

networker

.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



Carrying the Torch: Passing On a Legacy of Faith

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

The Winter Olympics are underway and the torch has made its journey to the stadium in Russia where it has ignited the flame of the games. While I'm not sure how many "torch bearers" there have been this year, evidently there were 8000 people, ranging in age from 12 to 100 who carried the torch for the Summer Olympics in London a few years ago - that's a lot of people! Why so many? Well, it probably has to do with the value of having the Olympic torch travel to **as many different communities** as possible to increase the visibility of the Olympic Games **among a wide variety of people**.

Could it be that God has the same plan for the spread of the Gospel - His "light" of truth and salvation? Could it be that God wants us to be willing to give whatever time on earth we have to the task of carrying the torch of faith in our community and then

passing it on to the next generation so that Christ may be exalted in every nation until He comes again?

Recently I have been reading Billy Graham's latest book, *Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well*.

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Anne Graham Lotz, who will be the keynote speaker for the EA National Convocation in 2014, pictured here, with her father, Billy Graham.

Common Ground Christian Network

The Association for Church Renewal, comprised of leaders of the renewal organizations in the mainline denominations, is considering a merger with a new group being formed by leaders of the various entities that are being created by those leaving the liberal denominations. The new group would be called the "Common Ground Christian Network." Following an initial meeting in Dallas in 2012, it was decided that those coming out of the liberal denominations have so much in common with each other, despite the specific distinctions of their theological traditions, that they ought to find a way to converse with each other on matters of mutual interest. EA National Minister Jim Barnes has been participating in these conversations and will be attending the February meeting of the CGCN in Charlotte, North Carolina. The goal of the new network would be to look for ways the various groups can relate to each other for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom.

networker

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PRINT DEADLINES FOR THE NETWORKER

Spring 2014 Edition:
April 15, 2014
Summer 2014 Edition:
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Fall 2014 Edition:
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Winter 2015 Edition:
January 15, 2015

Welcome New Affiliates

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

St. Luke Community Church
San Pierre, Indiana

Rev. Michael DeLozier
Whitesburg, Georgia

Rev. Richard B. Holtz
San Pierre, Indiana

St. James Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Rev. James Byers
Lexington, North Carolina

Cambridge United Church
Cambridge, Vermont

Time to Renew Affiliation

Because the EA is an association rather than a denomination, affiliation with the EA for both churches, clergy and individuals requires an annual commitment. The EA "year" runs from March 1 through the last day of February, thus we are currently in the season of renewal. If you or your church has recognized standing in the EA, now is the time to renew if you have not already. The 2014 Renewal Forms were mailed back in January and can also be downloaded and printed from our website. Go to "evangelicalassociation.org," then click on the "recognition" tab.

Sign into the *NEW* EA Website

Whether on your mobile phone, tablet or computer, the EA website has a new look (evangelicalassociation.org). While several elements from the old site are still available, including the "Find a Church" and pastor locator features, the new site has a special "members only" forum section which allows pastors and individuals with recognized standing in the EA (as well as members of EA churches) to sign up and converse with each other by posting queries on a variety of topics. If you are part of the EA, be sure to visit the new site, create a username and apply for a password to gain access to this new section.

Carrying the Torch: Passing On a Legacy of Faith

(continued from page 1)

Now in his nineties, Dr. Graham says, *“The greatest legacy you can pass on to your children and grandchildren is not your money or the other material things you have accumulated in life. The greatest legacy you can pass on to them is the **legacy of your character and your faith**.....What is your greatest hope for your children and grandchildren (and for others outside your family who are part of the next generation)? Is it that they will become men and women of compassion, honesty, morality, responsibility, selflessness, loyalty, discipline and sacrifice? **Your hope should be that they will become men and women of faith, trusting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and seeking to follow Him as the Master of their lives every day.**”* (Graham, pg. 119)

In his book, Graham makes it clear that even though he has counseled presidents, preached to hundreds of millions, met kings, queens, prime ministers and world leaders, he considers one of his most cherished legacies the ability to see his “children’s children” living lives of faith, trusting in and living for the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, I’m excited to share with you that one of Dr. Graham’s children, **Anne Graham Lotz** will be a **keynote speaker this year** at the **Evangelical Association National Convocation in Landis, North Carolina (September 19-21)**. Dr. Graham calls her “the best preacher in the family,” and she is coming to share with us her passion for evangelizing the lost and reviving the hearts of God’s people in their relationship with Him through exalting Jesus Christ and proclaiming God’s Word.

The truth is, as I travel the country and have the opportunity to speak with “older” Christians in many places, what I discover is that many of them have entered into what I call “nostalgia mode.” What that means is, when they talk about their church or their faith, they often focus on the past - the days when they were filled with excitement about Christ and had vision for their churches. While there is nothing wrong having cherished memories, the past should never prevent us from focusing on the plans God has for right now.

Whether young or old, the Lord expects each of us to carry the torch for Him until the day that He takes us home. Billy Graham puts it this way, *“God doesn’t want us to waste our later years or spend them in superficial, meaningless pursuits. Instead He wants us to use them in whatever ways we can to influence those who will come after us. God wants us to finish well - and one of the ways we do this is by passing on our values and our faith to those who will follow us.”* (Graham, pg.118)

Brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Association: We are an association that includes many older churches. Some of our congregations have been in existence for literally hundreds of years. The task before us is to play our part in advancing the Kingdom by carrying the torch of the Gospel wherever God has placed us and then passing it on to those in the next generation who will receive it. As the apostle Peter reminded us at Pentecost, *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (Acts 2: 17-21)

Is It Time for You (or your Church) to Join the Evangelical Association?

Affiliation with the EA is open to entire congregations as well as to individual pastors, students and lay people. Perhaps you’ve been reading and hearing about the EARCCC for a while, but you’ve never stepped across the line to actually affiliate with the association and become a part of the network. The EA is only as strong as those who choose to affiliate with us each year, so if you have never signed on, please visit our web site (www.evangelicalassociation.org) where you can download and print an application form. If you need to know more about the EA or if your church would like to have an informational presentation, please contact the national minister’s office at natmin@evangelicalassociation.org or 877-424-1472.

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~
natmin@evangelicalassociation.org
or toll free at
877-424-1472

KNOTS IN THE NET

Getting to know the Congregations, Clergy and Laity of the Evangelical Association

Empowering Lay People for Ministry

The Rev. Marty Guise - St. Louis, Missouri

Before Marty Guise was even born, a group of 250 Christian laymen began meeting in 1954 in Dallas for an interdenominational Bible study. As the Bible study matured, the laymen involved began to realize that there was a deep need in the church for lay people to tell other lay people about what God was doing in their lives - out of that vision, *Lay Renewal Ministries* was born. For decades now, this ministry has sent teams of laymen and laywomen into churches for short weekend events where people share what God is doing in their lives as they help congregations take the first steps in spiritual renewal.

It was in 1996 that Marty Guise was hired to work at the resource center of *Lay Renewal Ministries* in St. Louis. He had come to faith in high school and while on a mission trip to Central America, Marty began to sense that God was calling him to some kind of full-time ministry. After receiving a degree from Covenant Theological Seminary, he continued working for *Lay Renewal* and began serving in the “event planning” part of the ministry. As the ministry developed, it became clear that churches that were experiencing spiritual renewal would need tools for leadership training, vision casting and vision development. In order to help facilitate that process, Marty has written two books, *Seeing From the Summit: The Journey of an Effective Church* and *Giving Life to Vision: Moving the Church from Plans to Progress*.



Although he had never considered serving as a local church pastor, in 2009, Marty was approached by members of a former UCC congregation in need of a part-time pastor. Sensing a call to this particular ministry, Marty accepted and began serving as a pastor at Redeemer Evangelical Church. He was ordained there in 2010 and received recognition of standing in the Evangelical Association in 2011.

Marty lives in the St. Louis area with his wife Diana, a son and a daughter. For more information on Marty’s ministry, visit layrenewal.com or contact him at 800-747-0815, mguise@layrenewal.com

Tell us what is happening in your ministry!!!

E-mail articles to ~ natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

KNOTS IN THE NET

Getting to know the Congregations, Clergy and Laity of the Evangelical Association

Blending the Old and the New

Pastor Eric Cox - Naples, Florida

When you get on a plane to travel to Southwest Florida, most of the seats are occupied by senior citizens. Although the beaches in Miami are known as a haven for the young and those looking for a party, the warm waves of the Gulf that break on the shell covered beaches of Naples are known to attract primarily families and retirees looking for a more low key place to vacation or relocate. Perhaps that is why the pews of Community Congregational Church are filled each Sunday with many who are well into their retirement years.

In 2011, Pastor Eric Cox was called to be the associate pastor at Community Congregational with the primary task of finding a way to expand the church's ministry to include younger people and families with children. At the time, the Rev. Tom Louis (also an EA minister) was the senior pastor and Eric began working to develop an alternative worship service called "C3 a Modern Worship Experience." Not long after Eric arrived at the church, Pastor Tom stepped down to pursue a call to a new ministry position in Houston. Eric then became the interim and eventually the new senior pastor of the church. For the past few years, Pastor Eric has been working diligently to blend the old and new as the early worship service at the church is fully "traditional" with an organ, piano, choir and hymns taking place in a brightly lit sanctuary with stained glass windows and pews. Meanwhile, the second service is completely "contemporary" with a worship band, electric guitars, drums, keyboard and multi-media happening in a darkened multipurpose room with portable chairs and stage lighting. Pastor Eric preaches at both services and the church is growing.

The goal, says Pastor Eric, is to look for more ways to integrate the total ministry of Community Congregational church as those who attend the two very different looking worship services find opportunities to serve together, study together and have fellowship with each other. While such a diversity of worship styles within the same congregation might be intimidating to some, for Eric Cox it is an invigorating environment as he continues to lead the church into God's preferred future.

Pastor Eric received recognition in the Evangelical Association in 2011. He and his wife Jamie live in Ft. Myers, Florida with their two daughters. Pastor Eric can be reached at 239-597-1000 or ericc@cccnaples.org.



Eric Cox leading the C3 Modern Worship Experience later on Sunday morning



Pastor Eric leading the Traditional Service at 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Ministry Opportunities

ALABAMA – St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church, Cullman Alabama is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor who has a heart for serving our Lord. If you base your messages on Scripture, have a heart for ministering to the lost and hurting, teaching and providing for the spiritual growth of His children, then submit your application. We are seeking a dynamic Senior Pastor with a minimum of five years experience, an accredited seminary degree and a testimony of personal faith in Jesus Christ who places a priority on evangelism and missions. Our normal attendance revolves around 500 in three services on Sunday. Cullman is a city of 15,000 with an outstanding school system, award winning park facilities and an ideal environment for raising children. We are located on I-65, one hour from Birmingham or Huntsville. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. Interested applicants can check our website at www.sjepc.com or contact Karen Hassell at 256-734-0344 or karen.hassell@sjepc.com for more information.

KENTUCKY – St. John’s Congregational Church of West Covington, Kentucky (just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, OH) is seeking a part-time Pastor. We are an independent Congregational church with an average weekly attendance of thirty-five members, friends and guests. Our church is committed to traditional Protestant worship. While standing within the Reformed tradition, the congregation includes people from a variety of theological viewpoints. St. John’s was one of 25 small congregations selected nationally in 2007 to receive a Summer Collegium grant funded by the Eli Lilly Foundation. We are now in our 122nd year of Christian service to the community. Bachelors degree required, M.Div. preferred or related masters degree. Prior pastoral leadership required or similar experience. Salary: approx. \$10,000. Contact: Dan Dilts, Council President at (859) 261-0385 (Home) or email djilts@fuse.net

OHIO – Associate Pastor of Family Life Ministries at Jerusalem Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio. We are looking for an individual who loves children and youth and has a desire to introduce, lead and disciple them in their relationship to Jesus Christ. This is a full-time position. Please feel free to check out our web-page for information about the church www.jerusalemchurchnp.org. If interested please contact and/or send resumes to: Search Committee at Jerusalem Church 1417 Stonecreek Rd SW New Philadelphia, OH 44663 jerusalemchurch12@yahoo.com.

NORTH CAROLINA – Boger Reformed Church is seeking a full-time pastor who will passionately teach/preach the Word of God and present the Gospel. We are looking for a pastor who will provide vision and guidance to the church. Boger Reformed Church is located in a rural community located outside of Concord, NC in Cabarrus County. There is a parsonage, playground, fellowship hall, barbecue hut and a traditional sanctuary located on approximately a fourteen-acre campus. There are 80 active members. Interested applicants should email questions and

resumes to mike@tridenteng.us

NORTH CAROLINA – Rodger’s Park Reformed Church, Kannapolis, NC is seeking a full-time pastor to teach and provide for the spiritual growth of a small congregation. We are looking for an individual who loves people and has a desire to work diligently at bringing new members into the church. Exact duties could be determined after discussion. Please send resume prchurch@hotmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA – Grace Church, 12 Dromgold Road, Shermans Dale, PA is seeking a part-time pastor (perhaps a retired pastor who lives in our area). Our web site is www.graceatdromgold.org Exact duties and time could be determined after discussion and would depend on your desires and our ability to pay. Initial contact can be made to Dr. Bob Gasull at 717-582-8671 or bgasull@embarqmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA – Swamp Christian Fellowship of Reinholds, PA www.swamppcf.org is seeking a part-time Music Director to lead worship through music in blended services. The candidate must enjoy and be able to lead both traditional hymns and contemporary praise, working with both choir and worship band. Other responsibilities include oversight of special music events. Please contact Ted Reimel at 717-203-8620 or tedreimel@gmail.com

WEST VIRGINIA – Timber Ridge Christian Church of High View, West Virginia is seeking a permanent part-time pastor. The church was formerly associated with the United Church of Christ, but is now an independent church (that just joined the Evangelical Association) with an average attendance of 35 persons, who are mostly members of the church. We have a 200 year history in our community. We are looking for a pastor, who shares our traditional conservative philosophy and who can lead willing parishioners to their full potential. We would like to grow our church, not only in size, but also in service to God and our community. Our vision for ministry includes a pastor who can relate to others, especially young people, is secure in his/her relationship with God, can accept and promote the doctrine and statement of faith that we hold to be true, is an organized leader, can prayerfully encourage others in their daily faith and relationship with God, and can seek to bring others to salvation, by accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The candidate should preferably be a graduate of an accredited seminary or equivalent. We offer a \$33,000 package of salary and benefits and require a minimum of 20 hours per week. To obtain a full profile of the church or to submit an application, please contact Alan Brill, Search Committee Chair, PO Box 66, High View, WV 26808, phone (304) 856-3635, or timberidgechristianchurch@gmail.com



The EA Is Now on Facebook!



Want to connect with other EA members around the country? Check out the EA's "Group" and "Fan" pages on Facebook. Just search for ~

Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches

And check us out!!

National Minister Fund Appeal

This past Fall an appeal was issued by the EA Board of Directors encouraging churches in the association to consider adding support of the National Minister to their annual budgets. In addition, a challenge was also made with the hope that 200 individuals could be enlisted to give at least twenty dollars a month for two years to help fund the work of our full-time national minister giving the churches time to get on board.

While the appeal did not reach the 200 person goal, it did result in a 27 percent increase in the number of individuals and churches making a commitment to support the fund on a regular basis. There was also a 48 percent increase in support given to the National Minister Fund between 2012 and 2013.

The National Minister relies on the sacrificial gifts of those churches and individuals who support the fund through “extra mile” giving. Most of the annual dues paid by churches and pastors to retain affiliation with the Evangelical Association are used to cover the current expenses of maintaining a functional association and are not adequate to support even our single full-time staff person. For this reason, the Board of Directors continues to encourage churches to put the National Minister into their general or mission budget and to thank individuals who have joined the National Minister support team so that the work of the EA may continue. Should you wish to make a donation, please mail your contribution to the EA National Office in St. Louis.

New Life for Old Churches Seminar

Studies show that the vast majority of churches in the United States are in a state of decline. Many older churches have members who remember the “glory days” back when there were large numbers of children in Sunday school and extra chairs set up in the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas services. Some of these same churches now have meetings during which the leaders spend most of their time discussing how to pay for repairs on an aging building and whether the church will even survive into the future.

Is there hope for the church that needs to experience a turnaround? Can a church that has started to stagnate begin to experience new life and be revitalized to meet the intense ministry demands of the 21st century?

The answer is “yes,” but such a transformation will rarely be easy. EA National Minister Jim Barnes has put together a seminar to help participants consider the blessings of becoming a turnaround church while also looking carefully at the barriers that easily stop a church in its tracks from ever moving forward. To date he has given the seminar at churches in South Dakota, Connecticut and West Virginia. If you would like to host the event in your area, please contact the national office.



***The next two scheduled times for this seminar are:
Saturday, April 5 in Decatur, IN (near Ft. Wayne)
and
Saturday, May 3 in Reamstown, PA.***

*Visit the EA website to
download registration brochures for this seminar.*

Evangelical Association

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Spring Regional Gatherings Planned

There are regional events being planned in three different areas of the country. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will bring many from your church to a gathering near you. Registration information for these events will be available on the EA website as soon as it is available or you can contact the individuals listed below.

Saturday, March 22 – North Carolina Regional

True Worship Christian Church, 1899 Wilkins St., Burlington, NC 27217 from 9AM-3PM. For information contact: Pastor C.L. Covington, (336)514-2837, email calvincovington2442@gmail.com or Vicky Holt (336)214-4424.

Saturday, March 29 – Mid-Atlantic Regional

Salem Church, 4881 Salem Church Rd., Waynesboro, PA 17268 from 9AM-4PM. The theme of the day is “Reaping the Harvest” and Bruce Dreisbach, co-founder of “The New Life” movement will be the featured speaker. For information contact: Pastor Lin Smalec, (717)762-8531, email revlin02@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 5 – Upper Midwest Regional

St. Luke Church, 4960 W 100 N, Decatur, IN 46733 from 9:30AM-4PM. The theme of the day will be “New Life for Old Churches” and Jim Barnes, EA National Minister will be the featured speaker. For information contact: Pastor Mike Wertenberger, (260)417-6400, email mdwert1@yahoo.com

Important Dates

Mark Your Calendars Now!