

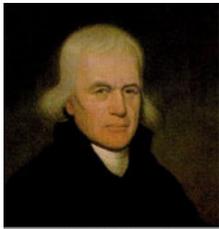
*Service of Dedication*  
**The Henry Earnest Fort House and  
 Ebenezer Methodist Church and Cemetery**  
*Historic Site No. 499 in American Methodism*

**Saturday, April 30, 2016**  
**Gathering Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Dedication: 11:00 a.m.**

*The Henry Earnest Fort House, 1600 Chucky Pike, Hwy 351, Chucky, TN*

Plan to arrive early for parking, greetings and conversation. At the service of dedication, speakers will recount the rich history of the Earnest Family, friends of Bishop Francis Asbury, and their contributions to the Methodist movement in Greene County during the 1779 – 1806 time period. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. In the event of inclement weather, the dedication service will be held in Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 1695 Earnest Road, Chucky, TN.

**Guest activities:** Following the service, guests will be able to take a tour of the Fort House and speak with descendants of the Earnest Family. Paul Fox and Cindy Sams along with volunteer choir members will provide a musical medley of traditional hymns of the era. Reenactors dressed in period attire will be present. Directions will be provided for visits to the nearby Ebenezer Church and Cemetery as well as other key historic locations in Greene County.



**Francis Asbury**

**Excerpts from Bishop Francis Asbury's Journal:**

*5 Apr 1793 – Rode to Nolichucky and attended a meeting at Squire Ernest's, where I had about two hundred hearers. We have formed a society in this place of thirty-one members, most of them new.*

*27 Apr 1795 – We hasted to F. Earnest's, on Nolichucky River; where we hold our western conference ... Our business was conducted with great love and harmony. Our brethren have built a meeting house, and I must needs preach the first sermon...*

*19 Sep 1802 – The house at Ebenezer would not hold the people; so, from my stand in the woods, I spoke from Genesis 32: 26-28. I was very unwell, but I held out longer than expected; I also felt that the word was given me and applied to the hearts of the people.*

*In History of Methodism in Tennessee, John B. M'Ferrin, writes of the visit of Evangelist John A. Granade at the 1802 Conference at Ebenezer: "The Conference was held in a spacious upper room at the house of Felix Earnest. Bishop Asbury presided. On Monday 20 Sep 1802, Bishop continues: We rode down to Greeneville, when I took a little breakfast. It was extraordinary; that a man who was quite a stranger to me appeared very uneasy when he found that we had paid the landlady, it being his wish to bear the expense, and have our money returned to us—his name was Cox ... We came on to Little Nolichuckey, and lodged at Edward Warren's (Maloney House in Warrensburg).*

*23 Oct 1803 – My soul is tranquil, the air is pure, and the house of God is near; and Jehovah is nearer. At Ebenezer, I preached on James 1:22... Monday 24 Oct: (Bishop departs Earnest and Ebenezer traveling his usual path toward NC). "... refreshed at Isaiah Harrison's, and continued on to the Paint Mountain, passing the gap newly made, which makes the road down to Paint Creek much better. I lodged with Mr. Nelson (Warm Springs), who treated me like a minister, a Christian, and a gentleman.*

*14 Sep 1806 – At Ebenezer for Western Conference: I preached at the stand in the woods, We had great peace. There are fourteen hundred added within the bounds of this conference. Of the fifty-five preachers stationed, all were pleased ... We had preaching at noon and night and good was done. The brethren were in want, and could not suit themselves; so I parted with my watch, my coat, and my shirt ... there were not far from two thousand people present.*



**Left: Ebenezer United  
 Methodist Church  
 and Cemetery**



**Right: The Henry Earnest  
 Fort House**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Earnest Fort House: Wilhelmina Williams • 423/612-2468 • [wewilliams@embarqmail.com](mailto:wewilliams@embarqmail.com)**

**Ebenezer UMC: Reverend Jeff Tallent • 423/418-0449 • [jevul1976@gmail.com](mailto:jevul1976@gmail.com)**