



# East Branch *News and Views*

MAY, 2014

## 2nd Annual East Branch Dinner

### You are Invited!

Thursday, May 22, 2014 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



Join us for the Second Annual East Branch Dinner on Thursday, May 22nd at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We will begin with appetizers at 5:30 PM. There is no charge for this occasion. Please be our guest!

We want to honor pastors who have celebrated significant anniversaries of their Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the years 2013 or 2014, beginning at fifth anniversaries in increments of five years. The East Branch has thirty-three active and retired pastors on that list for a total number of combined years in ministry of almost 1,000!

We would also like to honor significant terms of service for Staff members, Clerks of Session, Sunday School teachers, or anyone else that you would like to recognize as faithful servants. This can include those retiring, or anyone who has served a significant number of years. (More than 5.) Please let us know if there is someone from your congregation that you would like to recognize.

This will be an evening of good food, conversation, and celebration! All pastors, staff, and members of congregations of those in the East Branch are welcome. You are invited to bring a guest.

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Please RSVP by May 16th to [cmiller@pghpresbytery.org](mailto:cmiller@pghpresbytery.org) or call Cindy Miller at 412-323-1400-extension 321.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT CHURCH  
THIS IS?

Hint: Half of its name out ran the hare!



THE REV. DR. SHELDON SORGE SPEAKING AT THE GOOD FRIDAY EVENT IN  
HOMWOOD ORGANIZED BY THE HOUSE OF MANNA



THE REV. EUGENE "FREEDOM" BLACKWELL ALSO SPOKE FOLLOWING THE  
COMMUNITY MARCH FROM WESTINGHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL.

# Intentional Team Ministry—ITeM

## Exploring a New Church Staffing Model Now!

REV. DR. BEVERLY JAMES

As we live into a new mission strategy for the Pittsburgh Presbytery, we have divided into four branches in order to build into our structure a way to become more relational. What does that really mean?

First, we want to get to know one another and to pray for one another. To that end, we have had and are planning events in worship, education, fellowship and mission that will get us together.

Second, realizing that one-time events can only take us so far, we are also exploring ways to work together ACROSS the boundaries of our individual churches over a longer period of time. For example: could two churches share one seminarian? Could one pastor serve two churches as an Associate? Could three churches regularly engage in pulpit exchanges and combined events, so that three churches really got to know one another?

Sharing staff (also called Intentional Team Ministry) is an idea that the Rev. Deb Warren, the Rev. Dr. Dan Corll and I have been working on for the last several years. We will soon be sharing more information about what Intentional Team Ministry is, and also asking whether or not you and your congregation might be interested in Intentional Team Ministry connections or activities. You are encouraged to think creatively! What could your church do with more help in the area of \_\_\_\_\_??

*Beverly*

## Around the Branch

### Installation of Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



The Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel, Ph.D. will be installed as the Directors' Bicentennial Associate Professor of Theology on May 12, 2014 at 7:30 PM at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

He will give an address entitled "Gospelizing: Paul, Protestant Theologians, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary."

## "TWIGS"= EAST BRANCH EVENTS

In planning East Branch activities, we will be focusing on the following five areas as ways we can "branch out" together. Do you have an idea or a suggestion? Please call me at 412-323-1400, ext.303.

**Team-Building** *What are ways we can get together to form teams?*

**Worship** *Are there occasions when we can worship together?*

**Innovation** *What new things are we willing to try?*

**Growth** *How are we facilitating the growth of our congregations?*

**Service** *Where can we serve together?*