

EC NATIONAL NEWS

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Ann Brown, Editor



“Overflowing Hope” is the theme for the Nineteenth Session of the National Conference of the E.C. Church, Wednesday through Friday, May 25 to 27, at Messiah University, Grantham, PA.

The theme is based on Romans 5:13 -
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

The Conference will begin with the Wednesday afternoon consecration of our new Bishop, Rev. Randy Sizemore. He will be accompanied by wife, Carla. Pastor and former Bishop, Rev. Michael Sigman, will bring the message, and retiring Bishop, Rev. Bruce Hill will conduct the service of consecration. The service will conclude with communion, led by Rev. Sizemore.

The speaker for additional worship services will be Dr. Douglas Buckwalter, Professor of New Testament at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown.

Facilitator for Womens' Programming will be Rachel Bliss of Rockford, IL. Rachel's passion is “ministry to the marginalized.” Her specialty is Expressive Art Therapy. She comments, *“I'd like to offer not just a talk, but also an experience.”*

Also addressing the women will be Patty Lusky of Birdsboro, PA. She and husband, Steve, are coordinators for the Hope for the Children child sponsorship program.

Thursday evening will be a special time of honoring Bruce Hill and wife, Gloria.

Registration information can be found at www.eccenter.com.

CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES



Women's Ministry Beginning

Annette Campbell, pastor's wife at Delightful E.C. Church, Southington, Ohio, is working to unite women in a supportive network, Open Bible Ministries.

Nettie's inspiration comes from I Corinthians 12, which describes how members of the body of Christ function together.

She comments, "This ministry is designed to help E.C. women build a network so that each one can have someone praying for her and have an opportunity for accountability in staying in God's Word."

If you have input or questions for Nettie, contact her at 330-727-8171 or Campbellcj323@gmail.com.



Rural Home Missionary Association

Planting and Strengthening Churches in Small-town America

Small-Town Pastors' Conference Announced

"Clear Vision, Seeing as God Sees" is the theme for the Rural Home Missionary Association Small-Town Pastors' Conference, Monday through Wednesday, April 25 to 27. Location is Grace Church of Morton, Illinois.

Keynote speakers, seminars, a women's track, optional activities, and mealtime fellowship are included. Nearby hotels have discount rates.

Cost is \$120 per pastor and \$160 per couple. For registration or more information, go to www.rhma.org/conference or call 866-263-2350. Deadline is April 11.



Spring Spruce Up

May 3-5, 2022

Volunteer during a mid-week to help the ministry "spruce-up" camp and prepare for summer ministry! Projects include both indoor and outdoor sprucing-up. There are always tasks for volunteers of any skill level! You may choose to participate for all or part of the time.

To register: please call the office-570.629.2411.



Spring Fling Children's Retreat

April 22-24, 2022

A weekend retreat focused on those currently in grades 3-5. Enjoy Twin Pines in the spring and get ready for the summer. Participating groups must provide chaperones for the weekend. All program elements are planned so adults can focus on ministry to the children. For more information and to register your group go to bit.ly/2022TPSE.

For Ladies Only Retreat

May 10-12, 2022

An exciting mid-week retreat "for ladies only." Enjoy fellowship, worship, and in-depth Bible learning as the retreat looks at what it means to be a woman of God. And back by resounding demand is Sue Duffield; singer, writer, comedian, and speaker. Registration and more information is available at bit.ly/2022LadiesOnly.



For more information, contact Director, Shawn Fetterhoff, at shawn@twinpines.org or call 570-629-2411.

EC FAMILY NEWS



WELCOME, BABY

Pastor Timothy and Christe King of Ephrata, PA Christ House have a new daughter, Lydia Asher King, born on December 28, 2021.

REMEMBERING *Loved Ones...*

Rev. George E. Ralph, 99, of Jupiter, Florida, passed away on November 27, 2021. He served churches in Ohio and Illinois, and finally in Jupiter. He was involved in the early days of Camp ECCO in Ohio, and in Rock River Bible Camp in Illinois. George was a Chicago Cubs baseball fan. He is remembered as a “persistent soul winner.”

He was preceded in death by wife, Lena. He is survived by daughters, Doris and Donna (wife of retired EC Pastor, Don Both), and sons, Bob and Mark (a retired United Brethren and E.C. pastor).

Timothy A. Bell, 65, of Shippenville, PA passed away on December 4, 2021. Following a career in banking, he became a Regional Director for One Mission Society.

He was a familiar face at National Conference, as he stood by the OMS display. He had also been pastoring the Victory Heights United Brethren in Christ Church near Franklin. Tim enjoyed hunting and golfing.

He is survived by mother, Joanne; wife, Nancy; sons, Joel, Aaron, and Seth; and daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel.

Fern Kurtz, 91, of Pine Grove, PA passed away on December 10, 2021. She was Lay Delegate for the Pine Grove St. Paul's and Rock Manbeck's Zion churches from 1990 to 2000.

Fern's community service included ambulance auxiliary, fair board, and 4-H. She also served the Pine Grove Area Council of Churches and the Lebanon Campmeeting.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry. She is survived by sons, Wayne and Steven; and daughters, Ardella and Eileen.

Kathryn M. Zuber, 97, of Fleetwood, PA passed away on December 19, 2021. She was the wife of the late Rev. Walter Zuber, Jr., assisting him in the ministries of three PA churches. She was a member of Faith E.C. Church in Temple.

Kathryn enjoyed singing, baking, traveling, and playing games. She is survived by sons, Brad and Rev. Gary Zuber; and daughter, Debra.



REMEMBERING Loved Ones...

Rev. John H. Ewing, 89, passed away on December 19, 2021. He was a United States Navy veteran, serving mostly in Italy. He had a number of jobs before entering pastoral ministry. He served the Cherry Grove Church of the Brethren and Dixon St. James E.C. Church.

John's wife, Shirley L. Ewing, 84, passed away on December 21. She also held a variety of jobs before becoming a dedicated pastor's wife. The two passed away days before their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, which would have been December 24.

Both spent their lives around Freeport, Illinois. They were preceded in death by sons; John, III; and Jack Henry. They are survived by daughters, Kari and Tricia.

Crystal J. Garrison, 64, of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on December 24, 2021. She was the wife of Rev. Michael Garrison, assisting him in Ohio churches. She spent her early life in Butler, PA, then served in the United States Air Force in Japan. There, she met her husband, who was also in the Air Force.

Crystal was active in women's ministries and was a school bus driver. She enjoyed baking, sewing, and needlework. In addition to her husband, she is survived by daughter, Terelin; and son, Ethan.

Nathan A. Weaver, 45, of Emlenton, PA passed away on January 28. He was the son of Rev. Mark and Janice Weaver of Bethany Crossroads E.C. Church. He was employed as a financial planner and trust officer.

Nate gave many hours to Child Evangelism Fellowship and youth and prison ministries. He enjoyed sports, outdoor life, and reading. In addition to his parents, he is survived by wife, Marlene, and daughter, Abigail.

Frances James Hansen, 56, of Wauconda, Illinois passed away on January 28. He was the son of Rev. James Hansen of Poland, Ohio. He spent his entire life in the Chicago area. He was a web designer for the Street Level Studio and a talented artist.

Jim is remembered for his kindness, generosity, and sense of humor. In addition to his father, he is survived by wife, Maureen; mother, Carole; and sister, Beth.

Sadie E. Stehr, 96, of New Holland, PA passed away on February 20. She was the wife of the late Rev. Melvin Stehr, assisting him in the ministries of six PA churches. Sadie was a seamstress, making clothes for her daughters and their dolls. She also enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

She is survived by daughters, Carol, wife of Rev. Lonnie Sellers of Terre Hill; Lois, and Linda. Tasha Byerly, wife of Rev. Jeff Byerly of Reedsville, is a granddaughter.

Rev. Dr. Robert G. Hower, 89, of Carlisle, PA (formerly of Frackville), passed away on February 21.

He served eight churches in PA, concluding in Myerstown. He was Professor of Church History at Evangelical Seminary.

Dr. Hower was preceded in death by wife, Joan, and son, Mark. He is survived by daughter, Gayle.





A word about Ukraine...

Since his commissioning as an E.C. missionary in 1995, Ken Sears has been a pastor and seminary teacher in Zaporozhe, Ukraine. Last December, he came to Texas to spend Christmas with his parents. Then, an illness delayed his return. Though his heart is in Ukraine, the current conflict prevents his return for the time being. In addition to our prayers, we can help encourage Ken by coming to the aid of the Ukrainian people. He is affiliated with European Christian Mission of North America.

Make checks payable to ECM (NA) and write Ukrainian Crisis Fund on the memo line.

Send to:

ECM NA

P.O. Box 1006

Pt. Roberts, WA 98281

(1-604-946-6256).

We can also communicate with Ken at seaken57@yahoo.com.

Another helping agency is European Christian Mission International—USA. Make checks out to them, and again write Ukrainian Crisis Fund on the memo line.

Send to:

European Christian Mission International—USA

P.O. Box 563

Wheaton, Illinois 60187.

Questions may be directed to Global Ministries Associate, Ted Rathman at pastorted@graceecchurch.com or 717-917-6052.

