



Saddlebag Notes

Friends of the World Methodist Museum Newsletter

"From Memory to Ministry"

October 2018

Leadership change at Friends Banquet

Friends of the World Methodist Museum thanked outgoing president the Rev. Dr. Donald Rankin for his years of faithful leadership to the Board of Directors. Words of praise and thanks were shared by incoming President the Rev. Norwood Montgomery. Rev. Terry Bevill will serve as president elect and Dr. Mary Deck will continue as secretary.

Rev. Montgomery has been on the Friends Board a number of years, most recently serving as president elect. From the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, he and his wife, Odessa, make their home at Lake Junaluska. Rev. Bevill worked



President Norwood Montgomery (left) leads the thanks on behalf of the Friends to outgoing President Don Rankin for his exemplary service.

nationally and internationally for Caterpillar before answering the call to preach in the United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Western North Carolina Conference. Dr. Deck, a retired professor and educator now living in Waynesville, does volunteer work for the Museum and other local church and community agencies.

Those present heard Bishop Charlene Kammerer remember the changes brought about by the merger of the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren, including the dismantling of racism. She pointed out, "Even with the major challenges, disagreements and tensions that threaten our part of the Body of Christ, we are already One in Christ. Let us claim and live our Oneness in our one discipleship."

Attendees were invited to become more involved with the Museum. In its 63rd year, more support of time, treasure and talent are required if it is to continue as it currently operates, explained its director, Jackie Bolden.

Special Gift presented at Seoul Council Meeting

An unusual cross, constructed from materials at the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, recently arrived at the World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska.

Presented to Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary, at the recent Council and Steering Committee meetings in Seoul, those attending from around the world were moved by the symbolism. *(continued on page 2)*



Bishop Abrahams, right, receiving the cross from Bishop Chul Lee of the Korean Methodist Church, symbolizing hope for peace in Korea.



Greetings from the General Secretary...

Dear Friends,

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus is condemned to pushing a large boulder up a hill. Every time he reaches the top, the weight of the rock pushes him back, and he never manages to get it over the hill.

Are you exasperated pushing boulders of broken relationships, prejudice, violence, grief or some other life circumstance on life's journey? We can overcome the inertia of boulders large and small that stand between our hopes, dreams, and aspirations to live a life of dignity, meaning, and purpose.

As people of faith, we know that the rock that sealed the grave of Jesus was rolled away. The tomb was empty because death could not hold him. We claim the power of the resurrection when the Risen Lord lives in our hearts and guides our thoughts and actions. Boulders in our path should not defeat or separate us from the love of God. The Apostle Paul declares:

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:31-39)

May you and your churches get busy moving these boulders through the power of the Spirit.

May God empower you to push your boulders over the hill before you.

Shalom,
Ivan

(continued from page 1) **"The cross** of these materials is a reminder of the need to break down barriers and walls and to work toward peace and justice for all people," explained Jackie Bolden who participated in the meeting. The plaque on the base reads: "This cross is made from parts of the railroad that connects Seoul station (South Korea) and Shinuiji station (North Korea), and barbed wire from the Korean War armistice line, and symbolizes hope for peace on the Korean Peninsula and the reunification of the two Koreas." It continues with scripture from Ephesians 2:14. "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.'"

A resolution by the council recognizes with hope the momentous inter-Korean and international progress in 2018 toward peace on the Korean peninsula. It celebrates those who are involved in promulgating and advancing the current steps toward a permanent peace, including progress toward denuclearization.

It notes that the World Methodist Council calls on the member churches to affirm and earnestly pray for the forthcoming Roundtable for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, Nov. 9-11, acknowledging the timely role of the Roundtable. This meeting is for further constructing and promoting a theology of peace and reconciliation, deepening the Methodist church's role in securing the peace and helping bring to fruition renewed and increased direct humanitarian collaborations with North Korean sisters and brothers; and for all peoples, advancing toward a permanent peace, not only for the Korean peninsula, but also the world. World Methodist Council officers are from around the world, including the Rev. Dr. Jong Chun Park, who is council president.

Be thankful – Wesley still has much to share

During John Wesley's student days, a poor porter, whose job it was to carry people's luggage, knocked on Wesley's door one evening and asked to speak with him. During their conversation, Wesley observed the man's thin coat. It was a cold night, and Wesley suggested that he had better get another coat. "This is the only coat I have," the man replied, "and I thank God for it." Wesley asked the man if he had eaten and the man answered, "I have had nothing today but water to drink, but I thank God for that." Wesley, growing uneasy in the man's presence, reminded him that he would have to leave soon or be locked out. "Then what would you thank God for?" Wesley asked. "I will thank God," replied the man, "that I have dry stones to lie upon."

Wesley was deeply moved by the man's sincerity and he said to him, "You thank God when you have nothing to wear, nothing to eat, and no bed to lie on. What else do you thank God for?" The simple man replied, "I thank God that he has given me life, a heart to love him, and a desire to serve him."

After the man had left with a coat from Wesley's closet, some money for food, and words of appreciation for the witness he had made, Wesley wrote in his journal, "I shall never forget that porter. He convinced me there is something in religion to which I am a stranger."

There are many lithographs, paintings, books, stories, and busts in the Museum about John Wesley and other members of the Wesley family and the many others involved in the start, formation and movement of Methodism.

Take time to be thankful. Take time to visit the Museum and see if you recognize yourself as a Methodist.



Wesley records in his journal that he sat for 3 ½ hours for this portrait... known as the Robert Hunter portrait. A dark mezzotint was then done of the painting, a copy is in the Museum.



Donate to the Museum

Honor or remember a loved one

As the season of thankfulness and goodwill approaches, remember that the World Methodist Museum will notify your special person if you have given a gift to the Museum in their honor. For the person who has everything, they will receive a letter that you have invested in the Museum in their honor. Or at the loss of a loved one, a memorial gift to the Museum will be gratefully acknowledged to that person's family.

If you have not made your annual gift to the Friends, please do so now. The Museum operates on a calendar year basis. Any contribution will help the Museum remain viable for the many visitors, including the Confirmation Classes that learn about Methodism. The young people are learning the beliefs and foundation of their faith in order to plan for their future of serving Christ and transforming the world.

New greeting cards for sale

The Rev. Ashley Calhoun, former Friends Director and current volunteer, has shared his talent with the Gift Shop in providing greeting cards featuring the Susanna Wesley Garden and two styles that include the Junaluska cross. There are also some copies available for framing; all were printed from original paintings by Calhoun. "I love doing this and love helping the Museum," he said, "it's such a wonderful and important ministry and I want to help any way possible."



Friends of the Museum Board Directors

Norwood Montgomery – President Terry Bevill – President-Elect Mary Deck – Secretary
Jim Cooper A.V. Huff Mitzi Johnson
Charlene Krammerer Tammy McDowell Bill Medlin
James Thurman Laura Young Paul Young
Ivan Abrahams - General Secretary, WMC Jackie Bolden - Museum Director
Lindsey Buckner – Administrative Assistant and Communications

The World Methodist Museum will be closed November 13 – 17 to accommodate meetings and activities taking place in the WMC offices, now housed in the Museum.

FRIENDS OF THE WORLD METHODIST MUSEUM

If the Museum does not have your email address, please add it below and send with your contribution.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GIFT

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | BENEFACTOR | 1000 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | SPONSOR | 100 |
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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. **Become a Friend!**

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

Keep in touch!

[www:MethodistMuseum.com](http://www.MethodistMuseum.com)



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