

# networker

fall 2011

...working the nets for kingdom advancement



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

## Getting Back to Basics *What Can the Church Learn from Wal-Mart?*

I read an article a few months ago that talked about some big changes that were coming to one of the largest retailers in the world. The article said:

*Wal-Mart is launching a promotional campaign called "It's Back," to tell core customers the discounter is restoring merchandise it removed from store shelves in a flubbed renovation effort. This past Spring, Wal-Mart shoppers in the U.S. began seeing signs in stores heralding the return of fishing tackle, bolts of fabric and other "heritage" merchandise that Wal-Mart reduced or cut out altogether as it attempted to spruce up its stores to appeal to more well-heeled shoppers. That strategy failed, and the retail giant now is pursuing a back-to-basics strategy to reverse the company's fortunes after seven consecutive quarters of sales declines at U.S. stores.*

*"Some of these products were very important to our customers, particularly in rural areas, and they let us know they wanted them back," said Duncan MacNaughton, the new chief of U.S. merchandising. "We heard them, and they are going to notice a difference soon."*

*(Wall Street Journal, April 11, 2011)*

As I read that article discussing how Wal-Mart had attempted to change their image to attract a more "cultured" clientele, I was reminded of a meeting I attended years ago as a young pastor in a very liberal denomination. The workshop was being taught by a professor in a mainline seminary who, in the course of an hour, **sought to discredit such Christian doctrines as:** the authority of the Bible, the deity of Christ, the virgin birth of Jesus, the doctrine of the Atonement, the physical resurrection of Christ and the Lord's promised return at the close of history. Virtually all of these faith affirmations were determined to be **preposterous impossibilities** asserted by "fundamentalists" and accepted by the "uneducated" masses (which meant most of the people sitting in the pews of our churches as well as pastors like myself), a group which the professor condescendingly referred to as the "locals" in the "social matrix."

Throughout the course of this professor's workshop for clergy, I found myself becoming increasingly distressed as almost every pastor in the room agreed with the good doctor as he hammered away at virtually all of the traditional doctrines of the Christian faith. At one point, when asked by an older pastor how he could avoid being fired if he stood in his pulpit on Easter morning and told his congregation that he didn't actually believe in the resurrection, the professor explained that the job of the "enlightened" pastor is to help the poor illiterates in the pews of most churches move from ignorance into the light of his anti-supernatural, rationalistic epistemology.

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# networker

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## GREETINGS FROM THE EA PRESIDENT

*The Rev. Bill Miller, President of the Board of Directors*

## CONVOCATION 2011

We had a blessed time in St. Louis for our 13th annual Convocation. The people of Bethesda Evangelical Church did a wonderful job hosting us and showing us fine Christian hospitality. As usual we had inspired worship, practical workshops, great speakers and terrific food, plus a visit from a knight in shining armor and an introduction to Biblical musical instruments. Next year's Convocation is slated to be in Louisville, KY at Bethel-St. Paul Church. At the Board of Directors' meeting we discussed at length the future of our convocations. There seems to be a lack of interest from some pastors and congregations to attend this wonderful annual event. The Board talked about solutions to this problem. We need to hear from YOU about scaling back our national meetings, continuing on with our present method or doing something new we haven't thought of at this point. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions --

*I want to hear from you!*

*continued from page 1*

Now as I reflect back on that workshop which was designed to influence pastors in a liberal mainline denomination, I have to honestly say that I believe many who heard what this man had to say actually did attempt to put his advice into practice at the local church level. The question is: **has this extreme brand of liberal theology had a positive effect on the ministry of the local churches which have been impacted by it?**

Considering the fact that virtually every mainline denomination that has allowed itself to be overtaken by radical left-wing theology is now **in a tailspin of numerical decline**, I would propose it is time they take a cue from Wal-Mart. Perhaps the time has come for the historic mainline churches to recognize that their attempt to remove "heritage" items from the spiritual menu being served in their congregations has resulted in the destruction of many once vital local churches in towns and villages across America.

Congregationalist churches, Christian churches, Evangelical churches, Reformed churches as well as those with a shared history in other mainline Christian denominations **must reject the false hermeneutic** of professors like the one described above and instead, **reclaim their reliance on the basic truths of our faith** which are revealed in sacred Scripture. It is now time for "enlightened" pastors to admit that the greatest form of enlightenment happens, not when we reject the eternal truths of God, but when we submit to them and acknowledge the One who is their source: Jesus - the Way - the Truth - and the Life!



## SNAPSHOTS FROM CONVOCATION 2011

*Pastor Jeff Siems, EA Board Member*

Traveling by yourself. Traveling with your spouse. Traveling with a group from your church. Same destination: Bethesda Church in St. Louis, MO. Convocation 2011.

New addition: Seminar for Pastors and Spouses: **“Ministry: Sharing His Cross—Sharing His Crown”** with

the Rev. Dr. Mark Friz. Handling conflict in the rural, small town, and big city church. Listen and share: incredible stories of pain and challenge. Yet God prevails! Today’s defeats become tomorrow’s victories!

Explore St. Louis! A great city: lots to see and do.

Friday Night’s Opening Session: Hymns and praise songs; organ and worship band; Bethesda Worship Team and Bethesda/Zion Combined Choirs with brass; Dr. Bryan Chappell, President, Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis: ***Becoming Really Rich***: *“The grace of God will not be profound to you until you are the greatest sinner you know.”*

Workshops a plenty: how to grow large AND deep; ministry with children, teens, and men; ministry in the country; money matters; church health. Good information. Good tools.

Unique presentations: the instruments of the Bible (Kent), spiritual warfare and the armor of a knight (Karl), and practical theology (Pat). Humorous! Inspiring. Memorable.

Food, food, and more food! The finest of St. Louis: brats, frozen custard, thin pizza, and barbeque pork and chicken, homemade pies! No one walks away hungry!

Saturday night’s presentation: ministry in music by “Spirit Wing” from Missouri Baptist University; the Rev. Jim Barnes; EARCCC National Minister and Host Pastor: ***For The Lord Will Be Like A Lion***: “Jesus is not safe but He is good.”

Sunday morning worship with Bethesada Church: traditional/contemporary with pancakes in between. The Rev. Bill Miller, EARCCC Board President: ***Lord of All***: *“Are we just going through the motions and putting on a good show or is Jesus the Lord of our lives?”*

Hugs and handshakes. Pack-up. Fond memories. New inspiration and motivation. Can’t wait until next year.

## Letters

We want to hear from our readers concerning the articles within the *networker*.

Send letters to:

### EMAIL:

[natmin@evangelicalassociation.org](mailto:natmin@evangelicalassociation.org)

### POSTAL:

The Evangelical Association  
9051 Watson Road #241  
St. Louis, MO 63126  
Attn: networker

Unsigned letters will not be accepted. Receipt of letter does not guarantee publication. Letters are edited for clarity and space.

### *Receive Your Networker Via E-Mail!*

To sign-up, all you need to do is e-mail your name and e-mail address to~

[natmin@  
evangelicalassociation.org](mailto:natmin@evangelicalassociation.org)

You will begin receiving your *Networker* via e-mail with the next edition this winter.

### NEW EA BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE

A brand new printing of the Evangelical Association tri-fold brochure is now available through the national office. The new edition, available in bundles of 25, has updated information including the address and phone number of the national office. Please discard the older version (printed in navy blue) and order the new version today (printed in light blue)!

### ORDER CONVOCATION DVD’S TODAY

*Did you miss convocation?*

Were you there but would like to relive the memories? Every major session of the convocation (except the workshops) are available on edited DVD’s.

To order, contact the national office.

### BULK COPIES OF THE

### NETWORKER ARE NOW AVAILABLE

If you would like a bulk shipment of ten copies of each edition of the *Networker* to make available to the members of your church, just contact the national office at~

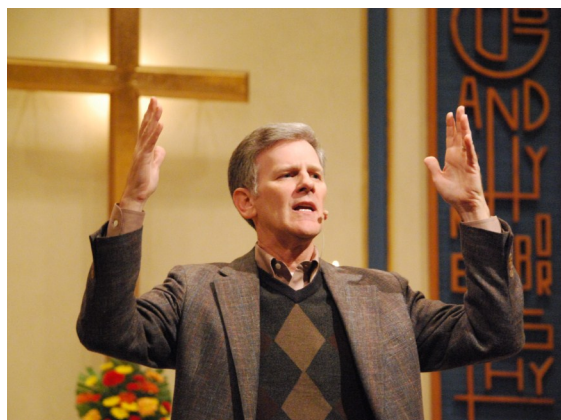
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# *Crown Him Lord of All!*

Bethesda Evangelical Church, St. Louis, MO





# Convocation 2011

September 16 - 18





## North Carolina Pastors Meet Monthly

Cracker Barrel restaurants near Winston-Salem and Raleigh provide the setting for fellowship as North Carolina pastors gather for good food, conversation and prayer each month. For more information on the Evangelical Association “Cracker Barrel Gang” meetings, contact Steve Disher (828-302-8993, e-mail: [steve@stevedisher.com](mailto:steve@stevedisher.com)) or Coslow Holt (336-578-3913). Any pastors in the region are welcome to attend!



**NC Cracker Barrel Gang** (Winston-Salem area)  
From Left: Jim Barnes, Joe West, (Visiting pastor from Korea), Johnny Boggs, John Bigelow, Steve Disher, Richard Moore, Jim Doris, Allen Tyndall, Rickey Payne



**NC Cracker Barrel Gang** (Raleigh area)  
From Left: Jim Barnes, Lee Evans, Coslow Holt, Charles Rainey, David Dalby, John Highsmith

## *Creatively Engaging Creative Types*

Christians have long been patrons of the arts, engaging those endowed with creative gifts to be a blessing to God’s people. Whether gazing upon Michelangelo’s famous statue of David or DaVinci’s Last Supper, we recognize art has the power to make God’s word come alive in powerful ways, often challenging us to see familiar stories in a new light. Early Christians understood this, adopting various symbols such as the ichthus, chi-rho, anchor, and good shepherd to represent their faith. More recently, Catholic theologian Henri Nouwen dedicated an entire devotional work to his reflections on the story of the Prodigal Son and the famous depiction of the parable by Rembrandt, illustrating the influence art can exert.



Recognizing that the arts can be an avenue in which we explore God’s

word and his world, St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church in Cullman, AL has sought ways to use the arts as a means for exploring faith and deepening fellowship. Through photography and, more recently, painting and ink-block printing, congregants have taken time to play, get to know one another, and reflect on God’s beauty and the Scriptures. The first Art in the Atrium, coordinated by Reverend John Richter, Minister of Parish Life, drew 60 people—children and adults—to paint Celtic Crosses. The effort provided a fun environment for members and families who don’t know each other to meet and mingle, while providing a great opportunity for members to invite guests. Previous photography retreats provided a prayerful opportunity to reflect on God’s creation.



Richter is considering a Prayer and Painting class for their Wednesday evening lineup this January. Believing most in our culture rarely take time to be still before the Lord, he hopes the class will provide an opportunity for members to learn to be quiet, to rest, and to listen. Basic instructions for painting will be given at the beginning of class, followed by times of silence and Scripture reading, during which participants will take on a prayerful posture while working.



Made in God’s creative image, the arts provide an opportunity for Christians to come alongside the work of our Creator to explore His world, create with Him, and grow in fellowship. Engaging our members (and communities) this way can aid us in deepening our faith, growing in faithfulness, and extending our outreach.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**—First Protestant Church of New Braunfels, Texas is seeking a Minister of Congregational Life. This is a full-time position at First Protestant Church, which is a large, multi staff congregation near San Antonio. The person called to this position will participate in a wide range of general pastoral responsibilities including preaching, teaching, visitation, etc. and will work closely with the Senior Minister. Salary, housing and benefits commensurate with education and experience. Serious inquiries (meaning you are willing to move to Texas if the Lord leads) should be addressed to ~ the Reverend Daryl Higgins, Senior Minister ([dhiggins@firstprotestant.com](mailto:dhiggins@firstprotestant.com)). First Protestant Church, 172 West Coll St., New Braunfels, TX 78130;860-609-7229 ext. 16. Web Site: [www.firstprotestant.com](http://www.firstprotestant.com).

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**PASTOR NEEDED**—Cross Community Church of Berne, Indiana, is seeking to fill the position of senior pastor. Cross Church is an evangelical church with historic roots in the Reformed tradition currently affiliated with the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches, a post-denominational network of cooperative churches. Berne is a quaint small city located in rural, northeastern Indiana about one hour south of Ft. Wayne and proudly celebrates its Swiss heritage. If you would like to be considered as a candidate for our senior pastor, please send a current resume and brief personal testimony to ~ Sue Bluhm at [ccc68ls@gmail.com](mailto:ccc68ls@gmail.com). Web Site: [www.crosscommunityberne.org](http://www.crosscommunityberne.org). Cross Community Church, 315 W. Main St.; P.O. Box 68, Berne, IN 46711.

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**PASTOR or MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEEDED**—Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt, Illinois (east metro St. Louis area) is seeking a full time (40 hours/week) Pastor (an Assistant or Associate Pastor) or Minister of Christian Education to administer, encourage and approve all educational programs involving children, youth, and adults in cooperation with the Pastor and the Board of Christian Education, and assume duties of the Pastor in his absence. Compensation: salary, parsonage, utilities and benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience. Suitable applicants for Pastor of CE should be ordained or ordainable, and have at least a two year degree in a pastoral related field. Suitable applicants for Minister of CE should have at least two years of full time related experience. A commitment to Reformed theology is required. Send Resumes with Cover Letters to ~ Zion Evangelical Church, 117 W. White St., Millstadt, IL 62260. Email to [zion@zionmillstadt.com](mailto:zion@zionmillstadt.com). Website: [www.zionmillstadt.com](http://www.zionmillstadt.com).

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**WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED**—St. Paul Evangelical Church in Cibolo, Texas (*I-35 corridor just northeast of San Antonio*) is seeking a part-time worship leader (min. 20 hours/week) for our acoustic contemporary service. Compensation is \$20,000/year. A track record of having grown a worship ministry and a commitment to Reformed theology (Calvinism) would be ideal but not necessary. If you can also work with our traditional service that would be a tremendous bonus.

**YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED**—St. Paul Evangelical Church is also seeking a part-time youth minister (min. 20 hours/week) to reach out to the youth of our community and build our youth ministry. This will be a challenge as our numbers are low, but we are in a fast-growing area. Compensation is \$20,000/year. A track record of having grown a youth ministry and a commitment to Reformed theology (Calvinism) would be ideal but not necessary. No phone calls please. Send resumes for both positions to Pastor Brett Becker at [puritan21@yahoo.com](mailto:puritan21@yahoo.com). Web site: [www.stpaulcibolo.com](http://www.stpaulcibolo.com).

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**YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED**—Salem Evangelical and Reformed in Reamstown, Pennsylvania is seeking a youth minister (min. 35 hours/week) to build a Christ-centered community among youth and to help the youth grow in faith, self-understanding, and strengthen connections to the community. The primary responsibility of this position would be to design, lead, and oversee a youth ministry focused on nurturing the Christian faith, studying and loving the Word of God, serving the community within and outside of our Church's building, and seeking to be a light wherever God has placed them. Suitable applicant should have a two year degree in a pastoral related field, or at least two years of full time related experience preferred. Send Resumes/Cover Letters to: Salem Evangelical and Reformed Church, PO Box D, Reamstown, PA 17567. Email to [salemeandr@gmail.com](mailto:salemeandr@gmail.com).

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**SENIOR PASTOR NEEDED**—St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Piqua, Ohio, is seeking a full time Pastor to teach the Bible as the Word of God and guide our congregation (including our children's ministries) with passion, integrity and honesty through a time of growth. The candidate should possess the qualities necessary to assist in building relationships within the church as well as within the community. The candidate's example shall be one of peace, joy, kindness, love, gentleness, self-control, patience and humility toward each soul wherever they may be in their walk with the Lord. He or she should be adept at developing the leadership skills required to foster teamwork within our congregation for the purpose of serving others needs and accomplishing God's ultimate purpose for our lives – leading others to Christ. For a full job description, please visit [www.stpaulspiqua.com](http://www.stpaulspiqua.com) or submit a resume by e-mail to [searchstpauls@yahoo.com](mailto:searchstpauls@yahoo.com) or by mail to: Pulpit Committee, St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed Church, 500 N. Downing Street, Piqua, OH 45356.

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## *Evangelical Association 2011-2012 Desk Calendar*

The *Evangelical Association 2011-2012 Desk Calendar* is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 16 month calendar (September 2011 thru December 2012) 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 Mission Renewal 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 at \$12.00 each or 2-3 for \$10.00, 4+ for \$8.00 each. Prices include shipping. To order the EA Desk Calendar, send an email to [natmin@evangelicalassociation.org](mailto:natmin@evangelicalassociation.org), or phone toll free 877-424-1472. Be sure to give us your full name and mailing address and indicate the quantity of calendars you wish to have shipped to you. You will receive an invoice with your calendars - we trust you!

