



# Saddlebag Notes

Friends of the World Methodist Museum Quarterly Newsletter

*"From Memory to Ministry"*

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*The World Methodist Museum is a ministry of the World Methodist Council*

## Greetings from Council General Secretary

*Excerpts from WMC First Friday Newsletter*

Friends,

As we read this, 2015 is still in its infancy, full of the possibilities that each New Year has and rife with hope and expectations that this year will be better for us than those previous. I too feel these expectations for the year, personally and professionally.

We see the turning of the calendar and the fresh new days of a year as a chance to do better, and to right the wrongs of the previous year. We make promises to work harder, lose weight and to spend more time with our families.

**A new year gives us those opportunities, but it is up to each of us to see these aspirations come to fruition.**

The World Methodist Council begins 2015 with a mission to continue planning the best possible experience for those who choose to attend the 21st World Methodist Conference in Houston, Texas in September 2016. Our Program Team will continue to work tirelessly to build relationships with our denominational leaders to ensure that we get the best and the brightest of those within our global family to come to Houston. As we gather for fellowship and sharing, **it is my hope and prayer that Methodist Movement will be further revived and empowered to face the daunting challenges of the twenty-first century.**

As a busy year commences, remember that the World Methodist Council continues to serve as a way to unite everyone in the spirit of one people throughout the world who share a common belief in Jesus Christ.

During this time of renewed hope and opportunity, I encourage you with the words of the Psalmist (51:10).

***Create in me a pure heart, O God, And, renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

May 2015 be filled with many blessings.

Yours in Christian love and service,

Ivan M Abrahams

*Museum Director's Notes: I started to say it is a busy time for Bishop Abrahams, but that is true anytime. However, he has recently had the opportunity to celebrate the life of the beloved late Nelson Mandela as he was back in South Africa for the first time all year. He has participated in a variety of meetings and speaking opportunities and has spoken strongly against the violence that is happening around the World. To see his comments or to learn more about the 2016 Conference, visit the [World Methodist Council](#) website. As he meets with world religious and governmental leaders, let's wrap him in our prayers while he is working toward peace and justice for everyone.*

## Global and national visitors benefit from Museum experience



Groups and individuals who study Museum information and artifacts include locals and those from around the world.

Since July 2014, the Museum's attendance has averaged a minimum of **500 people monthly from 20 to 25 states and 5 to 10 foreign countries.** All ages and a variety of interest groups meeting at beautiful [Lake Junaluska](#) have engaged in personal learning,

joining in scavenger hunts or leisurely browsing Wesley's history.

A memorial service in the Susana Wesley Gardens brought solace to a family of an elderly woman who had visited this area annually since her honeymoon many years ago. The reasons for the visits are as varied as the visitors, but surveys tell us that all benefitted from their Museum experience.

## Rare Artifacts Gifted to World Methodist Museum

The World Methodist Museum received 10 rare items from Dr. and Mrs. T. Harold Crowder, long time Wesley collectors and Museum supporters. They are well known for their generosity as well as for the spectacular Wesley collection in their South Boston, Virginia home.

The collecting began in 1957 when Dr. Crowder and his wife, Thelma, moved to Wroughton, Wilshire, England with the Air Force. Thelma spotted a bust of John Wesley in the antiques section of Kensington Church Street, just like one that stood on the mantle of her father's parsonage most of her lifetime. The bust was purchased and thus began more than 50 years of studying, collecting, and sharing of artifacts as well as information.

"The Museum is honored and humbled at the continuing support of the Crowders," explains director Jackie Bolden. "This has been a wonderful legacy as Dr. Crowder originally swapped, donated and worked with Museum founder, Dr. Elmer T. Clark, and he still assists today. In addition to the recent gifts and an extensive collection on loan, the Crowders share important information with us as we are working to explore ways to make the exhibits more appealing."

A print of Wesley by Currier before he was joined by Ives, ceramics that include busts and figurines depicting not only Wesley but the moral life of people Wesley worked to reach, a Wesley wood carving, a rare slate carving of Wesley, and more are part of the recent gifts. *The Vicar and Moses (to the right) by Ralph Wood in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, depicts the purported laxity of the clergy as the parson is dozing while the curate reads his dull sermon--a popular theme of that time and copies were reproduced well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



## Perfect Time to visit World Methodist Museum

Cold, gray days have a beauty all their own. A time to be at peace with God. A time to prepare our hearts for the busy lively times. And a good time to learn about the spread of God's word through Methodism.

Whether you are interested in Methodist founder John Wesley's original letters and documents, rare books from the 1700's and 1800's, paintings, historic ceramics, the

circuit riders who brought the Word, or current day work of Methodists, you'll find it all in one spot. The [Hurst](#) Gallery provides an area for meetings or reflections. The library offers chairs for individual reading or a place for group refreshments to be served.

Stop by. You'll find the Museum a perfect place to lift your spirits. Individuals and groups are welcome.

**Regular hours during Winter:  
Tuesday through Saturday.  
9 to 4 daily  
with lunch being noon to 1:00**

It is helpful for groups to make reservations so that each receives the attention the Museum staff and volunteers wish to provide. Call (828) 456-7242 or email [jbolden@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:jbolden@worldmethodistcouncil.org) to set up an appointment or special group meeting time.

## Museum Exhibits and Highlights

The Rev. William and Dr. Evelyn Laycock display cabinet in the Museum Gallery features a newly displayed **Lambuth Exhibit** with photos and letters of Bishop Walter Russell Lambuth. Also shown is John Wesley Gilbert who assisted him in his work in the Congo. Bishop Lambuth, for whom [Lambuth Inn](#) at Lake Junaluska among other institutions is named, was born in China to missionary Methodist parents. He was a physician as well as a minister and worked in China, Japan, Poland, and Africa where he shared the Good News and Methodism around the globe.

The Museum and WNC Conference [United Methodist Women](#) joined in a *Celebration of Women in Methodism* program and exhibit. A historically reproduced painting of **Helenor Davisson** by Clay Michael Powers features this female Methodist Protestant circuit rider ordained in 1863. The painting was donated by the Rev. and Mrs. Chris Shoemaker of Wadley, Georgia and the Indiana UMC Conference Historical Society and continues to be on display. Distinguished participants on the program included Bishop Charlene Kammerer, the Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, Bishop Ivan Abrahams, Yvette Richards and Tonya Lanier.



**Museum upgrades continue** The new fire detection system is in and hopefully will never be needed, but the treasures were too important to take such a chance. The Museum exterior has been painted and the tile floors stripped and waxed. Collections continue to be stabilized, lighting reviewed and storage areas organized and cleaned. The vaults are being reorganized and collections identified and carefully labeled. It is not a fast process but a very important one that will make the World Methodist Museum one that you can be proud of for many years to come.

### **Special projects funds sought**

**Past Perfect V** -- Upgrading the program that holds all of the collection information on the computer is important. It is outdated and as new things are offered, training is not available as the Museum still uses Past Perfect IV. To make a special donation toward this, just note it on the form or your check; the cost is almost \$500 for the upgrade. The Museum has been using this program for many years, and completed regular updates until about five years ago.

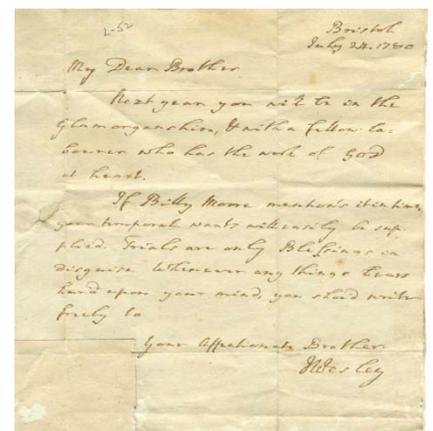
**Carpet** -- Some of the small rooms and office are carpeted with areas that have soils and stains which aren't removable. This does not reflect your Museum's true character or image. The Hurst Gallery (2 rooms), Cannon Library, Gallery Library (formerly Rev. Dr. Hale's office), and Director's office need simple but clean carpet. Approximately \$3900 is needed for carpeting these spaces (which includes taking up old carpet, moving furniture, etc.). Note "floors" if you wish to donate to this project. If you would like to take care of one room, we will honor you with a plaque in that area. Some funding has already been donated as impetus for these important projects.

**Museums in Partnership (MIP)** is a resource for museum professionals in Western North Carolina. Sharing of information and training are an important part of this organization which includes NC museum personnel as well as private and non-profit representatives. The World Methodist Museum is a member and has been taking advantage of media sharing, trainings and more with this heritage-related organization. It includes a 25 county area.

### ***Divinityarchive.com***

#### ***A Project of Duke Divinity School Library and Partner Institutions***

Books, images, manuscripts and periodicals are part of this notable collection. The purpose of this repository is to serve the common good by organizing and making accessible primary and secondary resources in the field of religion. This archive extends beyond library and educational institutions to include service and non-profit organizations. Divinity Archive is hosted at the Duke Divinity School Library, one of the 13 theological schools of the United Methodist Church. The Founding Partners include the World Methodist Museum, Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition and United Theological Seminary.



**George Zimmerman** has donated 24 more of his and Christopher J.

Anderson's books, **Disciplineograph – A Guide to Methodist Disciplines 1785-2009** to be sold in the Museum gift shop. Only two were remaining, so this gift is much appreciated.

## Your help is needed

### Volunteer

Assist in the Museum 3 hours once monthly  
Assist in cleaning precious artifacts  
Help with a Confirmation class, UMW or other group  
Assist with an event in the Susana Wesley Gardens  
Distribute brochures

### Tell others

Assist 3 hours one day a month

## Special thanks

- Ashley Calhoun, Paul Davenport, Margaret McCleskey and Don Rankin – We are most grateful of your sharing of your time at the Museum.
- Friends for your donations
- And Special Friends who gave so that the Fire Detection Equipment could be purchased

## Keep in touch!

www:MethodistMuseum.com



Facebook.com/worldmethodistmuseum

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## Board of Directors

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## FRIENDS OF THE WORLD METHODIST MUSEUM

If the Museum does not have **your Email address**, please write it below and send with your contribution or just Email it to [jbolden@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:jbolden@worldmethodistcouncil.org)  
This Newsletter was sent by Email, saving postage and allowing you to have it faster. **Thank You.**

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**

Friends of the World Methodist Museum have a better understanding of their past, enhanced pride in their religious heritage, and a ministry to future generations.

*Please consider increasing your annual gift. Many benefit now and in the future. Thank you.*

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GIFT

<input type="checkbox"/> GRAND BENEFACTOR	\$ 3000+
<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR	1000
<input type="checkbox"/> PATRON	500
<input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR	100
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINER	50
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTOR	25

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