

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News

100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067
1-800-866-7581, www.eccenter.com

WINTER, 2015

Task forces give direction

The work of the Future Initiatives Team came to a conclusion when National Conference 2014 adopted the "Covenant", which they developed. The Covenant helps set the course for the denomination by focusing on our mission, "To know Christ and to make Him Known."

The mission will be carried out by denominational leaders and committees in four basic areas: Activate, Direct, Support, and Celebrate.

A new committee, The Covenant Implementation Team, is picking up where FIT left off. The team states: "The mission of the Covenant Implementation Team is to discover how, together, we can make the 2014 National Conference a reality in the daily life of the denomination."

Those points are:

1. We will move to regional shared ministry and leadership model.
2. We will re-evaluate our denominational relationship with affiliate ministries.
3. We will substantially reduce denominational operating expenses.
4. We will significantly reduce ministry fund asking from local churches.

We are grateful to both teams for their time and work.

Women plan retreat

The Allegheny-Buckeye Women's Retreat will be held Friday through Sunday, April 10 to 12 at Life Ministries ("The Castle"), Franklin, PA. Theme will be "God Thinks We're Beautiful", with speaker E. Valerie MacKeown.

Registration forms will be available soon. Questions may be directed to Karen Howell at 724-253-2483 or 724-372-3662.

Fresh Expressions Day announced

A **Fresh Expressions Vision Day** will take place Wednesday, March 11 at the Mechanicsburg, PA Brethren in Christ Church, 1050 South York Street. The organization, which began in England, says, "Fresh Expressions is about empowering and equipping God's people to develop creative expressions of church that can reach the increasing diversity of our society."

Hours are 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Cost is \$35. Discounts are available. For more information, contact Rev. Les Cool at 717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net.

"Community" is Conference theme

"Community" has been selected as the theme for the Thirteenth National Conference of the E.C. Church. The gathering will take place Wednesday, May 27 to Friday, May 29 at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Details and registration forms will be available soon.



Mission brunches slated

Mission leaders, pastors and interested persons are invited to informational brunch meetings. The first will take place on Saturday, March 14 at Hope Community Church, Fogelsville, PA. Pat Strain and Randy Sizemore from the Global Ministries Commission will report.

The second will be at Wedgewood Park Church, Youngstown, OH on Monday, March 16. Randy Sizemore will speak.

Both brunches begin at 10:00 am. There will be an offering or minimal cost for food. Contact pstrain@eccenter.com if planning to attend.

Kids are invited to rally

“Serving an Awesome God” is the theme for the Mission-Minded Kids rally to be held at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown on March 7. Children ages five to eleven and accompanying adults are invited. Registration begins at 9:30, with the program following at 10:10 and closing around 2:30.

Jamie Farr, who works with Wycliffe in Orlando, FL, will be special guest. Marcia Hopler and Kitty Miller will also lead a session.

Cost is \$5.00 for all ages and includes, lunch, take-home materials, and a curio. To register, contact slong@eccenter.com.



RHMA conference planned

The Rural Home Missionary Association of Morton, IL is planning a conference for rural and small-town pastors and wives, Monday through Wednesday, April 27 to 29. Location is Grace Evangelical Church of Morton. “Small Town, Big God: Making a Big Difference in a Small Place” will be the theme.

Cost is \$130 per couple or \$100 per individual, plus lodging. For more information, go to info@rhma.org, www.rhma.org, or call 1-866-263-2350.

ECCO fundraiser in progress

Friends of Camp ECCO, Carrollton, OH are continuing to raise money for their Build-a-Bunk project. This year’s proceeds will help provide bunks for chapel dorm rooms.

Participants can help their favorite dean raise funds by voting at www.GOFUNDME.com. The dean raising the most money will kiss a pig at the ECCO’s God FUNd-raiser on Saturday, March 21. The event will take place at Youngstown, OH Wedgewood Park, beginning with a 5:30 pm dinner.

If planning to attend, contact julieb51@ssnet.com or call the church at 330-799-1114.

Family News

Wedding

Sabrina Morrell,

daughter of Pastor Gary and Suzie Morrell, Allentown, PA Zion, married **Andrew Drescher** on November 8. The wedding took place at Zion, with Pastor Gus Al-khal officiating.



Welcome, Baby



Pastor Ronald and JoLynn Shipman, Bangor, PA First United, have a new son, **John Daniel**, born on January 6. He has a big sister, Abigail.

Remembering loved ones...

Mary Jane

Drupp, 69, wife of retired pastor, Rev.

George Drupp, passed away on April 1, 2014. She was a member of Lebanon, PA First. She and George began a puppet ministry, which has continued for more than 20 years. In addition to her husband, she is survived by sons, George, Jr., Joseph, Thomas, and John. (We apologize that this was omitted in the last edition.)

Retired Local Preacher, **Russel Jones**, 85, of Muir, PA passed away in early July. He pastored the Gratz and Williamstown churches. He brought leadership and carpentry skills to many mission work teams, especially in Alaska. He was preceded in death by wife, Faye. He is survived by children, Sandra, Brenda, and Russel, Jr. (We apologize that this was omitted in the last edition.)

Twila Dixon, 51, daughter of the late Rev. Gerald and Wilma Davison, passed away on November 8. Twila grew up in Ohio, where she taught school. Recently, she lived in Bettendorf, Iowa. She is survived by husband, William, and children, Anna, Nathan, and Ethan.

Norma Carr, 90, a past president of the Western Branch of the Missionary Fellowship, passed away on December 7. She was a member of Akron, OH Cottage Grove. She was preceded in death by husband, Bill, a



Lay Delegate. She is survived by children, Tim, Twila, and Sherri.

Lloyd "Biff" Botker, 86, oldest member of the former Highland Park, IL EC Church (now part of Christ Church), passed away on December 7. He had served as Lay Delegate. He is survived by wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Laura. He was preceded in death by daughter, Robin.

Timothy Goss, 52, son-in-law of Administrative Assistant Brenda Long, and husband, Donald, passed away on December 17. He lived in Hummelstown, PA and worked in sales. He is survived by wife, Lori; children Emilie, Steven, and Julia; and step-daughter Alexis.

Retired pastor, **Rev. Richard Ail**, 94, passed away on December 28. He served for 23 years in the United States Air Force. He pastored four churches in PA and was a member at Steelstown St. John's. He is survived by wife, Anne, and children, Daniel, Tim, Robert, and Suzanne.

Retired pastor, **Rev. Donald Schwenk**, 84, passed away on January 10. He had been living at the StoneRidge Retirement Community. After retiring from a teaching career, he served Dreherstown, PA Immanuel for 31 years. He is survived by wife, Patricia, sons, Scott and James, and daughters, Jill and Wendy.

Autumn McElhattan, 77, of Emlenton, PA Bethany, passed away on January 23. She loved mission work and spent five weeks in Kenya with the Pokot tribe. She is survived by husband, Robert, a recent Lay Delegate, and children, Dawn, Robert, Jr., and Tammy.

Lois Horne Allen, 83, wife of the late Rev. Harold Horne, passed away on January 25. Her second husband, Rev. David Allen, also preceded her in death. She worked as a nurse and was a member of Clark's Valley, PA Zion. She is survived by children, Dendy, Linda, Sharon, Carolyn, Cynthia, and Janet.

Rev. David Bailey, 60, pastor at Hooppole, IL Calvary, passed away on January 27. He also served churches in PA. In addition to ministry, he was active in music and theater. He was preceded in death by wife, Wanda; twin sister, Diana; and daughter, Martha. He is survived by second wife, Sandy; children, Bryn, Brian, and Brianne; step-children, Bill, Rob, Cyndy, Bryan, Laurie and Valarie; and sister Barbara.

Rev. Dr. Carl Becker, Jr., passed away in early September. He served as a missionary/educator in the Belgian Congo. He later served as the business manager and professor of Missions at Evangelical School of Theology from 1979-1993. He is survived by his wife Gladys and their three children.



Ann Brown, Editor
402 Walnut Street, Emlenton, PA 16373
Gary1780@juno.com
724-750-0010