

September, 2007

E.C. Leader

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.



Evangelical
Congregational
Church

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

There is still time to register for September's Faith in the Marketplace...

Faith in the Marketplace will begin its 3rd season on Thursday, September 27 at 7:00 a.m. in Zinn Commons, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Myerstown, PA. The guest speaker is evangelist and business owner, Mr. Bob Jacks, who co-authored "Divine Appointments." Through his book, he equips Christians with a straightforward systematic approach for sharing Christ with those around them on a daily basis.

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. has 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 reservation today!

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Address Changes

It always seems like when you think you have it all completed something changes. This is the case with the 2007 Conference Journal. Here are some address and email changes:

- Bangor, PA, First—phone number is 610-588-3226
- Rev. Joshua Reinders (Seneca EC Church) — use church address: 2844 State Route 257, Seneca, PA 16346. Also new e-mail for Josh: joshuamr19@gmail.com
- Rev. Robert Long—3 Cottage Drive, StoneRidge Village, Myerstown, PA 17067
- Margaret Barr (lay delegate for Rock Falls) — 502 East Knox, Morrison, IL 61270; 815-772-8606
- Rev. Stephen Cramer — 831 Mansfield-Washington Road, Mansfield, OH 44903
- Rev. Robert Zetterberg — correct zip code: 45140
- Myerstown, PA, Zion — zionec@verizon.net



Pastoral Notes

Rev. Christopher Mowery, Assistant at Transfer, PA, Lakeside EC Church will be leaving this position as of September 30. He will take over a similar position with his home church in Mineral Springs, OH. At this time he will retain his credentials with the EC Church.

Miscellaneous

- **Akron, PA, Grace EC Church** will be hosting a **FREE concert** featuring Christian recording artist Brett Rush on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Brett is a well traveled evangelist, minister of the gospel and songwriter/performer. Pre-concert activities begin at 5:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., Majik Andrew, a Christian illusionist will perform. This will be a “seeker sensitive” service, so invite your unsaved friends! Contact the church office at 717-859-2700 for extra tickets. The tickets will be used for a door prize drawing and serve as an invitation. Tickets will also be available at the door. Contact Pastor Steve Holubec with any questions.
- **Rev. Dennis Buss**, pastor at Rock Falls, IL is looking for additional copies of hymnals for their church. The hymnal is titled “***Favorite Hymns of Praise***” dated 1973 and is green. If you have copies you would like to donate to this church, please call Rev. Buss at 815-625-5360.



Bishop's Travels October

- 2-3 Global Ministries Commission
- 4 Evangelism & Discipleship Commission
- 5 Evangelical Theological Seminary Board of Trustees
- 5-8 Illinois District
- 7 AM Highland Park EC Church, IL
- PM Maranatha EC Church, Highland Park, IL
- 10 Church Planting Commission
- 14 Reading, PA, First
- 21 Bethany Crossroads, PA, 100th Anniversary
- 28 AMEphrata, PA, Grace
- PM Christiaan Mann Ordination
- 30 ECCRV Board of Trustees



News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

Manna Fund

- Retirees: The Benefits Corporation is still accepting Financial Disclosure Forms from those retirees who wish to be considered for the 2007 Manna Fund distribution. Eligibility begins with at least 10 years as a past participant in the Pension plan; completion of the Manna Fund Application/ Financial Disclosure Form and a total income of no more than \$13,000 for a single and \$18,000 for a couple. A resident of a retirement or nursing home is not eligible to receive a Manna Fund distribution.



The Manna Fund Financial Disclosure Form is available on the EC Church website at www.eccenter.com (click on Benefits Corporation—Forms) or by calling EC Church Center (1-800-866-7581) to have a form mailed to you. Deadline for submitting the form is October 15, 2007. If you have already submitted your 2007 Financial Disclosure Form, you do not need to complete another one. The Benefits Corporation will be making the 2007 Manna Fund distribution in December.

- Churches: The Benefits Corporation is still accepting contributions to the Manna Fund. Please make checks to the Benefits Corporation, indicating the check is for the Manna Fund and mail the check to the Benefits Corporation, EC Church Center, Attn: Rev. Ken Wiest.

2008 Compensation and Benefits Information:

2008 Pastor's Compensation Forms, 2008 Health Insurance Rates, 2008 Compensation Manual and information on Flexible Spending Accounts are all available on the EC Church website or if you do not have internet access, you may call the EC Church Center and request any of the following:

- 2008 Compensation Packet
- 2008 Health Insurance Packet
- Flexible Spending Account Packet

News from the Benefits Corporation and Compensation Committee (continued from page 3)

High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account:

The Aetna HSA-HMO rates, plan summary and the pros and cons of a High Deductible Health Plan and Health Savings Account are available by contacting Rev. Ken Wiest, Benefits-Compensation Administrator at EC Church Center, 1-800-866-7581. This information is not on the website. Enrollment in the High Deductible HMO-HSA is only available during our open enrollment month, September, 2007.

Reminder: The Benefits Corporation does not bill churches for the monthly health insurance premium, or for the church contribution to the pastor's pension account, nor for the annual disability fund premium. These payments are outlined annually in the Treasurer's Guide, which serves as our billing to each church. The 2008 Treasurer's Guide is available on the EC Church website.

The only printed bill you will receive from the Benefits Corporation is for Worker's Compensation Insurance. Your 2007 bill will be sent in September, due upon receipt.

Any Changes to Your Health Insurance:

Just a reminder that no pastor (whether active or retired) nor any of his dependents, including the spouse, is permitted to make any change to your health insurance coverage that you have through the Benefits Corporation by calling the insurance company on your own. ALL CHANGES ARE TO BE MADE BY REV. KEN WIEST, Benefits-Compensation Administrator. Your first call with any change is to be to Rev. Ken Wiest, not the insurance company!

Checks to the Benefits Corporation:

All monthly payments to the Benefits Corporation (health insurance, pastor's personal pension contribution, and the church pension contribution) may be included in one check from the church, but please include an itemized explanation of each amount included in the check.

Churches: please remember that the Pastor's Personal Pension Contribution is to be sent to the Benefits Corporation within three days of the date on the paycheck. This is not our rule, but federal regulation.

Health Insurance premiums and the Church's pension contribution are due to the Benefits Corporation by the 15th of each month. Health insurance is paid one month in advance. The 2008 rates are effective January 1, 2008, with the 1st payment using these rates due to the Benefits Corporation by December 15, 2007 for the January, 2008 premium.

2008 Retiree Health Insurance—To our eligible retired pastors and wives and the churches they are assigned to serve:

The Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce that we did not have an increase in our Highmark Freedom Blue PPO premium for 2008. Please note that the 2008 Treasurer's Guide and 2008 Health Insurance rate Charts on the EC Church website indicate a substantial increase for the retiree health insurance, as we were told in August to expect a 30% increase. We are praising the Lord that Highmark was able to hold our premiums at our 2007 rate. (The website information will be corrected.)

News from the Benefits Corporation and Compensation Committee (continued from page 4)

The Benefits Corporation is also pleased to announce that Highmark has extended their Freedom Blue PPO coverage to include all of our eligible, retired pastors and wives, living within Pennsylvania onto the Freedom Blue PPO for 2008. Those eligible retirees, living in Pennsylvania and not currently enrolled in the Freedom Blue PPO, will be receiving enrollment information within the next month. All eligible, retired pastors and wives residing in Pennsylvania will be enrolled in the PPO, effective January 1, 2008.

For questions regarding Compensation or the Benefits Corporation, please contact the Benefits-

Finance Committee

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ISSUES FRAUD WARNINGS:

The Internal Revenue Service has warned taxpayers of a new phishing scam, in which an e-mail purporting to come from the IRS advises taxpayers they can receive \$80 by filling out an online customer satisfaction survey. The IRS urges taxpayers to ignore this solicitation and not provide any requested information. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail.

In another recent scam, consumers have received a "Tax Avoidance Investigation" e-mail claiming to come from the IRS' "Fraud Department" in which the recipient is asked to complete an "investigation form," for which there is a link contained in the e-mail, because of possible fraud that the recipient committed. It is believed that clicking on the link may activated a Trojan Horse that could infect your computer.

The Internal Revenue Service also alerted taxpayers to the latest versions of an e-mail scam intended to fool people into believing they are under investigation by the agency's Criminal Investigation division. This e-mail falsely states that the person is under a criminal probe for submitting a false tax return to the California Franchise Tax Board. The e-mail seeks to entice people to click on a link or open an attachment to learn more information about the complaint against them. The IRS warned people that the e-mail link and attachment is a Trojan Horse that can take over the person's computer hard drive and allow someone to have remote access to the computer.



The IRS urged people not to click the link in the e-mail or open the attachment. Similar e-mail variations suggest a customer has filed a complaint against a company and the IRS can act as an arbitrator. The latest versions appear aimed at business taxpayers as well as individual taxpayers.

The IRS DOES NOT SEND OUT UNSOLICITED E-MAILS OR ASK FOR DETAILED PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OVER THE INTERNET. Additionally, the IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

Recipients of questionable e-mails claiming to come from the IRS should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the e-mails. Instead, they should forward the e-mails to phishing@irs.gov.

Some Consideration When You Give Real Estate or Receive a Gift of Real Estate!

by Dr. John P. Ragsdale, Planned Giving Officer

The real estate market in the United States of America has been making headlines for many weeks. This may be a time when someone might want to consider making a gift of property rather than cash to a ministry. Such gifts present many issues for consideration by the recipient. There are many properties that have been on the market for a long time due to issues with underground oil tanks, insufficient percolation, code restrictions, etc. When such a gift is given, the donor is responsible first of all to have an evaluation of the property for Internal Revenue purposes, in order to use its value as a tax deduction. Donors need to also keep in mind the restrictions on the percentage of their gross taxable income which may be deducted for real property gifts.

Secondly, it is important for the recipient to determine whether they should accept the gift, due to the possibility that they would incur obligations on the property, which would diminish or even exceed its marketable value. On property that has experienced a significant increase in value, and for which the donor would incur significant capital gains taxes, making a gift of land or a house directly to a charity has great value. The donor receives a tax donation exceeds the percentage allowed for the deduction, there are roll-over provisions for using the deduction over a period of five years beyond the year of the gift.

In any event, it is critical that legal representation for the recipient and the accountant for the donor be fully involved in the transaction. I was involved in an institution which had accepted the ownership of a house, with the provision that the institution would maintain the house until the owner went to be with the Lord. Over a period of years, the institution paid out more on its maintenance than the property was worth. Finally, the family agreed to take the property back without further obligation. I was also involved in an offer of a property, that we were told had considerable value. Upon careful examination, we discovered there were unresolved issues with hazardous chemicals in the ground. Acceptance of the property would have put the financial responsibility for the clean-up on the institution. Needless to say, we did not accept the gift.

Real estate gifts, without issues, are a wonderful way for donors to make significant gifts and for ministries to honor their generosity. Just be careful and do not make verbal commitments in advance of assessments of the property.

Leadership Academy

2007 Fall Seminar for the Great Lakes Region Pastors

“Ethical Issues at the End of Life”

Monday, November 5, 2007

Wedgewood Park EC Church, Youngstown, OH

Guest Speaker: Dennis P. Hollinger, Ph.D.



Evangelical Theological Seminary

Two Very Special Events featuring Ravi Zacharias

Ritter/Moyer Lecture

For thirty-four years, evangelist, apologist and author Ravi Zacharias has spoken all over the world and in numerous universities, notably Harvard, Princeton, and Oxford University and now he will speak at Evangelical!



Mr. Zacharias will present “Communicating Christ in a Post-modern World” for the annual **Ritter/Moyer Lecture** held Thursday, October 18. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions, following his address. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Dech Memorial Chapel, however, we ask that you R.S.V.P. by calling 717-866-5775 or e-mailing ahalde-man@evangelical.edu.

The 2007 Friends of Evangelical Banquet will also feature Ravi Zacharias! You are invited to attend on Friday, October 19 beginning with fellowship time at 5:45 p.m. at Calvary Church in Lancaster, PA. Tickets may be purchased for \$40 per person by contacting Marsha Conley, Institutional Advancement Office, at 717-866-5775 extension 130 or email mconley@evangelical.edu, prior to October 5.

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

A church planting workshop for EC leaders committed to multiplying disciples, leaders, and churches.

Church Planting WORKSHOP

multiply.

Saturday, November 3rd; 9AM-3PM

Saturday, NOV 3, 9AM-3PM
Featuring Church Resource Ministries' PHIL ALESSI
More details this summer!

On November 3, the Church Planting Commission is hosting a Natural Church Multiplication Summit from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Mohn's Memorial EC Church, Mohn's Hill, PA. Designed for pastors and lay leaders of churches with a desire and potential for parenting a church, as well as churches already engaged in church planting. This day will answer questions, provide instruction, and fan the flame of desire to serve the Great Commission.

The cost is \$10.00 per person. (Make checks payable to “E.C. Church”). Deadline for registration is October 19th. Send registration and check to: E.C. Church Center, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067; Attn: Brenda

