

EC LEADER

SEPTEMBER 2019

INSIDE this issue

- Bishop's Prayer & Praise
- News from the Executive Director
- Financial Health
- Global Ministries Community
- Kingdom Extension Community
- Twin Pines Camp
- Ordination Services

Who We Are

"... you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

1 PETER 2:9



From the Bishop:

I have to admit I always get a chuckle out of those television commercials that show parents getting their kids ready for school in the office store to the tune of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." I could never understand that sentiment until we had children and Gloria and I had to deal with their boredom as the summer drew to a close. I also remember the first September after I had graduated from seminary. After starting a new year of school for 21 consecutive Septembers, that September seemed odd—like I was missing something. I had been going to school for so long, it seemed unnatural not to be heading for some kind of classroom.

The good news is that while there's nothing wrong with a formal education, that final graduation ceremony should be the end of learning. I firmly believe we must be life-long learners. Why wouldn't we want to be smarter, more effective as leaders and pastors? Many of graduate and think we know it all; we're ready to fix the world, or in the case of pastors, fix the church. But as many a wise person has said—we didn't know what we didn't know. It was after graduating from the "academy" and entered into the real world and real life that we discovered we didn't really know it all. Add to that a church, world and culture that don't stand still and we see how we must continue to learn in order to effectively minister to the needs of those inside and outside the church. When I think about how we "did church" and "did pastoral ministry" when I started in ministry and look at it today I am deeply thankful for the many opportunities I have had to learn, to be stretched, over the years.

Continued on page 2

The need for each one of us to be life-long learners is one of the reasons every pastor is to have money available for continuing education, and today we have so many ways to learn. I trust that as you watch the children in your area head off to start another year of school, it will remind you that you too must continue to learn. So go buy a book (and read it), attend a conference or workshop, live-stream an event, listen to podcasts; there are lots and lots of choices. However you do it, stretch your mind and learn. It's good for you and good for your ministry!



In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hill".

Rev. Bruce D. Hill
Bishop

Bishop's Top 6 Prayer & Praise



1. Pray for all of those who accepted Jesus as their Savior during summer camp; may they be disciple in the faith by their local congregations.
2. Ask for the Lord's blessing for the pastors who are experiencing their first fall season of ministry in a new congregation.
3. Pray for the Amendments Committee as they begin work on preparing for amendments to the denomination's Discipline.
4. Ask for the Lord's blessing and protection on all the students, teachers, and administrators who are beginning a new year of school.
5. Pray that the Lord would bless those who will be ordained this fall: four in September, one in October, and one in November.
6. This list is being written in June—so, assuming I actually take some time off for a sabbatical, pray that I will be able to catch up quickly!

News from the Executive Director



This year's **health insurance renewal** is completely different than last year. All of the insurance carriers that have quoted our coverage this year have quoted significant double digit rate increases as compared to last year's low single digit increases with one carrier choosing not to quote our plan this year. I wish I could explain it. Thanks to everyone for completing the Highmark medical underwriting applications they were helpful in this process even though it may not seem like it. Being a group of integrity in our negotiations with the insurance carriers is more important than a slightly more depleted pocketbook. The EC Benefits Trustees are meeting on Sept 5 to finalize the renewal for next year. Please keep this meeting in your prayer. The renewal information will be released shortly after the 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 of change of life events. Please contact Dave King if changes to your health insurance coverage are needed.

Please remember to submit all of your deductible and coinsurance 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 and outpatient therapy visits (speech, physical, occupational and respiratory therapy) 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 coinsurance claims must be incurred by September 30, 2019 and submitted to PrimePay for reimbursement ninety (90) days from the end of the plan year which is December 29, 2019. Contact Dave King or Kevin Henry with any questions on submitting claims to PrimePay.

There are a number of churches that have not remitted the \$100/yr **disability insurance premium** and the \$100/yr **benefit services fee**. If the disability premium is not received for the year the pastor is not covered. The disability premium is listed in the treasurer's guide on the EC website and is due January 15 of every year. The \$100/yr benefit services fee is due April 15 every year and is due from every church with an assigned pastor.

Please contact Dave King, dking@eccenter.com or myself, Kevin Henry, khenry@eccenter.com with any questions or problems.



Bless your Pastor and Staff



Evangelical
Congregational
Church

The Evangelical Congregational Church is partnering with the National Association of Evangelicals for their national **Bless Your Pastor and Staff** campaign, <https://blessyourpastor.org/resources/leaders/>. EC Church lay leadership is encouraged to follow the link above and download to watch the introductory video and download the toolkit for churches. All of the information, graphics and resources on this page are free. You may use some of the material or you may use none of it. Please use whatever material would best fit your church. Please take special note of step 5 on the "5 Simple Steps to Bless Your Pastor" page of the toolkit for churches.

October 13, 2019 is Pastor Appreciation Day however the Bless Your Pastor and Staff initiative is not restricted to one day or one month. The National Conference is encouraging churches find a fall 2019 weekend in their church's calendar to honor their pastor(s) and staff. If fall 2019 does not work then winter 2020 is good too. The Bless Your Pastor and Staff initiative is more than a Sunday morning event, it is designed to develop a year round culture of blessing your pastor(s) and staff by everyone in the church. One of the free resources is a list of 50 Creative Ways to Bless Your Pastor. I'm fairly certain that just about every person in the church is capable of using one of those 50 ways to bless their pastor.

Thanks for undertaking this very worthwhile initiative and please contact me with any questions (717)628-2171 or khenry@eccenter.com.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director



Evangelical Seminary

Please join the administration and board of trustees of Evangelical Seminary for the annual **Friends of Evangelical Banquet** as we imagine a bright future for our students, our alums, our institution, our communities through the worldwide impact of our front line leadership in ministry.

Thursday, October 10th
Eden Resort and Suites
222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

RSVP

Please RSVP by October 3. You may register online at www.evangelical.edu/banquet

INVITE GUESTS

Consider inviting friends to join you as we imagine Evangelical Seminary's continually expanding ministry impacting lives worldwide, with students and alumni on the front line of leadership.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Evangelical Alum Chaplain Juliana Lesher, will be the main speaker at this year's event. Juliana graduated from Evangelical Seminary in 2001 with an M.Div. and was recently appointed the National Director of Chaplain Service, Department of Veteran Affairs. She oversees more than 900 chaplains across the country. Her career and spiritual journey caring for patients and Veterans in need has taken her west to Los Angeles, north to Fargo, south to San Antonio, and east to Washington, DC.





Residents & Robotic Pets

By Jill Baker

Earlier this year, the Myerstown Lions Club donated four robotic pets to our Towne Centre location. The robotic pets are the result of the ARIES (Affordable Robotic Intelligence for Elderly Support) initiative by Brown University and Hasbro toy company. The goal of the ARIES project is to assist older adults who may be experiencing cognitive deficits or are unable to have a pet of their own. Robotic pets are practical for some of our residents who are unable to care for live animals, who need fed, walked, and taken care of each day.

The Myerstown Lions Club got the idea when former-president, Larry Albright, saw the success story of the Lancaster City Lions Club's robotic pets. "When I saw what the Lancaster Lions Club was doing, I thought why couldn't we do that here in our community," Larry said. The Myerstown Lions Club went into action to raise over \$400 to donate these robotic pets to Town Centre.

The Myerstown Lions Club has a long-standing relationship with our local community, working on initiatives to improve eye care and vision for those with a financial need as well as supporting local youth sports



teams such as basketball and baseball. As soon as the Myerstown Lions Club heard about the robotic pets, they knew they wanted to donate them to StoneRidge Retirement Living because of their influence on those with dementia.

Research shows that interactive robotic pets were effective in reducing feelings of loneliness and depression in senior residents living in long-term care facilities. "We specifically wanted to get those robotic pets because they are able to reach nonverbal dementia patients in a way that humans might not be able to," Steve Goodhue said. With the success of the four robotic pets at Towne Centre, the Myerstown Lions Club will soon be starting fundraising to donate some robotic pets to Poplar Run.



Global Ministries Community

- **Jim and Joan Farr** now have a new address and email, effective as of August 10th. It's 4136 Northgate Drive, #8, Kissimmee, FL 34746. The email is jim_farr@wycliffe.org.
- Congratulations to **Bettina Schaeffer** who finally became an American citizen on August 7th. Bettina had a green card all these years, and has finally jumped through all the hoops needed to get her citizenship.
- **Chris Bowers** has a new email address. It is now christopher_bowers@wycliffe.org. The sil.org address will be discontinued soon, so please change your records now. Chris, Debbie and their daughters are spending September through November in Australia, visiting Debbie's family, friends and supporters.
- **Joe Toy** was in Miami from late August to early September for a planning session with other leaders, already preparing for the outreach at the 2020 Super Bowl.
- **BJ & Rachel Whitaker** and their daughters, Miriam & Laura, left September 1st to return to Spain after a busy and hectic couple of months in the USA. Fortunately, they were able to get some family vacation time in CO before returning to Spain. Pray that they may be refreshed and ready to resume their responsibilities in Alcora, and that the girls can catch up with school work quickly.
- In case you want to send any snail mail to **Brian & Missy Wagner** while they are in the USA, the address is 18 Kready Avenue, Millersville, PA 17551. They will be there through early July of next year.
- **Beth Grimm** spent most of August and early September in Papua New Guinea, working with missionary children at the MK school in Ukarumpa. Beth is an education specialist, and serves the missionary community by testing and diagnosing possible learning disabilities in MK's. She then develops learning plans for the



teachers and/or parents, so that the parents can remain on their field of service while knowing their child is able to stay in school.

- It appears that Wycliffe is trying to become more uniform in the email addresses for all their missionaries. Instead of having separate domain names for The Seed Company, SIL, etc. now all are using the @wycliffe.org designation. Please change the emails for the Wilsons to the following: Jonathan—jonathan_wilson@wycliffe.org; Kathy—Kathy_wilson@wycliffe.org.



Kingdom Extension Community

The Art of Neighboring: Connecting with our Local Communities:

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

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

Workshop attendees have said: “...very practical and applicable to a variety of congregational settings....For our ministry team, it was a day well spent.” (Ken Nafziger) “...we were able to gather a group of people from our church to attend an Art of Neighboring seminar....a valuable source of information and inspiration....The Saturday we gave to attend was time well spent!” (Tim Seiger) “I and five other members of my church attended the Art of Neighboring workshop....good information as well as time for setting goals and developing plans....My group left with a group of six to seven ideas that we can implement over the coming year.” (Pat Strain)

Useful Websites for Church and Kingdom Extension

Fresh Expressions US

<https://freshexpressionsus.org/>

A Fresh Expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of those who are not yet part of any church. Fresh Expressions is an international movement of missionary disciples cultivating new kinds of church alongside existing congregations to more effectively engage our growing post-Christian society.

Missio Alliance

<https://www.missioalliance.org/>

Coming together under a common commitment to provide a place to address what faithfulness to Christ and His mission look like for the churches of North America in the face of several new cultural challenges, Missio Alliance is committed to working together on doctrinal and cultural issues that impact the church and the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

Exponential

<https://exponential.org/>

Exponential is an event and a fellowship of Kingdom ministry practitioners. An annual event and several regional events feature hundreds of speakers and workshops targeted to Kingdom expansion and the needs of church planters. The Exponential website is a one-stop shopping destination for information and resources for church planting, church growth, and Kingdom expansion. The list of sponsors is actually a collection of links to resource websites stocked with ministry goodies for every pastor.

Kingdom Extension Community (continued)

Register Today!!! Fresh Expression Vision Day

Recapture Your Passion • Connect with Subcultures • Energize Your Congregation

The Kingdom Extension Community, Fresh Expression US, and Evangelical Seminary have partnered to bring a Fresh Expression Vision Day to the EC Community at Evangelical Seminary on October 4, 2019.

For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vision-day-central-pa-tickets-63184114387>

DO NOT let money be the only thing that keeps you from attending. Contact Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net) regarding scholarship dollars.

Bishop's Speaking Schedule:

The bishop has a few open Sundays in his preaching calendar for the fall of this year (2019). If you would like to invite him to spare him of having to invite himself, now is the best time to contact Church Center. No church is too big or too small for him to schedule a Sunday but it is first come-first served. So as you plan your congregation's fall service schedule see when it would be good to have the Bishop come preach. If you really like to plan ahead you can also check on the Bishop's availability for spring 2020. To schedule a date please email your requested date(s) to his Administrative Assistant, jeahart@eccenter.com and she will work with him in developing his schedule for 2019-2020. He hopes to see you soon!



Mountain Men—Rewired Men's Retreat

**One Day Conference
Saturday, September 21, 2019
8:00 AM—4:30 PM**

- Move away from a life of performance and self-sufficiency
- Gain a fuller understanding of grace
- Identify the idols in your life
- Examine how Christ truly meets your needs
- Four teaching sessions
- Small group discussion
- Live worship time

Registration fee includes lunch and all conference materials. Join men from all around PA and hear powerful messages from Rev. Gary Kuehner, Rev. Dale Miller, Rev. Dave Hakes and Rev. Wayne Houck.

Trinity Lighthouse Church
66 S. Limerick Road
Royersford, PA 19468

Cost: \$32
To Register, go to:
www.trinitylighthouse.org

The Ministerial Development Community is excited to offer a one day training on coaching and leading teams by asking good questions. On Thursday, September 19th at Community Evangelical Church from 9-2 pm the MDC will be hosting author, pastor, and Fresh Expression US leader J.R. Briggs as he leads a discussion on how to lead through questions. The workshop is free and will include lunch for all in attendance. The event is open to pastors and lay leaders. For more information or to register for the event, please email Pastor Matt Hill at matt@stpaulsreamstown.com by September 9th.

We Need New Pictures

We would like some new pictures for the main page of our website www.eccenter.com. Do you have any pictures you can send us? Pictures of your church building exterior or interior, activities, events, community outreach, mission trips, etc. We will not identify any person or place in the pictures, however please be mindful of who is in the photos, i.e. if that individual would not want their picture posted or is in the witness protection program. Only send us pictures that you own the copyright, the pictures are no larger than 300x300 dpi and no more than three (3) pictures from any one church. All pictures received will be reviewed by those that have an eye for what makes a good website photo so not every picture received will be posted. Please send your pictures to blong@eccenter.com or send a link to your preferred online file sharing services; Dropbox, Google Drive, MS Onedrive, iDrive, etc.



What's happening at Twin Pines Camp this Fall?

Fall Fix-Up—September 17-19



Help camp to “batten down the hatches” for winter, complete special projects and extensive cleanup after summer camp has concluded! The various projects are both indoor and outdoor in nature.

Fall Craft Retreat—September 27-29



A laid-back weekend allows you time away for relaxation as you work on craft projects and fellowship with friends new and old. Bible study will be presented in the context of sewing and sowing while you experience the beauty of God's creation in the setting of the Pocono Mountains. Thursday option is available as well.

October Getaway Weekends—October



Getaway for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spend time with God. Housing, breakfast and spiritual guidance materials are provided in the weekend rate. You can choose getaways for Family, Couples or a gathering of your Friends.



**TWIN
PINES**
CAMP, CONFERENCE
& RETREAT CENTER
www.twinpines.org

Celebration Banquet—October 15



Join us for a special evening as we celebrate how God has blessed and used the Ministry of Twin Pines the past year. The banquet is free; however, there is the collection of a free -will offering to support the ministry of Twin Pines Camp.

Good 'n' Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, PA

Jr/Sr High Fall Retreat—November 1-3



This weekend for youth in grades 6-12 is like a mini week of summer camp. Campers get to participate in many of their favorite camp activities, and reunite with camp friends! They will explore their faith in Jesus Christ through group discussion and Bible study. Twin Pines provides staff for this retreat.

Schedule your group's
**Fall
Retreat**
Weekends are filling up!

Contact the office by phone at 570-629-2411,
or send an email to retreats@twinpines.org

Evangelical Congregational Church

100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581
www.eccenter.com



Who We Are

"... you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

1 PETER 2:9



You are invited to attend the 2019 National Conference Ordination Services

The ordination of **Rev. Cameron L. Smith**
Plymouth Meeting Evangelical Congregational Church
Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 8, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. J. Paul Weitzel**
Grace Community Evangelical Congregational Church
Willow Street, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 15, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. George T. Custer**
Bethel Evangelical Congregational Church
Conestoga, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 22, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. Rick M. Reilly**
New Life of Shillington Evangelical Congregational Church
Shillington, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 29, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. Michael G. Knapp**
Zion (Clarks Valley) Evangelical Congregational Church
Dauphin, Pennsylvania
Sunday, October 13, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Marisel Mieses**
Buenas Nuevas Evangelical Congregational Church
Hazleton, Pennsylvania
Sunday, November 3, 1:00 p.m.

September 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 LABOR DAY Church Center Closed	3	4	5 Benefits Corp Mtg	6 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	7
8 Cameron Smith Ordination <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	9 Prayer Mobilization Team	10	11	12	13 Health Insurance Due	14
15 J. Paul Weitzel Ordination	16	17	18	19 MDC Training & Coaching Workshop	20	21 Mountain Men Men's Retreat
22 George Custer Ordination Allegheeny/Buckeye ECCO Women's Retreat	23 Info for the October EC Leader is due	24	25 Church Health Community Mtg. StoneRidge Golf Tournament	26	27 Allegheeny/Buckeye ECCO Women's Retreat	28 Allegheeny/Buckeye ECCO Men's Retreat
29 Rick Reilly Ordination Allegheeny/Buckeye ECCO Men's Retreat	30					

Ministry Funds to:
EC Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance Payments to:
Benefits Corp.
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

October 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Fresh Expressions Vision Day	5
6 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	7 Episcopacy Committee Mtg	8	9 Conference Network Team Mtg	10 National Ministry Team Mtg Friends of Evangelical Banquet	11	12
13 Michael Knapp Ordination	14 Prayer Mobilization Team	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17	18	19
20	21 Info for the November EC Leader is due	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Retired Pastors Banquet	29	30	31		

Ministry Funds to:
EC Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance Payments to:
Benefits Corp.
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067