

Summer ~ 2018

networker

.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



*A Message From
The Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister*

So Glad My Father Is My Brother

In April my dad died. As a pastor, I had to decide if I would officiate his service or let someone else do it. I chose to officiate.

We held the service in the church I used to serve here in St. Louis on a beautiful Spring day. Friends and family were there as I processed down the aisle of the church in front of my dad's casket and the congregation sang, "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus." The service lasted an hour and was filled with beautiful songs of faith, loving words of remembrance shared by my daughter and niece about their grandfather and I gave a sermon reflecting on my dad's life, his journey of faith and his descent into dementia.

I do believe God gave me the words to say in that message as I talked about how my dad, once an intellectual giant with an earned doctorate, had in the end, lost his ability to think and communicate. Instead, by the time he took his last breath, he had been reduced to the intellectual level of a toddler who needed others to care for his most basic needs. The scripture that came to mind was from Matthew's Gospel when Jesus' disciples ask the Lord, "*Who will be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?*" And to answer their question, Jesus has a little child come and stand among them and He says, "*I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.*"

My exhortation to those gathered at the service was to remember that in the end, it's not **what we know** that will matter - instead, it's **who we know** and **by whom we are known** that will mean everything. Jesus says in John 10:14, "*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me...*" And in John 17:3 the Lord defines eternal life when He says, "*Now this is eternal life, that people may know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.*"

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Welcome to the Association!

During the past several months the following churches, pastors and individuals have chosen to become new affiliates of the Evangelical Association:

Lyerly Evangelical Church
Rockwell, North Carolina

Jacob's Church
New Tripoli, Pennsylvania

Trinity Christian Fellowship
Biglerville, Pennsylvania

Rev. Karl M. Kindt III
St. Louis, Missouri

Rev. Patrick J. Ruffin
Clinton, Maryland

Rev. Jody L. Van Dyke
New Bavaria, Ohio

Rev. R. Bruce Rider
Rockwell, North Carolina

Rev. Jonathan J. Gouthier
Torrington, Connecticut

Rev. Kenneth Duane Jarman
Mount Pleasant, North Carolina

Cassandra G. Williams
Franklinton, North Carolina

Tiffany Richter
Cullman, Alabama

David E. Sippel
Cibolo, Texas

Elizabeth Johnson
Cibolo, Texas

Stephanie Ford
Scherz, Texas

Brian R. Parks
New Braunfels, Texas

Networker

SUMMER—2018

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Rev. Dr. Steve Disher, Vice President

Rev. Rich Dubbs, Secretary

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Rev. Daryl Higgins, Representative of the Corporate Member

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As I wrote the sermon for my dad's service, I thought that it would be the best way for me to process my feelings about my dad's death as I shared the Gospel message in his honor. I also thought that the music we would sing and hear during the service might hit me down deep as we sang some great Christian songs and hymns. **But God had a different plan for how He would touch my heart that day.**

It didn't happen at the church. It didn't happen during the church service. Instead, it happened as we stood in the cemetery during the five minute committal service afterward. As I opened my little black *Pastor's Manual for Funeral Services*, I began to read the standardized words that I had read at literally hundreds of other grave side services during my 25 years in local church ministry. This is what the paragraph says in the pastor's manual:

(Pastor places hand on casket and says)

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *brother/sister, (name)* and we commit *his/her* body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him/her* and keep *him/her*. The Lord make his face shine on *him/her* and be gracious to *him/her*. The Lord look upon *him/her* with favor and give *him/her* peace. Amen.

Having repeated those words at so many grave side services over the years, I would always say them and then insert the name and gender of the deceased in the appropriate spaces as applicable. On the day that we committed my dad's body to the earth however, I suddenly found myself changing the words as I said this as I placed my hand on his casket, "In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God **my dad, but more importantly, our brother in Christ, Jim Barnes, Sr.,** and we commit his body to its resting place..."

At that moment in that cemetery, God reminded me that **my father was my brother!** As we placed my dad's body in the ground, secure in the Lord's promise of the resurrection to eternal life, I was reminded at the core of my being that the security I felt came not because the man we were burying was my dad, but rather, because he is my brother in Christ. In life, my dad knew and trusted Jesus for his salvation and because I know and have trusted Jesus for my salvation, we are **brothers forever** who will one day celebrate together in the presence of God.

This year, the theme of our Evangelical Association national gathering and 20th anniversary celebration is: **The Gospel begins with GO!** Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"

Sharing the Good News of salvation and eternal life with all who will receive it - can there be any command of Christ more important than this? As believers, let us never stop taking the Gospel to our neighbors, our cities and to the nations so that **at every funeral we attend**, we can take comfort in saying that the person in the box was **not just** our friend, relative, coworker or neighbor, but rather, that person was our **brother/sister in Christ for all eternity!**

Spring Regional Gatherings in Maryland and North Carolina



Pastors Dave Riley, Steve Wagoner, Dan Hetherington and Lin Smalec lead panel discussion at Mid-Atlantic Regional



Worship time at the NC Regional



Letting the light - glow sticks - shine at the Mid Atlantic Regional



Workshop at the NC Regional



Praying at the North Carolina Regional

The Mid-Atlantic regional was hosted by Salem Reformed Church in Hagerstown, Maryland, one of the oldest churches in the region founded in 1747. This year's theme was "Holding On to the Light In Darkness." Local EA pastors Daniel Hetherington, Lin Smalec, Steve Wagoner and David Riley provided leadership and led discussions on a variety of topics related to how the light of Christ defines us and shines through us in all circumstances of life.

The North Carolina regional gathering was held at Mount Hope Church in Salisbury, North Carolina and revolved around the theme "Be About It" based on Luke 2:49 where Jesus says, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Pastors David Franks and Steve Disher led worship and workshop leaders included Aaron Long, Lee Evans, Anthony Sowri and Kevin Lilley who addressed a wide variety of topics dealing with homeless ministry, youth ministry, church leadership and the end times. Lunch of pit-grilled barbecue chicken was enjoyed by all.



Volunteers from Salem Reformed in Hagerstown provide lunch



Praising God at the Mid-Atlantic Regional



Enjoying fellowship at Mt Hope Church in Salisbury, NC

Ministry and Employment Opportunities

St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church

Cullman, AL
Minister of Music and Worship Arts
Full or part time

Grace Community Church

New Caanan, CT
Full-time Family Discipleship Pastor

St. Luke's Community Church

San Pierre, IN
Part-time Pastor

St. Peter's Christian Community Church

New Albin, Iowa
Part-time Interim or Permanent Pastor

Salem Reformed Church

Hagerstown, MD
Full-time Pastor

Emanuel Unites Church of Christ

Manchester, Michigan
Full-time Pastor

Grace Lower Stone Reformed Church

Near Rockwell, NC
Pastor

Pleasant Ridge Christian Church

Greensboro, NC
Part-time Youth Leader

Beck's Reformed Church

Lexington, NC
Full-time Senior Pastor

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Trail Run

Small rural congregation near Sardis, OH
Part-time Pastor

St. Paul's Church

Quarryville, PA
Full-time Pastor

Salem Church of Rough & Ready

Rough & Ready, PA
Full-time Pastor

Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church

Woxall, PA
Ordained and experienced Pastor

Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church

Reamstown, PA
Part-time Worship Director (10-15 hours/week)

Grace Reformed Church

Troxelville, PA
Part-time Pastor

AFRICA – Chingola, Zambia

Missionaries needed as Primary and Secondary School
Teachers, Dorm Parents & Support Staff



**To learn more about these ministry
and employment opportunities,
please visit our website:
evangelicalassociation.org**

20th Anniversary Celebration

of the
Evangelical Association of
Reformed & Congregational
Christian Churches



**THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23



FIRST PROTESTANT
CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

172 West Coll Street, New Braunfels, Texas 78130
Church Office (830) 609-7729 X10

20th Anniversary Celebration of the

**Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches
First Protestant Church, New Braunfels**

172 West Coll Street, New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Church Office (830) 609-7729 X10

Friday, September 21 – Sunday September 23

The Gospel begins with GO!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Helpful Links in your trip planning...

www.firstprotestant.com

www.innewbraunfels.com

www.visitsanantonio.com

www.austintexas.org

www.traveltexas.com

LODGING 19-23 September 2018

The extremely popular tourist town of New Braunfels boasts of over 100 places for visitors to stay (hotels, motels, B&Bs, cabins, etc.). Mention the "booking code" to get the discounted rates at the locations below. If you have Reward Points from a certain hotel chain, or other reduced rate promotions (such as AARP, military, senior, etc.) you may find lower prices using a search engine such as TRIVAGO, EXPEDIA, HOTELS.COM, TRIP ADVISOR, ETC...

The most convenient, located next door to the church, is the Faust Hotel. Though older with rooms not as spacious as new motels, it is quaint and operates its own micro-brewery. Prices below are only valid until 19 August.

*= Provide your church tax exempt number when making reservations and save money and time checking in!

Country Inns & Suites

1483 I-35 N Frontage

830-387-4688

1 king= \$102 + tax*

2 queens= \$107 + tax*

Free Breakfast

Booking code= "0919FirstP"

Candlewood Suites

1471 I-35 N Frontage

830-837-4014

1 King= \$92 + tax*

2 queens= \$99 + tax*

Can purchase Breakfast

Booking code= "FPC"

Sleep Inn

1477 IH 35N Frontage

830-625-7700

1 king = \$71.00

2 queens = \$75.00

Free Breakfast

Be sure and call local number and ask for Michelle Francis or email, michelle.sleepinnnb@gmail.com

Ask for CHURCH RATE

Faust Hotel

240 S Seguin 830-625-7791

Single: 1 Single bed (small room)

Standard: 1 Queen bed

Double: 2 Full size beds

No Breakfast

Wed & Thu

\$69 + tax*

\$99 + tax*

\$119 + tax*

Booking Code="EA Convocation-FPC"

Fri & Sat

\$89 + tax*

\$119 + tax*

\$139 + tax*

AIRPORTS

New Braunfels is located on Interstate 35 between San Antonio International [SAT] (25 minute drive) and Austin-Bergstrom International [AUS] (45 minute drive). You may want to check airline and rental car costs at both airports to determine the best value for your trip. We have found over the years, that unless the round-trip airfare ticket is \$40-\$50 cheaper, then it is more convenient and time-saving to fly into San Antonio rather than Austin.

W₄ O₁ R₁ K₅ S₁ H₄ O₁ P₃

S₁ E₁ S₁ S₁ I₁ O₁ N₁ S₁

All Workshops EXCEPT #4 will be available at both 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm

1. Which Way is Your Church Facing?

Don Turner, President & CEO , Global Focus

You can tell the health of a church by which way it is facing. If it is facing inward, the church is sick. If it is facing outward, the church is healthy or getting healthy. The reason is simple; Christ's church is most healthy when it embraces what He loves most deeply - the whole world! So how do we turn our local churches outward? During this workshop I will talk about three major steps the church can take to begin to face outward. I will also talk briefly about how Global Focus helps churches to take those steps.

2. The Co-Mission with Jesus

Wink Kelso, Servant of Servants

An interactive workshop with discussion, questions and answers regarding missional activities and developing God's heart for the world in your church.

3. Conflict Resolution: New Twist on an Old Problem

Stan Hankins,
Ambassadors For Christ International

Untangling knots of discord proves tricky. Through creative consideration, this workshop recognizes inevitability of conflict, even within God's family. We gain understanding of causes and explore fresh steps for redress. We conclude affirming supernatural resources available in Christ. Conflict does not have the last word: Jesus does.

4. The Evangelical Association: Who We Are

***1:30 pm only**

Jim Barnes, National Minister of the EA

Liberal theology has been influencing the mainline churches for nearly a century and is now translating into policy decisions in many denominations which are forcing evangelical, conservative congregations and pastors to question their affiliations. In this workshop we will consider the Evangelical Association as a post denominational alternative for believers who want to take a stand for truth. This workshop is particularly helpful for those wanting to learn more about the EA or who are considering affiliation with the association.

5. Sabbath Living

Dan Hetherington, EA Company of Pastors

Everyone is called to live a Sabbath lifestyle, which for pastors can be difficult, and at times can seem almost impossible. But we are not talking about simply making sure that we take a day off, nor are we talking about Sunday as being Sabbath. We all need to be putting things in place in our lives on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly schedule to be re-energized, to be re-created, so that we can better come to the tasks God lays before us - more ready and prepared to work in His strength and not fall into a trap of trying to work in our own strength. There will also be an introduction to the Company of Pastor's and what we are aiming to do, of which living a Sabbath lifestyle is one example.

6. Keeping the Good, Going for Great!

Denise Martin Marshall,
Director of Children's Ministries First Protestant

In this session, the Director of Children's Ministries, Denise Martin Marshall will share her journey as she entered her position with declining student and volunteer attendance. Denise will present a sample of activities and projects she used to help renew the interest and the importance of ministering and equipping young children in her congregation.

7. Discipleship & Serving (Merge Student Ministries)

Chris Savage,
Director of Youth Ministries First Protestant

There is a true balance between time for discipleship and time to serve. In this workshop we will discuss ways for local churches to develop a student ministries program to fulfill the Great Commission. Come and be encouraged by how Merge Student Ministries disciple and serve people here in New Braunfels, Texas, America and around the world.

8. Taking Care of Your Own

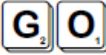
Jill Rodriguez,
Director of Lay Ministry First Protestant

There comes a time in the life of your elderly church members when they can no longer attend Sunday services and participate in church activities. That is when you must take church to them, letting them know they are NOT "out of sight and out of mind." During this workshop you will be given tools of how to begin or strengthen a Lay Ministry program in your own church. No membership is too small or too big. Whether you have five or seventy-five shut-in members, you will learn how to care for their spiritual needs. You will also be given ideas of how to increase the pastoral care of your congregation, i.e. meal programs, respite care, transportation, etc. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

20th Anniversary Celebration / Sept. 21-23

Annual gathering of the Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches

Registration Form

The Gospel Begins With !

NOTE: Please duplicate this form for each registrant as needed.

Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Address: _____

Church: _____ Website: _____

Position in Church: (ie: Pastor, teacher, music, layperson, etc...) _____

Saturday Workshop (1:30 pm): _____

Saturday Workshop (3:00 pm): _____

Please indicate any special needs (Physical, nutritional or other): _____

_____ Full Registration Fee is \$75.00 (Amount enclosed: _____ Check # _____)

_____ Saturday ONLY Registration Fee is \$50.00 (Amount enclosed: _____ Check # _____)

Registration Deadline is August 31st

Please make checks payable to First Protestant Church.

Please mail your registration form and check as soon as possible to :

First Protestant Church, 172 West Coll St., New Braunfels, TX 78130



Wink Kelso - Friday Afternoon

Wink & Glyn founded Servants of Servants in 1997 when they acknowledged the call of God on their lives for the nations. Their ministry is serving missionaries and mission leaders, equipping indigenous leaders to operate with a Kingdom mindset, rescuing women from human trafficking, and encouraging the western church to send and go, networking with like-minded Kingdom ministries to see global revival and the Great Commission fulfilled. As of 2017, Wink & Glyn have ministered in 22 countries to over 2500 missionaries along with the indigenous leaders they serve alongside.



Pastor Ray Still - Friday Evening

Pastor Ray Still and his wife Sandra have been married for 37 years. They have one son, Mitchell and daughter-in-law, Alicia. Pastor Ray attended the University of Houston. He has been the pastor of Oakwood Baptist church for 25 years. Oakwood has a membership of over 6,000 and holds 6 services each Sunday. Pastor Ray is the Chairman of New Braunfels Ministerial Alliance. He presently serves as a Chairman of Trustees on the board for Howard Payne University and is a Trustee for Christus Health. He is an Executive Board Member for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and has served as a Trustee on the board for Houston Baptist University, McKenna Memorial Hospital, and McKenna Foundation.



Don Turner - Saturday Morning

Don Turner took over as President & CEO of Global Focus in 2014 at the recommendation of the retiring founder and president, Dr. Larry Reesor. Don serves as the Chairman of the Board of IMPACT, an organization that exists to take the gospel to the unreached people groups of the Indo-Malay people of Southeast Asia. Don also serves as the Chairman of the Board of the LifeWay group of churches in suburban Seattle. Don lives in the Seattle area with Anne, his wife of 44 years. He has two adult daughters, Amy who serves with World Vision USA and Heather who serves as the Pastor of Community Life for LifeWay Church in Federal Way.



Stan Hankins - Saturday Morning

Stan Hankins is a graduate of Asbury University and Asbury Theological Seminary. Stan served as a pastor of multi-ethnic congregations in the Hawaiian Islands for fifteen years. Since 1996, as a full time international evangelist, he regularly speaks at leadership training conferences, teaches at theological colleges, and preaches in various ministry settings and retreats. Ministering under the banner of Ambassadors For Christ International, Stan has spoken across the United States and in more than thirty nations around the world. He presents a clear biblical Christ-centered message flavored with humor and practical application. Stan's life and ministry experience equip him with cross-cultural fluency and effect. He has served numerous denominations and collaborated with diverse mission agencies. Stan and his wife Brendalyn Ponilani reside in Honolulu, Hawaii. Their ministry is highlighted by diverse musical presentation. They have three grown sons.

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS

**** Please be aware that the speakers and presenters at EARCCC events come from a variety of traditions. There may be differences in points of theology, polity, and application. Each of our speakers and presenters shares with us a common passion for Jesus Christ, the authoritative Scripture, and the work of advancing the kingdom. (Board of Directors, Evangelical Association, approved March 8, 2013) ****



Combined Choir

We would like to offer those that have an interest, the opportunity to worship and sing in a joint choir at the Saturday Evening Worship Celebration. We think this will be a wonderful time of fellowship and joy for those in this joint choir and for those in attendance. Practice will be from 4-5pm on Saturday. If you wish to join in this worship opportunity, please respond below and return this information with your registration form. Music information will be forwarded to those that register for the choir via email.

Name: _____

Church: _____ Location (town/state): _____

Email: _____

Are you (please circle): Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Exhibitor Application

If you or your church have information or merchandise (Christian books, musical CD's, Christian art, cookbooks, etc...) that you would like to offer at the 20th Anniversary Celebration, vendor tables will be available. Small rooms are available if you need to store items prior to display. There are limited electrical outlets. All exhibitors will be subject to approval and are due with registration (August 30th). Vendors will be responsible to setup/breakdown and maintain their merchandise and table.

Note: Vendors are subject to approval and space availability.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Type of merchandise: _____

Requirements for merchandise setup: _____

Childcare

Childcare will not be available for any portion of the Gathering.

Evangelical Association

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St. Louis, MO 63126

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natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

Web

www.evangelicalassociation.org

Toll Free Number

877-424-1472

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REQUESTED**

If you are no longer interested
in receiving the Networker
Newsletter, please tear off this
address page and return it to:

Evangelical Association
9051 Watson Road #241
St. Louis, MO 63126

Desk and Digital Calendars Now Available

The Evangelical Association 2018-2019 Desk Calendar is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 17 month calendar (August 2018 through December 2019) features useful tools to enhance your church's ministry including lectionary readings for Sundays and major Christian holidays, liturgical colors, a pictorial listing of missionaries in the EA Mission Network, a listing of valuable ministry resources, along with contact information to connect you with EA officers and ministries.

The EA Calendar is a great ministry tool not only for pastors but also for church council leaders, mission committees and worship planning teams. Make sure you order enough copies for all of the ministry team leaders in your congregation. The calendars are priced as follows: \$15.00 each for 1-2, \$13.00 each for 3-5 and \$12.00 each for 6 or more.

The EA also offers a 2018-2019 Digital Calendar & Ministry Planner that can be utilized on an iPad or other mobile device. The Digital Calendar is a PDF version that contains the same information as the spiral bound print edition, but also allows the user to read the lectionary readings powered by Bible Gateway, and add notes and appointments to editable calendar dates. A free Adobe Acrobat Reader App needs to be downloaded on your mobile device for full functionality. The "digital only" version is \$10.00

You can order the EA Desk Calendar by:

1. Sending an email to natmin@evangelicalassociation.org calling toll free 877-424-1472. Be sure to indicate quantity and the address to which you want the calendar(s) shipped. No advance payment is required. We will enclose an invoice with your order from which to pay – we trust you!
2. Visiting the online store found on our website <http://evangelicalassociation.org> there you can place your order making a secure payment with a credit/debit card through PayPal and we will then send the calendar(s) to you and/ or you will receive the required link to download your digital copy.

