kentucky doctor created a blister on his wife's forehead hoping to draw out Methodism which had overtaken her and which he despised.

Other remedies which he regularly used such as tartar emetics purged his system. He frequently used a gargle of sage tea, honey, vinegar and mustard. This may have been beneficial. But in 1798 when he was recovering from a severe illness, he employed what he called "his drink diet." It was made of hard cider, one hundred nails, snakeroot, fennel seed and wormwood. "Take one wine glass full every morning for nine or 10 days, using no butter, milk or meat; it

(Continued on page 5)

At first,
One
Might
Think
Him a
Hypo-
chondriac

HOW DO I JOIN?

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual:	\$ 30 per year;
	\$ 55 for two years
Student:	\$ 20 per year
Family:	\$ 36 per year;
	\$ 67 for two years
Institution:	\$ 43 per year;
	\$ 80 for two years
Benefactor:	\$ 100 per year (\$70 gift credit for tax purposes)
Life:	\$ 500

*Outside U.S.A., add \$2 per year for postage. Some UM conference historical societies offer reduced joint memberships.

*Memberships are entered quarterly: January 1, April 1, June 1, or October 1 (allow 4 weeks for processing)

Make checks payable to the Historical Society and send to:

GCAH

PO Box 127

Madison, NJ 07940

Consider a gift membership for a family member, friend, colleague, or local church library! Recipients will receive a special letter acknowledging the gift.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UMC

Patricia J. Thompson, President
PO Box 538
Morrisville, VT 05661-0538
Pajt8817@aol.com

Art Swarouth, Vice President
PO Box 268
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745-0268
(828)452-2689
abswarouth@bellsouth.net

Lyle Johnston, Secretary
1349 Upper Pinal Creek Road
Globe, AZ 85501-5074
tawanda_rev@yahoo.com

Charles Chase, Treasurer
15 South H Street
Lakeview, OR 97630 (541)947-3804
Ezsys@presys.com

Editorial Correspondence ... to:
E. Joy Dodson, Editor
Central Methodist College
Fayette, MO 65248 (660)248-6279
Jdodson@centralmethodist.edu

Section Chairpersons:

Michael Peterlin, Local Church
850 Stoney Point
Owosso, MI 48867
mpeterlin@yahoo.com

Dan Swinson, Education and Research
Morrison UMC
200 W. Lincolnway
Morrison, IL 61270
Swinson@essex1.com

Mary Bakeman, Genealogy
1178 County Road B West
Roseville, MN 55113
Mbakeman@parkbooks.com

Maureen Vetter, Commissions & Historical Societies
NE UMC Conference
PO Box 4553
Lincoln, NE 68564
mvetter@nebrwesleyan.edu

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

PATRICIA J. THOMPSON

Dear Members of the HSUMC:

New Year's Greetings! In this issue of *Historian's Digest* you will find two items which need your attention: a ballot for the election of officers for the next quadrennium and a registration form for our 2005 Annual Meeting which will be held in Forth Worth, Texas, in April.

A word of explanation is needed in relation to the ballot. You will note that there is only one candidate for the office of both President and Vice-President. A change was proposed in the bylaws which was to have been voted upon at our last annual meeting but did not reach members in the required 3-month notice window. However, there was no objection to that change voiced at the 2004 Annual Meeting and unfortunately, it is being implemented here "in spirit." It has been the policy that there be at least two persons named for each office. However, during the past election and in this upcoming election, it has been very difficult to find individuals who are willing to run for the offices of a national organization. Many feel that they are already committed at the local, conference, and jurisdictional levels and cannot take on any further responsibilities. This was also the first year that suggestions for nominations were sought by the Nominating Committee from the membership-at-large. Though the last issue of *Historian's Digest* did not reach many of you until after the November 1 deadline, the Committee did extend the deadline to include any suggestions which might have been received afterwards. Unfortunately, that request did not produce many suggestions, either. Thus the proposed change that the Nominating Committee present two names **"unless the Committee can provide evidence that they have made a good faith attempt and can only find one individual willing to run for an office,"** has, in effect, been implemented both in the prior election and in this election. I have had extensive communication with Don Trigg and his committee and am satisfied that they have made a really strong effort to find individuals to run for President and Vice-President and have not been successful. It was only with this assurance that I finally agreed to run again, though I had definitely planned

(Continued on page 6)

It is
Being
Imple-
mented
"In
Spirit"

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Proposed Changes are in bold.

ARTICLE VIII (NOMINATING COMMITTEE)

Section 1. A Nominating Committee of at least five persons elected from the floor at the annual meeting held in the same year as a General Conference of The United Methodist Church shall prepare a slate of nominees for the offices. The election may be by mail ballot.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall present at least two nominations for each elective office **unless the Committee can provide evidence that they have made a good faith attempt and can only find one individual willing to run for an office.**

Section 3. **The Nominating Committee shall seek suggestions for possible nominees for each office from the membership at large prior to submitting a slate of office to the membership. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for developing guidelines for these suggestions.**

(The current Section 3 now becomes Section 4)

Section 4. The Nominating Committee will, in selecting candidates for the offices of the society, take into account the demographic diversity of the society's membership.

ARTICLE IX (FINANCES)--*The Board is proposing an addition*

Section 3. There shall be an annual audit.

A complete copy of the Society Bylaws can be found on our webpage. For a print version, contact HD editor—Joy Dodson.

STRAWBRIDGE SHRINE BY SUNI JOHNSON

A Statue of Robert Strawbridge now adorns the Strawbridge Shrine grounds at the pioneer preacher's sometime residence. It was dedicated during a June 6 pilgrimage by Bishop James K. Mathews, who had been the Episcopal leader in 1973 when the Strawbridge Shrine Association. was finally able to purchase the founding place of American Methodism. In 1940 the General Conference designated that site, the John St. Church in NY, St. Georges in Philadelphia and Barratts Chapel in Delaware as shrines of the church.

Since the house and 32-acre farm were acquired the house has been extensively restored, the pioneer meeting place—Evans House—relocated adjacent, a log meetinghouse replica erected, and a curator's house/visitor center added.

The Strawbridge Statue was projected in 1914 when a base for it was erected at the site of Strawbridge's 1764 log meetinghouse. That base has been improved with additional data, but the statue was resited when finally commissioned to prominent artist Charles McCullough. Meanwhile, both the Strawbridge House and the John Evans House are being gradually refurnished to reflect their two centuries of use.

The Shrine now has a new resident curator, Rev. Susan Beehler, and may be toured on Sunday afternoons or by appointment. Phone 410 635-2600.

The Shrine is located outside New Windsor MD off MD 31 via Wakefield Valley Rd.

*2nd
Printing
of
Proposed
By-Law
Changes*

SECTION NOTES

Commissions & Historical Societies

Maureen Vetter, Chair

Genealogy

Mary Bakeman, Chair

"Queries and Questions"

What are your expectations when you call an archive for historical information? Are your questions and queries realistic and clear? How can you ask more effective questions to get possible answers?

Sometimes good questions and queries can make all the difference as you do historical research!

We are hoping to explore the area of "Queries and Questions" in one of the "Sectional Workshops" at the upcoming HSUMC Meeting in Texas. Two groups are teaming up to share information on ways to prepare for doing research and genealogy work BEFORE you make a call to an archive to make your query and inquire about historical information.

Asking effective questions can make your search much easier and less painful for everyone involved! The questioning becomes as important as the answers then as you prepare to do research in an archive.

The historical queries you make might be for personal genealogical research or informational research for a project of a UMC Historical Society or a UMC Commission on Archives and History. Your project might require contacting an archive and you want to be prepared with understandable questions as a researcher.

Mary Bakeman (Chair of the Genealogy Section) and Maureen Vetter (Chair of the Commissions/Historical Societies Section) will facilitate a

workshop to enable folks to do better historical research.

We hope you will think about joining us in this upcoming action workshop in April 2005 as we dialogue together and search for better ways of doing "questions and queries" with archives and historical centers!

PS Note Maureen's new address on Page 3. Thanks!

Remember the webaddress for the HSUMC:

www.historicalsocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org/



Sir John A. MacDonald & wife at 2005 Annual Meeting in Kingston, Ontario

(Continued from page 2)

will make the stomach very sick, and in a few days purge the patient well."

While traveling in Maryland in 1798 Asbury's Journal brings a rare health bulletin. He declares that he is feeling well. And what is behind this improvement? He wrote, "My vegetable diet hath a salutary influence upon my system, much more so than medicine. Could I rest this summer there would be hope for my health; but I must move and live upon mercy, providence and grace."

Who knows what might have happened if Asbury had kicked the tribal medicines he used and stuck to vegetables, chicken broth and more rest? At the very least he would have been in less pain, and perhaps lived beyond his 70th birthday.

A
workshop
on Doing
Better
Histori-
cal
Research

Change/Return Service Requested

c/o Joy Dodson
Central Methodist College
Fayette, MO 65248-1198

THE HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Presorted Standard
Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fayette, Missouri
PERMIT #1

The Historian's Digest is published quarterly by The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church and serves as the newsletter of that organization.
Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Historian's Digest*, E. Joy Dodson, Editor, Missouri UM Archives, Smiley Memorial Library, Fayette, MO 65248.

HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)
not to do so.

If any of you have any questions, you may contact the chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Donald Trigg at: dlt419@aol.com. In the meantime, I would like to thank Don and his Committee members, Sue Alexander, Mary Bakeman, Richard Seiber and Jean Traster for their hard work in putting together the proposed slate, and I would like to thank all of the individuals who have agreed to have their name placed on the ballot. And I thank all of the rest of you in advance for taking the time to vote.

You will also find within this issue registration forms for our 2005 Annual Meeting. It is being held earlier than we often meet but coincides with the meeting dates of our host committee, the Texas United Methodist Historical Society. I think that it will be great fun to learn about United Methodism "Texas Style." One of the most interesting and exciting parts of the HSUMC

for me is the opportunity to learn about the extremely rich heritage which we as United Methodists have as we experience Methodism as it is lived out across our country and maybe, someday, even around our world. We made a good start at that last summer when we experienced Methodism "Canadian style." I hope to see many of you in the Texas stockyards in April. In the meantime, I pray that all of you will have had a blessed Christmas and will enjoy a prosperous and healthy New Year. Peace, Pat Thompson

President's
Column
(cont'd.)



Wall Street United
Church in Brockville,
Ontario