



APRIL 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

Can we be honest and admit there are days when life just stinks? You know what I'm talking about, days when everything goes from bad to worse, another bill to be paid, another health problem, more doctor's appointments, a job lost, another child in trouble. Job understood those kinds of days all too well; in one day he lost his herds of animals, all his servants, and all his children—dead and gone. After that Job got sick, he was covered with "terrible boils from head to foot." His wife's advise was simple, "Curse God and die." Life stinks, it's hopeless, just give up. Then Job asks a question that every human being struggles with, "Can the dead live again?" This is a question that has haunted humanity throughout history.

So how do we answer Job's question? Some just say "no", this life is your one shot, enjoy it, do what you want, as Isaiah quoted them, "Let's feast and drink for tomorrow we die!" Some religions suggest you may live again as an animal or something, they aren't sure. Most people just say "that's an interesting question, I wonder"... so we get television shows about talking to dead people, maybe they have the answer.

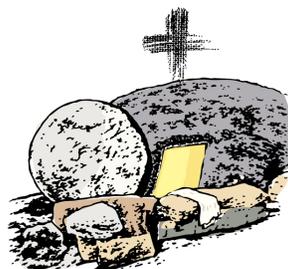
The question of death and life troubled the women who walked to Jesus' tomb that first Easter morning. They soon

discovered tomb was open and empty. Mary Magdalene ran and found Peter and John telling them what they had discovered. The two disciples ran to the tomb went inside and found only the linen wrappings laying there but Jesus' body was gone; so Peter and John went home while Mary stayed behind near the tomb. At that point Luke tells us that she saw two angels who asked an interesting question, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?" Jesus was supposed to be dead, that's why everybody was coming to the cemetery, that's where he was supposed to be, laying in a tomb. But he wasn't in the tomb. When we look at the question the angels ask, I'm sure to them it seemed like a dumb question, why would you go to a tomb to see someone who is alive? And that's exactly what Jesus was and is—alive!



Soon Mary Magdalene saw him for herself, then two followers who were walking to their home in Emmaus, then ten of the disciples, and finally Thomas. Luke writes, "During the forty days after his crucifixion, [Jesus] appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive." Paul adds to the eye witness list by telling the Corinthians that Jesus "was seen by over 500 of his followers at one time."

(continued on page 5)



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

1. Pray for the Lord's leading of me during this very busy time of the year with stationing, pre-conference meetings, National Conference preparations, and Covenant Implementation Team work, along with all the "normal responsibilities."
2. Continue to pray for the Stationing Committee as we seek the Lord's clear direction. Pray for pastors, families, and local congregations who are involved in stationing decisions.
3. Pray for the board members who voluntarily give of their time and talents to our affiliate ministries like the Benefits Corporation, Evangelical Seminary, our three camping ministries, StoneRidge Retirement Living, and camp meetings.
4. Pray that the many people who attend our churches' Easter celebrations will commit themselves to more than just involvement in special services, but in a life of discipleship.
5. As we remember the death and resurrection of our Savior; join me in the Apostle Paul's desire, "I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead." (Philippians 3:10 NLT)
6. Praise the Lord for the unity evident within the Covenant Implementation Team and ask for the Lord to continue to clearly lead in the development process as we move closer to National Conference.
7. Praise the Lord for the many people who continue to remind me they are praying for Gloria and me on a regular basis. (And don't stop now!)
8. Thank the Lord for the constant presence, power and encouragement we receive through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
9. Praise God for the reports of growth we are receiving from our international churches in India, Japan, Liberia, Mexico and Nepal. The Lord is at work even in challenging circumstances and people are responding to his call!
10. Thank God for his faithfulness seen in the changing seasons. Spring is officially here, warm weather is on the way, the snow geese and robins have arrived and I am thankful for that!

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

National Conference will soon be here, but before we get there we're inviting pastors and lay delegates to attend one of the pre-conference meetings. There are five meetings scheduled; two in each of the Delaware and Susquehanna regions, and a joint video-conference in the Great Lakes Region. You may attend any of the meetings; please chose the one that fits your schedule. During these meetings we will share information and updates on some of the significant items of business that will be a part of the National Conference agenda.

- √ Amendments Committee—at the present time we have 13 proposed amendments to the Discipline.
- √ Benefits Corporation—the impact of the Affordable Care Act and a proposal on retiree health insurance.
- √ Covenant Implementation Team—recommendations on re-structuring and direct financial support of affiliates.

The pre-conference meeting schedule is:

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

News from Global Ministries

1. Prayer for Travel:

Deputy Director Pat Strain, Nancie Young and Lucille Putt will be traveling to New Mexico to visit EC Missionaries, Randy & Chris Amberman, April 7-13. Please pray for their safe travel and an encouraging productive visit.

2. Japan EC Church Growing!

God is doing great things through the existing congregations and the new church planters there! Tomoyuki and Jessica Abe shared the great news that their church plant, Fuchinobe Community Church is experiencing new levels of participation through the Alpha Course, Marriage Course and Parenting Courses they are offering. Because of this growth, their current meeting space, a borrowed classroom, is too small to accommodate the adults and children coming to these ministry events. They have asked us to pray along with them in their search for a permanent facility that would meet their current and future needs as a growing congregation. As you may know, property in Japan is very expensive so we definitely need God's help and the help of those who feel called to give financially. Tomoyuki and Jessica will be coming to Pennsylvania May 19-31 and will be at Messiah College for our National Conference sessions. They would love to take this opportunity to speak with anyone who is interested in helping with this need of a permanent church building. If you would like to arrange a time to meet with them or want more information, please contact them directly at: harbowtomo@yahoo.com.jp

3. Nepal EC Church Leaders visit USA:

Rev. Janga and his wife Mercy have been granted visas and will be visiting with us May 20-31, 2015. Rev. Janga and Mercy will arrive in the USA in Chicago to interact with our Illinois congregations May 20-24 and then travel to Pennsylvania to meet with the GMC India/Nepal Committee and to participate in the National Conference sessions at Messiah College May 27-29. Janga will be the speaker for the GMC luncheon at National Conference on Thursday, May 28th. Following National Conference Janga and Mercy will present the work in Nepal at Grace EC, Schuylkill Haven on Sunday morning, May 31 and at St. John's EC, Steelstown at 7:00 pm that evening.

News from Benefits Corporation

Thanks to almost everyone for completing the workers compensation forms on a timely basis. The workers compensation audit was completed and will have the invoices out to the churches by mid April. Early estimates indicate there will be an increase to the workers compensation premiums. While we have had minimal workers compensation claims the last two years, the Commonwealth of PA has adjusted their portion of the workers compensation premium upward.

Churches not included in the denominational workers compensation group policy; Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky churches, however your individual state mandates workers compensation coverage. Please confirm that all employees of the church are covered by workers compensation insurance. Per EC Benefits Corporation policy H.3.b. submit proof of workers compensation coverage by July 1 of each year. Please submit proof of your workers compensation coverage to:

E.C. Benefits
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
Or FAX 717-866-7583 or
email dking@eccenter.com

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

Treasurers please confirm that you are remitting your ministry fund payments on the correct monthly form. While the ministry fund rate did not change using the correct ministry fund form helps the business office keep accurate records.

As always please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, or Kevin Henry, Controller, with any questions or problems, dking@eccenter.com, khenry@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581.



News from Evangelical Seminary

We have an exciting line-up of events this April and May! Please join us as you are able.

Every year Wesley Forum invites unique and interesting people to share their insights into how Wesleyan theology contributes to a vibrant, intelligent, and authentic faith. It is our honor to welcome Dr. Wendy Deichmann to address and lead discussions at our 2015 Wesley Forum. Dr. Deichmann will be sharing her research and practical leadership experiences in rediscovering and reimagining the role of orthodoxy to invigorate effective ministry. Her topic *What's Right with Orthodoxy?* will look at what orthodoxy is, how it affects ministry, and the future of historic faith in changing times. 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 were mailed in early March. For more information contact The Wenger Foundation at 717-866-2130.

Wesley
Forum

On Saturday, April 18, representatives from the Seminary will join with scores of volunteers from the Myerstown community in support of Rotary Service Day. At 8:00 a.m. volunteers will gather in Zinn Commons of Christ Hall for coffee, donuts, and to receive their work assignments. All workers will gather again shortly after noon to enjoy a delicious lunch provided by the Kold Duck Café. All willing workers are welcome! For more information contact Ann Steel at 717-866-5775, ext. 2143 or at asteel@evangelical.edu.

Join us for Faith in the Marketplace in Lancaster on Thursday, April 23. The event begins at 7:00 a.m. with a delicious breakfast at Lancaster Mennonite High School on Lincoln Highway East. Our guest speaker, John Pletcher, recently wrote a book focus-

ing on the integration of faith and work titled *Henry's Glory: A Story of Discovering Lasting Significance in Your Daily Work*. To register go to www.evangelical.edu/FIM or call Marsha at 717-866-5775, ext. 2130.



Evangelical'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 StoneRidge Retirement Living

Winter is drawing to a close and the earth is getting ready to renew itself. New life! How exciting!

StoneRidge is celebrating the twenty new residents who have chosen to begin a new chapter of their lives at StoneRidge Retirement Living in Myerstown and braved the winter cold to make the move. They wanted to be settled in when Spring arrived. With so many great amenities to experience: wellness center, exercise classes, live entertainment, crafts, golf, water aerobics, book discussions and learning courses, and of course delicious meals shared with friends, who could resist. As if that weren't enough an offer of "incredible savings" is going on for a limited time. This opportunity offers a saving of \$15,000 off the entrance fee, a \$1500 furniture allowance, a \$1500 moving credit, one month FREE— and more! Wow! The time is right to come and share life with some great people. Resort style living for the young at heart.

StoneRidgeretirement.com ; 717-866-3200.

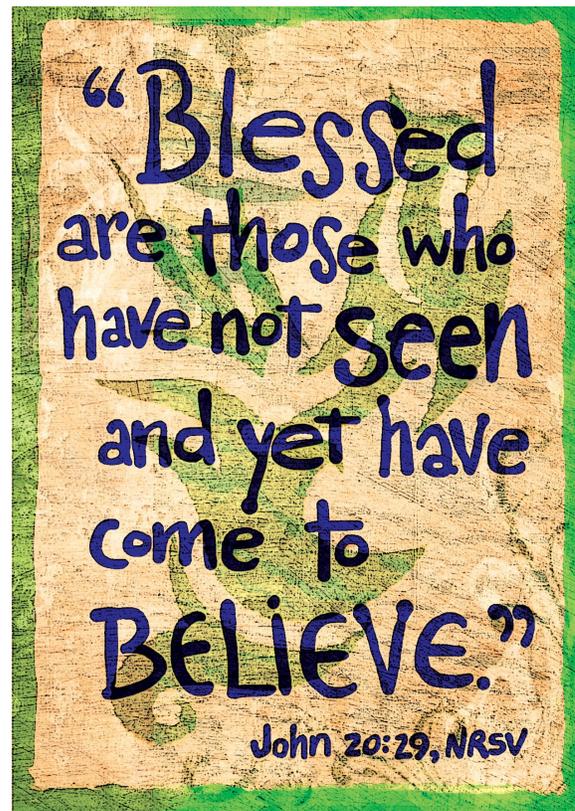


From the Bishop (continued from page 1)

The message of Easter is that because Jesus is alive we can confidently answer Job's question. Jesus said "*Since I live, you also will live.*" Jesus' resurrection is a statement that he is who he said he is, the Son of God; but Jesus' resurrection is more than just a display of his own power over death; it is the assurance that through faith in the living Savior Jesus "*you also will live.*" There seems to be, somewhere in our nature, a desire to know what's beyond this life. That's why we see so much of it in books, movies and television. Jesus makes that life clear to us; for the follower of Jesus, there is much more than just this life, the resurrection of Jesus proves it. So let's live that life today!

In Christ's service,

All scripture references New Living Translation



Mountain Men 2015 Conference
“Endangered Species—the Christian Man”
April 24-25
Twin Pines Camp

Special guests: Doug McCary, former Marine Harrier Pilot and FBI Agent

Rev. Mark Ammerman, author, musician and pastor

Rev. Gary Kuehner, Delaware Region Conference Minister

Worship leader: Andy Sell

This year we'll have more recreational and fellowship time. Go to the Mountain Men website to register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mountain-men-2015-conference-tickets-14638757919>.



“...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

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE
 NATIONAL CONFERENCE IS
 APRIL 16TH**

**FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE
 EC WEBSITE**

WWW.ECCENTER.COM

E.C. Church Center
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 April and May 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.



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 Sunday	6 Church Center closed	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Prayer Mobilization Team Retreat	14 Wesley Forum—ETS	15 Church Pension Contribution 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	23 Susquehanna Region Pre-Conf. Mtg Reamstown	24	25 Great Lakes Region Pre-Conf. Mtg Live at Transfer Lake—side—video conference at Dixon Bethel
26	27	28	29	30 Delaware Region Pre-Conf. Mtg Allentown Christ	Mountain Men Retreat	

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

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	2 Delaware Region Pre- Conference Mtg. Reedsville
3 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	4	5	6	7 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Finance Comm. Mtg.	8 ETS Commencement	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY	11	12 StoneRidge Retirement Liv- ing Board Mtg. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Women's Only Twin Pines Retreat</div>	13	14 Ascension Day Evangelical Semi- nary Board Mtg.	15 Church Pension Contribution Due Health Insurance Premium Due	16
17	18	19	20	21 ETS Golf Tournament	22	23
24 PENTECOST	25 MEMORIAL DAY Church Center closed	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">NATIONAL CONFERENCE—MESSIAH COLLEGE</div>	28	29	30
30	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	