



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum

P.O. Box 24081

St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK—

Judi Fergus

I'm writing this from the mountains of North Georgia. It's been clear and cold and oh, so relaxing. The Sunday after Christmas we went to Nacoochee United Methodist Church (our church home away from home). We heard a terrific sermon from the Pastor Emeritus, Lyndon Eubanks. It was about loving your neighbor, not just talking about it, but really trying to live it out. Not just thinking about following your heart and your dreams, but taking the risk to do it. We were so blessed and I could feel the spirit in that little mountain church. This is, by the way, Bo and Mary Vice's new church.

I just finished reading a book that I received at Christmas. It's Have a Little Faith, by Mitch Albom. It is a wonderfully true story and one of the best books I have read in quite a while. I highly recommend it.

Yesterday, my 12 year old Maura, and I went to visit Dr. Ernest Seckinger, who was the chair of Archives and History. What an honor and a pleasure! Rev. Seckinger spent 70 years in ministry, most of it in South Georgia. He gave me his unpublished memoirs, which will be housed in the archives. We talked about people that he knew well, Bishops Moore and Cannon, Marynell Waite, Dr. Herchel Sheets and Rev. Vernard and Clarice Robertson.

Here is an update from Rev. Seckinger: "Since Jessie (my wife) outran me to the Father's house as Bishop Moore used to put it, my world has been a different world. God, through friends and time, is making it a good world still. I live in Stonehenge Assisted Living Center in Blairsville, Ga. Leading worship services here is a challenge and a blessing. Some of our residents have short attention spans. At first it was a bit frustrating to lead services without music help, but another resident can play the piano. Now when I give the benediction, I say, 'Hit it, Betty!' She wakes a couple of sleepers and delights the rest. Honors are blessings if one can feel and express gratitude with minimal ego advertising, but I want special friends to know that Young Harris College honored five alumni at the recent Homecoming festivities. I was given the Artemus Lester Award as an alum who is investing long life in ministry and demonstrated Christian service. Artemus Lester was a circuit rider who observed the rich potential in mountain youth during his 1885 pastorate. On January 1, 1886 twenty mountain youth gathered around a pot-bellied stove to begin what is now Young Harris College."

FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Sandra Harris



My name is Sandra Harris and I am the new Assistant Director at the Moore Methodist Museum. I came from Hofwyl-Broadfield Plantation State Historic Site. While there I developed a love of history that I am able to nurture here at the museum. I am a member of Arco United Methodist Church and enjoy the fellowship that a smaller congregation allows. Although I have only been at the museum for six months, I have learned a lot, but feel as if there is still so much more to learn. I enjoy coming to work every day knowing that I will learn something new every time I walk through the door.

Since starting at the museum at the end of June, I have attended the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) online conference. Their big topic was utilizing technology to spread the word about museums. They suggested things such as creating a Facebook page as well as utilizing a Twitter account. I also attended a mount making workshop in Orlando. This workshop was interesting in that it showed ways to protect artifacts and mount them so that visitors can see them but the artifact is secure in its mount. Our Friends are now able to join or renew their memberships or make donations at our web site. I am working towards having some of our gift shop items available online as well. Please check out the updated website at www.mooremethodistmuseum.org.

Any suggestions are always appreciated. I look forward to having a long history with the museum and being able to get to know all of you!

FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

On January 30th, we will have our first ever Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser. The tickets are \$40.00 and include a delicious 3-course dinner catered by Epworth by the Sea. The mystery is a comedy called "Welcome to the Neighborhood". If you have never been to a murder mystery before, they are great fun and you never know who might be in it! Funds raised will go towards the creation of the Women in Methodism Room. Tickets are available from the museum. Call the museum at (912) 638-4050 or email mmm@bellsouth.net. Deadline is January 26th. Hope to see you there!

Contributions and Memorials

Memorials

Rev. Joseph Roberson by Martha Tootle Cain

Rev. Joseph Roberson by Linda Hand

Rev. Joseph Roberson by Marynell Waite

Contributions

Professional Association of UMC Secretaries –

Georgia Chapter of United Methodist Women

Mr. and Mrs. John (Bo) Vice

UPCOMING EVENTS – NOT TO BE MISSED!

- January 30th – Mystery Fundraiser Dinner
6:30 pm
- March 23-24 – Church Historian’s Workshop
(see attached flyer)

GIFT SHOP COORDINATOR

Nancy Jenkins, Volunteer

As we approach Valentine’s Day, please keep the Museum Gift Shop in mind. We have an array of wonderful gifts, books, and jewelry for that sweetheart in your life! If a wedding at Lovely Lane Chapel is in the near future for your family, please shop at our gift shop for the wedding party favors or that special gift for the wedding couple. Our Lovely Lane selections include matted and framed prints, plates, jewelry, coasters and note cards.



From top left to right: “Beautiful Woman” Bracelet - \$10.00; Love Bracelet - \$12.00; Cross and Flame Pendants - \$8.00 & \$13.00
Mother of Pearl Cross & Chain – 12.00
Silver Cross and Chain - \$30.00
Lovely Lane Chapel Necklace – 10.00
1st Corinthians 13 Paperweight - \$10.00

Looking for a few good “board members”?

We have a couple of openings for the Archives & History/Museum Committee. This committee is our governing board and is comprised of clergy and lay people. Would you like to know more about what really goes on here? We meet twice a year at the museum for one day. Interested? Contact Judi Fergus

MEMBERSHIPS

Ed Kilbourne, singer, storyteller, and theologian, was recently doing a workshop at Epworth by the Sea. He is just a wonderful speaker and musician. He said to look at your church and count how many members you have who are over 60 years old. Then consider how your church will look in 20 years. Our Friends of the Museum may need to consider this as well. You, dear Friends, must be the ambassadors for us and our mission. Have you invited us to speak at your church? Have you brought your church groups to the museum for a tour? Tell people about us, please.

Like most non-profit organizations, we are seeing fewer donations based on this current economic situation. Now, more than ever, we need you, our Friends. If you are like me, you receive so many letters and appeals for many worthy causes. And if you, like me, want to support them, but need to spend your time, treasures and talents on just a few, consider the heritage and treasures and programming that your support to the Friends of the Museum help make possible. If you are not a Friend of the Museum, please join. If you are, please renew your membership!

SPECIAL EVENT

Dr. Herschel Sheets will be speaking at Winter Camp Meeting on Tuesday, January 26th at 2:00 pm. His topic is his new book on Bishop John Owen Smith entitled Letters Written in Turbulent Times. It is a collection of Bishop Smith’s correspondence during a very trying time in our Georgia Methodist history. I highly recommend hearing Dr. Sheets and if you just can’t make it, contact us at the museum to get a copy of the book.



Becky Bridges reading the Christmas Story to kindergartners from Frederica Academy.