

networker

Spring 2012

...working the nets for kingdom advancement



A Message From the Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister

THE PROBLEM IN A POST-DENOMINATIONAL AGE IS THAT PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HELL!

While most of the historic “mainline” Christian denominations have succumbed to the influence of extreme liberal theology and a willingness to embrace the unbiblical social mores of our society, there is now a movement to form new, biblically grounded associations and fellowships born out of these historic traditions. The Evangelical Association was created in 1998 as evangelical Christians were fleeing the liberal United Church of Christ and/or looking for a place to have fellowship with each other while remaining in the denomination and working for renewal. In the last few years, the North American Lutheran Church has formed in response to the liberal shift going on in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and most recently, the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians has come into existence for those reacting to the decision in the Presbyterian Church USA to remove the fidelity and chastity requirement for ordination.

The question for all of these new, “post denominational” groups is:

Why do they (we) exist?

Certainly, groups like the Evangelical Association and others exist to provide a refuge for biblically grounded Christians reacting to denominational liberalism. We also exist to help churches and pastors stay connected within our various traditions as we seek to carry out the work of ministry and network together. But personally, I like the reason given by the Rev. John Ortberg, pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in California who said this about “why” these new groups are formed as he was discussing the creation of the new Presbyterian group:

“The origin of the word ecology comes from the Greek *oikos*. Every organism lives in a larger system. A healthy ecosystem filters out toxins so that organisms can thrive.’ That, Ortberg says, is the vision of the new group of which he is a part. ‘Specifically, the goal is to build a spiritual ecosystem that in turn builds flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.’ He then went on to say, ‘The problem is not denominational ambiguity or ecclesiastical dividedness or even ineffectiveness. **The problem is that people are going to hell. Our problem is hell, and our job is to put hell out of business** - that’s why Jesus went to the cross on a Friday and laid in a tomb and rose on Easter morning.’” (Presbyterian Layman, Vol. 45, No.1, Jan. 2012)

My friends, the Evangelical Association exists because the **job of every local church is to be in the business of putting hell out of business!** The reason we network together with one another as clergy and congregations in the EARCCC is because a united assault is always stronger than a divided one. As we partner with each other in ministry and mission, evangelism gets done, souls are saved and Kingdom work advances as together we proclaim that God has offered all the world a way to be **“rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves!”** (Colossians 1:13)

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PRINT DEADLINES FOR THE NETWORKER

Summer 2012 Edition:
July 15, 2012
Fall 2012 Edition:
October 15, 2012
Winter 2013 Edition:
January 15, 2013
Spring 2013 Edition:
April 15, 2013

GREETINGS FROM THE EA PRESIDENT

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



It's time to think about 2012 Convocation coming up in September in Louisville, Kentucky! It will be here before you know it, so mark your calendar and plan to attend. I love going to Convocation each year to make new friends and rekindle old relationships. I always look forward to the great fellowship. Another highlight is the food! We always have the best to eat. Many of the host churches make regional favorites and go out of their way to offer great hospitality. Another thing I look forward to is the worship and learning. I always come away with new insights and filled to over-flowing. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Bethel-St. Paul for this year's convocation!

EA Regional Meeting

May 12, 2012

1st Reformed

Landis, North Carolina

Registration ~ 8:30 AM

Worship and Workshops ~ 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost ~ \$5.00 per person

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

Affiliation with the Evangelical Association 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 Evangelical Association is only as strong as those who choose to affiliate with us each year, so if you've 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 877-424-9172 or email: natmin@evangelicalassociation.org.

WE ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOUR CHURCH IS DOING!

The webmaster for the EA website would like to receive your church newsletters to look for news and inspirational stories to post on the EA website. Please add Rev. Ron Shifley to your newsletter mailing list. You can mail (*see notation below*) your newsletter directly to him or send it via e-mail to the following address ~

Rev. Ron Shifley
1030 Third Street, PO Box 393
Scotland, SD 57059
shifleyron@yahoo.com

We look forward to reading about what's going on at your church!!

Rev. Ron moved to South Dakota in the Spring of 2011—for those of you who are already mailing him your newsletter—please make sure you have the correct mailing address.

“A CALL TO PRAYER”

Rev. Dr. Terry L. Downin, New Philadelphia, Ohio

As a founding Board member of our Evangelical Association, I was often required to contemplate “the need for prayer”, and can personally testify to the good fruit of it. From the very beginning, prayer was the foundation of our decision making.

Knowing that God is always faithful, we are all the more compelled to prayer for the good of Christ's church. Thinking of the wise words from a good old hymn...

*“Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer.”*

-Joseph Scriven

Thankful for what is and hopefully for what will be, let us one and all, Board and Brethren and Congregations, be convicted and convinced to pray faithfully for the mission and ministry of our Association.

“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4: 6, 7

Without prayer, we cannot succeed!
With prayer, we cannot fail!

Evangelical Book of Worship Available Online

One of the predecessor groups in the EA is the old German Evangelical Synod. Much of their literature is no longer in print, however, the 1916 version of the *Book of Worship* has been scanned and can be downloaded at: <http://archive.org/details/evangelicalbooko00evan>

Letters

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

Send letters to:

EMAIL:

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~

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

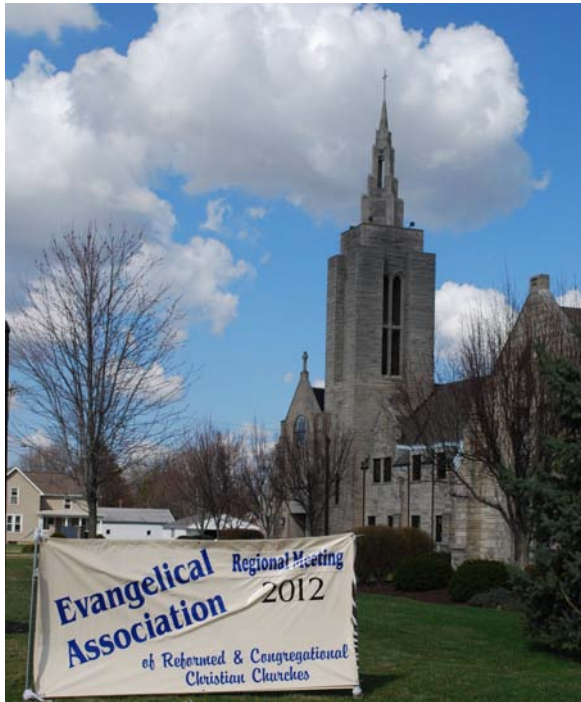
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Midwest Regional Gathering Held in Ohio



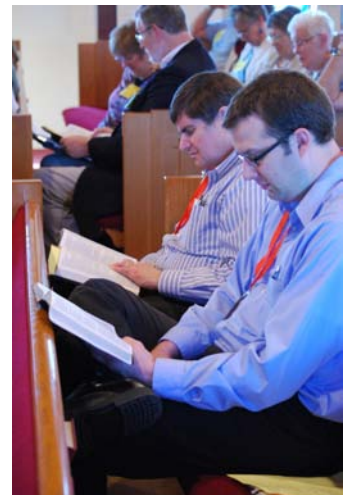
St. John's Christian Church in Archbold, Ohio

People from the upper Midwest gathered on Saturday, March 17 at St. John's Christian Church in Archbold, Ohio for a day of worship and fellowship on the theme of Jesus' Lordship. Keynote speaker, the Rev. Dan Rogers spoke on the "Challenge of the Crown" (I Corinthians 9: 24-27) and the "Mantel of the Crown" (I Thessalonians 2: 17-20). Dan is the director of an inner city mission in Toledo, Ohio that provides comprehensive ministry to those who are struggling in the city.

EA National Minister, the Rev. Jim Barnes spoke in the afternoon on the "Sharing of the Crown" based on Philippians 4:1-9. Throughout the day participants sang, laughed and prayed together. The closing communion service was celebrated by the Rev. Erich Christman and the Rev. Adam Just of St. John's.



Rev. Erich Christman at St. John's



Studying the Word



Rev. Adam Just & Rev. Erich Christman



Worshipping together



Rev. Dan Rogers



Rev. Adam Just



Zion Evangelical Becomes Newest Congregation in the EA

Shortly after celebrating their 175th anniversary, the members of Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt, Illinois voted to affiliate their congregation with the Evangelical Association. Pastor Darrell Weber stated, "While we left the U.C.C. over theological disagreements several years ago, the church had remained independent as we went through a time of adjustment following our departure from the denomination. We now felt it was time to get reconnected with our brothers and sisters in the Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational and Christian traditions who share our common heritage."

Millstadt is a small German community in Southern Illinois which is changing from rural to suburban rather quickly. Zion has become well known in their small town for hosting contemporary Christian music concerts and has recently called a full-time associate pastor for family life to serve on their ministry team. In May they hope to celebrate their first local church ordination as they partner with the Evangelical Association in recognizing Pastor Craig Frazier's gifts and calling to ministry.



Pastors in Pennsylvania

EA pastors in Pennsylvania gather monthly in York to share lunch and fellowship.

Pictured (below) left to right: Jim Barnes, Adam Leeper, Mick Allen, Ken Newhook, Matt Stillman, Larry Rineer, Rich Dubbs, Bill Miller, Lin Smalec, David Webster, Bob Stier, Dennis Cooper, Tom Beck, Russ Hepler, Gary Bowman, Jon Toms (not pictured)



Pastors at St. John's Church on Morgan Hill in Easton, PA welcome the National Minister in February. Pictured (above) left to right: Rev. Jim Barnes, Rev. Barbara Duncan and Rev. Dr. Blake Heffner

TAKE A STAND, NOW!

The Rev. Steve Darr, Torrington, Connecticut

“They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:29-32

They have taken prayer out of school and our families suffer. They have taken Christianity out of the public square and our families suffer. They have taken away religious rites and freedoms in the name of tolerance and our families suffer. They redefine “marriage” and the family suffers. They approve of “alternative” life styles and our families suffer. They allow abortion on demand and the family suffers. They allow partial birth abortion and infanticide and the family suffers. They hail assisted suicide and euthanasia as acts of heroism and compassion and the family suffers. They bestow more rites on a criminal than on the victim of a crime and the family suffers.

Who are they?

They are not labeled democrat or republican. They are not stamped liberal or conservative. They are the people who have the interest of your children for a good part of the day. They fill the airwaves, the electronic world, with their agendas. Have you looked at your child's Facebook page lately? Have you seen who they are twittering or better yet who is twittering them? What songs are your children downloading and listening to? What videos are they watching on line? Do you know? Or, in the name of "privacy" have you not really checked?

They are out there, influencing and manipulating our children. They are those spoken of in our scriptures. They know God and yet, do not glorify Him nor do they give Him thanks. God has made himself plain to them. From creation His attributes have been clearly revealed. His power and His divine nature has been shown yet they reject Him. They cannot hide behind lies, behind tolerance, behind ignorance or foolishness or issues of privacy. There is no excuse for their behavior. Because of that behavior, because of their decision to turn away from God, we must be more vigilant than ever.

Look around you at the families of our generation.

The family, the very foundation of our society, is

crumbling. The divorce rate is now well over 50% in our country. Promiscuity is at an all time high. Sex outside of marriage is expected and condoned. Drug use is on the rise. Teen suicide continues to take our children at a frightening rate. So what do we do? Usually, we do not address the real issue, our sin, our turning from God and His Word. Instead we throw money at it, or if all else fails, we pass a law to make it legal. How upside down do we need to get before we finally return to God and His laws? How long before we realize the distance we have put between ourselves and God?

Can the family be saved? YES!

But, we cannot wait. Jesus said, *“But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept the thief from coming, he would have kept watch and would not let his house be broken into.”* (Matthew 24:43) Our houses are being broken into as we sleep, and we allow unbridled access to our children. The electronic predators are at work to lure our children away. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to protecting and to ensuring the safety of our children and families. We, our families, must return to His Word and commit to remaining true to His laws, commands and decrees. Christ came to save a world full of sinners. He came to offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice that would satisfy the wrath of God. Those who accept Him as Lord and Savior of their lives are saved, are redeemed and are forgiven. Jesus shows us the need of our dependence upon God to overcome the evil that abides in this world. Jesus said, *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.”* (Luke 9:26) If you have children, grandchildren or neighborhood kids who come to the house, you have a responsibility, a duty, to speak up, to share Christian values and morals with them, to speak of Jesus. We need to be the voice of reason and of truth in their lives. We must be the voice that speaks of the love and justice of God. The voice that celebrates God's presence in our own lives and in their lives. Be strong, be bold and take a stand today! Do not let the world take away the hearts of the children. *“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you lie down and when you get up.”* (Deuteronomy 6:6,7)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TEXAS - SENIOR PASTOR - Grace Memorial Church of New Braunfels Texas is searching for a new Senior Pastor. This is a non-denominational/inter-denominational congregation in a growing area between New Braunfels and Seguin and is located in Guadalupe County on the I-35 and I-10 corridors in one of the fastest growing areas of the country. Grace Memorial is a 12 year old congregation that has grown to 400+members. We are looking for an experienced, educated spiritual leader who loves the Lord. The church is a Christ centered, Bible based independent evangelical church. In all aspects of the life, mission, and worship of the church they seek to blend all of the great Christ centered traditions of our faith. Send inquiries and/or resumes to Grace Memorial Church, 3240 FM725 New Braunfels, Texas. 78130, or send e-mail to office@gracememorialchurchnb.org, Attention: Ms. Betty Dunkin, Administrative Assistant.

ALABAMA - FULL TIME SENIOR PASTOR - St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, Cullman, Alabama is seeking a highly qualified individual for the position of Senior Pastor. Said applicant should have the skills, energy, and vision to combine traditional liturgical and blended services. Our church offers the opportunity to work with an outstanding staff, a vibrant mid-sized congregation in a newly completed facility. Cullman is located in North Alabama and boasts an excellent quality of life, a low crime rate, and outstanding school systems. Applicant should be a community minded person with outstanding Bible teaching skills, a strong presence in the pulpit with a desire for growth and outreach. Prior ministerial experience is preferred with a graduate degree from an accredited theological seminary. Interested applicants should contact Karen Hassell at 256-734-0344 or khassell@stjohnscullman.com. Please visit our website at www.sjepc.com.

CONNECTICUT - PART TIME INTERIM PASTOR -Caring and sensitive Bible based Interim Pastor sought by Middlebury Congregational Church, Middlebury, Connecticut. Emerging from a period of discord, the church seeks a part time Interim Pastor to draw together and unite church members in a renewed commitment to Christ and His mission for our congregation prior to beginning the search for a Settled Pastor. A Pastor skilled and experienced in conflict resolution, as well as in preaching the Gospel, would be well suited for the position. Part time would be achieved by restricting administrative and calling duties. Actual structure and compensation to be negotiated. Contact Curtis Titus, Search Committee Chair, for Church Profile at ctitus@ldlaw.com or write to him at P.O. Box 887, Farmington CT 06034. To apply send resume to same email or post office address.

PENNSYLVANIA - SENIOR PASTOR NEEDED - Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church of Woxall, Pa. is seeking a Senior Pastor. We are located in a rural setting one hour north of Philadelphia. One of the first Reformed Churches in Pennsylvania, we are steeped in history, yet our bucolic setting belies the proximity to all that a major metropolitan area can offer. We are a faithful, Bible-based, intergenerational, congregation with a positive spirit and value our traditions while seeking ways to reach beyond our doors. We are prayerfully anticipating an enthusiastic leader who will be a beacon of Christ's love and ministry within the church and throughout the community. Please visit our website at: www.ogrc.org Interested candidates may contact our search committee chairperson: Greg Landis at gregorylandis@comcast.net or 215-783-8820 or our church secretary: Lou Ann Pullen at rtpullen@aol.com or 610-287-7600 for a detailed church profile and job description.

KYRGYZSTAN - International Church Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan is looking for two pastors to share the preaching and discipleship ministry. This diverse and ever-changing community of 250-300 persons gathers people from over thirty countries of the world, including many international students studying in Bishkek. Meeting each Sunday in two distinct worshipping congregations morning and evening, ICB offers many satisfying challenges as it seeks to form those who come in their understanding of Christ, rooting them deeply in Scripture. While those who share this pastoral role must raise their own support, the church is able to obtain for those who come the religious certificate and visa required. We are seeking to have the first of these pastors in place by the Fall of 2012; the second pastor we hope to have in place by Spring of 2013, just before the present pastor and spouse must depart. We desire that all those serving ICB as pastors do so for a minimum of two years. For more information please contact the ICB Pastoral Search Committee on: pastorsearchicb@gmail.com. You may also address questions to: Ken MacHarg, Skype: kenneth.d.macharg, kdmacharg@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA - Jerusalem Church, Penryn, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania is looking for a Pastor to fill a F/T position leading a non-denominational church of the reformed tradition. We are searching for a compassionate and prayerful person who is exegetical in preaching and who is an inspirational teacher. Please visit our website at www.jerusalemchurch.net. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Send resume, statement of faith and testimony to: jcpennsearchcommittee@windstream.net or Jerusalem Church, Attn: Search Committee, 1620 Newport Road, Manheim PA 17545.

OHIO - DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES - Jerusalem Church (New Philadelphia, Ohio) is looking for an individual who loves children and youth and has a desire to introduce, lead and disciple them in their relationship to Jesus. This is a full-time position. Please check out our web-page for information about the church and the ministries at www.jerusalem-church.org. If interested please contact and/or send resumes to: attn: Search Committee at Jerusalem Church, 1417 Stonecreek Rd. SW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663 or info@jerusalem-church.org.

NORTH CAROLINA - Pilgrim Reformed Church in Lexington, NC is seeking a pastor to lead its congregation in service and spiritual development. The historic church, founded in 1757 by German settlers, is located in a quiet, rural setting approximately 15 miles south of Winston-Salem, NC. For more information, contact LaRue L. Cline, Pastoral Committee Chair, at lcline1@triad.rr.com

WISCONSIN - Full-time pastor needed for Peace Church in Browntown, WI. We are a Christ-centered, Bible-based, conservative, evangelical church, holding fast to traditional Christian beliefs and creeds. We are looking for an educated, experienced, spiritual leader who loves the Lord, a Godly and gifted pastor, someone with vision and enthusiasm who will minister to the needs of our members and outreach to the community and beyond. Musical ability a plus. May consider student working toward his M Div. Please send resume or inquiry to: janet_medinger@yahoo.com

NORTH CAROLINA - Christ Community Church of Monroe, NC is an EA church seeking a part-time pastor. The church currently averages about 60 in weekly attendance with a rapidly growing youth ministry. You can visit the web site at <http://www.christcommunitychurchnc.com>. Inquiries should be directed to Vic Thomas at 980-253-1429 or ccmonr enc@hotmail.com.

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2012 Evangelical Association Convocation

September 14-16, 2012
Bethel-St. Paul Church, Louisville, KY

Experience Louisville!

The Kentucky Derby Museum/
Churchill Downs;
The Louisville Slugger Bat
Factory & Museum;
The Fraizer International
History Museum;
The Speed Art Museum;
The Louisville Zoo;



The Belle of Louisville
Steamboat Excursion;
The Louisville Science Center
& IMAX Theatre;
Muhammad Ali Center;
Waterfront Park; Golfing;
Historic Sites;
& Much More!



Mark your Calendars and Plan to be There!