



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bridwell Library presents:

Methodism in the American South, Foundation through Reunification

This exhibition traces the role of Methodism in the American South from the colonial era to the beginning of World War II. Materials as diverse as letters, diaries, maps, pamphlets, circuit riders' saddle bags, class tickets, periodicals, Staffordshire figurines, broadsides and photographs combine to illustrate Methodism's origins, expansion, and influence on southern culture and society. The Methodist Church played a fundamental role in the Second Great Awakening, suffered division over slavery, saw the rapid expansion of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the decades following the Civil War, and ultimately gave rise to new denominations during the Third Great Awakening. After the Civil War, many Methodists advocated reform, and were especially active in the social movements of the early twentieth century, including temperance, social justice, education and church reform. The exhibition closes with items documenting the reunification of the Methodist Church in 1939.

The exhibition will be free and open to the public from 28 January through 11 July 2008 in The Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries, located at Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, 6005 Bishop Blvd., Dallas, TX 75275. Curators of the exhibit are Elizabeth Haluska-Rausch, Ph.D., Curator of Special Collections, and James McMillin, Ph.D., Associate Director.

Perkins School of Theology is one of five University-related official schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. The school was founded in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, now The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of

Church Ministries, Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry degree, as well as the Ph.D. in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

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