



EC LEADER

FEBRUARY 2019

From the Bishop:

What's next? It's a very short question; but it's one we are all familiar with. We move from project to project; from one appointment to the next. I see it in my own daily schedule, in our family, in the lives of the people I talk to every day, and in the life of many local congregations. You, like me, have no doubt talked with retirees who state they are so busy now they wonder how they had time to go to work! There is so much that fills our busy lives that we rush from one thing to the next without much thought beyond the next thing on our "to do" list. Do you identify with that?

And yet the reality is, as the psalmist David wrote, "...all our

busy rushing ends in nothing." (Psalm 39:6) I saw a bumper sticker that said "Jesus is coming again—look busy!" Yikes! Is that what it's all about, looking busy? I suppose the easy answer that it's part of the human condition; it's part of our culture; it's just the way it is. But that doesn't change the truth of Scripture.

I have to say I'm not a huge fan of winter; fall and summer are more to my liking most of the time; but one

thing I do like about winter is having at least one big snow storm. Lots of people head south to get away from the snow, and I understand that, except for that one big storm. They're missing something when they're basking in warmth



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and we're covered with snow. The reason I look forward to the one big storm is that it makes me, and all of us, stop our busy rushing. Yes, there is snow to shovel or blow; but what it really forces us to do is sit still, relax, and watch the snow.

"Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10) Those words from the Lord are preceded by things that are a lot more exciting than a snow storm: earthquakes, crumbling trembling mountains, roaring oceans and surging waters; and nations in chaos, crumbling kingdoms. And in the midst of all of that the Lord instructs his people to be "Be still, and know that I am God." I think that's why I like that one big snow storm—it forces me, and all of us to stop all the rushing, to cancel those important appointments and things on the "to do" list, and be still.

I know I shouldn't have to depend on a snow storm to do it; but sometimes we all need a little help. So I'm going to look for opportunities to be still before the Lord; to rest, to worship, and to listen no matter what the weather's like. And I'm still going to wait for that snow storm to come.

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer ☪ Praise List

1. Pray for the Stationing Elders who are beginning to work with pastors and congregations in the stationing process.
2. This month we celebrate President's Day; so join me in praying for the President and all those in our government.
3. Pray for the Lord's leading as we continue our strategic evaluation of our denomination's structure.
4. Pray for a safe trip as I accompany an Operation Christmas Child team on a shoebox distribution ministry to Peru, February 10-14.
5. Ask the Lord to bless Gloria who will be spending Valentine's Day at home alone.
6. Pray for the pastors who will be taking the EC History & Polity Course and EC Ethos (theology) Course in the next couple of months.
7. Praise the Lord for the committed missionary work being done by our EC missionaries all around the world. (And remember we are all commissioned to "go make disciples.")
8. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, thank the Lord for the loved ones in your life. And don't forget to express that love to them!
9. Praise the Lord for opportunities I have had facilitating leadership workshops with various ministry councils and local leadership teams.
10. Praise God for his blessing of our denomination with another successful Pastoral Assessment Center. (And pray for the Lord's blessing of those serving him in various ways.)

News from the Executive Director

- The deadline to distribute W-2s to employees, including pastors, is January 31, 2019 with the employer filing deadline also January 31, 2019 if filed electronically or on paper. Social Security Administration's Business Services Online (BSO), www.ssa.gov/bso, 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.
- **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 must 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, 2019, retirees are not subject to the fee. The 2019 disability premiums are due January 15, 2019. Please remit them as soon as possible. The due dates for the administrative fee and disability premium are listed in the 2019 Treasurer's Guide available on the EC Center website www.eccenter.com.
- Pastor's Compensation forms were due on January 15, 2019. 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 2019 compensation forms and requesting compliance.
- Please begin using the 2019 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2018 should be remitted on the 2018 Ministry Fund forms.
- The Annual Reports and fourth quarter Ministerial Update forms are both due by January 25, 2019. Reports can be mailed to office@eccenter.com or mailed to the EC Church Center, 100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.
- The 2019 Business Mileage Reimbursement increased to \$.58/mile on January 1, 2019.
- Year end giving statements to donors must include a phrase similar to or contain the 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.

As always please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, dking@eccenter.com or myself, khenry@eccenter.com with any questions, 1-800-866-7581.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director

David King
Benefits Administrator



FOR THE FIRST TIME in seventeen years the National Conference has implemented a new donor management and communication system called eTapestry by Blackbaud. Individuals and churches that have made donations in January 2019 to Global Ministries or Kingdom Extension have received giving receipts that look different and may have been delivered by email. Our new system will increase the communication capabilities of the denominational staff with electronic communication becoming our new default communication method.

Not every denominational publication can be or will be communicated electronically and we know some recipients prefer a hard copy of a particular publication. We will honor a recipient's preference for a particular publication in hard copy when possible. Electronic communication is the current standard that may require changes to process and procedures at the denominational offices as well as the local church to accommodate increasing electronic communication.

With any new system implementation there will be bumps, mistakes and issues that will arise. We may be asking for email address or confirming email address of local church pastoral and lay leadership. Our apologies for any confusion that has already occurred and most likely will occur in the future. Please contact us with issues or problems as we rollout our new system and thanks for your patience.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director

Global Ministries Community

- **Beth Grimm** spent January 8-29 in Guatemala, testing, evaluating, and developing lesson plans for MK's at Christian Academy of Guatemala, her former mission field. Beth works with MK's who have been diagnosed or are suspected of having learning disabilities.
- **Rev. Joe Toy** reports that he was able to distribute 800 Christmas stockings to underprivileged children throughout the greater Philadelphia area. A good number of these came from EC churches; thank you for your generosity.
- Please keep **Dr. Juliana Lesher** in prayer as she begins a new position within the Veteran Affairs organization. Juliana had been serving as the Chief of Chaplain Services for the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio, TX. She has been tapped to serve as the new National Director of Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy. This will require a move to suburban Washington, D.C. (Hampton, VA area) and is a two-year term, the possibility of only one additional two-year term. Juliana will be in charge of 1,000 Veteran Affairs Chaplains of various faith traditions, nation-wide. This is a great privilege and an even greater responsibility. Pray for wisdom and peach as she seeks to serve God and country well.
- **Robert and Bettina Schaeffer** will celebrate 20 years of marriage this year. They are planning a celebration vacation next month to the Bavarian Alps in southern Germany with Bettina's brother and sister-in-law. Happy Anniversary!
- **Rev. Joe Toy** will be traveling quite a bit at the beginning and the end of this month. From the 1st to the 4th, he and his team will be doing evangelism at the Super Bowl in Atlanta, GA. Then at the end of the month (and into early March), he and his team will return to Mardi Gras to witness to people on the streets. Both events bring large crowds and some very inebriated individuals, so pray for safety for Joe and his fellow workers as they witness. Joe would also appreciate prayer for travelling mercies to and from both the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras.
- A recognition luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 23rd for missionaries **John & Carolyn Miller and Jim & Joan Farr**. The luncheon will be held at the Commons of Evangelical Seminary. Cost and details are not available at this time, but will be sent out soon.
- The Delaware Missions Brunch will be held on Thursday, March 28th. Our Hope Community EC Church in Fogelsville will be hosting once again. The brunch begins at 10:00 and ends at noon. Watch for more details.



New Leadership at Camp ECCO

In October, the board of Camp ECCO elected Mark Reigle, an EC Local Candidate Pastor as their new chairman of the board after Rev. Scott Carr of First EC, Akron, OH stepped down after serving as camp chairman for many, many years. Mark received his local candidate license at National Conference in 2018 and is the son of retired EC pastor, Richard and Rebecca Reigle.

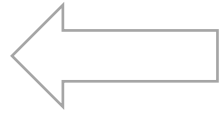
Camp ECCO is one of three campgrounds that have been affiliated with the EC Church for many years. Camp ECCO serves the Buckeye and Allegheny Districts of the Great Lakes Region. If you or your church is interested in renting the camp for a weekend retreat or being a part of the EC summer camping program, please contact Mark at mreigle82@gmail.com or visit www.campecco.org.

3DM LEARNING COMMUNITY



Coming to Eastern PA

March 21-23, 2019



IMMERSION

state of being deeply engaged or involved; absorption.



If you're like me, you've read, listened, conferenced, seminar-ed, podcasted & webinar-ed your way to an endless mountain of ideas, notes and dreams.... only to move on to the next one without ever seeing much fruit for the kingdom.

It's time for a **LEARNING COMMUNITY** – an **immersion** experience that will offer some information, consult us in some application of that information and invite us into an apprenticeship relationship where we can imitate a discipling leader. A **3DM LEARNING COMMUNITY** offers a depth of engagement rarely seen in information-heavy conferences and seminars.



But make no mistake, a **LEARNING COMMUNITY** will challenge your time, availability and finances. So, **begin considering NOW** how badly you desire to see the Great Commission become a reality for you, your family, your church and your community. If you're ready OR if you're not sure but curious, reach out to me for more info. I'll gladly answer any questions you or your leadership might have!

More info here:

<https://3dmovements.com/communities/overview/>

Al Giles

pastoral@ptd.net

610-389-5857



Kingdom Extension Community

CHECK OUT THIS ARTICLE!

Top 34 Pastor Conferences for 2019 in the U.S.

By Christine Yount . . . December 28, 2018

This is from churchleaders.com. . .

"We put together this list of the top 34 pastor conferences for 2019 in the United States for you, pastor and church leader, can get the training, refreshment, and encouragement you so deserve in 2019. This is a multi-denominational list in chronological order because the church is multi-denominational. Our hope is you find the training you need."

(<https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/340597-top-30-pastor-conferences-for-2019-in-the-u-s.html>)

This annual list of pastor conferences, assembled in chronological order, includes events for pastors only, for church leadership teams, and for anyone who might be interested. Topics range from theology to self-care, Sunday school curriculum to church planting. Check it out. You might find something to scratch where you itch.

SAVE THE DATE

The Art of Neighboring: Connecting with our Local Communities

Saturday, March 16, 2019 . . . 9:00 am—3:30 pm

Join with ministry peers to learn 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 interactive sessions will be for each church represented to generate action steps to build relationships and ministries with your neighbors.

Sponsored by Barnabas Initiatives (www.barnabasinitiatives.org)

To be held in Akron, PA

MORE information to follow.

Exponential 2019

March 4-7, 2019 . . . Orlando

Made for More: Mobilizing God's People, God's Way

The theme focuses on how each of us are called for more in our lives, churches, and networks.

The speakers will walk through the 6 chapters of Ephesians during the main sessions.

- Shift 1: From More Effort to More Jesus
- Shift 2: From More Volunteers to More Masterpieces
- Shift 3: From More Guilt to More Love
- Shift 4: From More Hierarchy to More Missionaries
- Shift 5: From More Programs to More Mission Fields
- Shift 6: From More Strategy to More Surrender

Exponential 2019 Live Stream Event

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 . . . 11:30 am to 5:30 pm (\$10/person; includes lunch)

Community EC Church, Sinking Spring, PA

Join your ministry peers as we watch live stream sessions, discuss ministry pros and cons, and encourage one another. Past events have provided opportunity to learn, to discover new partners for the journey, and to image something new for you and your church.

Register by contacting Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net) by February 22



What's happening at Twin Pines Camp During the Winter & Spring?

Men's Retreat—March 29-31, 2019



A weekend for Men to get together and focus on strengthening their relationship and discipleship of Jesus. You'll not only have the chance to hear inspiring teaching by Jim Ehrman, but also enjoy the great outdoors, play sports, and put the busyness of life in proper focus. There will even be a special

'Men's Meal.'

<http://bit.ly/2019MensRetreat>

Craft Retreat—April 4-7, 2019



Enjoy a laid-back weekend of fellowship and Bible study while working on your own crafts. There will also be a special craft for all to learn.

Retreat Theme—*Se(o)wing for God*

[Bit.ly/2019CR](http://bit.ly/2019CR)

Spring Fling Children Retreat—April 26-28, 2019



For children in grades 3rd to 5th. If your ministry includes 6th graders, they may attend as well.

Great for: Sunday School classes; Awana; American Heritage Girls; Trail Life Boys; Children's Ministry Groups

Retreat theme—*A Twin Pines Royal Weekend*

[Bit.ly/2019SF](http://bit.ly/2019SF)

Spring Spruce Up—May 7-9, 2019



Get away for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spend time with God. Housing, breakfast and spiritual guidance materials are provided in the weekend rate. Gather your friends together and enjoy a few days at camp.

[Bit.ly/19SpruceUp](http://bit.ly/19SpruceUp)

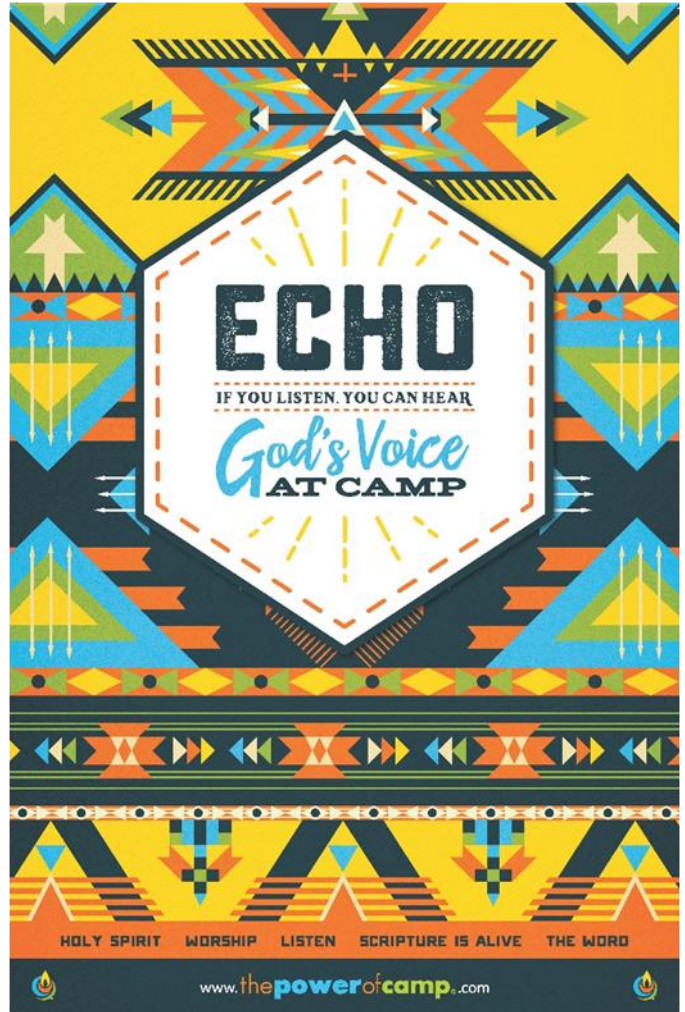
For Ladies Only Retreat—May 14-16, 2019



Are exciting mid-week retreat "for ladies only." Come enjoy fellowship, worship, and in-depth Bible learning as the retreat looks at what it means to be a woman of God. Back by popular demand, musician & speaker, Sue Duffield.

[Bit.ly/2019ladies-retreat](http://bit.ly/2019ladies-retreat)

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Many people do not take time to listen to God's voice. You can help them do so by offering a retreat at Twin Pines Camp. While at Twin Pines, many people have heard God speak into their lives because they are away from daily influences.

A retreat at Twin Pines is good for:
Bible Study Groups Sunday school classes
Board/Council Getaways Men/Women's Group

To speak to someone about a retreat, contact Jason Price, Guest Services Coordinator, at 570-236-2737.

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

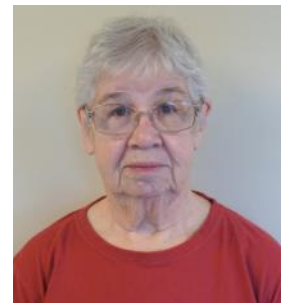
Evangelical Congregational Church

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



reflections

"After a full year at StoneRidge Poplar Run in Myerstown, we can truly say that we have fully retired! The experience is very different in that now we do mostly whatever we feel like doing. This is due to the wonderful amenities in this community such as having someone clean your apartment on a regular basis. Our routine includes going to Vistas Restaurant each day for our evening meal. We typically enjoy sharing dinner with friends but also enjoy sharing a meal with new friends. Carole really enjoys the people. There is always someone to talk with and plenty to do if you care to be involved. The quilting club gets together on Mondays to work on a common project and to fellowship. Each woman in the club has different abilities and we all work together and learn from each other. We are happy we decided to move into Poplar Run."*



- - John and Carole Phillippi

*StoneRidge Retirement Living Communities is the parent company of four retirement communities in South Central Pennsylvania. Locations include StoneRidge Poplar Run and StoneRidge Towne Centre in Myerstown, 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 Living!



February 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	2 4 Chaplains Run
3 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	4	5 StoneRidge Board Mtg.	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Health Insurance Due	16
17	18 PRESIDENT'S DAY Info for March EC Leader Due	19 Benefits Corp Mtg.	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Church Health Community Mtg.	28		

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

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

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

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	2
3 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	4	5	6 ASH WEDNESDAY	7	8	9
10 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Daylight Savings Begins <i>Self-Denial Offering</i>	11 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg	12	13	14	15 Health Insurance Due Finance Comm. Mtg.	16
17 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	18 Info for April EC Leader Due	19 Loan & Investment Comm. Mtg.	20	21 National Ministry Team	22	23
24 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT						

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

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

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