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“For there is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you have all been called to **one** glorious hope for the future.

There is **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, and **one** God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.”

EPHESIANS 4: 4-6

EC Leader

MAY 2016



From the Bishop

I have said it seems like every time I see the news on television or read a newspaper, usually on-line, it simply confirms that our culture seems to have lost its collective mind. I accept that change is a constant in life. But as I observe the various candidates for public office, the ever-present political commentators, and all that is to be accepted as the new “normal” for our culture the more I come to realize how important it is for God’s people to live as real live missionaries in our own country.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to talk with lots of missionaries. One of the common themes I have heard is how dependent they are on the prayer support of God’s people. As I travel to local congregations, I am touched and encouraged by the people I meet who tell me they are praying for me as their Bishop. I firmly believe in the biblical truth that “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces won-

derful results.” (James 5:16b NLT) Our most powerful resource as the people of God is our communication, our communion with Him through prayer.

I can’t tell you what’s going to happen in our nation the months and year ahead. I can’t predict what will happen at National Conference. I have a calendar and I think I know what I’m supposed to be doing tomorrow, but I understand that is very tentative; schedules, life, changes with a phone call. But I do know that I can commit my simple schedule items as well as my huge national and international concerns to a loving heavenly Father. I do know that I want the Lord’s will to be done in our nation, in the church, and in my life.

Thursday, May 5, is the 65th annual National Day of Prayer. It can be one of those days or events that gets put on our calendars and then overwhelmed by all the urgent things we have to do. And yet as missionaries in our own land prayer must be the founda-

tion of all our ministries, our attitude, our conversations, and all our actions. So I’m calling on you to join me in special prayer on May 5, 2016. You may want to join a local congregation’s program, or an area-wide prayer event, or just spend extra time that day in conversation with our Father. Thank you for taking the time to make prayer a priority as we seek the Lord’s will together.

In Christ’s Service,

Inside this issue:

Bishop’s Prayer & Praise	2
News from Evangelical Seminary	2
National Conference Highlights	3
News from Benefits Corporation	4
News from Global Ministries	5
News from StoneRidge	5
News from Twin Pines	6

Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

1. Please join with many other ECers in using the pre-conference prayer calendar which has been distributed to local congregations. Pray with me that the Lord will clearly lead our time at National Conference.
2. Join me in asking the Lord's blessing on those who will graduate from Evangelical Seminary this month. Praise the Lord for this wonderful accomplishment in their lives and ministries!
3. Please keep praying for the members and work of the Stationing Committee. We're making slow but steady progress! Pray too for the pastors and local congregations who are dealing with change in their lives and ministries.
4. Pray for our camping ministries, Camp ECCO (OH), Rock River Bible Camp (IL), and Twin Pines Camp (PA) as they gear up for another summer camping season. May lives be transformed through their ministries.
5. Pray for me as I make the final push in preparations for the National Conference which will meet May 25-27 on the campus of Messiah College.
6. Thank the Lord for the safety the two Mexico teams experienced in recent visits. There were concerns but the Lord provided safety and blessed our acts of service.
7. Praise God from whom all blessing flow! (You can sing now if you'd like.) I am thankful that God is the source of every good and perfect gift.
8. While National Conference is a very busy time, praise God with me for the opportunity to see and spend time with the EC family, many of whom we haven't seen since last year. Fellowship is an important part of conferencing!
9. Praise the Lord for our men and women who are serving in various chaplain positions around the country—and that two of them will be preaching at National Conference.
10. Thank God for the safety he has given me during another very busy spring season including mission trips to Mexico and India as well as leading five pre-conference meetings.

★ NATIONAL ★ DAY of PRAYER



News from Evangelical

2016 Evangelical Seminary Golf Tournament



Get ready for Spring and Golf. Mark your calendar for Evangelical Seminary's 31st Annual Golf Tournament, May 19 at Fairview Golf Course. This year we will be joined by WGAL's chief meteorologist, Joe Calhoun. Watch for more details to follow. If you have questions, please contact Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu





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EPHESIANS 4: 4-6

2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 25-27
Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Please take note: There will be construction on the Messiah College campus. Entrance to the campus is effected by this construction. Details/directions are included in the conference report packet and on-line!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Featured Speaker: Dr. Rich Stevenson
- Pictures will be taken of Pastors & Missionaries throughout the conference sessions. Prior to the sessions you will receive an appointment time.
- Bishop Kevin Memorial 5K Rev Run?Walk—10K Bike (Wednesday, May 25)
 - First-time Lay Delegate Orientation (Wednesday, May 25)
 - Holy Communion Service (Wednesday, May 25; 1:00 pm)
 - Evangelical Seminary Dinner (Wednesday, May 25)
- Conference Relations Committee Report (Thursday, May 26, morning)
 - Retirement Luncheon (Thursday, May 26)
 - Global Ministries Luncheon (Thursday, May 26)
- Appreciation Dinner for Conference Ministers (Thursday, May 26)

More information about these events can be found on the E.C. website:

www.eccenter.com

News from Benefits Corporation

We are waiting on additional information to complete the **worker's compensation** billing to PA and New Jersey churches. Hopefully the missing information will be received soon and the invoices can be sent to the churches. Early indications are for a decrease in the worker's compensation premiums.

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

E.C. Benefits
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
Or fax 717-866-7553 or email dking@eccenter.com

Retirement: As in years past Jennifer Buehler, Wells Fargo Advisors, had the most visitors during National Conference but please remember she is available for retirement planning assistance year round. Jennifer may be reached at 1-855-603-8146. We hope all our pastors are actively planning for their retirement; make consistent contributions to your 403(b) or Roth account (in addition to your church's contributions) and at a minimum spend an hour or two annually with a financial professional reviewing your investments. Please don't delay in becoming personally involved in your retirement planning.



EC Benefits Corporation has five **open trustee positions**; one pastor and four lay trustees are needed. Trustees represent the members of the Benefits Corporation who are the EC National Conference churches and pastors. Trustees provide insight and direction to the benefit plans offered to EC active and retired pastors, the benefit plans include health insurance, pension, worker's compensation, short term disability and the Manna Fund. Trustees are expected to attend three Board of Trustee meetings per year with the slight possibility of additional meetings if an expected situation arises that requires trustee action. Trustees should be prepared for trustee meetings and participate in discussions, providing insights and suggestions from their own experience with employee benefit plans as well as insights and suggestions from their local church and/or district. A commitment of about 15-20 hours per year would be required. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an EC Benefits Trustee please contact Jodi Earhart at the EC Church Center, jeahart@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581 to request a trustee application.



The **ministerial housing allowance** is under attack once again. The Freedom from Religion Foundation has once again filed a lawsuit in the Federal District Court of the Western District of Wisconsin stating the ministerial housing allowance is unconstitutional. This complaint is different from the complaint filed a few years ago. The federal government will be filing a defense of the ministerial housing allowance. Regardless of the initial ruling of the court there will be appeals and it will take multiple years for a resolution. As of today, the ministerial housing allowance is valid for 2016 and the courts probably will not move fast enough for that to change. However, updates will be released as they become available.

Please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator (dking@eccenter.com), or Kevin Henry, Controller (khenry@eccenter.com), or call 717-866-7581 with any questions or problems.

News from Global Ministries

Mission Speakers Available:

Kurt Graff will be coming east for the last two weeks in May to do deputation and catch up with supporters in central and eastern PA.

Kurt still has Sunday evenings and week days available. Please call or email the GMC office to make arrangements to have him come and speak at your church or with your groups. The phone number is 717-866-7584 or 1-800-866-7584, and email is 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 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. Watch the website for lessons and more information.

News from StoneRidge

On Thursday May 19, StoneRidge Poplar Run* of Myerstown will host its third annual Senior Prom in its pleasant and spacious Theatre on Main. The prom runs from 5pm to 9pm and is open to residents of StoneRidge and to the general public. The theme for this year's prom is "Moonlight Romance." The prom will consist of a dinner with your choice of three entrees and musical entertainment featuring the multi-talented, seven-piece Uptown Band. They were a big hit last year and many attendees requested their return for this year. Plan to join us for what is expected to be a fun and exciting event. Tickets are \$25 per person. The dinner entrée choices include beef wellington, roast duck with orange sauce and vegetable primavera. For more information or to reserve your seat, please call (717)866-3553.



Also, the StoneRidge Veteran's Association is setting up three flag poles at the main entrance to StoneRidge Poplar Run. These flag poles will bear the U.S. flag, the Pennsylvania state flag and the POW/MIA flag and will be lit by spotlights during the evening hours. We are still collecting donations to assist with the costs of this project. If you would like to make a donation please contact Sherry Heim at (717)866.3204.

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

News from Twin Pines

For Ladies Only Retreat

May 10-12, 2016

An exciting mid-week retreat “for ladies only”, women will enjoy fellowship, worship, and Bible study as they look at what it means to be a woman of God. This year’s speaker is singer/songwriter, and former radio personality, Sue Duffield.



For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail retreats@twinpines.org. You can download a brochure from our website www.twinpines.org or request it be mailed to you.

Summer Celebration & Yard/Craft Sale Saturday, June 11, 2016



BRING
YOUR
CRAFTS

Join us for our annual open house from 10:00am—4:00pm! Come reconnect with friends, and meet some new ones while enjoying all this: dunk tank, hayrides, games, cake walk, great food, and more! Would you like more information

about what Twin Pines is all about? We will be providing camp tours throughout the day. Rascal, our mascot, will also be putting in an appearance. Contact the camp office for more information: (570)629-2411 or email info@twinpines.org

Returning for the second year is our Yard and Craft Sale! Are you a crafter with oodles of handmade projects ready to sell? Maybe you are a collector with boxes of now unwanted treasures? Reserve a space to sell your “goods” for only \$5.00. Contact Angela Figueroa for more information about the Yard/Craft Sale at Snbrsteyes@gmail.com



Summer Camp

June 19-August 13, 2016

Summer is just around the corner! It’s time to start thinking about what you and your kids are doing during those school-free months. Twin Pines will be continuing its decades-long tradition of providing quality summer camp programs that are fun and spiritually-challenging. From Elementary Igniters to Marital Arts, and beyond, we have programs for any interests. New for 2016 are Science Camp and Comic-Camp! The Summer Camp brochure is now available on our website or in a physical copy. **Register by April 30th and we’ll take \$15.00 off your registration fee (Day Camp and Lotsa’ Love are not eligible for this discount).** For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail summer@twinpines.org



Now Hiring Summer Staff!

Twin Pines is looking for loving, mature, and dedicated young people to serve on the 2016 Summer Staff. This will be a rewarding experience that changes lives forever. Come join us as we spread the Gospel through Bible study, fun & games, and fellowship. There are positions available. Contact Shawn at (570)629-2411 or e-mail shawn@twinpines.org for more information.



ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!!



Be among those at the starting line for the 6th Annual Bishop Kevin Memorial 10K Bike, 5K Run/Walk. It's a great way to start off National Conference. It all happens on Wednesday morning with the 10K bike ride at 9am and the 5K run/walk following at 10am. You set the pace! This year the ride will take you on a scenic tour of the area and is being led by the "course director" Ralph Owens. The run/walk this year will be on the Messiah College FITNESS trail, which is mostly shaded and beautiful; mapped and marked by Joel Kime.

Not only is this event fun, it is also a healthy way to start National Conference and burn calories before dining on the desserts and ice cream over the next three days. Not that either of the Faith Community Nurses are watching what you eat.

NEW this year: Messiah college will have on campus lockers and showers available to all the participants. What a relief to all the other conference goers!

The proceeds from this event not only benefit Church Planting but it also benefit poor, impoverished and abused people who make the T-shirts and sell their goods through Imagine Goods. Imagine Goods was founded by our own Michelle Kime and Aiyana Ehrman. By supporting the bike, run/walk or just buying a t-shirt you are giving people the opportunity to work, and giving them hope. It is empowering survivors of trafficking with employment, by giving them the power to change their own lives.

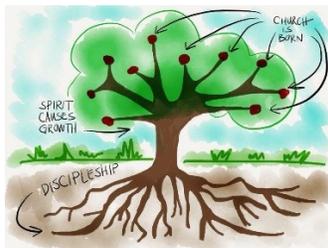
And the winner is: Everyone! You. Church Planting and Imagine Goods

Register now at: www.eccenter.com or call 717-866-7581.

Questions? Contact: Joel Kime (joel.kime@findfaithhere.org), Ralph Owens (RalphOwens@msn.com) or Jackie Iatesta (4jiatesta8@verizon.net).



Invitation to Pastors Luncheon: Exploring Local Church Disciple-making



Thursday, May 12, 2016
11:30am to 1:30pm
Oregon Dairy Country Restaurant
2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz, PA 17543

Reply by April 22 to Al Giles
610-389-5857 or pastoral@ptd.net.

Explore what a “disciple-making culture” might look like in your church
Consider some ideas on how to begin developing one.

Pastor,

Do you have a strong desire to help your people grow in personal spiritual transformation and develop an ability to impact life out where people live, work and play? A local team of disciple-makers is hosting a luncheon on **Thursday, May 12th, 11:30am to 1:30pm**, at the **Oregon Dairy Country Restaurant** to explore what a “disciplemaking culture” might look like in our churches and consider some ideas on how to develop one. We are inviting a handful of area church leaders and we’d love to have you join us. **Please let us know of your availability by April 22.**

Other members of your leadership team who’d like to see disciple-making grow, are also invited. Simply let us know so we have an accurate headcount. Your only expense will be the cost of your lunch.

During the past several years I’ve been part of a team of Navigators who have been engaged in a learning partnership with 3DM (3dmovements.com) designed to help us grow in our ability to carry the gospel relationally into the “natural” spheres of life, where people live, work and play — in a way that appeals to younger leaders. The growth we’ve experienced has been exceptionally meaningful both personally and collectively.

The intent of this initiative has been to bring the best of Navigator principles and practices in making disciples together with the proven and highly practical 3DM training tools and perspectives in a way that effectively strengthens area churches and contributes to the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus. Our team is now involved in an effort to make this training available to area churches. We want to share with you what this might look like.

We hope to see you on the 12th!

Blessings,
Al Giles

REPLY – by April 22 -- to my cell or e-mail at 610-389-5857 or pastoral@ptd.net.



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

The Biblical Importance of Children's Ministry 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)



May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	2	3	4	5 National Day of Prayer	6 Day of Prayer for the E.C.Church	7 Pre-Conference Mtg.—Lakeside, Transfer & Bethel Dixon
8 MOTHER'S DAY	9	10	11	12 Evangelical Seminary Board Mtg.	13 Evangelical Seminary Commencement	14
15 PENTECOST Church Pension due Health Insurance Premium due	16	17	18	19 ETS Golf Tournament	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY Church Center closed		NATIONAL CONFERENCE			

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

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Day of Prayer for the E.C.Church	4
5 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	6 Leadership Commission Mtg.	7 Church Planting Commission Mtg.	8	9	10 Twin Pines Bd. Mtg.	11 Summer Cele- bration—Twin Pines
12 Student Aid Offering	13	14	15 Church Pen- sion Contribution due Estimated Tax due Health Ins. Pre- mium due	16	17	18
19 FATHER'S DAY	20 Info for July EC Leader due	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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

Medical/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Student Aid Offering to:
E.C. Church
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

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	7	8 Church Pension Contribution due Health Ins. Premium due Church Center closed	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Church Center closed	16
17	18	19 Benefits Corp. Mtg	20	21	22 Church Center closed Herndon Campmeeting	23
24	25 Info for July EC Leader due	26	27	28	29 Church Center closed	30
31 Herndon Campmeeting			Herndon Campmeeting		Manna Fund Payments to: Benefits Corporation 100 West Park Avenue Myerstown, PA 17067	