

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

On behalf of the Historical Society of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, I present volume XVI of THE CHRONICLE. For sixteen years, the society has produced a mix of scholarly, entertaining, informative and inspiring stories of United Methodism. This year's volume continues that tradition with presentations guaranteed to touch every corner of the conference.

The lead article is really 27 historical stories – one from each county within the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Researching and writing each story, and presenting each story within a uniform two-page limit, was no small task – but taken together the 27 vignettes provide an excellent overview of the entire conference.

The paper on the Wesley brothers marks a first for this journal. While past articles have been written by college and seminary students, this is the first one submitted by a student still in high school. Despite the large amount of material already in print about John and Charles Wesley, Ryan Krauss has captured and presented the story of the founders of Methodism in a manner worthy of publication for a wider audience.

This volume of *The Chronicle* concludes with three couplets of articles telling the stories of two congregations, two youth ministries, and two singular itinerants. Since there were also two Wesley brothers who combined to give us Methodism, we declare the theme of this year's journal to be "pairs" – which even applies to the 27 vignettes in the lead article, each of which is literally a visual image paired with accompanying text.

The two congregations, although one is urban and the other rural, have much in common. Each peaked numerically and made the last significant addition to its building in the mid 1950's, and each ceased to exist in 2004. They are now part of the history and heritage of United Methodism in our conference. Examining their stories provides insight into the changes taking place around us and how we might best respond.

The stories of the two early twentieth century Methodist youth ministries, one for males and one for females, also provide insight into how the church adapts to meet the challenges of the times. In truth, these brief accounts – which contain more than a few surprises – only scratch the surface and introduce an area ripe for more research and documentation, both nationally and within the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

The accounts of the two singular itinerants appear to present persons so unique that their stories defy application to this or any age. The exploits of Lorenzo Dow are well known. Lorenz Everhart, on the other hand, probably deserves more recognition than either Methodist or United Brethren historians have afforded him. To help correct that deficiency, we place his portrait on the cover of this volume.

But whether with congregations, with ministries, or with individuals, God has always provided the resources His people need to impact their societies. We trust the pairs of stories presented will enlighten, encourage and empower you in your own walk of faith.