

# Evangelical Congregational Church

## E.C. National News

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WINTER 2012

### Dr. Blair installed at Evangelical



Dr. Anthony Blair was installed as seventh President of Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown during a ceremony in Dech Memorial Chapel the evening of Friday, September 30.

Dr. Blair is a graduate of Messiah College and Evangelical Seminary. He has a Doctor of Ministry Degree from George Fox Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Temple University.

He has been teaching and serving as Academic Dean at Eastern University. He has also been an adjunct professor in church history and consultant for on-line studies at Evangelical.

Dr. Blair is ordained by the United Brethren in Christ and has been a church planter, pastor, and conference superintendent. He was recently a co-pastor of Hosanna, a non-denominational church in Lititz.

Dr. Blair's message for the event was "Boldly, Broadly, Beautifully Evangelical." He lives in Lititz with wife, Carol, and daughters, Rachel and Alia.



### Help offered to small-town pastors

"*Ordinary Pastor, Extraordinary God*" is the theme for the Rural Home Missionary Association's spring conference. The event will take place Monday through Wednesday, April 23 to 25 in Morton, Illinois. Pastors' wives are included. For more information contact 866-263-2350 or [info@rhma.org](mailto:info@rhma.org)



### MMK Rally announced

The Susquehanna and Delaware Regions' Mission-Minded Kids Rally will take place on Saturday, March 3 at Boyertown, PA Trinity.

Puppets, visiting missionaries, and take-home curios will be featured. Children's programming will include grades one through five. New this year is a youth track for sixth through ninth-graders. Cost is \$5.00 per person. If planning to attend, contact Shirley Long at Church Center as soon as possible.



### An invitation from Church Planting

The Church Planting Commission is issuing an invitation to the **Fresh Expressions Vision Day**, Thursday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. at Stillmeadow Church of the

Nazarene, York City Campus, York, PA. Church Planting is co-sponsoring the event.

Fresh Expressions is described as “a movement that is cultivating new forms of church alongside existing congregations in order to reach a changing world.”

To register, go to

[www.freshexpressionsus.org](http://www.freshexpressionsus.org) (click “training & events” and “vision days”, select York, register as co-sponsor – EC Church. For more information contact 215-833-4424 or [jr.briggs@freshexpressions.org](mailto:jr.briggs@freshexpressions.org). Cost is \$10 with our co-sponsor discount. Additional dates and locations are available.



## HFC appoints director

**Hope for the Children**, a program for the sponsoring of orphans, recently selected Vanessa Vaiphei to serve as Director of Operations. She is currently working out of Church Center.

A native of Northeast India, Vanessa earned her Bachelor’s Degree and MBA here in the States and has been working in the Chicago area. Her father, Dr. Lamboi Vaiphei, founded Bethel Children’s Home, the first orphanage supported by Hope for the Children.



## Camp team places in “Stupor Bowl”

Rock River Bible Camp’s Blue Team won the fourth-place trophy in Dixon, Illinois’ annual Stupor Bowl on February 4. The competition, held at Reagan Middle School, is a fundraiser for the city’s public schools.

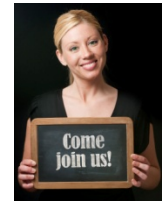
Team members were Nikki Graff, Christopher Padgett, and Valerie and Shawn

Stonesifer, Dixon; Rev. Gary Brown, Akron, Ohio; and Rachel Reinders, Seneca, PA. Tom Wadsworth and Ron Jacobsen of Bethel Church were among the quizmasters. A Green Team also participated.



## Women plan retreat

The annual **Allegheny-Buckeye** Women’s Retreat will take place at Life Ministries (“The Castle”) Friday through Sunday, April 20 to 22. Special guest, 88-



year-old Oleta Walker will speak on “What Are you Doing with the Rest of your Life?”

For more information contact Karen Howell at 724-372-0058, [countryparsonage@windstream.net](mailto:countryparsonage@windstream.net) or Karen Jacobs at 814-227-4598, [riverhillec@yahoo.com](mailto:riverhillec@yahoo.com)



## Ladies Announce “A Day Apart”

Women of the Delaware and Susquehanna Regions will have their annual “A Day Apart” retreat Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing, PA. Jennifer Sands will be special guest. Jennifer lost her husband in the Twin Towers on 9/11 and went on to develop a ministry of speaking and writing.

A cost of \$35 includes lunch, and reservations should be in by April 7. Contact Mary Lou Reber at 717-768-0224.



## Camp ECCO's Got Talent



The second annual ECCO's Got Talent Night will take place on Saturday, March 24 at Wedgewood Park Church in Youngstown, OH. A 5:30 p.m.

lasagna dinner will start the evening. "Cash votes" will be cast for favorite performers, and a silent auction will be held.

Churches will return their "Change Bandits," water cooler bottles dressed up with masks, moustaches, and bandanas. All proceeds will go toward new mattresses for the boys' dorm. Contact

[julieb51@sssn.net](mailto:julieb51@sssn.net) or  
[nettiewells@gmail.com](mailto:nettiewells@gmail.com)



## Family News

### Ordination



**Brian Parker**, Church planter, was ordained at Lewisberry Wyndamere Heights on November 13. Wife is Kristin.

Rev. Timothy Seiger brought the message, and Brian's father, Rev. John Parker, participated.

### Adoption

Eighteen-year-old **Fredrick Scott Dennis** joined the family of Pastor Dave and Christie Dennis, Youngstown, OH Wedgewood Park, in July. His adoption was finalized on January 19. Siblings are Leah, Betsy (Mrs. Geoffrey Graham), Sam, and Joe.



## Book published



Grow Books Press, Chicago, recently published **Rev. Bruce Ray's** children's book, *Blow Wind Blow*.

Illustrations are by Alyson Beaton. The protagonist is a greyhound named Rufus. Bruce pastors Kimball Avenue Church.

## Remembering loved ones...



**Kyle Bachman**, eleven-year-old grandson of Pastor Ron and Jackie Bachman, Mt. Joy, PA Trinity, passed away unexpectedly on September 7 in Savannah, GA. He is survived by father, Michael

Bachman; mother, Connie Dowd; step-mother, Chery Bachman; sister, Cyra; brothers, Dean, Tre, and Jayden; and step-brother, Jacob.

Retired pastor, **Thomas Griffin**, passed away on September 27. He had been living in Bayard, New Mexico. He was preceded in death by wife, Hazel. He served churches in all four of our Great Lakes Region states.

**Cheryl Mong**, wife of Rev. Keith Mong, Martindale, PA Bethany, passed away on October 27. She is also survived by daughters, Valerie Schubert (missionary in Honduras), Sharon Hicks, and Robin Ace. She ministered in the Living Hope Counseling Center.

**Rev. Kenneth LeFever**, pastor of Millersville, PA Grace, passed away on December 2. He previously served Conestoga Bethel. He is survived by wife, Cheryl; daughter, Dorothy; son, John; and step-son Eric. He was preceded in death by daughter, Deborah.

**Mary Jane Hiestand**, a former Lay Delegate from Annville, PA Zion, passed away on February 6. She was a member of Manheim Trinity and a pastor's wife in her

first marriage to Rev. Sterling Thompson. She is survived by son, David; daughter, Diane; and step-sons, Roger and Leslie.

## Weddings



**Michael Bachman**, son of Pastor Ron and Jackie Bachman, Mt. Joy, PA Trinity, married **Chery Perry** on January 8, 2011 in Lakeland, Florida. The

father of the groom officiated.

**Rebekah Miller**, daughter of Pastor Paul and Lynda Miller, Bushkill, PA Community and Bartonsville, PA St. John's, married **Garth Brown** on August 20. The wedding took place at Akron Grace, with the father of the bride officiating.

**Justin Wilson**, son of Jonathan and Kathy Wilson, missionaries in Papua New Guinea, married **Kelsie Selden** on October 8. The wedding took place in Nebraska, with the father of the groom officiating.

**Mark Martin**, son of Pastor Jeff and Dawn Martin of Ephrata, PA Grace, married **Kaitlin Dowlin** on October 29. The wedding took place in Denver, PA, with the father of the groom officiating.

**Elizabeth Dennis**, daughter of Pastor Dave and Christie Dennis, Youngstown, OH Wedgewood Park, married **Geoffrey Graham** on December 31. The wedding took place at Wedgewood. The father of the bride co-officiated with the father of the groom, Richard Graham.

## Anniversaries

**Pastor Bruce and Linda Sellers**, Lancaster, PA Trinity, celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary on April 26.

**Pastor Kenneth and Mary Wiest**, Womelsdorf, PA Trinity, celebrated their fiftieth anniversary on January 20.

## Welcome, babies



**Pastor Chuck Cotherman**, Associate Pastor at Knox, PA Grace, and wife, **Aimee**, have a new daughter, **Elliana Joy**, born August 30.

**Pastor Adam and Michelle Roberts**, Kutztown, PA Grace, have a new son, **Evan Paul**, born November 30. He has a big sister, Nora.

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