



# 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*

## Young people continue to frequent Museum

*Susanna's rules, death mask, culture of 1700's raise questions*

Young people from a number of southeastern states have been participating in confirmation classes at Lake Junaluska and the World Methodist Museum. Some have been part of larger initiatives while others have planned their own programs. These groups, with some including as few as three youth to others with more than 60, have participated in the Museum's offerings which includes a scavenger hunt.

In addition to questions regarding the formation of the Methodist church and John Wesley's work, many questions also look at the 1700's culture. Susanna Wesley had a method to her life and therefore the children did also. Her 16 rules included how the children should take their medication, behave, learn to read, be punished, and more – many of which surprise today's youth. The Junaluskan's *Live and Learn* group, several senior groups and others have also participated in Museum activities.



**More than 2000 youth have participated in 2017 programs with more scheduled for future visits.**



## Investments keep Museum viable

Books, furniture, cash and checks, volunteer time and more keep the Museum alive. A couple of dozen books printed in the 1800's and donated by Matthew Kilgore of New York include discussions on salvation, a Methodist social hymn book and other subjects. Five are written by Phoebe Palmer (1807 -1874) an evangelist and writer who promoted the doctrine of Christian perfection. She is considered one of the founders of the Holiness movement in the US and the Higher Life movement in the UK. Bob and Barbara Borom donated furniture, including two antique hutches, chairs, and rugs which enhance areas of the Museum. Many of you donate funds allowing the Museum to continue its mission. Some of you donate your time. All are important and all make the Museum viable and functional, allowing for growth and improvement. Thank you! Many people benefit from your investments of time, talent and treasure.



**Borum furniture invites contemplation**

## Bishop Abrahams - General Secretary of the World Methodist Council

Sharing his column from the Council's First Friday Letter



Greetings in the name of our Crucified and Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

After a punishing April schedule which included Holy Week, Easter Celebrations, meetings in London as well as the rededication of Wesley House

Cambridge, I returned to the tranquility and natural beauty of Volmoed (meaning full of courage and hope) Retreat Centre tucked away in the Hemel-en Aarde (Heaven and earth) Valley, Hermanus, South Africa. ([www.volmoed.co.za](http://www.volmoed.co.za))

Every day the Volmoed community gathers to worship and on Thursdays they celebrate the Eucharist. On Thursday, 4 May, Rev. Edwin Arrison reminded us that May is Africa Month and coincidentally, this year Africa Day and Ascension Day fall on the same day which gives a new meaning to the idea of "Africa rising" or "Africans rising." I've been given permission to paraphrase or quote most of his meaningful mediation.

Several times the Bible refers to places and people on the continent of Africa. In the book of Acts we read that there were several Africans from Egypt and Libya present at Pentecost. We were also reminded that all Homo sapiens, all of us, originate from Africa. So actually, whether we like it or not or whether we acknowledge it or not, we are all African. To quote a famous former Archbishop (who shall remain nameless): "Some of us just came out of the oven sooner than others!"

Before Pope Francis visited the continent for the first time, he commented that Africa is the most exploited continent on the earth. Like Simon of Cyrene, Africans have been carrying the cross of Christ or the cross for humanity for a very long time, and we continue to do so today. In the last few years it has become clear that Africa also does not really receive aid from the rest of the world: Africa gives aid to the rest of the

world. Natural resources as well as illicit funds flow out of Africa every single day. Tax evasion by big companies is probably the most played sport on the Continent! People are fleeing the continent daily because of war and bad governance, famine and disease. Some people, human beings created in the image of God, are being killed on our continent simply because they are homosexual or because they are albino.

Thankfully, despite all of this, Africa and Africans are rising. The spirit of Easter is alive and well on the continent. We are beginning to see the rise of new people's movements led by some very dynamic young people and women leaders. People are beginning to demand good governance. There are dynamic debates going on about our life together on the continent.

Arrison is confident that, "A new humanity is slowly arising from Africa. We cannot simply imitate what others are doing but rather ask the more fundamental questions about what it means to be truly human and what it means to belong to one another."

Although many of the articles in the WMC newsletter are devoted to the African Continent, there is much happening throughout our Global Methodist Connexion. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have Christians, Methodists included, talking about how to bring about peace in this place divided by governments and superpowers. We honor the memory of two devoted peacemakers, Dr. Pauline Webb (Methodist Church in Britain), and Bishop Moisés Domingos Fernandes (The United Methodist Church in East Angola), and we hear of tributes to a whole movement of women demanding answers and justice from a corrupt government. Continuing on the peacemaking theme, the Popes of the Coptic Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches joined together in an historic ecumenical prayer for peace and unity in Egypt.

Please join me in a **Prayer for Africa**

*God bless Africa*

*Protect our children*

*Transform our leaders*

*Heal our communities*

*And give us peace*

*For Jesus Christ's sake Amen*

(Amended from original by Trevor Huddleston)

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Bishop Abrahams made statements condemning the violence in England and Syria as the newsletter went to press.

## Mark your calendar now for the Friends Annual Banquet

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. Well-known for her leadership, speaking and knowledge, the Friends are excited to have Rev. Greenwaldt lead the program.

Founded in 1956, the Museum will celebrate its 61<sup>st</sup> year at Lake Junaluska, but the Friends were not formed until the 1980's. Mark your calendar! Tickets are available at the Museum Gift Shop at the same price as last year – only \$20.



### Dr. Thomas Harold Crowder, Jr. Mourned

We continue to mourn the great loss of a very special friend, Dr. T. Harold Crowder, Jr., who died on March 27. We extend our deepest thanks and sympathies to the Crowder family.

He and his wife of 60 years, Thelma Cole Barcliff, have given so much in so many ways to the Museum: collections, funds, and sharing the Museum's story. Simply said, the Museum would not be the same place without the many contributions of the Crowders.

Born in Henderson, North Carolina on August 14, 1929, he was the only child of the late Harold, Sr. and Mary Paylor Crowder. Dr. Crowder was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Chemistry. He received his medical degree from Duke University in 1955. While there he participated in a summer internship in 1954 in New York City working with polio patients at Bellevue Hospital. He remained at Duke University Hospital to do his internship and then began a residency in pediatrics at Watts Hospital in Durham in 1957. It was during his time at Duke that he fell in love with his wife, Thelma.

They were married February 16, 1957, and in June left for Wiltshire, England when his U.S. military draft notice became active. He served as a Captain at the 7505<sup>th</sup> USAF Burderop Park Hospital in Swindon, England, for two years as chief of pediatrics. Returning to the US in 1959, he completed his pediatric residency back at Duke

University Medical Center. In August 1960, he moved with his wife and children to South Boston, VA, where he joined the Fuller-Roberts Clinic and the staff of Halifax Community Hospital where he practiced for 39 years, nine of those as a solo practitioner. He retired in September 1999 at 70 years of age. During his medical career he served on many medical committees, including a tenure as Chief of Staff at Halifax Community Hospital.

In spite of his busy medical practice and his large family, with whom he spent most of his free time, he participated in Main Street United Methodist Church where he served in many capacities. He was an amateur scholar of John Wesley. This interest became a lifelong pursuit of collecting Wesley and Methodist memorabilia. He has written articles, given talks on John Wesley and donated many items of his private collection to the World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska, NC, Duke University Divinity School and Ferrum College, VA.

Besides his beloved wife Thelma, he is survived by four children, Thomas Harold Crowder III (Linda) of Chicago, IL, Mary T. Crowder-Paden (Reed) of Cornelius, NC, Chancie Barcliff Crowder (Marlene) of Raleigh, NC, and Catherine Louise Crowder of Greensboro, NC. Dr. Crowder is also survived by six grandchildren. Granddaughter Michelle Wright-Crowder preceded him in death.

## Susanna Wesley Garden welcomes celebrations

A wedding, infant baptism and tours have celebrated life as spring is welcomed. Recent celebrations of life (memorial services) and other activities have taken advantage of this serene place where it is possible to be still and know God in the stillness. An accessible walkway will be installed in the very near future, allowing those with limited climbing abilities to take advantage of activities in the pavilion. A number of people contributed to make this walkway possible.



## Mary Amick Funderburk – Director of the Friends of the Museum

*In each Saddlebag newsletter, a different director is featured.*

I have lived at Lake Junaluska since June, 1996. Don and I built our home on County Road in 1972-73 but kept our primary residence in South Carolina, where he was a United Methodist pastor and I, a public school teacher. Our children both still live in SC with their spouses and children. Our children loved spending their summers at Lake Junaluska and still love coming to Lake Junaluska every time they can. They want their children and grandchildren to love and appreciate this wonderful place.

For many years, Marc, Celeste and I came to Lake Junaluska for the summer. Don came as often as he could. We were always attracted to Methodist artifacts and to the World Methodist Museum. We were intrigued by the wonderful collections and exhibits, especially those connected to the Wesley family, John and Charles, in particular. We enjoyed the stories about Francis Asbury, early Methodism in the US, and Asbury's connection to Haywood County.

When we moved permanently to Lake Junaluska, we gravitated regularly to the Museum to see what had been acquired since our last visit. We joined the Friends of the Museum. I served on the *Junaluska Rejoices Cookbook* Committee which directed some of the funds from cookbook sales to refurbishing the wooden chapel behind the museum in the garden. We enjoyed rekindling friendships at the annual meeting and banquet of the Friends of the World Methodist Museum. At the annual meeting of the Friends, we heard outstanding speakers lift up the purpose, history and continuing work of the museum through the decades and until today.

When I was invited to serve on the Friends' Museum Board, I was delighted to do whatever I could to help keep the Museum open and functioning as it should. As I retire from the Friends' Board this year, I want to continue to be supportive of the World Methodist Museum. In my opinion, one of the most outstanding accomplishments of the present Board was employing Jackie Bolden as the Director of the World Methodist Museum. She has made many improvements in so many ways. We are grateful for her welcoming spirit as the hostess in the building, her creative ideas, and her consistent work ethic. She and Bishop Ivan Abrahams make a great team!

This museum is undoubtedly the best collection of Wesley original memorabilia in the United States – many of the items in the museum are irreplaceable. Let's all work and contribute to make it even more inclusive of Methodist history for generations to come! Let us be thankful for this opportunity.



## Friends of the Museum Board of Directors

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or just Email it to [jbalden@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto: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.***

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