

October, 2007

E.C. Leader



Evangelical
Congregational
Church

Our Vision

The Evangelical Congregational Church will be a dynamic movement of God that is led by pastors and laity who have a burning passion for God and a missionary zeal to reach the lost. We will creatively obey the Great Commission by transforming plateaued and declining churches into healthy, disciple-making churches that are committed to evangelizing the communities to which God has called them. Healthy churches will reproduce themselves by planting churches in least-reached communities. Interdependence will be the distinguishing mark of the Evangelical Congregational Church as local churches network with one another and ministries beyond the E.C. family to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

Guidelines for Political Activity For Churches and Pastors

With the presidential election one year away we thought it wise to remind you that the James Madison Center for Free Speech offers several excellent resources to guide your church as you seek to inform your people to exercise their civic duty in the context of their Christian commitment.

Check out the following:

“Guidelines for Political Activities by Churches and Pastors” go to

www.jamesmadisoncenter.org

“Do’s and Don’ts for Political Activity of Pastors” go to

www.jamesmadisoncenter.org

James Madison Center for Free Speech, 1 South 6th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807, voice 812-232-2434, fax 812-235-3685, e-mail madisoncenter@aol.com



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Pastoral Notes

- **CORRECTION:** *Rev. Christopher Mowery*, Associate at Transfer, PA, Lakeside EC Church left this position as of September 30. He took over a position with a church in Austintown, Ohio. The Stationing Committee granted him an early release from his assignment at Lakeside to take this new position.
- **From the Pleasantville Bethany EC Church:**
You have sorrowed with us in our loss of Pastor Bill from the pulpit here at Bethany. Now rejoice with us as we welcome our new pastor, **Wayne Yarnall and his wife Sue** to our fellowship here at Bethany! Although Pastor Wayne “retired” from the active ministry in June, he has consented to serve as our interim pastor until Conference appoints a permanent pastor for our congregation.
- *Rev. Nicholas Lakatos* is appointed as Assistant Pastor for Pastoral Care at Transfer PA Lakeside EC Church effective October 1, 2007. Nick is also a missionary candidate under the ECC Global Ministry Commission and OMS.
- *Trinity Church, Berlinsville, PA* and *St. Peter’s Church, Weissport, PA* are joined as a charge as of November 1. Pastor Ken Schira will lead this joint effort. Ken is also starting an independent counseling service in the northern Lehigh, Carbon, Schuylkill County areas. Get in touch with him to learn about the ministry this is offered through this work.



Leadership Notes

- *Pastor Terry Jacobs* from our Clarion PA Riverhill Church took on the leadership of the EC Prayer Mobilization Team starting in October. Many of you already “know” Terry as the current editor of the “HeartCry” Prayer letter where he has reformatted and upgraded that publication. He has served the Prayer Mobilization Team with energy and enthusiasm for several years.
- There have been many changes to the National Ministry Team membership as a result of retirements and stationing changes:

<i>With gratitude, we bid farewell to:</i>	<i>We welcome:</i>
Rev. Marlin Lafferty—Berks District	Rev. Dr. James Price—Berks District
Dale Reber—Berks District	Arlan Marks—Berks District
Rev. Dr. Robert Mavis—Lehigh District	Rev. Robert Bast—Lehigh District
Rev. Dr. Norman Dixon—Penn Jersey District	Rev. Robert Brown—Penn Jersey District
Rev. Bryan Dever—Schuylkill District	Rev. Marks Brooks—Schuylkill District
Celine Moyer—Schuylkill District	Fern Kurtz—Schuylkill District
- The newly elected Berks District Facilitator is **Rev. Gary Kuehner** (Lenhartsville, Salem). Facilitator Dale Reber moved from the district.
- **Rev. David Swift** (Myerstown, Zion) was elected facilitator for the Capital/Lebanon District. Following the appointment of Rev. Gary Luckenbill to Whiting, NJ.
- **Rev. Daniel DeSchoolmeester** (Ashland, Bethany) replaces Rev. Bryan Dever as the Schuylkill District Facilitator.
- The Great Lakes Region Conference Minister Nominating Committee membership has changed with the resignations of Jason Anderson (Dixon IL Bethel) and Rev. Chris Mowery (Lakeside PA Transfer). Mr. Anderson resigned to devote time to manager a political campaign. Rev. Mowery transferred his credentials to another denomination in order to serve a church close to his family. **Rev. Chris Lewis** (Bethany Crossroads) has been appointed to serve on this committee. **Rev. Ken Schmoyer** (Winnebago IL) will replace Rev. Mowery as secretary.

Bishop's Travels November

1 National Ministry Team
 4 Emlenton, New Zion
 9-16 Japan Conference
 18 am Lancaster Faith Thankoffering
 pm Lancaster Vida Nueva
 25 Myerstown Zion building addition dedication
 26 DGM Nominating Committee
 28 Leadership Commission
 30-Dec. 1 Wesleyan Leaders Form, Indianapolis, IN



News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

Highmark Freedom Blue PPO:

For those retired pastors serving a church and a participant in the Freedom Blue PPO, please note that the monthly premiums for 2008 will remain the same at \$120/person. Churches served full-time by an eligible, retired pastor pay 100% of the pastor and his wife's health insurance premiums. Churches served part-time by an eligible, retired pastor pay 50% of the pastor and his wife's health insurance premiums. The premiums are due to the Benefits Corporation by the 15th of the month for the next month's premium. (Example: January premium is due December 15th.) If you accessed the EC Website before October 3 for the 2008 Health Insurance Rates or if you accessed the 2008 Treasurer's Guide on the website, please make sure your copy reflects the corrected Freedom Blue PPO premium.

Pastors, Lay Delegates, Church Treasurers—2008 Compensation Forms:

REMINDER that copies of the following Compensation Forms are due to Ken Wiest, Benefits-Compensation Administrator, no later than January 15th or even better. Mail the copies to Ken Wiest as soon as your Pastor's 2008 Compensation Package is approved this fall. The forms and instructions are available on the EC Website. The following forms (completed and signed) are required to be submitted:

- 2008 Statement of Pastor's Compensation (page 1-2)
- 2008 Pastor's Compensation Agreement Form

If a Flexible Spending Account is part of the Salary package, also submit the following:

- Health Care Flexible Spending Account Agreement Form
 - EC Church Flexible Benefit Plan-Health Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) - 1st page only
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News from the Benefits Corporation and Compensation Committee (continued from page 3)

Worker's Compensation

Churches have received their 2007 account statement for their Worker's Compensation coverage. Payment is due to the Benefits Corporation by November 1.

Aetna Health Insurance Research Study:

Aetna has advised us that beginning October 1 and lasting for 2.5 years, they will be conducting an extensive research study of member participants who have had a heart attack, also called Myocardial Infarction and are on maintenance drugs such as beta blockers. Aetna will contact you directly by letter and by phone if you are chosen to be part of this study. You can refuse, if you so desire. Aetna is absorbing the cost of covering the study drugs and expenses; there will be no increase in premiums related to this study.



Parsonage Review Forms

Churches that provide a parsonage for their pastor are to complete the annual Parsonage Review Form as part of setting the pastor's compensation package for the new year which includes an annual walk-thru of the parsonage. This is a rule of National Conference. The details for this review are found in the National Conference Journal under Pastoral Compensation, NC Rule 1002.b. The forms to be completed can be found on the EC Website under Compensation. Once completed, copies of the Parsonage Review Forms go to the Conference Minister, to the pastor and placed in the official minutes of the church.

LEHIGH VALLEY and AETNA Health Insurance

The Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce that as of December 1, 2007, Lehigh Valley Physician Hospital Organization (LVPHO), representing Lehigh Valley Hospitals — all 3 sites; Health Network Laboratories; Lehigh Valley Medical Group with over 300 physicians throughout the Lehigh Valley, will now accept AETNA as a health care insurer. There are a group of approximately 600 physicians who work with but no under LVPHO and will need to accept or reject the new agreement individually. The complete list of the physicians in the Lehigh Valley who will be available on the AETNA network will be listed on the AETNA website after December 1, 2007. This has been a long time coming after years of discussions and negotiations between Aetna and LVPHO. If you have any questions, please call Becky Reigle (610)776-1535.

For questions regarding Compensation or the Benefits Corporation, please contact the Benefits-Compensation Administrator, Rev. Ken Wiest (call 717-866-7581 or email: kwiest@eccenter.com)



The New Face of Christian Endeavor

Do you remember Christian Endeavor? For many people, the words Christian Endeavor (C.E.) bring back memories from childhood and teenage years. Memories of spiritual connection, fellowship, and life guidance come rushing into one's mind like a raging flood. Where would your life be without the influence and training of C.E.?

Many people do not realize that C.E. remains a vital ministry. Decades ago, C.E. needed to change its format as denominations and individual churches began to design their own youth ministry programs. The focus of its efforts, however, has remained the same—reach youth and young adults for Christ and develop them in the areas of leadership and Christian service. Today, Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor (PACE) offers youth worker training, service opportunities (summer work camps reaching between 500 and 700 people, fall and spring work weekends) and leadership development (imagine the impact leadership institute, college intern program, young adult leadership development at Summer Assembly Youth Conference). God continues to make an impact through PACE to the Mid-Atlantic Region “For Christ and the Church!”

While many churches struggle to design effective youth ministries with volunteers or overworked paid youth pastors, excellent programs and support are available through PACE's staff. Currently, few E.C. youth ministries connect with it's programs, coaching, or development services because of not knowing what it offers. PACE currently employs four full time staff workers to help serve the needs of your church.

PACE has a vision to greatly expand its ministry in the next five years. Through connections with you and many other local churches PACE can offer additional programs and training options, and assist church youth ministries, in 1) reaching youth for Christ, 2) developing leadership skills and attitudes of service, and 3) provide training so that youth workers can give clear development focus to the youth ministries within their local congregations.

PACE can use your help in three ways. First, encourage the pastor and youth workers from your church to contact Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor! Second, be part of the PACE prayer team. Third, consider a financial gift to help expand the vision that God has given PACE.

Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor would love to hear from you. Contact can be made by phone: (610)369-0207, by e-mail: pace@pachristianendeavor.org. The organization's website: www.pachristianendeavor.org, has more information on what is offered to you and your local church.



Evangelical Theological Seminary

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Mark your calendars for the next Faith in the Marketplace...

On Thursday, November 15 beginning at 7:00 a.m., Mr. Sam Beiler, President and CEO of Auntie Anne's, Inc. will present on "The Power of Momentum." Momentum is defined as, "strength, or force gained by momentum through the development of events." As leaders, it's our responsibility to foster unity within our environments. The process for building positive momentum presents challenges as numerous differing opinions, backgrounds, and needs exist within an organization. Discover the foundational philosophies Auntie Anne's Inc. had implemented to strengthen its collaborative culture between corporate departments and its franchise system.



Faith in the Marketplace provides a great opportunity not only to hear from a prominent Christian business leader, but also to meet other Christian business, community and church leaders who are serious about connecting their faith with their work. Tickets are available for \$15.00 per person. Please contact Marilyn Taylor in the President's Office by calling (717)866-5775 or e-mailing her at mtaylor@evangelical.edu to make your reservations today!

DEATH AND ITS ETHICAL CHALLENGES: A PASTORAL VIEW

Evangelical Theological Seminary President Dennis P. Hollinger, Ph.D. is the featured speaker at a seminar sponsored by the Alumni Council of Evangelical Theological Seminary and The Leadership Commission of the Evangelical Congregational Church held Tuesday, November 13 in Dech Chapel. Registration begins at 8:30 am, followed by the opening session and devotions. Dr. Hollinger will present two sessions: "The Changing Face of Death and Treatment Termination" and "The Challenges of Euthanasia (Assisted Suicide) and the Care of the Dying." Following lunch there will be a panel discussion, with Bishop Michael Sigman serving as moderator. The panel will include Dr. Dennis Hollinger, Dr. Ken Nafzinger and Rev. Dana Logan. Costs are as follows: Individual registration is \$40.00*; Evangelical Alumni registration—\$35.00*

**Includes registration, lunch and CEU credit*



Did you know???

Books and other purchases made through Amazon.com by way of the link on the ETS (www.evangelical.edu) home page will help support the Evangelical student scholarship