

# **E.C. National News**

## **February – March, 2007**

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**The Evangelical Congregational Church**  
**100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, Pennsylvania 17067**  
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### **What is NMT?**

The purpose of the National Ministry Team (NMT) is to act on behalf of the National Conference in attending to matters that arise between Conference sessions and to handle tasks the Conference may assign.

Committees within the Team are Editing and Publishing of the Discipline, Episcopacy (matters concerning the Bishop), Investment, Loan/Investment Fund, and Vision 20/20 (vision casting and strategic planning).

Each of our 13 districts is represented by a pastor and a lay member. Advisory members include Conference Ministers, the Director of Global Ministries, the Controller, a Conference Attorney, and former Bishops. The Bishop serves as chair, and a secretary and treasurer are present.

NMT meets at least once a year. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 29 in Myerstown.

### **Eric Bender is new Controller**

Mr. Eric Bender recently accepted the position of Controller of the E.C.C. Retirement Village. Through special agreement, he is also Controller of the E.C. Church. He is aided by Shirley Long, who has been named Administrative Assistant to the Controller.

Mr. Bender has a B.S. in accounting from Grove City College and an MBA from Regent University. He lives in Willow Street with wife, Karen, and children, Zachary and Emma. The family attends First United Methodist Church of Lancaster.

### **Prayer sessions conclude**

On Saturday, March 31, the last of 13 district prayer gatherings will take place in Akron, Pa. The series of meetings began on February 3 at Faith E.C. Church, Lancaster, Pa. In each location, how-to's for more effective prayer meetings were presented. Prayer times focused on district and denominational needs, particularly the upcoming election of a new Bishop.

One of the presenters, Rev. Terry Jacobs of Riverhill E.C. Church, Clarion, Pa., comments: *There has been an overwhelming response to the meetings. New ideas have been presented to rejuvenate the prayer meetings of our fellowship. It's my prayer that we will value prayer meetings on the same scale as we do Bible studies. Everyone was asking when we can do this again.*

### **Church planting notes**

Last November, United Evangelical of Tallmadge, Ohio voted to discontinue as a congregation. Their final service was held on Sunday, December 31. The denomination and former members are hoping a restart will soon be underway. We are grateful for the ministry of Rev. Kenneth Zaebst who served as interim pastor of the past year and a half.

Pastor Rolando Diaz and wife, Doris, are giving leadership to a new ministry in Philadelphia. They are focusing on the Dominican community, as well as other Hispanics. Space is being rented in a church on Tabor Road in the neighborhood of Olney High School.

## **Women's retreats planned**

"Changed Heart, Changed Life" is the theme for the Buckeye-Allegheny Districts' women's retreat to be held March 30 through April 1. Speaker is Karen Allaman of Knox, PA, Grace. Location is Life Ministries ("the Castle") of Franklin, Pa. Cost is \$65.

"A Day Apart" retreats are scheduled for two locations. Women of the Susquehanna Region will meet at St. David's Church in Weigelstown on Saturday, March 17. The Delaware Region retreat will be at Trinity Church in Royersford on Saturday, April 14.

Speaker will be Anita Keagy of Joy Ministries, and praise will be led by Bruce and Linda Sellers. Cost is \$10.

Registrations for the Susquehanna & Delaware Regions should be sent to Mary Lou Reber, 106 Greenwood Drive, Temple, Pa. 19560, as soon as possible.

Twin Pines Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center will have its annual "For Ladies Only" retreat April 17 to 19. Call 570-629-2411 for details.

## **New Babies**

*Pastor Chris and Stefanie Mann of California, Pa. Bethany have a new daughter **Sarah Kathryn**, born July 19. Big sisters are Madeline and Elizabeth.*

*Air Force Chaplain Noel Blancaflor and wife, Julie, have a new son, **Daniel John**, born July 26. Big sisters are Kate and Megan. The family lives in San Antonio, Texas.*

*Pastor Gene Stevenson, Associate at Palmyra, Pa. First, and wife, Beth, have a new daughter, **Aria Noel**, born November 15.*

*Pastor Dan and Melinda Moury of Mt. Joy, Pa. Trinity have a new daughter, **Leah Dyann**, born November 28. She has a sister, Hannah, and a brother, Josiah.*

## **Remembering loved ones**

***Mark Meister, II** son of Pastor Mark and Nancy Meister of Sunbury, Pa. Bethany, died unexpectedly on November 5. He is also survived by sister, Ashley, and fiancée, Brittany. Mark was a student at Penn College and was active in Bethany's Lighthouse Café youth ministry.*

***Dr. Leon Hynson**, President of Evangelical School of Theology from 1975 to 1982, passed away on December 7. He is survived by wife, Ruth. Dr. Hynson also taught at EST and Asbury Seminary. He was pastor of Harrisburg Grace and part-time pastor at Martindale, Union Salem, and East Petersburg. He was living in East Berlin, Pa.*

*Retired, pastor, **Rev. James Mohn**, passed away on February 4. His wife, Gladys, died in 2006. Rev. Mohn served Rothsville, Pa. from 1967 to 1978. He was a resident of the E.C.C. Retirement Village.*

***Our prayers and sympathy are with these families.***

## **Weddings**

***Christopher Brown**, son of Great Lakes Conference Minister Gary Brown and wife, Ann, married **Julie Krall** on September 4.*

***Timothy Bast**, son of Pastor Robert and Cathy Jo Bast of Bethlehem, Pa. Emmanuel, married **Kate Harris** on September 23.*

***Bethany Roberts**, daughter of Pastor Kevin and Danette Roberts of Tamaqua, Pa. Bethany, married **Matthew Weber** on October 7.*

***Jessica Gordon**, daughter of Pastor John and Judith Gordon of Dreherstown, Pa. Immanuel, married **David Cole** on November 11.*