



# 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*

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Friends of the Museum Banquet 61<sup>st</sup> year of Museum features Rev. Karen Greenwaldt as keynote speaker

From a young age, Karen Greenwaldt has heard speakers and has witnessed the effects of the Methodist Church across the world. In many ways, her encounters with the world-wide communion of Methodists has shaped who she is, what she believes about the role of the church, and how she understands the faithful response of Methodist Christians as they engage the peoples and realities of the world.

During her remarks at the Friends of the Museum dinner, she will tell stories and share experiences of her encounters with Methodist people who live in far-flung places of the world. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, stated, "The world is my parish." Karen's perspective is that his statement was true for him and holds truth for all of us.

The banquet will be at The Terrace Auditorium on Friday, Aug. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and are available online at [www.methodistmuseum.org](http://www.methodistmuseum.org), by calling (828) 456-7242, by mailing a check to the Museum at P O Box 518, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745 or at the Museum at 575 N Lakeshore Drive.



**The Rev. Karen Greenwaldt**

While her remarks will be personal reflections, she hopes that they will spark memories in all listeners and will result in deepened conversations about the impact of Methodism in individual lives and communities of faith. "We are so excited that Karen will be speaking to us," explains Friends president the Rev. Dr. Donald Rankin. "Her remarks are always interesting, thought provoking and entertaining, so we know everyone will enjoy the evening."

*(See page 2 for more about Rev. Greenwaldt)*

## Smithsonian Exhibit includes World Methodist Museum trunk, hymnal



**Bolden at The National Museum of American History**

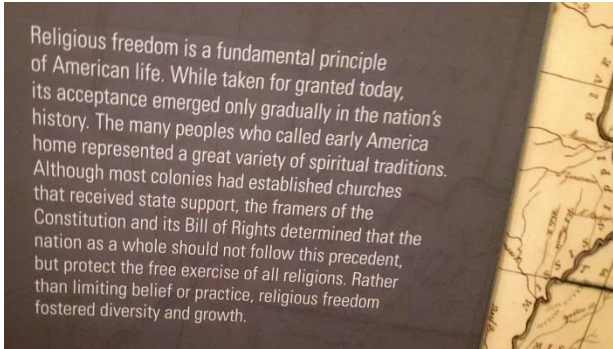
The World Methodist Museum proudly announces its participation in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History exhibit, "Religion in Early America," which opened on June 28. The Francis Asbury wooden trunk and a first edition hymnal written by John and Charles Wesley when they were at Oxford are included in the exhibition and are on a one-year loan.

The inaugural exhibit in the Nicholas F. and Eugenia Taubman Gallery traces the distinctive way that religion developed in the early American republic. It focuses on three themes: the diversity of religious traditions in early America, the principle of freedom of religion that was incorporated in the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and became a guiding American ideal, and the growth of different religions in the new American republic after the nation was formed.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Smithsonian exhibit *continued*

Asbury's small wooden trunk, covered in leather, contained this early Bishop's worldly possessions. He traveled more than a quarter of a million miles as a circuit rider and assigned many young men to cover territory as preachers from lower Georgia to upper Maine. Asbury is credited with being the person most influential in adding Methodists to America's religions. The hymnal, "Hymns and Sacred Poems," is an original that was published in 1742 and contains the songs sung in early American Methodist services. These items will be returned to the World Methodist Museum at the end of the yearlong exhibit.



"We are very excited to be included in this important exhibition," explains Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council. "It is indeed an honor to be in this display and

be part of the important message it shares. We are aware of the number of irreplaceable historical artifacts at the Museum and are pleased when others are also cognizant of this."

In keeping with this year's theme at the National Museum of American History, "The Nation We Build Together," Director Jackie Bolden invites Museum guests to explore the evolution of America's founding principles, ideas and ideals, and how they developed over time. It reminds us that our history continues to shape who we are as individuals and as a country, she said. Present for the media day, Bolden reports that the displays will remain at the National Museum of American History for one year and are open for public viewing. To learn more, go to [www.americanhistory.si.edu](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu).

## Greenwaldt at Banquet *continued*

Rev. Greenwaldt is a Retired Elder in the Central Texas Annual Conference, UMC. For most of her ministry, she served at the UMC General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, TN. She held a number of positions there – Director of Church Leader Development, Director of Young Adult and Single Adult Ministries, Team Leader of the Laity in Ministries Stream, Associate General Secretary for the Discipleship Ministries Division, and General Secretary (CEO).

She was an active member of the World Methodist Council for 13 years and served on its Education Committee. She attended many WMC Conferences prior to and during her membership on the Council. As a part of her work at GBOD (now Discipleship Ministries), she traveled extensively both in the United States and in numerous countries. Whatever her role, Rev. Greenwaldt believes that the Church has a vital place in the lives of people, communities, and societies and believes that the witness of the Christian faith and life is vital as it encounters the religions and peoples of the world.

At retirement, she and her husband, Russell J. Harris, moved to Lake Junaluska. They attend First United Methodist Church in Waynesville and are active residents at Lake Junaluska Assembly. She served as the co-chair of a recent Interfaith Peace Conference and serves on that group's Executive Committee. She is the current finance committee chair of the Intentional Growth Center.

Rev. Greenwaldt is an active fabric artist and enjoys exploring various expressions of art and creativity that can be fashioned from cloth, needle, and thread.

## Walk to be added to Garden

Long a special place for meditation and prayer, the Susanna Wesley Garden has hosted celebrations of marriages, baptisms, and more this spring and summer. It was recently included in Tuscola Garden Club's tours of Lake Junaluska's Gardens. One of its features is the many perennials that offer color without requiring the need for annual plantings.

Funds have been secured and construction is expected soon on an accessible walkway. It will be at the top from the parking area to the pavilion so that those in need of assistance may also participate and see the beautiful view. Thanks donors!





### **The Petersburg, VA home where Bishop Francis Asbury held his first conference in Virginia in 1780**

The Rev. James R. and Mrs. Carol E. Green recently donated this Robert Pillington watercolor, which is featured in the book, [Hoofbeats and Heartbeats](#). The book was edited by Thomas F. Chilcote, telling of Asbury's labors and longings gleaned from his journal. The painting is on display in the Asbury section of the World Methodist Museum.

### **An excerpt from Bishop Abraham's First Friday letter to the WMC *(he is now back in South Africa)***

Greetings from Germany, the birthplace of the Reformation!

What a joy and a blessing it is to meet up with old acquaintances and forge new friendships at the 26th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in Leipzig, gathering under the theme, ***"Living God, Renew and Transform us."*** Rev. Dr. J.C. Park, Bishop Rosemarie Wenner and I participated in a landmark event in Wittenberg on 5 July where the World Communion of Reformed Churches became the fourth party to sign the [Joint Declaration of the Doctrine of Justification](#) as accepted by Catholics, Lutherans, and Methodists. It is significant that the signing took place in the year that we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in the church where Luther preached. Building on our shared affirmation of the basic truths of the doctrine of justification, Catholics, Lutherans and Methodists and Reformed commit ourselves to deepen our common understanding of justification in theological study, teaching, and preaching and work towards full communion and common witness to the world.

While the commemoration and celebrations in Wittenberg was a seminal event, this was not the only exciting moment in the World Methodist Council schedule. The chairperson of the Inter-religious Standing Committee and the members of the Methodist Liaison Office in the Holy Land had the extraordinary privilege of meeting with members of EcoPeace, Middle East. Our journey to Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, came on the eve of commemorating 50 years of occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. This year also marks 100 years since the Balfour Declaration and 70 years since the creation of the State of Israel, which saw the displacement of 800,000 Palestinians. On 21 June 2017, the National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine published an open letter to the ecumenical movement in which they called for solidarity and declared, "This is the last chance to achieve a just peace.....and to save the Christian presence in this land."

Shalom  
Ivan



**Bishop Abrahams, right, working toward peace.**

**Did you know?** That the headquarters for the World Methodist Council is here? That the Museum has one of the largest Wesley collections in the world? Or that it has many original Wesley letters, books printed at the first Methodist headquarters – The Foundary? The culture of the 1700's when Methodism began, the work of John and Charles Wesley, George Whitfield and other early Methodists, are on display. Especially interesting are figures such as Francis Asbury and Joshua Soule, who were instrumental in spreading and organizing Methodism in America. One of its greatest challenges is for more people to know what it is, what it offers, and to invest by showing financial support. People think it receives apportionments from Methodist Conferences. Of course, it does not, and since it involves 80 Methodist denominations in 130 countries, it seems that everyone thinks everyone else is helping meet the need. All familiar with the Museum agree that it is a treasure and important to maintain, requiring everyone doing their part.

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