

networker

summer 2009

...working the nets for kingdom advancement



11TH ANNUAL CONVOCAATION OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

September 18—20, 2009

*Bethel-St. Paul Church
Louisville, Kentucky*



Inspiring Worship

Outstanding Speakers

Informative Workshops

Fellowship, Networking & More!

(See Pages Four and Five for More Information)

“The EA Is Coming To Louisville”

Pastor Jeff Siems, Editor



Bethel-St. Paul Church is honored to host the 11th Annual National Convocation for “The Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches” on September 18-20 in Louisville, KY. We have been working hard to put together a meaningful event for the entire EA family. But, if this gathering is to be what it is supposed to be, we are going to need your help.

If you have never been to convocation, then allow me to share with you what it is and what is not. The EA is an “association” and not a “denomination”. Unlike a denomination, an association does not have a life or agenda of its own—it only exists to serve the needs of the local church through networking and interacting with member churches. When EA members and churches get together regionally and nationally, those meetings reflect that purpose.

“Convocation” is the national gathering of the Evangelical Association. What is the purpose of convocation? The purpose is to **establish** relationships, which are the foundation of our walk with Jesus Christ; **engage** in workshops and learning settings so that the body may be further equipped to being the Gospel to our culture; and to **encounter** God in corporate worship so that we may together be built up in our faith. Unlike the gathering of a denomination, there are no resolutions or pronouncements or budget debates—just worship, encouragement, information, and inspiration!

(Continued on page 3)

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Rev. Bill Miller, President
Rev. C.E. Holt, Vice President
Rev. Rich Dubbs, Secretary
Rev. Cliff Poirot, Treasurer
Rev. Daryl Higgins, Representative of the Corporate Member

A MESSAGE FROM THE EA PRESIDENT

The Rev. Bill Miller, President of the Board of Directors



Greetings from the Board of Directors! We continue to move along as an organization devoted to furthering the Kingdom! Office procedures are coming into focus and the Board is stepping up on many fronts to fill in the gaps.

As you look ahead into the summer, pray about Convocation 2009! Jeff Siems and the good people of Bethel-St Paul Church in Louisville, KY are planning a great event. Lots of terrific workshops and worship events are planned and the area has a lot to offer in terms of "tourist" activities. Plus, you'll get to see a lot of old friends and make some new ones as we gather from all over the country.

The Board of Directors will be meeting before Convocation starts on Friday, September 18th. It will seem strange seeing one another face-to-face, since we've had so many conference calls recently.

So, gear up for the summer and keep an eye on September when we'll meet for our once-a-year Convocation.

HOLY LAND TRIP

Two of our EA Pastors are co-sponsoring a 10-day trip to the Holy Land in March 2010. Rev. Dr. John Toms from Maryland and I have joined forces to offer this exciting trip. The dates are March 13 to March 22 and the price is \$2,750.00 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip air from Baltimore to Israel, hotels, many meals, entrance fees, tips, etc. If you are interested, contact John at johntoms@embarqmail.com or me at revbill51@verizon.net for more information and a flier. Israel is especially beautiful in the spring.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

The Rev. Cliff Poirot, EA Treasurer



Summer is here and everyone is going on vacation and I hope enjoying themselves. The EA had been doing well until about May of this year. This is the time when donations slack off normally. However, this year it started earlier and has continued to slide. We are paying the severance package for the previous National Minister until the end of September, 2009. We hope to have a new person in place shortly and will have to begin paying them. We are in the hole for this budget year. Fortunately we have reserves, but they are shrinking.

I would like to request that everyone prayerfully consider making a special donation for the National Minister's support so that we can finish this year in the black or at least not too far in the red ink.

Remember the new address for all funds is: EA TREASURER, P.O. BOX 307, LACEY SPRING, VA 22833.

Thank you for your prayers and your continued support.

AN EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING!

Emanuel Reformed Church
Thomasville, North Carolina
Saturday, October 17, 2009
The Rev. Rickey Payne, Host Pastor
Church Office: (336) 475-7590

PRINT DEADLINES FOR THE NETWORKER

Summer 2009 Edition: August 1, 2009
Fall 2009 Edition: October 1, 2009
Winter 2009 Edition: December 1, 2009
Spring 2010 Edition: March 1, 2010

(continued from page 1)

On September 18-20, the EA Family will be converging on Bethel-St. Paul Church for a weekend of spiritual and physical renewal, and we could not be more delighted with how the pieces to the event have come together. On Friday morning and afternoon, participants will be encouraged to arrive early, check into their hotels, register for the convocation, receive a “tote bag” chocked full of information, and then venture out to enjoy the many attractions that Louisville has to offer. After an evening meal, the convocation will gather for worship in our sanctuary. Pastor Dan Lane, our Minister of Music, and our Worship Band will lead in worship, Patrick Henry Hughes (who was featured on the “Extreme Makeover” television show) will minister in music, and Pastor Bob Russell will deliver the first keynote message.

On Saturday, you will rise and shine for a continental breakfast. After breakfast, we will gather for a short time of worship. After worship, participants will break into the first of three workshop sessions. We are offering a total of 22 different workshops touching on all areas of church life, facilitated by knowledgeable leaders coming from both near and far. In the evening, the association will gather for worship once again. This worship session will feature Jeff Johnson, the former Minister of Music at the Evangel World Prayer Center, and comedian Ken Davis (go to www.youtube.com, type in “Ken Davis” for a sampling of Ken’s humor and message) will offer the second keynote address.

On Sunday morning, The Rev. Bill Miller, President of the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Association will be speaking in both services (9:00 A.M. Traditional; 11:00 A.M. Contemporary). The Music Department of Bethel-St. Paul will be providing ministry in the services. We have been praying and believing that when you depart on Sunday afternoon, you will leave refreshed and renewed for the rigors of clergy and lay ministry back home.

This is a thumbnail summary of a major event. Behind the scenes, there is a tremendous amount of work that has already been done, yet much work that remains. That is just fine with us, as we are excited about this event and we are anxious to share it with you!

This is where we need your help. Quite simply, **WE NEED YOU TO COME!!!** By land or by air, you need to make your way to the Ohio Valley—and **bring friends!** If your Pastor has not been promoting this event, ask him/her to do so. Talk it up among the members of your church. Offer to drive your car if others agree to go with you. Need some publicity help? We have it! If you would like to receive ready-to-print bulletin inserts and posters, e-mail me (jsiems@bethelstpaul.org) and I will e-mail them back to you.

Remember—the early registration period ends on August 15th. We are using that date to order materials and resources to have on hand when you arrive. **Therefore, it is of critical importance that you register by August 15th.**

In addition to coming (or even if circumstances prevent you from coming), there is something that every one of us must do—we must pray. Without an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this convocation, it will be just another religious gathering. With an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this convocation, it will be a life-changing and life-giving event for each and every participant.

The EA is coming to Louisville. With your active participation, and a special touch of God, our prayer is that this convocation will be remembered for some time to come. See you in September!

Letters

We want to hear from our readers concerning the articles within the *networker*.

Send letters to:

EMAIL:
Office@bethelstpaul.org

POSTAL:
The Evangelical Association
c/o Bethel-St. Paul Church
4004 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40207
Attn: networker

Unsigned letters will not be accepted. Receipt of letter does not guarantee publication. Letters are edited for clarity and space.

HELP US IMPLEMENT A COST-SAVING MEASURE!

*Receive Your Networker
Via E-Mail!*

As a cost-saving measure, and also as a means of obtaining your newsletter a lot earlier than usual, we would like to e-mail your *Networker* direct to your PC. To sign-up, all you need to do is e-mail your name and e-mail address to **office@bethelstpaul.org**. You will begin receiving your *Networker* via e-mail with the next edition this fall. Thank you for your support!

11th Annual Convocation of the Evangelical Association of Reformed & Congregational Christian Churches

- Inspiring
Worship

- Informative
Workshops

- Affordable
Accommodations

- Outstanding
Speakers

- Interactive
Fellowship

- Exciting
Attractions

To
Whom
shall we
go?

Bethel-St. Paul Church, Louisville, Kentucky
September 18-20, 2009

Register Today!



Inspiring Worship

Bob Russell

At just twenty-two years of age, Bob Russell became the pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. Today that small congregation of 120 members has become the 12th largest church in America, with 18,000 people attending the four worship services every weekend. Bob retired as the Senior Pastor from Southeast in June, 2006. In retirement, Bob continues to speak in pulpits and conferences across the country, and every month conducts training seminars for young pastors. An accomplished author, Bob has written over one-dozen books. He also has a weekly column in "The Lookout", a magazine printed by Standard Publishing. [www.bobrussellministries.com]



Ken Davis

Best-selling author, frequent radio and television guest, and one of the country's most sought after inspirational and motivational speakers—Ken Davis' mixture of side-splitting humor and inspiration delights and enriches audiences of all ages. He is a featured speaker for Promise Keepers and a frequent guest on "Focus on the Family". Ken has made thousands of personal appearances around the world. As president of Dynamic Communications International, he teaches speaking skills to ministry professionals and corporate executives. Ken's daily radio show, Lighten Up!, is heard on over 1500 stations in the United States and around the world. [www.kendavis.com]



Informative Workshops

"Healing For The Traumas Of Ministry"
"It's Not The Great Depression, But It's Depressing"
"Leading Change Without Becoming The Enemy"
"On Target Women's Ministry"
"Seven Things That Your Church Could Be Doing For Families That It Probably Isn't"

and 17 More!



Interactive Fellowship

Experience Louisville!

- Affordable Accommodations
- Exciting Attractions

Obtain a Publicity Brochure and Registration Form from the Church Office! Enroll today!

“240+ YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS”

Kenneth D. MacHarg, Missionary Journalist

More than two-hundred and forty years of missionary service. Can you imagine?

Unsolicited and uncoordinated, three letters arrived within one week from three different missionary couples with the Latin America Mission, each celebrating forty years or more of missionary service. How rare, but how encouraging and inspiring.

The first came from Nick and Ginny Woodbury who reported that forty years had passed since they left for language school in Costa Rica. Since then, they served fifteen years in Colombia and then twenty-two years working primarily among the Spanish churches and pastors in Miami.

Those weren't always easy times. In Sincelejo, Colombia, in their early years, Ginny reports that she and Nick faced “difficult days with sickness, discouragement, lack of understanding of the coastal Spanish, living without electricity and water most of the time and lots of rain.”

But those years, she said, “turned out to be fruitful, fulfilling and very rewarding.” Ginny gives thanks for “the great faithfulness of Him who called us to Himself to go into all the world.”

Within days another letter arrived, this time from Carol Nelson, who, along with her late husband Pete, also left for Costa Rica forty years ago where they served with LAM for twenty-four years. Those were followed by thirteen years in Miami, where ministry continued while Carol nursed and cared for Pete through his struggle with cancer.

Carol points to Jeremiah 29:11 as a crucial verse for her: “I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope.” As Carol reminisced about those four decades of service, she concluded “Praise God for His unfailing love, unfailing promises, unfailing hope.

Within hours the third letter arrived. LAM missionaries Jack and Mary Anne Voelkel were writing the day before leaving their home in the U.S. for four months of teaching ministry at the evangelical seminary in Medellin, Colombia where they served for many years.” Forty-five years ago we ‘set our faces toward Latin America’ and traveled with our three small children to Costa Rica for language school and later on to Peru and then to our beloved Colombia for a life-time of ministry,” they wrote. “Tomorrow, once again we will make the familiar trip to Miami and then Medellin and Bogota.”

Jack and Mary Anne have retired several times, first from LAM, only to be called back a few years ago to serve as the mission's interim president. Now, after a two month rest, they are on the road again for service.

Ginny Woodbury sums up those many years, perhaps for the others as well, by writing, “We are glad we didn't quit too soon, as we would have missed out on blessing after blessing through the years in Colombia.”

In the timing of the Lord, three letters representing six devoted servants with over a combined 240 years of faithful service on the mission field awakened my deep appreciation for their tenacity in serving the Lord.

They also reminded me that ministry outside of our country is far from complete. Even in Latin America, where thousands of evangelical churches have been planted, there is a need for those who will come alongside Latin Christians, training them for ministry in their own country and for missionary work around the world, educating and encouraging them in their endeavors and reaching out to those who still have not heard about the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ.

They stand as an example to young men and women today who are seeking God's will for their lives and as a challenge to them to respond to that call to serve Him wherever He calls with a lifetime of faithful service.

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

CONVOCATION 2009 ~ REGISTRATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 18th ~ 20th

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION OF
REFORMED & CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Note: Please duplicate this form for each registrant as needed.

Please Type or Print

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____ Church Position: _____

Workshop Choices:

- 1st choice _____
- 2nd choice _____
- 3rd choice _____

I will be attending and registering for:

____ Early Registration Fee before August 15 - \$85

____ Full Registration Fee after August 15 - \$110

Total Amount Enclosed _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15!

Please make checks payable to **Bethel-St. Paul Church**.

Your letter must be postmarked on or before August 15 to take advantage of the early registration fee.

Mail your check and this registration form to:

Bethel-St. Paul Church ~ 4004 Shelbyville Road ~ Louisville, KY 40207

www.bethelstpaul.org ~ 502-895-9437

Evangelical Association

Contact Information:

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Evangelical Association

of the Reformed and Congregational
Christian Churches

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association.org

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Email: office@bethelstpaul.org

Web

www.evangelicalassociation.org

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Louisville, KY 40207

The 11th Annual Convocation of The Evangelical Association September 18—20, 2009

Experience Louisville!

Come Early/Stay After And Enjoy Our City!

The Kentucky Derby Museum/
Churchill Downs;
The Louisville Slugger Bat
Factory & Museum;
The Fraizer International
History Museum;
The Speed Art Museum;
The Belle of Louisville
Steamboat Excursion;



The Louisville Science Center
& IMAX Theatre;
The Louisville Zoo;
Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom;
Muhammad Ali Center;
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& Much More!

