



MARCH 2015



connect

"We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too."
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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From the Bishop

I enjoy living in a part of the country that actually has four different seasons. Each one has its own joys as well as challenges. Fall is my favorite (hunting season), followed by summer, winter and then spring. I think spring is always last because, as a youngster, I was always getting in trouble for coming home covered in mud. That brings to mind something else. One of the tools we use in the Pastoral Assessment Center is the Grip-Berkman spiritual gifts and leadership style assessment. One of the many charts produced in that report deals with your areas of interest. If you score anything over 90 it is very important to your health and wellbeing. Interestingly, the only area that I score in that range is the outdoors!

That may explain my current emotional state which may be described as approaching "cabin fever". It seems like it's been too long since I've been outside. I want to get my bike out and find a rails-to-trails, or load the kayak on my truck and paddle around a lake. I want to go outside! I think a lot of people can identify with that. By the end of February and the beginning of March we're ready to get out and do something or anything. They say it's one of the reasons the "Great American Outdoor Show" is scheduled for this time of the year. The show, held in the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex is billed as the largest consumer sports and outdoor show in the world. It has over 1,000 exhibitors ranging from shooting manufacturing to outfitters to fishing boats and RV's, and archery to

art covering 650,000 square feet of exhibit hall space. I must admit, I'm not exactly sure why outdoors men and women have to pay money to get inside a giant building in order to get relief from cabin fever; but it works!

So what does this have to do with the EC churches and leaders? I have to say that there are times when I pray for the Lord to give his people cabin fever—to yearn to get outside our church buildings and impact our communities with the Good News about Jesus. I've said it before, for too long our strategy has been for the people in the church ("in here") to get the people "out there" to come "in here". We have proven that doesn't work! What Jesus said was that we are to "go and make disciples"; the church is to get "out there". So please join me in doing two things: (1) Pray for the Lord, through his Holy Spirit, to give the EC Church a case of holy "cabin fever"; a yearning to get outside the walls of the church; (2) Listen to the Spirit when He speaks and get outside and get dirty for God!

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

1. Please keep praying for the going work of two VERY important denominational committees: the Stationing Committee as they seek the Lord's leading for opportunities for both pastors and churches to "fit and flourish"; for the Lord's clear leading for the deliberations and recommendations of the Covenant Implementation Team.
2. Pray for the work of the National Ministry Team as they meet this month and hear updates on a number of issues and review the last of the proposed amendments to the Discipline in preparation for National Conference.
3. Pray with me for the Calvary EC Church, Hooppole, IL and for the family as they deal with the loss of Pastor David Bailey who was suddenly called home to be with the Lord on January 27.
4. Pray for all our congregations as we begin to observe Lent and focus on the passion and death of Jesus as well as the exciting resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, April 5.
5. There's still snow on the ground in Myerstown as I write this, but all three of our camping ministries are beginning to get ready for the summer camping season; pray for them as they hire staff and finalize programming.
6. Praise the Lord for many of our pastors and congregations who are thinking and praying for ways to include fresh expressions of church in their ministries.
7. Gloria and I are going to two concerts this month; praise the Lord for the joy that hearing all kinds of good music brings; the way it touches us and lifts our hearts.
8. I am scheduled to speak at a graduation event for a group of prison inmates who are involved in a discipleship ministry. Praise God that prison gates cannot keep out the Good News about Jesus!
9. Join me in thanking the Lord for the members of the Episcopacy Committee who provide wise counsel and encouragement to me; and yes, even needed accountability (especially in the area of my schedule.) Speaking of schedules...
10. Thank the Lord that as I move toward the end of my fourth year as Bishop, Gloria and I have had the opportunity to visit most of our congregations. (If you haven't invited me to your church yet, and I have a list, please give me a call to schedule me for this summer or fall.)



PRE- CONFERENCE MEETINGS

We know this will be a busy National Conference as we deal with amendments to the *DISCIPLINE*, receive a report from the Covenant Implementation Team, and elect a bishop, in addition to our normal times of prayer and worship (and that's what we know about now!). Therefore we are planning on a series of **pre-conference meetings** this spring. Here are the dates and times and locations:

- April 18 @ 9:00 AM—
Susquehanna Region—
Harrisburg Faith
- April 23 @ 7:00 PM—
Susquehanna Region—
Reamstown
- April 25 @ 10:00 AM
(eastern)/9:00 AM (central)
- Great Lakes Region meet-
ing live at Transfer Lakeside
and video conference with
Dixon Bethel, IL
- April 30 @ 7:00 PM—
Delaware Region—
Allentown Christ
- May 2 @ 9:00 AM—
Delaware Region—
Reedsville

News from Global Ministries

1. Mission Minded Kids Rally: March 7th

The GMC's Mission Minded Kids Rally will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, PA. Registration begins at 9:30am.



2. Delaware Mission Leaders' Brunch: March 14th

Local Church Mission leaders, pastors and anyone interested in the mission endeavors of the EC Church are invited to the Delaware Region Mission Brunch on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Hope Community Church, Fogelsville, PA. The brunch will begin promptly at 10:00am. Randy

Sizemore and Pat Strain will share the latest information, updates and news from our EC missionaries and international churches. There will either be an offering or a minimal charge to cover the costs of the food. RSVP to GMC office.

3. Buckeye Mission Leaders' Brunch: March 16th

Local Church Mission leaders, pastors and anyone interested in the mission endeavors of the EC Church are invited to the Buckeye Region Mission Leaders' Brunch on Monday, March 16, 2015 at Wedgewood Park EC Church, Youngstown, Ohio. The brunch begins promptly at 10:00am. Randy Sizemore will share the latest information, updates and news from our EC missionaries and international churches. There will either be an offering or a minimal charge to cover the cost of the food. RSVP to GMC office.



4. Self Denial Offering

The Global Ministries Self Denial Offering is schedule for March 8th. This offering is used to help fund the operations of the GMC office and our international churches. Please help us by calling attention to this offering in your morning services. Thank you!

News from Benefits Corporation

Thanks to everyone who has returned the Worker's Compensation audit forms in a timely manner. The return rate this year is very good. It is important that we receive all the salary information to obtain an accurate worker's compensation billing. Missing information will be estimated and most likely estimated higher than actual, resulting in a higher bill. Please help yourself and other EC Churches by returning the Worker's Compensation audit forms.

The annual disability premium was due January 15 and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee is due by April 15, 2015, retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both of these fees are listed in the Treas-

urer's Guide available on the EC website (www.eccenter.com). Many have remitted the disability fee in a timely manner and a few have submitted the administrative fee and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurers please begin using the 2015 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2014 should be remitted on the 2014 Ministry Fun forms.

As always please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator (dking@eccenter.com) or Kevin Henry, Controller, with any questions or problems (khenry@eccenter.com)



News from Evangelical Seminary

After a very busy Winter 2015 session, the Spring 2015 semester began in late January.

In January we observed the one-year anniversary of the death of Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, Dr. David A. Dorsey by announcing our intent to re-name, re-locate, and re-fund the Museum. At the suggestion of Dr. Al Pense, the museum will now be known as the David A. Dorsey Museum of Biblical Archeology. Along with the Rostad Library, it will be housed in the Alan and Muriel Pense Learning Resource Center. For more information, contact Dr. Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu.

Please pray for our students who are on leave of absence (LOA) this semester. Reasons for needing this break in the educational career include health, family, and/or financial issues. Please ask the Lord for resolution so that they may continue to prepare for the ministry to which God has called them.

Upcoming events include:

The **Wesley Forum**, offering insight into the history, theology and spirituality of John and Charles Wesley, will be held on April 14, 2015 in Dech Chapel. The issue to be addressed

this year is Wesleyan orthodoxy in higher education with the theme, "What's Right with Orthodoxy?"

Our speaker will be **Dr. Wendy J. Deichmann**, president of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Alumni, interested pastors, scholars and laypersons are invited to attend. For more information visit our website www.evangelical.edu and look under Events Calendar, or contact Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu

The **2015 Praise Dinner** sponsored by The Wenger Foundation, Inc. will be held on Thursday, April 16. Marie Monvale, widow of the shooter at the Amish schoolhouse, will be the speaker and music will be



provided by The Browns, a family of excellent musicians. Invitations will be mailed in early March. For more information contact The Wenger Foundation at 717-866-2130.



Evangelical Seminary's 30th Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. Because we are celebrating this special anniversary, there will be some new and exciting prizes! For a great day on the links, put May 21 on your calendar now!



"...you are a chosen people...God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God..."
1 PETER 2:9

Community

2015 National Conference
May 27-29
Messiah College
Grantham, PA

Special Agenda Items:
Bishop Election
Covenant Implementation Team
Amendments

News from Twin Pines

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp at Twin Pines is rapidly approaching! Take advantage of our numerous programs that will allow you and your children to experience Go. From Adult Camp to Elementary Igniters (formerly Adventure Camp), we have programs for people of all ages. The summer camp schedule and brochure can be found on our website (www.twinpines.org) or on our Facebook page.



For the first time in 2015, we are excited to announce that you may register for summer camp online! Visit our website and scroll to the bottom of the page. We hope you will take advantage of this new opportunity.

If you have any questions about our summer camp programs, contact us at 570-629-2411 or info@twinpines.org.

SUMMER STAFF HIRING

Twin Pines is hiring joyful, dedicated, young people to serve on our 2015 Summer Staff. We are looking for female and male counselors, a handcraft director, kitchen help, lifeguards, and a snack shop manager. This is truly an awesome and life-changing opportunity. If you know anyone who is interested, please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at shawn@twinpines.org.



SUMMER NURSES

One of the greatest needs for service each summer is our need for summer camp nurses. This is truly an important part of summer camp and one we cannot go without. If you are a nurse or know someone who is one, please consider volunteering for one week or part of a week to help fill this important need.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Shawn at shawn@twinpines.org

TWIN PINES CRAFT RETREAT

Are you crafty? Do you enjoy crafting something with your hands? Twin Pines has the retreat for you! Join us for our first annual Twin Pines Craft Retreat: April 17-19, 2015. Contact the camp office to register. Phone: 570-629-2411 or email: retreats@twinpines.org



SUMMER CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars! The 2015 Summer Celebration will be on Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come up to Twin Pines to enjoy good food, fellowship, and fun as we kick off our summer season. New this year will be a yard and craft sale! Contact the camp office for more information about summer celebration. Phone: 570-629-2411 or e-mail: shawn@twinpines.org. If you would like to stay overnight for Summer Celebration, please e-mail Andy (andy@twinpines.org).



News from StoneRidge Retirement Living

The weather outside might be frightful but life at StoneRidge Retirement Living is delightful. There are so many things going on. Friday, February 6th we were pleased to host the Lebanon Valley Choral Society's Valentine's Concert for over 200 people. February 20-22nd we celebrated music with a weekend long concert series featuring Kaul Hausman, pianist, Belle Tones, singing girl group and an Olde Tyme Hymn sing with Pastor Rod Shearer at the piano.

March starts off with some "Savin' of the Green" as the Marketing Office launches a special offer of 15% savings on accommodations and other 15% perks for incoming residents. Saturday, March 28th we will hold a Pancake Breakfast for residents and community visitors—everyone invited. The proceeds of this event will go to the Benevolent Care Fund to assist residents at StoneRidge who have outlived their resources.

April springs off to a good start with a Seder Celebration on Maunday Thursday and a Good Friday service for the Myerstown area churches. Seniors can enjoy a week of fun and informative events the week of April 20th. So, you can see StoneRidge is the place to be! Resort style living for the young at heart.

Contact: Sherry Heim, Director of Development/PR
717-866-3204



Do you want to rejuvenate the disciple-making engine of your congregation?
Would you like to see every-day members of your church be ready to live out fresh expressions of Kingdom living?
Are you struggling to prioritize time to make disciples on the weekdays?

The Discipleship & Mission Workshop will begin to point you in the right direction! Friday-Saturday, March 20-21 at Bethany UMC, Ellicott City, MD is for you!

A special discounted registration fee is available for groups of four or more when registering together. For more workshop details see the registration website:
www.regonline.com/discipleshipandmissionworkshop

For all registration specific questions, please contact Jeff Springer at 305-720-6650 or via email at jeffreyjuddspringer@gmail.com

Presented by the Navigators teamed with 3DMovements personnel.

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100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Phone: 717-866-7581

E-mail:

eccenter@eccenter.com

We're on the Web
www.eccenter.com

We've attached calendars for March and April and will attach subsequent calendars in the future issues so you can keep up-to-date with what is happening in the EC denomination. These calendars are also available on the EC website www.eccenter.com. If there is an event you would like to have included on the calendar please contact Brenda at blong@eccenter.com or call 717-866-7581.



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Day of Prayer for Church Planting Second Sunday in Lent	2	3	4	5 Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	6	7 MMK Rally
8 Self-Denial Offering Third Sunday in Lent	9 Nexus Com Mtg. National CRC Mtg.	10 Global Ministries Commission Mtg.	11	12 National Ministry Team Mtg.	13	14 Susquehanna Region Mission Bruch—Fogelsville
15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	16 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance	17	18 Church Health Commission Mtg.	19	20	21 ECCO's Got Talent
22 Passion Sunday	23	24 NC Report Deadline	25	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31				

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Self-Denial Offering to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designate—Self-Denial Offering)

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday Church Center closed Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	4
5 Easter Sun- day	6 Church Center closed	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Prayer Mobilization Team Retreat	14 Wesley Forum— ETS	15 Church Pen- sion Contribu- tion due Health Insurance Premium due Estimated Tax due	16 ETS Praise Dinner	17	18 Berks District Mtg. Susquehanna Region Pre-Conf. Mtg Harrisburg Faith
19	20 Evangelism & Discipleship Comm. Mtg.	21	22 Susquehanna Region Pre-Conf. Mtg Reamstown	23	24	25 Great Lakes Region Pre-Conf. Mtg Live at Transfer Lake- side—video confer- ence at Dixon Bethel
26	27	28	29	30 Delaware Region Pre- Conf. Mtg Allentown Christ	Mountain Men Retreat	

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