

# networker

fall 2010

...working the nets for kingdom advancement



## From Under A Haystack To The World

*Asking the Lord of the Harvest to Send Workers...*

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

*A violent rainstorm descended upon the prayer meeting of five Williams College students in a grove of trees near the Hoosack River one summer afternoon in 1806. They moved to a nearby haystack. There they continued in prayer and committed themselves to “send the Gospel to the Pagans of Asia, and to the disciples of Mohammed.” By 1810 they had inspired the Congregationalists of Massachusetts and Connecticut to organize the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, America’s first foreign missionary society.*

*The American Board soon had sent missionaries to every part of the globe: India in 1813; Cherokee Indians in 1817; Hawaii, Palestine, and Turkey in 1819; China in 1830; Africa in 1833. In its first fifty years, the American Board sent out over 1250 missionaries. Most were from the smaller towns and farm villages of New England. Few were affluent, but many were trained in colleges where the evangelical revival burned brightly - colleges such as Middlebury, Amherst, and Williams. There they received a classical education which included Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. When they reached the mission field they were able to translate the Bible from the original Greek and Hebrew into difficult and often previously unwritten languages. They built educational systems in their lands of ministry and were often called upon to advise foreign governments. The American Board saw to it that schools and hospitals were established in all the mission fields. Native leaders were trained to continue the work of ministry.*

*In 1961 the American Board merged to form the United Church Board for World Missions. After 150 years, the American Board had sent out nearly 5000 missionaries to 34 different fields. They had established over a thousand schools and colleges and spread the Gospel throughout the world - and it all began with five young men praying in a haystack!*

*(Published in Glimpses by the Christian History Institute, Issue #80)*

More than two hundred years ago, five college students who were praying underneath a haystack during a storm **sparked a massive mission effort** which would impact the world and the church of Jesus Christ for

*continued on back page*

# networker

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Publishing Staff

Editor: Pastor Jeff Siems  
Design Editor: Leslie Spanyer

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**Letters:**

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## PRINT DEADLINES FOR THE NETWORKER

Winter 2010-11 Edition:

December 15, 2010

Spring 2011 Edition:

March 15, 2011

Summer 2011 Edition:

June 15, 2011

Fall 2011 Edition:

September 15, 2011

## GREETINGS FROM THE EA PRESIDENT

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



We had a great Convocation in September! Our theme "Not Ashamed" set the tone for the whole weekend. We were particularly challenged by our three main speakers: Dr. Joe Batluck from Teen Challenge, Dr. Mike Sigman from Evangelical Theological Seminary and our own Rev. Jim Barnes. These men brought God's work in a vibrant and moving way to challenge us theologically and practically. All of the workshop leaders did a great job that again challenged us to think differently about many different subject areas. We are grateful to all the people of St. Thomas Church for their fine hospitality.

Prior to the official start of the weekend, the Board of Directors met. In addition to doing the "nuts and bolts" kinds of stuff, the Board has begun to wrestle with where we are headed as an association and the future of the EA. When the Board meets in Texas in late February and early March, much more time will be spent on "visioning".

Plan now to be at Convocation 2011 in St. Louis, Missouri. The good folks of Bethesda Evangelical Church will be our hosts.

## Several New England EARCCC pastors gathered in Windsor, CT September 21, 2010



Left to Right: Rev. Jim Barnes, St. Louis, MO ; Rev. Sheree Harrington, Webster, MA; Rev. Doreen Gibbons, Thomaston, CT; Rev. Dave Buchanan, Boylston, MA; Rev. Kate Bartos, New Hartford, CT; Rev. Steve Darr, Torrington, CT; Rev. Sue Taylor, Bristol, CT; Rev. Bob Childs, Stamford, CT; Rev. Randy Thompson, Windsor, CT; Also present (but not pictured) at the gathering was Rev. Lin Smalec of Waynesboro, PA who serves on the national board of directors and was vacationing in Connecticut and also joined the group for lunch.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Youth Ministry** – St. John’s of Cullman, AL is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to use his/her skills to provide organizational and visionary leadership for youth ministry within the dual context of family life and the larger church’s ministry.

**Music Ministry (full time)** – St. John’s of Cullman, AL is seeking a music lover who understands and appreciates the variety of ways God can be worshipped vocally and instrumentally. St. John’s is seeking to call a lover of Christ who can provide creative leadership within the context of the church’s ministry and who can provide direction and guidance for multiple worship styles. The position is full time.

For more information on either of the above positions please contact Rev. John Richter at [jrichter@stjohnscullman.com](mailto:jrichter@stjohnscullman.com) or at 256-734-0344.

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**Pastor Needed** – Friedens Church (U.C.C.) of Washington, Texas. Our church is a family oriented multi-generation, historic, financially secure, rural church, located on top of a hill surrounded by majestic oak trees. We seek an energetic pastor who embraces the truths of the Bible and will preach with intelligence and imagination. We were formerly an Evangelical and Reformed church and still hold to those principles. The church was organized in 1890 by German immigrants and currently has about 330 members. For information or to apply, contact Albert Hartstack at [awhart@earthlink.net](mailto:awhart@earthlink.net) or call the church at (936) 878-2523. You can also visit our web site at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~awhart/friedens/churchframeset.htm>

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**Pastor Needed** – St. John’s Church is a small non-denominational rural church located in Buckskin, Indiana which is located about 30 minutes from Evansville, Indiana. Our congregation has a variety of ages with a majority being from the older generation and a large amount of youth. It is a very established church centered on the older generation and established in traditions. We are a Bible teaching and believing group of individuals who work together forming a union of faith in our small town. Our average attendance ranges from 50 to 80, but has a current membership of approximately 175. At the present time a salary and benefit package is negotiable. If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.saintjohnsbuckskin.com](http://www.saintjohnsbuckskin.com) or send your resume and references to [rjdreed@sit-co.net](mailto:rjdreed@sit-co.net) or [Rbesing@sigeconet.net](mailto:Rbesing@sigeconet.net) so that the pastoral search committee can review the information. Inquiries can also be sent to: Mike Besing PO Box 334, Somerville, IN 47683.

## Letters

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

Send letters to:

**EMAIL:**

[Office@bethelstpaul.org](mailto:Office@bethelstpaul.org)

**POSTAL:**

The Evangelical Association  
c/o Bethel-St. Paul Church  
4004 Shelbyville Road  
Louisville, KY 40207  
Attn: networker

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

## HELP US IMPLEMENT A COST-SAVING MEASURE!

*Receive Your Networker  
Via E-Mail!*

As a cost-saving measure, and also as a means of obtaining your newsletter a lot earlier than usual, we would like to e-mail your *Networker* directly to your PC. To sign-up, all you need to do is e-mail your name and e-mail address to~  
**[office@bethelstpaul.org](mailto:office@bethelstpaul.org)**

You will begin receiving your *Networker* via e-mail with the next edition this winter. Thank you for your support!



**Not Ashamed!**

# ***NOT ASHAMED!***

St. Thomas Church, Bernville, PA  
September 17 - 19

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ."*  
Romans 1: 16



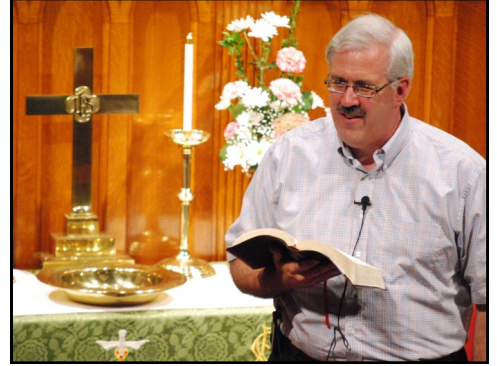
# Convocation 2010

*Special thanks to St. Thomas Church  
for hosting the 2010 Convocation.*

*Thanks also to all those who attended this years  
Convocation. We hope that you were enlightened  
both educationally and spiritually.*



**Not Ashamed!**



## The Mayor Who Became a Minister

New Braunfels, Texas is a rapidly expanding city outside of San Antonio where the population has grown from just over thirty thousand to near fifty thousand people in the last ten years. One of the leaders of the city during this time of rapid expansion was Adam Cork, who was elected mayor in 2002.

Adam was a successful businessman in the community who served in various volunteer positions within local government before becoming mayor. Shortly after his election, flood waters rose in the New Braunfels area causing Adam to be tested during the early months of his term as the city dealt with the crisis and other challenges related to river tourism, annexation and the management of many city departments. In 2005, Cork lost his re-election bid. He accepted the outcome and viewed it as an opportunity to take stock of his life and to set out in a new direction.

The family business was successful, and Cork and his wife Karen were quite busy. But a part of him felt like he needed to be doing something else. "I know when God wants you to do something different that you need to listen," Cork said. Adam began to realize that he had been saying "no" to the Lord while he worked to succeed in the commercial community, and the realization made him change the path of his life. Cork and his wife made the decision to close their business, sell their real estate, pay off their bills and buy themselves a double-wide mobile home out in the country where they grow hay and raise organic vegetables. They simplified their lives so that Adam could follow his heart and go back to school to pursue a divinity degree with an emphasis in Biblical counseling.



*Rev. Don Somerville (Founding Pastor of Grace Memorial)*  
*Rev. Adam Cork (Associate Pastor Grace Memorial)*  
*Rev. Jim Barnes (EA National Minister)*  
*Rev. Rich Carse (Sr. Pastor Grace Memorial)*

The Rev. Adam Cork now serves as an associate minister at Grace Memorial Church in New Braunfels where he was publicly ordained into Christian ministry on Sunday, August 1, 2010. The service was organized by the Rev. Richard Carse (who served as association minister during the early years of the EA) and included many participants from other local churches as well as Evangelical Association national minister, the Rev. Jim Barnes. Adam is currently applying for recognition of standing with the association.

Cork doesn't know where his ministry will take him, but he looks forward to finding out. "I hope my future is with Grace Memorial Church, but I've learned that the more I plan, the more God laughs," Cork said. "I'm going to go where God calls me, and if He directs me somewhere else, I'll go."

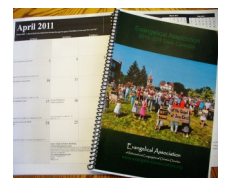
## Order Your 2010-2011 EA Desk Calendar

Getting ready for 2011? Don't forget to order your copy of the **Evangelical Association 2010 - 2011 Desk Calendar** that was released at the EA's National Convocation at Bernville, PA.

Not only does the EA Desk Calendar feature calendar dates from September 2010 through December 2011 with lots of space to write in, but it also includes helpful information to enhance your church's ministry. This includes a pictorial listing of missionaries in the Mission Renewal Network, suggested Scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, Scripture readings to help you better understand and celebrate biblical holidays, a listing of ministry resources on the Internet, along with contact information to connect you with EA officers and ministries.

The EA Calendar is a great ministry tool not only for pastors but also for church council leaders, mission committees and worship planning teams. Make sure you order enough copies for all of the ministry team leaders in your congregation.

The Calendars are priced at \$10.00 each or 3-5 for \$8.00, 6+ for \$7.00 each. To order the **EA 2010-2011 Desk Calendar**, send an email to [natmin@evangelicalassociation.org](mailto:natmin@evangelicalassociation.org) or phone toll free 877-424-1472.



## ELECTION “DO’S AND DON’TS” FOR CHURCHES

As the election draws near, many churches often wonder how they can get involved. It is important to know what is and isn’t appropriate for churches to be involved in politically. Following are a set of guidelines for churches that are approved by the IRS. This list comes from the PA Family Institute.

### *What Churches May Do:*

- ◆ Conduct non-partisan voter registration/education drives.
- ◆ Host candidate forums where all are invited and treated impartially.
- ◆ Rent a church mailing list (at market value) to a candidate.
- ◆ Publish an ad in the church bulletin for all who request, as long as the ad is purchased at the regular rate for such ads.
- ◆ Publish news stories on political candidates, campaigns and third party endorsements of candidates.
- ◆ Invite a political candidate to attend a church service or meeting. Should your church invite a candidate to a church service, remember:
  - 1) Other candidates for the same office, regardless of party, must also be given the same opportunity should they request it.
  - 2) No church representative may endorse or solicit funds for any candidate.
- ◆ Distribute voting records and candidate surveys in compliance with the neutrality rules set forth by

the IRS. During the election years, many churches make voter’s guides available to their members. This is a permissible educational activity as long as the guides do not reflect a partiality, which could be misunderstood as an endorsement of a particular party or candidate.

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### *What Churches May Not Do:*

- ◆ Endorse political candidates.
- ◆ Contribute to political candidates or political action committees.
- ◆ Participate in fund-raising projects for political candidates.
- ◆ Make an outright donation of a mailing list to a political candidate.
- ◆ Sell a political ad at a discount rate if no other advertisers are offered discounts.
- ◆ Distribute a candidate’s political statements.
- ◆ Pay to attend a caucus for a state or national political convention.
- ◆ Make in-kind or independent expenditures in favor of or against candidates.

### *\*A special note to pastors*

As private citizens, pastors have the same rights as all Americans. A pastor should always make it clear that any candidate-oriented efforts are those of a private citizen and not made on behalf of his church. Personal funds must also be used for such activities. Pastors may express personal opinions about candidates from the pulpit, but should avoid doing so lest the Internal Revenue Service argue that some use of church funds is involved.



**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!!**

# Evangelical Association

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**Contact Information:**  
**National Minister**

**Evangelical Association**  
of Reformed and Congregational  
Christian Churches

**9051 Watson Road #241**  
**St. Louis, MO 63126**

E-mail:  
natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

**Networker**  
Email: office@bethelstpaul.org

**Web**  
www.evangelicalassociation.org

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more than a century. It was through the fervent prayers and the commitment of these young, passionate Christians that a dramatic new evangelistic campaign was launched into the world from the United States.

In the E.A.R.C.C.C., we have been privileged to help continue the legacy of foreign missions started by our congregational forefathers in New England. Even though the historic mission board that grew out of the original vision of those five college students has all but ceased to preach the Gospel of salvation through Christ alone since becoming the UCBWM in 1961, **local churches have continued to raise up men and women with a passion to reach the lost.** Through the *Missions Renewal Network*, the Evangelical Association seeks to identify mission minded Christians from the Congregational, Christian, Evangelical and Reformed traditions who are ministering both at home and on the foreign field. These missionaries are continuing to fulfill the mandate of the Haystack Prayer Meeting in that they are **not ashamed of the Gospel**, but instead, are seeking to share Jesus with those who practice other religions as well as those who claim to have no religion at all!

As the E.A.R.C.C.C. continues to grow and move into the future, my prayer is that our association will become known for its emphasis on helping churches and missionaries network with one another so that the Kingdom of God may advance boldly into the most spiritually dark places on earth. If you would like to learn more about the *Missions Renewal Network* and how your congregation can begin to build a dynamic missions program using it as a tool, please contact **Liz Claver at (603)203-3360 or send her an e-mail at worldetc@aol.com.** If you have a personal interest in missions, Liz is also looking for volunteers who would be willing to work with the *Missions Renewal Network* to expand the ministry.