

E.C. National News

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Summer/Fall 2011

New Bishop Takes Office

The last item of business at National Conference 2011 was the passing of the gavel from Conference Chairman, Rev. Fred Moury, to Bishop-elect, Rev. Bruce Hill, senior pastor at Community E.C. Church, Sinking Spring, PA. The first item of business was the election of our fourteenth Bishop, with Bruce being chosen on the first ballot.



Bruce entered the ministry through Allentown Zion. He pastored Hosensack Grace from 1977 to 1982, then Bridgeville Zion until 1995. He was Executive Director of the E.C.C. Retirement Village from 1995 to 2003. He then pastored Community until taking the office of Bishop.

A consecration service was held for Bruce and wife, Gloria, at Community the evening of Sunday, August 28. Rev. Gregory Dimick brought the message, "The Call Goes On," instructing Bruce that "The Call is holy, but don't be afraid. The Holy Spirit will empower. Claim your solemn task." He urged the congregation to help Bruce "as a group whose hearts God has touched."

Bruce took office on September 1. He and Gloria live in Richland.

We are very grateful to Rev. Fred Moury for serving as National Conference Chairman from June, 2010 through August, 2011.



Bible Conference Slated



Rev. Randy Sizemore, Director of Global Ministries, will be guest speaker at the annual Twin Pines Bible Conference, Monday through Wednesday, September 12 to 14. He will focus on 2 and 3 John. Randy's wife, Carla, will lead a women's session. The camp is located near Stroudsburg, PA. For registration or more information, call 570-629-2411.

It's Back to Church on September 18

Cottage Grove Church, Akron, OH is one of many participating in National Back to Church Sunday on September 18. Pastor Bob Shuey comments, "So many today never invite anyone to church, and that may be all that is needed to reconnect someone to God's love and His community."



The initiative's purpose is "to reverse declining church attendance and encourage everyone to revisit congregational life." It was launched in 2009 in response to a Lifeway Research study. Of 15,000 polled, 67 percent said an invitation from a family member would be effective, while 63 percent said they would likely respond to an invitation from a friend or neighbor.

Last year, 3,800 churches participated, reporting an average 26 percent increase in weekly attendance. Ten thousand churches are expected to join in this year. For more information, go to www.backtochurch.com.



Grace Building is 100

On Sunday, August 14, Grace E.C. Church, Knox, PA celebrated 100 years of worshipping in their current building. The original frame church, dedicated in 1900 during the ministry of Rev. B.C. McDowell, was destroyed by fire in 1910.

A new brick building was completed in 1911 at a cost of \$4,400. It was dedicated in January, 1912 during the pastorate of Rev. Griffiths. Four additions have been built since 1955.

Current pastors are Richard Osberg, Jr., Lewie Bennett, and Charles (Chuck) Cotherman. Chuck has written *A Brief History of the Venango Charge, 1825 to 2000*, which tells the stories of Grace and nearby New Zion, Bethany, and Trinity.

Conference Minister Installed



Rev. Gary Kuehner, pastor at Salem E.C. Church, Lenhartsville, PA was installed as Delaware Region Conference Minister on April 17. The service took place at his own church. Rev. Fred Moury brought the message, "Character Counts in Servant Leadership." Gary took office on July 1. He is assisted by wife, Carol.



Women Plan Retreat

Ohio and western PA women will gather for their annual fall retreat Friday through Sunday, September 16 to 18 at Camp ECCO, Carrollton, OH. "Not of this World" is the theme. If planning to attend, contact Nettie Wells at 300-750-0438 as soon as possible.



Missions Day Announced

The Fall Missions Rally will take place October 14 and 15 at Salem E.C. Church, Lenhartsville, PA. The event will open with a Friday pastors' appreciation luncheon with David and Conce Roof of Brazil.

Saturday will again feature the Roofs, along with Yoriyushi Abe of Japan. Nursery care and programming through ages 15 will be offered. Watch for more details.



Widows Reach Out

When Boyertown, PA Trinity saw five of their women become widows in one year, they began a Widows' Walk ministry. The group meets monthly, with a different activity or focus each time. They play games, make soup to share and take home, and support one another in prayer. Snacks and time to enjoy one another's fellowship are included.

The women call on new widows, delivering a "Woofi Puppy" on the first visit. They also minister to widows in the community, inviting them to join the group. They aid the pastoral staff by knitting and crocheting prayer shawls for them to give in times of need.

Kimball Continues Transition

Members and friends of our Chicago Kimball Avenue Church gathered in the church yard on July 10 for a farewell service for the 110-year-old building. "Deconstruction" is in progress. The decision to dismantle the building was based on structural problems, damage from a faulty furnace, and the need for a facility that can better serve the community.

Pastor Bruce Ray explained that the church was built as a "permanent revival tent" with little space for other needs, such as fellowship and teaching. He added that in present ministry, "a building is a base of operation, not a destination."



Deconstruction is being done by The Reuse People, who will recycle 90 percent of materials, some in the new Kimball Avenue Church. Stained glass windows are especially valued. Homeless men have been hired to help with the work.

The congregation currently meets in the former parsonage and the church yard.



Family News

Remembering loved ones...

"Missions activist," **Glenn Paul**, passed away on March 23. Glenn served on several Global Ministries committees, visited international fields, and oversaw Stewardship Services. He was a school counselor and member of Sinking Spring Community. He lived in Wyomissing, PA and is survived by wife, Stella Jo, and four daughters.

Retired pastor, **Rev. Roy Haupt**, of Lititz, PA passed away on March 30. He is survived by wife, Sharon. Rev. Haupt pastored five churches.

Debra Green of Buffalo, NY, daughter of Rev. Ken and Cheryl LeFever of Millersville, PA, Grace, passed away on April 28. She is also survived by her husband and two daughters.

Jane Yoder of Myerstown, wife of retired Pastor and ETS professor, Dr. James Yoder, passed away on July 18.



Rev. William Fetrow, pastor at Mahanoy City, PA Salem, passed away on July 18. He is survived by wife, Ada; sons, William and Timothy; and daughter, Denise.

Commissioning

Daniel and Melinda Moury were commissioned as E.C. missionaries on June 5 at Trinity Church in Lititz, PA. Children are Hannah, Josiah, Leah, and Rebekah. The family is headed to Orlando, where Dan will be a videographer for Wycliffe.

Birthdays

Reba Leader of our Canyon Falls, KY church celebrated her ninetieth birthday on February 25. **Fern Sweigert**, also of Canyon Falls, turned 85 on April 6. Both were teachers in the Canyon Falls Christian Center School. When it closed, they continued to teach in the community and serve in the church. Miss Leader was also the Lay Delegate for many years.

Weddings

Carolyn Campbell, daughter of Pastor Chuck Campbell and the late Cathy Campbell, married **Nicholas Commisso** on March 28 in Hermitage, PA. The father of the bride officiated.

Erin Daneker, daughter of Pastor Robert "Bud" and Donna Daneker, Allentown, PA Horizon, married **Daniel Martin** on April 9. The wedding took place at Hope Community Church, Fogelsville, PA.

Elizabeth Price, daughter of Pastor Jim and Kathy Price, Mohnton, PA Zion, married **Xavier Smith** on May 14 in Nashville, TN. The father of the bride, along with Rev. Roy Ortlund, officiated.

Nathan Owens, son of Pastor Ralph and Connie Owens, Royersford PA Trinity, married **Lindsay Lippincott** on June 24. The wedding took place at Boyertown Trinity, with Rev. John Friedlund officiating.

Mark Anderson, son of Ron and Brenda Anderson, missionaries in Madrid, Spain, married **Abby Santiago** on June 25 in Versailles, KY. The two met at the Madrid MK school.

Devin Pogue, son of Pastor Dirk and Vicky Pogue of Christ Fellowship Highland Park in IL, married **Sara Schwessler** on June 25 in Bloomington, MN. The father of the groom assisted with the ceremony. Devin is the church's Director of Worship.

Austin Graff, son of missionaries Kurt and Nancy Graff of Grand Rapids, MI, married **Theresa Burdick** on July 9 in Seattle, WA. The father of the groom officiated.

Jeremy Kunkel, who serves with Engineering Ministries in Colorado Springs, married **Kristen Wright** on July 30. She is a music teacher.

Jessica Carr, daughter of Pastor Scott and Beth Carr, Akron, OH, First, married **Josua Jones** on August 12. The wedding took place at First. The father of the bride co-officiated with Brian Jones, father of the Groom.

Anniversaries

John and Carolyn Miller, Wycliffe missionaries in Southeast Asia, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 27.

The month of May marked **Rev. Frederick Moury's** fortieth anniversary in ministry. Fred has been a pastor of three churches, a Regional Elder, Susquehanna Conference Minister, and National Conference Chairman. He is beginning a new ministry at Conestoga, PA, Bethel. He is assisted by wife, Miriam.

May of 1971 was also the beginning of ministry for **Rev. Gary Brown**, Great Lakes Region Conference Minister. He pastored six churches. He and wife, Ann, celebrated 40 years of marriage on September 5.

Welcome, Baby

David and Emily Hershey, who minister on the Berks campus of Penn State, have a new daughter, **Junia Elizabeth**, born April 28.

Pastor **Nathanael and Katie Kennedy**, Emmaus, PA, St. Matthew's, have a new daughter, **Lydia Ruth**, born August 31. She has a big brother, Paul.

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