

Report of the Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference

Conference Dean
Rev. Annette Smith

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,
Emily Dickinson

Since our last Synod Assembly in 2008, *In Mission for Others: Signs of Hope* have been in evidence throughout the Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference in its four clusters: Montreal, Ottawa, The Seaway and The Upper Ottawa Valley.

Signs of Hope in Montreal

The Montreal Cluster, wonderfully cared for by the Montreal Lutheran Council continues with many fellowship and serving opportunities. Their multi-cultural Lutheran population offers an abundance of celebration in English, French, German, Estonian, Finnish, Chinese, Latvian and a sprinkling of Danish. The annual Lutheran Outdoor Worship and Picnic, the Easter Vigil and Oktoberfest are all occasions when Montreal Lutherans gather. In 2008 Montreal hosted the very successful National Worship Conference: "Order and Chaos: Hear What the Spirit is Saying". They also hosted myself as Dean with a very informative visit to the ministries in Montreal – great hospitality. And welcomed National Bishop Susan Johnson for a visit and the 100th anniversary of St. John's church building. Global Song was the focus of a workshop week-end in 2010 with guest presenters Global Song Group *Inshallah* from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Signs of Hope in Ottawa

The exciting journey of the Lutheran Anglican congregation in Barrhaven continues to gain momentum as the community grows, legal and constitutional requirements from both church bodies are met and ministry happens. Rev. David Selzer and Rev Ann Salmon provide exceptional leadership for this "from the ground up" shared ministry. As the hub of the Conference, Ottawa is often called upon to host Conference gatherings and events: In Mission For Others; "Taking it Home" Part Two (All Saints), Spring Conference Meeting and Event - "Stewardship of Creation" (April 2009 at All Saints) and Spring Conference Meeting and Event – "Partnership in Multi-Faith World" (April 2010 at St. Peter's). Faith, Nepean always graciously receives the Conference Council for their meetings.

Signs of Hope in The Seaway

We rejoiced with the people of Holy Trinity, Belleville, as they welcomed their new pastor, Rev. Rob Wiesner in 2009. The In Mission for Others initiatives are spreading along the Seaway and engaging congregational ministries. The ELW Spring Conference Convention 2009 was hosted by Good Shepherd, Brockville in partnership with St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Signs of Hope in Upper Ottawa Valley

We rejoiced with the people of Zion, Pembroke as they welcomed Rev. Svante Olson to their pastoral team, and with the people of the Maynooth/Raglan Parish as they welcomed their new pastor Rev. Carey Meadows Helmer. Cluster clergy meet monthly and share fellowship, discussion and worship. A Lenten preaching series and rotation see cluster pastors travel throughout the cluster for Wednesday evening services during that season. A new joint effort for some parishes in 2009 and 2010 was a Marriage Preparation Week-end with leadership from participating clergy. The Fall Conference ELW 2009 was hosted by Grace, Eganville. The ELW Spring Conference gathered at Zion, Pembroke.

Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre (incorporated in 2007) continues to offer summer camp ministry for children and families as well as providing facilities for many congregational gatherings and community groups. The Lutherlyn Legacy Fund was established in 2008 in order to raise funds for needed upgrades and repairs to the camp facilities. A \$250,000 goal is challenging, and the Fundraising Committee in conjunction with the Management Board is working diligently to see the goal realized!

We extend our grateful thanks to those who serve on our Conference Council: Rev. Marc Lapointe (Sec/Treas), Rev. Charlie Nolting (Ottawa Valley), Bianca Tessier (Seaway), Rev. Samuel King-Kabu (Montreal), Bob Pierce (Ottawa) and Evelyn Swanson (ELW Conference President) as an advisor.