

ECCLEASIA

FEBRUARY 2018



From the Bishop:

Gloria and I started the new year with a trip to Israel. We joined with denominational leaders, all board members of the National Association of Evangelicals, on a trip sponsored by the Center for Holy Lands Studies and the Israel Department of Tourism. A lot of people wondered if we'd be safe (yes) and Gloria said it seemed like a lot of money to spend and a long way to go just to get blown up (we didn't). The Lord's presence was felt in many places and in many ways.

One of the locations we visited was the Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter, a Franciscan church on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. The church contains a sec-

tion of the bedrock coming through the floor in front of the altar; it was supposed to be the spot where, after the resurrection, Jesus made a breakfast for the disciples and reinstated Peter (John 21). I'm not going to guarantee that it was the exact spot; but close enough for me that as Gloria and I sat together and then walked along the shore the question Jesus asked Peter kept coming to my mind and heart. Three times Jesus asked "Do you love me?"



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We returned from Israel on a Saturday night and my week was filled with our Pastoral Assessment Center. As in past years we talked about the essential qualities for every pastor in the EC Church. (You can find that list in the Appendix of the Conference Journal.) Since this newsletter you're reading is called the EC LEADER, I'm going to assume that you are a pastor or lay leader or an EC congregation, and I'm going to say the list of essential qualities applies in some way to you. But over all of the gifts and graces, all the qualities, Jesus still asks this question of his followers: "Do you love me?" A number of years later, the Apostle Paul would write about love and compare it to a very impressive list of actions, even miraculous acts; but the Holy Spirit inspired him to say without love even miracles don't matter.



Our lives, our ministries, our leadership, are nothing if not firmly founded in a deep and abiding love of God in Christ. The Acts of the Apostles and church history tell us that Peter preached amazing sermons, led the early church, and gave his life for the Gospel. Very impressive; but only made possible because of love. Being a leader in the church today is a challenging calling; there are so many demands on our time, so many things to know and things to do. But in all the busyness of ministry may we always be filled with deep love of and for our Savior and Lord. Oh, how he loves us! May we give ourselves over to him in complete devotion and overwhelming love.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bishop".



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List

1. Join me in praying for the Lord's leading of the Stationing Committee as we seek to find assignments where both pastor and church can "fit and flourish."
2. Pray for our denominational leaders, communities, and committees as they prepare reports and updates for the National Ministry Team meeting in March.
3. Pray for our international conferences and leaders as they seek to follow God's leading in challenging times and circumstances all around the world.
4. Pray for the candidates and the search committee as we follow the Lord's leading in finding our denomination's next Global Ministries Associate.
5. Ask the Lord to guide my thoughts as I continue to plan for our National Conference. Don't forget the change in dates: NC2018 is May 30, 31, June 1.
6. Thank the Lord for safe travels and, more importantly, a meaningful trip Gloria and I were able to take to Israel with other members of the National Association of Evangelicals board.
7. Praise the Lord for continued progress in the construction of the ECC-Nepal church center facilities including a wall and gate.
8. Since we're celebrating Valentine's Day, join me in praising God for my wife, Gloria; a great source of encouragement and love, even as she works full-time and deals with my crazy schedule.
9. Praise God for the churches and individuals who continue to financially support Evangelical Seminary, Camp ECCO, Rock River and Twin Pines—and please keep it up!
10. Thank you and thank the Lord with me for the many people who remind me that they are praying for me as Bishop and for Gloria and I as we travel around the conference on Sundays.



Global Ministries Community



♡ **Joe Toy** wants to thank everyone who contributed Christmas stockings for his annual distribution in Philadelphia. Approximately 785 stockings plus hats, gloves and scarves were donated from 13 EC Churches. Although Joe had to postpone the first distribution date due to weather, he was able to hand everything out and reports that the stockings and other items were much appreciated. Joe will be heading to Minneapolis in late January/February for open air ministry at the Super Bowl, and then to New Orleans for Mardi Gras outreach February 7-15. He would appreciate your prayers for safety in travel and at the events, as there are often rowdy crowds due to the alcohol consumption associated with these events.

♡ Congratulations to **Yori-yoshi and Emiko Abe** on the birth of their first child. Daughter Kanae was born the day after Christmas. Her name means 'to praise God's grace.' The Abes are church planters in Ebina City, Japan.



♡ **Jim & Janet Stahl** are in the process of moving from Texas to their home town of Bethlehem, PA. They will still be working with Wycliffe-The Seed Company, but felt they needed to be closer to their support base and to Jim's mother, who fell recently and broke her hip. We will let you know their new address once they have purchased a house and are settled in. Please keep them in prayer during this time of transition.

♡ **Robert and Bettina Schaeffer** are celebrating 20 years of service as EC missionaries this year. Congratulations! The Schaeffers serve with LIFE Ministries in NY, and once a month also work with a group in West Lawn, PA. In addition, Robert pastors a church in St. Clair, PA and Bettina is a licensed Pilates instructor.

♡ Please continue to keep **Ed & Val Schubert**, their workers, volunteers and family in prayer. For now, the situation in Honduras seems to be contained, but could flare up at any time. Pray for safety and inner peace during this time of such turmoil all around them.

♡ **Cassie Wells**, who is still technically a missionary candidate, was able to start full time with her assignment at Kutztown University with Disciple Makers, a campus ministry. Cassie was able to meet her support goals in January. She will be commissioned in mid-March. Congratulations, Cassie!

♡ **2018 Missions Directories** are now available from the GMC office. It is easier (and cheaper) for us to email it to you, but if you need a hard copy, we will gladly send one to you. We do not post the information from the directory to our website because some of our missionaries work in sensitive areas or with sensitive groups who may be monitored by hostile organizations.

♡ Our **2018 VBS Project** will be to raise \$10,000 for the library at Evangelical College of Theology in Manipur, India. They are adding a masters degree in missions and need to have some specialized books for the program available for the students to use in the library.

♡ Please keep **Bishop Bruce Hill** and all those involved in the process of selecting the next Global Ministries Associate in prayer. Rev. Randy Sizemore's term will end June 30th and he has decided not to run for another term. Pray that God's choice for this position will be made clear.





Computers Donated to a Kenyan Orphanage

In May of last year, StoneRidge Retirement Living Communities* reported in StoneRidge Living magazine that several computers were donated to an orphanage in Kenya. Rev. Gabriel Kioi, who serves as chaplain at StoneRidge Towne Centre, spearheaded the mission to raise the funds to upgrade the computers and ship them to the orphanage. We received word in early January that ten computers arrived at Patty's Heart Children's Home located in the Western Kenyan village of Soy. The children and staff were elated and could not wait to use them.



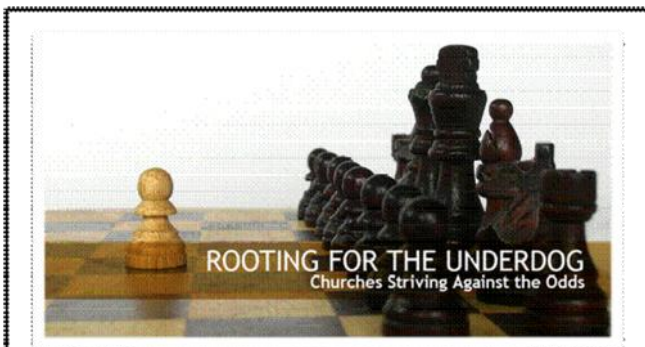
Patty's Heart Children's Home, a "House of Love for Kenya's Children," was founded in 2011 by Pastor Ben Amwayi. The ministry provides an emergency refuge for more than 40 children, and it has been recognized by the government as one of the cleanest and best-managed children's homes in western Kenya.



*StoneRidge Retirement Living Communities is comprised of four retirement communities in South Central Pennsylvania. Locations include StoneRidge Poplar Run and StoneRidge Towne Centre both in Myerstown and Church of God Home in Carlisle and Schoolyard Square in Pine Grove. For more information about options available for you or a loved one, visit us online at www.StoneRidgeRetirement.com or call us at 717-866-3553. StoneRidge Retirement Living is all about just that—living!



SAVE THE DATE



This day of storytelling, teaching, and mutual encouragement will stir hope and offer tools to challenged and/or under-resourced churches. Break-out sessions will allow leadership teams and denominational cohorts to interact through the day. For now, save the date and place: Saturday, March 17 at New Life Community Church in Carlisle, PA.

What's Happening at Twin Pines from February—May 2018 ??



Winter Thaw Youth Group Retreat Feb. 16-18, 2018

Theme: Transform—Romans 12:2

Winter Thaw 2018 will focus on transforming teens to become the best God has for them and their future. Join

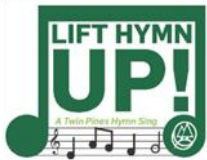
other teens facing these same challenges for a winter weekend youth retreat in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Come to experience camp fun, worship, friends, Bible study, and Christ's transforming love and grace.

Warning: teens will return different from when they arrive!

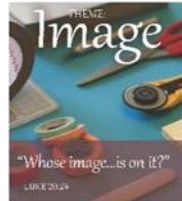
February speaker is Rev. Wayne Morgan; with worship music led by a worship team from Clarks Summit University.



Lift Hymn Up! Hymn Sing March 18



The first 2018 Lift Hymn Up! Will be hosted by Clarks Valley Zion EC Church, Dauphin, PA. Join us at 3:00 PM to sing hymns of faith. Start deciding now which hymn is your favorite that you want to have sung.



Craft Retreat—April 6-8

Spend time away from your "normal life" crafting, laughing and sharing. Bring whatever craft you wish to make progress with. Times are flexible for you to get up as early as you want, or stay up at late as you want to work on your craft. There is now an extension option available to craft Thursday evening & all day Friday.



Spring Fling Children Retreat April 27-29

Twin Pines will again offer a retreat for children. This year's Spring Fling theme is **UR**. It will challenge children in their faith; and guide them to a better understanding of who they are in Christ. The retreat is for groups of children between 3rd & 5th grade. Churches provide their own group leadership. Information, promotional poster and registration materials are available now at <http://bit.ly/SpringFling2018>.



Twin Pines Adult Retreat May 4-6

Save the date. More information coming soon.

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Learn more about all of these at www.twinpines.org



MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY IMPORTANT DATES

March 1	Applications Due for New & Transferring Credentials and Itinerancy
March 1	Renewal Applications Due for Credentials Requiring Annual Renewal (for Deacon/Deaconess/Lay Preacher/Licensed and Local Candidate)
June 1	Questions for Applicants at National Conference for New Credential Recipients
June 1	Deadline for Enrollment in 2019 Pastoral Assessment Center

Kingdom Extension Community



FRESH EXPRESSIONS NATIONAL GATHERING 2018

From the Steeple to Street: Leadership in a New Mission Era

**Friday, March 16, 2018, 9:00 AM—
Saturday, March 17, 2018, 3:30 PM**

**Heritage Fellowship Church
2501 Fox Mill Road
Reston, VA 20191**

The Church is rediscovering its identity in mission. More and more churches are taking seriously the call to engage with their communities...and many more would like to. But this new mission landscape is going to need new skills of leadership. Bold, risk-taking, creative, discerning leadership. Leaders who will move to the mission edges and foster fresh expressions of church. Leaders who will take on the adaptive challenges within existing churches to catalyze new energy for mission. Leaders who will make room for experiments and risks for the sake of the gospel.

It's time to move from merely talking about it and wishing for it...to doing it.

Join with other church leaders and pioneers to be energized and equipped to be a collaborative, innovative, and courageous leader. Catch the vision for a Church that is willing to fling open the doors and step out into the streets. Respond to the Spirit's invitation to be a sign and foretaste of the kingdom of God in the midst of everyday world all around us.

Visit www.freshexpressionsus.org/FXNG2018 for more information about the Conference, Pre-Conference Events, presenters, schedule, hotels and more. Register now and save up to \$60 per person. Registration scholarships are available; contact Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate (revcool@ptd.net or 717-951-8433).

CHECK OUT THIS ARTICLE!

Top 30 Pastor Conferences for 2018 in the U.S.
by Christine Yount Jones ... December 12, 2017

We put together this list of the top 30 pastor conferences for 2018 in the United States so you, pastor and church leader, can get the training, refreshment, and encouragement you so deserve in 2018. This is a multi-denominational list in chronological order because the church is multi-denominational. Our hope is you find the training you need.



Link... <https://churchleaders.com/pastors/314703-top-30-pastor-conferences-for-2018-in-the-u-s.html/2>



Exponential 2018 Live Stream Event

- ◆ Tuesday, February 27, 2018... 11:00am to 5:30pm (\$10/person; includes lunch)
- ◆ Community EC Church, Sinking Spring, PA
- ◆ Register by contacting Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net) by February 19

Exponential is a growing community of leaders committed to accelerating the multiplication of healthy, reproducing faith communities. They champion church multiplication and equip church multipliers as they seek to help move the needle on multiplication from less than 1% of churches actively reproducing to greater than 10%!

Exponential East 2018 is the next event, a gathering of thousands of church planting leaders in Orlando. But you don't have to go to Orlando to experience some of the event, and enjoy serious conversation that just might change your life and the life of your church.

As we have in the past, we will gather more locally (Community EC in Sinking Spring and, hopefully, in other places) to watch live streamed sessions, as well as videos of past sessions and other speakers, AND discuss what we might do next.

This year's theme, Hero Maker, will focus on the five essential practices of moving from hero (standing on the platform) to hero maker (building a platform for others). Topics/themes will include... multiplication thinking, permission giving, disciple multiplying, gift activating and kingdom building. Please check out the following link for more details regarding the Orlando event (<https://exponential.org/2018#section-3>).

We invite you to join us as we join Exponential East 2018 and begin conversations that focus on what it looks like to identify, develop and deploy the next generation of heroes.

News from the Executive Director

The deadline to distribute W-2s to employees, including pastors, is January 31, 2018 with the employer filing deadline also January 31, 2018 if filed electronically or on paper. Social Security Administration's Business Services Online (BSO), www.ssa.gov/bsa, is an easy convenient method for producing the employee and employer copies of the W-2 on white paper, no forms, and for filing the W-2s electronically with SSA. We encourage all church treasurers that produce their W-2s in-house to use the SSA BSO services.



The Annual Reports and fourth quarterly Ministerial Update forms are both due by January 25, 2018. Reports can be emailed to office@eccenter.com or mailed to the EC Church Center, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.

Due Dates:

Disability Payment—\$100.00 due Jan. 15

Annual Statistical Reports due Jan. 25

Workers Compensation Insurance Information due 30 days after receipt of the request for payroll information. **To be in compliance with a new PA Dept. of Workers Compensation regulation all churches much include their official church name and tax id number on the workers comp request for payroll information form.**

Please remember that the EC Benefits administrative fee is due from churches on April 15, 2018, retirees are not subject to the fee. The 2017 disability premiums are due January 15, 2018. Please remit them as soon as possible. The due dates for the administrative fee and disability premium are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC Church website, www.eccenter.com

Pastor's Compensation forms were due January 15, 2018. If you have not done so please return your compensation forms to Dave King as soon as possible. We will be contacting churches in early February that have not submitted 2018 compensation forms and requesting compliance.

Please begin using the 2018 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2017 should be remitted on the 2017 Ministry Fund forms.

The 2018 Business Mileage Reimbursement decreased to \$.545/mile on January 1, 2018.

Year end giving statements to donors must include a phrase similar to or contain words "no goods or services were exchanged for these contributions or consisted entirely of a religious nature." The IRS has resources available, www.irs.gov, to assist with charitable contributions; Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations and Publication 526 Charitable Contributions.

Please contact David King, Benefits Administrator, dking@eccenter.com or myself, khenry@eccenter.com with any questions, 1-800-866-7581.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director

Dave King
Benefits Administrator



Evangelical Congregational Church

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



February 7-14 National Marriage Week USA *Let's Strengthen Marriage*

There is hope for marriage! Help your marriage—or others—during National Marriage Week USA—February 7-14th

A campaign to encourage marriage, reduce divorce rates, curtail poverty, and benefit children

**Do you want to grow your church and help your community have more success in marriage?
Join the movement during National Marriage Week—a collaborative campaign to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate and build a culture that fosters strong marriages!
We know that marriage greatly benefits children and prevents poverty.**

Here are just a few activities that you can do to grow your church and serve your community:

- ◆ Preach and teach about marriage during National Marriage Week
 - ◆ Distribute our church bulletin insert
 - ◆ Launch a new marriage class or special event

The goal is to elevate attention on the need to strengthen marriage and ways to do it, and initiate new efforts to reduce the divorce rate and build stronger marriage, which in turn helps curtail poverty and benefits children.

Resources in the **NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org** “Tool Kit” include:

- ◆ Pastors and churches can launch new marriage classes, sermon series, or host a major weekend marriage conference.
 - ◆ Date Night Events: Ideas and Broadcasts
- ◆ Free webinars featuring national leaders. Go to www.marriageweek.org
- ◆ Marriage tips brochures. Place them doctor's offices, hair salons, and other businesses.
 - ◆ Public Service Announcements (PSA) you can record for local radio.
 - ◆ Advertisements for “Penny Savers” or local newspapers.
 - ◆ Schools can sponsor assemblies on healthy relationship skills.
 - ◆ Renewal of Vows ceremony.
- ◆ Most importantly, work on your own marriage—with lots of ideas and resources for where to go for help at www.nationalmarriageweekUSA.org

February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Evangelical Seminary Board Mtg.	2 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	3 4 Chaplains Run
4 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	5	6 StoneRidge Trustee Mtg. Chaplaincy Comm. Mtg.	7	8 Episcopacy Committee Mtg.	9	10
11 <i>Church Planting Offering</i>	12 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg.	13 Benefits Corp. Mtg. Youth Network Mtg.	14 ASH WEDNESDAY VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Church Pension Contribution Due Health Insurance Due	16	17
18 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	19 Info for MARCH EC Leader Due PRESIDENTS' DAY	20	21	22	23	24
25 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	26	27 Exponential Live Stream	28 Church Health Community Mtg.			

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

Church Planting Offering to:
EC Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designated—Church Planting Offering)

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

March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	3
4 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	5	6 StoneRidge Trustee Mtg.	7	8	9	10
11 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT <i>Self-Denial Offering</i>	12	13 Global Ministries Community Mtg..	14 Conference Network Team Mtg.	15 Health I nsurance Due National Ministry Team Mtg.	16	17
18 PASSION SUNDAY	19 Info for MARCH EC Leader Due PRESIDENTS' DAY	20 Loan & Investment Committee Mtg.	21	22 Heritage Committee Mtg.	23 Finance Committee Mtg.	24
25 PALM SUNDAY	26	27	28 Deadline for National Conference Reports	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY	30 GOOD FRIDAY Church Center Closed	

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

Self-Denial Offering to:
EC Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designated—Self-Denial Offering)

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