

# INDIANA UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 331, Greencastle, IN 46135

Fall 2017

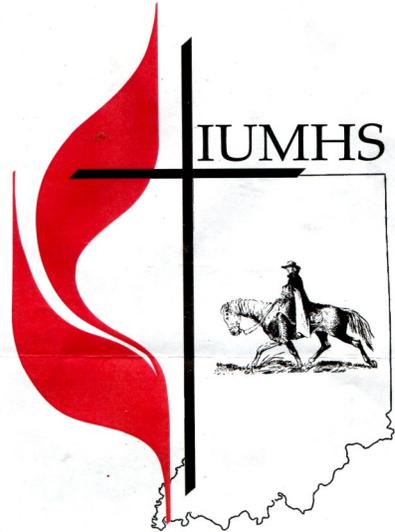
## INDIANA CHURCH HISTORIANS' SCHOOL AN EXAMPLE ACROSS THE DENOMINATION

The Indiana Conference Local Church Historian School is in the midst of its fall session and is gaining accolades from across the denomination. More than 300 United Methodists from 41 conferences in the United States and two from overseas (Zambia and UK) are presently in the midst of their studies under the direction of Richard Stowe, director of the school. The school offers training in gathering and displaying church records, writing a compelling local church history, and helping churches remember their rich heritage.

Richard Stowe, former conference historian and member of the Commission of Archives and History, as well as the Conference Historical Society, first offered the school in 2015 for persons in Indiana. In its first year 193 persons signed up for the course. Fifty-seven persons completed the course. Others are still doing the work. A number of those who did not complete the course expressed appreciation for new skills learned and for the new appreciation gained for their church's heritage.

Most of those enrolled are local church historians but there are also pastors, lay leaders, and church council members. In addition some staff persons from other conferences are enrolled not only to learn but to see if this program is one they would like to sponsor in their own conference. As far as is known no other conference presently has a similar program.

The Conference team working on the school includes the chair of the Commission on Archives and History, Donald Findley, and Lori Gibson, Arlen Packard, and Jim Hensley.



*Indiana United Methodist Historical Society*



*Coalbush Church - Historian Betty Ballard sorting 1940s Sunday School material in her home.*



*Rebecca Smith of Mishawaka First Church, who completed the local church historians' school in 2015, works on her church's history.*

### INDIANA BICENTENNIAL CHURCHES

The following Methodist Episcopal churches were established 200 years ago, in 1817. Most are now closed. We celebrate their contribution.

Asbury, Wayne Co	Ebenazar Jennings Co.
Economy, Wayne Co	Wesley Chapel Floyd Co.
Yankeetown, Warrick Co.	

# 2018 ANNUAL MEETING WILL FOCUS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF METHODIST – EUB MERGER

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS = SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2018**

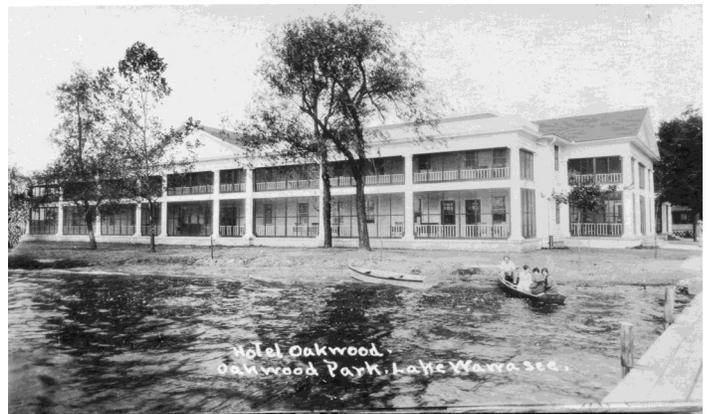
**WHAT?** Annual Meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society

**WHERE?** University Heights United Methodist Church, 222 Hanna, Blvd., Indianapolis (next to the University of Indianapolis)

**PROGRAM** - Stories of the former EUB and the former Methodist Churches (camps, how Conference was held, programs, etc). Plus, analysis of how the Merger came about and what was good and what was not so good about the Merger.



**THE ORIGINAL OAKWOOD PARK TABERNACLE**



**THE OAKWOOD PARK HOTEL**

## **THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN TRADITION**

Perhaps the most enduring symbol of the Evangelical Association and then the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Indiana (at least northern Indiana) is Oakwood Park at Lake Wawasee. Established by the Evangelical Association in the 1880s as a camp ground, the park soon hosted many denominational activities. It was a youth camp, a center for adult training conferences, and hosted the annual conferences. Bishop Reuben Mueller (Indiana's first bishop following the merger, became well-known because both he and his wife conducted many conference programs there. Many church families and retired ministers owned homes on the grounds. The original octagonal tabernacle (shown on the left) was originally for the camp meetings but then for other conference activities. The famous Hotel Oakwood (shown on the right) was the hub of activities for many years. After the Evangelical Association and United Brethren merger in 1946 the grounds were used as the center for EUB activities in northern Indiana. The annual conferences were held there until the 1968 merger.

## CONFERENCE ARCHIVIST WESLEY WILSON RECIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Wesley W. Wilson, coordinator of archives and special collections at DePauw University for the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, was honored at the Society of American Archivists (SAA) annual meeting in Portland, Oregon on July 26, with the 2017 Sister M. Claude Lane Memorial Award. The award is given for the person who has made significant contribution to the field of religious archives.

Since his coming to Indiana in 1984 Wes has worked to make the archives one of the best conference archives in the United Methodist connection. The Indiana archives benefit from a cooperative arrangement with DePauw University whereby the school and the conference share facilities, staff, and expenses. Soon after he arrived in Indiana Wes became one of the founding members of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society. In addition Wesley has provided leadership in several state and national archivist associations. He has authored a number of articles and is highly respected in the church and the academic world.

The archives includes histories of local churches, sets of former Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren journals and disciplines and history books. There are records of closed churches, pastoral records, images of conference churches and activities, as well as a number of records of individuals. The archives are located in the library at DePauw University. Within the next few years plans call for enlarging the archives space and giving it a more prominent position in the library .



## 2017 SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING LEARNS ABOUT THE STUDEBAKER FAMILY AND ST. PAUL'S MEMORIAL CHURCH

The 2017 annual meeting of the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society was held at St. Paul's Memorial UM Church in South Bend on April 1. The presentations of the day featured the amazing story of Clem Studebaker, founder of the Studebaker Company, and his wife Ann, and their contributions to Methodism, to the South Bend Community, to St. Paul's Memorial Church, and to the Christian faith. St. Paul's Memorial Church is the beneficiary of the Studebaker generosity. The major presentation of the day was given by Rev. Thomas Thews, pastor of St. Paul's Memorial Church, who shared insights into the faith and life of the Studebakers, their place in Methodism and in the South Bend community, and the unique architecture and features of the church. There was also a presentation on religious landmarks.



Since the historic organ of the church was under restoration, it was not available for playing at the time of the annual meeting. However a report from the church indicates it should be ready this fall. The restoration is costing over \$400,000 and will feature, among other things, 33 gold-plated pipes that were a part of the original organ. When finished, it will be one of the finest organs in the state.

The annual meeting also included discussion of Items relating to local church histories, activities and projects of the Historical Society and displays.

Rev. Doug Davies is president of the Historical Society.

*The sanctuary of St. Paul's Memorial Church showing the organ and organ pipes.*

# WHEN METHODISM CAME OF AGE IN INDIANA

By Riley Case

In 1856 the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Besides being a railroad center for what was still being commonly called "the west," Indianapolis had become a thriving center of industry and business. Community leaders believed their city compared favorably with many of the eastern cities and were pleased to be able to showcase its finer points to the up and coming Methodists. One of those showplaces was the newly built union station, one of the finest of its kind in the nation. The city greeted the delegates warmly. The sessions of the conference were held at the state house. Leading citizens of the community hosted the 205 delegates (all male and all clergy), along with other guests, in their homes.

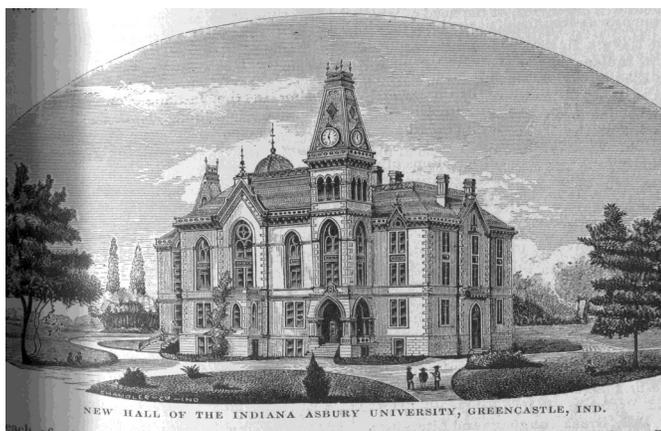
Methodists in Indiana were also eager to show their brothers and sisters from the east and from other places how the church had been thriving in Indiana. This was the first time the conference had ventured so far west. The Indianapolis Methodists had much to show. Fewer than forty years before there had not even been any Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The first Methodist building was a hewn log house purchased in 1824. By 1829 the log church had been replaced by a brick edifice. Eventually it would be known as the Meridian Street M.E. Church.

Across the state Methodism's membership was approaching 100,000 which meant that almost one out of every ten Indiana residents was a member of a Methodist church. Methodist Sunday schools enrolled many more. Indiana could count about 650 Methodist Churches, more than all the Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregationalist, and Roman Catholic churches combined. The percentage rate of growth for Methodism in Indiana between 1820 and 1860 was twice the rate of the population growth. Indiana Methodism could also claim two very fine colleges, Indiana Asbury (now DePauw University) and Fort Wayne Female College (now Taylor University). Several of Indiana's favorite Methodist sons had gained recognition. Four years before, 1852, in Boston, the conference had elected two Indiana men, Matthew Simpson and Edward R. Ames to the episcopacy. Simpson, the first president of Indiana Asbury, was at the time a leading editor of the denomination. One guest to the conference was especially impressed. Frederick J. Jobson was the official visitor to the confer-

ence was especially impressed. Frederick L. Jobson was the official visitor to the conference from the Methodist church in England. Jobson came not only to bring fraternal greetings to the Americans but to report to the mother church in England how Methodism in America was faring. Because of his importance he was chosen to be hosted in the home of the governor of Indiana, the esteemed Joseph A. Wright.

In a series of letters back to England Jobson was profuse in his praise for America, for Methodism, and for Indiana. Whatever others had heard about the primitive American west, Jobson explained he saw only prosperity and progress. Had the word spread that Methodists disdained education? Jobson spoke of fourteen Methodist universities in America where the "sons of the more wealthy Methodists" were being trained for useful and honorable service in the state and in the church. In addition Methodism had established "two seminaries, seventy academies, and many common day schools." He mentioned eleven difference denominational periodicals with 285,461 subscribers.

About the time that Jobson wrote, R. M. Eddy in 1857 wrote an article in the *Methodist Quarterly Review* entitled "Influence of Methodism upon the Civilization and Education of the West." Eddy spoke of Methodism's influence on the betterment of society. He quoted a justice of the Indiana Supreme Court: "But for the Methodist Church and the Methodist ministry, this country would have sunk into barbarism." The end



result of revivals and camp meetings, according to the article, was to advance knowledge, tame the frontier, and promote civilization: "villages and neighborhoods not a few, which were in a state of almost semi-barbarism, under the Divine blessing, Methodist has elevated, refined and placed on the upward grade."

Still, for all the glowing reports of the Indianapolis General Conference, and the projections of Methodism's growing influence and bright future, Methodism in the 1850s was still very much a religion of and for the common people. Methodism is the story of a religion on the edges of

Material for this article is adapted from manuscript by Riley Case about an early Methodist circuit rider Eli Farmer. The Eli Famer story will be published in the summer of 2018 by the Indiana Historical Society. The conference Commission on Archives and History and the Indiana Historical Society are helping to sponsor this book.

## BRISTOL CHURCH CELEBRATES 175 YEARS OF SERVICE AND MINISTRY

**Bristol United** Methodist Church, Elkhart County, celebrated its 175th anniversary during the month of August., 2017. Founded in 1842 the church was originally known as Turtle Creek. The Turtle Creek area and the northern tier of counties in Indiana was originally serviced by circuit riders from Michigan. As the community of Bristol was settled the church moved into town.

Festivities during the month included the honoring of 50-year mem-



*The Bristol choir leads an old-fashioned hymn-sing*

### **Come of Age** *(Continued from the previous page)*

society making its way into the mainstream, but in 1856 it was not exactly accurate to say that it had arrived. One telling statistic has to do with value of church properties. If societal standing can be measured by the investment of a denomination in its church structures Methodism nationally was on the bottom of the scale. According to the 1850 federal census which reported church members, number of churches, and average property value of church properties the ranking of denominations was as follows:

Unitarian \$18,449; Dutch Reformed \$12,644;  
Jewish synagogues \$11,987; Presbyterian \$3,135  
Baptist \$1,244; Methodist \$1,244

Methodists believed that matters of the Spirit were more important than worldly show.

# *Indiana United Methodist Historical Society 2018 Membership*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (please – very helpful) \_\_\_\_\_  Check if Church Historian

Church You Attend \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Check if  (1) Individual  (3) Life Member of IUMHS

(2) Congregation  The Congregation is a Life Member

**TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP HOW MANY**

**AMOUNT**

New or Renewal

Individual For One Year \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

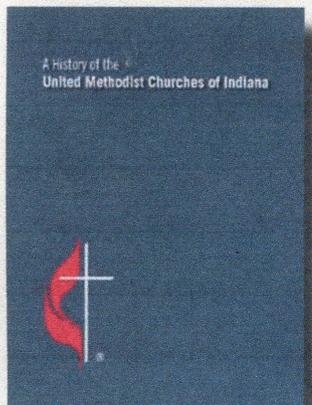
Family for One Year \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation for One Year \_\_\_\_\_ @\$50 \_\_\_\_\_

total for Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to “Indiana United Methodist Historical Society” and mail with this form to Donald Brenneman, 4110 Starkey Drive, Marion, IN 46953

# A HISTORY OF Indiana United Methodist Churches



The Indiana United Methodist Historical Society and M.T. Publishing have joined forces to publish an all new commemorative book featuring a brief history of the UMC in Indiana and the histories of individual United Methodist Churches in Indiana.

**Your church history is needed for this publication.** Each church has the opportunity to submit a 500 word history and a photo to be included free of charge. Please see the information below for guidelines and how to submit your church history for inclusion. UMC Churches not submitting a history will only be listed by name in the back of the book.

*A History of Indiana United Methodist Churches* is currently being offered on a pre-sale basis at a special price. This book will be a large 8.5" x 11" coffee-table style book featuring a minimum of 128 pages. Two hard bound editions are being offered, a deluxe standard edition with a full color hardback cover and matching dust jacket for only \$49.95 or a bonded leather edition (also with a dust jacket) for only \$84.00. You may also personalize your copy for a nominal charge of \$7.00 or add a downloadable digital edition for your archives \*with the purchase of a hardbound edition. This book will be a great addition to your church or personal library. Order your copy today!

Because there will be a limited number of copies printed, we are encouraging those who are interested in the book to place an order reservation now. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Place your order no later than **November 15, 2017**. You may also order with a credit card online at [mtpublishing.com](http://mtpublishing.com) — or by calling (toll-free) 888-263-4702 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central).

\*Cover design subject to change.

- 8.5" x 11" Hard Cover
- Color Dust Jacket
- 128 page minimum.
- \$49.95<sup>†</sup> Deluxe Edition
- \$84.00<sup>†</sup> Bonded Leather Edition
- Personalization Available<sup>†</sup>
- Digital Edition Available\*

<sup>†</sup>Plus s/h of \$7.50 for the first book, \$5.00 each additional book. IN residents add 7% sales tax to cost of book order.

Personalized copies cannot be returned for a refund. \*Purchase of a hard copy and email address is required for digital edition purchase.

[Click here to order online!](#)

**Pre-Order & Submission Deadline: 11/15/2017**

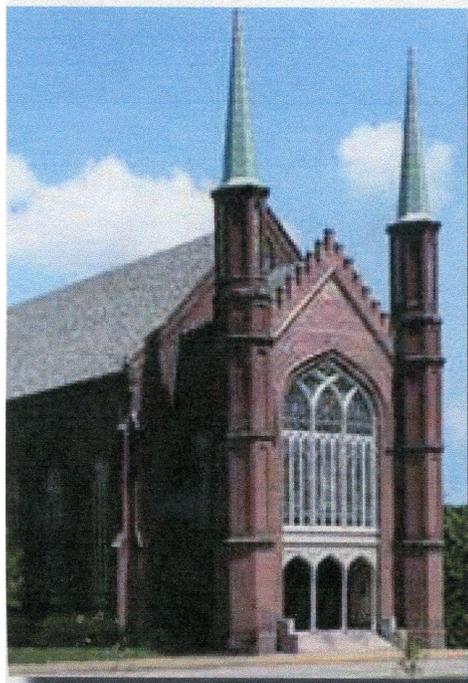
## Submitting Your Church History

Write your church history in 500 words or less, including your church's founding dates, key members, historical milestones, mission statement, and/or interesting stories as they relate to the founding of your church and what you are doing today or plans for the future. If you stay within the 500-word limit, it will cost nothing to participate. The cost for each word over the 500 limit is 15 cents, each additional photo is \$5.00. If your history is over the limit, please remit a check for the extra words. Send your church history along with one photo for inclusion in the book.

Histories may be submitted without photographs. Please type your church history (double-spaced) on plain white paper or submit electronically in a text document. Do not embed photos into the text. Please send those separately. Submissions can be mailed to **A History of IN UMC Churches, c/o M.T. Publishing, P.O. Box 6802, Evansville, IN 47719-6802**. You may also submit your history on-line at [www.mtpublishing.com](http://www.mtpublishing.com). To ensure that all material is returned after publication, include a SASE for return of your items and write your name, address and phone number on the back of all material submitted.

## How to Submit Photos

Please include a caption indicating who/what is depicted and the date the photo was taken. Digital images must be at a resolution of 300 dpi or better, and saved as .jpg or .tif. Low resolution images, web site images, images embedded in Microsoft Word, Xeroxed images, and computer printouts **CANNOT** be used. When scanning in photos, images that are 8"x10" and larger must be scanned in at 300 dpi. Images that are smaller than 8"x10" need to be scanned in at 600 dpi, or at 200% of actual size.



## Questions???

Contact Karen Schwartz on behalf of the Indiana UMC Historical Society at: [karengleitz@hotmail.com](mailto:karengleitz@hotmail.com)

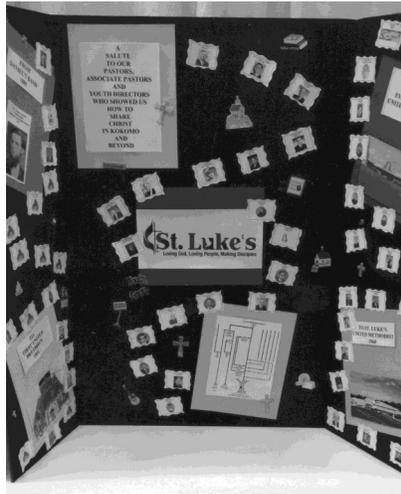
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Bethel Church Indianapolis



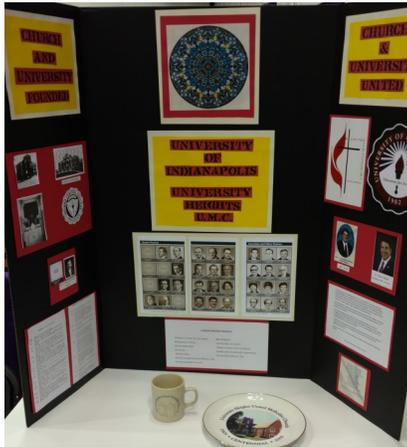
St. Luke's Kokomo



Sunnycrest Marion

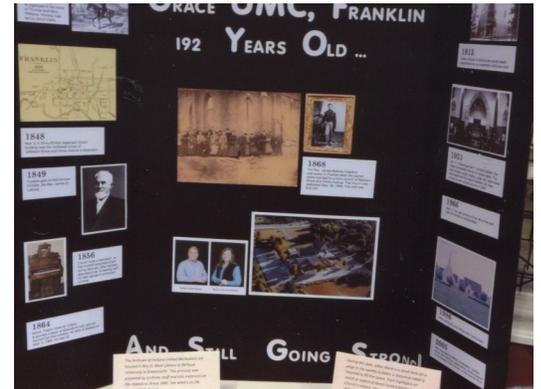
## LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY DISPLAYS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2017

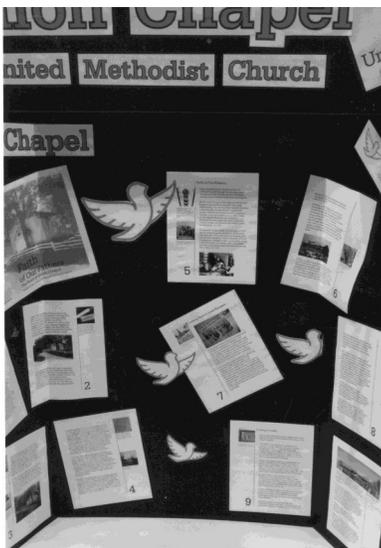


University Heights Indianapolis

Would your church like to place a history display at the 2018 annual conference? We can do a limited number of these. Please contact Joseph Wood, 217 E. 34th St. Indianapolis, IN 46205. 317/925-6194  
Joseph\_wood0639@sbcglobal.net



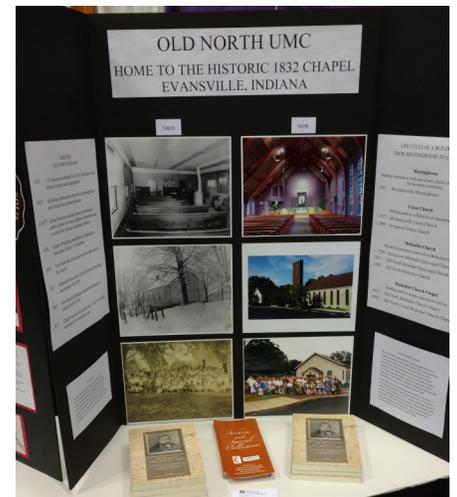
Grace Franklin



Union Chapel Indianapolis



St. Paul's Memorial South Bend



Old North Evansville

Has your church observed an anniversary or celebrated some special occasion? Or does it have an interesting history? Or do you have other suggestions for our newsletter? if you have a story or a suggestion for the newsletter contact Riley Case, 4663 S 600 E, Kokomo, IN, 46902, 765/628-0540 rbcase1@gmail.com

**Indiana United Methodist Historical Society**

**PO Box 331**

**Greencastle, IN 46135**