



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
TUDOR INDUSTRIAL PARK
604 OTIS DRIVE
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
(302) 739 - 5314

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 25, 2003

The Reverend Robert O'Kelley Wallace
Barratts' Chapel
6416 Bay Road
Frederica, Delaware 19946

Dear Reverend Wallace:

I am writing in response to a request by the Delaware General Assembly through House Resolution 56 (June 19, 2002) to assist Barratt's Chapel in a project to create a memorial park and reinterment area for Francis Asbury and other ministers. I have enclosed a copy of the House Resolution for your reference. In the Division's Fiscal Year 2003 capital budget, the General Assembly provided \$20,000 to assist in this effort.

Assuming this project is moving forward, I need a letter requesting the funds, an outline of the proposed use of the funds and progress on the project to date. Once this letter is in hand, we can generate a purchase order to Barratt's Chapel to secure the funds. Please include your employer identification number in your letter, as this is information needed to generate the purchase order. Once a purchase order is in place, Barratt's Chapel can submit requests for payment for the project up to but not exceeding the \$20,000 amount of the purchase order.

On a separate issue, we would like to advise you on the placement of the memorial and reinterment to insure no unmarked graves are effected.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel R. Griffith
Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Enclosure

Cc: Harriet Smith Windsor; Secretary of State
Al Carter; Department of State
Tim Ferrier; Department of State
Larry Schrock, Division of Facilities Management

Chapel tries to bring history home

By Joe Rogalsky
Staff writer

FREDERICA — Barratt's Chapel already can claim the title of most historic place on the Delmarva peninsula.

Now, the 18th century house of worship stands to gain in stature, if that's possible.

The Rev. Robert O'Kelley Wallace, director of development at Barratt's Chapel, is working to bring the body of Methodist pioneer Francis Asbury and three other bishops to a final resting place on the chapel grounds.

If you go

Barratt's Chapel is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

There is no charge for tours.

The four are now buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in a run-down section of Baltimore. If all goes well, Mr. Wallace said, the graves will be moved next year. Changes to the chapel ground's landscape have been planned for a special gravesite.

American Methodism can trace its roots to Barratt's Chapel, which sits along U.S. 113 near Frederica.

On Nov. 14, 1784, Asbury and Thomas Coke met after a service in Barratt's Chapel. A star marks the meeting spot inside the chapel. During the historic service, ordained Methodists gave holy communion for the first time.

"It was the public showing that we had separated from the Anglican church," Mr. Wallace said.

Following the service, Asbury and Coke set plans

See Chapel — Page 3



Staff photo/Jason Minto

The Rev. Robert O'Kelley Wallace, left, stands with Russell McCabe of the Delaware State Archives outside Barratt's Chapel in Frederica. Mr. Wallace is working to bring the remains of one of American Methodism's founders to the chapel's cemetery. The chapel is regarded as the cradle of Methodism in America.

August 11, 2002 DS N

Chapel

Continued From Page 1

in motion that would lead to the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

"This place is the mother of Methodism," said Russell McCabe, who works in the Delaware State Archives.

"This is the cradle of Methodism. Methodism started here."

Asbury's influence on Delaware and the country stretches across many areas, Mr. McCabe said.

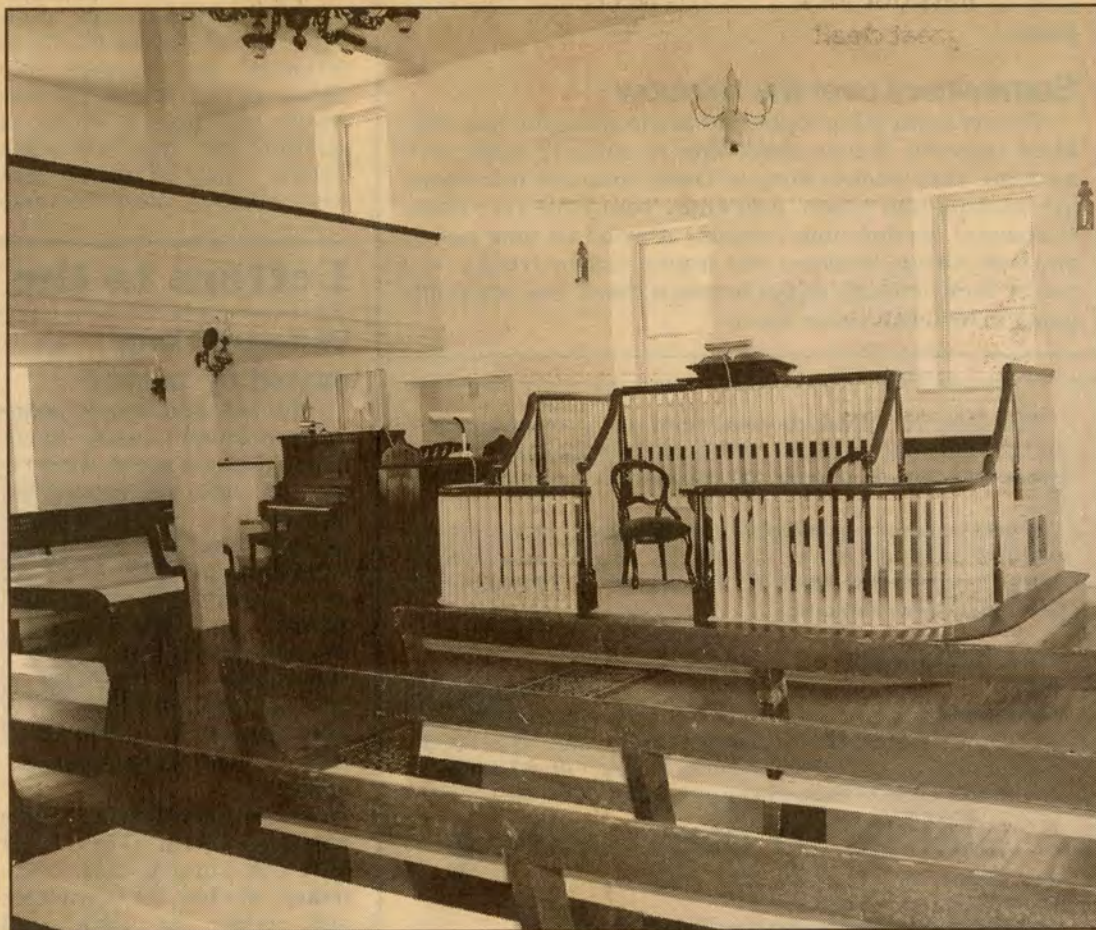
Asbury, who traveled countless miles over rough roads to teach Methodism, believed God created all humans and therefore made them equal. As a result, many Methodists opposed slavery and became abolitionists.

"You were literally taking your life in your hands by traveling in those days," Mr. McCabe said. "He didn't know where he would be sleeping at night."

The chapel looks much as it did on the day of Asbury's and Coke's historic meeting more than 200 years ago.

The hardwood benches inside the two-story chapel provide little comfort, just as their predecessors did in the 18th century.

Just in front of the raised platform where the sermon would be delivered, a gold star indicates where Asbury and Coke embraced, and Methodism began.



Staff photo/Jason Minto

In the interior of Barratt's Chapel, a star on the floor marks the spot where Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke met on Nov. 14, 1784, after the first Methodist service in America. The service signified the faith's separation from the Anglican church.

A divider, which is used to separate the men's pews from the women's, still runs down the middle of the chapel.

"It is humbling just to be in here," Mr. Wallace said.

White paint covers the otherwise bare walls. A patron tried to donate a cross to be hung inside the

chapel, Mr. Wallace said, but was turned down because a cross did not hang in the chapel during Asbury's time.

A special anniversary service is held each November. Other than that, the chapel is used only for funeral services throughout the year.

Visitors also can tour a small museum. The museum holds artifacts such as an original bench from the chapel and a chair Asbury liked to sit in.

Soon, if all works out, his body will lie nearby.

Joe Rogalsky can be reached at 741-8226 or jrogalsky@newszap.com

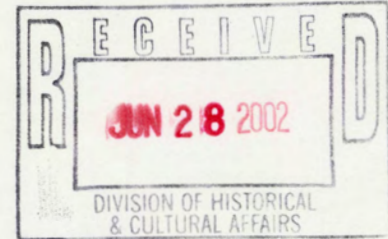
JO ANN M. HEDRICK
CHIEF CLERK



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

New file: Barratt's Chapel
FY'03 Budget

ROOM H129
(302) 739-4087
Fax: (302) 739-7854



June 26, 2002

Daniel R. Griffith
Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs
Blue Hen Corporate Center
655 South Bay Road
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Griffith:

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the enclosed is the same act that was passed by the House of Representatives on June 19, 2002. I am forwarding the enclosed copy so that you may be aware of your appointing authority.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JoAnn M. Hedrick".

JoAnn M. Hedrick
Chief Clerk of the House

JMH/me
Enc: HR 56



SPONSOR: Rep. Smith & Rep. Caulk

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 56

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BARRATT'S CHAPEL AND REQUESTING THE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS INVOLVEMENT IN CREATING A MEMORIAL PARK ON BARRATT'S CHAPEL GROUNDS.

1 WHEREAS, Barratt's Chapel is regarded as the "Cradle of Methodism" in the United States and is the oldest
2 surviving church building built by and for Methodists in our country; and

3 WHEREAS, Phillip Barratt, a prominent colonial political figure in Kent County, Delaware donated the land for
4 the Chapel which was built in 1780; and

5 WHEREAS, Methodism began in England as a movement within the Church of England led by John and Charles
6 Wesley and later spread to the American Colonies; and

7 WHEREAS, John Wesley in 1771 sent Francis Asbury and other Methodist lay preachers to spread the word of
8 God to the growing colonies; and

9 WHEREAS, Francis Asbury decided to stay in the colonies during the Revolutionary War embracing the cause
10 of the colonies; and

11 WHEREAS, following the war, John Wesley sent his friend Thomas Coke to America to find Francis Asbury in
12 order to discuss the future of the Methodist Church in America; and

13 WHEREAS, Thomas Coke arrived at Barratt's Chapel on Sunday, November 14, 1784, expecting to find Francis
14 Asbury who was not present and was invited to preach to the congregation as John Wesley's emissary; and

15 WHEREAS, Francis Asbury arrived during the sermon and was embraced by Thomas Coke on a spot before the
16 pulpit which, is now commemorated by a star in the floor of Barratt's Chapel; and

17 WHEREAS, the sacraments of baptism and communion were administered for the first time by ordained
18 Methodist Clergy in America; and

19 WHEREAS, the Methodist influence on the State of Delaware is recognized and commended for its role in the
20 establishment of the State's public school system and in the anti-slavery and abolition movements. Large numbers of
21 Delaware slaves were freed by Methodists who after listening to the preaching of Francis Asbury were made aware of the
22 moral dilemma of slaveholding; and

23 WHEREAS, the Methodist influence also extended to the opposition of limiting the voting rights to property
24 owners and the elimination of laws requiring the imprisonment for debt; and

25 WHEREAS, Delaware, home of many diverse religions and proud of the freedom our citizens possess to worship
26 their creator in the manner of their convictions, is the most Methodist state in the Union in terms of the percentage of our
27 population who list their religion as Methodist; and

28 WHEREAS, Francis Asbury is recognized as the most influential member of the Methodist movement, having
29 the greatest impact on the growth and success of the church and the positive impact these concepts had on the
30 development of the State of Delaware; and

31 WHEREAS, Francis Asbury is currently buried, along with other Methodist Ministers of this time period, in Mt.
32 Olivet Cemetery in Baltimore, a cemetery that is no longer cared for and respected by the community; and

33 WHEREAS, The Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference of the
34 United Methodist Church owns Barratt's Chapel and wishes to return Francis Asbury and other Ministers to their rightful
35 place on the grounds of the Chapel; and

36 WHEREAS, Rev. Wallace and members of the Chapel Board are attempting to raise funds to create a memorial
37 park and internment area for Francis Asbury and the others in commemoration of their lasting influence on the Methodist
38 Church and the State of Delaware; and

39 WHEREAS, the Chapel Board intends the memorial park to be a public site where all visitors, regardless of their
40 religious affiliation, are welcome to contemplate the influence the founders of American Methodism had in terms of our
41 nation's history and in spurring many of the social and political advancements experienced by our nation as we have
42 striven to bring the promise of our Declaration and Constitution to all Americans.

43 NOW, THEREFORE:

44 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 141st General Assembly of the State of Delaware
45 congratulates, endorses, supports and recognizes the important historical significance of this proposal to the State of
46 Delaware.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives furthermore requests and encourages the State
48 of Delaware to consider providing financial assistance to this effort and requests the involvement of the Division of
49 Historical and Cultural Affairs.



1780

BARRATT'S CHAPEL & MUSEUM

The United Methodist Church

Peninsula Conference Commission on Archives and History
302/335-5544 • RD 2 • BOX 25, FREDERICA, DE 19946-9501

November 21, 1990

Mr. William Paskey, Jr.
Kent County Administration Building
414 Federal St.
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Paskey,

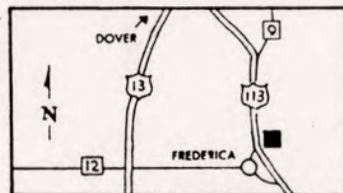
At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula Conference of The United Methodist Church on November 20, we were deeply concerned to learn of the borrow pit being operated on the property adjoining the Cemetery at Barratt's Chapel.

As the administrators of Barratt's Chapel and museum we wish to register our strong and unanimous opposition to this excavation operation.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Barratt's Chapel is an historic landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of only 14 United Methodist Historical Shrines nationwide. It is the oldest building constructed as a Methodist house of worship in America. It is rightfully known as the "Cradle of American Methodism" because of the historic events which took place there on November 14, 1784. Barratt's Chapel is of tremendous historic importance not only to United Methodists but to all the citizens of Delaware.

Although the Chapel and the cemetery have independent governing bodies, historically and religiously they exist as a unified site -- a chapel and its sacred burial grounds. We join with the Trustees of Barratt's Cemetery in opposing the operation of a borrow pit on the adjacent property. This operation is a serious threat to the historical integrity of this irreplaceable unified site.

But that is not our only concern. The Chapel and the Cemetery have existed since 1780 as a place for Christian worship. While the chapel is used only periodically for services



Barratt's Chapel is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Register of Historic Places, Delaware Historic Markers Commission and is a United Methodist National Historic Shrine.



1780

BARRATT'S CHAPEL & MUSEUM

The United Methodist Church

Peninsula Conference Commission on Archives and History
302/335-5544 • RD 2 • BOX 25, FREDERICA, DE 19946-9501

of worship and Christian weddings, the cemetery is used weekly, and sometimes daily for Christian Burial. The presence of a mining operation so close to the Chapel and cemetery is an intrusion upon our religious expression. The movement of trucks in and out of the property, as well as the noise and dust of the excavation equipment intrudes upon families in a time of deep loss and grief, and hinders pastors and chaplains who would offer the comforting truths of the Christian faith in their time of need. The operation of a borrow pit on the farm land adjoining the cemetery is detrimental to our religious practice of Christian burial, and needs to be stopped.

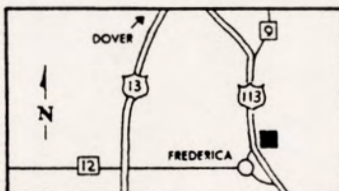
We, the members of the Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula Conference of The United Methodist Church, appeal to you to halt the operation of the borrow pit. Likewise we give our full support to the Trustees of Barratt's Cemetery in their endeavor to discontinue this operation.

For the Commission members, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Earle N. Baker,
Secretary,
The Commission on Archives & History

cc: Phillip Lawton
G. Wallace Caulk, Jr.



Barratt's Chapel is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Register of Historic Places, Delaware Historic Markers Commission and is a United Methodist National Historic Shrine.