



Pittsburgh District Church of the Nazarene



August 2017

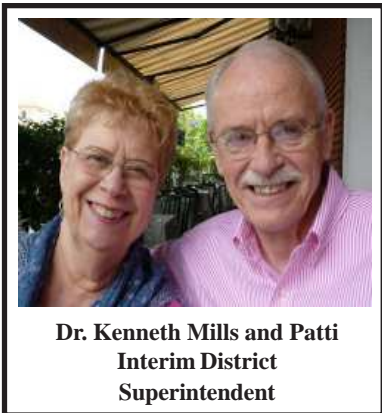
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District Website: www.pghnazarene.org

David L. Marker, Editor - admarker@comcast.net



Dr. Kenneth Mills and Patti
Interim District
Superintendent

Dear Pittsburgh Friends...

Patti and I would like to express our appreciation for your generous love offering given to us at our recent District

Assembly. We were both surprised and overwhelmed with your generosity and the expressions of warmth toward us. It has been our privilege to serve for these past few months as a part of the transition of leadership for the district. We are both excited with the arrival of Dan and Deb Eddings as your new leaders, as we have known them for several years, and believe in them. You will be blessed with their leadership.

As I prepare to return to pastoring the congregation in Shippensburg PA, I would share with you the works that I shared at the Assembly in my report. These words are from the pen of Paul the Apostle: *“Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, ‘Oh, thank you, God!’ I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other believers. And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it”* (Philemon 1:4-6, The Message).

May the Lord bless you and your congregations, and give you great days of experiencing the fruit of your labors on behalf of the kingdom of God.

Ken Mills

Dear Pittsburgh Family:

Deb and I want to thank you for making us feel so welcomed and loved at District Assembly. Your words of encouragement, and especially your prayers, mean a great deal to us as we prepare to join the Pittsburgh family.

As you can imagine there is still much to do as we close our ministry here in Endicott and prepare for the move. My last Sunday at Endicott is July 23rd and Deb and I are planning on being at Family Camp for at least a day or so. I am planning on being present on the District full time beginning August 1st. I look forward to getting out and meeting our new family as soon as possible. There is some training and set up that I need to do over the first week or so, but I will be trying to work in some time to meet with pastors as well. Please know that during that first week, I will be available if an emergency arises. Once I arrive I will be sending out more communications about how to contact me directly, but until then if you need to get ahold of me please call the district office and they will get messages to me if needed.

As we make this transition, know that you are very much in our thoughts and prayers already. I am convinced more than ever that God has some GREAT things in store for us as we work together to be about seeing the Kingdom built.

Blessings! Dan



Rev. Daniel Eddings
District Superintendent

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Rev. David Smith
SDMI Chair

Sunday School Discipleship Ministries International

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SUNDAY SCHOOL | DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Find Us Faithful

Every time life strikes with a less than desirable blow, my mind begins a battle, “How can God...” Then I remember the words of James, “*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*” (James 1:17). I step back, take a breath and make a choice to believe – God is not the author of sin or the bad things that happen, yet He allows such things in our lives in an effort to strengthen us and to show His glory. In this way, we can say in the face of the struggles in life, every good and perfect (God’s completed purpose) gift is from our Creator God who does not change or is never unreliable.

The next time I face a difficult situation that requires the grace I do not possess to give, I will remember it is an opportunity to bring glory to God and to demonstrate the true nature of a Christian.

Children’s Ministries has set forth some goals in this coming year to assist the district’s goal of district unity. The Children’s Council is planning a Children’s Leadership Weekend where Children’s Directors/Pastors will be equipped with supplies, creative ideas and a time for sharing and connection. We can learn from one another and be encouraged as we study God’s word and implement His plan of spiritual formation for our children. Please join us in prayer for this next step in Children’s Leadership.

In His Grace, Rev. Christine Siordia,
District Children’s Ministries Director

Table of Contents

- Page 1** - Interim DS and New DS’s Messages
- Page 2** - SDMI, Promoter E-mail list
- Page 3** - Ministry To Others
- Page 4** - Prime Time trip to Coshocton
OH registration form
- Page 5** - So, What Is A Nazarene?
- Page 6** - Ordination 2017
- Page 7** - Installation of New DS and
Freedom Sunday
- Page 8** - District Events 2017 and
District Allocations

On the Pittsburgh Promoter e-mailing list?

If you want onto the Pittsburgh District Promoter e-mail list, please contact: David Marker at admarker@comcast.net.

The Promoter is published in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. Copies of all Promoter issues are also available on-line on the Pittsburgh District website at www.pghnazarene.org.



MTO

(Ministry To Others)

DAY

Saturday, Sept. 09 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Mt. Chestnut District Center Chapel
177 North Road, Butler, PA

Join us in reaching out in ministry through:

- ♥ Crocheting, knitting or sewing for Project Linus
- ♥ Doing a service project at the district center
- ♥ Putting together crisis care kits
- ♥ Making cards to encourage ministry families
- ♥ Praise and Worship and a Devotional

Registration and additional information will be available soon. Colleen Smith, Women's Min. Director

www.pghnazwomn.org

COSHOCTON, OH - 2017 -- HERE WE COME!

Come & Join Us . . . Traveling West this year!

AUGUST 25 & 26, 2017

A two-day trip to the Coshocton, Ohio area is in the final planning stage. Sponsored by the Pgh. Dst. Primetime, we are very excited about this event. The following schedule is jam-packed with a good variety of activities: tour of the Annin Flag Factory, portrayal of "Susanna Wesley", activity with Dick Hoover -- "What Is It?", shopping/touring the "Homestead" -Longaberger Basket Outlet, and riding the horse-drawn Monticello III Canal Boat Ride. All meals are covered, except for lunches coming and going which are on your own. Lodging will be at the Coshocton Village Inn and Suites -- a beautiful hotel where we will have an all-you- can-eat dinner buffet. The Pgh. Dst. bus this year has a maximum of 40 passengers, so reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis with any over the full-bus maximum being put on a waiting list. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rob and Jane Lute at (724) 254-9368 or rcjlute@comcast.net.

Registration deadline August 1

Cost - \$150.00: \$100.00 due with registration; balance \$50.00 due by August 10.

SCHEDULE

Friday -- August 25

- 8:00 AM ---- Bus leaves District Center
- Lunch at Bob Evans -- Coshocton, OH
- Tour Annin Flag Factory
- Check in to Coshocton Village Inn & Suites
- Buffet Dinner at Hotel
- Evening Activities including Portrayal of "Susanna Wesley"

Saturday - August 26

- Hot Continental Breakfast at hotel
- "What Is It?" -- activity in meeting room w/ Dick Hoover
- Pack bus and travel to Monticello III Canal Boat Ride -- box lunch
- Travel to "HOMESTEAD" -- Longaberger Basket Factory
- 2:30 -- leave for home
- 4:00 -- Arrive at Eat N Park -- Weirton, WV
- 6:00 -- Arrive at District Center

PRIMETIME TRIP TO COSHOCTON, OH

August 25 & 26, 2017

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

SHARING A ROOM WITH _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

CHURCH _____

Cost - \$150.00 per person -- includes bus travel, "Susanna Wesley" Portrayal, tour of Annin Flag Factory, Coshocton Village Inn and buffet dinner, "What Is It?" activity, Monticello III Canal Boat Ride w/box lunch, shopping/touring of Longaberger Basket Outlet,

BOX LUNCH CHOICE- Please choose a sandwich for each registration

- ___ Chicken Salad Croissant ___ Ham & Swiss on Pretzel Bun
 - ___ Vegetarian Wrap
- (Lunch includes sandwich, fresh fruit salad, cookie, chips, drink)

Registration deadline August 1 - \$100.00 w/registration

Final Payment Due by August 10, - \$50.00

(or if you prefer, you may pay in full with this registration)

Please note if you need a Hand. Access. Room - YES or NO

Number of registrations _____ x \$100.00 = \$ _____

Or paying in full _____ x \$150.00 = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Pittsburgh District SDMI**

Send registration and payments to:

Rob and Jane Lute 10435 Rte 403 N Clymer, PA 15728
 (724) 254-9368 rcjlute@comcast.net

So, What Is a Nazarene?

Written by Daron Brown from his column Pressing On

A few days into my freshman year at Trevecca Nazarene College, one of the guys in my dorm suite pulled me aside. He was unchurched, attending TNC on a baseball scholarship. He spent his first week wide-eyed, watching us Church of the Nazarene folks, wondering what he had gotten himself into. With a hushed voice, half embarrassed and half amused, he whispered, “What is a Nazarene?”

Since then I have been asked the question dozens of times. While there are different ways to answer it, perhaps the best response is to look back at how we got the name.

In the first century, the town of Nazareth in Galilee was considered a second-class community. This attitude can be seen in Nathaniel’s response to Phillip when he spoke to his friend about “Jesus of Nazareth.” Phillip evidenced his skepticism with, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” (John 1:46, NIV). The assumed answer to Phillip’s rhetorical question was “Of course not. Nothing worthwhile ever happens in Nazareth.”

In Luke 4 when Jesus returned to Nazareth, he was physically rejected and nearly killed by citizens of his own hometown. Their response might be described as, “Why should we listen to you? You’re no better than us.” To be a “Nazarene” in the first century didn’t win you much credibility.

In embracing the role of an outcast, Jesus the Nazarene showed His solidarity with those who were marginalized, persecuted, and without hope.

It is remarkable that the Second Person of the Trinity would come to us by way of a remote place like Nazareth. God himself chose to reside in a community where people believed goodness did not exist. In doing so, He reminded us that we are not always so quick at distinguishing good from evil. It’s a problem we’ve had since the first chapters of Genesis.

Some 700 years before Jesus’ birth, Isaiah foresaw the life of Christ with the words, “He was despised and rejected by humankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem” (Isaiah 53:3). In embracing the role of an outcast, Jesus the Nazarene showed His solidarity with those who were marginalized, persecuted, and without hope.

Nineteen centuries later, in Los Angeles, California, a Methodist Episcopal Church preacher named Phineas F. Bresee felt the call to take the message of Holiness to poor families – urban outcasts who likely were not welcomed by well-heeled folks in prominent fellowships. Leaving his denomination over the issue, he partnered with a well-known physician and former president of the University of Southern California, Joseph P. Widney. In 1895, they joined with others in the community to start a new church. The late historian Timothy Smith said that in doing so Bresee “declared that the only thing new in the movement was its determination to preach the gospel to the needy, and to give that class a church they could call their own” (*Called Unto Holiness*, Vol. 1, p. 110). The name they chose for their movement was suggested by Widney, who said the term “Nazarene” symbolized “the toiling, lowly mission of Christ ... to whom the world in its misery and despair turns, that it may have hope” (Ibid. p. 111).

Since that time almost 122 years ago, our fellowship has expanded into more than 160 areas around the world. You’ll find Nazarenes of diverse ethnicity and socioeconomic backgrounds, worshiping in beautiful sanctuaries, cinder block buildings, and strip malls. Our thousands of churches may have different personalities and programs, but we continue to share a common aspiration. First and foremost, we are driven to take the message of Holiness to the poor and needy around us. Secondly, we embrace the identity of the God who himself became an outcast in order to reach the outcasts of this world – people like ourselves.

Since my freshman year at TNC, I have gotten better at responding to “What is a Nazarene?” These days, the best answer I can give is: “Come with us into the neighborhoods. Let us show you the jail ministry, the community garden, the food pantry, the mentoring and backpack feeding programs. Come join us as we work alongside those who suffer – the sick, the aging, and the addict – and then you will clearly understand what it means to be a Nazarene.

Ordination Class of 2017



Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Biddle



Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Schweter



Those participating in this year's ordination:

Front row (left to right) Dr. Ken Mills (*Interim DS*), Mrs Schweter, Mrs. Biddle,
Dr. David Graves (*General Superintendent*).

Second row (left to right) Rev. Dan Eddings (*new DS*), Rev. Ken Schweter (*Ordinand*),
Rev. Ron Biddle (*Ordinand*), Rev. Leon Blaise (*District Secretary*)

Installation of new District Superintendent Dan Eddings



Rev. Dan Eddings, Mrs. Deb Eddings, Dr. Ken Mills and Dr. David Graves.



Over the past three years, more than 400 Nazarene congregations around the world have participated in Freedom Sunday, a day set aside for prayer, worship, and support around the crisis of human trafficking, which enslaves as many as 45.8 million people globally, according to the [2016 Global Slavery Index](#).

This year, Nazarene churches are encouraged to participate in Freedom Sunday on September 24, 2017, the last Sunday of that month.

The Church of the Nazarene's participation in Freedom Sunday began in 2014 in coordination with other denominations within the Wesleyan Holiness Connection (formerly Wesleyan Holiness Consortium). That same year, the Church of the Nazarene's Board of General Superintendents endorsed the Declaration for Freedom, a document drafted by the Wesleyan-Holiness leaders, including Nazarene representatives.

In the past, Freedom Sunday took place on the first Sunday of Lent. This year, the event was moved to the last Sunday of September to enable churches that plan traditional Lenten services to participate.

Congregations are encouraged to plan a Freedom Sunday at any time that works in their calendar. Freedom Sunday planning resources are available as free downloads through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries at ncm.org/freedomsunday.



Dr. Graves, Mrs. Eddings, Rev. Eddings at the altar.



Dr. Graves, Rev. and Mrs. Dan Eddings, Dr. Ken Mills plus visiting DSs.

District Events Schedule

2017

Aug 12-19: Domestic W&W to David's Promise
in Jackson MI

Sept 9: District Women's Ministry Retreat

Sept 11-14: M&M Retreat

Oct 5-7: District Assessment

Nov 18: Children's Quizzing, Location
TBA

Dec 2: Snowflake Craft Show

2018

Feb 17: Children's Quizzing, Location
TBA

Apr 7: Children's Quizzing, District Center

** Dates are subject to change.*



UNIFYING CHURCHES



EMPOWERING BELIEVERS



ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

DISTRICT

ALLOCATIONS:

Payments can be made to the following:

District Ministry Fund:

Henry Twentier, District Treasurer
177 North Road, Butler PA 16001

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District

Church of the Nazarene

NMI:

Debra Shutak

428 Great Belt Road

Butler PA 16002

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NMI

SDMI:

Rev. Ronald Schaeffer

141 Tressler Drive

Confluence PA 15424

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District SDMI

NYI:

Tom Aaron

141 Supervisor Drive

West Newton PA 15089

Make checks payable to:

Pittsburgh District NYI

ENC:

23 East Elm Avenue

Quincy MA 02170