

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News

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

Winter, 2013

Cyclists are helping the needy

On January 7, about a dozen bike riders left Jacksonville, Florida for a five-month tour



they're calling, "The Young and Wild Expedition of 2013." The group, known as "The Young Philanthropists," hopes to raise \$35,000 for needs in Honduras. They will also do community service in the towns and cities they visit.

The idea began with Matt Friedlund, son of Pastor John and Kathy Friedlund of Boyertown, PA Trinity. He is leading the expedition with the help of Marty Ethington and Ashley Haynes, long-time friends from the Akron, Ohio area. Participants are studying and discussing topics of concern while riding and camping.

Donations may be sent to Young Philanthropists, 50 East Philadelphia Avenue, Boyertown, PA. 19512. For more information, contact Matt at matt@theyep.org or 484-553-7557.

(Source: *Akron Beacon Journal*, January 6, 2013)

Conference Dates



The Eleventh National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church will be held at Messiah College, Grantham, PA Wednesday through Friday, May 29 to 31. Information will be coming soon.

Church Health seminar slated

The Church Health Commission is issuing an invitation to a seminar on Saturday, February 23, 1:00 p.m. at Zion E.C. Church of Myerstown. "Kingdom Living in a World Gone Nuts" will be addressed by Dr. Kenneth Miller of Evangelical Seminary.

Cost is \$15 per person. Send registration and payment to Rev. Gordy Lewis at Church Center or call 717-866-7581.

Two churches merge

St. Luke's E.C. Church, Shillington, PA has merged with nearby Lord Jesus Christ Assembly to form New Life of Shillington. The transaction became effective January 1. Pastor Bruce Wagner comments, "We are still an Evangelical Congregational Church, but we want to portray a different image to our community." E-mail is newlifeofshillington@gmail.com.

Couple to visit Uganda

Pastor Dan and Kim Blank of Marietta, PA Reich's will be traveling to Uganda in East Africa April 27 to May 4. They will be part of a team distributing Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The two are Lancaster Area Coordinators.





Women plan retreats

"Follow Me" is the theme for the annual *Allegheny-Buckeye* women's retreat to be held Friday through Sunday,

April 5 to 7. Location is Life Ministries ("The Castle"), Franklin, PA.

Registrations at \$80 each are due March 26. Checks are payable to Women's Ministries. Send to Karen Howell, 4143-B Greenville-Sandy Lake Road, Clarks Mills, PA. 16114. For more information, call 724-253-2483.

Delaware and Susquehanna women will have their annual **"A Day Apart"** at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 20 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing, PA. Special guest is speaker and author Brenda Robinson. Worship leaders are "A New Desire" quartet.

A cost of \$35 includes lunch. Call Mary Lou Reber at 717-768-0244 before April 6.

MMK rally announced

Mission-Minded Kids are invited to their annual rally Saturday, March 2 at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown.

Theme is "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," with emphasis on India. In addition, missionaries Jim and Joan Farr and Lamar and Janice Stoltzfus will visit.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$5.00 per person. For more information contact Global Ministries at 717-866-7584 or pstrain@eccenter.com.



Church celebrates anniversary

Salem Reformed United Church of Christ, Lamartine, PA celebrated their 175th anniversary on September 30. In 2006, Pastor Christopher Lewis, who was serving nearby Bethany E.C., was asked to fill in for

Salem's pastor who had become ill. A temporary ministry became long-term, and Chris continues to divide his time between the two congregations.

Chris reports that the two churches do a lot together, including holiday services and mission programs. After years of decline, Salem is again experiencing growth.

(Source: *Oil City Derrick*, Sept. 29, 2012)

ECCO's Got Talent



The third annual ECCO's Got Talent night will take place on Saturday, March 23 at Wedgewood Park church in Youngstown. A 5:30 p.m. dinner will be served for \$5.00 per person.

Talent acts and a silent auction will raise money for the Build-a-Bunk project. Churches are also reminded to return their "Change Bandit" banks.

Contact julieb51@sssnet.com or nettiewells@gmail.com.

Camp offers "Digital Brain" conference

Parents, educators, youth workers, and others are invited to "The Digital Brain" conference at



Twin Pines Camp 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 27. Guests may arrive on Friday evening.

Presenter will be Dr. Walt Mueller, founder and president of The Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. He will address the effects of media and technology on young people and how adults can better relate to them.

Cost is \$50 for Saturday only. Live streaming is available to the Great Lakes Region for \$20. Registrations are due April 12. Contact shawn@twinpines.org or 570-629-2411.

Pastors' conference announced

"Weathering the Storms" is the theme *for the Rural Home Missionary Association's* pastors' conference Monday through Wednesday, April 29 to May 1. Location is Grace Evangelical Church in Morton, Illinois. Pastors' wives are included.

A variety of topics, including "The Pastor's Family Life in a Small Town," How to Plant a Healthy Small-Town Church," and "Tomorrow's Challenges for Rural Churches" will be offered.

For more information, go to www.rhma.org or call 866-263-2350. Registrations are due April 13. Cost is \$130 per couple.

Family News

Welcome, babies



Missionaries **Chris and Deb Bowers** have a new daughter, **Katelyn Emily**, born August 17. The family recently

moved from Papua, New Guinea to Spokane, Washington.

B.J. and Rachel Whitaker, missionaries in Alcora, Spain, have a new daughter, **Laura Grace**, born September 3. She has a big sister, Miriam.

Pastor Richard and Johnette Englehardt, Canyon Falls, Kentucky, have a new son, **Berwin Warren Thomas**, born October 2. He has a big sister, Joy.

Jamie and Anita Farr, missionaries in Orlando, Florida, adopted a daughter, **Sierra Rose**, in October. Siblings are Abigail, Jared, and Brandon.

Retirement notes

Rev. Glenn Hansen, retired in Massillon, Ohio, is a part-time driver for an agency that serves special needs adults.

Recently, he also began leading weekly chapels.

Rev. Richard Krcal, retired in Findlay, Ohio, is Visitation Pastor for The Rock, a United Brethren in Christ Church, also in Findlay.

Pastor Eddie Nelson, who served in Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, writes that with the help of his children, he is able to remain in his home in Sun City, Arizona. He is 96 years old.

Pastor Tim and Betty Wolcott, who retired last year, are moving from Barto, PA to Florida. Their new address is 7130 SE Bluebird Circle, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455.

Weddings

Adam Graff, son of missionaries Kurt and Nancy Graff of Grand Rapids, MI married **Christine Delaney** on July 28. The wedding took place in Charlotte, MI, with the father of the groom officiating.



Trevor Owens, son of Pastor Ralph and Connie Owens, Royersford, PA Trinity, married **Cathryn Culp** in Ambler, PA on August 26. They are living in Los Angeles.

Bethany Haglund, daughter of missionaries Roy and Sue Haglund of Nampa, Idaho, married **Nathan Harkness** on October 27 in Kona, Hawaii.

Jeffrey Hansen, son of Pastor Glenn (retired) and Madeleine Hansen, married **Allison Hupp** on December 28. The wedding took place in New Baltimore, Ohio, with Rev. Mark Maillefer, uncle of the groom officiating.

Richard L. Osberg, III, son of Pastor Rick and Debbie Osberg, Knox, PA Grace, married **Amanda Behling** on January 12 in Pittsburgh. The father of the groom officiated.

Anniversaries



Supernumerary pastor, **Joel Christman and wife, Donna**, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on May 15. They live in Justin, Texas.

Rick and Joan Sergi, church planters at SonRise Christian Fellowship, Bethlehem, PA, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on February 4.

Remembering loved ones...



Several of our Church Center staff lost loved ones during recent months:

Lee Breidigam, father of Administrative Assistant, Brenda Long, passed away on July 7. He is also survived by wife, Emma, and son, Bryan. He lived in Newmanstown, PA.

Lenoir Weigle, mother of Bishop Bruce Hill, passed away on October 29. She was an adjunct professor at Evangelical Seminary and Dean of Women at Philadelphia College of the Bible. She was a resident of StoneRidge Poplar Run. She is also survived by children, Beverly, Wayne, and Joy.

Betty Strain, mother of Pat Strain of the Global Ministries office, passed away on January 23. She was church secretary for the former Allentown Grace church and a member of Christ Church. She is also survived by children Daniel and Kandi.

Retired pastor, **Rev. David Heil**, passed away on December 4 at the Mennonite Home of Lancaster, PA. He served nine churches, including two plants, all in PA. He was Superintendent of the Eastern District of the Eastern Conference, held a number of denominational offices, and ministered in the camp meetings. He is

survived by wife, Virginia, and sons, Paul and John.

Barbara Ryan, wife of the late Rev. William Ryan, passed away on December 20. She lived in Reamstown, PA and attended Sinking Spring Community church. She is survived by children, Cheryl, Ed, Billy, and Karlene.

Dr. Thomas Leininger, 24-year Lay Delegate from Mohnton, PA Zion, passed away on January 11. He was the community's only dentist for many years. He was also Conference Historian and president of the Historical Society. He is survived by wife, Esther, and children, Thomas, Jr., Theodore, and Betsy.

Retired missionary, **Margaret "Becky" Moser**, passed away on January 12 in Tucson, Arizona. As Wycliffe translators, she and late husband, Ed, developed an alphabet and translated the New Testament for the Seri people of Mexico. She is survived by a daughter, Cathy.

Retired pastor, **Rev. Glen Bennage**, passed away on January 22. He served the Slatington and Lawn churches. He was a member of Christ E.C. in Allentown, PA. He is survived by wife, Marion, and daughters, Jennifer and Lilian.

