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The Ames Library to Display Work of Bible Scholars

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Illinois Wesleyan University

NEWS RELEASE

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The Ames Library to Display Work of Bible Scholars

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The writings of James W. Bennett, class of '64, and the late Charles Merrill Smith will be recognized with a book signing and display of the Charles Merrill Smith papers in The Ames Library's John Wesley Powell Rotunda (1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington) on Oct. 7 from 2-4 p.m.

Smith, who died in 1985, was a member of the Illinois Wesleyan Board of Trustees. He was also a United Methodist minister who served in the Bloomington-Normal community and the author of *How to Become a Bishop without Being Religious, When the Saints Go Marching Out*, and *the Reverend Randollph* mystery series.

Smith's family donated his working papers as well as other professional papers, including original manuscripts, letters about interviews, fan mail and a screenplay script based on one of his works, to the Tate Archives & Special Collections of The Ames Library.

A longtime friend of Smith's, Bennett recently completed *How the Bible was Built*, which is based on one of Smith's manuscripts and was recently published by Eerdmans Press. Bennett, who will be available to sign copies of the new book, is the award-winning author of several young adult novels, including *Old Hoss* and *The Squared Circle*, and the spiritual work *A Quiet Desperation*.

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