Greetings from the General Secretary

“On Eagle’s Wings’

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.”  Isaiah 40:31

September/October is one of my favorite seasons, as it is the beginning of fall in the northern hemisphere and spring in the southern hemisphere.

I have enjoyed the best of both worlds. To see the changing of the leaves in North Carolina and then the quilted landscape, a riot of colors in Namaqualand, is to marvel at the hand of the Creator.

This season has been special since I was privileged to share in the Conference of Secretaries of World Communion in Christiansfield, established as a result of the Reformation. Today it is a Moravian settlement in Denmark, a UNESCO heritage site. On 3 November, we celebrate Reformation Sunday.

The Conference is a platform for General Secretaries of different Christian World Communions to share experiences and deliberate their common faith journeys. Every General Secretary contends that it is a unique opportunity to share their joys and challenges. A highlight this year was sharing in a Moravian Love Feast (https://www.moravian.org/2018/11/the-lovefeast), which was part of the early Methodist tradition. http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/methodist-history-the-what-and-why-of-love-feasts)

While in Europe, I had the opportunity to be a pilgrim on the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James), which consists of ancient routes where tradition has it that the remains of St. James is buried. The walk on the Camino was a time of prayer, listening, and renewal in which I felt carried on eagle’s wings. I completed the walk with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to providing leadership to the World Methodist Council. I trust that you will join me to fulfill the mandate of this unique instrument of God to global Methodism.

I encourage you to look at this month’s stories sharing the many ways Methodists are working together and with other faith communions to share God’s blessings in our world.

With abundant blessings on your spiritual pilgrimage,

Yours in mission and ministry.

Ivan M Abrahams
You’re Invited!

THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

welcomes all to an evening honoring

The Rev. Dr. James T. Laney,
recipient of the 2019 World Methodist Peace Award

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Grace Sanctuary

Co-hosted by Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church
458 Ponce de Leon Avenue Northeast
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Since 1977, the World Methodist Council, representing 80 million Methodists globally, has honored individuals who contribute to peace, reconciliation and justice. Laney will be recognized for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of the people of Korea.

A reception in the fellowship hall will follow the ceremony.

“We are gratified and humbled by the work of this great man, who is a shining example of serving ... through a lifetime of labor and sacrifice.”
-Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary and CEO, World Methodist Council

umcmission.org/RSVP
For more information or questions contact Glenn Kellum
GKellum@umcmission.org 404.460.7106
**Development Consultant to aid WMC’s fundraising**

Ivan Samdaan recently began as part-time Donor Development Consultant for the World Methodist Council. His responsibilities will include ensuring, in consultation with the General Secretary and Treasurer, the financial sustainability of the WMC’s ministries and mission.

Samdaan is a lay member of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) and has been actively involved in the life of the church at all levels.

At a professional level, he has worked in all sectors of the South African society. He started in the church as a youth pastor, then in the non-governmental and development areas (land-related, HIV, AIDS, and youth). This was followed by time in the Tertiary sector, where he developed and conducted training to the South African political/public sector through the university-based schools of government during Presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki’s administrations. He then entered private and corporate work.

**A Treasured Partnership**

The Uniting Church of Australia (UCA) warmly welcomed church partners from Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) on a commemorative visit to Australia. A 30-strong delegation led by PCK Moderator Rev. Dr. Taeyoung Kim and General Secretary Rev. Changbae Byun travelled to Melbourne and Sydney 2-11 October. Their purpose of the visit was to remember the historic Australian Christian mission of 1889 and to honour the lives and work of those missionaries.

In Melbourne, the delegation visited the graveside of members of the Mackenzie family at Fawkner Memorial Park as James and Mary Mackenzie were Presbyterian missionaries who pioneered healthcare services in Busan, Korea’s second city from 1910 to 1939. After the Second World War in 1952, daughters Helen and Cath went to Busan and founded the Ilsin Christian Hospital where they worked until the late 1970s. Their legacy is still cherished by Korean Church members.

“We continue to learn from and are encouraged by each other and the ways we are embodying the Gospel of Christ in our cultural contexts - in Korea and Australia and through the witness of Australians in Korea and Korean members of the Uniting Church,” UCA President Dr. Deidre Palmer said.

In Sydney, Assembly General Secretary Colleen Geyer warmly welcomed the delegation on a tour of the Assembly’s Sydney offices. “We are honoured by your presence here and by your presence with our Church,” she said. “At the last Assembly meeting we prayed for Korea, for peace and the future and we continue to do so.”

While in Sydney, the delegation also connected with colleges and churches. Members of the UCA’s Korean National Conference (KNC) acknowledged that it was a historical and meaningful opportunity for them.

“We hope that the wider church will be able to celebrate in the richness of Korean migrant communities within the UCA, which has been built upon the sacrifice and servanthood of Australian missionaries to South Korea since 1889,” said Rev. Ju Min Hyung.

Photo Credits: Melbourne pictures courtesy Rev. Dr. Ji Zhang, Sydney pictures courtesy Michael Zewdie.
Commences global search for successor and Australia’s Wesley Mission celebrates achievements

On Sunday, 27 October, Wesley Mission in Sydney, Australia, gathered as staff, supporters and congregation members for their 2019 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was the opportunity to launch Wesley Mission’s 2019 Annual Report and, under the theme ‘Strengthening our future’, to celebrate the good work which this year supported more than 200,000 people.

Wesley Mission is one of Australia’s oldest community service organisations and the large crowd who attended gave thanks to God for the continued growth that this unique Word and deed mission had achieved, reporting 11% revenue growth to increase the number of programs and locations providing vital support to those most in need.

CEO and Superintendent of Wesley Mission, the Rev. Keith V. Garner AM, gave his fourteenth executive report to the meeting and has announced that he will retire from this role in February 2021.

“It is hard to believe that it will be 15 years in 2021 since I took on this role. My wife Carol and I intend to travel widely immediately following our leaving Wesley Mission, and for a year we will be away from Sydney to give the new person time and space to establish their own leadership of this great Mission which is unique in both its reach in Australia and across the world. We will also seek to discern what God has in store for us by way of Christian service in our next season of ministry,” said Mr. Garner.

Mr. Garner holds both the senior executive role and Superintendent of the huge diverse, multicultural Christian ministry. The Annual General Meeting recognised the growth of Wesley Mission’s congregations, having welcomed in recent times an Indonesian-speaking congregation of more than 500 regular worshippers.

Dr. Keith Suter AM, the Chair of the Mission Council said, “Since Keith arrived in Australia, he has exercised a remarkable ministry that has helped to grow Wesley Mission’s Christian presence both in the city of Sydney and far beyond. The way in which he has managed to hold together the work in the community in addition to maintaining a strong, prophetic voice has been outstanding. His media presence in particular has been greatly valued. We’re grateful that Keith has given Wesley Mission the time to be able now to search for and appoint a successor.”

Wesley Mission has always had a strong emphasis on sharing the gospel and providing practical support to the community. This demanding role has been held by a succession of distinguished leaders and in its most recent chapter, under the leadership of Mr. Garner, Wesley Mission’s community services has become an incorporated body but rejoices in the fact that it maintains the dual focus of Word and deed.

The Wesley Mission Board is being assisted by Korn Ferry Executive Search in their global hunt for a new leader. Board Chair, Michael Anderson, thanked Mr. Garner for his exceptional leadership of an expanding community services portfolio which this last year has seen growth in areas of great need, including mental health and suicide prevention, services to strengthen families and their children and support for people with disability.

The meeting also announced significant projects to help those experiencing homelessness and the pressures of housing affordability, which will be delivered in Mr. Garner’s final year as part of Wesley Mission’s five-year strategic plan which also draws to a close in 2021. Former Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard OM AC, spoke to those present via video, announcing his leadership of a campaign to raise close to $25 million (AUD) to complete the significant building works.

Rev. Keith V. Garner AM and Carol Garner at the Wesley Mission Annual Meeting
Facilitation Group Narrative Report

The Global Christian Forum Facilitation Group met, with the addition of extra youth voices from Christian confessions, in Christiansfeld, Denmark, October 11th and 12th, 2019, at the invitation of the Moravian Church, with a focus on exploring one of the directives that came out of the Bogota Gathering in 2018, to enhance youth participation in the life of the Forum. This was done in celebration of the richness of Christian diversity and using the methodology of the Global Christian Forum of sharing faith stories in an atmosphere of openness.

The meeting started by sharing some of the history of the Global Christian Forum to lay the groundwork for a multipart discussion on youth participation in the life of the Forum as a whole. After conversation in smaller groups, everyone came together to share the fruits of their discussions. The importance of discipleship, spiritual friendship (a kind of two-way mentorship), intergenerational leadership, and the importance of the Global Christian Forum methodology were common themes in all the small group discussions. As a way forward, the group discussed the possibility of a youth focused event as a precursor to the next Global Gathering, to be tested at the upcoming regional gatherings. This would be a multi-faceted event, or retreat, featuring things like spiritual experiences and intergenerational learning, as well as building a comfort with the history and methodology of the Forum.

To end the meeting discussions took place on current global trends to inform the planning of the 4th Global Gathering. Many of the trends named highlighted the continued importance of the work done at the Global Consultation that took place in Tirana, Albania, 2-4 November 2015, and its report titled Discrimination, Persecution, Martyrdom. Other trends, including migration, xenophobia, the state of spirituality in the world, and the current climate crisis, were also named. Discussion also included what the nature of common Christian witness might be, and how the Global Christian Forum might engage, or encourage Christian witness. All the items discussed will be taken to the next meeting of the Global Christian Forum Committee which will take place in April 2020.

As this was the last meeting for long-time participant Dr Richard Howell of India, the meeting closed with a time of special thanks for his incredibly meaningful contributions to the Global Christian Forum.

The meeting was facilitated by the Revd Dr Casely B. Essamuah, Global Christian Forum Secretary, and the other staff. For further information email Allan Buckingham: Allan@CnAmediaConsulting.ca or visit GlobalChristianForum.org.

Submitted by: Bishop Rosemarie Wenner

80th Birthday for The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women celebrated their 80th birthday on Saturday 26 October. It was on this day in 1939 that the first charter was signed in Pasadena, California. This occurred in response to the vision of Korean graduate Dr. Helen Kim for a global movement of Methodist women who would bring positive change to the world through prayer and action. Since that time, the sisterhood has grown to encompass women from United and Uniting churches. In many of the 70 or so Units of this global movement, an October study day is held, including worship and opportunities for learning. Topics for study will have included issues addressed by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals: gender justice, violence against women and girls, climate change and clean water and sanitation.

The North America Area Seminar was held in Chicago earlier in October and the Southern and East Africa Area Seminar will be at the end of November in Nairobi. We ask your prayers for this event and for the preparations for our 14th World Assembly, to take place in Gothenburg, Sweden 10-15 August 2021. To keep informed, see the ‘Tree of Life’ newsletter on the World Federation website www.wfmucw.org.

Submitted by: Alison Judd  Picture by: Janice Clark
October has been a month of Jewish Festivals, which included Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, and the staff participated in a variety of ways.

It has also been the olive harvest season and there have been violence against farmers, particularly in the north. Land had been set on fire, an 80 year-old Rabi and soldiers were attacked by settlers. Angleena Keizer and Samar Hashweh spent a day olive picking at Burin, with Rabi’s for Human Rights, and they were placed at one farm along with two others. Within minutes of reaching the farm, they were approached by an aggressive settler and the army who photographed their ID’s. The farm was declared a closed military zone and the army informed them that the Israelis were offended by volunteers assisting the farmers. The young farmer was told he could only harvest his olives alone on the Shabbat. We joined the larger group and the whole group was only able to assist one farmer.

The British Methodist Church President Rev. Dr. Barbara Glasson and a small group visited with staff accompanying them to visit local sites, projects and enjoying an Interfaith dialogue and a meal hosted by Rabi Nava from Rabi’s For Human Rights.

The staff also visited Princess Basma Centre, Four Homes of Mercy (FHOM) and Hope School. When they were at FHOM, the staff was on strike due to not receiving their wages, although the health and safety of the residents was not affected. FHOM is facing a 2.5 deficit, having not received finances since 2016 from the Social Development Ministry who they contend owes them New Israeli Shekels 700,000. They were encouraged by the Liaison office to send info for Just Giving Tuesday.

Kristen Brown was supported by the staff in her final weeks. She preached, and with other staff, participated in the UMC Filipino 6th Founding Celebrations, and was celebrated in farewell events until departing on 16 October.

These activities and more kept the staff engaged and busy.

Submitted by: Angleena and Samar
The Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church met in Mariapolis Piero outside Nairobi, Kenya, from Thursday 10 to Friday 17 October 2019, hosted by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The Commission wishes to record its gratitude to members of the Focolare Community of Mariapolis Piero for the generosity of their hospitality and the warmth of their welcome.

In this third plenary meeting of the present round of dialogue the Commission continued its theological dialogue on the subject of reconciliation as this relates in particular to the unity of the Church. Following our 2018 plenary, members had been asked to work in subgroups to draft chapters of a prospective document. These drafts were presented and discussed in Mariapolis, and the form of the document evolved to one of four chapters treating respectively: soteriology understood as reconciliation; the Church and its structures with a view to how our respective structures might be reconciled; practices of reconciliation in the two traditions; and the Church’s mission to take God’s reconciliation to the world. The Commission agreed to also present a liturgy of reconciliation with its document to encourage Methodist and Catholic communities to engage in a healing of memories through joint worship. The final report will be presented to the World Methodist Council meeting in Gothenburg in 2021.

Each day the Commission commenced its work by sharing together in devotions led alternately by Methodist and Catholic members. On Sunday, after a Catholic Eucharist celebrated in Mariapolis, participants attended worship at the Juja Methodist Church led by the Reverend David Kanyili. The official Methodist Eucharist was held on Saturday evening, celebrated by the Reverend Dr. David Chapman, Methodist co-chair of the Commission, with Bishop Dr Chikwendu Igwe preaching. The official Catholic Mass was held on Wednesday evening. The Right Reverend John Sherrington presided and offered the Mass for Monsignor Denis Edwards, a member of the Commission who died suddenly in March.

On Tuesday 15 October the members visited the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations where they were greeted by the Reverend Dr Kifle Wansamo, the Acting Dean of the Institute, who gave an introductory talk about its work. In a time of discussion involving both staff and students of the Institute and the Reverend Joseph Obwanda, chaplain to Kenya Methodist University, members of the Commission spoke about MERCIC’s work on reconciliation. The Commission was then hosted by H.E. Archbishop Hubertus van Megen, Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan, who spoke about the ongoing peace process in South Sudan.

The Commission will next meet at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute Jerusalem from 9 to 16 October 2020, hosted by the Methodist World Council.

Methodist Members:
Rev. Dr. David M. Chapman (Co-Chair) Great Britain
Rev. Dr. Karen Westerfield Tucker (Co-Secretary) USA
Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colon-Emeric USA
Rev. Dr. Trevor Hoggard New Zealand
Bishop Chikwendu Igwe Nigeria
Rev. Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison USA
Rev. Dr. Hermon Shastri Malaysia
Dr. Lilian Siwila South Africa

Roman Catholic Members:
Bishop John Sherrington (Co-Chair) England
Fr Anthony Currer (Co-Secretary) Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
Prof. Catherine Clifford Canada
Bishop Joseph Osei-Bonsu Ghana
Fr Jorge Scampini OP Argentina
Dr. Clare Watkins England

Submitted by: David Chapman

The Commission with Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop van Megen.
Candler ‘Unprecedented’ Scholarship Support

Candler School of Theology at Emory University has announced major expansions to its scholarship offerings for students admitted to its master of divinity (MDiv), master of theological studies (MTS), and master of religious leadership (MRL) degree programs. The expanded offerings will be available to students who enter in Fall 2020.

Candler’s Dean, Jan Love calls the new program “unprecedented” in its scope. “Candler is doing something here that most of our peer institutions don’t: offering full tuition scholarships to every admitted United Methodist student who is a certified candidate for ordination. When you pair that with new targeted scholarships for under-represented groups and more scholarship money for MTS and MRL programs, the result is an unprecedented level of support for our students.”

Enhancements to the financial aid program include:

- All certified candidates for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church who apply by January 15, 2020 and are admitted to Candler’s MDiv program will receive a scholarship covering full tuition for all three years of the program.

- New scholarships covering 75% of tuition for three years for incoming MDiv students in the pan-Wesleyan family.

- New scholarships covering 75% of tuition for three years for incoming MDiv students who are non-denominational.

- New scholarships covering 75% of tuition for three years for incoming Latinx MDiv students.

- New scholarships covering 75% of tuition for three years for incoming MDiv students pursuing chaplaincy through Candler’s new chaplaincy concentration.

- Two additional full-tuition scholarships for incoming MTS students, bringing the total to five.

- All incoming MDiv and MTS students will receive awards covering at least 50% of tuition.

- All incoming MRL students will receive awards covering 50% of tuition.

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Samuel Martinez says that the revamped program better supports Candler’s longstanding commitments to help reduce student debt and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.

To find out more go to http://candler.emory.edu/news/releases/2019/10/candler-expands-financial-aid html?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTkdKbVpXUmpZekptTnpab-SlsInQiOjUUUFWUEiVY1FVTZBbWpvZmc0NEdtMDZCelBtamIEbZGajFXznFDZWZIYWVQyKFLTD>dKNzVNQmdjU05NSIFJYjiJT0U2hE04QUVYUlVcU-1saENFVHhobiAclXdUpYdWxcLowxGhoTENLS-WhEQys5czRWQVROaHZINTJUTIEfQ%3D%3D
John Henry Newman was canonised a saint in the Catholic Church on October 13th. Before sunrise, waves of faithful believers rolled into Saint Peter’s square; the roads flooded with Christians as the skies filled with light.

Prayers in several languages and choirs from a variety of countries centered on the praise of the Triune God. Lifting the Bible, high above his head, Papa Francesco encouraged the assembly to live holy lives of prayer. Quoting Newman he encouraged those gathered to be ‘kindly lights’ - witnesses of Christ’s peace in a troubled world.

Though there were thousands present, a stillness hovered over the proceedings. However, when Newman was declared a saint the congregation erupted with applause.

I first heard about Newman in 2006 when I was encouraged to take a course by the late Mervyn Davies at Wesley College, Bristol. I have to confess that at the time I was hardly enthusiastic: “Why on earth should I study John Henry Newman? Who is he anyway?” However, when the course began, I quickly understood how he became the most widely read English theologian.

His spiritual trajectory is sometimes interpreted as being the opposite to that of Wesley. Newman began his spiritual journey as an Evangelical Anglican. However, during his formal theological education he came very close to becoming a liberal rationalist – subjecting the profound mystery of faith to the cold standards of abstract “logic.” This phase was interrupted by the death of his sister and serious illness. He wrote Lead Kindly Light and this hymn offers an insight into the profound spiritual change that took place in his heart: When the sickness had passed, Newman committed himself anew to witnessing for the truth of the Apostolic faith (whatever the cost). Though he did not stand on street corners, he became a leading figure in the Oxford Movement (a renewal movement within 19th Century Anglicanism). Like Wesley before him, Newman believed that early Christianity possessed treasures which, if fully utilised, could bring revival to the world. Though this vision was not realised within Anglicanism, he found peace in the Catholic Faith.

Newman, like Wesley, communicated the Gospel to his age. He believed Christianity had been hacked by a form of rationalism, precipitating atheism by subjecting religious beliefs to artificial codes of evidence. Newman maintained that each area of knowledge should be evaluated appropriately.

Newman is worth reading because of his reasonableness of Christian faith. His words paint pictures; his arguments are like poems. The greatest philosophers, from Wittgenstein to Whitehead, have been captivated by them. If I had not studied his work while training for the ministry, I would have abandoned Christianity for a cheap philosophical imitation. It is my prayer that his Canonisation will lead many to faith in Christ.

Written by: Daniel Pratt Morris-Chapman

Interim Director, Methodist Ecumenical Office, Rome
In mid-August, Calvary Church of the Nazarene in Chennai, India, raised enough money to help the Peniel Church at Villpatti, Kodaikanal, begin construction on its own building.

Since 2009, the 35-member Peniel church has met in a rented space. Though the church has purchased land, because the congregation members are daily wage earners, there is no way for them to pay for the materials to build their own sanctuary. Meeting for so long in a rented space hurt the membership, as the lack of a proper worship center led some members to move to other churches.

Raising funds for ministry projects through an August Thanksgiving fundraiser is an annual tradition for the 320-member Calvary Church.

“When I proposed this project to our church board, there was oneness of mind among all the members and they approved it with great joy,” said C. S. Dhas, pastor of Calvary Church. “I constantly encourage and challenge my congregation and the church board to meet the needs of various congregations of the Eastern Tamil Nadu District of the Church of the Nazarene, and when the need arises, they support it wholeheartedly.”

Calvary Church of the Nazarene has long felt a responsibility for nurturing and partnering with other Nazarene churches across India. In nearly 37 years of Dhas’ pastoral leadership, the congregation has planted several churches and initiatives that express God’s love and holiness in their communities, leading many to give their lives to Jesus Christ.

The congregation celebrates a Thanksgiving/harvest festival in a traditional way during the first week of August by bringing thanksgiving offerings in the form of various goods like vegetables and fruits, plants, handmade items, and household utilities to the altar. The senior pastor prays over the items before they are auctioned back to the congregation. People joyously buy these things for a higher price (sometimes twice or three times) than the original value to express their gratitude to the Lord.

Previously, the Calvary church’s Thanksgiving fundraiser has covered all the costs to build the Nazarene Ministry Centre at Alamathi, the Bronell Greer Memorial Chapel and Parsonage, the Paula Greer Memorial Senior Citizen Center, and Watchman’s Quarters at Alamathi in the outskirts of Chennai.

The church spends a month preparing for this special Thanksgiving weekend, including setting a fundraising goal.

Normally the weekend starts on Saturday evening with a short thanksgiving prayer, followed by the auction. On Sunday, the fundraiser continues over breakfast, and snack stalls are set up outside the church building after the morning service. Sunday school children and youth conducted games. People purchased tokens from the church treasurer to buy food and drinks and play the games.

“There are more who are willing to contribute, and hopefully the need will be met totally,” Dhas said.

-- Church of the Nazarene Eurasia Region
Meet, Greet, and Hit the Street!

November 30th-December 4th, 2019

*Service Project: Helping families affected by Hurricane Maria with the reconstruction of their homes. Specialty skills in construction are a priority.

*$500 Per Person, Airfare not included (4 nights 5 days housing, ground transportation and two meals per day) in addition water will be provided daily.

Make checks payable to: Department of Evangelism and Missions. GDEM

Secure your spot today! Deadline is November 20, 2019.

Contact: Rev. Phoebe Presson, Caribbean Missions-CO-ordinator

239-223-2019 or via email: papresson@yahoo.com

Rev. Leon C. Moore, Jr.: General Secretary Evangelism and Missions cmegdem@gmail.com

Susanna Wesley celebrated in concert

The Isle Choral Singers concert at Epworth Wesley Memorial Church on the 13th of October met all expectations, according to the organizers.

The varied programme included audience participation and special guest John Windle, chairman of local music group, Epworth Folk, playing banjo. Oh Susanna was specifically included in the evenings’ music as the concert celebrated the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley. A lively performance from the choir, John, and the audience celebrating this Mother of Methodism, made the evening special for all present.

There were too many highlights to list but the Singers, Mr. Windle, Rev. Andy Long, guest musicians Lydia Wang, Matthew Fields, and Michael Dennis Brown each shared distinctive gifts that enhanced the celebration. The concert ended with a Charles Wesley hymn, which included the audience. A lovely evening of fantastic music, but sadly not the really large audience that the Singers were hoping for according to Catherine Fordham, who shared this story.

Gillian Crawley, manager of Epworth Old Rectory, thanked the performers and explained that the funds raised from the event were to be used for a new project at the Rectory. This would be the decorating of a room, using a specially made wallpaper, printed with a design obtained from a fragment of the wallpaper found in a cupboard, dating to the time of the Wesley family residence. The evening concluded with the audience and performers enjoying refreshments in the Church Hall.

Volunteers are still being sought weekdays and Saturdays to assist as tour guides in Epworth or to help in the gift shop. Training is provided for new volunteers. Please contact Ms. Crawley at Epworth for more information visit (www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk).

Copy and photos submitted by Cath Fordham
We welcome your press releases, articles and resources! Please keep submissions to less than a page. We also ask that all stories are written, edited and ready to publish. Please contact us by the last Monday of the month at communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org if you would like your story to be included in our next edition of the First Friday Letter.

We Are On the Web
This and past First Friday Letters can be found online at FirstFridayLetter.worldmethodistcouncil.org.

The World Methodist Council’s website may be found at worldmethodistcouncil.org.

The World Methodist Museum’s website is at methodistmuseum.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org.

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