

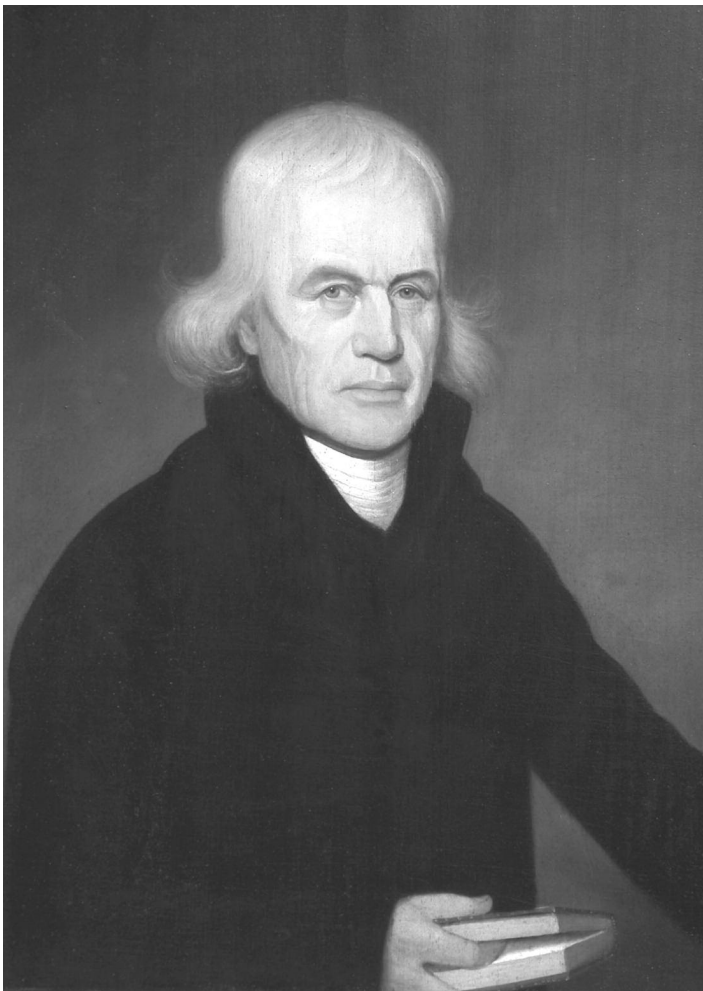
Barratt's Chapel & Museum

1780

The Independence Hall of American Methodism

Vol. 17, No. 2


October 2016



Barratt's Celebrates Francis Asbury's 200th

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the death of the man who probably did more to shape American Methodism than any other individual. Francis Asbury was born in England in 1745, but his career played out in America. From 1771, when John Wesley sent him as a missionary to the colonies, until his death in 1816, Asbury traveled well over 250,000 miles on horseback, formed connections with all sorts and classes of people, and took the lead in transforming a small religious movement into a fast growing church which would help shape popular religion in the new United States. More Americans had met Asbury than had met the President.

Although the world has changed greatly in the last 200 years, it is likely that Barratt's is one place where Asbury would still feel at home, because the building today appears much as it did in his day. Appropriately then, Barratt's Chapel is involved in the 2016 celebration of Asbury's life.


On November 13, the premier modern biographer of Asbury, Dr. John Wigger of the University of Missouri, will be speaking at the annual anniversary service. Dr. Wigger's recent book *American Saint: Francis Asbury & the Methodists* has received widespread acclaim. The service begins at 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! 

"COMMON GROUND Service"



On Thursday, September 8 . . . 250 people gathered for a truly historic service at Barratt's. The Dover District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, under the leadership of Presiding Elder Winton Hill, came to Barratt's to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the AME Church. The service was co-sponsored by the Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Gregory Ingram of the First Episcopal District of the AMEC was the preacher for the evening. Retired Bishop Violet Fisher and other United Methodists also participated in the service. As far as is known, this is the first time that one of the historic African American denominations has held a service at Barratt's. This was an amazing day for us all.

While all branches of American Methodism can trace their origins to events that took place at Barratt's, the AME Church has even more reason to feel at home in the Chapel. The denomination was founded by Richard Allen, who joined the Methodists in the 1770s while he was a slave to a farmer near Dover. In 1783 he purchased his freedom and moved to Philadelphia, where he quickly became a leader among the black members of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a friend of Francis Asbury, was present at the Christmas Conference in 1784 when the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized, and was ordained by Asbury in 1799. As the St. George's congregation became increasingly less welcoming to the black members, Allen led a group out of St. George's to found the "Free African Society," which eventually became the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Significantly Allen's group did not formally declare their independence until after the death of Francis Asbury in 1816.

In 1780 when Philip Barratt was building his chapel, Richard Allen was an active Methodist living only a few miles away. Even after he moved to Philadelphia he continued to travel to lower Delaware on business. There is every reason to believe that he worshiped at Barratt's along with Asbury, Harry Hoosier, and many others. The theme for the September 8 service was "*Celebration of Methodism: Lest We Forget, STANDING on COMMON GROUND.*" Barratt's Chapel, while maintained by United Methodists, is indeed "Common Ground" for ALL Methodists. ... Do I hear an AMEN? 

Coombes House Designated Historic Site No. 512

A few miles west of Barratt's Chapel, along State Route 12, sits the Benjamin Coombes house, which was built in 1778. Although the Coombes family were Quakers, they befriended Francis Asbury, inviting him to



stay with them and to use their house as a preaching place. Asbury would sometimes stop there when he was traveling toward Barratt's.

The house is located on a working farm. The present owner, Joe Hughes, welcomes visitors by appointment. This site also includes a portion of the original 18th century road.

At its meeting in June, the Peninsula-Delaware Conference voted to designate the Coombes house as a Conference Historic Site. The house is now included as Site #512 in a national listing of Methodist historic sites. A bronze plaque will be presented to the owner at a brief ceremony at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13**. The public is invited to attend and tour the house. The Coombes house is located at 7320 Burnite Mill Road, Felton, Delaware. ~

Barratt's Reaps Rewards of Eagle Scout Project ♥



The vestry building is frequently used for receptions following Thursday night worship services in the summer and other events in the Chapel. This involves a lot of food and drink being carried back and forth from the back door of the Museum building. When it is raining or snowing this has presented problems.

Our problems were solved this summer when HUNTER PEARSON, an Eagle Scout candidate from Camden, Delaware, offered to build a wooden walkway from the Museum to the Vestry as his Eagle Scout project. We are very thankful to Hunter and the friends and family who helped him with the project. Great Job Hunter! ~

ANNUAL
Anniversary Service

Sunday, November 13 / 4:00 pm

SPEAKER: Dr. John Wigger



CHRISTMAS Worship at Barratt's for December

Sunday, December 4 – 5:00 pm –

Service of Lessons & Carols

A Consortium Choir – consisting of singers
from local church and community choirs.

— *under the direction of Dr. James Wilson*

• Saturday, December 24 – 5:00 pm –

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service**

— *Led by Bishop Peggy Johnson*

ASL Interpreting for the Deaf by Carol Stevens

BECAUSE YOU CARE

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

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Your gifts will be used by the Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for the maintenance and operation of the Chapel and the Museum of Methodism. A minimum contribution of \$20 will entitle you to annual membership in Friends of Barratt's.

Make checks payable to Barratt's Chapel and remember that your gift(s) are Tax Deductible.

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$20 Other _____



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Barratt's Chapel & Museum

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Open Saturday 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday 10 - 2 p.m. / And other times by appointment