

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News



100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067
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SUMMER, 2009

ECCO celebrates 50-year history

A full week-end of activities was planned June 26 to 28 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Camp ECCO, Carrollton, Ohio. Around 150



friends of the camp converged on the grounds. Green t-shirts were the official uniform. Teens attending You Lead camp the following week arrived Saturday evening. In the early 1940's, several pastors shared a vision for a summer camp where churches could send their young people. They made their vision a matter of prayer.

In 1946, the Western Conference rented Beulah Beach on Lake Erie, a Christian and Missionary Alliance camp. Rev. Robert S. Wilson was director until 1952, when he was followed by Rev. Paul Dunn. Paul, almost 91, and wife, Helen were present for the festivities. Their daughter, Julie Beltz, moderated the program.

The desire for an E.C. camp became stronger when fewer weeks at Beulah Beach were available. Campers from those days recall that our camp times coincided with the invasion of the "Canadian Soldiers", big black flies, which migrated across the lake. For a time, Camp Otyokwah near Butler, Ohio was used. In 1958, Gene Suci from Canton learned that a 110-acre farm near Carrollton was for sale. In 1959, the farm was purchased for \$22,500. On May 30, 425 people attended a service of dedication led by Bishop H. H. Scanlin. District Superintendent Paul Dunn presided and a celebration picnic followed. A

camp committee of pastors and laymen was elected at Annual Conference.

The first camps were held in 1961. Deans were Fred Cunningham, Junior; Dick Gordon, Junior High; and Bill Ring, Senior. Much support was raised through the George Club, whose members contributed one dollar per month. The new Friends of ECCO is an updated support base.

Camp ECCO serves our Ohio and western Pennsylvania churches. Current caretaker and rental agent is Mark Cicchinelli. Rev. Scott Carr is chairman of the Board.



Pastors win walking contest



The Healthy Pastors Task Force, along with AllOne Health Solutions, sponsored a pastors vs lay people walking contest at National Conference May 27 and 28. Two hundred twenty-five individuals clipped on pedometers and tracked their steps. Pastors took the lead with 992,787 steps. Lay people were "at their heels" with 964,099 steps.

Top walker among the pastors was Jeff Schell of Manheim, PA Trinity, with 32,531 steps. Leading the laymen was Trent Stehr from Bethlehem, PA Emmanuel with 27,529 steps.

Becky Reigle of the Benefits Corporation recommends keeping our pedometers for next year's contest.

Men announce retreat

The Northern Illinois Men's Retreat, Men Alive, will take place at Rock River Bible Camp, Dixon, IL, August 7 & 8. Guest speaker will be Roy Abbot, president of Focal Point Ministries and a former Marine and nuclear power plant worker.



Registration with \$25 (checks to IL E.C. District) should be sent to Bethel E.C. Church, 131 North Court, Dixon, IL 61021.

Jim Shields retires from Twin Pines



After 36 years as Executive Director of Twin Pines Camp, Stroudsburg, PA, Rev. James Shields retired on June 1. He is being followed by Shawn Fetterhoff, who has worked with Jim as Assistant Director for the past two years.

We offer our gratitude for the many years of service and hopes for a blessed retirement for Jim and wife, Naomi.

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Worldfest dates

Annual Worldfest mission events will take place on the following dates:



- September 12, Allegheny/Buckeye Districts
- September 19, Illinois District
- October 9 & 10, Susquehanna and Delaware Regions

Details will be announced soon.

Restarts celebrate new beginnings

The Dwelling Place was launched at the former Gratz, PA Good Shepherd Church on Easter Sunday. The celebration was preceded by a year of preparation and special events. Full name is The Dwelling Place Regional Worship Center, an Evangelical Congregational Church Family. Pastor Robert Stoner and wife, Robin, give leadership.

During National Conference, *Living Hope Lighthouse*, which began eight years ago as a restart of the former Palmerton, PA Trinity, was chartered to be an E.C. church. Pastor Nathan Fry and first Lay Delegate, Shirley Greene, accepted the recognition. Rev. Tim Ream was pastor during the early days. A day of celebration was held on June 7. Pastor Fry reports that an exciting ministry is taking place with recent conversions and baptisms and an outreach to the homeless of Allentown



FAMILY NEWS

Remembering loved ones

Dorothy Mong, mother of Rev. Keith Mong of Martindale, PA Bethany, passed away on June 13. She was a member of Knox, PA Grace. Missionary Valerie Schubert is a granddaughter.



Retired pastor, **Rev. Kenneth Shaffer** of Seneca, PA, passed away on July 15. He pastored five of our churches and was a member of Bethany Crossroads. He is survived by wife, Nancy, and children Diane, Steven, and Debbie. Twin brother, Scott, is also one of our retired pastors.

Weddings

Shannon Beam, who recently worked in the Global Ministries office, married **Josue Barrios Ontiveros** on December 29, 2008 in Knox, PA. Dr. James Ehrman officiated. Josue's father and step-mother, Josue Barrios Astorga and Maricela Casas, pastor the Cristo La Puerta E.C. Church in Congregacion Calles, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. The couple's married name is Barrios.



Brian Osberg, son of Pastor Rick and Debbie Osberg of Knox, PA Grace, married **Sarah Joyce** on April 25 in Pittsburgh. The father of the groom officiated.

Peter Leibensperger, son of Bishop Kevin and Debbie Leibensperger, married **Kelly Cuddabach** on June 20 in Boyertown, PA. The father of the groom officiated.

Graduations

Two pastors graduated from Evangelical Theological Seminary on May 17. **Kenneth**

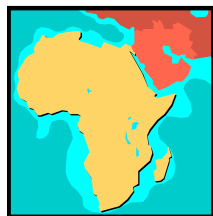


Kalisz of Fogelsville, PA Hope Community earned a Master of Divinity degree and received the Expository Preaching Award. Wife is Denise.

Jared Rabold of Jim Thorpe, PA Ebenezer also earned the Master of Divinity degree. Wife is Kerry.

Commissioning

Lamar and Janice Stoltzfus were commissioned as E.C. missionaries at Lancaster, PA Faith on May 31. They will serve at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya.



New Baby

Adam Roberts, pastor of Kutztown, PA Grace and wife Michelle have a new daughter, **Nora Ellyn**, born July 10.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE DATE CHANGE

A decision by the Conference Services Committee will affect the dates for the National Conference beginning in 2010. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 25 through Friday, May 28. Please note that these dates are the Tuesday - Friday BEFORE Memorial Day.

Here are the starting dates for the upcoming sessions. The ones in **RED** indicate those that will begin AFTER Memorial Day.

2010 - May 25
2011 - May 24
2012 - May 22
2013 - May 28
2014 - May 27
2015 - May 26
2016 - May 24
2017 - May 23



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