

E. C. Leader



EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 2011

Jesus, Our Refuge and Firm Foundation

National Conference is fast approaching and our theme this year is “Focused on Jesus, Our Refuge and Firm Foundation”. In light of that theme, I was reading Psalm 46 the other day and rediscovered that this passage is amazingly contemporary and up to date. In case you haven’t noticed, our world is being bombarded by all kinds of troubles and crises. Not a day goes by without a news report of either a natural disaster or international conflict. Yet, the Psalmist begins by declaring, *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*



Events such as the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan coupled with the potential nuclear facility meltdown in that country create fear and great anxiety. Equally disconcerting and disquieting is the unrest impacting the Middle East and Northern Africa in such nations as Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Bahrain, and Yemen. But the Psalmist provides us with words of encouragement and reassurance in these times of crisis. As a result of God being our refuge and strength, he writes, *“Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.”* The Psalmist’s knowledge of the Lord and confidence in His overcoming power enable him to move fearlessly beyond the circumstances of the moment to the safety of the Lord’s provision and protection. He writes, *“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.”*

We have lived through days of difficulty and trouble and we are living in days of crisis. But as we set our focus on what lies ahead, let us keep our eyes on Jesus, our refuge and firm foundation. Our antidote to our world’s current climate of fearfulness is our calm reassurance and confident witness that, *“The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”*

Fred Moury
National Conference Chair

Inside this issue:

National Chair Prayer & Praise	2
News from Benefits/Compensation	2
News from Evangelical	3
News from Global Ministries	4
News from Twin Pines	6



National Conference Chair Prayer & Praise



- Praise God for the pastoral appointments at Cedarville, IL, Conestoga, PA, and Pleasantville, PA. Pray for wisdom and discernment regarding the stationing decisions that still need to be completed. Remember the Stationing Elders and Conference Ministers as they fulfill their responsibilities.
- Praise God for a job well done by our Episcopal Nominating Committee in the selection process for our candidates for the office of Bishop.
- Pray for the four candidates for Bishop who will be on the ballot at National Con-

ference. They are Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, Rev. Bruce Hill, Rev. Ramon Mendez and Dr. Kenneth Miller. Remember to pray for these men, their families and their current ministry situations should they be elected to this office of leadership.

- Pray for the sessions of this year's National Conference which will be held at Messiah College, Wednesday, May 25 through Friday, May 27.
- April 17 is the date for Rev. Gary Kuehner's Installation Service as the Delaware Region Conference Minister. Pray for Gary and his wife Carol as they continue their preparations for this area of



service in the Evangelical Congregational Church.

- Pray for Rev. Bruce Wagner and his wife Barbara as they prepare for what God has in store for them following Bruce's service time as the Delaware Region Conference Minister. We praise God for the ministry work that Bruce has provided.
 - In the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that rocked the nation of Japan, please pray for the country, our E.C. Churches and our E.C. family there. Remember also to pray for Rev. Nobuo Abe, the leader of our Japan Church, as he ministers in these days of crisis.

News from Benefits Corporation / Compensation Committee

Please remember that the EC Benefits administrative fee is due from churches on April 15, 2011. **Retirees are not subject to the fee.** There are some 2011 disability premiums outstanding, due January 15, 2011. Please remit them as soon as possible. The due dates for the administrative fee and disability premium are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC Church website, www.eccenter.com. The response rate on the annual workers' compensation audit forms has been excellent, thanks to all of you for responding in a timely manner. We only have three churches outstanding and please return them as soon as possible.

Information on the 2011 ALLOne wellness initiative will be released shortly. Look for the information sent by ALLOne in your mailboxes.

Please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, dking@eccenter.com or myself, khenry@eccenter.com with any questions.

Kevin Henry
Controller





Re-listed! The University Senate of the United Methodist Church has reinstated Evangelical through July 1, 2012.

Pray that the decision will encourage additional enrollment.



Last Call to Register for a six week course on “Understanding Islam”, being offered Monday, March 28 through May

2, from 3:00-9:30 p.m. Dr. David Shenk, a Mennonite scholar and noted authority on Muslim-Christian relations, will teach the course. Call Ellis Kirk at 717-866-5775 by March 24 to register for credit or as an auditor.



Spring Open House

is set for Thursday, April 7, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. “Be Transformed” (Rom. 12:2) is

the theme for this evening, which invites prospective students to visit the campus, sit in on a class and worship time, and meet current students, faculty, and alumni. Reserve a place by emailing admissions@evangelical.edu or calling Tom Maiello at 800-532-5775.



Wesley Forum 2011

focuses on “Getting Ministry Out of the Building.” The April 14 event (9:00 am—3:00

pm) features Drew Williams, senior pastor of Trinity Church, Greenwich, CT, who has been instrumental in a growing missional community movement using innovative approaches to traditional outreach and evangelism. The day’s cost is \$39, including lunch; CEU’s are \$10 more. Register online at www.center4li.org or call Katie Willey at 717-866-5775.



Dear E.C. Family,

During this time of extreme crisis in their nation, our churches in Japan are most grateful for our prayers and show of concern. Obviously, it will take months to assess all of the damage done by the earthquake and tsunami, and many years to rebuild the communities that were impacted the most. While our E.C. pastoral families, church members, and church buildings all survived initial damage, many church members have extended family and friends in the Sendai area which was hardest hit. As an expression of our concern and care, we are inviting our E.C.

Churches in the U.S. to receive a special offering on March 27, 2011 that will be sent to our E.C. Churches in Japan as a love gift. Checks for this special offering should be made out to the “E.C. Church” and the words “Japan Disaster Relief” should appear on the memo line. These monies should be sent to the E.C. Church Center, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067 where Global Ministries will then forward those gifts to our churches in Japan. As you give, please continue to keep our churches and pastoral families in prayer as they seek to show God’s love to a country that so desperately needs to acknowledge Him. Thanks for caring and sharing.

Yours in Christ,

Frederick J. Moury, Jr.
National Conference Chair



1. **GMC decides to make “Spend-A-Day” more user-friendly!** Of all the ways the EC Church facilitates and encourages our missionaries, the “Spend-A-Day” prayer initiative always scores near the top with our missionaries! Beginning **January 1, 2012 the “Spend-A-Day” program will become “Missionary Prayer Partners.”** The concept of connecting individuals and missionaries to mutually pray for each other on a specific date will remain the same but we will initiate a few changes to make this important ministry more accessible and user-friendly.

- Coordination of the Missionary Prayer Partners will be from the GMC office (Carla Sizemore).
- You will be able to select from the participating missionaries, available months and download the needed information from the GMC website or by calling the GMC office.
- We will no longer collect \$1.00 donation with each participant’s prayer slip.
- An informational/instructional brochure and DVD will be produced to guide interested participants through the new Missionary Prayer Partners program.

We want to thank Cathy Jo Bast for her work as Spend-A-Day Coordinator over the years! Cathy Jo will be stepping down as Coordinator at this year’s National Conference so by July 1, 2011 the remaining months of the original 2011 Spend-A-Day program will be handled by Carla Sizemore at the GMC office. We will do our best to navigate this transition smoothly but please do not hesitate to contact Carla with any questions or concerns. Our ultimate goal is to have even more of our members partnering in prayer with our EC missionaries!

2. **GMC Short Term Mission Committee plans trips:**

Creating Global Christians is listed as one of the major initiatives of the Global Ministries Commission. Recently the GMC Short Term Mission Committee decided to help with this initiative by sponsoring short term mission trips that are designed to inspire a “glocal” (global & local) mindset. The idea is relatively simple. We want to expose our youth to our EC missionaries and international EC churches while connecting them to each other within the United States. The end result



should be a young person who sees the value of connecting with other ECer’s at home and abroad in order to fulfill the Great Commission. The GMC Short Term Mission Committee is organizing possible trips this summer to work with missionaries Joe Toy in Pennsylvania, July 31-August 6, 2011 and a trip to Trinidad with the Waldman’s, July 23-August 1, 2011. If you are interested and would like more details please contact Pat Strain at pstrain@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584.

3. **Upcoming GMC Dates/Events:**

- March 19-26, Field visit to the EC Church of Costa Rica
- April 2 Guest Lecturer for ETS, EC Studies Class
- April 5 GMC Short Term Mission Committee
- April 7 GMC Finance Committee
- April 9 GMC Training Seminar at Community EC, Sinking Spring (morning)
- April 22 Good Friday Service at Christ EC, Allentown
- April 25-May 2 Field visit to EC Church of Mexico for Annual Conference



4. **Available dates for speaking:** (Worship and/or Sunday School or evening)

- April 10, 17
- May 8, 22, 29
- July 3, 10, 17
- August 7, 14, 21, 28
- September 4, 11
- October 2, 9
- December 18

5. **Mission Minded Kids Rally was a huge success!**

The old, old story was told and acted out in new and exciting ways recently with an enthusiastic crowd. The Mission Minded Kids Rally for Delaware & Susquehanna Region was a huge success, with one of the highest attendances in recent history. Trinity E.C. Church in Boyertown hosted 108 children, plus dozens of



helpers, workers, and MMK leaders on March 5th. The theme was "Tell Me the Story of Jesus", and the children learned how it's done in various places of the world: missionaries Brad and Maxine Waldman shared how they teach the Gospel message in the Caribbean;



Jane Heck taught the children in Spanish and English using her experiences in Colombia, Peru and Belize; missionary candidates Dan and Melinda Moury shared how the Message is being told using multi-media; there was exotic food tasting, and a room

where the children could see how many languages already have Jesus' story in print, and how many more there are that need to hear the story. GMC Director Rev. Randy Sizemore used a hand illustration to teach the children the names of our international EC Churches: Japan, Costa Rica, India & Nepal, Mexico and Liberia = **J**esus **C**hrist **I**n **M**ore **L**ives. There were games, prizes, and more food. Most importantly, a seed was planted in the next generation of missionaries and mission leaders, as these children were taught how to share a simple Gospel message with others. If you would like to know more about the MMK program, contact Kathy Friedlund at kathyfriedlund@yahoo.com.

6. GMC Hosts Meal at National Conference to honor Jim and Bonnie Bound

The EC Church and Global Ministries wish to honor the Bounds for their many years of service, both as pastor and missionaries. Accordingly, the Global Ministries-sponsored luncheon at National Conference this year will be a time to thank Jim and Bonnie and to share memories with them. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 26th at noon at Messiah College, Grantham, PA. The cost

is \$12.50 per person. Reservations are necessary and MUST be made through Brenda Long, who handles National Conference registration. Her email is blong@eccenter.com. You can find information and directions to Messiah College at the EC website, www.eccenter.com.

We also will be collecting donations to present to Jim and Bonnie as a token of appreciation for their years of service and sacrifice. Donations may be given

to the Bounds in person at the luncheon, or sent through the Global Ministries office at Church Center. Please make checks payable to EC Church and mark them 'Bound retirement gift' in memo section. Whether or not you are able to attend the luncheon, we would encourage you to send cards of appreciation to Jim and Bonnie. Their home mailing address is: 2474 Elmore Pond Road, Wolcott, VT 05680. While we do not work for the praise of men, it is right to acknowledge those who have steadfastly worked in service for the Lord on this side of eternity. Please help us to say thank you to Jim and Bonnie Bound for their many years of service to our Lord and the EC Church.

Check out the Church Planting section of the EC Website (www.eccenter.com) to see what the Horizon, Lehigh Valley Church Plant youth are doing to help the homeless.



INSTALLATION SERVICE

April 17th, 2011

3:00 p.m.

Salem EC Church,
Lenhartsville, PA

Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner

Delaware Region
Conference Minister



Summer Camp



Now is the time to register for summer camp at Twin Pines. There are camps for kids and adults of all ages. For fathers and sons there is Dads 'n' Lads camp and for moms and daughters there is Moms 'n' Gals camp and this year Moms 'n' Gals will be staying in cabins! Both programs are only half a week and provide a great opportunity for parents to connect with their kids. For the whole family Twin Pines offers Family Camp with activities for every member of the family. If Family Camp sounds like fun but you would just like to try it, there is a new half-week Family Camp. This program has all the same great activities but is only Sunday through Tuesday. Another opportunity for adults is Adult Camp, a special week for spiritual renewal, fun, fellowship, and interaction with other adults and the Twin Pines' summer staff. Returning for 2011 is the All Sports Camp, directed by the staff of Push the Rock, a Christian based sports camp and seminar organization. Twin Pines also offers a wide variety of programs for kids of all ages. Twin Pines really does have a program for everyone! If you are unsure of what camp you would like to attend, take a look at the summer camp schedule on the Twin Pines website, www.twinpines.org.



Summer Staff

Twin Pines is currently in search of young people interested in Christian service. There are opportunities for summer staff available. The areas of need include made counselors and lifeguards. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving on summer staff in 2011 please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at shawn@twinpines.org. If you



are looking for a life changing service experience, don't hesitate and apply today!

Summer Volunteers

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer this summer? Are you 21 or older and willing to help in the kitchen or on maintenance? If you answered yes to these questions you may be interested in signing up to volunteer for a week at Twin Pines this summer. If interested in volunteering please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at shawn@twinpines.org.



Moms and Daughters

This year Twin Pines is offering it's first Mother/Daughter Retreat. This is a one night event meant to bring mothers and daughters closer together through sharing special times together and looking into God's Word. There will be activities for all ages and times when all ages will meet together to see what God has to say to them through our special guest speaker Patty Manger.



Patty was previously employed at Twin Pines as the secretary/receptionist and is now working at her church in the area of Christian

Education. The retreat is May 6-7, 2011. For more information please contact Jill at jill@twinpines.org.

Ladies Only Retreat

Wouldn't it be fantastic to be sitting in a meadow of wildflowers, with the warm sunshine shining on your face; or sitting at the beach, listening to the waves lap the shoreline, not having a care in the world. Well, we can't quite take you to either of those places, but we can try and encourage you and offer some spiritual refreshment.

The Ladies Only Retreat is the

place to go for a great time of studying God's Word, growing, praising Him, laughing, sharing and 'girl-time.' The retreat will be held at Twin Pines Camp, in Stroudsburg, PA, May 10, 11, 12, 2011. It's a mid-week retreat. Our speaker is Ruth Solberg and the theme of the retreat is "CHRIST, OUR HOPE." We will be studying from 1 Peter.



All the information can be found on Twin Pines' website, www.twinpines.org. Pray about it ladies, if you are in need of some time away, we hope you will choose to join us at the Ladies Only Retreat. We would love to have you.

Summer Celebration



Join us Saturday, June 5th from 10 am until 4 pm for an exciting day at Twin Pines Camp. Summer celebration is our official kick off to our

summer ministry season. If you have been with us for summer celebration before, we have events for the whole family. Once again this year we will hold the Twin Pines Motorcycle Fun Ride. This ride will be through the Pocono mountain area around Twin Pines. We will also hold our annual fishing tournament, have great food, and fun for the whole family.

If you are interested in making this an overnight stay we also have accommodations available at a great rate!



Visit our website www.twinpines.org or contact Shawn at shawn@twinpines.org for more information or to register for the motorcycle ride or to stay overnight.



National Conference

Wednesday, May 25th—Friday, May 27th
Messiah College, Grantham, PA

⇒ *Preacher: H. B. London, Jr.*

⇒ *Episcopal Election—Wednesday afternoon*

⇒ *Lord's Supper — Wednesday evening*

⇒ *Ice Cream Social — Wednesday evening*



Registration forms and other information are available on the denominational website: www.eccenter.com

Did you know you can register online and pay with a credit card? Check it out on the website!

OR

Contact Brenda at blong@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581



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