

networker

.....WORKING THE NETS FOR KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT



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

Are We Offering Our Utmost for His Highest?

Several years ago I was introduced to a one year devotional written about a century ago by the late Oswald Chambers. In his devotional, we are reminded that one of the most important things we need to remember as believers is the fact that **everything** we do as Christians **must flow out of our relationship with the living Lord**. All too often, Christians fall into the routine of simply going through the motions of our religion - yet Jesus never told us to practice a religion - but rather, He called us to be His disciples and to enter into a vital and powerful relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit. Everything we do as Christians ought to be done with one simple question in mind: *am I giving my utmost for His highest?*

One of the things I've always appreciated about Oswald Chambers' devotional is his unique ability to capture the essence of what it means to **really walk with Jesus**, day by day, as faithful disciples. The world we are living in does not need any more religious people - there are plenty of them running around, stealing the joy out of life and making God look bad in the eyes of the world. What the world does need to see is a church filled with Christians who wake up each morning and say, "How can I know Jesus better this day and how can I live my life in such a way that the world sees Him in me?"

These days one of the biggest criticisms leveled at church people by those who do not believe is that we are not "authentic." In a world where people are conditioned not to trust the truth of anything (since virtually anything can be faked on the Internet), those of us who are seeking to witness to the truth of Christ need, more than ever, to be walking closely with Jesus.

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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:

Zion's Church

Hamburg, Pennsylvania

New Bethel Christian Church

Raleigh, North Carolina

Frank J. Mulec

Pahoa, Hawaii

St. John Evangelical Church

Florence, Missouri

Salem Church of Heusler

Evansville, Indiana

St. Paul Community Church

Marlin, Texas

St. John's Church at New Chester

New Oxford, Pennsylvania

Rev. Jeff O. Smith

Gibsonville, North Carolina

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Networker

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Welcome to the Association!

(Cont. from Page 1)

Tyler Reed

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Rev. Dr. John T. Brantley

Concord, North Carolina

St. John's UCC

Boonville, Indiana

Rev. Dr. Max H. Sotak

Arvada, Colorado

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!!

Southeast Regional Gathering Focuses on Mission



Host pastor Buck Garrison offers prayer.



Lakeview Church praise team leads opening worship.



Pastor Johnny Boggs shares biblical strategies to engage our communities with the Gospel.



Worshipping the Lord in song.



Pastor Duane Jarman leads workshop on preparing yourself in Christ to reach out to others

Loving the Lost to Christ was the theme of the EA gathering hosted by Pastor Buck Garrison and the people of Lakeview Community Church in Burlington, North Carolina on Saturday, April 22. Having attended his first EA national gathering in Hagerstown this past September, pastor Buck had such a great time that he decided to take the initiative in planning the first EA regional gathering in North Carolina since before the pandemic.

People gathered for opening worship at 9 am with music by the praise team of Lakeview Church and a sermon by national minister Jim Barnes. The next several hours included two sessions of workshops covering a wide range of important topics. Pastor Johnny Boggs challenged participants to join with God in His mission of seeking and saving the lost by developing specific strategies to excite the people in our congregations and motivate them to engage with those outside of the church who need to hear the Gospel. Pastor Duane Jarman focused on the importance of following the example of Jesus when preparing to reach out to those who are living apart from Him. Pastor David Franks discussed the importance of helping people inside the church to discover and use their unique spiritual gifts for the building up of the Kingdom.

As is common at gatherings of the EA, lunch time provided not only a time to enjoy good food, but also served as a time of fellowship. Following a few years of dealing with the pandemic, cancelled meetings and Zoom calls, those who were in attendance cherished the opportunity to have face to face fellowship once again.

The day concluded with a closing worship service featuring special music by the *Director's Trio* who shared a number of lively Gospel songs including one with the refrain, "As long as I got King Jesus I don't need nobody else!" Pastor Duane Jarman delivered a message and everyone departed after sharing in the Lord's Supper.

SPEND A WEEKEND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH FELLOW CHRISTIANS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY



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EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION



“... who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?”

-Esther 4:14 (NIV 1984)

Mordecai recognized that Esther had been strategically positioned by God as the queen of Persia during a tense and dangerous time for her people in order that she might intervene for them before the king. In a similar way, we as Christians and churches often feel threatened as we find ourselves surrounded by a “foreign land” in which the culture has gone through a seismic shift on many fronts in recent years.

God has strategically positioned each of us as individuals and churches where we are for such a time as this! **We hope that you and others from your church will join us in Faith, NC from September 15th – 17th** as we come together for inspiring worship, loving fellowship, and challenging messages and workshops - all prayerfully designed to encourage and empower us to engage those around us for the glory of God and the cause of Christ!

Pastor Richard Myers, Shiloh Reformed Church

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Plan to bring people from your church to the

EA National Gathering

September 15-17, 2023

Shiloh Reformed Church ~ Faith, North Carolina



Keynote Speaker: Dr. James Emery White

Dr. White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, NC. The church began with a single family and has grown to more than 20,000 active attenders through in-person and online campuses with more than 70% of its growth from those who were previously unchurched. Dr. White is the president of *Serious Times*, a ministry that explores the intersection of faith and culture and hosts churchandculture.org featuring his blog and a wide range of resources to serve the church. He is a former professor of theology and culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he also served as their fourth president. Dr. White is an author of more than twenty books that have been translated into ten languages. Among his many books are Gold Medallion nominees *Serious Times* and *A Search for the Spiritual*. His most recent releases are *Christianity for People Who Aren't Christians: Uncommon Answers to Common Questions*, its companion titled *After "I Believe": Everyday Practices for a Vibrant Faith*, and his latest book *Hybrid Church: Rethinking the Church for a Post-Christian Digital Age*. Feel free to check out his podcast, "Church & Culture", on Apple Podcast, Spotify & YouTube.

For a complete list of speakers, workshops, schedule, lodging, brochure and registration information visit our dedicated website:

<https://eaconvocation.weebly.com>

If you do not have access to a computer, you can contact the host church at 704-279-2260 and they will mail you a paper copy of the brochure and registration form.

Ministry & Employment Opportunities

These churches and organizations are seeking to fill the following positions:

St. John's United Church of Christ

Boonville, IN

Full-time Pastor

Stjohnsucc1sheila@gmail.com

Salem UCC

Huntingburg, IN

Youth Pastor or Youth Director

jdonihue66@yahoo.com

St. John Evangelical Church

Florence, MO

Part-time Pastor

peggy.rupe1215@gmail.com

Amber Congregational Church

Syracuse, NY (rural community just outside Syracuse)

Pastor

gailfrary@gmail.com

Grace Lower Stone Reformed Church

Rockwell, NC

Pastor

gracelowerstone@charlotte.twcbc.com

St. John Church

Hebron, ND

Full-time Pastor

stjohnhebronnd@gmail.com

Emanuel's Christian Church

New Bavaria, OH

Part-time Pastor

emanuelccsearchcomm@gmail.com

Jacob's Church

New Tripoli, PA

Part-time Youth Leader

<https://jacobschurch.org/careers>

Host Church

Bernville, PA

Pastor

hostchurch@outlook.com

St. Thomas Church

Bernville, PA

Senior Pastor

<https://stthomasbernville.org>

St. John's United Evangelical Protestant

"Burry's" Church - Rochester, PA

Part-time Youth Director

<http://burryschurch.org>

Lyon's Evangelical Church

Located in Rural Central Texas near Texas A&M

Full-time Pastor

search@lyonsevangelical.org

First Protestant Church of New Braunfels

New Braunfels, TX

Full-time Director of Children's Ministry

tyler@firstprotestant.com

Congregational Christian Fellowship Church

Winchester, VA

Part-time Pastor

alexanderjeanie@gmail.com

**To learn more about the following ministry & employment opportunities,
please visit our website: evangelicalassociation.org**

National Office Phone Number Changing

The new phone number for the EA National Office is **314-347-9994**. Please make a note of this new number in your records as we will eventually be phasing out the old toll free 877 number which we have had for many years. The cost of maintaining a toll free number has nearly doubled in recent years and these days, most people have cell phones which generally include free long distance calling.

If you have EA promotional items that you use in your churches (brochures, ink pens, etc.) with the toll free number and need them replaced, contact the office at the new number or by email: natmin@evangelicalassociation.org

Cont. from page 1 - "Are We Offering Our Utmost for His Highest?"

Christianity grew out of the passionate commitment that the first disciples had to the **person of Jesus Christ** who had been revealed to them in resurrection power. The beauty of our faith is that we, living some two thousand years later, can still have the same personal relationship with the living Lord. Jesus wants to walk with us each and every day so that we can live our lives in a deep, abiding relationship with Him. As the Lord Himself said in John 15:5, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from Me you can do nothing.**"*

It is all too easy for church leaders and church-going people to fall into the trap of thinking that the work we do for the church and our attendance at a church service is all that God expects of us. **What God requires of us is not attendance, but rather surrender!** The Lord demands our heart, our soul, our mind, our life, our all - and He will settle for nothing less!

Are you giving your utmost for His highest?

P.S. If you are interested in a powerful daily devotional to assist you in your spiritual growth, you might want to consider *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. This book of short, one page devotionals was originally published in 1935 and has been in print ever since. It is available in its original form (which is written in a more difficult older style of English) as well as some updated versions in modern English.

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 website at ~

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 ~

namin@evangelicalassociation.org
or **314-347-9994**.

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:

natmin@evangelicalassociation.org
or at **314-347-9994**



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address page and return it to:

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New Desk Calendars Shipping End of July

The *Evangelical Association 2023-2024 Desk Calendar & Ministry Planner* is the official desk calendar of the Evangelical Association. The 17 month calendar (August 2023 through December 2024) 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. 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:

\$18.00 each for 1-2

\$16.00 each for 3-5

\$14.00 each for 6 or more

(Prices include packing and shipping at no extra charge)

You can order the EA Desk Calendar(s) by:

1. Visiting the store on our website at [EA Online Store](#). 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.
2. Sending an email to natmin@evangelicalassociation.org or calling 314-347-9994. 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!

