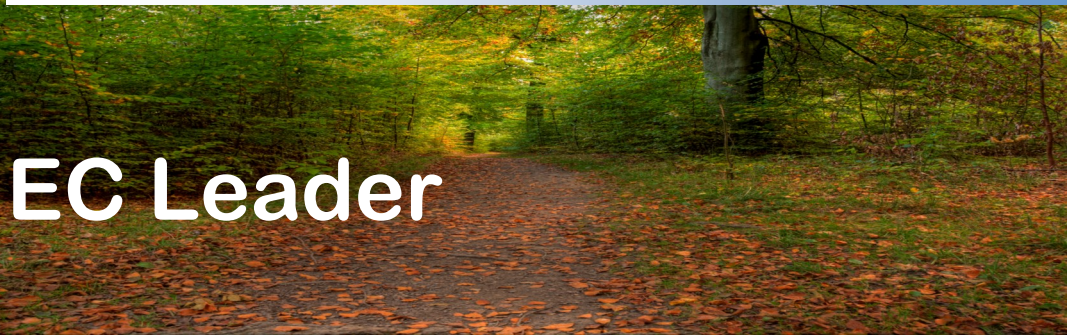




Community

# Evangelical Congregational Church



## EC Leader

SEPTEMBER  
2015

### *from the Bishop*

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If you read the article in the August issue of the **EC LEADER** you may recall that Gloria and I were car shopping. I'd love to tell you we had success, but we didn't. In fact, we put car shopping on "hold" the Sunday afternoon our refrigerator died. I've discovered that shopping for a new refrigerator is only slightly easier than shopping for a car; but we now have a refrigerator that works.

Like many men, I may or may not read directions. In the case of our shiny new refrigerator I decided to give reading the "All about the Use and Care of your Refrigerator" booklet a try. It was on page 20 that I discovered this bit of wisdom: "Dispensed water is chilled. For colder water, add ice to cup or container." Well, thank you very much; I never would have thought of that! It reminds me of some of the more famous warning labels found on products: on a Sears hair dryer: "Do not use while sleeping." On Swanson frozen dinners: "Serving suggestion: defrost." On a bar of Dial soap: "Directions: use like regular soap." On a Swedish chainsaw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands." Did you ever wonder why we intelligent consumers need to

be reminded of the obvious so often? Perhaps it's because we get so distracted by all the other things in life that we sometimes lose sight of the obvious.



I believe that's one of the reasons Jesus spoke so simply and clearly his followers in the moments before he ascended back into heaven. "Go and make disciples of all the nations." Seems like the directions are pretty obvious, doesn't it? But there are so many distractions. Did you even wonder why we have to re-evangelize the same places over and over? Have you wondered why people come to faith in Jesus and then wander away from the Truth and the church? It's not always because we didn't do a good job of evangelism; I think it may be because we haven't done a very good job of disci-

ple making. Discipleship begins as people get to know who Jesus is; it leaps forward as they come to believe in him as Savior and Lord, and continues for the rest of their life as they grow and mature in that faith relationship. What is true of the individual Christian is true of the church as the body of Christ—spiritual growth and maturity; discipleship matters.

Every one of us, and therefore, every congregation must make disciple making as the ultimate objective for all we do. As vacation season ends and life returns to whatever "normal" is this week; as your congregation renews all kinds of programs and ministries for the fall season, ask yourself this question: Is what I'm doing helping people to move closer to Jesus? Are the programs that take so much time and attention really helping others to know Jesus better and love him more? It seems pretty obvious, but I guess we all need to read the directions from time to time.

In Christ's service,



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

# THE POWER OF PRAYER



1. Ask the Lord to bless those who have been and are being ordained since the close of National Conference. It is a special time in the life of these pastors and their congregations.
2. Pray for the Lord's leading as applications are interviewed for four new positions in our new denominational structure: Church Health Associate, Kingdom Extension Associate, Ministerial Development Associate and Executive Director. Recommendations for each of these positions will be made to the National Ministry Team in October.
3. Join me in praying for your pastor and his family. October may be Pastor Appreciation month, but it's never the wrong time to pray for these families who serve and lead in challenging times.
4. Ask the Lord to bless the ministries of our Conference Ministers as they help lead in the transition of denominational leadership and work together over the next few months to identify those who can serve as District Field Directors.
5. Pray for our nation and the Lord's leading as we begin the long and many times crazy process of choosing the next president.
6. Praise the Lord for the good reports we're receiving from churches and pastors who were involved in new assignments this year. May the Lord continue to bless these and all of our pastors and congregations.
7. Praise God that even while change swirls all around us, when our culture seems to be pressing in on every side, our God still reigns! He is with us!
8. Thank the Lord that the Affiliate Funding Work Group which was asked by Conference to design a plan for the defunding of our affiliates only had to meet once. A plan was developed that all parties agreed to and will be presented to the National Ministry Team for adoption.
9. Praise the Lord for the many opportunities many of our congregations across the country took to engage with the people of their communities during the summer months; from Vacation Bible Schools in local parks, to block parties, outdoor services, service projects, and all kinds of events.
10. Praise God for the sense of unity and interest being expressed to me about our denomination's stance on the authority of God's Word as I traveled around to our camp meetings and local churches this summer.

## You are invited to attend the 2015 National Conference Ordination Services

The ordination of *Rev. Kenneth B. Kalisz*  
Hope Community Evangelical Congregational Church  
Fogelsville, Pennsylvania  
Sunday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.



The ordination of *Rev. Keith A. Blank*  
Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
Sunday, October 18, 4:00 p.m.



A **Missional Holiness Conference** "Fanning the Flames of a 21st Century Holiness Revival" will be held at Calvary Wesleyan Church in Bethlehem, PA. The conference is

Sunday evening, October 25 through Tuesday evening, October 27. The main speakers are Dr. Stan Toler and Rev. Anita Eastlack. In addition there will also be interesting and informative seminars on Monday and Tuesday. All of the information is available at

[www.missionalholiness.org](http://www.missionalholiness.org). On the website you can find complete information about the conference, register and reserve your hotel at a special rate. This is the church's fifth year for the conference, but the first time they are extending the invitation beyond The Wesleyan Church. Pastors, local church leaders, missionaries and denominational leaders have attended and have reported the benefit they received from the conference.



## *2015 National Conference Journal*

The 2015 National Conference Journals are ready. Contact Brenda ([blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com) or 717-866-7581) at the EC Church Center to get your copy.

We are again offering a three-ring binder (\$7.00 ea.); section dividers (\$4.00 ea.); printed contents (\$14.00 ea.); additional CD—WORD format (\$5.00 ea.) and a name & address directory (\$5.00 ea.).

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** Each church will receive one (1) copy of the Journal on CD FREE of charge.

## News from Global Ministries

### SAVE THE DATES for Mission Meals!

**Pastors' Lunch:** October 23, 2015 at Community Evangelical Church, Sinking Spring, PA. Doors open at 11:30am. Wives are welcome!

**Susquehanna Mission Brunch:** October 24, 2015 at Country Fare, Myers-town. Brunch and program begin at 10:00 am.

### 2015 VBS Project: Nepal

If your church participated in the 2015 VBS project to raise funds for the construction of a permanent combined headquarters, home and orphanage for the EC Church of Nepal, please send those monies in as soon as possible so we can include it when we send the regular support wire in October.

### Liberia still dealing with Ebola Virus:

There are still a few sporadic cases of Ebola being reported in Liberia and the work of ministering to all those impacted by the virus, such as widows, widowers, orphans and the displaced continues to be a priority of the EC Church of Liberia. The GMC is still actively raising funds to purchase a much needed 4WD truck to assist in the ministries to these remote villages.



## News from Evangelical Seminary

### A New Semester

The fall semester began at Evangelical on Thursday, August 27. Please keep our new students and returning students in your prayers, asking the Lord to use their seminary experience to prepare them for the call He has placed on their lives.

### Christian Perspectives on the Paranormal

Join us on Thursday, November 5 for a morning seminar on this fascinating topic as Drs. Robb Palmer and Tony Blair try to make sense of a culture enamored with the supernatural and offer biblical insights for dealing with it in our churches, families, and neighborhoods. Dr. Blair will discuss "Why America is in Love With the Supernatural...Again!", drawing from cultural and historical trends which shed light on the current interest in the paranormal, and Dr. Palmer will present on "Hauntings, Ghosts and Supernatural Visitors." The seminar will conclude with a discussion on how we might better minister to a culture enamored by the paranormal.

### Friends of Evangelical Banquet

You are invited to attend the 2015 Friends of Evangelical Banquet on Thursday, November 12, at Calvary Church in Lancaster. We are excited to announce that our speaker will be Andy Crouch, Executive Editor of Christianity Today. Andy is also a senior fellow of the International Justice Mission's IJM Institute, and is a member of the Board of Advisors for the John Templeton Foundation. He has written two books: *Playing God* and *Culture Making* (which won several awards).

If you are on the Seminary's mailing list, you will receive your invitation in September. If you are not on the mailing list or you want more information, call Evangelical at 717-866-5775.





# News from Twin Pines



## Family Life's The Art of Marriage Retreat

Twin Pines is hosting this marriage retreat again this year over the weekend of October

2-4. This is a great weekend for married couples to get away and focus on their marriage. In Family Life's "Art of Marriage," couples will discover that "marriage, the way God intended it to be, is a true art form." The retreat will weave together expert teaching, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and more to portray both the challenges and beauty of God's design."

For more information, contact Andy at Twin Pines (Phone: 570-629-2411 or email at [andy@twinpines.org](mailto:andy@twinpines.org)). Register online at [www.tpartofmarriage.eventbrite.com](http://www.tpartofmarriage.eventbrite.com) or download the brochure and registration form from our Facebook page or website ([www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org)).

## Twin Pines' Junior & Senior High Retreat

Summer camp is coming to November again this year! For those campers who want to experience the fun and games of summer camp again, this is the retreat for them! The Summer Staff and Program Directors are offering this retreat to anyone in grades 6-12 to get away from the distractions of school and media to focus on their faith. The dates for the retreat are November 6-8. Register online at [www.tpjrshigh.eventbrite.com](http://www.tpjrshigh.eventbrite.com) or download the brochure with registration form from our Facebook page or website ([www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org)).

For more information, contact Andy at Twin Pines (Phone: 570-629-2411 or e-mail at [andy@twinpines.org](mailto:andy@twinpines.org)).

## Twin Pines' 22nd Annual Golf Classic

You are invited to participate in this year's annual golf classic which will be held in the Pocono Mountains, where you will be surrounded by the majesty of God's creation!

Join us on Friday, September 18th and



Saturday, September 19th for two wonderful days of golf, fellowship, and raising funds for the vital camping ministry of Twin Pines.

For more information, contact Shawn at Twin Pines (Phone: 570-629-2411 or email [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org)). You can register using the brochure, which can be found on our Facebook page or on our website ([www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org)).

## Ministers' Retreat

Ministers are invited to attend this special retreat taking place on October 6-8. This will be a special time for ministers to relax and enjoy time in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains. More details will be arriving shortly!

## Fall Foliage 5K and Family Festival

Twin Pines will once again be hosting a 5K this year on Saturday, October 3. Throughout the day, there will also be a Family Festival with hayrides, pumpkin carving, and more! Come out and run the 5K and then enjoy the rest of the day with your family!



For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411.

## Twin Pines Celebration Banquet

The 2015 Celebration Banquet for Twin Pines will be held on Tuesday, October 20 at Good 'n Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown, PA. The doors open at 6:00pm and the evening will begin with supper at 6:30pm. Come out for a FANTASTIC meal and testimony about how God is working through the ministry of Twin Pines. There is no charge; however, a love offering will be taken to offset the cost for the evening and to support the camp. Please reserve your seat by calling the camp office at 570-629-2411 or email [info@twinpines.org](mailto:info@twinpines.org).

## News from Benefits Corporation



The active pastors' health insurance renewal negotiations are a struggle this year. The renewal rates from Highmark are double digit rate increase and there is a possibility that we may switch insurance carriers. However, with the healthy cushion in the HRA I anticipate rate increases to the churches to be under 10% and possibly under 5%. The EC Benefit Trustees are meeting in early September and the new rates will be announced shortly after that meeting.

As we are currently in our open enrollment period, 60 days before the start of the new plan year of October 1, you can make changes to your coverage, join the plan, add dependents, etc. outside the change of life events. Please contact Dave King if changes to your health insurance cov-

erage are needed.

Please remember to submit all of your deductibles and co-insurance claims to PrimePay on a timely basis. PrimePay will track all of your covered out of pocket healthcare expenses, including the first \$500 in covered medical expenses and the first \$1,800 in prescription co-pays that are the responsibility of the pastor. Timely submission of claims helps EC Benefits monitor and assess the cost efficiency of the health insurance plan. Also, covered deductible and co-insurance claims must be incurred by September 30, 2015 and submitted to PrimePay for reimbursement ninety days from the end of the plan year which is December 29, 2015.

Detailed instructions on how to submit a reimbursement claim to PrimePay was emailed

to all participants on the active pastor's health insurance plan earlier this year. PrimePay was established to assist pastors with lowering their out of pocket medical and prescription costs for covered medical expenses. Funds are available to reimburse covered out of pocket medical and prescription costs. Contact Dave King or Kevin Henry with any questions on submitting claims to PrimePay.

Please contact Dave King, [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com) or Kevin Henry, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or 1-800-866-7581 with any questions or problems.

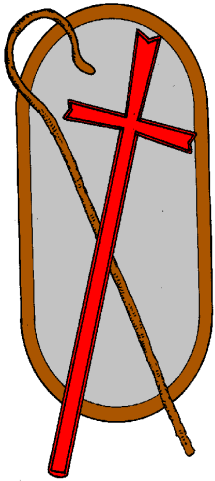
Kevin Henry  
Controller

Dave King  
Benefits Administrator



The EC Church Center has an open position for a Business Office Specialist at 25 hours a week. This non degreed position is responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivable, cash receipts and donation processing. The ideal candidate will have a servant's heart, be a person of integrity, business office experience preferred, a strong comfort level with personal computers and software and a willingness to learn. If

you are interested in this position please send your resume to [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or E.C. Church Center, Kevin Henry, Controller, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.



# ANNOUNCING A PASTORAL AND CHURCH PLANTING AS- SESSMENT CENTER OF THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGA- TIONAL CHURCH

January 13-16, 2016 (Wed. – Sat.)

Myerstown, PA

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The Center is a great opportunity for a man and his wife to explore a possible call to pastoral ministry. Before sending him through the approved candidacy process, send him to the Center and allow a team of trained assessors help him and his wife discern God's will for ministry. The Center includes standardized tests (DISC Personality Profile, Grip Birkman Blueprint and ENRICH/PREPARE), preaching/teaching opportunities, a church health exercise and a church multiplication strategy project.

Do you have a man in your congregation who is sensing a call to ministry? Is he struggling to know if the call is a call to pastoral ministry? Is he open to exploring what God wills for his life? Please talk with him about the Pastoral Assessment Center. If he would like more information, please call your Conference Minister. Pastors, please contact your Conference Minister and they will ensure that a Pastoral Assessment Center application packet will be sent in early November. If he would like to register for the January Center, please give him the attached form. There is **no cost** for E.C. Church members.

Deadline for registration is **October 1, 2015**



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NATIONAL  
COLLECTION  
WEEK:  
November 16-23



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You can view solicitation disclosure information for Samaritan's Purse online at [samaritanspurse.org/disclosure](http://samaritanspurse.org/disclosure)



## Evangelical Congregational Church

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

Phone: 717-866-7581

Web: [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

Email: [eccenter@eccenter.com](mailto:eccenter@eccenter.com)



The Church Center will be closed on Fridays starting  
with Friday, July 3rd through  
September 8th.



## LEADERSHIP FORUM 2015

Featuring Reggie McNeal

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown

Sponsored jointly by the Evangelical Seminary  
and

E.C. Leadership Commission

**Topic:** Kingdom Leadership: Shifting from a Church-Centric to a Kingdom-Centric Culture

**Registration:** 8:30

**Seminar:** 9:00am—2:30pm

**Cost:** Includes Lunch

Individual — \$35

ETS Alumnus — \$20

EC Pastor/Elder — \$20

Students — \$10

0.4 CEUs — \$10

Session One: Aligning Church and Kingdom

Session Two: Changing the Scorecard

Session Three: Shifting Leadership Behavior



Please register online at [www.evangelical.edu/leadership-forum](http://www.evangelical.edu/leadership-forum)

Or call Marsha at 717-866-5775 ext 2130

For questions, contact Ken Nafsiger—[knafziger@evangelical.edu](mailto:knafziger@evangelical.edu)



# September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Day of Prayer for the EC Church Church Center Closed	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Day of Prayer for Church Planting	<b>7</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Center Closed	<b>8</b> Evangelical Seminary Fall Convocation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Church Pension Due Health Ins. Due Estimated Tax Due	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Rev. Bradley Hatter Ordination	<b>28</b> Leadership Commission Mtg.	<b>29</b> Evan & Discipleship Mtg.	<b>30</b>		Bible Conference at Twin Pines	

**Ministry Funds to:**  
 E.C. Church  
 100 W. Park Ave.  
 Myerstown, PA 17067

**Medical/Pension Payments to:**  
 Benefits Corporation  
 100 W. Park Ave.  
 Myerstown, PA 17067

**Insurance/Pension Payments to:**  
 Benefits Corporation  
 100 W. Park Ave.  
 Myerstown, PA 17067



# October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>4</b> WORLDWIDE COMMUNION Home Missions Offering (Church Planting)  Day of Prayer for Church Planting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Church Planting Commission Mtg.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Rev. Ken Kalisz Ordination	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Leadership Fo- rum	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Rev. Keith Blank Ordination	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Global Ministries Mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> National Ministry Team Mtg.	<b>23</b> Pastors' GMC Lunch	<b>24</b> Susquehanna Region GMC Brunch
<b>25</b> REFORMATION SUNDAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**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

**Home Missions Offering to:**

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

