

E.C. NATIONAL NEWS

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WINTER, 2008

Bethany Crossroads celebrates 100 years

February 23 marked the 100th anniversary of Bethany Crossroads EC Church, Knox, PA. The day celebrates the 1908 dedication of a restored building after a period of disrepair.

The church's history can be traced to 1834 when Rev. Solomon Altamouse began preaching in Weaver School near Valley Cemetery. This group became Valley Church, an Evangelical Association Church. They put up their first building in 1840. By 1865, they had expanded into a new building, and by 1889, the Valley Church, which still stands, was constructed.

As the population of Salem Township grew rapidly, Rev. G.W. Cupp of Valley Church started three more congregations, including Mt. Lebanon at Crossroads. On June 10, 1874, Henry Myers deeded half an acre of land to Samuel Rossman for a building site.

When a denominational split around 1894 led to the formation of the United Evangelical Church, the Mt. Lebanon congregation remained intact. In 1906, the property was purchased back from the Evangelical Association. The church's name became Crossroads, then Bethany.



Church Anniversary

In 1970, a restroom wing and basement were constructed. A new sanctuary with basement was added to the original building in 1975, and last year, kitchen and foyer renovations were completed.

Bethany is known for its annual missions con-

ferences, which began in 1976.

The church celebrated a little early with a special day on October 21. Festivities included a message by Bishop Michael Sigman, a report by Conference Historian Gary Brown, a dinner, a program of vocal music by the Smith Sisters, comments from former pastors, and sharing from the congregation.

In preparation, the committee removed the cornerstone in search of its copper box. After pulling out a Christmas tree stand and a fan motor, they realized they had opened a storage box. The box had been safely stored in the office.

Rev. Christopher Lewis is current pastor. He is assisted by wife, Becky. Lay Delegate is Robert McElhatten.

Rev. Sizemore to be Missions Director

Rev. Randall Sizemore was approved at a special January 14 meeting of the National Ministry Team to be our eighth Director of the Global Ministries Commission. Randy is currently pastor of the Williams Valley Faith and Gratz Good Shepherd Churches. He lives in Lykens, PA with wife, Carla; son, Caleb; and daughter, Leah.



Rev. Sizemore will take office on July 1. He follows current Director, Jim Ehrman.

Day of Prayer Set

"Prayer, America's Strength and Shield" is the theme for National Day of Prayer to be observed Thursday, May 1. Dr. Ravi Zacharias is Honorary Chairman. A catalog of planning and promotional aids is available at 1-800-444-8828 or www.NationalDayofPrayer.org

Ann Brown, Editor

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Women's retreats planned

The **Allegheny/Buckeye** Women's Retreat will be held Friday through Sunday, April 4 to 6 at Life Ministries near Franklin, PA. Anita Keagy of Joyshop Ministries will lead sessions on "Seeking Him". Cost is \$70, and registrations are due March 14. Questions may be directed to Jamie Kittle, 419-425-9209 or bek777@hotmail.com.

"Designs for Living," is the theme for the eastern regions' Day Apart retreat. Brenda Shumaker, interior designer, author, and radio/TV personality will be guest speaker. Dates are Saturday, April 12 at Evangelical Theological Seminary for the **Susquehanna Region** (register by March 22), and Saturday, April 19 at Salem EC Church, Lenhartsville for the **Delaware Region** (register by March 29).

Registrations for all three retreats should be sent to Mary Lou Reber, 35 Pleasant Road, Gordonville, PA 17529; 717-768-0224.



Twin Pines

Camp will host its annual For Ladies Only Retreat Tuesday through Thursday, April 15 to 17. Guest speaker will be Rev. Ruth Puleo, who works with her husband as an associate pastor at Stroudsburg Christian Life Assembly.

Cost is \$162 for Aspen Lodge and \$140 for other housing. For more information, contact 570-629-2411 or forladiesonly@twinpines.org

FAMILY NEWS

Remembering loved ones

Irene M. Suci, 90, charter member and former lay delegate of First EC Church, Canton, OH, passed away on October 5, 2007. She was employed by school cafeterias and cooked at Camp ECCO.

Missionary, **Cynthia Jane Farr**, 61, passed away unexpectedly on January 15. Along with husband James, who survives, she was a Wycliffe Bible Translator in Papua New Guinea. Son, Jamie, also works with Wycliffe. Conference Minister, Fred Moury is a brother. Cindi is also survived by parents Fred and Almira Moury.

Marian Cunningham, 89, wife of the late Rev. Fred Cunningham, passed away on January 18 in Scottsdale, AZ. She assisted her husband with ministries in Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Kenneth Leibensperger, father of Bishop-elect Kevin Leibensperger, passed away on February 23. He is survived by wife, Marilyn.

Anniversary

Rev. John Altpeter, associate pastor at Terre Hill, PA, Trinity, and wife, **Elsie**, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on October 3.

Wedding

Rachel Leigh Hollinger, daughter of Pastor Michael and Debbie Hollinger of Gallo-way, OH, Amity Road, married **Matthew David Klingler** on October 6. The father of the bride, assisted by Rev. Gary Brown, officiated.



Ordination

Rev. Christiaan Mann, pastor at California, PA, Bethany, was ordained at St. Paul's EC Church, Reamstown on October 28. Wife is Stefanie, and children are Madeline, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

New Baby

Marcia Corner, Student Pastoral Assistant at Chicago, Kimball Avenue, and husband, Paul, have a new son, **Josiah Paul Corner**, born January 15. Marcia attends North Park Seminary.

