

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COALITION for MISSION in APPALACHIA**  
**2010 Annual Appalachian Assembly**  
**Riverside Inn, Cambridge Springs, PA**  
**Hosts: Northwestern PA Synod**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Fifty-nine (59) voting members representing the sixteen (16) synods located in Appalachia and church-wide partners, along with several members of the local planning team, gathered in Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, April 26-28, 2010.

The Northwest Pennsylvania Synod was our host. Rev. Ralph Jones, Bishop, welcomed us. The theme for the Assembly was "Share the Oil of Gladness". Oil was first discovered nearby 150 years ago. The Northwest Pennsylvania Synod includes many town and country congregations.

**MESSIAH KOREAN LUTHERAN CONGREGATION**

Pastor Park presented a video telling about the ministry of this congregation. The average age of the members is twenty-six. Eight members are in the candidacy process. First generation Koreans are learning English as a Second Language. Second generation Koreans are learning Korean!

**KONNAROCK**

Monroe Herring reported on the work to restore the Lutheran Girls School at Konnarock, Virginia and develop a retreat house.

**ELCMA WEBSITE**

Bethany Campbell encouraged us to access the website, [www.elcma.org](http://www.elcma.org). She also encouraged us to use "Good Search". Every time we use this search engine, ELCMA receives one cent. To date in 2010, ELCMA has earned more than 50 dollars.

**KEYNOTE**

Mr. John Patterson spoke to the Assembly. He spoke about his life, starting as a grocery store owner, being elected to local town government, being elected to the Pennsylvania House and Senate and being elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served six terms in the House. During that time he was an advocate for rural health care, community college education and "cheap energy".

**ENTERTAINMENT**

We were entertained by a High School bell choir. Their music was both delightful and beautiful. We also heard from a story teller. He spoke about the discovery of oil. He spoke with humor and some of what he said was true!

**Mountain of Light Mission Start with MARY GOLNITZ**

Dory Campbell presented Mary with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to support the ministry in Blairsville, Georgia. This financial gift is from a congregation in Glenville, Illinois which was given to Dory and Bethany when they visited earlier in April.

**HELEN HARMS**

Helen Harms was the first Coordinator of ELCMA. She spoke to the Assembly by Skype. She recalled the founders of ELCMA. In response to a question from the Assembly, Helen said the biggest challenges facing ELCMA were financial sustainability and empowering laity for their ministries.

**DISPLAYS**

Displays from a variety of human service organizations were available to the assembly participants on Tuesday to share information, connections and ideas that can be transplanted in various places as appropriate.

**BISHOPS**

Ralph Jones, Bishop of the Northwestern PA Synod was the host bishop. Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of the Northeast Ohio Synod, Samuel Zeiser, Bishop of the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod, and Kurt Kusserow, Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, were present. Each addressed the Assembly for five minutes. Ralph Dunkin, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod was present for a time, and then left to attend the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Bishop Kusserow encouraged us to "live forward in faith and hope".

### **BONDING GARDEN PROJECT**

Bethany Campbell spoke about her efforts to introduce this ministry in a minimum of five new communities in 2010.

### **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS**

Four presentations are planned this year and two are scheduled already. Shelby Lemmon offered to bring this training to congregations or groups of congregations in the Appalachian Region. Contact her at [volunteer@elcma.org](mailto:volunteer@elcma.org)

### **FORUMS**

1. "Innovative and Reinvented Ideas for the Small and Growing Congregation" lead by Jeff Wick and Mary Hughes.
2. Budget and Resolutions with Tim Spence and Glenn Simmons  
The budget was reviewed and questions answered
3. Music in Small & Growing Congregations on a Budget with Kim Nunberg & Marceile Redmon
4. ELCMA's Bonding Gardens with Bethany Campbell & Sharon Connelly
5. ELCMA's New Long Range Ministry Plan with Dory Campbell & Allyn Giuffre
6. Beginning Grant Writing with Ed Redmon & Shelby Lemmon

### **ELECTIONS**

Mr. Ed Redmon, a member of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, and Mrs. Shirley Heasley, a member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, were elected to the ELCMA Council as AT LARGE members with a term expiring in 2013.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

1. Walking tour of Cambridge Springs & History of Riverside Inn
2. Tom Ridge Environmental Center and Presque Isle
3. Bethesda (Lutheran) Children's Home & Campbell Pottery
4. THIEL (LUTHERAN) COLLEGE & PYMATUNING SPILLWAY

### **FESTIVAL EUCHARIST**

This service was held in the Chapel of the Bethesda Lutheran Home for Children. Rev. Julia Frazer, Chaplain of Bethesda Lutheran Home for Children, preached. She reminded us of those characteristics of Appalachians. Rev. Ralph Jones, Bishop of the Northwest Pennsylvania Synod, presided at the Eucharist.

### **NO AWARDS!**

Dory Campbell announced that neither the Glenn Heasley nor the Don Roth Awards would be presented. There were no nominations! We need to be attentive to this for next year. Nomination forms are at [www.elcma.org](http://www.elcma.org).

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

Monday evening we had a local school's bell choir – extraordinary! Following the music we listened to a real storyteller – "yarn fabricator"??? Tuesday evening ended with a duo singing and leading a sing-a-long of both old favorite hymns and folk hymns.

### **DELIBERATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

There was a spirited discussion, primarily among first call pastors new to ELCMA, about the need to know and understand the emotional and cultural context for their ministries. There also was a discussion about how to fund the growth in ELCMA's ministry that the Long Range Plan envisions. The long range ministry plan was approved with two additions and is published at [www.elcma.org](http://www.elcma.org) for your viewing and comment. Additionally the proposed budget was approved for the fiscal year February 01, 2011 – January 31, 2012.

### **DEVOTIONS**

Devotions included Monday afternoon, Monday evening, Tuesday morning, Tuesday evening we celebrated Holy Communion, Wednesday morning and the Closing of the Assembly, Wednesday noon. The theme for these devotions was the theme The Oil of Gladness. God has anointed us with oil (Psalm 45:6-9). God created us, treasured us and we each other (Genesis 1). God makes us a new creation in Christ, (Hebrews 8). God is making a new creation (Revelation 21:1-8). Creation began in a garden and ends in a city. God is just as unhappy with our world as we are! As our closing worship, we were marked and blessed with oil and sent into the world! Thanks be to God!

### **2011 ASSEMBLY**

Mark your calendars! The 2011 Assembly of ELCMA will be held in Charleston, West Virginia, May 9-11. The theme will be "Not What You Expect!"