

Western Jurisdiction and Pacific Northwest CAH's Welcome the HSUMC in Seattle

From the opening greetings to the closing worship of the 2010 HSUMC Annual Meeting the warm hospitality and excitement of David Walker and the Pacific Northwest and Western Jurisdiction CAH's shone through. After Dr. Douglas Strong, Dean of the School of Theology at Seattle Pacific University, welcomed the group, we were treated to a Reader's Theater, introducing the Rev. William Roberts (aka Lee Greenawalt), appointed by Jason Lee as Superintendent of the Oregon Mission and the Rev. James H. Wilbur (aka Jim Lewis) and his wife, Lucretia (aka Barbara Essen), who arrived in Washington in 1847 on the barque *Whitton*. Brother Wilbur became both missionary and agent to the



Yakima Indians at Fort Sim-co-e, serving under appointment from Presidents Lincoln, Grant and Garfield. Peg McCormack then gave an enthusiastic introduction to Volume I of *The Methodists in America*, by Russell Richey, Kenneth Rowe, and Jean Miller Schmidt. Volume II, which is primarily a sourcebook, was issued in 2000.



Our evening program consisted of two awards presented by the Historical Society. The Ministry of Memory Award was given to Milton Loyer, who has served as archivist for the Central Pennsylvania (Susquehanna as of July 1) Conference for 21 years and edits and writes for the *Chronicle*, the annual

publication of the Conference CAH.

Rob Sledge announced that this year's Saddlebag Selection was *American Saint: Francis Asbury and the Methodists*, by Dr. John Wigger, Associate Professor of History at the University of Missouri. This book has been hailed by many as the definitive biography on Asbury. Wigger stated that he began his work on Asbury by



asking the question, “What did the early leaders in Methodism, especially, Francis Asbury, look like to cause the movement to explode as it did in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. He described four characteristics which Asbury exhibited in answer to that question: 1) his piety, 2) his ability to connect with the common people, 3) his ability to use popular culture, and 4) his genius as an organizer.

Tuesday morning featured excellent presentations by Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Professor of Theology and Assistant Director of Women's Studies at SPU and Dr. Douglas Strong. Pope-Levison spoke on “African American Women Evangelists and Interracial Cooperation in the Progressive Era (1870-1920)” in which she focused on two women – the more well known Amanda Berry Smith and the lesser known Emma Ray. These two evangelists, both a part of the “working poor, with little formal education,” Challenge the previous suppositions that it



was primarily “aspiring” African American women who were involved in interracial cooperation. While Smith became a traveling evangelist who traveled throughout the world, Ray spent most of her years as an evangelist in the Seattle area. The two women actually met in Seattle in 1898.

Dr. Strong focused on Julia Foote, an AMEZ evangelist, who was converted in the 1830's and shortly thereafter felt called to exhort and testify. Despite the opposition she faced from her pastor, the Rev. Jehiel Beman, she continued to follow her call, preaching sanctification and illumination (wisdom). The apex of her career came in the 1890's when she helped to define the emerging holiness movement, which included a



loathing of ecclesiastical power and denominational differences along with a belief in blessed harmony with God and each other. In 1894 Foote became the first woman in the AMEZ to be ordained a deacon and the second woman to be ordained an elder in 1900.

After lunch Catherine Blaine, wife of the Rev. David Blaine, the first Methodist preacher in

Seattle, was brought to life by storyteller, Debbie Dimitri, who very poignantly portrayed the life of the young Catherine as she and her husband, David, endured both the joys and the stresses of attempting to bring the gospel into the sparsely populated wilderness of the Pacific Northwest.

Later in the afternoon we traveled to the



the Seattle waterfront where we boarded the ferry for Blake Island and Tillicum village for a dinner of traditional Northwest Coast salmon, followed by a performance of “Dance on the Winds,” featuring Northwest Coast Native Dancing. The night was beautiful and warm and the ferry ride gave us



gave us beautiful views of Puget Sound and the Seattle skyline with Mt. Ranier visible in the distance.



On Wednesday morning we boarded the buses for a day-long tour of Methodist sites in the area. Opening worship was held at Des Moines UMC, led by retired Bishop Jack Tuell, the Rev. Leslie Ann Knight, a member of the PNWCAH and the Rev. Marian Kline. At age 99 Kline is one of just three women still living who were the first to be received into conference membership in 1956.

Following lunch at the church, we traveled to Fort Nisqually Living Museum, a replica of the fort which originally was located near the Nisqually Mission where Chloe Clark and William H. Willson first served and were the first American couple to be married on Puget Sound. Then on to the University of Puget Sound, originally established by Dr. David LeSourd and the Rev. John F. DeVore. Here Richard Seiber gave us an overview of the remaining sites and we were introduced to the new book on the life of David LeSourd, *An Itinerant's Career*, edited by Chuck Luce.



From there we traveled to Steilacoom and a monument containing a bell from the first Methodist Church built on that site and the first Protestant Church built north of the Columbia River by the Rev. John DeVore in 1853. And finally, to the Chloe Clark Elementary School to view the newly dedicated (on July 10) memorial to Chloe Clark



Willson – the first American teacher in the Pacific Northwest.

The conference ended on Thursday morning with a presentation by Dale Patterson, GCAH archivist, entitled “Intelligent and Good Looking! – Historical Displays.” Dale’s notes can be found at the following link on the web: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/3785705/GCAH-Historical-Displays.pdf>. Closing worship was led by HSUMC President, Dan Swinson, and GCAH General Secretary, Robert Williams, with Dan in the dress of a nineteenth century preacher, lining out a hymn as would have been done in those days.