

E. C. Leader

JUNE 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.



Dear E.C. Family,

**“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
– II Corinthians 4:18**

As I cried out to God in the sleepless hours of the night after Bishop Leibensperger's death, I clearly sensed Him leading me to II Corinthians 4. “For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.” (vs. 5) As we grieve our beloved leader's death, we need to focus anew on our mission “To know Christ and make Him known.” In the midst of sorrow, pain, and perplexity, we are reminded that His power is at work in us – these jars of clay – to reveal Jesus to a lost world. And we are encouraged by the assurance that these earthly troubles will give way to an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

For Bishop Kevin, faith has now become sight... the unseen has become reality... death has been swallowed up in victory! For us who remain, the trumpet sounds a louder call to faithfulness in evangelism, discipleship, and holy living. Let us together fix our eyes on Jesus and go forward in His strength!

Thank you for your ongoing expressions of loving sympathy for the Leibensperger family. Continue to pray God's tender comfort and daily strength for Debbie, Sarah and Chris, Peter and Kelly, John, James, Marilyn, and Ann. Thank you, too, for the contributions to church planting in Kevin's memory; these are tangible expressions of your gratitude for his service and evidence of an ongoing commitment to his legacy and the cause of Christ. So far, over \$9,000.00 has been contributed, and in Kevin's memory, monies are being directed toward the “Life Tree Café” church planting effort of our Bethesda Church, Reedsville, in Schuylkill County.

Thousands from the U.S. and around the world have already expressed their condolences, and so many regretted not being able to attend the funeral service. So that we as a Church may both grieve and move forward in hope together, we will be sending each local church and our international family a DVD of the powerful service celebrating Bishop Leibensperger's life and victory in Jesus. These DVDs are currently in production and should be mailed near the end of this month of remembrance and recommitment. We appreciate Ralph Owens' fine work in preparing the video tribute.

(continued on page 2)

In this issue:

Page 2....Chair's Prayer List

Page 3....Letter from National Executive Committee

Page 4....News from Benefits Corporation

Page 4 News from Evangelical Theological Seminary

Page 5.... News from Global Ministries

Page 6....Coaches' Corner

Page 7....Prayer Mobilization Team

Page 7.....Loan & Investment Fund Update

I praise God for your expressions of prayer, support, and encouragement for me and the other members of the National Executive Committee: vice-chair Gary Brown, secretary Kirk Marks, treasurer Deb Patterson, attorney Dave Roland, and advisory member Mike Sigman. Pray for wisdom and direction as we and the National Ministry Team begin to lay the groundwork for the election of our next Bishop and also for implementation of the goals outlined in Bishop Kevin's Episcopal Address to the recent National Conference. I trust that the Bishop's last Episcopal Address has been shared in every E.C. Church and that it is being duplicated in our churches for anyone interested in a personal copy. (The Address is available on our website: www.eccenter.com)

With the death of Bishop Leibensperger, our 2010 NC theme – "A NEW THING: our future as a movement of God" – holds more challenge than any of us ever would have imagined. Yet the words of a hymn sung at his funeral call us to peace in the midst of such change:

*Be still, my soul! The Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
Thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

I now invite you to join me in trusting our faithful, unchanging God to do a "new thing" in and through the E.C. Church... for His glory!!

In Him,

Fred Moury
Chair, National Conference



NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHAIR PRAYER LIST...

- † Continued prayer is needed for Debbie Leibensperger, her children and Kevin's mother, Marilyn as they grieve Kevin. In addition to the personal adjustments facing all family members, Peter's wife Kelly is recovering from an eye injury she sustained in a car accident, Jim undergoes hernia surgery on June 25, and Marilyn has a stress fracture in one of her toes.
- † Pray for our National Executive Team and the NMT as the process begins for securing nominees who will run for the office of Bishop. The election will take place at the 2011 National Conference.
- † Pray for the summer camping ministries at Twin Pines, Camp ECCO and Rock River Bible Camp.
- † Remember the upcoming Camp Meeting sessions at Waldheim, Herndon and Rosedale.
- † Pray for the new Susquehanna Region Conference Minister, Gordy Lewis, and those pastors beginning new ministry assignments. The start date for all of these is July 1.
- † Pray for the successful implementation of our Strategic Planning initiatives as we move forward in this year of transition.
- † Please pray for me as I seek Godly wisdom in carrying out the many tasks that need to be accomplished this year.



Dear E.C. Leaders,

On Thursday, June 17, 2010, the National Executive Committee met to develop a job description for the Chair of National Conference and set priorities for this office during this time of interim Episcopal service. It was agreed that the focus of this Chairmanship is primarily administration not representation; it will be most significant and beneficial for the EC Church to have the crucial conference administrative responsibilities fulfilled until the 14th Bishop can be elected and takes office. In this year, Dr. Moury will be working to fulfill these critical responsibilities, and a number of responsibilities traditionally handled by the Bishop will either be delegated or postponed. Among those deferred items in this year will be the Bishop's international travel, his representation work on various boards and the formulation of an Episcopal address.

The Episcopal responsibilities that will receive the highest priority and Dr. Moury's full attention will be the chairing of the National Executive Committee, National Ministry Team, Supervisory and Stationing Committees, and our National Conference sessions in 2011. The processes of Episcopal nominating, Conference Minister transition, Director of Global Ministries evaluation and implementation of the new strategic plan's initiatives will also be of highest priority. Of secondary importance, but still receiving Dr. Moury's attention as Chair will be working with the Cabinet, Global Ministries Commission Executive Committee and seminary partnership; supporting the work of traditionally Bishop-led commissions and National Conference Relations Committee; and monitoring National Conference finances with the Finance Committee.

In order for this time of interim Episcopal service to be successful and effective, it will be important for us as leaders to hold realistic expectations of the Chair's service. Though traditional expectations of the Bishop, Dr. Moury will not be expected to initiate visits to churches or church plants nor move inter-denominational partnerships forward in this year. Pastoral care of pastors and church leaders will be handled by Conference Ministers and Dr. Moury's participation on Conference standing and special committees will be minimal. Please understand that these deferred and lower priority duties are not matters of low priority to us as a denomination, they simply cannot all receive priority attention by our National Conference Chairman in this time of transition. After the 14th Bishop is elected, installed and transitioned, we can expect to see the traditional responsibilities of the Bishop fulfilled more completely.

We continue to ask you to hold Dr. Moury, other Conference leaders and the Leibensperger family in your prayers as the needs and challenges of this time are still very significant. Special support services for Dr. Moury in this time have been put in place through the NEC, the Bishops emeriti and the Episcopacy Committee. Please also know that a special meeting of the National Ministry Team has been scheduled to begin the process of Episcopal nominating and deal with issues of the term of and transition to the administration of the 14th Bishop after his election. Please keep this upcoming meeting and these processes in your prayers as well.

Thank you for your prayers and understanding as we together work through this unique and difficult time in our denomination's history.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary
for the National Executive Committee

NEWS FROM BENEFITS CORPORATION...

The rate of participation in AllOne is off to a slow start this year. Please take some time to complete your Health Risk Assessment, schedule an appointment with your physician, make contact with your health coach and select your elective activity. A \$50 VISA gift card is available to those that complete the necessary steps and spouses are eligible for the incentive program this year as well.



We will have our new health insurance rates late August or early September. There are many variables that contribute to the cost of health insurance, and we have the most influence over our own health which makes the AllOne program a vital component of controlling our health insurance costs.

Please remember that the payment for the Worker's Compensation invoices are due July 1 and the payment for the Administration Fee invoices is past due.

Kevin Henry
Controller



YOUR SEMINARY ON THE MOVE – NEWS FROM EVANGELICAL



ETS IS GOING ONLINE! Beginning with the fall semester, ETS will offer two online courses. Dr. Tony Blair will instruct Church History I (A.D. 70-1500) on Tuesday evenings, from 6:45-9:30 p.m., and Dr. David Dorsey will teach Pentateuch and Joshua on Thursday afternoons from 12:00-2:45 p.m. Both of these three credit courses will be offered in a synchronous, real time format affording off-site participants the opportunity to participate fully in the classes. For more information contact 800-532-5775 or Admissions@evangelical.edu.

DR. HENRY BLACKABY, noted pastor, teacher, and author **will speak at the 2010 Friends of Evangelical Banquet** to be held September 24 at Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA. Invitations will go out by the end of July, but set the date aside now and plan to attend a wonderful evening of inspiration and fellowship.



FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE begins its sixth year of breakfast meetings on Thursday, September 30, at 7:00 a.m. **Anne Shannon, a WGAL TV anchor, will speak.** Sponsored by Evangelical's Center for Leadership Impact, this series brings together area business people seeking to live out their faith in the workplace. A brochure detailing all four of the 2010-2011 events will soon be available.



NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION...

- **EC Church of Japan**

- Praise God for the first service of the Fuchinobe Community (EC) Church in Japan on May 23, 2010. There were a total of 26 people in attendance.
- Please pray for DGM Randy as he travels to Japan August 4-12 to speak at their Family Camp and preside over several ordinations and the installation of Rev. Nobuo Abe as the new Field Superintendent of Japan.



- **Mission Mobilizers: Illinois**

Attention all Illinois EC'ers. Randy will be holding an informational meeting on August 21, 2010 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Dixon Bethel EC for anyone interested in learning more about how the Global Ministries Mission Mobilizer strategy will work. Anyone is invited to come and learn without the fear of making a commitment!

- **Herndon Camp Meeting**

Randy and Carla will be representing our 59 EC missionaries and 500 international EC churches as the "Missionaries In Residence" at Herndon Camp Meeting July 16-25. They will be interacting with the various age groups, presenting a mission moment in the evening services and leading the Mission Rally on Saturday, July 24 at 3:00 p.m.



- **Possible visitors from India:**

Rev. Timothy Changsan and his assistant Carol Amaw from North East Children's Home (EC Church of India) are applying for a visa to visit the United States July 16-26, 2010. Please pray with us that this visa will be granted.

- **GMC Intern:**

Help us welcome Casie Carr (daughter of Rev. Dave Carr) to Church Center as the GMC Summer Intern! She loves kool-aide so send her a pack or two as your way of making her feel at home! Send to: Casie Carr, EC Church Center, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.

- **Work Teams:**

A work team of five spent the last two weeks of May at Victory Bible Camp outside of Anchorage, AK. Two more teams will go in July and August respectively to Camp LIWA near Fairbanks, AK. There is a work/children's ministry team serving in Belize currently (June).

- **Fall Missions Rally and MMK Rally:**

A Fall Missions Rally will be held October 8-9, 2010 at Salem EC Church in Lenhartsville and a Mission Minded Kids Rally will be held on Saturday, October 9th.

There will be a Pastor's lunch and program on Friday, October 8 from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. Ken Sears and Kurt & Nancy Graff will be our presenting missionaries on Friday along with updates from Randy Sizemore, Director of Global Ministries.

Saturday's program, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm will be for the entire family. We will have a Mission Minded Kids rally at the same time as the adult program. Everyone will eat lunch together. Missionaries Dana Abernethy, Ken Sears, and Kurt & Nancy Graff will share their time between the adults and children. The Mission Minded Kids program will be for children ages 5-grade 6. A staffed nursery for children under the age of 5 will be available. During the lunch there will be a curio table with items from around the world to purchase.



Mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of this exciting day. Stay tuned for more specific information as the event draws closer. If you have any questions please contact Carla Sizemore at the GMC office (csizemore@eccenter.com or phone 717-866-7584).



Thirteen of our pastors invested two days with Gene Wood in April. The topic was Leading Turnaround, and there was much enthusiasm.

In the book, *Leading Turnaround Teams* which is coauthored by Gene, Tom Landry is quoted as saying, "A coach is someone who tells you what you don't want to hear, and has you see what you don't want to see, so you can be who you have always known you can be."

It seems to me that those who choose to lead for turnaround in the church where they pastor will need to be something more than they have been before. They will profit greatly from a coach. They will also find support as those who choose to move ahead with the concepts discussed over the two days continue to meet together.

Some of those who participated in this training for turnaround will be forming an affinity group where they can share ideas and walk together into the future. They will, at least in some ways, coach one another. Let me know if you might be interested in meeting with them...

Bruce Wagner
Chair, Church Health Commission

PRAYER MOBILIZATION TEAM: LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



As of May 2010, Terry Jacobs has resigned as the leader of the PMT. This transition will enable Terry to devote more time to his pastoral calling as well as pursue the Lord's leading into the ministry of evangelism. Terry will continue to serve in the intercessory ministry for our leaders and churches as a PMT member. Terry's deep passion for prayer, his Spirit-directed leadership, and his vision to see a mighty movement of prayer across our denomination has been greatly appreciated.

Carolyn Boussum has accepted the position of Chairperson of the PMT.

Please note the next issue of the HeartCry will be sent in August.



LOAN AND INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE



Effective July 1, 2010 interest rates for Investment Pool Loans and Certificates of Indebtedness ("Certificates") will be changing. Interest rates on loans drawn from the Investment Pool will be **reduced to 5.25% from 6%**. And the rate paid on Certificates will be **reduced to 3.25% from 4%**. The interest rate on loans from the Conference Pool will remain at 5%.

Churches that have outstanding loans from the Investment Pool will receive a new amortization schedule and Certificate holders will receive a notice of the interest rate change. The registration of the L&I Fund with the PA Securities Commission is not final and as such we cannot accept new investments into the fund. The L&I fund is in contact with the PA Securities Commission but we do not have an estimate as to when the registration will be completed.

Committee Members of the L&I Fund

Grace EC Kutztown is looking for Beth Moore "Breaking Free" DVD series to borrow. Contact graceecc@juno.com

In the process of clearing out some space in the basement the EC Church Center staff discovered a large supply of blank audio cassette tapes. Anyone interested in these cassettes, contact pwolfe@eccenter.com

A few years ago, we did the 50 Days of Purpose here at Lakeside, and we have material left over: 2 cases of hardback books, CDs and study guides for the lesson plans and other little items. They are free, if a church could use them and willing to simply pay the shipping cost, we would be glad to send this material to them. Contact: lakesidechurch@yahoo.com