

# EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church

MARCH 2026



## In this edition

From the Desk  
page 1

National Conference News  
page 2

Executive Director News  
page 3

CHC News  
page 4

GMC News  
pages 5- 6

KEC News  
page 7

MDC News  
pages 8-10

Twin Pines News  
pages 11-12

Calendars & Staff List  
pages 13-14

## FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore

### Built to Move Part 1

“We have been built  
by God to move  
with him.”



Click [HERE](#) for the Bishop's  
March video message



### Speaking Schedule for 2026

Bishop Randy is now scheduling his 2026  
preaching schedule.  
If you would like to schedule him at your church,  
please contact Bishop Randy directly at  
[rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com).

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

## National Conference 2026 May 20 through 21 at Messiah University

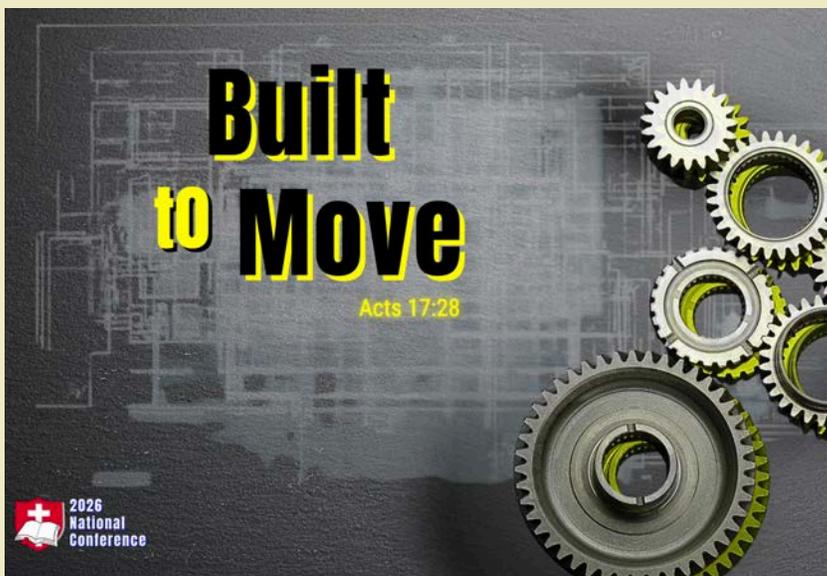
*“For in him, we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)*

There is a lot of movement in Acts 17:24-28. God is on the move making the world and everything in it. God is living, not resting in man-made temples, but moving among his very creation giving life and redemption and purpose to it all. He creates mankind to move – to inhabit the entire earth as his redeemed children so that others would know about him and move to seek him, reaching out and finding him very near as he moves close to them.

We as God’s people have been **built to move!** It amazes me that the average car is built with approximately 30,000 individual parts that work together over an average time span of 12-15 years reaching an average of 200,000 miles driven. That’s eight times around the earth’s equator, 36 round trips from New York City to Los Angeles, or 84% of the distance from the earth to the moon! What a shame it would be to allow that car that was built to move to *rest* away in the garage or driveway.

Like our Heavenly Father, we have been **built to move** – to join him in his dynamic movement of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the long haul! The word dynamic can be described as vigorously active, energetic, powerful motion. God clearly tells us in his Word that he, **“...is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his [vigorously active, energetic, powerful motion] that is at work within us...”** (Ephesians 3:20, my translation). During our time together in our 2026 National Conference gathering we will be challenged to pursue dynamic movement, not in our own power or strength, but in his. We have been built to move! My prayer for all of us as we conclude our time together and head home from National Conference is that we will experience the movement in Isaiah 40:31 in new and fresh ways.

*“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*



### Pre-Conference Meetings

Thursday, May 7 at 7 PM

Saturday, May 9 at 9 AM

Monday, May 11 at 7 PM

*All meetings will be held via Zoom and are open to pastors and delegates from any district. The Zoom link will be sent via email at a later date.*

**Registration for conference will open in mid-March.**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY



Thanks to everyone who has returned the Worker's Compensation audit forms in a timely manner. Approved at the annual EC Benefits Corporation meeting, a non-response fee of \$100 may be assessed for wage audit forms not returned. For a church with a non-returned wage audit form, we will overestimate their paid wages and assess a \$100 non-returned penalty on their Worker's Compensation invoice from EC Benefits. These two actions will increase the amount the church will pay for their 2026 Worker's Compensation.

The annual disability premium, \$100, was due January 15, and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee, \$125, is due by April 15, 2026; retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website. Many have remitted the disability fee in a timely manner; a few have submitted the administrative fee early, and we thank you for your diligence and hard work. Treasurers, please begin using the 2026 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2025 should be remitted on the 2025 Ministry Fund forms. Thirty-five churches are

utilizing the electronic payment option for ministry funds. Please contact Kevin Henry or Bethany White for more information on remitting your ministry fund payments electronically.

## Pastoral Compensation Forms

A record number of pastoral compensation forms were returned on time. Unfortunately, the amount received is much less than 100%. Returned pastoral compensation forms allow the Church Center staff to provide salary information to the stationing elders and churches to set fair pastoral compensation during a pastoral transition or hiring of a new pastor. Returned pastoral compensation forms help all EC pastors and churches.

Pastors and churches are permitted to obtain health insurance outside of the denominational-sponsored plan. If you have obtained health insurance outside of the denominational plan, please be aware of the possible tax consequences and be diligent in the compliance requirements.

As always, please contact Kevin Henry, Executive Director, or Bethany White, Benefits Specialist, with any questions or problems, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com), [bwhite@eccenter.com](mailto:bwhite@eccenter.com) or 717-866-7581.

Kevin Henry  
Executive Director  
[khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)  
717.866.7581 x 1121

Bethany White  
Benefits Corp Specialist  
[bwhite@eccenter.com](mailto:bwhite@eccenter.com)  
717.866.7581 x 1100

# Church Health Community News

## FROM THE DESK

Rev. Wayne Houck, CHC Associate

### If You Are Not Changing, You Are Choosing

Whatever you are not changing, you are choosing. Often we know that there are changes necessary in order for our church to fulfill its mission in the community, but change does not come. Unless pastors and lay leaders are willing to make changes, they are demonstrating the choice to keep things the way they are. Often pastors express frustration that the lay leadership in the church rejects their ideas for innovation. "We've never done it that way before," is a repeated phrase, and there seems to be a lack of vision of where God may be leading.

Steve Auld recently wrote, **"As pastors and leaders, we are called to shepherd God's people: not just to keep them safe, but to guide them toward greater spiritual health and fruitfulness. Change is rarely easy. It can be messy, stressful, and slow. But for the glory of God and the good of his people, a dynamic part of our calling is to keep leading our people to fresh green pastures, you aren't changing, you're choosing."** (Logos - Word by Word, January 14, 2026)

As shepherds of a flock, we have the responsibility of ensuring the quality of the sheep's diet. Overgrazing can happen when sheep stay in the same place too long. They eat the grass down to the nub and then depend on their shepherd to get them moving to a place where they can thrive. Staying in the same place leads to decline.

Let the Church Health team know how we can help you get unstuck. I am happy to discuss with your leadership team the value of making changes which can lead to better spiritual and church health. And beginning mid-year, we will be offering the Strategic Envisioning Process (by the Malphurs Group) which is designed to help the leadership of your church create a shared vision for where God is leading your congregation and a plan to get there. We are looking forward to many churches finding fresh grass as they explore beyond the field they have been in for so long. As always, feel free to reach out to me by email, [waynehouck@gmail.com](mailto:waynehouck@gmail.com), or phone, 610-716-5603. We are here to help.

Be blessed today,  
Wayne

Wayne



## Global Ministries Community News

### FROM THE DESK

Dee Jaramillo, GMC Deputy Director



## From Sending to Saturating: Rethinking Missions as Discipleship

For generations, the word "missions" has conjured a familiar image in the minds of most churchgoers - a passionate speaker sharing stories from a faraway place, a map on the wall dotted with pins, and an offering taken to support someone doing the "real" Gospel work somewhere else. While there is nothing wrong with loving and supporting global workers, this narrow picture has quietly trained congregations to think of missions as something a few specially called people do in distant places, funded by the many who stay home. The result is a church culture where the average member sees themselves as a supporter of missions rather than a participant in it. For a church serious about fulfilling its calling as a ministry community within the Evangelical Congregational tradition - one rooted in the conviction that every believer is called to active, transforming faith - this paradigm is simply too small.

The EC denomination's vision of being a dynamic movement of God framed in the Global Ministries Community context demands something far more holistic than a missions committee and an annual fundraising Sunday. It calls for a church where every member understands themselves to be both a disciple and a disciple-maker - not because they have a theology degree or a mission appointment - but because they have encountered Jesus and are learning to follow Him in every corner of their daily lives. Discipleship, rightly understood, is not a class you take or a program you complete. It is a way of life in which believers are continually formed by Scripture, community, worship and obedience - and in turn, intentionally invest that formation into others. When missions is reframed as the natural overflow of a deeply disciplined people, it stops being a department of the church and starts being the heartbeat of it.

This shift has profound practical implications for how a congregation organizes itself, spends its resources and measures success. Rather than asking, "How much did we give to missions this year?", a discipleship-centered ministry community begins asking, "How many of our people are actively making disciples where they live, learn, work and play?" It invests in equipping ordinary members to have spiritual conversations with their neighbors, to mentor younger believers and to see their everyday relationships as the primary mission field God has already placed them in. Global and cross-cultural partnerships remain vitally important, but they flow from a congregation of people who are already living on mission locally rather than serving as a substitute for it. The church becomes less of the obligatory

# Global Ministries Community News

## FROM THE DESK

Dee Jaramillo, GMC Deputy Director  
*continued...*

### From Sending to Saturating: Rethinking Missions as Discipleship

*continued...*

sending station and more of a training ground, continuously forming people who carry the presence and purpose of Christ into every sphere of society.

The Evangelical Congregational Church has always held a vision of the church as a living, active, Spirit-empowered community - not a passive audience, but a mobilized people. Transforming the missions paradigm into a discipleship paradigm is not a departure from that heritage; it is a return to it. It is an invitation to stop outsourcing the Great Commission to the few and reclaim it as the shared calling of every follower of Jesus in the congregation. When a church community embraces this vision, missions stops feeling like a line item in a budget and starts feeling like the very reason the church exists. The map on the wall does not disappear - it just gets much, much bigger because, suddenly, every member's neighborhood, workplace and daily routine is on it.

How can the Global Ministries Community help you? Reach out to Ted Rathman or myself! We would love to help.

On mission,  
Dee Jaramillo  
GMC Deputy Director  
[ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com) / 717-866-7581

*Dee*



# Kingdom Extension Community News

## ***Please continue to pray this month for the following new church planting opportunities that God is raising up:***

**El Shaddai** – The Dominiques and Martial Pierre are well into actively planting a Haitian church in Lancaster, PA. El Shaddai Community has been meeting on Sunday evening for worship service at Trinity EC Church in Lancaster, PA. They are seeing new families every week and seeing people come to know Christ and follow Him. Please pray for our Haitian brothers and sisters. Despite having legal status, there is much fear in the Haitian communities at this time with the increasing deportation measures being taken. This has impacted church attendance and participation. Pray for peace in their hearts and the ability to keep their eyes on and hope in Jesus. Please pray especially for Martial and his family. His wife and children remain in Haiti and are seeking to gain asylum to the US.



**Manuel and Luz Arias** – Praise the Lord!!! God has provided a church to partner with Casa de Amor to host them on Sunday afternoons and a couple of nights throughout the week. Manuel and Luz have had numerous disappointments as location opportunities have fallen through; this is a major answer to prayer. The Casa de Amor leadership team is working on plans for an official launch date and service. Pray for wisdom, strength and renewed energy for this couple. Manuel and Luz have especially asked for prayer for their family. They are considering potential changes that would allow them to devote more time to the church. Pray for wisdom for them and their family.

**Tim and Pam Ream** – The Reams moved to Thorn Hill, Tennessee. They are pursuing the opportunity to engage in planting an EC Church in their new community. Pray that God would begin preparing that community to be receptive to His glorious presence. Pray also for the Reams as they begin building relationships and engaging in discipleship relationships through inviting people into their home and engaging individuals in their community.

**Mike Coulson and People's EC Church** – Echo, the name of this church that is meeting in the Virtual Space, is reaching people with the Gospel and making disciples. Pray that the team will continue to develop and grow. People's is also beginning a micro church that will meet at Confessions Bar in Nesquehoning. Pray for this open door to be a Gospel presence where people who need Jesus hang out!

**Zach and Kelsey Van Dyke** – Zach and Kelsey are planting a network of house churches in and around Davenport, Iowa. They are currently meeting with a group in their own home weekly and seeking God's plan for their future. They are developing a vision for raising up house church shepherds and developing a discipleship and multiplication strategy. Zach and Kelsey are actively discipling people through a discipleship multiplication pathway. They have a growing list of individuals they are making regular contact with and are praying for daily.

# Ministerial Development Community News



## ICL UPDATE

**Rev. Adam Roberts, ICL Director**

### **Our next ICL Class is coming soon!**

In our Old Testament Survey course, Rev. Timothy Valentino will guide students through Old Testament literature, history, geography, culture, theology and structure to understand and communicate what the Old Testament reveals about God. Additional issues addressed include: “Who are the important people and nations?”, “What are the significant events, and where do they happen?”, “How is the Old Testament put together?”, “How does the Old Testament apply to us today?” and “What resources are available to understand, teach and preach the Old Testament?” This six-week course is perfect for church members who are looking to expand their understanding of the scriptures as well as those in church leadership. This course may be taken for non-credit for just \$50 per class (\$250 for credit). It will take place on Tuesday evenings from March 3 – April 14, 2026 (skipping the week of Holy Week). To register, simply go to: <https://mdc.eccenter.com/institute-for-church-leadership/>.

The ICL (Institute for Church Leadership) offers a series of courses in Bible, theology, spiritual formation, the mission of the Kingdom, church history and more. Anyone can benefit from these opportunities for spiritual enrichment and leadership development. Courses do not have any educational prerequisites and *do not earn seminary credit*.

If you are interested in learning more about what the ICL has to offer you and your church, or to register for a course, go to: <https://mdc.eccenter.com/institute-for-church-leadership/>. If you have any interest in or questions about our ICL, I would love to talk with you! Reach out to me at [aproberts563@gmail.com](mailto:aproberts563@gmail.com).

Adam



# Ministerial Development Community News

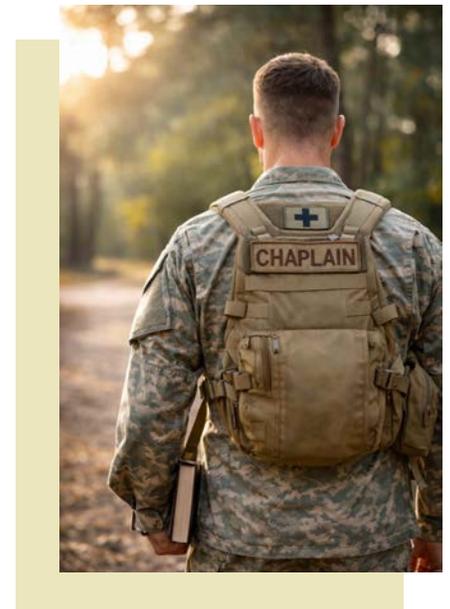
## CHAPLAINCY CORNER

Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., Chaplaincy Committee Chair

### Focus on EC Chaplaincy

People are curious! They like to know what is going on whether it affects them or not. It is amazing how often gawkers can slow or even stop traffic. Since we have a different administration in Washington, one of the questions asked pertains to what is happening in the military chaplaincy and have there been any changes because of a change in administration?

Since I recently returned from the NCMF Annual Conference in Arlington, VA, I just want to give a brief update on what is occurring among our armed forces chaplains. First, though, I want to make a few comments about NCMF (National Council of Ministry to the Armed Forces). NCMF represents 143 denominations that endorse military chaplains. The organization presents a united voice for religious freedom in the military and makes our political leaders aware of the needs of religious freedom in the service. The EC Church has been an active member of NCMF for many years. The organization not only seeks to present chaplaincy and religious freedom issues to Congress, but it also tackles other issues relating to our military chaplains. One such issue is the Arlington Cemetery memorial to WWII Chaplains. NCMF has been trying to have the monument repaired for over ten years and it looks like it will finally happen!



As the conference met, there seemed to be a much more positive attitude among the ones who spoke at the conference this year regarding the military chaplaincy. The military chaplains will be returning to the primary task of providing spiritual care, and they will be given a greater voice at the table thanks to our current Secretary of War. The Executive Director of the Armed Forces Board of Chaplains indicated that he was waiting for more clarification from the top regarding exactly what all the specific changes will be, but overall, his feelings were very positive about what was happening. The recruitment of chaplains was up considerably this year after falling way short of the goals the last few years.

The topic of the conference was Sustaining Growth - Lasting Impact, and besides the special speakers, including a legal panel, there were the head chaplains from all of the branches of the service there to report on what was occurring in the various branches. The new Directors of Chaplaincy of the Selective Service and CIA were there, and each spoke briefly. Both of these are new areas of chaplaincy for the government. In addition, the VA Director of Chaplains and the Director of the Bureau of Prisons Chaplaincy were also there representing their services.

We especially want to use this time to encourage you to support our military chaplains through cards, letters and prayers. These, of course, are Colonel K. Noel Blancaflor and Lt. Col. Joshua Metz. We also encourage you to remember Rev. Evan Clelan, who serves in the Lebanon VA Medical Center, as well as our other National Conference-appointed chaplain, Rev. Glenn Lambert. In addition to these four men, there are many

## Ministerial Development Community News

### CHAPLAINCY CORNER

**Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., Chaplaincy Committee Chair**  
*continued...*

### Focus on EC Chaplaincy

*continued...*

non-conference appointed chaplains serving various community organizations, as have been profiled in the EC Leader. Let us remember to encourage and pray for them as well. Finally, I would encourage you to pray that the Lord will raise up the next generation of chaplains and especially the next generation of military chaplains in the EC Church.

With thanks for your interest in EC Chaplaincy and the chance to promote this area of our ministry,

Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr., D. Min.  
Endorser and Chaplaincy Committee Chair  
909 Ginkgo Grove  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717.507.2174  
[ecparson@hotmail.com](mailto:ecparson@hotmail.com)





# TWIN PINES

CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



## TONY'S TRAIL NOTES Question & Answer

Last month (February) we talked on two of the most frequent questions Parents and Pastors ask us about sending their children to overnight camp. We talked about training Staff and first-time campers. This month, I'm going to talk about what we look for in our **Summer Staff** and our **Twin Pines Summer Scholarship Fund**.

### What makes a great Twin Pines Camp Staff?

Great camps rise and fall on the quality of their staff. At Twin Pines, we take this responsibility very seriously.

•**Mission Minded:** The best summer staff view camp as a mission field. They serve families, strengthen churches, and point young hearts toward Christ. Instead of a typical "summer job", these young adults give a summer to serve in a mission field.

•**Mature Christians:** When we interview young adults and talk to their references, we look for those who exemplify living and growing in their walk with Jesus. We ask for examples and stories that show these young adults are:

- Hard workers who persevere with joy
- Have stories of Christian love and gratitude
- Look for evidence that they love the Lord, and / or strive to, with their whole heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37)

•**Have Grit:** Camp life includes long days and real challenges — but also laughter, worship, deep conversations, and eternal impact. Campers don't just hear about Christ; they see Him modeled in their counselors.



If you know a young adult (18+, high school senior, graduate, or college student) who loves Jesus, has a servant's heart, and wants to make an eternal difference, encourage them to contact us. The typical summer agreement is 9-10 weeks in length and pays about \$2K. Staff in the past have raised additional support from external sources and will continue to be supported in that! If you know someone who wants to apply, please refer them to the Twin Pines website and have them fill out an online application [here](https://www.twinpines.org).



**TWIN PINES**  
CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

[www.twinpines.org](https://www.twinpines.org)  
3000 Twin Pines Camp Road,  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570)-629-2411



# TWIN PINES

CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER



## Camp Scholarships & Registration

Summer camp registration is open! Check out our schedule & register [here](#).

Family finances should never prevent a child from going to camp.

The registration fees for Twin Pines do not come close to covering the actual cost of attendance (in support of making Twin Pines a ministry, a topic for another month). However, these registration fees are a financial impediment to some families from attending what otherwise would be a transformational summer experience for their child.

In order to bridge this gap between the actual cost and what families can afford; we have a scholarship fund. Today, this fund is sitting at less than \$2,000, enough to assist about 10 campers with a 50% scholarship. Our goal is to assist **50 plus campers**, which means we would like to raise an additional **\$9,000** to send more children to camp. We have set up a "Send a Camper" Scholarship fund; click [here](#) if you would like to give!

Thank you for your consideration in the ministry of Twin Pines. We have many people assisting in the ministry here; some physical work, some prayer, some participating in retreats or camps, and some financially. We are appreciative of all the support!



 **TWIN PINES**  
CAMP, CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

[www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org)  
3000 Twin Pines Camp Road,  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570)-629-2411

# CALENDAR

## MARCH 2026

### Sunday, March 1

Second Sunday of Lent  
Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### Wednesday, March 4

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the EC Church

### Sunday, March 8

Third Sunday of Lent  
**Self-Denial Offering\***  
Liturgical Color - Purple  
Daylight Savings Time Starts

### Wednesday, March 11

Faith & Doctrine Committee Meeting

### Friday, March 13

EC History & Polity Class

### Sunday, March 15

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### Wednesday, March 18

Conference Network Team Strategic Meeting

### Thursday, March 19

National Ministry Team Meeting

### Sunday, March 22

Passion Sunday  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday  
Liturgical Color - Purple

## APRIL 2026

### Wednesday, April 1

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the EC Church

### Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday

### Friday, April 3

Good Friday  
EC Church Center Closed

### Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday  
Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension  
Liturgical Color - White

### Monday, April 6

EC Church Center Closed

### Sunday, April 12

Liturgical Color - White

### Tuesday, April 14

EC Benefits Meeting

### Wednesday, April 15

EC Benefits Services Fee Due

### Sunday, April 19

Liturgical Color - White

### Wednesday, April 22

Administrative Professionals Day

### Friday, April 24

Episcopacy Committee Meeting

### Sunday, April 26

Liturgical Color - White

## Ministry Funds, Insurance & Benefits and Self-Denial Offering\*

Mail to:

EC Church Center  
100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067





## Mindful Leadership

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you even as your soul is getting along well.”

3 John 1:2

Evangelical Congregational Church Center  
100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-7581

[office@eccenter.com](mailto:office@eccenter.com) / [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



### Contributors

**Bishop Randy Sizemore**

**Kevin Henry**

**Rev. Wayne Houck**

**Dee Jaramillo**

**Rev. Mike Snedeker**

**Rev. Adam Roberts**

**Rev. W. Joel Copeland, Jr.**

**Kaitlin Logan**

**Wendy Beard**

March 2026 Edition - Editor/Art Design

### STAFF

Rev. Randy Sizemore - Bishop  
[rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com)

Jodi Earhart - Assistant to the Bishop  
[jearthart@eccenter.com](mailto:jearthart@eccenter.com)

Kevin Henry - Executive Director  
[khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com)

Shirley Long - Business Office Specialist  
[slong@eccenter.com](mailto:slong@eccenter.com)

Bethany White - NC Administrative Assistant /  
Business Office and Benefits Corp Specialist  
[bwhite@eccenter.com](mailto:bwhite@eccenter.com)

Wendy Beard - NC Communications Coordinator  
[wbeard@eccenter.com](mailto:wbeard@eccenter.com)

Denise Jaramillo - GMC Deputy Director  
[ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com)

### ASSOCIATES

Rev. Wayne Houck - Church Health  
[waynehouck@gmail.com](mailto:waynehouck@gmail.com)

Rev. J. Ted Rathman - Global Ministries  
[pastorted@graceecchurch.org](mailto:pastorted@graceecchurch.org)

Rev. Mike Snedeker - Kingdom Extension  
[msnedeker@eccenter.com](mailto:msnedeker@eccenter.com)

Rev. Matthew Hill - Ministerial Development  
[matt@stpaulsreamstown.com](mailto:matt@stpaulsreamstown.com)