

The honor of your presence

is requested

by

The Commission on
Archives and History

and

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference
Historical Society

at the

***Barratt's Chapel
Vestry Dedication***

on

May 23, 1993

at

3:00 p.m.

Guest speaker will be

Dr. Russell Richey
Associate Dean for Academic
Programs
and
Research Professor of
Church History
Duke University

Guest speaker
Dr. Russell E. Richey

Dr. Russell E. Richey, well-known Methodist historian, will speak prior to the Vestry Dedication on the impact of Delaware Methodism on American Methodism during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Dr. Richey is an author of many books and articles. His most recent book is entitled *Early American Methodism*, published by Indiana University Press. Dr. Richey was also co-editor of *American Civil Religion* and was editor of *Denominationalism*.

**BARRATT'S
CHAPEL**



**A History Lecture
and
Vestry Dedication**

Presented
by

The Commission on Archives
and History
and
The Peninsula-Delaware
Conference
Historical Society

Thanks to the generous support of Mrs. Mary Williams Rawlins a newly constructed eighteenth century style Vestry now sits adjacent to the museum building at the Barratt's Chapel Complex.

In the eighteenth century, vestry rooms were commonly used for meetings of church trustees. Prior to 1850, a vestry stood behind Barratt's Chapel. In addition to meetings, Barratt's vestry was used by women with young children who were having a difficult time coping with the long sermons.

The Barratt's Vestry was one of four known Methodist vestries on the Delmarva Peninsula. The plans for the original vestry have not survived. The reconstruction is based on the only surviving eighteenth century vestry on the peninsula, located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church near Chestertown, Maryland.

The new vestry will be available for brides to prepare for weddings at the Chapel and other group meetings.

Brick sidewalks have been installed on the complex and the grounds have been professionally landscaped. This was made possible from the estate of Charles R. Cook.

Guest Speaker
Dr. Russell E. Richey

Dr. Russell E. Richey, well-known Methodist Historian, will speak prior to the Vestry Dedication on "the impact of Delmarva Methodism on American Methodism during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries".

Dr. Richey is an author of many books and articles. His most recent book is entitled *Early American Methodism*, published by Indiana University Press. Dr. Richey was also co-editor of *American Civil Religion* and was editor of *Denominationalism*.

Barratt's Chapel & Museum

Barratt's Chapel, located in the South Murderkill Hundred, was built in 1780 on a parcel of land donated by Phillip Barratt to the Methodist Society. It is known as the "Cradle of Methodism" because it was here on November 14, 1784 that Dr. Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury formulated plans for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. At this meeting, the sacraments of communion and baptism were first administered by ordained Methodist ministers.

The Chapel is one of 26 Historic Shrines of The United Methodist Church and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972. In addition, it is the oldest house of worship still standing in the United States built solely for and by a Methodist Society and is an excellent example of traditional Georgian architecture.

Barratt's Chapel Museum & Archives contains artifacts owned or used by Methodists of Delaware and Maryland Eastern Shore since the late 18th century and houses Methodist archives, memorabilia and a research library.

W. F. Barratt's Chapel



BARRATT'S CHAPEL AND MUSEUM

U.S. Route #113 near
FREDERICA, DELAWARE

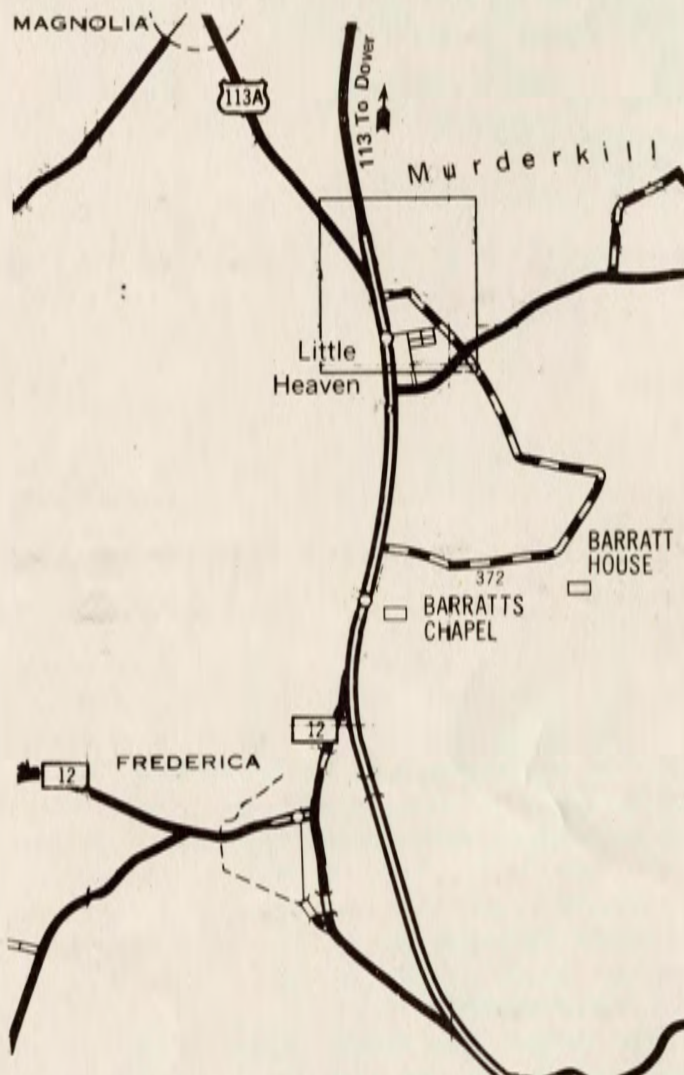
BARRATT'S CHAPEL near Frederica, Delaware, built in 1780 by Phillip Barratt for the Methodist Society, is an excellent example of Transitional Georgian architecture. Erected of brick laid in both common and Flemish bond with blue headers, the structure evidences the fine workmanship of that period. Panelled gallery fronts with square boxed supports attest to the interior charm of the Chapel.

It was at this place on November 14, 1784 where the first administration of the Lord's Supper in the United States to members of the Methodist Society by an ordained Methodist preacher, Bishop Thomas Coke, was held. He and Francis Asbury here formulated plans for the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. For those reasons Barratt's Chapel is called THE CRADLE OF METHODISM.

The Chapel is an Historic Shrine of the United Methodist Church, and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is reputed to be the oldest original house of worship in the United States built solely for or by The Methodist Society.

BARRATT'S CHAPEL MUSEUM was opened in 1965. Presently it contains artifacts owned or used by Methodists of Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the latter quarter of the 1700's. The Museum also contains a beginning archival collection along with an assemblage of Methodist Memorabilia including a late 1700 Windsor rocking chair frequently used by Francis.

Visitors may reach the Barratt's Complex by the use of U.S. Route #113 or State Route #12.



Hours: Saturday and Sunday 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Other times by appointment.

Telephone: 302-335-5544 or 302-335-5669.

Barratt's Chapel *Frederica, Delaware*

One of the sixteen historic shrines of the United Methodist Church. It was in this chapel on November 14, 1784 that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was first administered in America by an ordained Methodist Minister. The Reverend Thomas Coke had been sent to America by the Reverend John Wesley to provide a legal and authentic ministry in the newly independent land. Until the end of the Revolution the Methodists had received the sacraments from the clergy of the Anglican Church. With the victory of the American forces and the withdrawal of British Military and civil officers the Anglican clergy either resigned from their posts or withdrew to England or Canada. This left no one to provide an authentic ministry to a sizable percentage of the colonists.

The Reverend Thomas Coke met the missionary pastor, The Reverend Francis Asbury here at Barratt's Chapel at the time of the aforementioned service.

Following that service they developed a plan to organize the Methodists in America. A call went out for a Conference of all the Methodist clergy to be held in Baltimore that Christmas of 1784. At that historic Conference the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed. Thus Barratt's Chapel is fondly referred to as the "cradle of American Methodism."

This building erected during the American Revolution is a good example of the simple architecture of the Colonial Period, and boasts a single reading desk entered from either side. The black leather pads on the bench, the marble topped receiving table, the pot-bellied stove and the bronze kerosene chandelier (electrified) are from the Victorian Period (1832-1906). The benches or pews also are not original, but the style is indicative of the Federal Period (1790-1812).

The balcony is reached by an enclosed divided staircase. On the wooden wall separating the stairwell from the chapel are found pictures which depict historical events and personages. In the balcony are several pieces of Victorian pulpit furniture given to Barratt's by other churches and meeting houses. Of special interest is an early primitive pine desk from Bethel Church which was located on the banks of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

The random width boards are original.

In 1973 the Chapel was restored and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open Saturday and Sunday 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. A museum which contains a number of interesting displays is beside the Chapel.