

# E.C. Leader

## I Can't Tell You

**T**he deadline for this article comes at a bad time for me. Actually, deadlines never seem to come at a good time, but this one is especially challenging because I'd like to write about something that hasn't yet happened (as I write this) but will have just ended about the time you read this. If you're confused by that; welcome to my world!

About a year ago, in response to my name being placed in nomination for the office of Bishop, I wrote that we are at a very important place in the life of the church. The amount of change and the pace with which it has come to the National Conference is stretching us in ways we never imagined.

During the days of the 2010 National Conference we approved the Transformational Strategic Plan. That plan identified four strategic recommendations:

1. Enhance our capacity to communicate and celebrate God's work among us.
2. Develop a network of affinity-based groups as catalysts for ministry.
3. Clarify a biblical approach to leadership for effective local ministry.
4. Establish disciple making as the ultimate objective for all our ministries.

While the National Conference unanimously approved that Plan, it has neither become a reality in the life of the denomination nor in

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our local churches. We believe the Plan was good, but we wait to see how the points are to be applied in real and practical ways in the life of the various ministries of the Conference and the local churches. Therefore, I have invited a group of our denomination's leaders to gather for a special retreat to help re-invigorate our Transformational Strategic Plan and identify the next steps we need to implement to keep our denomination moving forward.

The good news is that I believe God is at work; we see it all around us in the life of the Evangelical Congregational Church. I see it in the lives of the churches I have had the joy to visit. I am encouraged by the work of our National Conference commissions, and StoneRidge Retirement Living and Evangelical Theological Seminary are launching bold new initiatives.

This leads me to my dilemma; I'd love to be able to tell you now what the results of the retreat to discuss implementation of our denomination's Transformation Strategic Plan. But since it hasn't happened yet, I can't. It is my hope that this team of leaders will look at the Plan that has been approved and define practical, real-life ways to implement the Plan's recommendations into the life our denomination. I hope, too, that we'll identify the next steps beyond what's identified in the Plan to develop even greater forward momentum toward our denomination becoming a true movement of God. So join me in prayer and in anticipation of what the Lord is doing and how He will continue to lead us as His church. I'm sure I'll have more to tell you in next month's **EC LEADER** and at National Conference in May.

In Christ's service,



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## Stationing News:

- **Michael Garrison** will be serving as pastor of the Delightful EC Church in Southington, OH effective February 1, 2012.
- **Rev. Michael Snedeker** has been named the Lead Pastor of Community Evangelical Church, Sinking Spring, PA effective March 11, 2012.



## The Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items

1. Be in prayer for the stationing process which is now well under way.
2. Pray for the movement of God's Holy Spirit on all those who will be attending our upcoming National Conference 2012; it is much more than a giant business meeting.
3. Pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing as our denomination's camping ministries plan for the summer season of ministry.
4. Continue to be in prayer for our missionaries who are dependent on the faithful stewardship of individuals, families, and congregations for their support even in challenging economic times.
5. Intercede for our church planting efforts that are underway as well as those who are preparing to launch.
6. Praise the Lord for a mild winter which has made travel easy for our denominational leaders in visiting pastors and churches.
7. Thank the Lord for the growth a number of our churches are experiencing!
8. Praise God for the re-accreditation of Evangelical Seminary for another 10 years by the Association of Theological Schools and the opportunity to offer classes in Harrisburg through an agreement with Messiah College.
9. Praise the Lord for individuals who are talking about Jesus with the people outside their churches: with friends, neighbors and the people they meet in daily life.
10. Praise God for providing the required strength and patience as I continue to navigate through this first year as Bishop.



### SAVE THE DATE Fresh Expressions Vision Day Thursday, May 3, 2012

The Church Planting Commission will be co-sponsoring A Fresh Expressions Vision Day on Thursday, May 3, 2012 in the York area. Fresh Expressions resources churches regarding missional (intentional) ministries to the community. "A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church." A Vision Day is designed to inspire, encourage, display models of fresh expressions and answer questions. The day is for anyone interested in renewal within an established congregation, or building relationships and serving the communities in which they live or work. Speakers touch those who have real questions about fresh expressions and mission-shaped church and/or who have started something new and need some practical help. Pastors, leadership team members and ministry representatives are all sure to benefit from a Vision Day.



## News from Global Ministries

### GMC Happenings in March:

- March 1: Short Term Mission Committee meeting at Church Center, 9-11 a.m.
- March 1: GMC Finance Committee meeting at Church Center, 1:30 p.m.
- March 3: MMK Rally at Trinity EC, Boyertown, PA, 10:00 am-3:00 pm.
- March 6: Delaware Region Mission Leaders' Bruch at Superior Restaurant, Emmaus, 10 a.m.
- March 13-14: Spring Global Ministries Commission meetings at Church Center.
- March 17: Japan Vision trip informational meeting at Community EC, Sinking Spring, 9-11 a.m.
- March 28: Randy and Yoriyoshi Abe at Myerstown Rotary for presentation on Japan.

### 1. MISSIONARY UPDATES:

- Brad and Maxine Waldman will no longer be serving under the Global Ministries Commission as of the end of this month. The Waldmans will continue to serve under CCMN, the board they have established. Their new email is [ccmn.usa@verizon.net](mailto:ccmn.usa@verizon.net) and their home phone number is now 610-432-6146. Please keep them in prayer during this time of transition and refocusing of their ministry.
- Kurt and Nancy Graff have become grandparents for the first time! Aaron Lee made his debut a little early but everyone is doing fine.

### 2. JAPAN VISION TRIP PLANNED FOR 2013:

A meeting will be held on Saturday, March 17th at Community E.C. Church in Sinking Spring, PA for all those interested in **Vision Japan**, a vision tour for youth and adults to connect with our EC churches in Japan. The tour is scheduled for summer of 2013, but we need to start planning now! The meeting will be from 9 a.m.—11 a.m. (approximately). A letter has been sent to all churches along with a brochure giving more details. If you would like to be on the mailing list of interested parties (no commitment required at this time) email to [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com) or call the GMC office at 1-800-866-7584.

### 3. PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL EC CHURCH CONFERENCE VISITS:

- Mexico—April 10-15, 2012. DGM Rev. Randy Sizemore will be traveling with GMC members Rev. John Friedlund, Nancie Young & Lucille Putt to the EC Church of Mexico for their annual conference. The highlight of this conference will be the transition of the now part-time Field Superintendent to a full-time Director in the next stage of ECCM's development of becoming a National Conference.
- India—April 17-26, 2012. DGM Rev. Randy Sizemore will be traveling with Bishop Bruce Hill, Dr. Gordy Lewis and India/Nepal Committee Chair, Rev. David Swift to the General Conference sessions of the EC Church of India. The highlight of this conference will be the election of the next General Director (Bishop) of ECCI since Rev. Lalrosiem Songate's 8 year term is completed.

### 4. AVAILABLE SPEAKING DATES:

Randy would love to visit with your congregation to share the exciting things God is doing through the EC church around the globe. He can share with your church on a Sunday morning in worship or Sunday school or both. Randy is also willing to come at other times that may suit your situation better. Carla is always willing to share a mission oriented junior church program when we come. Randy has the following Sundays available in spring: March 25; May 20, 27; June 3, 10. Other dates are also available through the remainder of the year. Contact Randy at [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com) or call the GMC office.

## News from Benefits/Compensation



- Thanks to all that have returned the **Worker's Compensation audit forms** on a timely basis, a few audit forms remain outstanding. It is very 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, 2012. Retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both of these fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website ([www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)). Many have remitted the disability fee in a timely fashion, and a few have submitted the administrative fee. We thank you for your diligence and hard work.



**Capital BlueCross**

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- For those on the **Capital Blue Cross health insurance plan**, send all EOBs (explanations of benefits) to PrimePay, our HRA administrator, even if you are below the \$500 limit. PrimePay will track and determine when the employee has reached the \$500 out-of-pocket maximum for deductibles and coinsurance. It is to your advantage to submit EOBs in a timely manner. The form for submitting EOBs to PrimePay is at <http://www.eccenter.com/files/ECC/Benefits/2011%20Health%20Plan/HRA%20Claim%20Reimbursement%20Form.pdf>. Also, an online account can be established with PrimePay with instructions available on the website or follow this link <http://www.eccenter.com/files/ECC/Benefits/PrimePay%20Online%20Access%20Information.pdf>
- The EC Benefits Board has **two open trustee positions** for lay members. If you or someone you know is a member of an EC Church and would like to serve on the Board of Trustees please contact David King or Kevin Henry at the EC Church Center for an application and more details on board member responsibilities. Elections to fill the open positions will be at the annual Corporation meeting held during National Conference, May 2012. Please prayerfully consider yourself or someone you know.



- On February 17, 2012 both houses of Congress approved the extension of the **Payroll Tax Holiday** through the end of 2012. It is expected President Obama will also approve the extension. The Payroll Tax Holiday reduces the employee Social Security tax by 2% to a combined employee total of 5.65% (4.2% for Social Security tax and 1.45% Medicare tax). Churches reimburse pastors for the employer portion of the tax which remains at 7.65% (6.2% for Social Security tax and 1.45% for Medicare tax).

As always, please contact David King, Benefits Administrator ([dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com)) or Kevin Henry, Controller ([khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)) with any benefit questions or problems. Both can also be reached at 717-866-7581.



## News from Evangelical Seminary



Praise God with us that Evangelical has been re-accredited for another ten years by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)!

“Ignite, Extend, Shine!” is the theme for Phonathon 2012, which runs from February 20 through March 1. Volunteers will be calling the Evangelical community in hopes of raising \$60,000 for the Annual Fund for Transformational Leadership.



The next Faith in the Marketplace breakfast on Tuesday, March 6, features our own Dr. Tony Blair speaking on “Dancing on the Sidelines: Identifying and Nurturing the Hidden Leaders in Your Organization.” Check [www.evangelical.edu](http://www.evangelical.edu) for complete details and registration by the February 27 deadline.

The 2012 Wesley Forum presents Dr. William Abraham, renowned Wesley scholar from Perkins School of Theology, on Monday, March 26, from 8:30-2:30. His topic is “John Wesley and Apologetics for the 21st Century.” Again, check the website for full information.



Evangelical has completed an agreement with Messiah College to offer our Master of Divinity program at the Harrisburg Institute, beginning this fall. This one-day-a-week, cohort-based program is designed to be simple, accessible and affordable to anyone in the capital region looking for training for pastoral ministry.

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## News from Twin Pines



### Teach How They Learn Seminar, March 3, 2012

Twin Pines is sponsoring a work shop for anyone who teaches Sunday School, leads Bible studies, or works with youth in any way. The seminar will offer information on how to teach using different styles to meet the needs of those learning the material.

Jesus used the approach of meeting people where they are and this is the best way to teach as well. Come and join us for this seminar on March 3, 2012 at Twin Pines and hone your teaching skills. More information is available by emailing [learningseminar@twinpines.org](mailto:learningseminar@twinpines.org) or by visiting the Twin Pines website [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org). You can also call the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411 and speak to Shawn.

### 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 - “Dads ‘n Lads” camp and for moms and daughters - “Moms ‘n Gals” camp. 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

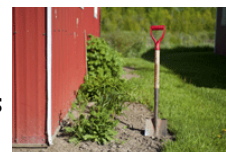


opportunity for adults is "Adult Camp", a special week for spiritual renewal, fun, fellowship, and interaction with other adults and the Twin Pines' summer staff. Returning for 2012 is the "All Sports Camp", directed by the staff of Push the Rock, a Christian based sports camp and seminar organization. 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](http://www.twinpines.org).

### 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 could sign up to volunteer for a week at Twin Pines this summer. If interested in volunteering contact Shawn Fetterhoff at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org).



### Calling All Ladies

Do you enjoy Scrapbooking but can't find the time to work on your albums? Join us for the Twin Pines Scrapbooking Retreat on March 30-April 1, 2012. Come join us for fellowship, devotions, seminars, and of course, scrapbooking! Creative Memories consultant, Julie Kindig will be here to help with all your questions and will have scrapbooking tools on hand for you to try out and purchase.

Registration is limited, so sign up today to secure your place! For more information or to get a registration form, please call the office or email our Guest Services Coordinator, Candace Sweigart, at [Candace@twinpines.org](mailto:Candace@twinpines.org). Registrations are to be received no later than March 1st. See you there!

### Summer Celebration

Join us **Saturday, June 2nd** 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 haven't 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](http://www.twinpines.org) or contact Shawn at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org) for more information or to register for the motorcycle ride or to stay overnight.



## Coaching A.P.B.



This is an **All Points Bulletin** for pastors who are being coached, have had any coaching training, or are currently involved as a coach. Working under the guidance and direction of the Leadership Commission, I am seeking to coordinate and help develop a culture of coaching for God's glory and the ultimate strengthening of the E.C. Church.

In order to promote coaching and recruit coaches, I need to **discover** which of our pastors have had coach training and how much they've received. I also need to **discern** the level of interest that exists among our pastors both in being coached and in coaching. So, if you are being coached, are engaged at any level in coaching, or are just interested in the process and learning more, I invite you to a Coaching Matters teleconference on March 15, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. This group will employ the service used by the E.C. Church Center and the number for participating is 1-877-246-4569. If you prefer to join me in person at Church Center at the time of the teleconference, you are welcome to do that too. Either way, I look forward to having you join with me for this call.

Your participation will be most helpful as we **develop** our game plan for providing coach training as well as our system for administering this work and maintaining its records. If you intend to join in the call, please RSVP Brenda Long at [blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com) by March 7, so that we have some idea of how many will be with us. Thank you for your kind attention to this Coaching Matters Teleconference invitation and for giving consideration to being part of this all-important call.

Yours in Christ,  
Fred Moury, Jr.