



## From the desk of Bishop Bruce Hill

Technology has always fascinated me. I appreciate it and enjoy it - when it works. I had a problem with my pick-up truck near the end of summer. One of those confusing, intermittent, problems. No rhyme or reason; just happens, then it doesn't. I was telling a friend about it and his response was, "Welcome to computers running your vehicle."

I remember the first vehicle I bought that had a GPS system in it. "This is great," I thought. Just put the destination address in it and go. But have you ever found yourself arguing with that voice that tells you to turn right when you just know it would be better to turn left? After all, left is the way you've always gone! Left is the way you want to go. If we argue with the GPS voice, I can't wait to see how we'll fight to override the self-driving systems when they're in our vehicles.

I think the real problem is that I want to be in control. I've been driving for a lot longer than computers have existed, and I just know better. I know where to turn; I know when to step on the gas or on the brake; I'm in charge of this; I can drive stick-shift; I want to steer!

Doesn't that describe life? We think we know better. I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. (And it wasn't a pastor, and it certainly wasn't the Bishop.) We see that kind of self-will all around us. "Nobody's going to tell me what decisions to make, what to do, where to go." How often have we heard children, teens, and, yes, even adults, express that sentiment in one way or another?

*continued on page 2*

## This issue:

**From the desk...**

PAGES 01-02

**Bishop's Top Ten  
Prayer & Praise**

PAGE 03

**Executive Director News**

PAGES 04 - 05

**GMC NEWS**

PAGE 06

**KEC NEWS**

PAGE 07

**EVANGELICAL SEMINARY  
NEWS**

PAGE 08

**Twin Pines**

PAGE 09

**Operation Christmas Child**

PAGE 10

**Calendars & Staff List**

PAGES 11 - 13



## From the desk....

*continued from page 1*

David and his son, Solomon, both struggled with the direction of their lives and decisions they made along the way. If you know anything about their lives, you know they learned that their way was seldom the right way. It was a lesson they had to learn over and over again, and often the hard way.

How often have we said to God, "I can handle this," only to later plead for help? Isn't that the story of the prodigal son?

Perhaps you've seen the bumper sticker or license plate that says, "God is my co-pilot." That sounds spiritual, but the truth is, if He's the co-pilot of your life, you're in the wrong seat.

David reminds us of God's promise, *"The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'"* (Psalm 32:8)

So, where are you going and how are you going to get there? We have choices, but God's will and His way are always the safest and the best.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Bruce D. Hill  
Bishop



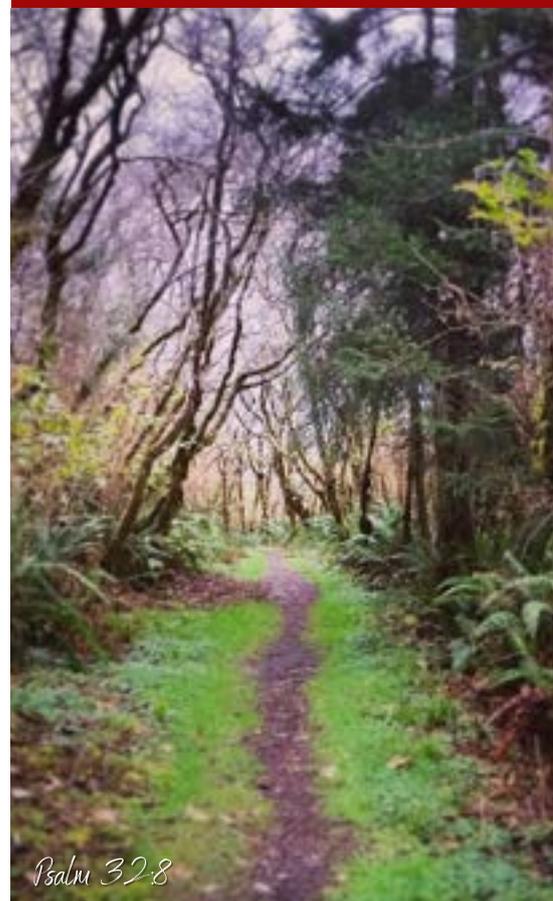
*"That sounds spiritual,  
but the truth is, if  
He's the co-pilot of  
your life, you're in the  
wrong seat!"*

- Bruce Hill

### **AS A REMINDER! - Status Changes & Stationing Assignment Changes**

**January 1** may seem like a long way off, but is an important date for lots of reasons. One of the reasons is that according to our National Conference Rules, pastors are to notify the Bishop or Jeff Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, in writing, if they are requesting a *change in their status due to retirement or superannuation*.

**January 1** is also the deadline for pastors and congregations who are requesting a *change in their stationing assignment*. In this case, all requests for a change in stationing must be made in writing to the Bishop. This is vital for the Stationing Committee as they meet in January to begin their work of identifying pastors and congregations who can fit and flourish in ministry. If you have questions about either of these issues, please contact the Bishop at Church Center.



*Psalm 32:8*



## The Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

- 1 PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS PRESENCE AND LEADING IN OUR RECENT NATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM MEETING.
- 2 ASK FOR THE LORD TO BE WITH THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH COVID.
- 3 PRAY FOR STRENGTH FOR PASTORS AND WORSHIP TEAMS AS THEY PREPARE FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAY SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS.
- 4 PRAY FOR SAFETY, BOTH IN TRAVEL AND FROM COVID, AS MANY PEOPLE BEGIN THE HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON.
- 5 PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WILL OBSERVE THE FIRST THANKSGIVING WITHOUT A LOVED ONE WHO HAS PASSED AWAY THIS PAST YEAR. 1 JOHN 2:3,5
- 6 PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS PROVISION AND CARE, EVEN IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES.
- 7 PRAISE GOD FOR THE MEN WHO ARE RESPONDING TO THE LORD'S CALL ON THEIR LIFE AND HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE PASTORAL ASSESSMENT CENTER WHICH WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY 2022. GOD IS AT WORK!
- 8 THANK THE LORD FOR A FAITHFUL AND EFFECTIVE CHURCH CENTER STAFF WHO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND GLOBAL MINISTRIES.
- 9 PRAISE GOD FOR THE WONDERFUL SEASON OF ORDINATION SERVICES WE HAD SINCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE AS WE SEE GOD AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF FOUR OF OUR CREDENTIALLED LEADERS.
- 10 JOIN ME IN PRAISING THE LORD FOR HIS DAILY BLESSINGS; WE REALLY ARE A BLESSED PEOPLE, AND WE NEED TO SAY, "THANK YOU," TO THE LORD MORE OFTEN, AND ESPECIALLY DURING THIS THANKSGIVING MONTH.



# News from Executive Director

## Kevin Henry

Executive Director

khenry@eccenter.com

717-866-7581

## David King

Benefits Administrator

dking@eccenter.com

717-866-7581

Health Insurance

### Health Insurance Plan

The active pastor's health insurance transition to Highmark Blue Shield is in process with participants receiving their new ID cards by Nov 1. The benefits in the Highmark Blue Shield plan are very similar to the current benefits under the CIGNA plan. The annual maximum out-of-pocket for covered medical expenses, excluding co-pays, remains at \$500 with the HRA paying costs above \$500. The maximum out-of-pocket for prescriptions and outpatient therapy services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, respiratory therapy and manipulative therapy) also remains at \$1,800 annually.

If you have incurred medical expenses above \$500, or prescription or outpatient therapy costs above \$1,800, you may be eligible for reimbursement of your out-of-pocket costs from the HRA. The HRA plan year ends on December 31, 2021 and all requests for reimbursement for the July 2021 - December 2021 plan year must be received by Benecon, our HRA administrator, by March 31, 2022, ninety days after the end of the plan year. If you need assistance with Benecon please contact Dave King or Kevin Henry at EC Church Center and either will walk you through the process.

With the switch from CIGNA to Highmark Blue Shield our plan year will switch to a calendar year plan year, January to December. All deductibles and coinsurance amounts will reset on January 1, 2022.

The EC Benefits Trustees are very aware of the tension caused by the cost of health insurance and they are committed to serving the pastors and the local EC church. The US health insurance market is constantly in flux. The circumstances surrounding the annual plan renewal are different every year. However, the trend to push responsibility for healthcare and lifestyle decision onto the individual is continuing with your pocketbook feeling the most pain. Planning for your long term health is just as important as planning for your retirement. Accidents and illnesses are going to happen, but many healthcare conditions are preventable and manageable with healthy lifestyle choices.

### Social Security COLA

The 2022 Social Security COLA adjustment was released at 5.9%. The Pastoral Compensation Committee recommends pastors receive the annual Social Security COLA increase as approved at the May 2021 National Conference. The EC Benefits trustees are meeting on Nov 2 to discuss an increase in the health insurances rates for 2022. Expect a modest increase in health insurance beginning January 2022. Church pension contribution will increase next year at the normal amounts, \$20/mon to \$340/mon for full time pastors, and \$10/mon to \$170/mon for part-time pastors.

# News from Executive Director

## Highmark Freedom Blue

The retiree Medicare supplemental plan, Highmark Freedom Blue, is increasing by \$6/month to \$255 per person per month, effective January 1, 2022, with no changes in coverage levels.

Cost Sharing Amounts for 2022 (single policy)

Year of Medicare Eligibility Current January 1, 2022

2005 or before \$249.00 \$255.00

2006 \$249.00 \$255.00

2007 \$249.00 \$255.00

2008 \$249.00 \$255.00

2009 and after \$249.00 \$255.00

*For a husband and wife on Freedom Blue double the amounts above.*

The open enrollment period for the Highmark Freedom Blue plan is from October 15, 2021 through December 7, 2021. Retirees enrolled in another Medicare supplemental plan, or not in a Medicare supplemental plan, may join the Freedom Blue plan only during the open enrollment period. The open enrollment period does not affect pastors that plan on retiring after December 7, 2021. Medicare eligible pastors may join Freedom Blue at the time they superannuate from pastoral service.

It is very important that the retiree does not fall behind on payments to Highmark Freedom Blue. If a retiree is having difficulty paying the monthly premium, the Manna Fund is available for financial assistance. Please contact David King in the EC Benefits office for a Manna Fund application.

There are many Medicare Advantage plans available, even some at no cost to the participant. However, each plan will have positives and negatives in terms of participating providers and benefits provided. Please thoroughly investigate a Medicare Advantage plan before switching plans. If a retiree does not have the financial means to assume a larger portion of the Freedom Blue plan, the Manna Fund is available to financially assist the retiree.



## Manna Fund

The Manna Fund was established to assist our retired clergy and surviving spouses with financial needs. The income limits to qualify for a Manna Fund distribution were recently changed to 200% of the federal poverty level as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The 2021 Manna Fund income limits are \$25,720 for a single and \$34,840 for a couple. If you are aware of any of our retired clergy or surviving spouses that could benefit from a Manna Fund distribution, please encourage them to complete an application for assistance. Manna Fund applications are mailed to retired clergy and surviving spouses in April, and an application can also be received from the Benefits Administrator at EC Church Center.

## Required Year-End Reporting

We are quickly approaching the end of the calendar year and we are encouraging all the local church pastors, treasurers or administrators to begin planning for the required year-end reporting. Required reporting includes year-end tax forms, giving statements, denomination annual reports, and pastor compensation forms. A small amount of preparation and planning early in the process will save time and frustration later. Due dates for year-end reporting:

### Due to EC Church Center - Compensation & Benefit Administrator

**Pastor Salary Forms: January 14, 2022**

*(to Benefits Administrator, Dave King)*

**Annual Reports: January 25, 2022**

*(to NC Admin Assistant, Denise Jaramillo, at djaramillo@eccenter.com)*

*Please note the earlier filing deadlines of W-2s and 1099 - NEC/MISC forms:*

**Form W-2 (pastors and church employees) January 31, 2022**

Filed with Social Security - January 31, 2022 (paper and electronic forms)

**Form 1099-NEC/MISC (independent contractors) January 31, 2022**

Filed with IRS - January 31, 2022 (paper and electronic forms)

Pastors are employees of the local church and should receive a W-2 with federal, state & local taxes withheld from every paycheck.

# Global Ministries Community

**Ron & Brenda Anderson**  
*European Christian Mission  
International, Spain*



**Chris & Deb Bowers**  
*Wycliffe: Washington*

**jamie & Anita Farr**  
*Wycliffe: Orlando, FL*



**G. Abraham Powell**  
**Bishop**  
*EC Church of Liberia*

Celebrating the work and ministries of these missionaries and international church leaders and the Great News of Christ being shared around the world!

*"Again he said, peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me,  
so I am sending you."*

John 20::21

Facilitating Mission Workers  
Empowering National Churches  
Engaging the Local Church

**Rev. J. Ted Rathman**  
*GMC Associate*

**Denise Jaramillo**  
*GMC Administrative Assistant*

ecglobal@eccenter.com  
717-866-7581

**GMC.ECCENTER.COM**





## **KINGDOM EXTENSION COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Pastors and Team Leaders . . . gift your church with an investment in your leadership.**

**For you, or you and your team, consider one of the following teaching-learning experiences.**

**Contact Les Cool at 717-951-8433 or [revlescool@gmail.com](mailto:revlescool@gmail.com) with your questions, or to arrange for a training event that fits your needs.**

### **The Art of Neighboring: Connecting with our Local Communities**

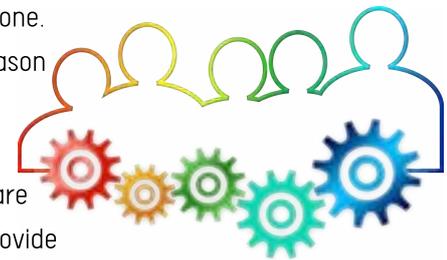
This hands-on workshop is designed to help you explore how to identify points of intersection between the DNA of your church and that of the surrounding community. With these insights, participants will examine ways to build missional “bridges” between church and community. The aim of the interactive sessions will be for each church represented to generate action steps to build relationships and ministries with your neighbors.



Three teaching sessions (Who are we? Who are they? What bridges can be created between us?) are followed by hands-on workshops (church teams actually processing the material that was shared). The final session is designed to leave each church team with solid plans and action steps toward missional connections with their communities.

### **Preparing New Leaders and Developing Your Team**

Most days you just need somebody to do that thing or to serve in that role. Why? The job must get done. Or at least, that’s the theory. But the reality is that the right person in the right role for the right reason will not only get the job done; they will also thrive. That means they will continue to serve long after the job is done. How do you know who is best for which role? You start with helping your leaders, potential and existing, identify their spiritual gifts and personality. Add gift development, and they are ready to deploy into long-term ministry roles! A Leadership Grip or Grip-Birkman workshop would provide insights on building a better church leadership team, as well as help you equip your congregation for powerful ministries. And save someone from burnout!



***Need help turning a good idea or a recent training experience into action and meaningful ministry? The KEC would like to help you realize more out of your ideas and training. Let’s talk. Maybe a coach is what you need.***

### **Coaching Toward a New Tomorrow**

Great ideas sometimes need coaching support in order for you to hit the target. Coaching keeps you on task, and enables you to play at the top of your game. Coaching enables you to achieve more. Let’s talk! The Kingdom Extension Community (KEC) would like to partner with you (pastor) or your leadership team or congregation to make sure your next great idea becomes your next ministry success. The KEC would like to help pay for up to six months of coaching attached to training and a new ministry that is missional or Kingdom focused. That is, we would like to pay for coaching designed to help you make use of new learning that moves you and your church family out of the building to develop a ministry not attached to what happens in your sanctuary. What might that look like? A church plant. A dinner church. A fresh expression of church. This is about creating a ministry that didn’t exist for people not yet reached. Interested?





## Friends of Evangelical Banquet

Thursday, December 2

Eden Resort, Lancaster, PA



How great to celebrate together how the Lord continues to deepen and widen the ministry of our seminary!

Dr. Curt Thompson, author of [The Soul of Shame](#), and host of the podcast, "Being Known," will equip and encourage the banquet group with his extensive work in neurobiology and how we thrive when we have shame-free intimacy with the Designer of our brains.

Discover that the Spirit is calling amazing ECers into biblically-sound seminary education that is accessible, affordable, and relevant to our EC family of churches.

**\*\*Contact Sonya Valentino, [EC church member at Christ Community Church]**

**if you would like more details. [sonya.valentino@evangelical.edu](mailto:sonya.valentino@evangelical.edu).\*\***





## What's Happening@ Twin Pines



### F.Y.R.E. - November 5-7

A weekend of experiences for youth groups and individuals to grow in their faith and enjoy a fall retreat. [bit.ly/FYRE21](http://bit.ly/FYRE21)

A poster for "Winter Thaw 2022" featuring a blue background with a white mug of hot cocoa and snowflakes. The text on the right lists four sessions: Winter Thaw - A (January 14-16, Rev. Jeff Berger), Winter Thaw - B (January 28-30, Rev. Dr. Brett Jenkins), Winter Thaw - C (February 11-13, Jason Hummel), and Winter Thaw - D (February 25-27, Eli Tyler). The website [bit.ly/WT2022](http://bit.ly/WT2022) is at the bottom right.

### NEW!

### Adult Retreat - April 1-3, 2022

Getaway to the mountains for a weekend and enjoy a time away from usual daily interruptions. More details in the coming months. Reserve the dates now to attend.



### Spring Fling Children's Retreat

### April 22-24, 2022

A weekend retreat focused on those currently in grades 3-5. Enjoy Twin Pines in the spring and get ready for the summer. Participating groups must provide chaperones for the weekend.



A poster for the "APPLICATION FOR Twin Pines Summer Staff 2022". It features the Twin Pines logo, which is a stylized pine tree inside a circle. The text "TWIN PINES" is in large, bold letters, with "CAMP, CONFERENCE &amp; RETREAT CENTER" below it. At the bottom, there is a small line of text: "Camp, Conference, and Retreat Center 2000 Twin Pines Camp Road • Hot Springs, AR 71901".

The 2022 application to be on Twin Pines Summer Staff is now available at [bit.ly/2022tpcapp](http://bit.ly/2022tpcapp). People are needed to be counselors, kitchen help, life-guards, and fill other roles of ministry for eight weeks so people of all ages can have an experience with Jesus.



# SHOEBOX GIFTS GO EVEN WHERE THERE IS NO ROAD

God's Word is being proclaimed in some of the world's most remote and hard-to-reach places through Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse.



To learn more, visit [SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/ENDSOFTHEEARTH](https://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/ENDSOFTHEEARTH)



Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®, Franklin Graham, President | 1-800-353-5949 | [samaritanspurse.org](https://samaritanspurse.org)  
© 2021 Samaritan's Purse. All rights reserved.



# November



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 ELECTION DAY	3	4	5 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i> Twin Pines Jr./Sr. High Fall Retreat	6
7 <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i> Green Twin Pines Jr./Sr. High Fall Retreat	8	9	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY	12	13
14 Green	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17	18	19	20 EC Leader deadline
21 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY <i>Thanksgiving (voluntary)</i> Green	22	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING Church Center Closed	26 Church Center Closed	27
28 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT Violet	29	30	Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payment to: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Thanksgiving (Voluntary) to: E.C. Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate: Thanksgiving)	



# December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Fund to: E.C. Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payment to: Benefits Corporation 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Christmas Missionary Offering to: E.C. Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 <i>(designate: Christmas Missionary Offering)</i>	1	2	3  <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	4
5  SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>  Violet	6	7	8	9	10	11
12  THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT  Violet	13	14	15  <i>Health Insurance Due</i>	16	17	18
19  FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT <i>Christmas Missionary Offering</i>  Violet	20  <i>EC Leader deadline</i>	21  <i>Loan &amp; Investment Committee Mtg.</i>	22	23  <i>Church Center Closed</i>	24  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <i>Church Center Closed</i>	25  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
26  white	27	28	29	30	31  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> <i>Church Center Closed</i>	

# EC LEADER



## EC Center Staff and Associates

### STAFF

- Rev. Bruce Hill - Bishop: [bhill@eccenter.com](mailto:bhill@eccenter.com)
- Jodi Earhart - Assistant to the Bishop: [jearthart@eccenter.com](mailto:jearthart@eccenter.com)
- Kevin Henry - Executive Director: [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)
- David King - Benefits Administrator: [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com)
- Denise Jaramillo - NC & GMC Admin Assistant: [djaramillo@eccenter.com](mailto:djaramillo@eccenter.com)
- Shirley Long - Business Office Specialist: [slong@eccenter.com](mailto:slong@eccenter.com)
- Abigail Zimmerman - Business Office Specialist: [azimmerman@eccenter.com](mailto:azimmerman@eccenter.com)

### Associates

- Rev. Gary Kuehner - Church Health: [gkuehner@eccenter.com](mailto:gkuehner@eccenter.com)
- Rev. J. Ted Rathman - Global Ministries: [pastorted@graceecchurch.org](mailto:pastorted@graceecchurch.org)
- Rev. Jeffrey Byerly - Ministerial Development: [jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org](mailto:jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org)
- Rev. Leslie Cool - Kingdom Extension: [revlescool@gmail.com](mailto:revlescool@gmail.com)



## Know Him Better Love Him More

"We can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments...Those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him."  
1 John 2:3,5

# EC LEADER

### Contributors

- Bishop Bruce Hill
- Kevin Henry
- Sonya Valentino
- Rev. J. Ted Rathman
- Rev. Les Cool
- Rev. Dr. Samuel Yeager
- Faye Martin

Denise Jaramillo  
Editor/Art Design  
NC Administrative Assistant