

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News

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FALL 2016

River Church celebrates 25th anniversary

The River E.C. Church (formerly Riverhill), Shipperville, PA, celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary on Sunday, September 11. Establishing a church in the Clarion area was a long-time vision of founding pastor, the late Rev. Maurice Friedlund, and his wife, Ruth.

Services began in the Clarion library, and one of the first outreaches was a Vacation Bible School in the county park. Grace Church in Ninevah (Knox) loaned several families to help launch the work. The congregation soon moved to a former fitness center. When more space was needed, a new sanctuary was added.

Rev. John Haag and late wife, Marti, served the congregation from 1998 to 2003.

Rev. Terry Jacobs is current pastor. He is assisted by wife, Karen, especially in leading worship. Mike Aaron recently joined the staff as Executive Pastor. His wife is Bonnie, who oversees hospitality.

The church has developed a ministry to the incarcerated, the recently released, and individuals with addictions. A year-old ministry is The Café at the River.

The celebration included morning and afternoon services, a dinner, a concert by the Crossover Quartet, and the baptism of a new believer.



Pray for the persecuted

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, sponsored by Voice of the Martyrs, will be observed on Sunday, November 6. Afghanistan is this year's focus. A free video and materials for purchase are available at www.persecution.com/IDOP or 1-800-747-0085. Orders should be placed by October 24.

Seminar marks 30th year

The Knox, PA Ladies' Seminar will celebrate their thirtieth anniversary on Saturday, November 5 at Keystone High School. Lois Eisenhuth of nearby Grace Church was part of the founding committee and will be a guest speaker. Pastor's wife, Martha Metz, also served on the committee.

The seminars were held at Grace from 1986 to 1990, before moving to the school. This year, praise and worship will be led by women from the Grace praise team.

Featured speaker is Carol Kent, author of *Unquenchable-Grow a Wildfire that Will Endure Anything*. To register, go to www.knoxladiesseminar.us or call 814-229-8992. Cost is \$35 before October 26 and \$40 after.



Preaching worship announced

A Charles Simeon Trust Workshop on Biblical Exposition will be held Wednesday through Friday, November 9 to 11 at Old North Church in Canfield, OH. "Preaching 2 Timothy" will be the focus. Speakers include Aaron Messner of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Stephen Beckley of Providence Community Church in Victoria, British Columbia, and Nick Gatzke, host pastor.

For more information, e-mail info@simeontrust.org or call 773-752-9876. Registrations are due November 4.



Rehab brings new hope to Sunbury Church

About three years ago, Bethany E.C. Church, Sunbury, PA began a series of major renovations to their building. Pastor Joshua Notestine describes the church's prior state of disrepair:

“The church had undergone many changes in leadership, and there had not been a consistent plan for rebuilding. There were many ideas going on at one time. Attendance was low, the work was overwhelming, and there was no solid budget. Pipes were broken, the furnace boiler had quit, and there was much damage from a leaky roof. The sanctuary was torn up in the middle of yet another unfinished project.”

During that time, Pastor Mark Meister, who had served the congregation, then spent some time away, returned, bringing new momentum. Some of Pastor Joshua’s family joined the effort, and the work moved forward. Joshua came as pastor early this year.



Make a Difference

The project has included sanctuary renovation with new carpet and flooring, new lighting, replaced sound system, and the addition of a projector and screen. Upstairs Sunday School rooms were transformed into a fellowship hall. A handicap entrance and ramp was installed, and the nursery was renovated. The downstairs fellowship hall was

refreshed and the kitchen was restored to working condition.

There is still work to be done in the downstairs Sunday School rooms, and an exterior “facelift” is planned.

Josh explains that work was completed by “a steady flow of help from the congregation, the community, and some local businesses. Also, there was help from many extended family members.”

Finances were provided through the giving of members, donations from other E.C. churches, denominational help, and insurance money for the damaged roof. Josh comments, “Countless donated labor hours saved a tremendous amount.” Work was done without debt or bank loans.

The pastor adds: “We now have a clean and well-able house of God! All of this is an unbelievable account of Resurrection through God at Bethany. We are able to carry on services and events. Accommodating the handicapped and ministering to the youth.”

“We are planting the seed in minds and hearts and letting God make movements. We are so excited for the future of the church and the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord, for giving us the faith!”

Museum opens, banquet announced

The David A. Dorsey Museum of Biblical Archaeology at Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown was dedicated and officially opened on June 4. The museum is named for the late Dr. David Dorsey, instructor at Evangelical for 34 years.

He was instrumental in developing the Pense Archeological Museum, which underwent major changes to become the Dorsey Museum. It contains over 500 artifacts from Bible lands. For more information, go to www.evangelical.edu/museum.

The annual Friends of Evangelical Banquet will be held at 5:45 pm, Thursday, November 3 at Eden Resort in Lancaster. Cost is \$50 per person. To make reservations, go to www.evangelical.edu/banquet or call 1-800-532-5775 by October 19.



New Ministry begins in Oil City

On Sunday, August 14, Charlie Cotherman, who grew up at Knox, PA Grace, and his wife, Aimee, were commissioned at Grace for a church-planting ministry in Oil City. The work is associated with The Vineyard.

A group which met at the Cotherman’s home for six weeks now gathers in the historic National Transit Building. John D. Rockefeller constructed the building as a base of operation during the area’s oil boom. Since then, much of the city has fallen into a depressed state, but an arts community has also developed. The congregation of around 20 seeks to reach out to the diverse population.

Upcoming events include a Princess Party for girls and their parents and an Advent Art Gallery, with local artists invited to participate.

The Cothermans request prayer “that God will bring us people of His choosing to be part of our church and to help lead our ministry teams.” They can be reached at 814-221-9149 or cecotherman@gmail.com.





Teens are invited to lock-in

The annual FAT (Friday after Thanksgiving) lock-in for youth groups will take place November 25 and 26 from midnight until 6:00 am at Ozzy's Family Fun Center, Leesport, PA.

Cost is \$25 per person for pre-registration and \$30 at the door. Youth leaders should register their groups by contacting Rebecca at Akron Grace E.C. Church, akgec@dejazzd.com or 717-859-2700 by November 21.

Camps plan retreats and events

Twin Pines

A retreat for pastors' wives will be held at Twin Pines Camp, Stroudsburg, PA Friday through Sunday, October 21 to 23. For more information, contact Debbie Marks, 717-336-5338; Tasha Byerly, 570-294-3456; or Michelle Roberts, 610-349-0863. register as soon as possible at www.eccenter.com.



Camp News

The Twin Pines youth retreat for grades six through twelve will take place the weekend of November 4 through 6. In addition, a hunter's retreat has been planned for November 27 to 30, and the ladies' Shop the Poconos Retreat will be December 2 to 4.

The camp's annual Celebration Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 6:00 pm at the Good and Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown.

To register for Twin Pines events, go to www.twinpines.org or call 570-629-2411. For more details, contact Andy@twinpines.org.

Rock River Bible Camp

Rock River Bible Camp, Dixon, IL will have their annual BOND (Build on New Determination) Weekend, October 21 to 23. High-schoolers are welcome. For more information, e-mail camp@rockriverbiblecamp.org

The women's retreat, Chick Fest, will take place October 28 to 30. If interested, e-mail fest@rockriverbiblecamp.org

Camp ECCO

"Essential Ingredients" is the theme for a youth retreat at Camp ECCO, Carrollton, OH, October 14-16. Young people from seventh grade through college age are invited. Cost is \$25. Contact is Bob McGinnis at bmcginnis@huntertrucksales.com or 724-791-2519.

Pastor Chuck and Annette Campbell, who recently began ministry at Delightful E.C. Church, Southington, OH have also been working as groundskeeper and cook at Camp ECCO throughout the year's season.



Family News

Retirements

During National Conference, the following pastors and wives were honored for retirement. They are listed with most recent places of service, all in Pennsylvania:

- Bob & Cindy Brown, Plymouth Meeting
- Bill & Judy McElroy, Steelstown, St. John's
- Gary & Carol Kuehner, Delaware Region Conference Minister
- Gordon & Donna Lewis, Susquehanna Region Conference Minister
- Mark & Diana Micklos, Fern Trinity
- Keith & Deanna Miller, Brownstown, Ebenezer
- Jim & Kathy Price, Mohnton, Zion
- Dick & Becky Reigle, Allentown, Christ
- Brian & Joanne Smith, Williamstown, Ebenezer
- Richard & Donna Sweppenhiser, Trevorton, Emmanuel
- Phil & Ellen Walck, Ephrata, Grace

Wedding

Jared Giles, son of Pastor Al and Cheryle Giles of Emmaus, St. Matthew's, married Danice **Reid** on May 21. The father of the groom officiated. The new couple resides in Manassas Park, VA.



Welcome Baby

Tomoyuki and Jessica

Abe, church planters in Fuchinobe, Japan, have a new daughter, **Talia**, born on July 30. She has a big sister, Alyssa.



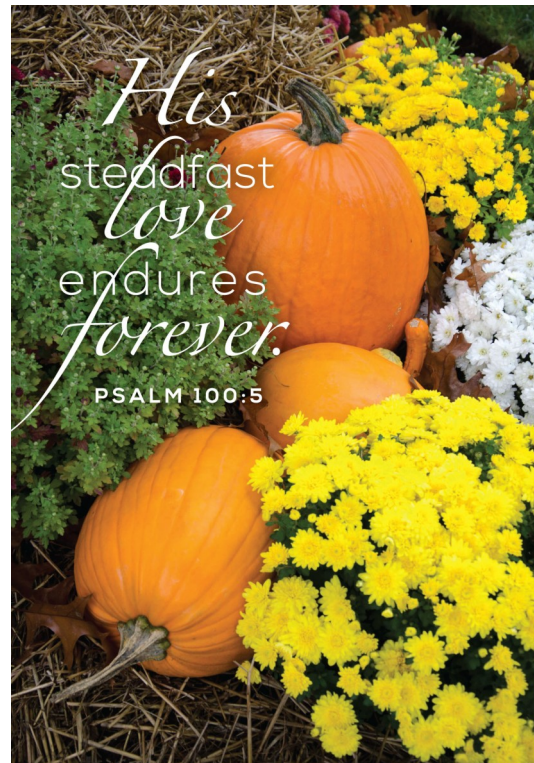
Remembering loved ones...

Retired pastor, **Rev. Barry Wagner**, 74, of Mohnton, PA passed away on August 1. He came to us from the United Church of Christ and served in Minersville, Frackville, Plymouth Meeting, and Bangor. He was a veteran. He is survived by wife, Shirley, and five sons.

Rev. Douglas Archer, Sr., 78, of Lehighton, PA passed away on August 17. He served in the United States Navy and was employed at the Shadedale Quarry. As an ordained minister, he directed the Yoke Fellowship Ministry in Jim Thorpe. He is survived by wife, Venetia; daughters, Carla (wife of Global Ministries Associate, Randy Sizemore), and Jenice; and sons, Mark and Douglas, Jr.



Alice Rowley, 72, wife of John Rowley, former Lay Delegate from Winnebago, IL, passed away on September 17. She was a native of New York. She was instrumental in the beginnings of the Winnebago Public Library, where she eventually became director. In addition to her husband, she is survived by children, Philip, Karen, Dan, George, and Wayne.



Ordinations

Pastors ordained in recent weeks are Douglas O'Brien, Ted Rathman, Dennis Snyder, and William Stoffel. We will report details in the next edition.

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