

They are from L to R: Ed Bolton, Gilbert Westberry, President Dess Smith III.

"Kiwanis hears North Korea Arts Festival Program"

"The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting Tuesday night, July 15, 2014 at Catered Creations at 7:00. With President Dess Smith III presiding, we had 20 members in attendance with one guest, Brenda Sutherland. Tim Goodman announced that the "Drop-in-the-Bucket" 4 Eliminate project is still under way and doing very good. The Kiwanis District Convention is in Savannah on August 15-17. See Tim in the next two weeks if you are interested in the raffle tickets for the drawing at the convention. Anyone who is interested in donating something to the District Silent Auction needs to see President Dess. Jean Weise continues to be resting well. Pepper Fields is expected back soon. Chip Durden is now back in town and is in the Old Swainsboro Nursing Home for rehabilitation. We expect to see him back very soon. Travis' grandson is headed to Texarkana, Arkansas for the Pee-Wee League World Series. Good luck to all the Swainsboro team (Team Georgia

Wheel Pitch). The program for the evening was hosted by Ed Bolton. Ed introduced Gilbert Westberry, Associate Pastor and Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church in Swainsboro. Gilbert gave us a program about his 2012 trip to North Korea. Gilbert and the 146 strong "Sons of Jubal" men's choir left Atlanta on April 10, 2012 flying to Beijing, China on their way to Pyongyang, North Korea for the "Spring Friendship Arts Festival in that city as invited guests of the North Koreans. The group went from Beijing to Pyongyang on a Russian-made airplane that was over 30 years old but still working. The group was the largest group of Americans who had visited North Korea since 1953. They spent 6 days in North Korea performing at the Pyongyang Arts Complex and visiting various events in the city including a Field Day. The Field Day was very different from the athletic-type field day we have in the U.S. and included bands and other forms of entertainment. The

group was even allowed to visit the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the 38th Parallel, standing in the room where the Armistice was signed in 1953. The Kim regime keeps very tight control over the country and the group had police escorts most of the time they were in North Korea, but were impressed by the people, particularly the children." If you would like to join the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, please contact our membership chair Jane Durden at 478-237-2635 or e-mail her at hsdurden@bellsouth.net. Also, if you would like to find out more information about the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, organized on May 31, 1922, and the many community service projects that we do each

year, go to our website at: www.swainsboro-kiwanis.org or to our Swainsboro Kiwanis Facebook page.

