

----- Through The Years -----

You may not be familiar with the name Carlton Young, but he stands out as one of the most important figures in Methodist musical history. He has been referred to as the most important person in Methodist music since Charles Wesley. If you look in the back of the United Methodist Hymnal under the Index of Composers, Arrangers, Authors, Translators, and Sources; Rev. Young's name appears forty-four times. A small sample of his work includes the harmonization of the hymns On Eagle's Wings (No. 143), Morning has Broken (No. 145), Be Thou My Vision (No. 451), and Kum Ba Yah (No. 494). He also wrote the music to This is a Day of New Beginnings (No. 383) and O the Depth of Love Divine (No. 627). He has composed Musical and Psalm Responses, Texts, and many other works in our hymnal.

Carlton Raymond Young is an Ohio native born in Hamilton, Ohio in 1926. He graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. He achieved a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Boston University School of Theology. He has honorary doctorates from several universities. He also studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, as well as in Vienna, Austria and Prague, Czech Republic.

Rev. Young is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. He has served on the faculties of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville Tennessee and was the emeritus professor of church music at the Chandler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta.

Rev. Young was the editor of the Methodist Hymnal in 1966 and the United Methodist Hymnal in 1989, the one in use today. He also wrote the Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal which includes historical background of text and tune for each hymn, tune changes over the years, and the theological basis for the texts of the hymns. He has also written many other books on hymns and Christian songs. He was the music director at the Uniting Conference of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches in 1968.

Rev. Young is married to Marjorie and they have four children: Robert, James, Carol, and Richard and six grandchildren. They currently reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

At age 92, Rev. Carlton Young remains a treasure in the world of United Methodism and its' music. I would like to thank John Hardy for providing me with an introduction into the work of this great man.

Do you have any MUMC history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Dr.
Concord, Ohio 44060-6704

or e-mail to: dhumphrey@ameritech.net