



# Evangelical Congregational Church

## E.C. National News

Fall, 2018

100 W. Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067

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## Relocated church will celebrate anniversary



Pastor Mark Ammerman announces that the recently relocated congregation of Lancaster, PA Grace has begun a

month-long celebration of their 175th anniversary. Each Sunday of October will include a “Historical Perspective,” along with special programming.

Robert and Bettina Schaeffer of LIFE Ministries will be guest speakers during a 10:00 am to noon service on October 14. Worship and visiting musicians will be included, and lunch will follow, ending at 1:30 pm.

On October 21, The Messiah’s Messengers quartet will be part of the 10:00 am to noon service and program. They are led by John Heil, son of former pastor, David Heil.

A “Big Birthday Bash” will be held on October 28. The day will begin with 9:00 am refreshments, fellowship, and displays. A 10:00 am service will include shared memories, greetings from friends, singing, prayer, and a brief Bible message. At 11:30, birthday cake, ice cream, and other refreshments will be served.

About a year ago, Lancaster Grace moved from the corner of Shippen and Locust Streets into the

former East Petersburg Grace Church on Carpenter Street. Experiencing declining attendance and other complications, Lancaster Grace sought God’s guidance for the future.

Pastor Mark comments, “I felt quite sure we had a future, and in fact, God gave me the Biblical analogy of Caleb receiving his inheritance (his mountain). I knew he had a mountain to climb and to claim, and I had been preaching and praying about that, but we couldn’t see our mountain.”

Then, in April of 2017, Mark had a lunch appointment with a man who wanted to write the church a check for \$100,000—with the condition they leave their present site. Mark states, “This was the Lord’s rescue.” With new encouragement, the congregation searched for a new location.

At the same time, East Petersburg Grace, with Pastor Paul Barber, had dwindled to a handful of worshippers. In March of 2017, they voted to close, holding their final service the end of September. They handed the key to denominational Executive Director, Kevin Henry.

After the Lancaster church encountered several closed doors, Mark remembered that the East Petersburg building was being vacated. Kevin, Mark, and some of the members explored the building and felt it was a perfect fit.

“I asked Kevin what kind of deal

could be worked out,” says Mark. “He said he could write a lease for one dollar a year—and that’s what he did!”

After a walk-through, the board voted unanimously to make the move. In October, the rest of the members toured the building and also voted a unanimous *yes*. All the shut-ins were also in favor.

The move took place in November, and the first official service of Grace Church on Carpenter was held the first Sunday in Advent. Mark reports that there are visitors almost every week and that former East Petersburg members have joined the fellowship.

Mark adds, “Our biggest need is for the Body of Christ within our EC Community to see that they can help us rebuild our walls. Money is nice. Folks dropping in is wonderful. Prayer is essential. But none of that will make any difference if we don’t have committed families coming alongside us to strengthen our witness for Jesus in East Petersburg.”

Mark works part-time outside the church to help offset expenses. He is assisted in ministry by wife, Terri.

*Special thanks to Pastor Mark Ammerman. He will provide a history of the church’s 175-year history in our winter edition.*

## Twin Pines announces banquet and events

Twin Pines Camp and Conference Center, Stroudsburg, PA will have their annual Celebration Banquet on Tuesday, October 16 at the Smoketown Good 'N' Plenty Restaurant. Doors open at 6:00 pm. There is no charge for the meal, and an offering will be received for the camp. To make reservations, call 570-629-2411 or email [linda@twinpines.org](mailto:linda@twinpines.org).



Rev. Wil Martin will be presenter at a pastors' retreat Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23 and 24. Theme will be "More than a Minister."

Additional retreats and events are Friends Getaway Weekend, October 19 to 21; Group's Youth Ministry Training, October 20; and the Junior and Senior High Retreat, November 2 to 5. Contact Twin Pines for more information.

## River Church adds picnic shelter

A picnic shelter is nearing completion at The River EC Church, near Shippenville, PA. Work is being completed by volunteers from the church. Shown with the work in progress are Gary Brown, District Field Director; Michael Reed, Lay Delegate; Mike Aaron, Executive Pastor; and Terry Jacobs Lead Pastor.



## Decisions?

A leaders' seminar group on decision-making will be held from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Friday, November 9 at Grace Community Church, Willow Street, PA. The seminar will offer a framework for creating an environment for healthy decision-making. Sponsors are Barnabas Initiatives and Anabaptist Center at Evangelical Seminary. To register, go to [www.evangelical.edu/decision](http://www.evangelical.edu/decision) or call 1-800-532-5775.



## Women to meet at RRBC

The women's retreat, Chick Fest, will take place Thursday through Sunday, October 18 to 21 at Rock River Bible Camp, Dixon, IL (Thursday is optional). Speakers, fellowship, campfires, singing, games, and special activities will be included. To register, go to <https://www.rockriverbiblecamp.org/site/camps-retreats/chick-fest/>. Contacts Rhonda Giedd and Wendy Dietmier may be reached through Bethel Church at 1-815-284-3849.

## Pray for the persecuted

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church will be observed on Sunday, November 4. A DVD focusing on Pakistan, as well as other resources, are available from Voice of the Martyrs. Visit [persecution.com/idop](http://persecution.com/idop) or call 1-800-747-0085 by October 24.

## What became of Kimball Avenue and Bruce Ray?

Former EC pastor, Bruce Ray of Chicago, celebrated 40 years of ministry on July 9. He began at Kimball Avenue Church in 1978 and has dedicated his entire ministry to Kimball and the Logan Square Neighborhood.

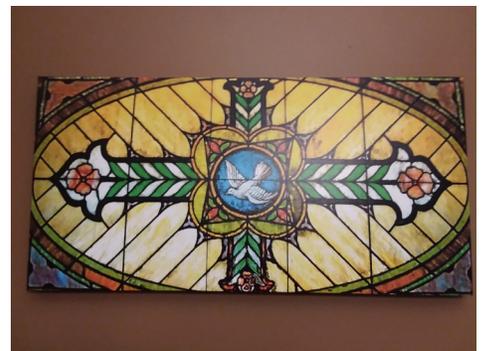
He married Karren Paoli on August 19 the same summer. She has had a teaching career and is currently a school principal. The Rays' children are Ellen and Jeremiah.

The building, erected in 1902, was torn down in 2012, with many of the materials recycled. Neighbors are invited to refresh in The Oasis Labyrinth, constructed on the site by a city youth organization. The large yard has also been used for vegetable gardening.

During recent years, the congregation has met in the former parsonage next door, the Inner City Impact mission, and other churches. They currently gather in The Oasis and a nearby Lutheran Church.

They are now affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Recently, they partnered with Nuestra Senora De Las Americas Episcopal Church, forming a bilingual congregation.

The Dove window, salvaged from the church, has become a Kimball Avenue trademark.



## Preaching Workshop announced

The Book of Mark will be the focus of the Charles Simeon Trust Workshop on Biblical Exposition, October 31 to November 2 at Old North Church in Canfield, OH. The workshop includes both instruction and interaction. Cost is \$139 before October 19. Register at [www.simeontrust.org](http://www.simeontrust.org) or call 1-330-533-6848.

## Young people are invited to BOND

Young people from high school freshmen through college freshmen are invited to BOND (Build On New Determination) Weekend at Rock River Bible Camp, Dixon, IL, Friday through Sunday, October 26 to 28. Arrival starts at 8:00 pm and continues until after the football games. Dean is Kenny Paoli. Cost is \$40. Register at <http://www.rockriverbiblecamp.org/site/bond-registration/>.

## Operation Christmas Child celebrates 25 years

“Declare His glory among the nations” (Psalm 96:3) is the theme verse for Operation Christmas Child as they prepare for their twenty-fifth year of ministry to children around the world. During National Collection Week, November 12 to 19, gift-filled shoeboxes will arrive at drop-off centers in the United States and other nations.

As boxes are distributed to needy, hurting, and unreached children, churches are equipped to reach out. Each box contains a Gospel message, and recipients are invited to participate in “The Greatest Journey” discipleship course.



For more information, go to <https://www.Samaritan'spurse.org/OCC> or call 1-800-353-5949.

## FAMILY NEWS

### Anniversary

**Pastor Shawn and Jennifer Morgan**, Fern, PA Trinity, celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on August 14. The two were married in the Lower Burrell, PA First church of God in 1993. They have three sons, Austin, Noah and Zane.

### Retirement note

Two superannuated pastors, **Don Wert** of Lancaster, PA and **John Phillippi** of Myerstown, PA are serving with PCAP (Pennsylvanians Concerned About Alcohol Problems). Don is president, while John is one of the vice-presidents. Youth education is a major emphasis of PCAP.

## Remembering loved ones...

Retired pastor, **Rev. Herbert P. Hartman**, 88, of Allentown, PA passed away on September 24. He was a native of Reading. He was a graduate of Moravian Theological Seminary and served five EC Churches, all in PA. Herbert was an electronics engineer before studying for the ministry. He built, serviced, and tuned pipe organs for over 30 years and also built scale model trains. He was preceded in death by wife, Jean. He is survived by daughter, Suzanne.



**Called Home to Heaven**

**Elsie L. Guistwite**, 97, of Carlisle, PA passed away on September 25. She was the wife of the late Rev. Richard Guistwite, serving with him in seven churches. She was a native of Leesport, PA. She is survived by a daughter, Janice and sons, Kenneth and Philip.

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