

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News



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WINTER, 2009

Mike Sigman to preside at ETS

On December 5, 2008, former Bishop, Rev. Michael Sigman, was approved to serve as next President of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown. He follows Dr. Dennis Hollinger.



After five months of work, the Presidential Search Committee recommended Rev. Sigman to the Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees gave final approval. Rev. Sigman had been acting President for four months. He has been a course lecturer and served on the board for 13 years.

William Worley, Chair of the Board of Trustees writes, "We are all very excited to present Mike as our next President. He brings the qualities and characteristics of a leader that match the desires of the evangelical community and possess the vision, passion, and Spirit-driven heart to move Evangelical into the future."

The Board also approved Rev. Craig Sider for the offices of Vice President for Continuing Education and Dean of the Evangelical Center for Leadership. He has been serving the Center as part-time Acting Dean for the past few months. He recently completed 12 years as the Atlantic Conference Bishop in the Brethren in Christ Church and is currently Interim Bishop of the Susquehanna Conference.

A service of installation will be held at a later date.

Preaching workshop announced

Old Testament preaching will be the focus of a pastors' workshop to be held at the First Presbyterian Church of New Castle, PA, Monday to Thursday, March 30 to April 2. Keynote speaker will be Barry Webb of Moore College, Sydney, Australia. Cost is \$99. For information and registration, contact 724-964-8152 or www.simeontrust.org



Mission Home is ready

The former parsonage at Bethel E.C. Church, Dixon, IL is now available as a home for missionaries.

The two-story house has four bedrooms, two and a half baths, a two-car garage, and a full basement with laundry equipment. It is completely furnished. Public and Christian schools are nearby.



Rental donation is \$400 per month, plus water and electricity. Gas, garbage service, wireless internet, and yard work are included. E.C. missionaries are given priority, but the home is also open to those from other agencies. Occupants may stay for up to one year.

Arrangements may be made through Tom Brey at 815-288-3849 or bethel@essex1.com. We are grateful to Bethel for this special ministry to missionaries.

Pat Strain completes 20 years of service



January 2, 2008 was the twenty-year mark for Patricia Strain's service to the Global Ministries Commission (formerly the Division of Missions). After service in Japan, Pat entered the office as temporary help. Since then, she has worked with five Executive Directors. Her title, which has changed over the years, is now Deputy Director of Missionary Care.

Pat has completed a Master's Degree in Counseling and Missions from Evangelical Theological Seminary. She has been accepted by the National Conference as Licensed Minister of Missionary Care in the Alternatives to Pastoral Ministry classification. She is active at Zion E.C. Church of Myerstown.

We appreciate Pat for the continuity she has brought to the GMC and for her helpfulness to our missionaries and churches.



Kids plan "bash"

Young people in grades five through twelve are invited to an After-Quiz Bash on February 14 at the Wedgewood Park (Youngstown) Family Life Center. The 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm event will follow the Ohio-Western PA quiz meet. Gym activities, a game room, a Snack Shack, music, and a movie will be included.

Cost is \$3.00 by February 9 and \$5.00 at the door. To register, contact Pastor Mike Soltis at 330-507-2141 or soltis-mike@att.net.

Ordination

Juliana Leshner, Chaplain at the William S. Middleton Veterans Hospital in Madison, WI, was ordained at the ECC Retirement Village, StoneRidge on December 22. In May, she will move to Louisville, KY to begin training at St. Matthew's Pastoral Counseling Center to become a Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor.

Family News

Weddings

Justin Butz, son of Pastor Brian and Karen Butz of Allentown, PA Zion, married Sally Stubbs on November 1. The wedding took place at Zion, with the father of the groom officiating.



Matthew Martin, son of Pastor Jeffrey and Dawn Martin of Ephrata, PA Grace, married Shanon Sittler on November 1. The wedding took place at Grace. The father of the groom, along with the bride's pastor, Mark Dewald, officiated.

Heather Howell, daughter of Pastor Donald and Karen Howell of Clark's Mills, PA Countryside, married Darrin Hawkins in Marysville, OH on December 23. The father of the bride officiated.

Jeremiah Ray, son of Pastor Bruce and Karren Ray of Chicago Kimball Avenue, married Alexandria Verstege in Appleton, WI on December 27.

Remembering Loved Ones

Rev. Paul Seiger, a retired pastor who served eight churches, passed away on November 12. He was the father of Rev. Larry Seiger and the grandfather of Rev. Timothy Seiger. He was a resident of the ECC Retirement Village.

Retired pastor, *Rev. Harold Smith*, passed away on November 12. He had pastored three churches. He was also a resident at ECCRV.

Rosa Bernheisel, long-time Lay Delegate from Lebanon, PA Bunker Hill, passed away on December 6. She was 101.



Ray Siegfried, who served many years as Lay Delegate from Allentown, PA Zion, passed away on November 19. He is survived by wife, Alvena. He was a recent member of Emmaus St. Matthew's.

Briana Smith, daughter of Pastor Brian and Joanne Smith of Williamstown, PA Ebenezer, passed away unexpectedly on December 11. She was an eighth-grade science teacher in Harrisburg. She is also survived by brother, Brad and sister Bethany.

Retired missionary, *Herschel Ries*, passed away on December 7. He and wife, Ruth ("Sammie" from maiden name Samuels), were instrumental in the beginnings of the Liberian Conference. A funeral service was held in Houghton, New York.



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