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Immediate Release : Bettie Story Will be in Sheean Library on Mar. 1 For Autographing Session

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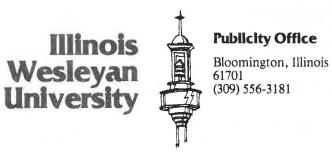
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Alsene, Ed, "Immediate Release: Bettie Story Will be in Sheean Library on Mar. 1 For Autographing Session" (1984). *News and Events*. 7470. https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/7470

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ed Alsene

Feb. 15, 1984

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Bettie Wilson Story, author of books for young people, will be in Sheean Library at Illinois Wesleyan University from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 1, for an autographing session in conjunction with the publication of her latest book.

"Gospel Trailblazer: The Exciting Story of Francis Asbury," the first biography of one of the founders of Methodism in America to be written for young people, is now available from Abingdon Press, Nashville.

Mrs. Story is coordinator of communications and media services, Central Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bloomington, and is editor of the weekly Central Illinois United Methodist Reporter.

She also is director of the annual IWU Writers' Conference, president of the board of directors of the Bloomington Public Library, and is an adult education teacher in writing skills.

The publication of the book coincides with the bicentennial of American Methodism and, according to the United Methodist publishing house," will help children better understand this man, who was one of the first preachers to venture across the Atlantic to the untamed American frontier to spread the word of God."

"Gospel Trailblazer" relates the dedication and conviction required by Asbury through his 45 years of service to build the foundation of the Methodist church in this new land.

Mrs. Story has written three other novels for children. "The Other Side of the Tell," her first, won the Indiana University Foundation Novel Award in 1975 and was among the top 10 National Religious Children's Book Bestsellers in 1976. It was published in Sweden last spring and is scheduled for publication in China.

"River of Fire" was dramatized for radio and was distributed nationwide. That book and "The Other Side of the Tell" are on a recommended current reading list published by the National Council of Teachers of English. Her third book is "Summer of Jubilee."