



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

Pulpit on Exhibit

Methodist founders framed early views from this very pulpit

The Museum has been loaned a most remarkable 18th Century pulpit from the High Town Methodist Church, Luton, England, by Mr. Matthew Kilgore of New York.

The historic significance of this pulpit is arguably unparalleled, having been in continual use from the organization of the Luton Parish Church from the 1700's through the end of the 19th century. This original pulpit was used by John Wesley each time he visited the Luton Parish, first recorded in his Journal in 1767 and many times subsequent.

At the conference of 1767, Mr. Wesley appointed a zealous 22 year old Francis Asbury to the Bedfordshire circuit just north of London which included the Luton Parish Church. From the summer of 1767 to his setting sail as a missionary to America in 1772, Francis Asbury preached regularly and often at the Luton Parish Church throughout his time riding the Bedfordshire circuit. Little did the aspiring young circuit rider know that once he set sail for America, he would never again see his friend and mentor, Mr. Wesley, this side of Heaven. **This is the only pulpit in America that had been preached from by both of the patriarchs of Methodism, John Wesley & Francis Asbury**, Mr. Kilgore explained. Also used by Adam Clark and other early preachers, it is believed that Charles Wesley also stood in it but that has not yet been documented.

This is the original 18th century pulpit, according to Kilgore, which after being removed from regular use a century ago, has been preserved in the church museum because of its tremendous historical significance. Due to a recent church fundraiser to restore the church's historic pipe organ, the trustees decided to sell this pulpit among other things to raise the needed funds.

"It is a great honor to have been able to purchase this most remarkable piece of Methodist Church history," Mr. Kilgore said, "and after several months of coordinating customs, freight and the like, it finally landed."



All hands needed as Nick Calloway (left) discerns if the crate will go through the door; it wouldn't. Above, owner **Matthew Kilgore** poses with the newly arrived pulpit used by Wesley, Asbury, Clark and other early Methodists.

Bishop Abrahams returns to Junaluska after busy schedule

After working from Cape Town for the past two months, we welcome the General Secretary back to Lake Junaluska. January has been a busy month for Bishop Abrahams as he represented the WMC and led a Bible Study at the 35th Synod of the Church of South India in Kottayam. He also met with the WMC regional officer, Mr. Joshua Rathnam, and the new General Secretary of the Methodist Church in India, Rev. Dr. Newton Pamar.

Abrahams reports that he has been deeply inspired by the work and witness of colleagues working for social and economic justice.

He recently attended the 8th Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town where he was able to reflect on how to accompany communities affected by mining.

His meeting with one of his former teachers, internationally renowned theologian, Prof. John de Gruchy at a retreat center has reignited his passion for expressing himself through art.

His recent paintings include the one on the right, *View from my Bedroom Window*.



Below are excerpts from the Bishop's column in the Council's First Friday Letter



Above – Another of his recent paintings, *Valentine*

Right – **Bishop Abrahams** in his Capetown, S.A., office

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Three-in-One and One-in -Three living in perfect unity!

We are living in challenging times that demand bold and prophetic leadership. In his speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Chinese President Xi Jin-ping warned western populist's leaders, "Protectionism is like locking yourself in a dark room, which would seem to escape wind and rain, but also block out sunshine." Don't we have our values back to front when goods and services are able to move across borders more freely than people?



Directors announce Date for 2017 Banquet—August 25, 2017

The 33rd Annual Dinner Meeting of the Friends of the Museum will be held at The Terrace, Lake Junaluska, on Friday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. with The Rev. Karen Greenwaldt as the featured speaker.

Rev. Greenwaldt served as General Secretary of the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship 2001-2013, was named a Distinguished Alumna by Perkins School of Theology, and was the first female ordained elder in the Central Texas Conference.



The Museum will celebrate its 61st year at Lake Junaluska in 2017 as it was formed in 1956, but the Friends were not formed until the 1980's. Mark your calendar! Tickets will be available May 1 at the same price as last year – only \$20.

Ashley Calhoun – a Director of the Friends of the Museum – shares his story

In each Saddlebags newsletter, a different director is featured.

When I was eight years old, John Wesley became a hero in the faith for me when I was given a beautifully illustrated book about him as a gift from my parents when I became a member of the Methodist Church on Palm Sunday. Ever since that time, I have been fascinated with John, his brother Charles, the writer of so many of my favorite hymns, and Susannah, their remarkable mother.



You might say **Methodism is in my DNA**. When I was ordained as a deacon in the Florida Conference my father, Dr. E. Clayton Calhoun, told me I am a sixth-generation Methodist minister going back to my third great-grandfather Hendry in south Georgia. It has been my honor to serve in active ministry for 43 years in the New York, Troy, and Holston Conferences of the United Methodist Church. In retirement, one of my greatest joys was to serve as the research archivist at the SEJ Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska for just over three years.

Rev. Calhoun

Another life-long fascination has been Christian symbolism, the Christian Year, and liturgical art. For nearly 20 years, I served as the visual artist for the Holston Annual Conference sessions, as well providing visuals for Music and Worship Arts Week, the Upper Room Prayer and Bible Conference, the SEJ Conference, and the Intentional Growth Center, all at Lake Junaluska. In addition, it was a privilege to provide suggestions for visuals for the three-year liturgical cycle in "The Music and Worship Planner," "Prepare," and to write an article on "The Work of the Visual Artist" for "Worship Matters", volume 2. Presently I have the joy of being a liturgical artist for Long's Chapel UMC at Lake Junaluska.

My association with the World Methodist Council began in 2003 when I shared with Dr. George Freeman a water color painting I had created on the life of John Wesley in celebration of Wesley's 300th birthday. He graciously asked if it could be used on the cover of "World Parish," the newsletter of the World Methodist Council, for the June/July 2003 issue. It was a thrill then to receive a call from Tonga asking if the Methodists there could use this design in their youth curriculum to teach their young people about John Wesley, his ministry, and the Wesley family. That year a very large version of the design I painted with a life-sized John Wesley was used all summer as a worship backdrop at Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska.

In 2011, then director of the Museum, Amanda Gomez nominated me to serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Museum. In that capacity it has been exciting to be able to help with preserving a collection of letters of early Methodists, and working with displays, conducting tours, etc., and working closely with the current director, Jackie Bolden, and the other board members. It is an honor to have prints of the Wesley design as well as my drawing of the Garden sculpture of Susannah Wesley available in the museum gift shop.

(See following page for continuation)

Calhoun continued...

I have enjoyed being able to serve on the Board of Directors of The Friends for these six years. What a blessing it is to have this priceless jewel, the World Methodist Museum which is the greatest repository of Methodist history in the world. Past, present, and future generations can learn about how the Methodist movement has ministered to and with countless millions of people, and made disciples of Jesus Christ for nearly 300 years across the globe.

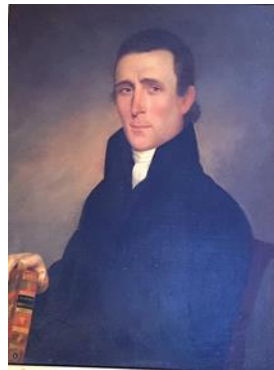


Friends of the Museum Board of Directors with the Luton Pulpit are (bottom row, left to right) Mary Deck, Morris Thompson, Paul Young, Tammy McDowell, Don Rankin, and Norwood Montgomery. Top row is Chris Shoemaker, Ashley Calhoun, and James Thurman.



New exhibit features paintings, orders, letters of Soule

Paintings and letters on Bishop Joshua Soule (1781-1867), who was a leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church and the primary author of its founding constitution (1808), and his wife Sara Allen with whom he had 11 children, are now on exhibit. He was the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1846).



Already in the Museum's collection were letters written to his wife as he travelled to and from California and Deacon's Orders with his signature and seal.

These early American paintings were given to the World Methodist Museum by Dr. and Mrs. James T. Laney. His service included Ambassador to South Korea, President of Emory University, and Dean

of the Candler School of Theology.

The life of Bishop Soule is a most fascinating one, according to Museum staff, and his letters are like reading a short story of steamboat travel from that time. It is especially important that these collections of paintings and manuscripts have now been brought together, explained Museum Director Jackie Bolden.

Dr. Lyon's portrait added

A portrait and identifying brass plaque has been hung in the World Methodist Museum of Dr. Jo Anne Lyon. In autumn of 2016, she received the 2015 **World Methodist Peace Award** for her work with World Hope, a global Christian relief and development agency which she founded in 1996. The immediate past General Secretary for The Wesleyan Church, Dr. Lyon is committed to "balance ... both justice and righteousness, rooted in the Bible and in our historical identity."



Dr. Lyon

Previous recipients include Lawi Imathiu, Nelson Mandela, Boris Trajkovski, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Jimmy Carter, among others whose portraits are also on the wall.

The NC Society of Historians honors Museum work

The certificate reads "The North Carolina Society of Historians, Inc. proudly presents the World Methodist Museum with a prestigious Publication Award for a newsletter entitled Saddlebag Notes..." This was for 2016 editions of the Newsletter. Also received was a "Museum Award for the valuable contribution they have made toward the collection, preservation, and perpetuation of North Carolina History." Both are signed by Elizabeth B. Sherrill, the current president.

"We are so pleased to have this important group acknowledge the Museum's efforts, said Director Jackie Bolden. "The panel noted that the data is not only valuable to Methodists and called it a worthwhile museum to visit. It is always an honor to be recognized by those with knowledge about one's work."

Friends of the Museum Board 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 jbalden@worldmethodistcouncil.org

EMAIL ADDRESS *or* YOUR MAILING PREFERENCE

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 giving a minimum of \$100 annually.
Many benefit now and in the future. Thank you.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GIFT

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