

.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



## Is Your Church Working Too Hard?

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

For the last few years my wife and I have attended a church near our home that seems to be defying the odds when it comes to growth. It is a church with Reformed theology that unashamedly practices infant baptism, worships in a “traditional” church building probably constructed more than fifty years ago and is located in an established suburb of the city with little new home construction and many older residents. Yet the church has been growing, mostly with younger adults and families, to the point that the average Sunday attendance is probably somewhere in the neighborhood of 150 adults and about 100 kids every week. Now that may not seem like a lot, but when my wife and I first began visiting this church just under three years ago, the attendance was probably half that number or less.

Of course, being the analytical type of person that I am, I’ve been trying to figure out why this particular church is growing while so many others that are quite similar are declining or even dying. It could be that the pastor, who is well known for his preaching skill is a catalyst of the growth, but then again, I’ve seen many other churches with gifted preachers that are declining. It could be that the musicians who lead worship are drawing people in, although I’ve been in plenty of other churches with worship music as good or even better in quality that are declining. It could be that the children’s programming attracts families, although whenever I talk to the volunteers who are leading that branch of the church’s ministry they share how they’re struggling to get volunteers just like most and can barely handle the huge influx of children they’ve been seeing each week.



*continued on page 2*

### ***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:

Rev. Linda M. Kreitz  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Rev. Alex J. Young  
Archbold, Ohio

Roger L. Yiengst  
Richland, Pennsylvania

Rev. Daniel J. Hetherington  
Sykesville, Maryland

Rev. Dr. Stephen Watson  
Jamestown, Missouri

Rev. Jozsef “Joe” Vasarheyli  
Marietta, Ohio

New Life Christian Church  
Harrington, Delaware

Rev. David J. Markey, Jr.  
Souderton, Pennsylvania

Rev. Edward Boyle  
O’Fallon, Illinois

Rev. Timothy A. Gordon  
Nazareth, Pennsylvania

Salem Magley Church  
Decatur, Indiana

# Networker

SUMMER—2017

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Rev. Ed Briggeman, Treasurer  
Rev. Daryl Higgins, Representative of the Corporate Member

## *"Is Your Church Working Too Hard?" continued from page 1*

No, the truth of the matter is, I haven't found any one thing about this church that could "explain" the growth being experienced there. Instead, I've been looking at the bigger picture of how some of the things this church does (or doesn't do) are different from many of the other churches with which I'm familiar. In fact, if someone were to ask me how this church is different from many typical congregations, I would describe it in one sentence: ***This church never seems to be in a rush to accomplish anything, but rather seems mostly concerned with helping people figure out how to live the Christian life outside the church with no pressure to perform.***

This, I believe is one of the things that makes this church different from many typical churches facing the same demographic realities. A common attitude found in many struggling churches is the idea that if church members just work harder, spend more time planning and organizing church activities and put the pressure on everyone in the church to "do more," then the church will grow and people will come to faith. In fact, in his book *Reclaiming Glory: Revitalizing Dying Churches*, Mark Clifton says this, "Older generations expected to be busy at church. Younger families do not. They need space to live their faith outside of the church building. Simplifying your strategy and reducing the time members are expected to be in the church building gives them that space.....Many older, dying churches have complex and detailed organizational structures that make the decision making process slow and unresponsive. Your church structure needs to facilitate kingdom growth, not prohibit it."

I can't tell you how many times I've been in churches that may only have fifty people in worship, but they have eighty people serving on standing committees that meet at least once a month (if you do the math, that means some people have to serve on multiple committees and have multiple meetings per month!). The organizational structure of many churches keeps the active members so busy doing "church work" that nobody has any time to be involved in the community or to develop meaningful relationships with people outside the church who need Jesus.

The truth is, many churches need to simplify their organizational structure and put less demands on people to do "church work" so they can have more time to actually live the Christian life in the community. For some churches this might mean getting rid of committees that may have been needed when the church had 500 members but are no longer needed when the church has fifty in worship. It might mean letting

one or two people handle a particular task without oversight rather than insisting that an entire committee be required to oversee a particular ministry.

At this church my wife and I attend, one of the unique elements of the congregation's organizational structure is that the entire church has decided to practice a spiritual discipline that is as old as the Creation itself. Every three months the entire church takes a Sabbath rest. Here's how it's described on the church's website:

Most of us aren't rest-a-holics. Most of us are worn out with hard work and a frenetic pace **trying to do large things famously as fast as possible!** The problem is that most things that truly matter in life require us to cultivate **small mostly overlooked things over a long period of time.** For this reason, our church has resting months. We seek seasons of strategic rest for the purpose of passionate ministry. So, during the months of April, August and December our Weekly Ministries (except for Sunday Mornings), take a break!

Such an idea may sound radical to the work-a-holics in your church, but although it's radical, it also sounds pretty biblical. I'm reminded of someone else who seemed to see the importance of rest over rushing..... **"The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'** So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place." (Mark 6: 30-32, NIV)



# SPRING REGIONALS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH

Local gatherings of the Evangelical Association happened throughout the months of March and April with a variety of themes and speakers.



*Pastor Steve Regan welcomes everyone to NC Regional at Shall Ford Christian Church*

In April the members of Shallow Ford Christian Church in Elon, North Carolina hosted the NC Regional gathering. National Minister Jim Barnes presented his all day seminar “New Life for Old Churches” and other workshops were also offered on how to be a praying church in a pagan world, developing a youth initiative in your church and caring for pastors in crisis.



*Rev. Lee Evans of Eagle Rock Christian leads closing worship at NC Regional*



*Pastor John Charles leads a workshop on Godly Manhood in the historic sanctuary of Host Church Bernville, PA.*

On Saturday, March 25 the Mid-Atlantic regional was held at Host Church in Bernville, Pennsylvania. The theme of the gathering was “Overcoming Obstacles” and included worship and workshops on a variety of topics including the spiritual care of dementia patients, the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting and how to plan a personal spiritual retreat.



*Studying Scripture at the Mid-Atlantic Regional*



*Members of The Host Church Bell Choir lead worship at the Mid-Atlantic Regional*



**SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2017**

**19<sup>TH</sup> EVANGELICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
CONVOCATION**

**Beck's Reformed Church  
Lexington, NC**

**Let Light  
Shine Out  
of  
Darkness**

2 Corinthians  
4:6

*For God, who said,  
"Let light shine out  
of darkness," made  
his light shine in  
our hearts to give  
us the light of the  
knowledge of God's  
glory displayed in  
the face of Christ.*

**Beck's Reformed  
Church**

2845 Beck's Church Rd  
Lexington, NC 27292  
336.357.2369

[www.beckschurch.com](http://www.beckschurch.com)

# 2017 EA Convocation – Beck's Reformed

## Let Light Shine Out of Darkness

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### **THURSDAY - 9/14/2017**      **Board Meeting | Location: *Praise Center***

9:00 – 12:00 BOARD MEETING

12:00 – 1:00 – LUNCH

1:00 – 5:00 BOARD MEETING

### **FRIDAY - 9/15/2017**

We encourage you to arrive early in the day and take time to become familiar with our cute southern town. Please see enclosed information concerning local points of interest and hotel information.

12:30-1:30      Registration and Lite Refreshments at the Fellowship Hall

1:30 - 2:30      **Keynote Speaker – Stan Hankins/Praise Center**

2:30              Break

3:00 – 4:00      **Keynote Speaker – Robby Dilmore/Praise Center**

4:00              Fellowship/Free Time (Optional Historical Walk through Beck's Reformed Cemetery)

5:00-6:15      Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:30              **Worship in Sanctuary - Sermon from Rev. C.E. Holt, Jr.**

Fellowship/Lite Refreshments – located below the Sanctuary after Worship

### **SATURDAY – 9/16/2017**

8:00 - 9:15      Registration and Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

9:30 – 10:00      Special Music Performance in Sanctuary

10:00-11:00      **Keynote Speaker- Clinton Faupel in Sanctuary**

11:00              Break

11:15 - 11:45      **Q&A with Clinton Faupel in Sanctuary**

12:00 - 1:15      Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

1:30 - 2:30      **Workshop Session One**

2:30              Break

3:00 - 4:00      **Workshop Session Two**

4:00 – 5:00      Choir Practice in Sanctuary/Fellowship Time /Free Time

5:00 - 6:15      Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:30              **Worship/Communion in the Sanctuary- Sermon from Dr. Gary Neal Hansen**

### **SUNDAY – 9/17/2017**

We invite our guests to worship with us today if possible in your schedule.

Rev. Jim Barnes, EA National Minister, will be presenting the message today.

8:30      Praise Service – Located in the Praise Center

9:30      Sunday School

10:30      Worship Service – Located in the Sanctuary



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)

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

### *Stan Hankins*



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. In addition to speaking Friday afternoon, Stan will also provide a workshop on Saturday afternoon.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

### *Robby Dilmore*



Robby Dilmore his radio name itself is an oxymoron (Christian Car Guy). Robby started working in car dealerships back in 1971, washing cars. He went from car washer to service, parts, sales and eventually worked up to Dealer Principle of a Chrysler Dodge Jeep Store in 1998, where he was when God called him to start The Christian Car Guy Radio Show in January 2006. Robby has seen first-hand the good the bad and the ugly of automobile service, parts, sales and finance business, and now The Lord has provided him with a chance to help folks around the world.

The Christian Car Guy Radio Show is syndicated nationally on 27 radio stations with live streaming on the internet and podcasting available on iTunes and over 30 other outlets. His 30 second helpful tips feature, Stayin' on The Highway is now also syndicated. Robby also hosts Kingdom Pursuits, another one hour live show on Saturdays that signed on in 2008 across the Truth Network. Robby has been interviewed for the Christian Car Guy perspective across hundreds of other radio outlets including the Fox Radio Network, Financial Life Line, The G. Gordon Liddy, and Lars Larson radio shows even a National TV appearance on Fox and Friends.

The Christian Car Guy Web site provides Godly counsel with hundreds of articles on everything from gas saving tips to how to be a four stroke Christian. Robby's articles have been quoted in blogs from the Los Angeles Examiner to The Autoblog.NL Germany's most popular Automotive Blog.

Robby has been married over 25 years to his wife Tammy and has four Children, Leslie Brad, Robby III, Tess and Mariah, they are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston Salem.

## FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

### *Rev. Coslow (C.E.) Holt, Jr.*



Pastor of the Greenlevel Christian Church in Burlington, NC and member of the Evangelical Association Board of Directors.

Coslow's ministry began as a Deacon in his home church between the ages of 25-34. During his time on the Deacon Board, Coslow received the call to enter full-time preaching ministry.

He earned his bachelors degree from Union Christian Bible Institute in Durham in May of 1985. One month later, in June, he preached at Greenlevel for the first time. In August the congregation called him back to preach again and soon after the congregation called him to be their Pastor. Coslow likes to say, "That's when my education in ministry *really* started."

Coslow has been married to his wife Donna for 46 years. They have a son, Adrian, and two granddaughters.

## SATURDAY MORNING KEYNOTE

### *Clinton Faupel*



Clinton has served both youth and families for 25 years. Part of Clinton's role as Executive Director of RemedyLive allows him the privilege of telling others about partnership opportunities as well as using his ordained, pastoral background to bring ministry components to what RemedyLIVE does. Whether it's a school assembly, a speaking event, or one of our online programs, Clinton brings a transparent, no holds barred approach to purposeful living. Locally or nationally, Clinton's commitment is to share his passion for web ministry and the one-of-a-kind web station that RemedyLIVE is. Clinton speaks often around the country as the RemedyLIVE Ambassador and acts as Executive Producer on all of the RemedyLIVE content.

For most teens or young adults, a mobile device or web based conversation is the preferred way to interact. It's safe without fear of ridicule, it's immediate in it's interaction, and it enables the teen or young adult to be bold in sharing what they may have never shared with another person face to face. It engages them in a language they speak and trust and allows the opportunity for someone to help them take healthy steps.

RemedyLIVE is committed to serving teens and young adults. We desire to help any young person who is considering suicide, struggling with depression, or dealing with a destructive secret, find the freedom that thousands of our clients have enjoyed through a technology based conversation with one of our SoulMedics.

## SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

### *Dr. Gary Neal Hansen*



Dr. Gary Neal Hansen earned his M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D. at Princeton Theological Seminary. Gary is a former Associate Professor of Church History at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. While at Dubuque, he managed to combine his natural gift for teaching, an intellectual affinity for Church history, a delightful sense of humor and a desire to be a friend to students. He is the author of several books including:

*\*Kneeling with Giants, Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers*

*\*Being Reformed: The Heidelberg Catechism*

*\*Love Your Bible: Finding Your Way to the Presence of God with a 12<sup>th</sup> Century Monk*

Gary is an articulate and avid blogger and is genuinely engaged with other people. Today Dr. Hansen lives in Pittsburgh, PA doing the parts of his academic vocation that he most enjoys: writing, speaking, and teaching continuing-education and adult education courses through his own website. He loves to connect with readers (and he gives away free books!) at [GaryNealHansen.com](http://GaryNealHansen.com).

Gary and his wife have a young son and daughter.

In addition to preaching Saturday night, Gary will also provide two workshops on Reformation history and theology.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAISE SERVICE 8:30AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM

### *Jim Barnes, National Minister of the EA*



The Rev. Jim Barnes has served as National Minister of the Evangelical Association since October 2009. Before becoming full-time with the association, he worked for twenty-one years as the Senior Pastor at Bethesda Evangelical Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Throughout his ministry career, Pastor Jim has been very involved in church renewal and has served on the Board of Directors of both the Biblical Witness Fellowship and the Evangelical Association, two groups seeking to provide options for Bible-believing churches and pastors within the Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational and Christian traditions. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California and currently resides in St. Louis with his wife Patti. They have three adult children.

# **Saturday Workshops**

Location of workshops will be announced at the Convocation

## **Session One: 1:30 – 2:30**

### **Dr. Gary Neal Hansen**

#### **- Speaking Christianity as A Second Language**

How can Christians today gain the confidence that comes from really knowing what they believe? How can disciples become confident as they share the faith with a world that needs Christ? Growing up in a secular culture we just don't speak the language. To become fluent in our faith we need regular conversations with "native speakers" -- like the leaders of the Reformation. The Heidelberg Catechism is a Reformation-era summary of biblical Christianity that has been used and loved by millions to teach the faith. Start the conversation today, and keep bringing your own assumptions to the table, and soon you will have a winsome understanding of the shape of the faith and Scripture's core teachings. Growing in a faith that makes sense is the key step to living it and sharing it.

### **Sunny**

#### **- Letting The Light Shine in a Buddhist Nation: Biblical Reformed Seminary, Myanmar (Burma)**

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is 84% Buddhist. Only about 7% of the population are Christians. Sunny, a native of Myanmar, received his theological education and training for ministry at a seminary in India. He then returned home and now teaches at Biblical Reformed Seminary in Yangon, Myanmar. Most of his students will return to their villages to minister unreached people. Biblical Reformed Seminary seeks to train students to reach the people of their nation with the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

### **Rev. Doreen Gibbons**

#### **- Women in the Bible: Used for God's Kingdom**

Rev. Gibbons is a former Associate Pastor in Thomaston, CT and First Baptist Church in Mebane NC focusing on areas of Christian Education. We will look at the lives and faith of a few women in the Bible and explore how their ideas, actions, and faith have changed history and impacted the Kingdom of God. By seeing the example of the life and faith of these women, we can help to see how God might want to use His women today for His Kingdom glory.

### **Rev. Daryl Higgins**

#### **- What Would Jesus Tweet?**

Rev. Higgins the Senior Minister at First Protestant Church in New Braunfels, Texas will look at current issues in the news from a Biblical worldview. Secular Progressivism is the default position many take on virtually every major issue facing American society today. Our nation is divided and Judeo-Christian theology is considered irrelevant and outdated. Christians must stand firm in addressing these issues from a Biblical worldview. Among the hot-button issues to be discussed are transgenderism, global warming, environmentalism, Islamic radicalism and other timely topics in the news today.

### **Rev. Ron Shifley**

#### **- "Reintroducing the Biblical Holidays in the Life of Your Church"**

Rev. Shifley, an EA pastor from South Dakota and author of *"Light in the Darkness: A Hanukkah Devotional For Jesus Followers,"* will help reacquaint you with the biblical holidays such as Passover, Feast of Trumpets, Feast of Tabernacles, Purim and Hanukkah, that Jesus celebrated during his life and ministry and would have been part of the life of the Early Church. We'll examine how they fit into God's great story of salvation, and offer practical ways to help you reintroduce them into the worship life and fellowship of your congregation.

### **Dr. Allen Tyndall & Rev. Richard Moore**

#### **-Mt. Carmel Academy - An Innovative Solution Whose Time Has Come**

The church is in need of locally trained pastors as well as strong, equipped Elders, Deacons and lay-leaders. Mt. Carmel Academy offers free of charge an ordination track for persons called to be pastors, seminars to train local church leadership, and mini courses to provide teaching and information about the church and Christian life.



## **Session Two: 3:00 – 4:00**

**Dr. Gary Hansen**

**-Great Themes of Reformation Theology for Today**

Do the teachings that gave birth to our tradition and changed the course of the Church's history still matter? Can Reformation theology still bring new life in our very different culture? 500 years ago, in 1517, Martin Luther sparked the Reformation that gave us the Protestant Evangelical faith. The writings of Reformation leaders like Luther and Calvin are driven by some core affirmations:

- We are saved from our sin by grace alone.
- That grace comes to us through Christ alone.
- Christ is ours by faith alone.
- We find Christ and doctrine reliably and authoritatively in Scripture alone.

In this workshop we will look at these four teachings and see how they bring good news and new life today -- for our own faith and the Church as a whole.

**Rev. Stan Hankins**

**- Leadership: Beyond Perspiration to Inspiration!**

“The problem with being a leader is you can’t tell if people are following you or chasing you!” How to tell the difference? For ministry leaders, clergy and lay, this workshop gleans principles and practical pointers for instilling vision, enthusiasm, and accomplishment among God’s people.

**Rev. Jim Barnes**

**- The Evangelical Association: Who We Are**

In this workshop we will consider the Evangelical Association as a post denominational alternative for congregations and individuals 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 EA.

**Rev. Eric Cox**

**- A Healthy Church is a Reproducible Church**

The "Healthy Church is a Reproducible Church" workshop is a primer for pastors and lay leaders involved in, or wanting to learn about, church multiplication/planting. Multiplying churches should be a natural, Holy Spirit driven, regular function of every church to reach the 70 percent of Americans who have no meaningful church relationship. We will discuss things like: 1) Why churches are multiplying in the East but not in the West, 2.) Foundations to church multiplication, 3.) The missing link: pregnant mother churches, 4.) What kind of churches should we start? 5.) What is the end game of church planting? and 6.) How big does a church have to be to start multiplying churches?

**TBD**

**- Getting Caught in the Trap  
(overuse of social media)**

**Dr. Allen Tyndall**

**- A Praying Church in a Pagan World**

The world does not fear the church, or its members - it barely tolerates either. Generally, the world perceives the church as no longer a player in world affairs. How does the church survive in this cultural climate? This workshop addresses this question and will provide a solution to it.

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## **SCHEDULE**

**Thursday 9/14/17:** The Board of Directors Meeting will be held in the Praise Center.

**Friday 9/15/17:** The Fellowship Hall and Praise Center will host the majority of the events for this day. Registration and Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The speakers/sessions will be located in the Praise Center.

Evening worship will be held in the Sanctuary.

**Saturday: 9/16/17:** We will begin the day with registration and a Beck’s style breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. (Registration will be located in the Narthex of the Sanctuary at 9:00).

After breakfast, the events for the day will be located in the Sanctuary and Education Wing.

Dinner will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Evening worship will be held in the Sanctuary

**Sunday 9/17/17:** The 8:30 Praise Service is in the Praise Center. Sunday School and the 10:30 Worship Service are held in the Education Wing/Sanctuary.

# HOTEL INFORMATION

## **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites -The Vineyard** 351 Vineyards Crossing; Lexington, NC 336.224.6730

Located in Lexington and convenient to the Richard Childress Vineyards. The hotel is approximately 10 miles from the church. It is an easy drive to the church and is convenient to the downtown area of Lexington. Please use the **convocation code of EAM** when reserving a room. To insure the conference room rate, reservations need to be made within ONE MONTH of the EA Convocation.

Directions from hotel to Beck's Reformed: Exit the hotel and turn left on US Highway 64 and continue through town. (The road is "Center Street" within the city limits). Cross Main Street and continue straight until you merge with Old 64. The Bob Timberlake Gallery will be at this intersection. Continue over I-85 and turn right onto Beck's Church Road at the Shell station. You will go approximately three miles and Beck's Reformed will be on your left.

## **Days Inn & Suites** 1620 Cotton Grove Road; Lexington, NC 336.357.2333 – Fax: 336.357.2359

Located approximately five miles from the church, at the I-85 and Highway 8 (exit 91) intersection. The hotel driveway is adjacent to the Wendy's Restaurant. Please use the **convocation code of EA Meeting** when reserving a room. To insure the conference room rate, reservations need to be made within ONE MONTH of the EA Convocation.

Directions from hotel to Beck's Reformed: When you leave the hotel, turn right onto Highway 8 at Wendy's and immediately stay right to enter I-85 North. Take the first exit (Exit 93) and turn right on Old Hwy. 64. Turn right on Beck's Church Road at the Shell station. You will go approximately three miles and Beck's Reformed will be on your left.



**FYI:** Both hotels offer breakfast, Wi-Fi, a fitness center, plus other amenities. Both are convenient to the following local attractions: Bob Timberlake Gallery, Uptown Lexington, Childress Vineyard, numerous Lexington BBQ restaurants, and the Childress Racing Museum.

**Campground Contact Numbers: Cross Winds Family Campground: 336-853-4567**  
**High Rock Lake Marina & Campground: 336-798-1196**

**Parking:** Is located at both facilities. There is a short walking distance between the two facilities

**Handicap Notes:** The Fellowship Hall and Praise Center have easy entry access. The Sanctuary is best entered via a ramp that is attached to the Education Wing. We do not have an elevator.

# 2017 EA Convocation REGISTRATION FORM

Please duplicate this form for each individual registration.

*(Please print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Church position: (Pastor, Youth Pastor, Lay Leader, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is \$60.00 per attendee if mailed by August 1 and \$75.00 after that date.

Please make checks payable to: **Beck's Reformed Church**

Address: 2845 Beck's Church Road; Lexington, NC 27292

Church phone #: 336.357.2369

1:30-2:30 Workshop Selection \_\_\_\_\_

3:00-4:00 Workshop Selection \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your expected participation below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday – Saturday                      \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday only

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday – Saturday

**\*\*\* On-site/day of event registration will be in Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday\*\*\***

## *Let Light Shine Out of Darkness*



# 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. We think this will be a wonderful time of fellowship and joy for those in this joint choir and for those in the sanctuary. 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 2017 Convocation, vendor tables will be available. These tables will be located in the main church building's basement area. The area offers open space with ground level. Small rooms are available if you need to store items prior display. There are limited electrical outlets. All exhibitors will be subject to approval and are due with registration (August 1).

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:

## CHILD CARE

**Nursery care and a children's program** will be provided on Friday evening (6:00pm -8:00pm) and Saturday (9:30am-4:30pm.) **A lunch and snacks will be provided on Saturday.** Children may eat Convocation meals with their parents on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening. This service will be available for infant to fifth grade with no charge. Children's programs and nursery will only be available during workshops and other scheduled events. Please indicate below if you will have children attending

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Number to call in case of questions/emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information that we need to know:



## *Lexington Named Cutest City in State*

by Sharon Myers / The Dispatch / Posted Sept. 7, 2016 (The Dispatch is our local newspaper)

An online publication targeted towards women's lifestyles states that large cities are so overrated. That is why they named Lexington as the cutest town in North Carolina.

According to its webpage, PureWow, it covers the breadth of women's lifestyle issues including fashion, beauty, home, arts and culture, money, tech, food and travel. On Sept. 1, it produced a list of the "most adorable" towns in every state.

Lexington was chosen to represent North Carolina and was recognized for its native cuisine.

"Meat lovers, look no further than Lexington, the barbecue capital of North Carolina, known for pulled pork garnished with the region's famous ketchup, vinegar and pepper sauce mixture," the caption stated.

Robin Bivens, executive director of the Lexington Tourism Authority, said it is becoming a regular occurrence for the city, or a business within the city to be named to another "best of" list. She said it is good for tourism every time the area is mentioned.

"It is just another way to get our name out there," Bivens said. "It makes people from far away want to come and visit us. I told some friends of mine from other towns and in other states and they were impressed with how we keep making these lists."

Lexington City Manager Alan Carson said that city leaders have been working towards getting the name of Lexington out there through promotions, public relations and partnerships. He said in this case one of their partners, the organizers of The Barbecue Festival, submitted this information to the online publication.

"It is always wonderful to be recognized by any organization, in this case as being the cutest city in North Carolina," Carson said. "It's a pleasure to see us get national, state and regional attention. All it does is improve our reputation and to get more people to visit our wonderful city."

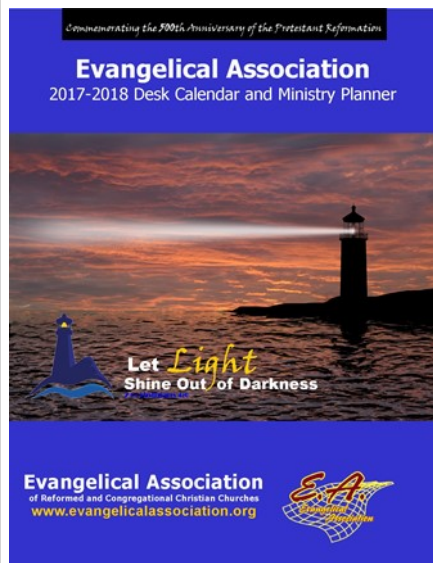
Whether it is a state distributed magazine, a local news organization or an online article that can be viewed all over the world, Bivens said the publicity is good for the entire area.

"We have been very fortunate," Bivens said. "One thing often leads to something else. I have yet to hear of someone who has come here and found out what these (publications) have been saying is untrue. More often, they come and realize we have so much to offer. We are very proud to be named the cutest city in the state."

To view the PureWow article, go to [www.purewow.com/travel/cutest-towns-in-America](http://www.purewow.com/travel/cutest-towns-in-America).

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Recommendations to consider visiting if time allows: Main Street in Lexington has numerous antique shops, boutiques, a unique candy store, and a large old-timey hardware store. The Bob Timberlake Gallery offers a coffee shop and is close to the church. Childress Vineyards offers tours, a nice bistro menu, and a gift shop.



The *Evangelical Association 2017-2018 Desk Calendar & Ministry Planner* is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 17 month calendar (August 2017 through December 2018) 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. This year's calendar also commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation with monthly "Words of Reformation" highlights by Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, James O'Kelly, Barton W. Stone, Salem Covenant, and the Heidelberg and Evangelical Catechisms.

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

\$12.00 each for 6 or more

(Prices include packing and shipping at no extra charge)

The EA also offers a *2017-2018 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](mailto: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.

## Ministry and Employment Opportunities

**ALABAMA – St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church** of Cullman, AL is seeking a full time (or part time) *Minister of Music and Worship Arts* who understands and appreciates the variety of ways God can be worshipped vocally, instrumentally, and through other artistic mediums. We are seeking to call a devoted follower of Christ who can provide creative leadership within the context of the church's ministry and theological tradition and who will provide direction and guidance for multiple worship styles. For a complete description of the position and requirements, please contact the Rev. Dr. John Richter at [jwrichter3@yahoo.com](mailto:jwrichter3@yahoo.com) or 256-734-0344.

**INDIANA – Pastor of Children and Youth – First Reformed Church**, Bluffton, Indiana

Full-Time: Salary + Benefits/Educational Requirements: Minimum 4-Year Degree/Position: Open Until Filled  
 First Reformed Church is a well-established church in the Bluffton community, since 1882, having a church body that spans 5 generations. The individual in this position needs to understand the dynamics of working with multi-generations and be appreciative of each generational dynamic. The church is growing and we are seeking to expand our ministry team. If you would love to be part of something old and something new, please contact us. The Pastor of Children and Youth will lead and organize all aspects of the ministry of the children (Newborn through Elementary) and the youth (Middle School and High School) of First Reformed Church. Please visit our website, [evangelicalassociation.org](http://evangelicalassociation.org) for additional information.

**OHIO – St. Paul’s Evangelical Church Trail Run**, a small, rural congregation near Sardis in southeastern Ohio is seeking a ***Part-time Pastor***. Our congregation is affiliated with the Evangelical Association and we are looking for a Bible believing minister who loves and adheres to the truth of Scripture and enjoys pastoral work and people. Some specific duties of the position include preaching, teaching a weekly adult Bible study, conducting Confirmation classes for youth and doing pastoral visitation. The salary and benefits package can be adjusted to meet the needs of the individual pastor and includes four weeks of paid vacation and a three bedroom ranch style parsonage with all utilities paid. We recognize that depending on the situation, our pastor may wish to secure additional employment to supplement the pastoral salary, and a custodial position is available at the church as well as other opportunities in the surrounding communities. For a detailed description of the position, to ask questions or to submit a resume, please contact Chuck Merckle at [trumpetmantoo@gmail.com](mailto:trumpetmantoo@gmail.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA – SALEM EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH, REAMSTOWN, PA** is seeking a ***Part-time Worship Director (10-15 hours/week)***. The Worship Director will work closely with the pastor and elders to plan and lead worship services that draw the congregation into worship aligned with Biblical truth and doctrine with a focus on the glory of God. They must demonstrate musical knowledge and proficiency, piano or guitar skills, a confidence and ability to lead congregational singing, a capability to lead and teach volunteers in the music ministry (praise and worship teams and choir), and a value for music that exalts Christ, whether ancient hymns or modern songs/hymns. They will also have an understanding of and proficiency in audio/visual technology. Finally and most importantly, they must demonstrate a love for Jesus, a high regard for Scripture, and a God-given desire, gifting, and calling to lead the congregation of a local church in musical worship. For a full job description, or to submit a resume, please contact Pastor Joel Hertzog at [joel@saalemchurchreamstown.org](mailto:joel@saalemchurchreamstown.org).

**PENNSYLVANIA – Salem Reformed Church in Bethel, PA** is an historic 206 year old icon in our community—and there is still life inside the walls! We are seeking a ***Part-time Pastor*** to care for us and our community. A solid biblical faith based in the Reformed Christian tradition of great grace is required. We can offer a small (\$22K) salary for 20-25 hours of work per week, but have no housing available. The ideal candidate portrays the love of Jesus, is very relatable and visual with outreach-minded energy. Encourage us beyond our box! Please contact Linda via email at [salemneedsapastor@gmail.com](mailto:salemneedsapastor@gmail.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA – Grace Reformed Church in Troxelville, Pennsylvania**, located 50 miles north of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is seeking a local ***Part-time (20 hours/week) Ordained Pastor***. Grace Reformed, being small and rural, continues to follow our traditional Evangelical and Reformed roots and seeks a Godly Pastor who will follow that commitment. Travel or moving expenses are the responsibility of the prospective applicant/Pastor. For more information please contact Sandra Kline, Consistory President, at 570-658-7721 or email her at [redheadsmom07@yahoo.com](mailto:redheadsmom07@yahoo.com).

**PENNSYLVANIA – St. John’s Church of Mt. Aetna, PA** (a 13 year affiliate of the Evangelical Association) is seeking a ***Part-time Pastor*** for this 170 year old founding church in our community. We have recently completed a 60 year sisterhood with another church and are excited about our future as an independent congregation. Each Sunday morning! The part-time (22-27 hour) nature of this position will likely require a second income to make ends meet. Mt. Aetna is within a 55 minute drive of the Harrisburg/Lancaster/Allentown employment triangle. We have a 50 year old brick ranch-style parsonage available to help with compensation. The candidate should be ordained with current credentials or willing to become credentialed through the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. If interested in further information or to submit a resume, please email to: [st.johnsofmountaetna@outlook.com](mailto:st.johnsofmountaetna@outlook.com)

**PENNSYLVANIA–Mount Bethel Church** (member of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference), PO Box 136, 16 East Specht Street, McClure, PA 17841-0136 is seeking a ***Full time Pastor*** to serve our congregation. We come from an Evangelical and Reformed tradition. We are a rural community, geographically located between Lewistown and Selinsgrove, PA. There are 70 active members. We have a fully furnished parsonage. Initial contact can be made to Gerald Botdorf; PO Box 151; 32 Zeller Street; McClure, PA 17841; home number: 570-658-6372; e-mail: [botdorfgerald@yahoo.com](mailto:botdorfgerald@yahoo.com).

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