

# E. C. Leader

AUGUST 2010

## Our Vision

*The Evangelical Congregational Church will be a dynamic movement of God that is led by pastors and laity who have a burning passion for God and a missionary zeal to reach the lost. We will creatively obey the Great Commission by transforming plateaued and declining churches into healthy, disciple-making churches that are committed to evangelizing the communities to which God has called them. Healthy churches will reproduce themselves by planting churches in least-reached communities. Interdependence will be the distinguishing mark of the Evangelical Congregational Church as local churches network with one another and ministries beyond the E.C. family to proclaim the Gospel to the world.*



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## REMEMBER THE PASSWORD!

Have you ever tried to access an electronic device or particular file and been frustrated because you forgot the password? Were you further distressed because you had to take the time to answer some special question that proved your identity and right to retrieve that password? I wonder if we Christians don't often forget that PRAYER is the password for our access to God – the gateway to His wisdom, comfort, strength, and peace.

As we continue to grieve our beloved Bishop's death, console his family, and move on with the necessary functions of denominational ministry, we are reminded that one of Kevin Leibensperger's deepest legacies was his commitment to prayer. That privileged discipline is more critical than ever as our Episcopal nominating committee begins its work and as we seek to move forward with implementation of the strategic initiatives outlined at May's National Conference. Prayer is the key as we discover a "new normal" and confront the challenges of this transition period.

I anticipate a powerful moving of the Holy Spirit at our prayer summit at the Castle in Franklin, PA, on September 1-2. There are still openings for pastors or lay leaders, so contact Brenda ([blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com) or 1-800-866-7581) at EC Center for information. Another wonderful opportunity for challenge and growth in our prayer lives will come on October 29-30, when the Church Prayer Leaders Network holds its Eastern Regional Conference at Trinity EC Church, Lititz. Watch for more information on that event from our Prayer Mobilization Team. Aside from these corporate gatherings, though, there is no substitute for the "fervent, effective prayer of a righteous man." (James 5:17) Will you commit yourself to regular intercession for your church and its leaders?

If you have stopped by EC Center recently, you know that change has been the norm this summer. Office Manager Brenda Long has moved into the former Susquehanna CM office on the first floor. We thank Lucille Putt and Nancie Young for their volunteer painting! New Susquehanna CM Gordy Lewis has taken Brenda's old office and joined Delaware CM Bruce Wagner on the third floor, opposite Global Ministries.

On a personal note, I want to express gratitude for your patience, encouragement, and prayer support as I assume the duties of National Conference Chair. Whether it means changing the website and phone messages or working in Bishop Kevin's former office, not a day goes by without memories of my dear friend and brother in ministry.

With summer passing and a busy fall approaching for the Evangelical Congregational Church, may we all use the password of prayer to do what the writer of Hebrews admonishes: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16) The events of these last months did not take our God by surprise, and He is prepared to provide for every need – in every challenge and opportunity – as we prayerfully come before Him.

Prayerfully serving Him and you,  
Fred Moury, Jr.  
National Conference Chair



### ***NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIR PRAYER LIST... (REV. FRED MOURY)***

- † The Episcopal Nominating Committee holds its first meeting August 30. Remember chairman Jim Price and the entire committee as they begin the nominating process for our next Bishop.
- † Uphold all those attending the Prayer Summit in Franklin, PA, Sept. 1-2. Pray for safety in travel and an extraordinary moving of God's Spirit.
- † Camp ECCO is in need of a new director. Pray for the camp's Board as they seek God's leading in filling this vacancy.
- † The Twin Pines Bible Conference will be held September 13-15. Pray for Gary Brown, this year's presenter, as he prepares his messages.



- † Evangelical Theological Seminary begins its new academic year with the Fall Convocation on August 31. Pray for a blessed year for students, faculty, and staff.
- † Continue to pray for the successful implementation of our strategic planning initiatives as we move forward in this year of transition.
- † The National Conference Relations Committee holds its fall business sessions at Black Rock Retreat Center, September 20-21. Pray this will be a productive time as the team deals with a variety of ministry credentialing issues.
- † Continue to pray for comfort and strength for Debbie and the entire Leibensperger family, especially for Peter and Kelly, John, and James as they return to their respective schools.

## NEWS FROM BENEFITS CORPORATION...

The pastor's health insurance renewal process is underway and as expected our rates will be increasing. We should have the final rates in a few weeks. Aetna was more forthcoming with claim information this year and our healthcare claims were dramatically up over previous years. Along with the federal healthcare regulations we should be thankful the increase was not higher. There will be some changes to plan coverage limits that were approved by the Board (and some mandated by Aetna) to lessen the overall increase. We contacted three other health insurance providers to bid on our health insurance business and all three bids were not competitive.



The mandatory participation in the group health insurance plan is for pastors only. A pastor's spouse and children are not mandatory participants in our group health plan. The spouse and children of the pastor can seek health insurance coverage elsewhere. The local church is still responsible for covering the cost of health insurance for their pastor and family, but the total cost of coverage could be less. A cooperative spirit between the pastor and church board may provide some creative ways to reduce the church's overall health insurance burden.

Some examples of other healthcare coverage options: Pennsylvania children can be covered under CHIP, a state run program for uninsured children. A pastor's spouse and children could join one of the faith-based healthcare cost-sharing programs available. A younger family (pastor's spouse and children) may find traditional health insurance coverage less expensive than ours. If you do investigate other healthcare options for spouse and children please do so prayerfully and carefully. Ask lots of questions and read the small print. Contact myself or Ken Wiest with any questions or discuss your options.

The Health Insurance Task Force will be meeting soon to discuss our renewal, current health insurance trends and what options exist for future health insurance coverage and new task force members. Clergy and non-clergy, are welcome. If you would like to participate and share your ideas and concerns please contact me.

Kevin Henry ([khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)), 1-800-866-7581  
Controller

## HELP WANTED

Employee Benefits and Human Resources Coordinator serving the EC denomination from the EC Church Center in Myerstown, PA

A qualified applicant will have experience in employee benefit plan administration, knowledge of appropriate federal and state laws relating to human resources management, familiarity with commonly used HR concepts, practices and procedures, an awareness of HIPPA and the ability to keep confidential matters confidential, a high level of customer service & communications skills, answer in-bound questions from existing customers, assist with eligibility requirements, model and promote Christ-like values and behaviors, demonstrate ability to effectively sequence and prioritize work, ability to independently solve problems, make decisions and deadline management.

The position is part time: 25-30 hours a week.

College degree required; 5+ years experience in Human Resources

Please submit resume and salary requirements to:

Kevin Henry, Controller  
100 West Park Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
[khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)

**YOUR SEMINARY ON THE MOVE –  
NEWS FROM EVANGELICAL**



Evangelical's new academic year officially opens with a formal convocation and the annual **Wittmaier-Sailer Lecture** in Dech Chapel on Tuesday, August 31, at 11:05 am. Dr. Janet Stauffer, assistant professor of marriage and family therapy, will speak on "Genuine Meeting in an Age of Individualism." All are invited to join the seminary family for this time of worship and inspiration.



We praise God for a good fall enrollment of 151 (about 87 FTE), including 33 new students. Dr. Rodney Shearer, former academic dean, has returned as part-time director of field education and assistant professor of Christian ministry. Dr. Janet Stauffer has added part-time duties as dean of students, and Elizabeth Brunsting has been named administrative assistant to President Mike Sigman and Vice President John Tornfelt.

The Center for Leadership Impact is offering a **seven week course on Prayer** through the Leadership Contact program. Meeting on Tuesday nights from September 7 through October 19, the class is open to anyone interested in spiritual enrichment and leadership development. Contact [kwilley@evangelical.org](mailto:kwilley@evangelical.org) for registration information.



Henry Blackaby, renowned author of *Experiencing God*, will keynote the annual **Friends of Evangelical Banquet** at Lancaster's Calvary Church, on Friday, September 24. Tickets are \$40, and reservations can be made with [mconley@evangelical.edu](mailto:mconley@evangelical.edu) by September 15.

Registration is open for "**Navigate the Journey**," the Center for Leadership Impact's initiative committed to developing leaders who are change agents for Christ in the world. Nine different topics are offered, each of which has a cohort meeting two hours per month from October through May. Check [www.center4li.org](http://www.center4li.org) or call Katie Willey at 717-866-5775 for information.



The sixth season of **Faith in the Marketplace breakfasts** begins Thursday, September 30, at 7:00 am in Zinn Commons. Guest speaker is Anne Shannon, news anchor at WGAL-TV in Lancaster. Contact Katie Willey for registration details.

**Save the Date:** Henry Cloud, well known psychologist and author, will be the speaker for the Fall Leadership Forum on November 18. His topic is "Reclaiming Your Personal Life While Achieving Greater Professional Success." Watch for more information or check the website at [www.evangelical.edu](http://www.evangelical.edu).





**TWIN PINES**

### Twin Pines Bible Conference



The annual Twin Pines Bible Conference will be September 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. This year's speaker is Rev. Gary Brown, the Conference Minister of the Great Lakes Region. He will be bringing five sessions on the subject of "The Church as the Movement of God". Based on the Epistle to the Ephesians he will seek to expound the four strategic plans of the EC Church as adopted at Conference this year: Anticipation, Authority, Affinity and Apprenticeship. Registration information is available on the Twin Pines website, [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org) , or by calling the camp office at 570-629-2411.

### Calling All Golfers and Golf Sponsors!

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Twin Pines Golf Classic will be held October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time of fun and fellowship. It also raises funds to benefit the ministry of Twin Pines. If you are a golfer or would like to sponsor a golfer please contact the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411 and more information is available on our website at [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org).



### Retreats Season

If your church is considering a retreat, now is the time to book a retreat at Twin Pines. There are still dates available but they are filling up fast. A retreat experience can have a lasting impact on your church's growth and well being. Perhaps booking a retreat for members of your church would allow them to be spiritually renewed and continue to grow and lead the church. For more information about availability of dates please contact Pam Rankin at [pam@twinpines.org](mailto:pam@twinpines.org) or by calling her at 570-629-2411.

### Twin Pines Banquet

The Twin Pines Celebration Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at Good n' Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown, PA. The doors will open at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30. Reservations can be made by calling the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411 or emailing Shawn Fetterhoff at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org). We hope you can join us for an evening of celebrating what God has done in the ministry of Twin Pines this year.

***The 2010 National Conference Journals are now available. If you placed an order at National Conference you may have already received them in the mail or you may stop by the Church Center to pick them up.***

***If you did NOT place an order, call the Church Center 1-800-866-7581 or email Brenda [blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com)***



## CHEMISTRY, COACHING AND THE PASTOR By LES COOL

I've been a believer for almost 35 years. Along the way, and after way too many stumbles, I learned that the journey for the God-chaser was never intended to be a solo walk. And I've been a pastor just long enough to recognize that ministry also involves and demands company on the journey, but that not every peer in ministry is an asset to the journey.

Over the past several years, the last two more intentionally, I have dabbled in, paid money for, been trained to provide, and have offered coaching. Knowing certain skills is helpful. Having experience is desirable. But one piece that is indispensable is chemistry. Chemistry is the heart and/or soul link of the church and the one being coached.

Last month, I shared that Nathan Fry and I had established a working and fruitful "mirror coaching" relationship wherein we have been able to strengthen each other's ministry serve. This didn't just happen. But we did sort of stumble into it. Let me explain. We began as "homework buddies" from a coach training seminar, assigned to practice on one another for three months. The three months became six months. The six months opened our eyes to the reality that we had chemistry. We fit together. We trust, and are able to assist, one another.

What happened? We grew together, initially by just doing an assignment. Then we saw the value of the assignment. And finally, we realized the value of the relationship. Chemistry.

So what? Good question. The stats are in, and the evidence is overwhelming that coaching improves the likelihood of fruitful ministry. You and I both want to be fruitful. That's why we chase after quality education, work hard to keep ourselves fresh, and read the latest "how to" books. But there are aspects of ministry that will only blossom under the influence of coaching. Education is good. Keeping fresh is good. But coaching pulls all of these valuable assets together with our personal design under the influence of a co-journeyer who talks and cheers us toward the finish line.

Your first steps? Admit you could use the support. This can be difficult. It feels like admitting you cannot do it alone. In reality, it is acknowledging that you were not meant to do it alone. Once this hurdle is cleared, find a coach. Bruce Wagner could provide the names of in-house coaches or the numbers of agencies that provide coaches. Give it a whirl, you know, for a few sessions. Almost any coach could be a help. But watch for chemistry. Nathan or I would be glad to share more about what we do. Perhaps our model of coaching would work for you and a ministry peer.

I just renewed for a third year with my hired coach, Dr. Tom Clegg. We also enjoy a measure of chemistry. And since my life took on a few new roles over the past couple of months, I liked the idea of having an executive coach in my corner. I'm also continuing the journey with Nathan. He will be in my corner long after I stop paying for a coach. What about you? Are you enjoying the journey? Could you use some company? A coach?

### *Conference Minister Gary Brown's Proposed Local Conference schedule for Fall, 2010.*

These are proposed dates. Most meetings are assumed to be at 7 pm unless otherwise arranged. If we need to switch a date, email or call CM Gary Brown.

Sept 23 Delightful, OH	Nov 2 Seneca, PA	Nov 30 St. James, Dixon, IL
Sept 26 Canyon Falls, KY	Nov 3 Grace, Knox, PA	Dec 1 Bethel, Dixon, IL
Sept 30 Akron First, OH	Nov 4 New Zion, Emlenton, PA	Dec 2 Winnebago, IL
Oct 11 Countryside, Clarks Mills, PA	Nov 8 Fern, PA	TBA Rock Falls, IL
Oct 12 Lakeside, Transfer, PA	Nov 9 Bethany Crossroads, PA	
Oct 13 Cottage Grove, OH	Nov 21 Kimball Ave., Chicago, IL	
Oct 24 Wedgewood, Youngstown, OH	Nov 23 Afolkey, IL	
Oct 25 Canton, OH	Nov 24 Hooppole, IL	
Nov 1 Riverhill, Clarion, PA	Nov 28 Maranatha, Highland Park, IL	
	Nov 29 Cedarville, IL	

