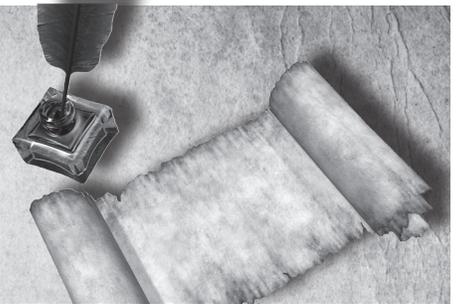


HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 58, Number 2

Spring 2018

“Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the United Methodist Church”

The They Say It's Your Birthday (The Beatles, 1968)

Fifty years ago, Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Bishop Rueben H. Mueller and Methodist Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke joined hands over a table laden with symbols---the Bible, hymnals, books of Discipline and a 307-page “Plan of Union.” 1,300 delegates and 10,000 visitors met in Dallas, Texas on April 23, 1968



Fred Day

proclaiming the formation of the newly-constituted United Methodist Church. 10.3 million Methodists and 750,000 members of the EUB Church merged into one of the largest Protestant denominations in the world. Flags from fifty-three countries testified to the breadth of the new reality.

At the same time, the systematic racism of the former Methodist Church's segregating Central Jurisdiction began dismantling. That same year, the United Methodist Council of Bishops signed a concordat with the British Methodist Conference committing to ongoing dialogue and increasing shared experiences saying “members of the same family belong together and British and American Methodists are the same family.”

A copy of Albert Outler's sermon “Visions and Dreams” delivered at the uniting General Conference found its way to my desk a few weeks ago. It was a reminder from a faithful staff member to begin preparations for Heritage Sunday, to be held this year on May 20, Pentecost. This year's theme is “JUBILEE: The 50th Anniversary of The United Methodist Church.” (You can read more about Albert Outler and this sermon among numerous Heritage Sunday 2018 resources at <http://www.gcah.org/resources/heritage-sunday-2018>)

Outler's sermon is one of the seminal documents in all of modern Methodist history. It celebrates the birthday of The United Methodist Church with “an aura of hope.... threshold of a new horizon.”

I was first struck by the moment in time when the sermon was delivered -1968, the year of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy's assassinations April 4

and June 5, the sexual revolution, Chicago Democratic National Convention, Vietnam War and protests, the law and order platform of the Richard Nixon election. The times were as turbulent, divided, fearful, discontented and demoralizing as any time since.

Citing the biblical text for Pentecost (Acts 2: 2-21), Outler calls the new Church to a bold choice of unity in the face of the surrounding chaos and offers markers for living-into a truly *United* Methodist Church. His words speak as loudly today as at the time of the birth of our denomination. If the Church cannot be a hope-filled difference-maker in and for the world---let alone itself---then who will, he asks.

Think of it: where once there were five different churches, now there is one. Differences that once kept people apart---language, race, folkways, piety, personality and differing practices of democracy have been overcome. Separated Christian brothers and sisters rooted in a shared ethos of personal and social holiness joined as family.

The “real work of The United Methodist Church” began that day in April, 1968, Outler says. Though fraught with the same complexities, doubts, frustrations and failures of the first Pentecost, the new United Methodist Church will also be filled with new possibilities for reformation and renewal because the joining of what was once separate makes for a better, stronger, more complete, well-equipped church. However, this will only come to pass if the new church raises-up “frontiersman for tomorrow, dynamically adaptive to the new world as our forefathers were in theirs.”

At its heart, the sermon stakes-out the life of the new United Methodist Church in tripartite form---“truly catholic, truly evangelical and truly reforming,”---not in hierarchy but in careful balance:

Truly Catholic-a church “inclusive” (not a buzz word in 1968!), “open” and bounded by the “bare essentials” of the canons of Christ and Christian discipline derived from our confession of faith and opening hearts and minds to new and bold ventures in Christian unity.

Truly Evangelical-called to mission flowing from the heart of the Gospel that ALL are loved by God

Message from our New President

— Ivan G. Corbin

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Please send address changes to Don Brenneman. Editorial correspondence should be directed to Pat Thompson. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is July 20, 2018.

Historian's Digest is published quarterly by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of The United Methodist Church, many names representing the various ecclesiastical lines that merged on April 23, 1968 come to mind: Albright, Asbury, Boehm, Coke, Otterbein, and so many others. But, when you are thinking about the history of The UMC, does the name "Bonebrake" come to mind? If not, it probably should.

DeWalt Beinbrech was born Oct. 1, 1755 in Franklin County, Pennsylvania to Frederick and Christiana Beinbrech (which literally means leg or bone breaking). DeWalt Bonebrake was a soldier in the American Revolution and served in the campaign around Philadelphia in 1777. Very well educated, DeWalt was a farmer, teacher and skilled in metal working. He married Christiana Wolfe of Berks County, PA. Like Otterbein, the Beinbrechs were rooted in the German Reformed Church.

In 1800, DeWalt and Christiana moved their family of 10 of their eventual 13 children to Ohio, traveling down the Ohio River on a flat boat. They first settled near Hibbardsville and about seven years later moved to Preble County (just west of Dayton) near the village of Eaton. A short time after their settlement in Preble County the Bonebrakes united with a society of the the United Brethren in Christ.

Of the 13 children, there were 2 girls and 11 boys. Of the 11 boys, 5 were soldiers in the War of 1812. Of the 11 boys, 6 became pastors of the U.B. Church: Frederick, Conrad, Peter, Daniel, Sr., George and Henry DeWalt, Sr. Over the years they would serve U.B. churches primarily in the midwest. They were described as "prominent in the early history of the church" according to the 1904 "Minutes of the Fourth Annual Session of the Southeast Ohio Conference." On pg. 39 these minutes state Daniel Bonebrake, Sr. "organized the first U.B. class in Dayton, having been sent there as a home missionary in 1842. From that small beginning came the many excellent churches of the Gem City." There was even a Bonebrake Meeting House about four miles northwest of Eaton in Preble County, Ohio. Daniel, Jr. gave his life to Christ the night his Uncle George preached at a revival at the Bonebrake Meeting House on February 7, 1847. Daniel, Jr. began preparations for the ministry and on March 17, 1851 became an early student at what would become Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio. Daniel, Jr. was a pastor for over thirty years in the U.B. Church. Daniel, Jr's son, Lewis Davis Bonebrake, Ph.D. was president of Indiana Central from 1909 to 1915. George Bonebrake helped to establish U. B.'s Lane University after moving to Kansas. George was offered the episcopacy but turned it down to stay near home. His brother, Henry DeWalt Bonebrake, Sr. was elected Bishop, "but after praying over his election overnight, he reported to the conference that he had neither the grace of heart nor the college training necessary."

Multiple generations of descendants of DeWalt Bonebrake served the U. B. Church as pastors, missionaries, college professors and presidents



Ivan G. Corbin

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as well as active laypeople in their local churches. Grandson Henry DeWalt, Jr. was ordained by Bishop Milton Wright (father of Orville and Wilbur) in 1879. Henry, Jr. would serve pastorates in Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. His son Peter Oren Bonebrake was born in Iowa and graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio in 1892. (Bishop Wright made the motion to establish the seminary at the General Conference of 1869. He would later become chairman of the seminary's first executive committee.) Peter O. served as principal of the Rufus Clark Training School in West Africa for a short time. He then moved to Portland, Oregon and served as a pastor, clerk of the court, probation officer and other positions. Later he served numerous other pastorates around the state. Peter was also a district superintendent. He served twice as the president of U.B. Philomath College in Oregon and Campbell College in Kansas. In addition, he served as principal of the Hellman Street School in Los Angeles, California. As if all that was not enough, Peter served in the Oregon State Legislature in 1909, 1911 and 1913.

Another great-grandson of DeWalt Bonebrake, John Marion Bonebrake, was a successful farmer, and banker in Veedersburg, Indiana. John's grandfather was Adam Bonebrake, oldest son of DeWalt. For years John dreamed of doing something to provide a significant gift for a new or already existing educational institution of the church. Also, for many years, Union Biblical Seminary printed in its catalogue the following challenge: "Any party contributing \$50,000 to the Institution shall have the naming of the Institution." In consultation with his pastor, Rev. J. M. McHargue, John purchased thousands of acres of prime farmland in Western Kansas. On June 16, 1905, John and his wife Mary signed a contract giving Union a total of 3,840 acres of that land. At the time of the gift the value was over \$80,000 and grew to \$200,000 before the seminary finally sold the land to pay for its expansion. Until it was sold, the seminary received the profits from growing wheat on this and other donated land. As a result of their gift, John and Mary Bonebrake named the seminary "Bonebrake Seminary" in honor of his six great uncles who had been United Brethren pastors. The name was officially changed on January 20, 1909. It would not be changed again until 1954 when Bonebrake Seminary merged with the Evangelical School of Theology and became United Theological Seminary following the creation a few years earlier of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. With the merger of the EUB and Methodist Churches in 1968 United became one of the thirteen United Methodist seminaries.

Since I love to try to find connections between my own history and that of our church and nation, I need to mention four other Bonebrakes. Elizabeth Ann Bonebrake, daughter of Henry DeWalt Bonebrake, Sr. and granddaughter of DeWalt and Christina Bonebrake married the Rev. James DeMoss, a United Brethren pastor (and ancestor of my Fideler half-brothers). They formed the DeMoss Family Singers or the Singing Bards. Think "Gaithers meet the Partridge Family." Their early mode of transportation was a used stage coach now on display in The Museum of the High Desert near Bend, Oregon and they were well known throughout the US and even in Europe. I will share more about them in our next newsletter.

The final Bonebrakes I want to mention are brother and sister, Rev. Dr. George W. and Gertrude. They were 2nd great-grandchildren of DeWalt and Christina and George was a member of the Class of 1907 of Union (and soon to be Bonebrake) Theological Seminary in Dayton. He served pastorates in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. He also served as a pastoral superintendent for 2 years and Illinois Conference Superintendent for 14 years, serving the U.B. and E.U.B. Churches for 52 years. His wife Osie had worked at the Otterbein Home in Lebanon, Ohio before their marriage in 1944. After George died she worked there again from 1958 to 1963. George and his sister Gertrude were born in Newton County, Indiana. Gertrude was married to Jim Corbin, brother of Francis Marion Corbin, my great-great grandfather and original owner of the 1889 *Book of Discipline* of the U.B. Church I mentioned in the last newsletter. On December, 1936 in his capacity as Illinois Conference Superintendent, George Bonebrake officiated at the funeral of Grover Cleveland Forwood, Pastor of First United Brethren Church of Springfield, Illinois for eleven years and a graduate of U.B.'s Indiana Central College and Bonebrake Seminary. Grover was a direct descendant of Samuel Forwood of Harford County, Maryland who had hosted Frances Asbury as a preaching site on numerous occasions. He was also my great-great uncle. As a result, I rejoice to find my heritage firmly rooted in both our streams that merged 50 years ago.

In Christ's service,
Ivan G. Corbin, President



REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Conference/Institution: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Attendance and Cost (please check one)

- July 9–11 or 10–11 **with** bus tour on July 12th Cost: \$155.00 + bus tour fee of \$30.00
- July 9–11 or 10–11 **without** bus tour Cost: \$155.00
- July 10 only Cost: \$50.00
- July 11 **with** bus tour on July 12th Cost: \$60.00 + bus tour fee of \$30.00
- July 11 only, **without** bus tour Cost: \$60.00

Payment by Check: Please make check payable to United Theological Seminary

Payment by Credit Card: Don't fill-out this form, please register at <http://united.edu/merging-streams>

Lodging: Lodging is not included in the registration. For a list of hotels, see <http://united.edu/merging-streams>

Bus Tour (please check one)

- The Hanby Legacy Tour, Westerville, OH Cost: \$30.00

This is an all-day tour of Hanby House, Otterbein University Archives, and Church of the Master. Lunch will be at the Church of the Master in Westerville, OH. While transportation will be provided from site to site, all the sites are within a block of one another making for easy walking. Hanby House is a Heritage Landmark of The United Methodist Church. This tour is limited to 50 people only.

- Otterbein-Lebanon Tour, Lebanon, OH Cost: \$30.00

This is a tour of Otterbein Lebanon Senior Lifestyle Community and the Warren County Historical Society Museum in Lebanon, OH. A former Shaker village, Otterbein Lebanon is home to a number of United Brethren collections and Shaker artifacts. More Shaker artifacts are available at the Warren County Historical Society Museum. Otterbein Lebanon is also Historic Site #468 of The United Methodist Church. This tour will be done by mid-afternoon and will require less walking.

Note: Bus tours are on a first come first served basis. If in case the tour of your choice is canceled, you will be reimbursed.

CEU Credits (only for those attending all of the plenaries)

- I will need CEU credits. Cost: \$10.00 (plenaries count for 1.1 CEU credits)

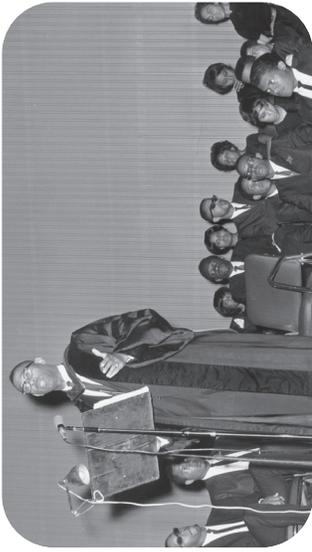
Transportation (hotel to UTS and UTS to hotel)

- I will need a ride. I have a car and I am willing to take _____ passengers.

Special Dietary Needs (please check)

- Vegetarian Gluten-free Allergies: _____

Please mail form and check to: Ginnene Peavie, United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Rd., Dayton, OH 45426. To view schedule and hotel information or to register online, please go to <http://united.edu/merging-streams>. DEADLINE: June 15, 2018 – for registrations with bus tour; July 06, 2018 – for all other registrations.



Program Highlights

- Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, Bishop of the West Ohio Conference, will preach at opening worship. Rev. Alfred T. Day, III, GCAH General Secretary, will preach during closing worship.
- Film on 1968 merger to be shown.
- EUB hymns, McKinley UMC Gospel Choir and reminiscences from former EUBs.
- Re-enactments during the evening gatherings.
- Banquet for Ministry of Memory and Saddlebag award recipients.
- Breakout groups for paper presentations.
- Two optional bus tours, July 12.
- CEU credits available.

Merging the Streams is hosted by the West Ohio Commission on Archives and History and the Center for Evangelical United Brethren Heritage at United Theological Seminary.

Celebrate in Dayton!

Through the missionary efforts of circuit rider Christian Newcomer, beginning in 1810, and many workers thereafter, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ established a strong presence in Dayton and the Miami Valley area of Ohio during the 19th and mid-20th centuries. Dayton was once home to the denomination's headquarters, publishing house, and seminary, now United Theological Seminary, the venue for Merging the Streams.

Date: July 9-12, 2018

Location: United Theological Seminary
4501 Denlinger Road
Dayton, OH 45426

Registration Fee: \$155

Bus Tour (July 12): \$30

To register and find more information about the schedule, speakers, and hotels, visit

www.umchistory.org/merging-streams

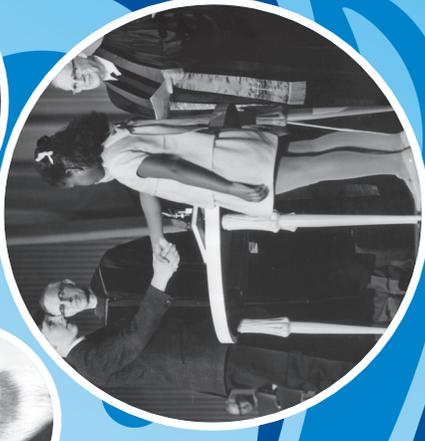


CELEBRATING THE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY



united
Theological Seminary

July 9-12, 2018





Pietism, Transatlantic Revivalism, and the EUB Legacy in United Methodism

A Historical Convocation of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, the North Central Jurisdiction Commission of Archives and History, the Wesleyan Historical Society, the Charles Wesley Society, and the General Commission of Archives and History. Hosted by the West Ohio Commission on Archives and History and the Center for Evangelical United Brethren Heritage at United Theological Seminary.



BUS TOURS

HANBY LEGACY TOUR (JULY 12)

- This is a Tour of Hanby House, Otterbein Archives, Church of the Master, and Church of the Messiah in Westerville, OH.

OTTERBEIN HOME TOUR (JULY 12)

- This is a tour of Otterbein Lebanon Home and the Warren County Historical Society Museum in Lebanon, OH.

See website for details.



www.umchistory.org/merging-streams



SPEAKERS

OPENING WORSHIP

- Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, West Ohio Conference

PLENARY 1

- "Merging the Streams: 17th and 18th Centuries"
- Steven O'Malley, Asbury Theological Seminary

PLENARY 2

- "Merging the Streams: 19th and 20th Centuries"
- Scott Kisker, United Theological Seminary
- Jennifer Woodruff-Tait, *Christian History*

PLENARY 3

- "Merging the Streams: Women in Ministry"
- Sarah Blair, United Theological Seminary
- Wendy Deichmann, United Theological Seminary
- Patricia Thompson, Historical Society of The UMC

PLENARY 4

- "Merging the Streams: Racial Inclusion"
- Morris Davis, Drew Theological School
- William Davis, West Ohio Conference
- James Shopshire, Sr., Iowa Conference
- Ian Straker, Upper New York Conference

PLENARY 5

- "Merging the Streams: 50 Years Later"
- Ted Campbell, Southern Methodist University
- Russell Richey, Duke Divinity School

SPECIAL PLENARY

- "Emerging Issues in Archives"
- L. Dale Patterson, GCAH

CLOSING WORSHIP

- Alfred T. Day, III, GCAH

Merging the Streams commemorates the 50th anniversary of the merger between The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968. It celebrates the enduring legacy of the Evangelical and United Brethren traditions and the ways by which this legacy has shaped United Methodist identity. It also marks its role in The Methodist Church's merger with its own historic African American membership, thus ending the Central Jurisdiction. Consequently, important motifs emerge as we discern this legacy, namely: Pietism, transatlantic revivalism, and inclusion. These merging streams not only influenced the Evangelical, United Brethren, and Methodist traditions in many various ways but also helped form the new denomination's future.

2018 Ministry of Memory and Saddlebag Selection Recipients Announced

Every year the Historical Society makes awards in two different categories for significant achievement in the area of United Methodist History.

The Ministry of Memory Award is given to recognize and encourage excellence in archival and historical work in the local church, annual conference, jurisdictional or central conference. It is intended to complement the Distinguished Service Award granted by the General Commission on Archives and History as that award recognizes national or international leadership, frequently in academia.

Due to the number of worthy nominations which are being made, in recent years more than one award has been made. These awards may be presented at either the annual conference (or jurisdictional or central conference level depending upon where the nomination originated) or at the annual meeting of the HSUMC.

The 2018 recipients of the Ministry of Memory Award are Dr. Lawrence F. Sherwood, the long-time

Historian of the West Virginia Annual Conference, and the Rev. Dr. John Topolewski for his long-time work as a member of the former Wyoming Annual Conference which recently became a part of the current Upper New York Conference. More detailed information about the recipients will be available after the awards are given.

The Saddlebag Selection Award honors a book which it judges to be the best work in United Methodist studies published during the previous calendar year. Among the criteria are (a) balance between the scholarly and the popular (b) general accessibility to a wide range of readers and (c) subject matter of significant interest in the fields of United Methodist polity, theology, history, and biography.

This year the award is being made to the Rev. Dr. Ted C. Campbell for his publication, *Encoding Methodism: Telling and Retelling Narratives of Wesleyan Origins*. Dr. Campbell will be making a presentation on his book at the HSUMC Awards Banquet, held on Wednesday, July 11, at the annual meeting in Dayton, OH.

Sketch of the Rev. George S. Brown Recently Discovered



One of the things that I have been attempting to do for many years now is to locate a picture or a sketch of the Rev. George S. Brown, the founding pastor of the Wolcott, VT, UMC. Many of you will have had the opportunity to read about his amazing life and ministry in the January, 2018, issue of *Methodist History*. In early March of this year, I purchased an original 1849 copy of Rev. Brown's *Journal*, and pasted in the front was this sketch which appears to be George S. Brown. The *Journal* was owned by the Rev. Daniel Lewis, who followed Brown at the Wolcott MEC in 1859, so it is likely that he had known Brown personally. The

sketch was drawn by Henry Mack, of Hardwick, VT (neighboring town), who would have been about 12 or 13 years old at the time.

If you are wondering about the extra large hands, remember that Brown was a stonewall builder by trade and would have, most likely, been a big man with large hands able to heft heavy stones onto those walls. See the church's website: www.wolcottvtumc.org for more information about the church and an update on the historic renovation we are currently undertaking. [Note from your editor, Pat Thompson, ¼ time Coordinating Pastor].

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with a special love demonstrated by and centered in Jesus Christ's pardoning, healing and reconciling ways which create new possibilities for all.

Truly Reforming-an eagerness to be renewed again and again, judged by the future as much as the past, "self-examining without self-justification and self-loathing.... creative in discontent and rooted in the conviction that mere good is the enemy of the best."

From Albert's mouth to God's ears. Or now from Albert's mouth to The United Methodist Church's beating heart.

I haven't been able to put this sermon down. I've shared it with the Council of Bishops, the Connectional Table, the General Secretaries Table and The Commission on A Way Forward. It will be one of the Heritage Sunday resources we share this year with every congregation across the Connection.

Some will say that was then and this is now. Times have changed, and circumstances and issues with them.

At The UMC's 50th birthday, it feels like the mood of our dear church is anything but jubilation. Jubilees aren't on the agendas, church news or denominational blogs I read. What I sense is more anxiety, edginess,

defensiveness, anger, and negative predictions---more "coming-undone" than "coming-together."

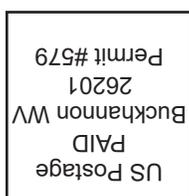
I'm with Albert Outler---the eyes of the whole Church are on us.

In that context, I offer "Visions and Dreams" as required reading to remember and stoke the hope of our 1968 birthright---boldly choosing unity while the world around seemed set on pulling-apart, embracing the challenging and complex work of unity rather than running from it, trusting the creative work of Holy Spirit and setting its feet to the path of a church that in Albert Outler's words lives and grows by its being

- "united to be uniting,
- repentant to be redemptive
- cruciform in order to manifest God's triumphant agony for mankind."

Moving to and through 2018 and towards 2019 and a special General Conference, God give us a golden anniversary year.

—Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary
General Commission on Archives and History
(GCAH)



Historian's Digest
c/o WV Annual Conference of UMC
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