

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News



100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067
1-800-866-7581; www.eccenter.com

FALL, 2009

Seneca celebrates 35th anniversary

The congregation of Seneca E.C. Church, Seneca, PA celebrated their thirty-fifth anniversary on June 28. The church had its beginnings on March 13, 1974, when Rev. Wilbur Deck of Knox Grace and Rev. Kenneth Shaffer of Knox Bethany met with around 20 interested people at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schake. The group agreed to meet weekly to study the Bible, learn about the denomination, and consider starting a church.



Soon, the group was meeting twice a week, and by June, they had decided to form a church and affiliate with the Evangelical Congregational denomination. The first public worship service was held on June 30 in the Seneca Fire Hall. Western Conference Superintendent, Fred Fink preached to 253 attendees, and 19 were received into charter membership.

The Conference appointed Rev. John Ward to serve as first pastor, and he began the assignment on July 1. For that month, services were held in the nearby Victory Heights Community Building. For the next four months, the congregation worshipped in a vacant elementary school in Cranberry. In December, they moved to the second floor of Hoover's Tastee Freeze in Cranberry, where they met for the following nine months.

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Montana and Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Weaver donated four acres of land for a building. Rev. Robert Say, a Nazarene evangelist and church builder, was engaged to draw up

plans. A groundbreaking ceremony with Bishop Herbert Wittmaier was held on May 18, 1975.

Rev. Say and a team of volunteers began construction with days. The congregation moved in on August 31, though work remained to be done. A day of dedication was held on February 29, 1976. Rev. Richard Cattermole, Superintendent of the Board of Missions, preached in the morning; Bishop Wittmaier spoke in the afternoon; and Rev. Fred Fink addressed an evening service.

Construction of a fellowship hall/gymnasium began in 2004 under Rev. David Hart. It has been serving both church and community, with some detail work yet to be done.

The celebration on June 28th included a morning message by Bishop Kevin Leibensperger, a service of dedication of the fellowship hall, and a dinner. Current pastor is Joshua Reinders. Wife is Rachel.



Missionary home is occupied

Brian, Missy, Rachel, Hannah, and Micah Wagner of Kenya are the first occupants of the new missionary home in Millersville, PA. The 22 Kready Avenue house is the former parsonage of Grace E.C. Church.

The congregation put in a new bathroom, upgraded the kitchen and laundry room, and painted the interior. Most of the furnishings were donated.

Thank you, Millersville Grace, for this special ministry to missionaries.

New at Twin Pines

Jill Matarazzi recently joined the staff at Twin Pines Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center as Guest Services Coordinator. Jill is a member of First E.C. Church, Palmyra, PA and was a Twin Pines camper.

In 2007, Jill completed a Creative Writing degree at Belhaven College in Jackson, MS. She then went to work as Associate Manager of the Jockey Store in Hershey. Recently, she was employed by the Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company. She gained experience in the hospitality industry taking reservations for Hotel Hershey and Hershey Lodge.

"I can't say now excited I am to work here," says Jill. "God has placed a mission field in front of me, and I praise Him for that."

Lock-in Planned

A FAT (Friday After Thanksgiving) teen lock-in is being planned for midnight through 6:00 a.m., November 27 & 28. Location is Ozzy's Fun Center in Leesport, PA. Cost is \$25 by November 16 and \$30 after. A minimum of 150 is required to proceed with plans. Those attending should contact Matt Hill at 610-670-1942, matt@communityec.org as soon as possible.



FAMILY NEWS

Anniversary



Dr. John Ragsdale, Associate Pastor at Reading, PA First, and wife *Shirley*, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 25.

Ordination

Pastor Mark Brownson of Shamokin, PA Trinity was ordained in his own church on November 8. Wife is Beth.

New Babies

Jodi Earhart, Administrative Assistant at Church Center, and husband David, have a daughter, *Natalie Grace*, born October 22. Visitors to Church Center put their guesses of the baby's gender, weight and length in a basket. Winner was Pastor Peter Marsden of Adamstown, PA. He guessed correctly that the baby would be a girl, weighing 7 pounds and 1 ounce. He missed her 20 inch length by 1/2 inch.

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



Missionary candidates, Dan and Melinda Moury of Elizabethtown, PA have a new daughter, *Rebekah Joy*, born October 29. Sisters are Hannah and Leah, and brother is Josiah.

Remembering loved ones

Leola Mills, 92, wife of the late Rev. Lew Mills, passed away on August 22 in Lakewood, Wisconsin. She is survived by sons, Tom and Jim.



Catherine Campbell, 57, wife of Pastor Charles Campbell of Emlenton, PA New Zion, passed away on September 11. She is also survived by daughter, Carolyn, and son, Christopher. Her home church was Bethesda E.C. Reedsville.

Retired pastor, *Rev. Charles Barner* of Myerstown passed away on October 16. He is survived by wife, Etta. Charlie served eight of our churches and was CEO for Christian Endeavor.

Ruth Engle, 89, wife of the late Rev. Paul Engle, passed away on October 18. She had been the oldest living member of Martindale, PA Bethany. She is survived by children Linda, Ruth Ann, and Glen.

Weddings

Missionary *Ann Pauloski* married *Berry Brown* on August 29. Ann works with Navigators in San Diego, and Berry is in the Navy.

Sean Wolcott, son of Pastor Tim and Betty Wolcott of Clayton, PA Bethany, married *Kellie Neylon* in San Antonio, TX on August 15.



Pastor John and Betty Haag of Temple, PA Faith recently had two weddings in their family. John's son, *Steven Haag* married *Lisa Jenkins* in Richmond, VA on October

10. Betty's daughter, *Kathleen Dennis*, married *Brad Slater* in Mariottsville, MD on October 17. Pastor Haag officiated at both ceremonies.

Timothy Hill, son of Pastor Bruce and Gloria Hill of Sinking Spring, PA Community, married *Stephanie Brown* at Community on October 10.

Timothy Knapp, son of Pastor Mike and Ruth Knapp of Clarks Valley, PA Zion married *Jessica Haldeman* in Mechanicsburg, PA on October 17. The father of the groom officiated.

Jessica Shuey, daughter of Pastor Bob and Phyllis Shuey of Akron, OH Cottage Grove, married *James Coruzzi* in Townson, MD on October 24.

Retired pastor and evangelist *Dick Christman* married *Charlotte Jacoby* on October 24. The wedding took place at East Berlin, PA Countryside Fellowship, where Dick was founding pastor. Pastors Ray Newlin and Pat Teaford officiated.

Ann Brown, Editor
452 Jarvis Road, Akron, Ohio 44319
330-388-9280, gary1780@juno.com