

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3

FALL 2012

## 2012 Congregational Heritage Workshop Wrap-up

By John Deeben

On Saturday, September 15, 2012, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic again hosted its well-known signature event, the Congregational Heritage Workshops. Held at Valentine Hall on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the Workshops promote the study, preservation, and celebration of Lutheran history in the Mid-Atlantic region, especially in those communities and congregations within the ELCA Region 8. Twenty-four participants gathered this year from nearby communities as well as Maryland and Virginia, to hear a

variety of workshop sessions about such diverse but staple topics as writing congregations histories, planning significant anniversaries, organizing and preserving records in church archives, library resources for Lutheran history, oral history, and local Lutheran records.

The day began with registration and a continental breakfast at the Coffee Shop in Valentine Hall. Society President Rev. Stephen Herr welcomed the gathering immediately afterwards. Following some logistical announcements

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For updated information log on to [www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.com).

## Beginnings: 1764-1804: Zion Lutheran Church, Hummelstown, Pennsylvania

By Annabelle Wenzke

When Frederick Hummel bought the parcel of land east of the bend in the Swatara Creek from the Chambers brothers in 1762, Pennsylvania was a colony of England and Frederickstown (as Hummel intended to call his plantation) was on the frontier. When the Evangelical Lutheran Church called Zion incorporated itself in 1804, Hummelstown was now in the state of Pennsylvania and was a neat little community of largely German inhabitants who served the farmers in the surrounding townships. In the intervening time the German Lutheran Church had firmly estab-

lished itself in the community with not merely a log church, but a school and a cemetery. The German citizens represented the second wave of immigrants to this area after the English and Scotch-Irish, and unlike their English predecessors, they came to stay. This was clear in the deeds that Hummel issued to the inhabitants of his new town. Each resident agreed to pay a yearly rental of nine shillings to the Hummel heirs and one shilling to the German Lutheran Church which "intended to be erected and builded in said town." This financial arrange-

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Ten speakers and other experts contribute to success of Congregational Heritage Workshop
- During the 18th century, it fell to the lay people of the church to maintain its health and vitality
- Philadelphia Seminary celebrates successful restoration of the Muhlenberg journals.
- Board establishes updated criteria for conferring emeritus status

## President's Corner - Autumn 2012

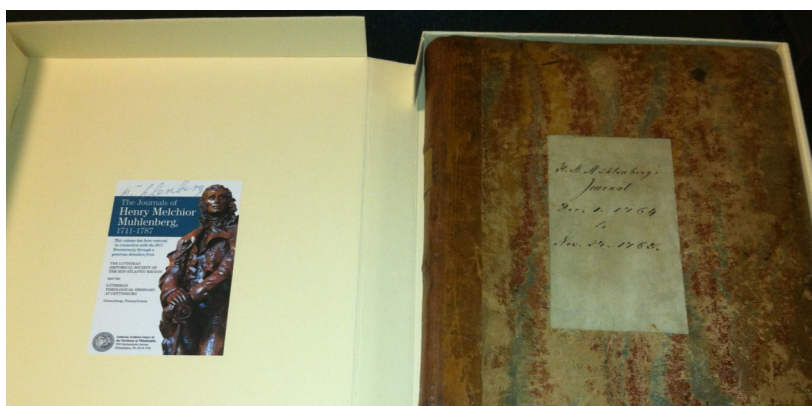
November begins with the celebration of All Saints Day. It is a day we remember all the saints, those who rest from their labors in the church triumphant and those who continue to labor in the church militant. As a society interested in celebrating and preserving Lutheran history in the mid-Atlantic region, All Saints Day reminds us of the contributions made by the great cloud of witnesses throughout time who have left such a rich heritage and legacy for us to explore and celebrate. This past September Pastor Dave Michel died and as we observe All Saints Day this [year], I

On October 11, I had the opportunity to represent the society at a gathering held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the successful restoration of the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg journals. Former LHSMA board member George Handley served as emcee with the Lutheran Archives Center serving as the host. Renee Wolcott representing the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts presented on her company's work re-



Current society board members Maria Erling and Phil Teigen were also present. On behalf of the board of directors for our society I want to express our appreciation for your wonderful response towards this project. Our society gave over \$3500 to the project and in conjunction with the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg sponsored a volume. The society's donation helped restore Muhlenberg's December 1, 1764-November 24, 1765 journal. These journals remain an amazing part of our Lutheran history in the United States and especial-

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*Muhlenberg's December 1, 1764-November 24, 1765 Journal – after restoration*

want to give thanks to God for Dave's life and ministry. He was a member of the society's board of directors, editor of the newsletter, and helped establish the first webpage for the society. Rest eternal grant him O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him!

storing the journals. Her presentation described the multitude of challenges of the project and it was fascinating to see the before and after photographs of the journals. The event corresponded with the gathering of the Lutheran Historical Conference for its biennial meeting.

### Welcome New Members

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

#### New Annual Memberships:

Jon Diefenthaler - *Columbia, MD*  
James Fladland - *Watsonstown, PA*  
Patricia Newton - *Gettysburg, PA*  
Sandra Parker - *Westminster, MD*  
Roney Shawe - *New Carrollton, MD*

#### New Life Membership:

Gerald Christianson - *Gettysburg, PA*  
(upgraded from Annual Membership)

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	Phil Teigen
Peggy Brookshire	Susan Hill	James B. Vigen
Maria Erling	Barbara Luebke	Annabelle Wenzke
John Fehringer	Judy Simonson	

#### Board Emeriti

Charles Glatfelter
Don Housley
Michael Kurtz
Fred Wentz

## Don Housley Receives Board Emeritus Status

Submitted by John Deeben

On August 30, 2012, the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic voted unanimously to grant recently retired Board member Donald D. Housley emeritus status. Such honor is usually given by academic institutions and professional organizations to recognize individuals for their longstanding service, commitment, and contributions. At the same meeting, the Board established updated criteria for conferring emeritus status. The basic requirements now include: 1) at least 15 years of cumulative service on the board; and 2) candidates will have held office in the society, or held significant responsibility for the society's activities during their tenure. Don has been active with LHSMA virtually since the society was reorganized in 1989, and has served as Secretary of the Board of Directors since at least 1995. (In conversations with other Board members, Don admitted that even he was uncertain how long he has served!) He has also been a regular presenter for the Society's Congregational Heritage Workshops, leading sessions on the mechanics of writing congregational histories. Don retired from the Board following the expiration of his term at the Annual meeting on April 17, 2012.

In addition to his longtime service with the Historical Society, Don Housley is Charles B. Degenstein Professor Emeritus of History at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, where he began teaching

in 1967. Don received his B.A. from Houghton College in 1962, M.A. from the University of Connecticut in 1964, and Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University in 1971. He is the author of *Susquehanna University, 1858–2000: A Goodly Heritage* (2007), *Make It the Best: A History of Geisinger Health System, 1912–2001* (2011), and numerous articles dealing with regional and Lutheran history. In receiving this honor, Don joins emeritus Board members Charles H. Glatfelter, Michael J. Kurtz, and Frederick Wentz. Past emeritus board members include the late Herman G. Stuempfle and Rev. Frederick Weiser. ■



"I'm a sheep again?! What about a reindeer?"



### 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](mailto: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.



## 2012 Workshop Summary

(Continued from page 1)

about the events for the day from workshop co-chair John Deeben, the Rev. George Handley led morning devotions with some Scripture reading and the singing of the hymn "Clouds of Witnesses Surround Us" by the

late Rev. Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle.



### *Celebrate Our Heritage*

The first round of morning sessions included an introduction to organizing church archives, presented by Rev. Richard Berg, archivist of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and faculty member of the Lancaster Theological Seminary. Local scholar Timothy H. Smith, a research historian at the Adams County Historical Society and Licensed Battlefield Guide, shared information about Lutheran sources available in the historical society's collections, including parish registers, cemetery records and transcriptions, and records of local Lutheran clergy. Linda Shopes of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (retired) also presented a basic introduction to oral history techniques.

In the second workshop sessions, John Peterson of the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia, spoke on the theme of archival preservation, offering basic tips on ways to protect and store records and artifacts that have been deemed historically valuable. Rev. George Handley once again presented his popular workshop on effective ways to plan and organize a meaningful celebration of significant congregational anniversaries. His talk focused on organizing committees, designing events, developing resources, and promoting participation. A third session had been planned on the topic of

Pennsylvania German baptismal records, to be presented by nationally known genealogy expert John T. Humphrey. For those who did not attend the Heritage Workshops, however, LHSMA sadly notes that Mr. Humphrey passed away unexpectedly on August 12, 2012. It was not possible to find a suitable replacement on such short notice, so that workshop was unfortunately cancelled.

A time of refreshment and fellowship followed the morning workshops with a catered lunch buffet in the Valentine Hall Coffee Shop. The afternoon session of the Heritage Workshops offered an overview of current library resources for the study of Lutheran history, emphasizing the holdings of the A. R. Wentz Library at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, presented by Seminary faculty member the Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity in North American and Global Missions. Dr. Donald Housley, Emeritus Professor of History at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa., offered his ever-popular class on the mechanics of researching and writing a coherent, well-organized, congregational history. George Handley presented another workshop session entitled "Dealing with Dirty Linen," which explored perspectives on how to deal with negative aspects of congregational history and anniversary planning.

The Congregational Heritage Workshops ended with a special presentation by the Rev. John Spangler, Executive Assistant to the President for Communication and Planning at Gettysburg Seminary, on the status of the Seminary Ridge Museum. Spangler shared information about the renovation of Schmucker Hall, the original Seminary building that stood at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the surrounding grounds, including rehabilitation efforts to the historical vistas of the battlefield from the Seminary (making sure visitors

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## President's Message

(Continued from page 2)

ly here in the Mid-Atlantic region. If you are ever able to visit the Lutheran Archives Center in Philadelphia stop by and see these restored historical treasures.

I encourage all of our members to promote the work of the society by recruiting new members, advertising our events, and encouraging young people to par-

ticipate in the Lutheran Youth History Contest. Make sure to visit us on the world-wide-web at [www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.com). I hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas seasons. I look forward to seeing you all at our annual meeting next April in Gettysburg.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Stephen Herr, President**

November 2012



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, HUMMELSTOWN, PA

(Continued from page 1)

ment, which provided a firm financial foundation for the church, extended well into the nineteenth century.

Frederick Hummel, with his wife Rosina, secured title to the land bounded on the west by what is today Railroad Street, on the east by Swatara Street, on the north by the Swatara Creek, and on the south by High Street. Hummel had moved to the area sometime in the mid 1750's and bought a farm in Derry Township. Frederick and Rosina had five children when she died. Hummel then married Barbara Blessing with whom he had four children. Barbara was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (The Hill Church) in Dauphin where apparently Hummel also belonged. However, the births of all nine children are recorded in the Church Book of Zion which led to confusion about the founding of that church. There was no Hummelstown or Zion Church in 1753 when the first child, Valentine, was born. Rather, the founding of the church is related to the purchase of land by Hummel in 1766.

Hummel wanted to provide for the financial and spiritual welfare of his family by buying land and recreating the society he had left in Germany, which included a town and the German Protestant churches, Lutheran and Reformed, he had

left behind. He was a Lutheran and it is this church that benefitted most from his stewardship. In the deed transferring land from Hummel to the church on June 24, 1766, he stipulated that "the German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation professing the Doctrine Worship and Discipline agreeable to the Invariable Confession of Augsburg"

was the holder of the deed. To "apostatize" from this doctrine would forfeit the deed. The deed also provided for a school and a cemetery. By 1769 the church was operating well as the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg notes in his journal of May 1769:

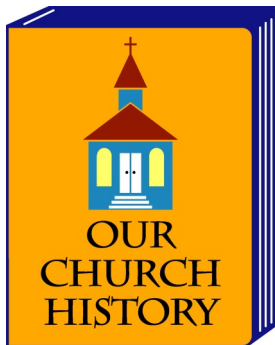
*At 3:30 p.m. we reached the village. There I found a nice, large wooden church, the construction of which had been completed. It was located on two lots which Mr. Hummel had provided as a freed gift, and he had also contributed some farm rent, amounting to 1s Sterling from each house lot. Only a few pounds of debt remain on the church and school-house. The people desire to stay together with the other three congregations and are willing to provide the necessary support for a faithful laborer from our United Ministerium, if someone can be found.*

The political fortunes of the colony did not substantially affect the church whose major concerns in this period were its financial health and its desire to secure pastoral leadership. The earliest records of the church list the financial resources of the church in pounds and shillings, the English currency.

However, in 1774 the church book notes that "there has been another account made, but by confusion and bad management of the books, we cannot come at the correct figures, but there shall be a balance in the treasury of: L1.9.2". In 1781 the book records that "The money on hand was Continental Money and lost greatly in value" and left only "income in hard money, L1.5.6 ½". Finally in 1805 the financial records begin to appear in dollars and cents. "The whole income of the church is \$89.62," a respectable amount for the period.

Although financial issues required constant attention in the early years of the church, more concern was expressed for acquiring a pastor so that worship and catechism could be reliably conducted. For this business the church appealed to the Ministerium, a recently organized (1748) association of

(Continued on page 6)



## A Friendly Reminder to Society Members:

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



# Early History of Zion Lutheran Church

(Continued from page 5)

German Lutheran clergymen who sought to impose some order on the scattered Lutheran churches in Pennsylvania. When the church received its deed upon the completion of its log church on June 24, 1766, the pastor of record was Theophilus England (ger., Engelland). However, England was not a pastor approved by the Ministerium. In fact, he appeared to be one of the rogue pastors who often appeared on the frontier. According to the Ministerium records, before coming to America Engelland had disappeared "from Wurttemberg (and) he had entered the French service in Strassburg, became Catholic, deserted and entered Dutch service, and exchanged the Catholic for the Calvinistic religion, thence he went to the Spanish Netherlands, etc." Needless to say, the Ministerium roundly rejected England's request for licensing in the colonies. Aside from his name on the deed for Hummelstown, there is no other evidence of his ministry in the records although Muhlenberg mentions in his journals that "the buck and the wolf" had been there for several years. His departure left Hummelstown and the churches with which it was joined without pastoral leadership.

Consequently in 1768 these churches, Hummelstown, Maytown, Donnegan, and Middletown, appealed to the Ministerium for a pastor. Muhlenberg notes that the orig-

inal request for Candidate Jung was rejected because the churches did not seem prepared to financially support a pastor. The financial is-

## Church Archives



sue was a critical one, and new for the colonial churches who had come from Germany where churches were supported by the state. The churches were placed under the supervision of Pastor John Caspar Stoever, Jr. who was the nearest pastor, although he already was serving a regular charge. In 1769 Muhlenberg himself visited these congregations in response to their appeal which as yet had not been met. Finally in 1771 Hummelstown and its joined congregations were regularly served by Johann Michael Enderlein.

Since clergy served multiple congregations throughout this period, services were held at the most once a month in any congregation. On the Sundays when a Lutheran pastor was not available, a Reformed pastor would preach at the church. The principle duties of the clergy were to preach, perform the sacraments of baptism and communion, and to catechize the youth. A typical Sabbath service included hymns, prayers, scripture reading, and preaching. An example is given from Friday, May 5, 1769 in Muhlenberg's journal. He "preached in a practical way on Hosea 2:14, 'Therefore behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.' The hearers seemed to be quite moved and hungry. Af-

ter the sermon I called up the children who were present and catechized them." The church records give the baptisms and some communion records for this period. However, communion was held only infrequently, possibly only twice a year. The focus of the worshiping service was on the sermon and hymn singing. Muhlenberg's experience appears to be typical of the Hummelstown congregation. Many years later (1794) another young clergyman, George Lockmann, who served the Lebanon parish and preached occasionally in Hummelstown, recorded the warm reception he received in Hummelstown. He also describes worship that was not confined to the church or the Sabbath. Lockmann recalls that he spent the night in Hummelstown with a church family with whom he sang and prayed all evening, an experience he repeated on several subsequent visits that year.

From 1770 to 1795 Hummelstown continued to be served by clergy assigned from the Ministerium. Pastor Enderlein served from 1771 to 1779 when he moved up the Susquehanna to Shamokin. He was followed by Wilhelm Kurtz whose father and brother were already leaders in the Ministerium. He was not merely licensed but ordained by the Ministerium in 1768. Although Kurtz was a more highly qualified pastor than Pastor Enderlein, who was never ordained, both men suffered financial difficulties while serving the Hummelstown church. In 1778 Muhlenberg gave Enderlein 2L5sh because he had no money, and the Church

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## The Work of a Congregational Archivist or Archives Committee - Part V

*By John Deeben*

### Electronic Records

The least complicated way to retain information found in electronic form is to store paper copies of narrative sources such as correspondence, reports, and minutes. Parish membership lists and other data that are updated often should be printed and dated regularly. Creating a records schedule would avoid gaps in this information gathering.

With the use of computers and related devices, archivists now face the challenge of preservation and accessibility of electronic or machine-readable records. Common electronic records storage media, such as computer hard drives, tapes, and disks, are susceptible to damage and obsolescence and cannot be considered for permanent archival storage. Data in these media is software and hardware dependent. For electronic records to remain viable, the data must be migrated to newer software programs using the latest hardware. Therefore, to maintain records in an electronic form, there must be a commitment to update continually as you convert to the newest technology. Migrating data to new systems may not be an archival activity, but if the records have long-term, historical value, and a

choice is made not to continue to store them in an electronic form, then appropriate actions must be taken to retain the records or information for historical purposes.

For those records that are only useful in data form, a strict schedule of refreshing the data, including transfer to new software and hardware is necessary. Information on the data contents (metadata) should be retained for continuing access. Also, saving files in more universal formats will allow for easier conversions to newer technologies as they become available.

Also of interest for the historical record is a means to ensure that short-term storage, through back-up copies is done regularly and copies are stored in a another building, if possible. Data loss can occur for a variety of reasons during active use or in storage. Adequate backup will ensure that a high percentage of data can be restored for current activities. This is an archival issue since many records needed for on-going business may also hold historical value. Congregations should become involved in creating a "Business Continuity Plan," which would also benefit the archival record in the long-term. ■

## Workshop Summary

*(Continued from page 4)*

will be able to see the same sight lines that existed at the time of the battle). The museum is expected to open in time for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Battle of Gettysburg in July 2013. Hopefully, fu-

ture editions of the Congregational Heritage Workshops may be able to incorporate tours of the museum as part of the event!

In all, everyone came away from a full day of activities satisfied with the knowledge gained and the fellowship experienced. ■

## Zion Lutheran Church

*(Continued from page 6)*

Book records in 1788 this resolve: "Pastor William Kurt (sic) preached now 8 years and the congregation did not furnish him with a residence nor paid him anything towards it, we herewith grant him out of the money in the treasury L5.00." Kurtz continued his service to Hummelstown at least until 1794 when the church was again without a pastor. From 1795 to 1804 there is

no record of a regular pastor at Hummelstown although baptisms and confirmations were recorded. In addition to Pastor Lochman who substituted at Hummelstown occasionally, his journal refers to a Mr. Lupp who was serving the church in 1795. Without any regularly assigned clergy, it fell to the lay people of the church to maintain its health and vitality, which they apparently did because the church emerges from the shadows in 1804 with a new pastor and plans to build a new church. ■

Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic

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Web: [www.lhsmidatlantic.com](http://www.lhsmidatlantic.com)

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

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

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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](mailto:info@lhsmidatlantic.com)**

**Subject: LHS Newsletter**



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 3

**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