

EC Leader

JULY 2016



From the Bishop

I recently heard of a pastor who described his congregation as being made up of “familiar strangers”; “familiar strangers” in their relationships with him and with each other. He felt that he knew who they were, but didn’t really know them. I think that’s a sad commentary on many of our relationships in 21st Century American life. Our interactions with people, even fellow church members, are so often limited to the superficial and trivial matters of life. In contrast, Jesus prayed that his followers would be “one”; intimately connected to him and to each other, just as Jesus is one with the Father. Later, as Luke described the early church, he wrote, “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to share in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42 NLT) That doesn’t sound like a group of “familiar strangers” to me.

Following Jesus means not only

joining with him in faith but committing to each other as followers of Jesus. I think one of the keys to really knowing each other is found in the “one anothers” spread through the New Testament. The “one anothers” are not just meant for individual Christians in a local church, but are just as valid between local congregations in the one church. The Bible reminds us that even though we are different from each other, come from different regions of the country, and represent over 130 different EC congregations and ministries, as disciples of Jesus we all have the same God as Father. We are connected to each other. We drive different kinds of cars, we don’t dress alike, we don’t think alike, but we work at living together in harmony for the good of the family of God and his Kingdom. I am reminded of a story of a church that had to make the difficult decision about cutting down a big shade tree in the parking lot. One older man argued long that they should preserve the tree, but the

decision went the other way. On the day they cut it down he was the first one to show up. Someone said, “I thought you didn’t want that tree cut down, He said, “I don’t but WE decided to cut it down, so I’m here to help.” That is working at being united. There’s power when we work together. That is a really important piece as we move into our new denominational structure.

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Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

1. July 1 is the start of a new Conference Year. That means lots of prayer requests which deal with endings and beginnings —

A. Join me in praying for our outgoing Conference Ministers Gordy Lewis, Gary Kuehner, and Chuck Campbell as they begin new ministry opportunities in local congregations on July 1.

B. Pray for the many retirees and their wives as they transition into a “new normal”, stepping away from pastoral ministry and becoming members of local congregations.

C. Please pray for the many new pastoral assignments which begin on July 1. Pray that the Lord would bless these pastors, their families and the congregations with a good start to many years of ministry together.

D. Pray for the ongoing work of the Stationing Committee as we continue to seek the Lord's will in providing opportunities for pastors and churches to “fit and flourish.”



E. Pray for the new leadership team, also known as the Conference Network Team, which will begin their work on July 1 — the Bishop, Executive Director, Associates and District Field Directors.

F. Thank God for the many faithful members of our “old” Commissions and Committees and pray for all those who are volunteering to be a part of our “new” Community structure.

2. Pray for our three camping ministries — Camp ECCO (OH), Rock River (IL), and Twin Pines (PA) as they reach young people with the Good News about Jesus.
3. Praise the Lord for the great spirit of unity that was felt dur-

ing the days of National Conference as pastors and lay delegates from the EC Church across the country worked, worshipped, and fellowshiped together.

4. Praise the Lord for the opportunities I have to preach this summer in local churches in Kentucky and Pennsylvania as well as at Herndon and Rosedale camp meetings.
5. Praise the Lord that Gloria and I will be able to enjoy some vacation time away as a couple (think beach) and some time with our family on our one son's whitetail deer farm (think cowboy hat and tractor)!

From the Bishop—continued from page 1

Life in the church is not about being “familiar strangers”; it's about being intimately connected to each other—within a local congregation and between congregations in a district of churches. It's putting into practice the “one anothers” of the New Testament in local congregations, in districts, and across the denomination. I trust you and your congregation will commit to breaking through the “familiar stranger” barriers to creatively carryout the “one anothers” - to “do life”, do ministry, together.


In Christ's Service,



News from Church Center



JUST GIVING YOU SOME WARNING: Starting June 20th, 2016 there will be roadwork on State Route 501 (College Street the street that runs next to the Church Center) in Myers-town. The work is to last over a month. Construction will run from Bethel/Lebanon County line all the way to Schaefferstown.

Starting July 1st the Church Center will be starting its summer schedule being closed on Fridays from July 1st through September 2. The office will be open from 8am to 4pm, Monday thru Thursday.



News from StoneRidge Retirement Living

One Thousand and Counting

Doris Seiverling, a resident at StoneRidge Town Centre* in Myerstown, doesn't like just sitting around doing nothing. Four years ago, she joined a small group of "compassionate and caring friends" who for several years have been doing various knitting and crocheting projects for newborns and for others in need. "I have to do something; I can't just sit. I like to keep myself occupied," she said. Since joining the group, her project has been the creation of knitted baby caps for newborns at Reading Hospital. And, she recently crossed a threshold which had been a personal goal she set for herself, that of creating 1000 baby hats! The hospital is so delighted to benefit from this, and the other special projects from this group of friends, that they began supplying the yarn for their work. While having just completed 1000 hats, Doris has no intention of stopping or even slowing down, but she will continue to bless others with her sewing talents. This is truly a labor of love.



Doris has been doing sewing crafts for most of her life. She learned how to sew on a peddle-driven, treadle sew-

ing machine at ten years old while a member of 4-H. Now at 81, she tells people that she has "71 years of experience!" Later, she became a 4-H leader and even taught sewing during her time with the organization. Over the years, she made clothes for herself and her family, including shirts for her husband who passed away six years ago, and draperies, comfort tops and shawls. Her work is lovely, and she has blessed many people throughout the years with her creative gifts. Her compassionate friends include a small group of women from Rehrersburg who attend the Little Swatara Church of the Brethren. Some of the other projects they are working on include lap throws and shawls for people in wheelchairs who are shut-ins, caps for people undergoing chemotherapy and, of course, baby caps.

Doris was born on a farm outside of Rehrersburg on what is now Airport Road. She and her late husband have five children, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

*StoneRidge Town Centre is one of four retirement communities comprising StoneRidge Retirement Living. Locations include StoneRidge Towne Centre and StoneRidge Poplar Run both in Myerstown, Church of God Home in Carlisle and Schoolyard Square in Pine Grove. For more information about options available for you or a loved one, please call 1-717-866-3553.

News from Benefits Corporation

New Overtime Rules

You may have heard of the new overtime rules for salaried workers released in early May 2016 and go into effect on December 1, 2016. The new rules allow salaried employees earning less than \$47,476 per year to be paid overtime for hours worked over 40 hours a week. Most pastors and church workers are exempt from the new overtime rules regardless of their annual salary. There are a couple exceptions to the exemption for pastors and church workers not qualifying for overtime such as child daycare workers. If your church operates a daycare and employs a salaried manager/supervisor/director that position may qualify for overtime if their salary is less than \$47,476/yr. Another less common church employee that could qualify for overtime would be a position at your church that regularly engages in interstate commerce. Please see a well written document from the DOL on the new overtime rules for nonprofits for more information, <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/overtime-nonprofit.pdf>.

Change in Pastor re: Insurance

If your church is changing pastors on July 1 please be aware that benefit payments may change, e.g. health insurance and pension. The health insurance invoice received at the church during June, due June 15, is for the month of July and should reflect any change in coverage for a new pastor. Every year there is at least one change in health insurance coverage at a church that is a surprise to us. Pastors and their families are not covered by our health insurance plan until a Capital Blue Cross application is completed, submitted and accepted for processing. Please remind a new pastor joining our health insurance plan to contact Dave King for Capital Blue Cross and Prime Pay applications. Pastors must also complete a form to cancel their health insurance. The application to join the plan and the insurance cancellation form requires the pastor's signature to be valid. A church will continue to be billed for health insurance until the cancellation form is processed.

A change in a pastoral classification from full time to part time also includes a change in the church's mandatory pension compensation. The 2016 Pastoral Compensation forms have the correct pension contributions for full time and part time pastors.

Annual Corporation Meeting

The annual EC Benefits Corporation meeting was held during the Thursday (May 26) afternoon session of the EC National Conference. Members of the National Conference are encouraged to read the EC Benefits report that was included with your National Conference reports. A motion was presented and approved to eliminate the health insurance mandate for full time assigned EC pastors effective January 1, 2017. The approved motion was as follows: To remove the health insurance mandate as referenced in the EC Benefits Corporation Bylaws Article IX Paragraph 3 section effective January 1, 2017. Newly credentialed pastors at the May 2016 National Conference are exempt from the mandate as currently in effect.

The decision to remove a pastor from the denomination sponsored health insurance plan must be mutually agreed to by both the church and the pastor. Lay church leadership cannot force a pastor into a different health insurance plan nor should a pastor be allowed to jeopardize his health or the health of his family by enrolling in a lower cost health insurance plan to benefit the church financially. A decision to leave the denominational plan may seem to be an easy financial decision to make but it is not. The Affordable Care Act did not make the health insurance marketplace less regulated. The EC Benefits Corporation will be releasing educational materials to assist pastors and churches to make a decision to leave the denominational plan. Please thoroughly study the materials released and contact Dave King or Kevin Henry with any questions or to talk through the health insurance situation before making a decision. The penalties for noncompliance can be severe.

(continued on page 5)

News from Global Ministries

Missionary Updates:

- Lamar & Janice Stoltzfus will come home in late June to start a one year home assignment.
- Chris Amberman will return to New Mexico at end of June after 6 weeks in PA.
- Jonathan & Kathy Wilson have plans to return to PNG by July, finishing a one year home assignment.
- David & Conce Roof will be in PA for November and December of this year. If you would like to have them speak about their work in Brazil at your church during this time, contact the GMC office at 1-800-866-7584 or email Pat at ecglobal@eccenter.com.

VBS Project:

The GMC VBS project this year will be for the children's outreach being developed in our EC Church of Mexico known as IGLEKids. This Bible-based program will help combat the growing problem of Mexico's "street children" who are either without parents, are unsupervised and/or spend a lot of time on the streets working, selling or begging to help support themselves and their families. Unfortunately, the drug cartels prey upon such vulnerable children and youth, offering them a better life if they join or work for the cartels. Our goal is set at \$10,000. The funds collected will be used to put a roof on and a secure a chain link fence around an existing patio connected to one of our churches. This space will provide a safe place for the children to meet and for other congregations to come and learn how to implement the program in their communities. Check out the website for lessons and more information.

Summer Mission Trips:

Don't forget to take photos and keep notes of your summer mission trips and send the information to the GMC office for the "Short Stops" section of the Fall issue of the *Window on the World*.

Inner City Opportunity:

Joe Toy is once again collecting school supplies to be handed out to disadvantaged children in the city. For information as to what supplies are needed, please go to his website, www.oamphilly.org. Joe needs the supplies by August 7th.

(Benefits Corporation continued from page 4)

Workers Compensation

Thank you to all that have paid the worker's compensation invoices. For those that haven't the due date was May 15. Payment for the Disability and Benefit Corp Services fee were due January 15 and April 15 respectively, both fees are listed on the 2016 Treasurer's Guide available on www.eccenter.com.

If there are any questions, 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.

Enrolling for the Pastoral Assessment Center

The deadline for enrolling in the Pastoral Assessment Center (PAC) has changed to July 15th, 2016. This is not an arbitrary change, but rather a strategic one. Our purpose for moving the deadline is to help to better prepare men for the PAC experience. We are ensuring that our applicants will have intentional opportunities to work with their lead pastors in some critical areas of preparation. So stay tuned. We will provide better explanations about these changes in the near future.

We are also recommending that seminary students and others, who are sensing a calling from God, to contact the Ministerial Development Associate as early as possible in the process. The PAC is a critical first step toward obtaining credentials in the EC Church. We should not confuse the role of the PAC as a gateway for the stationing process, but rather as the initial stage of the credentialing process. So if you or someone you know is pursuing a ministry calling, please have them contact Jeff Byerly at jgbyerly@eccenter.com as soon as possible.



Thank you!!

We want to express our highest appreciation for the love and generosity that was shone to us at National Conference. Your encouragement and support throughout my years as Susquehanna Region Conference Minister has truly made serving a blessing. I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers, as we look forward to what God has in store for the future.

May the Lord continue to bless you all.

Love in Christ,
Donna & Gordy Lewis

P.S. — Lot's of books and commentaries still available at unbelievable discounts!!

You are invited to attend the 2016 National Conference Ordination Services

The ordination of **Rev. Dennis W. Snyder**
Bethany Christian Fellowship EC Church
Cressona, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 11; 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. William E. Stoffel**
Lawn EC Church
Lawn, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 18, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. John T. Rathman**
Grace EC Church
Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 25, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. Douglas W. O'Brien**
Rexmont EC Church
Rexmont, Pennsylvania
Sunday, October 2, 4:00 p.m.



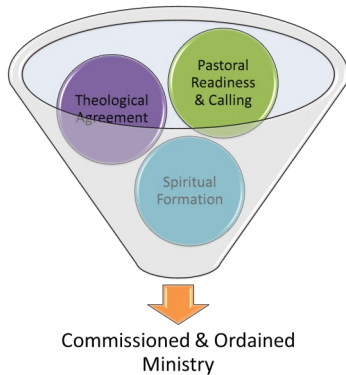
Photos from National Conference are now available online.

The photos of the ministers that were taken at the 2016 National Conference are now available online at www.Revelationphotostudio.com. You will need to click on the View & Order tab at the top of the page, then scroll to May 25 and view gallery. You will also need to enter your email address at this point. The photos are available for purchase online.

Welcome to the Community!

First, I would like to express my appreciation to the Bishop, the National Ministry Team, and National Conference for their confidence in appointing me to the position of Ministerial Development Associate. I also look forward to working with Les Cool, Kevin Henry, Gary Kuehner, Randy Sizemore, and the District Field Directors. These are truly exciting time for the EC Church.

As we consider the main tasks of the **Ministerial Development Community (MDC)**, our chief aim is to develop vibrant, healthy pastoral ministry. As Ephesians



4:11-16 highlights, the leadership roles for the church are vital in helping the body be more and more like

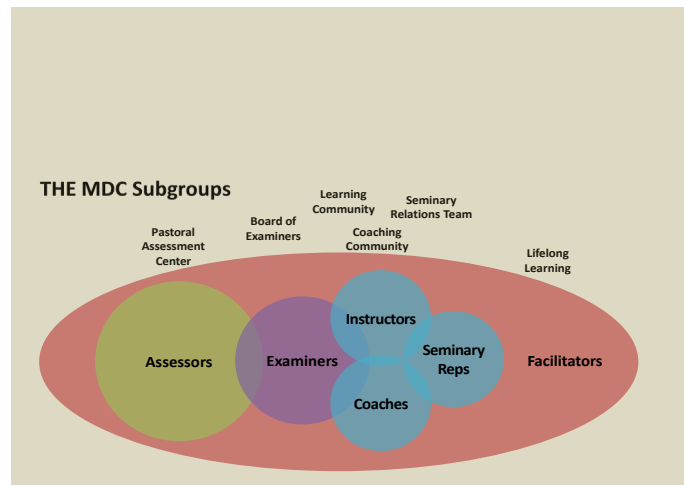
Christ and to be fit together perfectly in him. The MDC will create an integrated process that brings together pastoral readiness and calling, theological agreement, and spiritual formation to produce commissioned and ordained ministry in the EC Church—see the diagram above.

In order to accomplish these tasks, we will have to consider more seriously how to engage this process as a community. As I personally consider this newly defined role, I see the value in empowering several subgroups of leaders, who can help men and women fulfill their ministry callings—this is not a solo act. As I have enlisted people for the MDC Executive Team, I have considered those who are already qualified and experienced in the various areas critical to the community, and who will help to populate the many subgroups of MDC—see the diagram to the right.

The goal is to involve large numbers of pastors and

leaders as assessors, examiners, instructors, coaches, seminary reps, and facilitators. In so doing, candidates for ministry are guided toward the completion of their credentials in a way that helps to embed a disciple-making DNA into each candidate’s approach to ministry.

When pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and preachers are commissioned or ordained, our hope is that they will be able to stand before the members of the National Conference and state: “I am a contributor to



God’s mission through the Evangelical Congregational Church, because I have felt the loving, supportive, accountable touch throughout the MDC process—shaping me into one prepared to minister with my EC brothers and sisters for God’s kingdom in our generation and the ones to follow.”

It is a “community thing” with a disciple-making approach! Please pray with me for the EC Church to be empowered by new leaders, who are shaped for ministry now and in the future.

Blessings,

Jeff Byerly

Ministerial Development Associate

Pray Together Sunday Calling Church to Join in Prayer on July 10

The National Association of Evangelicals encourages churches from across the country and denominational lines to come together and commit to a time of prayer during their worship service on July 10—asking Jesus to reset our nation.

At the heart of **Pray Together Sunday** is the belief that Jesus changes everything. Churches will take a moment to pray for their congregations, pastors and leaders, communities and the nation.

Pray Together Sunday will also kick off the week leading up to Together 2016, a national campaign to bring 1 million people to the National Mall for a day of worship and prayer on Saturday, July 16. The NAE wants to cover the event in prayer and invites your church to spend a moment in prayer asking God to work in and through the United States.

The NAE has created a bulletin insert for churches participating in **Pray Together Sunday** on July 10. Together 2016 has also put together several great resources for those attending the event in Washington, DC, including flyers and prayer cards.



Decision America 2016 with Franklin Graham

“America is at a crossroads, and I believe we should take every opportunity to stand up for the things of God and His Word. “ - Franklin Graham

Franklin Graham is traveling to all 50 states in 2016 to hold prayer rallies, to preach the Gospel, and to challenge believers to take a stand and take action. He'll be urging Christians to vote, to live out their faith in every part of their lives, and to pray for our nation just as Nehemiah cried out to God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and restore hope to His people.

These one-hour events are free and open to the public. Each one begins at 12:00 Noon. For more information: www.decisionamericatour.com.

- September 14 @ Capital Front Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey
- September 15 @ Capital at Soldiers & Sailors Grove, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- October 6 @ Capital West Plaza, Columbus, Ohio
- October 11 @ Lawyer's Mall on the Capital Grounds, Annapolis, Maryland

For those living in Pennsylvania, Bob Neff Tours (1-800-848-1492) has several buses leaving from the Lancaster/Ephrata area. The cost is \$20 per person.

St. David's EC Church, Weigelstown, PA has chartered a Bailey Coach. Cost is \$15 per person. Contact Teresa Cramer (717-292-5705)

For more information regarding the Pennsylvania event you may also contact David Boose Jr (717-825-1081).

2016 Herndon Campmeeting

July 22-31, 2016

Evangelists

July 22-26, 7:00 p.m.
Bert Jones

July 27-31, 7:00 p.m.
Bishop Bruce Hill

Bible Teacher

July 25-29, 10:00 a.m.
Dr. Kenneth H. Miller

Bible Discussion Leader

July 25-29, 3:00 p.m.
Dr. Doug Buckwalter

Special Services

Sunday, July 24
10:00 a.m.-Worship-
Rev. Brad Hatter
3:00 p.m.-Concert by *Willow Creek*

Sunday, July 31
10:00 a.m.-Worship-
Bishop Bruce Hill
3:00 p.m.-Concert by *Witness*

For more information contact:

Rev. Todd Wolfe
Todd.w.wolfe@gmail.com

Or

Rev. Brad Hatter
bhatter26@gmail.com



2016 Rosedale Campmeeting

“You Matter To God”

Morning Bible Study—10:00 a.m.
Rev. Robert Kramer

All Services will Start at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 24
Bishop Bruce Hill

Monday, July 25
Rev. Adam Roberts
Recognition-Men

Tuesday, July 26
Carol Cool
Recognition-Women

Wednesday, July 27
Marian & Friends
Recognition-Kids

Thursday, July 28
Rev. David Mennig
Recognition-Seniors

Friday, July 29
Rev. Marlin Lafferty
Recognition-Pastors

Saturday, July 30
Feet on the Street
Recognition-Teens

Sunday, July 31
Rev. Brett Kindig

Rosedale Camp Grove website:

www.rosedalegrove.org

2016 Waldheim Summer Program

July 10th—7:00 p.m.
New Dawn Singers

July 11 through 14—7:00 p.m.
Bible Study with *Rev. Al Giles*

July 17th—7:00 p.m.
Witness

July 24th—7:00 p.m.
Operation Christmas Child with
Lynnette Dallmann

July 31st—7:00 p.m.
Bevan & Dalton Greiner

August 7th—7:00 p.m.
Rev. Rob Romig
Blue Church, Easton

August 14th—7:00 p.m.
Life of Corrie Ten Boom with Deb-
bie Wahl, Act I Productions

August 21st—7:00 p.m.
Think of Three with James Harvey

August 28th—7:00 p.m.
Rev. Ken Kalisz with the
Hope Community Praise Band

September 4th—7:00 p.m.
The Harmonaires

Waldheim Park website:

www.waldheimpark.org





Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. Church Center
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Phone: 717-866-7581

Web: www.eccenter.com

Email: eccenter@eccenter.com

2016 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

October 3-5

Lancaster, PA

"A conference tailored to pastors and wives in town and country settings."

The 2016 Small-Town Pastors' Conference sponsored by RHMA (Rural Home Missionary Association) will be held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania Monday, October 3 through Wednesday, October 5th. This year's conference, titled **ORDINARY PASTOR, EXTRAORDINARY GOD**, will feature plenary addresses by Timothy Laniak, Academic Dean and Professor of Old Testament at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary; and Thomas White, President, Cedarville University. In addition to challenging addresses, inspiring worship, and fellowship with fellow pastors, fifteen workshops will be offered.

- Disciplemaking with Students in a Small Town Church
- The 24-Hour Pastor's Wife:
- Delighting in God and Doing Good When Life Gets Busy
- The Influential Small-Town Church
- Why Big and Small Churches Have Lost Their Cutting Edge in Evangelism and How We Can Regain It
- Turning Pew Potatoes into Passionate Participants
- Problem or Privilege: Navigating the Challenges of Ministry Life with Grace
- In It for the Long Haul
- Pastoral Graces
- Step by Step – How to Build a Culture of Evangelism Within Your Town and Country Church
- The Pursuit of Holiness: Why It Especially Matters in Town and Country Ministry
- The Errors of Higher Education Coming to a Small Town Near You ... Soon
- Situational Leadership
- A Thriving Disciple: Sustaining Your Own Spiritual Vitality
- Being a Good Shepherd in a Town and Country Church

Mark the dates on your calendar. Registration will open in June. Check out the RHMA website for additional information RHMA.ORG. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Jim Price

610-451-5908 (Cell)

Also Featuring:

Megan Hill—Pastor's wife and pastor's daughter; editorial board, Christianity Today.

Ron Klassen—Executive Director, RHMA

Peggy Huber—Adult Discipleship Team, Calvary Church, Lancaster, PA

Shawn McMullen—Director of Church Relations, Center for Church Leadership

Bill Allison—Founder & Executive Director of Cadre Ministries

Lee Eclov—Senior Pastor, Village Church, Lincolnshire, Illinois

Brad Iverson—Executive Director, Church and Community Development, AWANA

Larry Moyer—Founder & CEO of EvanTell

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ministry Funds to: E.C. Church 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance/Pension Payments to: Benefits Corporation 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067				1 Day of Prayer for the E.C.Church Church Center closed	2
3 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Church Center Closed	5	6 Health Insurance Task Force Mtg	7	8 Church Pension Contribution due Health Ins. Premium due Church Center closed	9 Kingdom Extension Community Mtg.
10	11	12 Ministry Development Community Mtg.	13	14	15 Church Center closed	16 Capital/Lebanon District Mtg.
17	18	19 Benefits Corp. Mtg	20	21	22 Church Center closed	23
24	25 Info for August EC Leader due	26	27	28	29 Church Center closed	30
			Herndon & Rosedale Campmeetings			
31 Herndon & Rosedale Campmeetings					Manna Fund Payments to: Benefits Corporation 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067	

August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Conference Network Team Mtg.	4	5 Day of Prayer for the E.C.Church Church Center closed	6
7 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	8 Prayer Mobilization Team	9	10	11 Episcopacy Comm. Mtg. Finance Comm. Mtg.	12 Church Center closed	13
14	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due	16	17	18	19 Church Center closed	20
21	22 Info for September EC Leader due	23	24	25	26 Twin Pines Board Mtg. Church Center closed	27
28	29	30 StoneRidge Board Mtg.	31			

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

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