

THE CHRONICLE

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of the
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editor

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

On behalf of the Historical Society of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church, I present volume XXXIV of *The Chronicle*. For over thirty years, the society has produced a mix of scholarly, entertaining, informative and inspiring stories of United Methodism – all united by a common theme. This volume continues that tradition with the uniting theme “**Where He Leads Me I Will Follow**” – stories of persons with direct ties to the Susquehanna Conference whose faith journeys led them into geographical and ministry situations they never could have imagined when they first responded to God’s call. Some of these persons were fully ordained, some were local pastors, some were strictly lay persons – but they all refused to be content where they were if and when they felt a leading to move on.

The eight articles are presented in four sections – each section including a pair of articles and introduced by its own preface discussing the material in that particular section. The lead article in the first section presents information never before gathered together about local pastor William Ernest Blandy and provides the theme for this volume. A man of many talents who ended his ministry serving rural congregations in northeast Pennsylvania for the Wyoming Conference, he is the author of the words to “**Where He Leads Me I Will Follow**” – #338 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

The first section centers on local pastors who followed where they were led and pairs Blandy, who supplied pulpits in Lackawanna and Pike Counties, with local pastor Lovillo D. Cook, who began his ministry in Tioga County.

The second section tells the story of two significant lay persons and their ability to recognize open doors set before them and their willingness to follow God’s call to use their talents for Kingdom ministry. Those lay persons are George Miller of New Berlin and John Henry Kurzenknabe of Harrisburg.

The section on persons in the ordained ministry includes stories about Thomas B. Miller, a preacher with extensive Methodist ministerial roots, and John W. Kiracofe, patriarch of an extensive family of United Brethren ministers.

The fourth section on missionaries from our Conference relates the stories of Woodrow Bartges and his wife Sara (Schilling) Bartges in the Philippines and two different members of the Lefever family in China: Harry Lefever and his wife Mary (Daugherty) Lefever and Miss Myrtle Lefever.

May these stories of following wherever God may lead encourage and motivate each of us in our own spiritual journeys. Pleasant reading!