



## **Bishop addresses Tenth National Conference**

Bishop Bruce Hill delivered his first Episcopal Address to the tenth annual session of the National Conference on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. He focused on the Conference theme, "Passion."

Bruce cautioned that there may be "zombies" around us, those who think just following others is normal. He added that we may even see zombies in the mirror.

He continued that we are to be "fervent in spirit (Romans 12:11)" and asked, "When were you last excited about serving the Lord?" He encouraged that we can be excited about the special work God is doing in church planting and global ministries. He pointed out that both large and small churches are impacting their communities.

Bruce challenged the idea that today's church is post-denominational, explaining that

we are a denomination so that we may better fulfill the Great Commission. "Ideally," he commented, "we are a movement of God."

He described the Transformational Strategic Plan as a "big picture view. Everything will be put on the table for a task force to study and help determine what the denomination should fund." The committee will report in October and March.

He continued, "A movement will require change, but our foundation is God's Word, and we change as He leads. We will have to face fears of too much change and too little change."

"The fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian exile brought an end to normal life, but prepared God's people for the Messiah."

Bruce concluded, "God is getting ready to do a new thing in the E.C. Church. A lot needs to be done but never lose sight of why we exist."

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### **Heritage celebration planned**

In honor of the 90th anniversary of the Evangelical Congregational Church, the Historical Society has designated Sunday, November 18th as a day of celebration throughout the denomination. Our beginning is traced to the Evangelical Association, founded by Jacob Albright in 1807. Watch for more details.

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SPRING/SUMMER 2012

## Church of India select new leaders

Rev. L.B. Angam was elected to the office of General Director of the E.C. Church of India during General Conference in Chienkawnpang, Churachandpur in April. Rev. Angam has earned degrees from Manipur University, Evangelical College of Theology, and India Graduate School of Missiology.

He served in the Indian Army for six years. He had fourteen years of missions experience and was pastor of the Kuki Worship Service in Shillong for two years. He recently completed a four-year term as Mission Director. Wife is Hoinu.

Previous Director, Rev. Lalroseim Songate, has accepted the position of Principal of Evangelical College of Theology.



## Churches celebrate anniversaries

Sunday, April 1 marked important anniversaries for two of our churches.

**Wedgewood Park Church**, Youngstown, OH celebrated 50 years at their present location and 80 years as a congregation.



The church had its beginnings during a series of nightly meetings in the early 1930's. A congregation came together, wanting to affiliate with a denomination, and chose to join the E.C. Church.

They met in a number of places before building on Breaden Street in Youngstown. The current building in Austintown was dedicated on Easter Sunday, 1962, while Rev. Robert Zetterberg was pastor. He and wife, Evelyn returned for the day.

A house next door was renovated for use as a parsonage and dedicated on October 12, 2003. A multi-purpose Family Life Center was dedicated on May 18, 2008. Both projects were completed during the pastorate of Rev. Michael Soltis.

The celebration included a message from Bishop Bruce Hill, a dinner, displays, and

a concert. Three members who were part of the church's earliest days, as well as former pastors and wives were present.

Rev. David Dennis current pastor.

Also on April 1, **Winnebago Evangelical Fellowship**, Winnebago, IL celebrated their 35th anniversary. The church began in the home of Joann Stemm and her late husband, Duane. Helen Wilson and her late husband, Nobel, regularly traveled 25 miles from Afolkey to help launch the new fellowship. Helen was present for the celebration.

Rev. Duane Ray was the first pastor. He was followed by Fred Fink, Richard Osberg, Jr., Gary Brown, Keith Mong, and current pastor, Kenneth Schmoyer.

The congregation moved from the Stemm home to the Winnebago Town Hall, where they met for 10 years. The current building on West Winnebago Street was dedicated on June 19, 1988.

Festivities included a dinner and afternoon program with special music and congratulations via video from Bishop Hill. Village President Frank Eubank commended the congregation for their community involvement.

Conference Minister Gary Brown encouraged the church to "Strengthen the things that remain" - Bible study, giving, prayer, and worship.



## Illinois team serves in Kentucky

Bethel Church of Dixon, IL sent a work team to Canyon Falls, KY March 17 to 24. Along with workers from the church, they improved the "Sale House" with new windows and doors and siding. The building was the original church and school were missionaries Reba Leader and Fern Sweigert taught. It is currently a thrift store for needy families.

In the church, the group replaced basement windows, added wainscoting to the sanctuary, and built a counter near the kitchen.

Bethel team members included Jerry and Nancy Virtue, John Michel, Matt Fassler, Ben Fichter, Aaron Harrison, Steve Cunningham, and Dan Royer. Dan's mother, Dina Royer, came from Mexico to lend a hand.

Pastor Bill and Gloria Bryant serve the Canyon Falls Church.

## Family News

### Ordination

**Rev. Andrew Miller** of Canton, OH First was ordained in his church on May 27. Wife is Jacqueline. Bishop Bruce Hill brought the message.

### Welcome, Baby

**Pastor Ronald and Jo Lynn Shipman** of Bangor, PA First United have a new daughter, **Abigail Joy**, born on May 4.



### Weddings

**Rev. Nathan Fry**, pastor at Palmerton, PA, Living Hope Lighthouse, married **Silmara Roque** in Aruba on January 14. Pastor Ken Kalisz of Fogelsville officiated.



**Nathanael Micklos**, son of Pastor Mark and Diana Micklos, Fern, PA Trinity, married **Deborah Van Heu-kelem** on March 16 in Denver, CO. Pastor Joshua Reinders of Seneca, PA officiated.

**Beth Ann Wagner**, daughter of Pastor Bruce and Barb Wagner, Shillington, PA St. Luke's, married **Franklin Wagner** on May 12 in Lan-

caster. The father of the bride officiated.

**Rev. David Bailey**, pastor at Hooppole, IL Calvary, married **Sandra Glass** on May 19 in Moline. Rev. Gary Brown and Rev. Allen Mothershed officiated.

**Leah Dennis**, daughter of Pastor David and Christie Dennis, Youngstown, OH Wedgewood Park, married **Andrew Leslie** on June 9 in North Springfield, PA. The father of the bride officiated, assisted by Carl Baughman, uncle of the groom.

### Anniversary

**Pastor Paul and Lynda Miller**, Bushkill, PA Community and Bartonsville St. John's, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 12. Lynda graduated from East Stroudsburg University on May 12.



### Retirements

The following pastors and wives, all from PA, were honored for retirement during National Conference: **Barry and Flo Rebert** from Mohn's Hill Mohn's Memorial, John **and Vicky Smith** from Creswell Bethany, **Tim and Betty Wolcott** from Clayton Bethany and **Glen and Marion Bennage** from Lawn.

### Awards

**Gloria Hill**, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of the Eastern Lebanon County School District, Myerstown recently received the Lauretta Woodson Award from the PA Association of School Retirees. The annual award is presented to one support staff person in the county in recognition of "unselfish dedication and exemplary service."

Gloria was also named "Support Staff Person of the Year" for the ELCO School District. She is the wife of Bishop Bruce Hill.

### Preaching Certificate

**Kerry Watson** of Ronks, PA has completed courses in Leadership Contact to earn his Lay Preacher's Certificate. Wife, Marsha, audited the course.



### Foster Son

On June, 15 year old **Gene Blatchford** joined the family of Pastor Dave and Christie Dennis of Youngstown, OH Wedgewood Park. Gene was placed in pre-adoptive foster care.

### Remembering loved ones...

**Sandra Yeager**, wife of retired pastor Rev. Lloyd Yeager of Pine Grove, PA, passed away on February 28. She is also survived by children Lisa, Samuel, and Daniel. She served with her husband in several pastorates and on the Latin American mission field. She was also a Spanish teacher.

Retired missionary, **Marion Albright**, passed away on March 16. She was a member of the former Allentown, PA Grace Church, and served in South Africa with The Evangelical Alliance Mission. She is survived by a brother.

**Nelson Wilhelm**, pastor at Southington, OH Delightful, passed away on March 22. He pastored churches in Ohio and PA and continued to serve in his retirement years. He is survived by wife, Georgia, and children Clint, Sherry, Thomas, Lynn, and Dawn. He was preceded in death by wife, Chieko.

**Jane Cattermole**, wife of the late Bishop Richard Cattermole, passed away on April 9. She lived in the Sinking Spring, PA area. She was involved in Christian Endeavor and European Christian Mission International. She is survived by daughters Ruth and Lois.

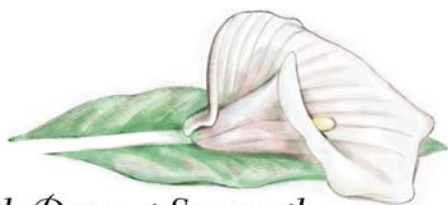
**Margaret Long**, who served for many years as lay delegate from the former Hazleton, PA church, passed away on May 30.

**John Schultz**, part-time pastor at Clayton, PA Bethany, passed away on June 12. He was a long-time employee at Sears, where he led many co-workers to the Lord. He also headed up short-term mission teams. He is survived by wife, Lois, and sons Jonathan and Andrew. Martha Metz, wife of Rev. Donald Metz, and Doris Heim, wife of retired pastor Rev. Ronald Heim, are sisters.

**Floyd Leonard**, former lay delegate from Palmyra, PA First, passed away on October 9. He was also a delegate to General Conference. He was Director of Financial Services at the E.C.C. Retirement Village for 25 years. He is survived by wife, Lois, and daughters Cynthia (wife of Rev. Robert Brown, Plymouth Meeting EC, PA), Marie, Sharon, and Marilyn.

**Rev. Howard Brooks**, pastor at Pitman, PA St. Paul's and Zion, passed away on October 21. He came to us from the United Methodist Church. He is survived by wife, Cindy, and sons Edward, James, and Andrew.

*(We apologize for omitting these October deaths in the last edition.)*



*With Deepest Sympathy*

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