

1809 BICENTENNIAL EVENTS 2009

What does U.S. President John Quincy Adams have in common with the inventor of the steam tug boat, the composer of the "Coronation" tune for "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," the President of Harvard, the first pastor of Park Street Church, a soap and candle merchant, and a 15-year-old boy? They were all founding members of the Massachusetts Bible Society in 1809.

Throughout 2009, we will be celebrating the faithfulness of those founders and all the Massachusetts Bible Society supporters since, who have made it possible for us to continue our mission of supplying people with and educating people about the Bible. These are the bicentennial events from the past fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009). There will, of course, be more in the second half of 2009.



BIBLE IN AMERICA LUNCHEONS

During 2009 our monthly luncheon lectures are structured around the theme: The Bible in America. Our speakers have taught us about the use of the Bible by American leaders, the Bible in American Catholicism, and the history of biblical interpretation and distribution in America among others.



RARE BIBLE EXHIBITION

The collection of rare Bibles once housed at MBS was moved to the Boston University School of Theology Library for safe keeping. The collection was brought out for a special exhibit and launched with a lecture on Jan. 22, 2009 at the Boston University School of Theology Library. A virtual exhibit can also be viewed online here: <http://digilib.bu.edu/sth/sthlibrary/exhibits/MassBibles/>.



THE MBS BIBLE & BOOK FAIR

Another anniversary event, held in recognition of our history in the bookselling business, was the Bible & Book Fair. The event took place March 20th & 21st at Old South Church, Boston. In addition to Bibles, there were a large selection of other books on religion, spirituality, and theology, including the titles available on our 2009 featured book list.



BICENTENNIAL WORSHIP CELEBRATION

On May 2, 2009 we gathered constituents from across Massachusetts in a service of worship following our Annual Meeting at Old South Church in Boston. We gave away three \$500 Bible grants to churches in attendance. They went to: Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester; Myrtle Baptist Church, West Newton; and The United Methodist Church of Westford. You can watch a video of the sermon preached at the service on the enclosed DVD.