

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2012

Fall Program:

“Early Christian Architecture and Spirituality:

How ELCA Worship Renewal Relates to Early Christian Principles of Worship Space and Spiritual Presence”

Presenter: Dr. Gerald Christianson,

Professor of Church History, Emeritus
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg

Two Dates!!

Gettysburg Program:

Saturday, October 20, 2012
St. James Lutheran Church
York and Stratton Streets
Gettysburg, PA 17325

OR

State College Program:

Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Grace Lutheran Church
205 South Garner Street
State College, PA 16801

For updated information log on to www.lhsmidatlantic.com.

Coming in September:

Congregational Heritage Workshops

By John Deeben

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will once again host the Congregational Heritage Workshops on Saturday September 15, 2012. The day-long event will be held in Valentine Hall on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and will feature several tracks of concurrent lectures on a variety of topics promoting the study, preservation, and celebration of Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic region. Drawing upon the expertise of noteworthy history, archival, and genealogy professionals, the workshops offer a perfect educational

opportunity not just for pastors and lay congregational leaders, but also archivists, librarians, church historians, anniversary planning committees, members of congregational and synodical history committees, and anyone with an interest in keeping and writing history.

The planned sessions and speakers include:

- Organizing Archives for Small Churches (Rev. Richard Berg, Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society, Lancaster);

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Several speakers planned for Congregational Heritage Workshops
- Four new board members started their terms following April meeting
- A.R. Wentz Prize related to research on American church history
- Abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, Gettysburg lawyer and Pennsylvania politician, was a strong local voice for racial equality

President's Corner - Summer 2012

The mission of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic is to preserve, to document, and to stir interest in the rich Lutheran traditions which are the foundation of the church. Specifically, the Society intends to foster knowledge and use of Lutheran history in the synods and congregations and among individuals.

The mission of the society centers around exploring and sharing God's activity in the life of Lutheran Christians who have lived, worshipped, and served in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Our programming and activities seek to draw people into this story especially how it has unfolded in our past but also how it develops in our present. Much of what we study, investigate, and seek to learn about revolves around people who in faith have sought to serve their Lord.

The governance of our society is entrusted to the board of directors elected at the annual meeting. I want to thank them for their willingness to serve and help the society fulfill its mission. I see God at work in this group of people and in the ways they dedicate and commit their time and energy to the society.

At our last annual meeting four board members concluded their service. They were George Handley, Don Housley, George Mocko, and Judy Simonson. On behalf of the board and the society, I thank them for their service. They contributed greatly to the life and programming of the society over the years and we wish them well.

On May 6 board member Andrew "Jack" White died. Jack and his wife Phyllis attended the annual meeting in April at Gettysburg. Jack joined the board in 2010 and for two years was a faithful and energetic participant in the life and work of the society. His obituary can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Several members of the board and the society attended his funeral at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA on May 10. I invite you to keep his wife Phyllis, his children, and his family in your prayers. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

The board has appointed Judy Simonson to fill Jack's board seat and we welcome Judy back to the

board.

This is a busy late summer/fall for the society and we hope you will be able to join us for several of our planned events. On September 15, the society hosts a Congregational Heritage Workshop. On October 20 and 23 we will host our annual fall program on "Early Christian Architecture and Spirituality." For the first time it will be offered at two different locations with one in Gettysburg and the other at State College, PA.

As always, I encourage you to recruit new members for the society. Membership is an important

(Continued on page 4)



"... I invite you to keep [Jack's] wife Phyllis, his children, and his family in your prayers. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."

Welcome New Members

LHSMA welcomes the following new members since our Spring 2012 Newsletter:

Individual Members:

Marianne Brock - Mechanicsburg, PA
Walter Carlson - Lancaster, PA
Jon & Nancy Keller - Kutztown, PA
Jane Pippert-Brown - Lancaster, PA
W. Thomas & Barbara Vossler - Gettysburg, PA
Kim Eric Williams - West Chester, PA

Please notify us of any corrections to the list.

LHSMA 2012 - 2013 Board of Directors

Officers

Stephen Herr <i>President</i>	John Deeben <i>Secretary</i>
Mark Oldenburg <i>Vice President</i>	Lee Knepp <i>Treasurer</i>

Other Board Members

B. Bohleke	Kevin Hepler
Peggy Brookshire	Susan Hill
Maria Erling	Barbara Luebbe
John Fehringer	Judy Simonson

Board Emeriti

Charles Glatfelter
Michael Kurtz
Fred Wentz

Mark Dixon Wins 2011 A.R. Wentz Essay Prize

Submitted by Jim Vigen

Mark Dixon, a Ph.D. Student at Princeton Theological Seminary, has been named the winner of the 2011 A.R. Wentz Essay Prize by the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. The announcement was made at the Historical Society's Spring Program and Annual Meeting on April 17, 2012.

Dixon's winning essay is entitled "Henry Melchior Muhlenberg: A Biographical and Market-Historical Examination," a paper which he also presented at the American Academy of Religion's 2011 Upper Midwest Regional Conference. Dixon's essay examined Muhlenberg's theology, homiletics and polity through the lens of the patriarch's Journals and Korrespondenz. Dixon then went on to analyze Muhlenberg's ministry using the historical-sociological methods of Roger Finke and Rodney Stark as set forth in their 2008 work "Churching of America 1776-2005: Winners and Losers in our Religious Economy." Dixon concludes his analysis by declaring Muhlenberg a "winner", albeit, "by accident" by which the author means, Muhlenberg did not set out to be successful at church planting, but "to serve Christ's church, which as he understood it was shaped by Lutheran symbolical documents...the ideal 'winner' or church growth pastor is one who does not focus on growth, but on the central things: God's es-

chatological activity, the Bible's power to move people to faith and repentance, and an immediate pastoral concern for the flock".

Dixon is a 2006 graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, 2011, and currently a Ph.D. student at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dixon is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Dixon currently serves as an editorial assistant to the Rev. Dr. Paul Rorem, editor of Lutheran Quarterly. Other honors include the Goethe Stipend (2012), a Princeton Theological Seminary Fellowship and Merit Tuition Scholarship (2011), an ELCA Grant for Advanced Theological Education (2011) and the G.M. and Minnie Bruce Prize in New Testament Studies from Luther Seminary (2011).

The Abdel Ross Wentz Prize (\$2,000 award) is biennially presented to the author of the most outstanding essay or research paper dealing with American Church history. The award is in honor of Abdel Ross Wentz (1883-1976), a leading historian, teacher, pastor, administrator and international world figure. Dr. Wentz was a professor and past President of Gettysburg Seminary and also taught for two years at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, in Columbia, SC. ■



ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER NOTICE!

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic will start offering its annual newsletter (3 issues per year) in electronic form (PDF file format) to interested members. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to newsletter editor John Deeben at jdeeben@aol.com and put "LHSMA Newsletter" in the subject heading. Members who elect to receive the newsletter electronically will NOT have a hardcopy sent to their mailing address in an effort to reduce postage costs.



Spring Program Presentation Addresses Adams County Slave History

By Sue Hill

Presenters Debra Sandoe McCauslin and Timothy H. Smith shared a history of slavery in Adams County, Pennsylvania at LHSMA's Spring Program held April 17, 2012 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. In at least one way, the sharing was personally motivated. McCauslin of *For the Cause Productions* is a relative of George Washington Sandoe, Pennsylvania Cavalry, and the first from that unit to fall during a skirmish at McAllister's Mill, Gettysburg, 1863. Smith, a local historian, is an author, a research assistant at the Adams County Historical Society, and a licensed battlefield guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. McCauslin and Smith demonstrated the dynamics of slavery in the daily lives of eighteenth and nineteenth century Adams Countians in a presentation entitled, "How Slavery Affected Adams County Residents."

Slaves existed as early as the 1730's and 1740's in the area that became Adams County. Some emigrated with their Scot-Irish masters from Europe. German settlers to the region seldom owned slaves. Slaves in early America could be willed to the next generations. In 1783 area tax records list one hundred sixty-one slave owners and three hundred ninety-one slaves. By 1790, three percent of the ten thousand folks recorded in Adams County were slaves.

An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery (1780, Pennsylvania) prohibited the importation of additional slaves in Pennsylvania but guaranteed lifetime slavery for those slaves owned prior to 1780. By law, all slaves

and their children were required to register at the court house. In addition, children of slave mothers worked for the mother's master until age twenty-eight when they were manumitted. Slavery did decline over time in Pennsylvania as a result of the act, and Smith pointed out that northerners mistakenly expected the same kind of gradual decline to take place in the south. Patience Hack was the last enslaved person to die in Adams County in 1858. After 1850, slaves were no longer included in the local census reports.

McCauslin described the Underground Railroad activity during the Civil War era by the Menallen Friends Quaker community, one that still exists today in the Upper Adams County area. Quakers held anti-slavery meetings near Gettysburg as early as 1820, and they enacted their beliefs by assisting slaves escaping to the north across the Mason-Dixon Line just twenty miles to the south of Upper Adams. Yellow Hill, a community near Biglerville, Pennsylvania, seven miles north of Gettysburg, was an active location in the Underground Railroad and the home of the mulatto Edward Mathews family. Mathews assisted the Quakers in Underground Railroad activity. It is believed Yellow

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President's Message

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component for the society to remain sustainable and fulfill its mission. The society has materials including brochures and membership forms to share with you and your congregations. Our website continues to be a source of information and resources and I encourage

you to visit us on the web at www.lhsmidatlantic.com

God's blessings to you and yours for an enjoyable, safe, and fun summer.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stephen Herr, President

June 2012

CONGREGATIONAL HERITAGE WORKSHOPS

(Continued from page 1)

- Oral History (Linda Shopes, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (retired));
- Pennsylvania German Baptismal Records (John T. Humphrey, Washington, DC);
- Preserving Archival Records and Artifacts (John Peterson, Lutheran Archives Center, Philadelphia);
- Library Resources for Lutheran History (Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, Gettysburg Seminary);
- Writing Congregational Histories (Dr. Don Housley, Susquehanna University, retired);
- Planning Major Anniversaries and "Dealing with Dirty Linen"

- How to Handle the Negative Aspects of Anniversary Planning and Congregational History (Rev. George Handley, retired); and

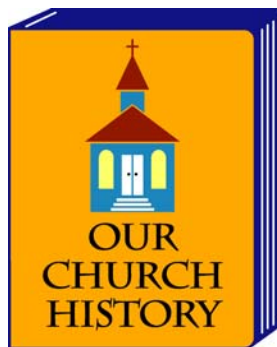
- An Overview of Local Lutheran Records at the Adams County Historical Society (Timothy H. Smith, Research Historian, ACHS).

The day's activities will end with a presentation for all participants on the renovations to Schmucker Hall that are currently underway in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 2013. The talk will

be given by Rev. John Spangler, Executive Assistant to the President for Communication and Planning at Gettysburg Seminary and president of the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation.

You can download the registration materials from the Society's website at

www.lhsmidatlantic.com. Discounted fees will be available for Society members as well as groups attending from the same congregation, so encourage your friends and church family to partake of a fun-filled day of history and education! ■



A Friendly Reminder to Society Members:

Please remit your 2012 dues as soon as you receive your renewal notice from Treasurer Lee Knepp: \$20/calendar year.



Slave History

(Continued from page 4)

Hill got its name from the skin color of the mulattos who lived there.

Interestingly, abolitionist and freed slave, Frederick Douglass, came to Gettysburg to speak against slavery in 1869. He was not allowed to eat inside the local hotel because of his race. Daniel Payne, a nineteenth century black theologian and educator trained at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, encouraged the educational development of blacks in Gettysburg. Abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, Gettysburg lawyer and Pennsylvania politician, was a strong local voice for racial equality. Black Adams County residents became distinguished soldiers in the United States Colored Troops. Former slave Owen Robinson became a successful black business man selling oysters and ice cream in Gettysburg.

Former slave Benjamin Craig bought a house where the Avenue Diner stands in Gettysburg today with money gifted to him by his former mistress. Jesse Mathews Vann, granddaughter of Yellow Hill's Edward Mathews was the wife of Robert Vann, a Pittsburgh journalist and politician. She became an influential civil rights advocate appointed to government advisory boards and diplomatic positions by President Dwight Eisenhower.

The long history of blacks and slavery in Pennsylvania and Adams County continues to unfold. Gettysburg's Seminary Ridge Museum, a cooperative venture between the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Adams County Historical Society opening in the spring of 2013 at the time of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, will help to tell the area's African-American story. McCauslin and Smith have contributed an enticing introduction to this fascinating and important history. ■

Board Member Jack White Dies

Submitted by John Deeben

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic regrettably reports the passing of board member Rev. Dr. Andrew John “Jack” White, who died Sunday, May 6, 2012 in Chambersburg, PA, where he lived in retirement. A native of Columbus, OH, and born May 24, 1932, White was 79. He served on the LHSMA board of directors since 2009 and had just been elected to another term at the annual spring meeting on April 17, 2012.



White was professor emeritus at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP), where he served from 1967 to 1997. He had held the Peter Paul and Elizabeth Hagan Professor Chair of Practical Theology for 14 years and had served as secretary of the faculty for three years. From 1983 until his retirement, he was director of Contextual Education (field work) at the school, and directed the seminary's Graduate School (Advanced-Level Degree Programs) from 1991 until he retired. During his seminary career, White served four years (1978–82) as Executive Director of the Council for Lutheran Theological Education in the Northeast (CLTEN), which coupled the Philadelphia and Gettysburg seminaries with 11 regional synods and districts of two national Lutheran church bodies of that time, the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church, prede-

cessor bodies of the current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) denomination. White for many years also edited *Parish Practice Notebook*, a publication that sought to convey to alumni and other church leaders fresh ideas in connection with successful congregational ministry.

As an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Slovak Zion Synod of that church, he served two congregations before becoming a professor—Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cicero, IN, and Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Cleveland, OH. While in East Cleveland he also chaired that city's Human Relations Committee (1962–65).

Appointed to the LTSP faculty in 1967, White became vigorously active on the civic scene while a resident of Philadelphia's East Mount Airy neighborhood. He served on the Board of East Mount Airy Neighbors (EMAN) from 1968 to 1974 and from 1976 to 1979. He served four years on the Board of Philadelphia's Haverford Community Center (1968–72). From 1972 to 1978, White was on the Democratic Ward Executive Committee and was frequently its vice-chair. From 1971 to 1978 he was vice-chair of the Board for EMAN Group Homes, focusing on

personnel and fundraising for that program serving individuals with developmental delays. Beginning in 1981, White also served from 1981 to 1997 as secretary for the Board of the Mt. Airy Village Development Corp. For 11 years, while living in Philadelphia, White chaired the Board of Lutheran Retirement Homes (Paul's Run), a social ministry organization of the church located in Northeast Philadelphia, from 1977 to 1988.

A Wittenberg University graduate (1954), Jack earned his Master of Divinity in 1957 from Hamma School of Theology, a predecessor school for today's Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. Trinity named him its distinguished alumnus in 1986. He earned his PhD from Case Western Reserve University in 1969, focusing his thesis on the areas of political science and community organization. He earned the Master of Theology from the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN.

After his wife died early last year, White remarried. His widow, Phyllis Ann Akers White, survives. Also surviving are four children, Mary Sue Burns of Marlinton, WV; Daniel of Atlanta, GA; John of Houston, TX, and James of Huntingdon, PA; five grandchildren, Jesse and Jonathan Burns, Sara May, Shelby T. and Joanna M. White; and a sister, Dorothy Jean Robinson of Ormond Beach, FL. Two stepchildren survive: Kathryn Perbetzky of Philadelphia and George Akers of Gettysburg, PA. ■



“A Tale of Two Lutherans: The Question of Slavery” A Compelling Story

By Sue Hill

The Spring Program of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic was held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on Tuesday, April 17th. Dr. Richard M. Chapman, associate Professor of History at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, presented “A Tale of Two Lutherans: The Question of Slavery.” The society’s Civil War topic commemorates the opening of the 150th anniversary year of the conflict.

The two Lutherans in question are Samuel Simon Schmucker (1799-1873) and John Bachman (1790-1874), both leaders in the Lutheran church at the time of the Civil War. Oddly, Schmucker, later labeled “a moderate abolitionist,” had been born in the South (Hagerstown, MD), and married a daughter of Virginia slave owners. Mary Catherine Schmucker brought along a female slave when she and Samuel moved north to Princeton, New Jersey, and later to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Theologically, Schmucker believed blacks were part of God’s creation, and he called slavery “sinful.” In 1863, Confederates ransacked the Schmucker family home at the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg during the battle.

John Bachman, on the other hand, was born in Rhinebeck, New York, and moved south for health reasons during early adulthood. Bachman, whose parents were northern slave owners, married Harriet Martin of Charleston, South Carolina, and eventually became a slave owner himself. He was pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Charleston for nearly sixty years where he reached out to blacks with the gospel message. Also a scientist, Bachman argued that blacks and whites were part of the same species. Nevertheless, Bachman believed blacks were intellectually inferior to whites and incapable of governing themselves. He favored secession at the outbreak of the Civil War, and was forced to flee Charleston in early 1865. Sadly, Bachman’s papers were destroyed during the Union occupation.

Chapman used Bachman’s and Schmucker’s stories to illustrate the complexity of the slavery question. Influenced by personal circumstances, both men were also subjected to contrasting contemporary voices about slavery. Josiah Knott (1804-1873), a southern physi-

cian, believed that the Bible supported “polygenism,” the divisive theory proclaiming different original lineages for blacks and whites. Daniel Alexander Payne (1811-1893), believed blacks could learn and benefit from education. William Passavant (1821-1894) spoke out in favor of peace and well-being for all of God’s people. The American Colonization Society (established 1816) promoted and financed the return of freed slaves to Africa. The Nat Turner slave rebellion (1831) resulted in restrictions in education, free assembly, and civil rights for black men. The Fugitive Slave Act (1850) mandated the return of runaway slaves to their masters. Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), escaped slave and social reformer, articulated the evils of slavery. Journalist William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879) promoted radical abolitionism, as did the Lutheran Frankean Synod. Theory, religion, rhetoric, rebellion, and political activism characterized conversations for and against slavery in nineteenth century America.

Chapman concluded that the Lutheran response to the question of slavery created an unfulfilled watershed moment in the church’s history. He believes Lutheran leadership “missed an opportunity” to ordain blacks even as prominent Lutherans like Schmucker and Bachman were called to refine their theological and moral viewpoints in the crucible of a war that literally invaded their doorsteps.

Implicit in Chapman’s remarks is the question of the church’s leadership role in the face of “slavery” in the 21st century. Chapman suggests we learn from the experiences of Schmucker and Bachman and to take an informed, faithful stand for good today. He challenges both Lutheran leadership and the church’s constituency to re-evaluate Lutheran social justice standards and actions over and against its theology of the cross and Lutheran social history. Indeed, we might ask ourselves what tales future generations might tell of Lutheran women and men who daily encounter the oppressed upon our virtual and/or literal doorsteps. ■



Richard M. Chapman

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

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Gettysburg, PA 17325

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*“Preserving, documenting,
and sharing the history of
Lutherans and Lutheranism in
the Mid-Atlantic and
surrounding areas.”*



**Lutheran Historical
Society of the
Mid-Atlantic Newsletter**

ISSN 1049-6424

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, in the interest of the preservation and cultivation of Lutheran history in Central and Western Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area issues this newsletter two to three times a year.

Notes of announcements, projects, historical celebrations, genealogical concerns, notes of church or Synodical activities, and notes from other historical societies are solicited.

Address corrections are helpful.

Send replies via email to:

Stephen Herr

info@lhsmidatlantic.com

Subject: LHS Newsletter



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

**Lutheran Historical Society
of the Mid-Atlantic
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____
Congregation (if applicable): _____

I desire membership in LHSMA as a: _____ New Member or, as a: _____ Renewal.

- _____ \$ 250 Life Membership
- _____ \$ 20 Regular Membership (*renewable annually by March 31*)
- _____ I wish to give a Special Gift. Please send me more information on the Special Gift Program of the society.

I am interested in:

- _____ Research
- _____ Reading
- _____ Publishing
- _____ Other: _____

Please complete this form and your check made payable to **LHSMA** and mail to:

Lee Knepp, LHSMA
PO Box 76
McClure, PA 17841