



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum

P.O. Box 24081

St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK—

Judi Fergus

The column that I wrote a year ago said that summer camp was the best ever. At the risk of repeating myself, I am going to say it again! I think we really outdid ourselves with this year's summer camp. Our intern, Rob Jenkins, did a superb job of getting the kids "fired up." During our Blackbeard's treasure tour, we heard many of the youngsters telling us repeatedly that "this is the best day of my life!"

We recently gave an extra copy of The Life of John Wesley by Beverly Waugh Bond to the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Their book had been lost or stolen and they were very pleased to receive it. We also donated an older printer to the Wesley Community Centers of Savannah. We are exploring a partnership with this organization which serves children from homeless and low income families. Although funds are tight for all non-profit organizations, including ours, we want to give to our Methodist community. We have agreed to provide a guided tour at no charge to their children. We have been offering free guided tours to youth who come to this community to do mission projects in Brunswick.

This is just a bit of what your membership and donation dollars have purchased this year: books for the research library, framing for the Council of Bishops pictures and for Bishop King's portrait.

Greetings from your Museum Assistant, Sandra Harris

Hello Museum Friends! It has been a very busy eight months at the Arthur Moore Methodist Museum, Library and Archives. I have much news to share. I was awarded a Lesley van der Lee Scholarship in January 2010 to attend the 25th Annual Conference of the Small Museum Association (SMA) on February 21-23, 2010 in Ocean City, Maryland. I received information and exchanged ideas about using technology to get the word out about the museum, grant writing, archiving, collections care, and fundraising. I took advantage of SMA's large Museum Resource Hall as well as I established several informal networking opportunities with other small museum professionals and volunteers.

In March, Arthur Moore Methodist Museum hosted its first Church Historians' Workshop. Eighteen historians attended our workshop to learn what was required of a church historian and what information was vital to the archives. I am mailing information from the workshop to church historians who need help and cannot make it to the museum. Since hosting this informative workshop, we have been receiving more updates for church histories. One church history we received was from Bonaire

UMC. It included copies of newspaper articles as well as the dates of each article. Dating everything and listing the names of people in photographs is very important. This is critical for researchers now and in the generations to come.

I am pleased to announce we received a \$1,000.00 grant from the General Commission on Archives and History to create a traveling exhibit on "Women in Methodist History". I am also very happy to announce we received a grant for a traveling exhibit called "This Far by Faith". We received \$926.00 from the Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association, but our Friends of the Museum contributed \$ 463.00 (a 50% match!). Thank you for your generous support!

We have had 62 research requests so far this year; many of them came through our internet site www.mooremethodistmuseum.org. The research requests range asking from asking for church histories to wanting lists of previous pastors. Turkey Branch UMC in Springfield, Georgia celebrated their 225th anniversary this year and they are applying to receive historical status within the conference as well. We also receive numerous requests for cemetery records. Many people come into our facility and we assist them in any way possible. We would appreciate researchers calling ahead so we can have materials ready when they arrive. Helping others to conduct research or researching for others who cannot come to the Museum makes my job very rewarding. I look forward to each research request because I know that this is another opportunity to help others as well as improve my knowledge of Methodist history.



Figure 1 Church Historians

Contributions and Memorials

Memorials for Marynell Waite

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Corthell, Dr. Martha Tootle Cain,
Rev. Ernest Seckinger,

Rev. Tom and Emmie Johnson, Sr.

Memorial for Mrs. Dorothy Johnson

Rev. Tom and Emmie Johnson, Sr.

Memorial for Dr. Edward Whaley Seabrook Hull

Mrs. Nellie Hull

Donations and Contributions

Mrs. Anne Howard Caswell, Paul and Jane Thompson, John Conley, Antioch UMC, Royce and Faye Hall

A special thank you to David Miller Photography of St. Simons Island for a framed portrait of the Council of Bishops!

Upcoming events

September 8th – HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bishop King

September 9th - Archives & History/Museum Committee meeting

September 25th – National Museum Day

September 27-30th - Autumn Adventures/EBTS, “Living with the Wesleys: Then and Now”

October 13th – “Blest Be the Tie that Binds: Important Families in Methodism” talk by Judi Fergus

December 3rd – Annual Friends’ Event 6:30pm

February 5th, 2011 – Second Annual Mystery Fundraiser Dinner 6:00pm – Our last one was so much fun that we decided we had to do it again. Come and join us!

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new and renewing members!

New – Joanne Davidson, Francis Allen, Janis Rodriguez, Dr. James Franklin, Rev. Bill Littleton, Robert Holcombe, Barbara and Ray Fruit, Pat and Whit Rusk, and Burton Kemp
Renewing - Dr. Roger Grambling, Rev. James Duke, Dick and Vonice Corthell, Margaret Mathews, Carlton Morrison

A special thank you to this years’ Life Members, Dr. Charles and Millie Adams and Mrs. Jessie Bullard in memory of Carroll Bullard

Please take a moment to become a member of this important group of committed friends or to renew your membership today. You and everyone in the world always have free admission to the Museum. Your support helps ensure that every visit is an unforgettable experience. Help us make this year another memorable one for all visitors to the Arthur Moore Methodist Museum.

Collections and Acquisitions –

Rev. David Ogletree

What a banner year we have had for many new items received, too many to list separately! In the library, Dr. Charles Adams and Rev. Dave Hanson have given us several volumes from their personal libraries. We also received books from Dick and Elvira Covey as well as the Three Rivers Library. Dr. Jane Westerfield gave us a truly treasured gift in the papers of her father, Bishop Frank Robertson. Among some of the artifacts that we have received was a bust of John Wesley given by Jane and Paul Thompson, and an olive-wood star nativity from Jordan given by Dr. Warwick Doll of South Carolina. We have also been blessed with a portrait of Bishop James King, which is now hanging in the Bishops hall. We put out a call to all of the archives throughout the United States asking for additional histories of Methodist Conferences. To date, we have received material from the New York, Minnesota, Dakotas, and Iowa Conferences.

Summer Camp

Maura Fergus



My best friend Angel and I went to camp at Epworth by the Sea. It was my third year, but Angel’s first and she was a little nervous. It was very fun and the best part was the Museum. We were trying to find the pirate Black Beard’s treasure. It was so much fun and it was designed like a scavenger hunt. We found the answers to clues and the answers gave us the letters to special codes. When the tour was over and the clues were found, we went into the audiovisual room and decoded a letter by Black Beard. The letter said where his treasure was hidden! We all went out the back door of the Museum, and gathered around a bench. A loud booming voice came out. The voice said “CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE FOUND THE LAST TREASURE OF BLACK BEARD! YOU MAY ALL TAKE ONE COIN. TAKE ANYTHING ELSE AND YOU’LL BE CURSED, FOREVER! MWA HA HA HA HA!” The coin was a bubble gum coin and a little token. It was so much fun! I can’t wait for next year when we perform a comedy about the haunting of the Wesley family.



Volunteer Spotlight

Gloria Hicks



Having been a Christian for over 55 years and a Methodist Church member for 20 years, last year I was presented with the opportunity to serve as a volunteer at the Moore Methodist Museum. Although I had spent the last 20 years on St. Simons and had visited Epworth many times, I had never been in the Museum. I had been friends with employees and volunteers over the years, but had never entered its doors. I have learned so many interesting facts about the history of this island and the role of John and Charles Wesley in Methodism. I have also learned much about the history of our South Georgia Conference churches. I marvel at the knowledge of Rev. David Ogletree and Judi Fergus and am learning more each time I work. I have a love for my faith and all things that have a history behind them and am blessed by this venture.

Working with God

Creation of Arthur Moore Award for Historical Preservation

This award will be given annually to a deserving place, person, or group for having contributed to the preservation of the history of the South Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church or its predecessors. The award may be given to: 1) a geographical area of the Conference or of a movement within the Conference, 2) a biographer of memorable person(s), 3) a local church historian, 4) an outstanding volunteer at the Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum, 5) other preserver of the story of South Georgia Methodism. The award will be made annually at the Annual Friends of the Museum event and at the home church of the awardee. The District Superintendent and the Bishop will be invited to attend this presentation. Nominations for the award may be made by anyone interested in South Georgia Conference history. The nomination should be given in writing to the Archives and History/Museum Committee or to a staff member of the Arthur Moore Methodist Museum by July 1 of each year. The Committee will make a selection no later than September 10th.

We mourn the loss of **Marynell Waite**, Conference Historian Emeritus and editor of *Historical Highlights*, who passed away on January 27, 2010. She was instrumental in establishing the Museum and her interest, knowledge, and support of Methodism in South Georgia never waned. Her presence is still felt here on a daily basis.



A farmer purchases an old, run-down, abandoned farm with plans to turn it into a thriving enterprise. The fields are grown over with weeds, the farmhouse is falling apart, and the fences are collapsing all around. During his first day of work, the town preacher stops by to bless the man's work, saying, "May you and God work together to make this the farm of your dreams!" A few months later, the preacher stops by again to call on the farmer. Lo and behold, it's like a completely different place--the farm house is completely rebuilt and in excellent condition, there are plenty of cattle and other livestock happily munching on feed in well-fenced pens, and the fields are filled with crops planted in neat rows. "Amazing!" the preacher says. "Look what God and you have accomplished together!" "Yes, reverend," says the farmer, "but remember what the farm was like when God was working it alone!"

We are so fortunate that God does not have to work here alone. I just wish that you could truly understand the small and large blessings that take place here every day. Many of our programs are funded by donations to the Friends of the Museum membership program. These include exciting exhibits, educational programming, grants and speakers. Your support will help to ensure that we can continue these wonderful offerings to honor and promote our rich Methodist heritage. By joining Friends, you help to strengthen that vision. Please consider joining, renewing or increasing your membership level to Friends of the Museum.