

## Twin Pines is 50

Staff and friends of Twin Pines Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, Stroudsburg, PA have been commemorating its fiftieth anniversary throughout this year. Before Twin Pines, campers attended Waldheim Park camp meetings near Allentown. A desire to expand summer camp ministries and offer retreats led to the purchase of 140 acres in January, 1964.

The property was developed as a farm in the late 1800's. In the early 1940's, the farm became a resort, known as Twin Pines Dude Ranch. Buildings used for a stable, dance hall, and bar are still standing and in use by the camp.

A major development program began in 1973. Lodges were winterized, recreation facilities were expanded, five new buildings were constructed, and a township road was rerouted away from the middle of the property. The first full-time director was hired, and the number of full-time staff was doubled.

In 1982, a neighboring 65-acre farm was purchased, bringing the total acreage to 205. Existing buildings were renovated, an area was developed for tent camping, and a water treatment system was installed. During the mid to late eighties, offices were renovated and computerized. The nine-room Hemlock Lodge replaced a carriage shed, turned housing unit.

Throughout the eighties and nineties, improvements continued, and year-round ministries increased. Space was made in Hemlock for the Sweigert Memorial Nature Center and a gift shop. The dining hall was renovated and a guest room was added to Blue Spruce Lodge.

After ten years of fund-raising, planning, and building, Aspen Lodge, a "state-of-the-art" conference center, opened in September, 2005.



Shawn Fetterhoff is current executive director. There are five full-time, 10 to 12 part-time, and 30 seasonal staff members. In addition, many volunteers and prayer partners lend their support.

Near-future events include the junior and senior high retreat, November 7 to 9, and the "Shoppe the Poconos" retreat, December 5 to 7.

For more about Twin Pines, call 570-629-2411, or contact [info@twinpines.org](mailto:info@twinpines.org), or [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org).



## New Conference Minister Installed

*Rev. Charles Campbell*, pastor for 26 years at Emlenton, PA New Zion, was installed as Great Lakes Region Conference Minister in his church on April 27. He was accompanied by his fiancée, Annette Wells. Bishop Bruce Hill presided, and Conference Ministers participated.

Chuck follows Rev. Gary Brown and took office on July 1. Gary followed Chuck to become pastor at New Zion.



## Prayer for the Persecuted

Sunday, November 2 has been designated International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Program materials, including a free DVD are available from The Voice of the Martyrs. Go to [www.vombooks.com/october2014](http://www.vombooks.com/october2014). To speed your order, call 1-800-747-0085.



## Shared Ministry

*Rev. Gordon Lewis*, Conference Minister of the Susquehanna Region, recently began sharing his time to serve as pastor at Fishing Creek, PA Trinity. Wife is Donna.



## Church of Japan Become National Conference



On May 28, our National Conference took action to declare the church of Japan to be their own National Conference. A delegation of Japanese pastors traveled to Messiah College to participate. They were joined by recent Evangelical Seminary graduate, Yoriyoshi Abe and wife, Emiko. The Conference expressed their joy and excitement with a standing ovation.

On Saturday, September 27, the churches of Japan came together at Kyodo Grace Church to celebrate their new status. A delegation from the states included Global Ministries Director, Randy Sizemore and wife, Carla; Deputy Director, Pat Strain; and Bishop Bruce Hill and wife, Gloria. They presented a memory book from our churches to the new Japan Conference.



The service included the ordination of Tomoyuki Abe, church planter in Fuchinobe. The event also commemorated the beginning of our work in Japan 50 years ago by the late Rev. John and Machi Masuda, as well as the fortieth anniversary of the Kyodo Grace building, where John preached.

Our Japanese pastors are Rev. Nobuo Abe, Conference Chairman and pastor at Sagimahara Grace Chapel; Rev. Kenichiro Sudo, Kyodo Grace; and Rev. Tomoyuki Abe, Fuchinobe Community Church, Yoriyoshi and Emiko Abe have returned to plant a fourth church.

## Akron Church Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The congregation of First E.C. Church, Akron, Ohio celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, May 25. The church had its beginning in 1914 in a United Evangelical Church on South Street. When a denominational split occurred, a group left to form a new church in a former candy factory on the corner of East South and Allyn Streets.

In 1924, the congregation joined with what was to become the Evangelical Congregational denomination. They reorganized under the name, First Evangelical Congregational Church. Rev. C.S. Engle was pastor. They also relocated to East South and Spicer Streets and worshiped there for the next five years. A new building, constructed at East South and Spicer Streets, was the church's home for the following 25 years.

In 1954, the property was purchased by the city for construction of the Akron Central Interchange. The church found a temporary home in the Akron City Water Works building on Johnston and Spicer Streets. Meanwhile, a lot was purchased on Woodsdale Avenue in Firestone Park and work on the present building began.

The cornerstone was laid on March 13, 1955, and the first services were held on July 3. A Christian education-fellowship hall wing was added in 1962. Rev. Scott Carr, a son of the congregation, has been pastor since 1997.

The celebration included a message by former pastor, Rev. Richard Reigle; special music; and a luncheon.



## Family News

### Ordinations

*Jackie Iatesta*, Parish Nurse at Boyertown, PA Trinity was ordained as a Deaconess on September 21, at Boyertown, PA Trinity. Her husband, Ken is Boyertown's Lay Delegate. Jackie's service at National Conference each year is much appreciated.

*Rev. Nathanael Kennedy*, pastor at Jim Thorpe, PA Ebenezer, was ordained in his church on September 7. He graduated from Evangelical Seminary in May. Rev. Randy Sizemore brought the message. Nathan's father, Rev. Layman Kennedy joined Bishop Bruce Hill, Conference Minister Gary Kuehner, and GMC Director Randy Sizemore in the laying on of hands. Nathan's sister, Carolyn, played the piano. Wife is Katie.

*Rev. Tomoyuki Abe*, church planting pastor at Fuchinobe Community Church in Japan, was ordained at Kyodo Grace Church on September 27. He is a graduate of Evangelical Seminary. Tomoyuki's father, Rev. Nobuo Abe, presided. Bishop Bruce Hill and Rev. Randy Sizemore participated. Wife is Jessica.

*Rev. Kenneth Ogden*, pastor at East Weissport, PA People's, was ordained in his church on October 5. Speakers were Rev. Robert Klersy, Rev. John Haag, and Rev. Michael Sigman; Ken's pastors at Rosedale Church near Baltimore. Bishop Bruce Hill and Conference Minister Gary Kuehner presided. Wife is Teresa.

### Wedding

*Rev. Charles Campbell*, in transition from Pastor at Emlenton, PA New Zion to Great Lakes Conference Minister, married *Annette Wells* of Youngstown, Ohio



Wedgewood Park on June 7. Chuck's Lay Delegate, Bob McGinnis was best man. Bob's wife, Jenny, attended Nettie as matron of honor. Nettie's step-father, Rev. James Hansen, officiated. The wedding took place at Wedgewood.

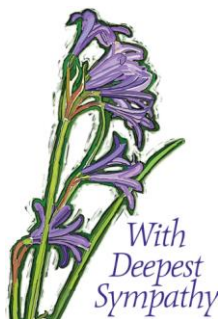
### Retirements

Pastors and wives honored for retirement during National Conference included:

Robert and Cathy Jo Bast, Bethlehem, PA; John and Betty Haag, Reading, PA; Harry and Sunnee Dow, Lititz, PA; Donald and Karen Howell, Clarks Mills, PA; and Kenneth and Sandy Schmoyer, Winnebago, Illinois.

### Remember Loved Ones...

*Fern Sweigert*, 88, retired missionary in Canyon Falls, Kentucky, passed away on May 5. She was born in Mohnton, PA and came to Kentucky at age 19 to teach at the Glen Eden mission. At age 22, she came to Canyon Falls. She taught in the mission school and served the church in many ways. When the school closed, she continued to teach in Beattyville. She is survived by a sister, Marion Ensigner, and a brother-in-law, Mark Gehr.



*Doris Ketchum*, 85, who served a number of years as Lay Delegate for Shaw Community Church, Amboy, IL, passed away on June 6. When Shaw closed, she joined Dixon St. James. She was preceded in death by husband, Perry. She is survived by sons, Eugene and Rick.

*Rev. Curtis Heisler*, pastor at Fishing Creek, PA Trinity, passed away on March 29. He is survived by wife, Lena.

*Claire Orrok*, former lay delegate at Christ EC Church, Whiting, NJ was ushered into her eternal home on Tuesday, September 2. She was the lay delegate for decades and a powerful champion for missions. A Memorial service was held on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. at Christ Evangelical.

*Rev. Robert P. Long, Jr.*, 85 years old, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Bob was a retired pastor and resided at the StoneRidge Poplar Run Campus in Myerstown. Bob was predeceased by his wife, Lois, in 2006. A Graveside service was held on Thursday, July

17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, 6701 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg, PA. A Memorial service was held on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at the Independent Living Chapel, StoneRidge Poplar Run.

*Rev. Dr. Carl Becker, Jr.* passed away on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Becker was a missionary in Africa from 1955 to 1973. He returned to the USA to become a professor and Vice President of Business Affairs at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown. He and his wife, Gladys retired to Vero Beach, FL.



### ***A Personal Note...***

We wish to express our gratitude to our friends across the denomination for 14 wonderful years as Great Lakes Region Conference Minister and wife. We loved spending time with pastors and families, getting acquainted with our churches, attending special events, and being part of the working of the denomination.

We appreciate the warm welcome and many instances of hospitality wherever we went. Whenever we returned home, we enjoyed being part of our own Cottage Grove Church.

Many thanks for your farewell events, cards, monetary gifts, and numerous kind thoughts. You are precious people.

Now, we are excited about returning to pastoral ministry at Emlenton New Zion. They are making us feel welcome and are ready for new ventures.

Love in Christ,  
*Gary and Ann Brown*

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“I will praise the name  
of God with a song;  
I will magnify him  
with thanksgiving.”

Psalm 69:30, NRSV