



Telling Our Stories

250 Years of United Methodism
in the New York Area

1766-2016

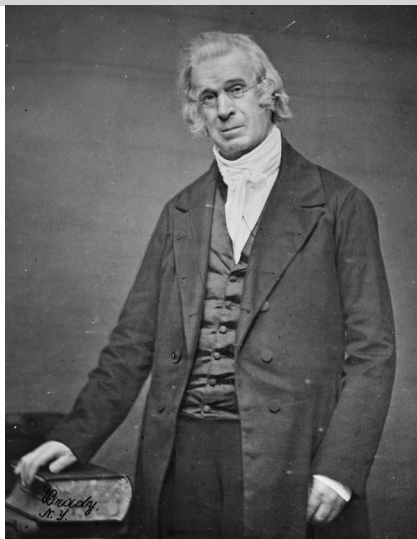
www.nyac.com/250years



Nathan Bangs

*Pioneer Publisher,
Theologian, and
Methodist Historian*

1778-1862



Rev. Nathan Bangs, first as leader of the Methodist Book Concern in New York City and later as the founder of the Christian Advocate newspaper, broadcast Methodist ideas and concerns through published media.

John Wesley shared his ideas by publishing sermons, hymnals, a magazine, and various books to provide his followers with current material on the world and Methodism. Bangs institutionalized this by creating the first uniquely Methodist printing press, publishing multiple books and pamphlets, many of which formed the core of Methodist Sunday Schools.

Prior to his appointment to the Methodist Book Concern, Bangs was known as an excellent and inspiring preacher. He was licensed to preach at about the age of 21 and given a circuit that included posts in Canada and eastern New York. Throughout his ministry, Bangs served as a bulwark against strict Calvinism. A believer in prevenient grace,

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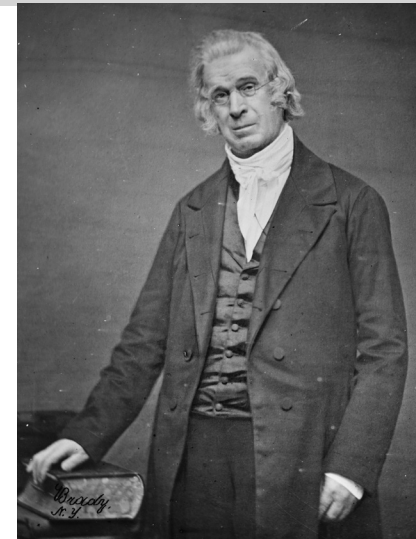
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(Nathan Bangs, cont.)

Bangs insisted that humans have the ability to listen and respond directly to God.

Bangs also wrote A History of the Methodist Episcopal Church from its Origin in 1776 to the General Conference in 1840, an exhaustive four volume work that remains the most extensive scholarly treatment of early Methodism in America.

For Discussion

- John Wesley referred to God's work in the unconverted as prevenient (from the Latin "to come before") grace. Where have you witnessed grace at work in your life?
- How well is United Methodism using new technologies to communicate with members and those looking for something more in their lives? What was the last UMC publication, video or website that you used? Did it meet your needs? Why or why not?



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New York Annual Conference
Commission on Archives and History
C. Wesley Christman Archives
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