

EC Leader



MARCH 2018

From the Bishop:

I'm not the kind of person who sees a demon behind every bush; but I do believe in the reality of spiritual warfare.

We are in a spiritual battle! In 2 Timothy 2, Paul, the older experienced leader was writing Timothy, the young leader, to urge Timothy to "endure suffering." Endurance

isn't usually a word that has a positive feel to it, and yet we realize it is a very real part of our lives. Yet endurance is vital to the life of a follower of Jesus as we go through times of stress and spiritual warfare.

Paul gives three examples of people who must endure: the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer. Each one deals with their own aspects of struggle and adversity. If you want a fun and easy profession don't pick one of those. So too, every servant of Jesus must be

prepared to face spiritual battles. The Christian life is a blessed life; but not necessarily an easy life. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I am to be in the world but not be of the

world; but that's not always easy, that in itself causes stress. Add to that the fact that temptation so often seems to be lurking just around the corner. How can we survive, let alone thrive?

So how do we endure the heat of battle? Three really quick examples:

1. David cried out in Psalm 13, "O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day?" But David goes on to say, "But I trust in your unflinching love."

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2. Moses was able to endure because “he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.” Moses had his eyes firmly locked on the Lord. (Hebrews 11:27)
3. Paul was able to endure because he knew “the word of God cannot be chained.” (2 Timothy 2:9) God was there. God was still at work.

The Lord is with us when we are so busy that we aren't specifically thinking of him; he is with you when you're so worn out you have trouble praying; he is there in the middle of the battle; he is with you when you feel so alone. In John 16:33 Jesus gave us the good news and the bad news. The bad news is “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.” There will be a need to endure. But the good news is Jesus has “overcome the world.” When we see him through eyes of faith, when we understand that it isn't about me but the growth of his Kingdom, we will be able to endure the battles and grow strong in our faith.

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List

1. Join me in praying for the Lord to clearly show us his will as we continue to work on stationing.
2. Pray for safety as I travel to Illinois this month for the National Association of Evangelicals board meeting as well as some visits and preaching in Illinois. (March 6-11)
3. Pray for the Lord's leading in our “week of day-long meetings”: Global Ministries Community (March 13); Conference Network Team (March 14); National Ministry Team (March 15).
4. Ask the Lord's blessing as the Finance Committee meets to work on the National Conference budget for 2019.
5. Join me in praying for the Holy Spirit to move in powerful ways during the special services our congregations will be holding holy week; culminating a great celebration of our risen Christ!
6. Thank the Lord for safety as Randy Sizemore and Pastor Rick Sergi visited Liberia; and for the good reports about the EC Church—Liberia they brought back.
7. Praise the Lord for the many personal growth/continuing education opportunities that are a part of the spring season. I'm scheduled to attend two so far; how about you?
8. Praise God for the faithful team we have serving the Lord on the staff of our EC Church Center.
9. Thank the Lord for the progress I've been able to make in planning for National Conference 2018. There's still a lot to do, but we're making progress!
10. Thank God for the strength, health and safety he has given Gloria and me during a very busy winter season of ministry.



Global Ministries Community

Self-Denial Offering: March 11, 2018

Please encourage your congregations to participate in the GMC Self-Denial offering. Since the GMC does not receive any Ministry Funds, this offering is critically important as one of the two major income sources for funding the costs of the Global Ministries Community.

GMC Board Meeting: March 13, 2018

Please be in prayer for those traveling and participating in the day-long GMC meeting on March 13th. Representatives and leaders of various committees, missionaries and Pat and Randy will be reporting on the activities and ministries of the past six months and planning and preparing for the next major transition of the GMC as Randy's term comes to an end in June and a new Global Ministries Associate begins in July.

Mission Brunch: March 16, 2018

The Delaware Region Missions Brunch will be held on Friday, March 16th at Hope Community EC Church in Fogelsville, PA. This is open to all those interested in our EC missions program. Come to hear updates on our EC missionaries and international fields! Reservations are necessary by March 2nd so we can give the caterer a head count. There is no required fee, but we would appreciate donations to offset the cost. Call the GMC office at 1-800-866-7584 or 717-866-7584, or email to ecglobal@eccenter.com. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!



Congratulations to **Cassie Wells**, who will be commissioned as an EC missionary on Sunday afternoon, March 18th. She will be commissioned in her home church of Trinity Lighthouse EC in Royersford, PA. Cassie is working with Disciple Makers and is serving at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA.

Congratulations to **Jim and Janet Stahl**, whose bid on a house in their home town of Bethlehem, PA was accepted. The Stahls were able to sell their home in Texas quickly and moved back to PA in early February. Their new address is: 1539 Monocacy Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Email and phone number will remain the same.

David Hershey and two other leaders from Christian Student Fellowship, along with 13 students, will be going to Jonesville, VA to work with the Appalachia Service Project from March 4-10. They will be joined by a group of 10 from Penn State Brandywine Campus. David is a campus minister at PSU-Berks Campus. Please pray for safety in travel and that this will be a good experience for the students as they help those who are living below the poverty level.

Rev. Joe Toy, Jr. will be going to Miami, FL with Liberty University students and OAC evangelists during spring break for outreach on the beach and boardwalk. The dates are March 15-25. Please keep Joe and the others in prayer for safety in travel and for open hearts to hear their message.

Brian and Missy Wagner will be taking a group of students from Rift Valley Academy, Kenya to Cairo, Egypt from March 15-21. It is part of RVA's cross cultural program to have students see other parts of Africa. Please keep them in prayer for a safe trip and a good experience for the group. Missy will be flying back to the USA at the end of March to visit her mother and two daughters studying here.

BJ and Rachel Whitaker give praise that BJ recently has been in discussions with the Catholic priests in his town of Alcora. The bishop has welcomed him as a Protestant pastor and has offered to arrange a meeting at the parish hall so BJ can explain what it means to be an evangelical Christian. Keep praying for open doors and that a working relationship can be established.

ADDRESS CORRECTION: The email address listed for Ed and Val Schubert in the 2018 Missions Director is incorrect. It should be: edvalerieschubert@gmail.com. Please correct your records.





On Monday, February 19, StoneRidge Retirement Living Communities kicked off their Team Member Wellness Program to improve the overall health and well-being of its over 600 team members. According to Dictionary.com, wellness is defined as “the quality or state of being healthy in body and mind, especially as a result of deliberate effort.” It is “an approach to health care that emphasizes preventing illness and prolonging life as opposed to treating diseases.”

Maintaining an optimal level of wellness is crucial to living a higher quality life. Wellness matters because everything we do and every emotion we feel relates to our well-being. In turn, our well-being directly affects our actions and emotions. Therefore, it is important for everyone to achieve optimal wellness in order to subdue stress, reduce the risk of illness and ensure positive interactions. The National Wellness Institute tells us that:

- ◆ Wellness is a conscious, self-directed and evolving process of achieving full potential
- ◆ Wellness is multi-dimensional and holistic, encompassing lifestyle, mental and spiritual well-being, and the environment and
- ◆ Wellness is positive and affirming



As you can see, the concept of wellness is broader than just our physical health and may be applied to most areas of our lives. At StoneRidge, we have established five pillars of wellness on which to focus. These include Physical Wellness, Intellectual Wellness, Emotional Wellness, Financial Wellness and Spiritual Wellness. Each month activities in these five areas will be offered to help our team members as they work to increase their overall fitness. These include short classes on physical fitness, financial budgeting, spirituality and knowing when to seek help and where to get it.

*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!



News from the Executive Director

Thanks to everyone who has returned the **Worker's Compensation audit forms** in a timely manner. The return rate year is very good. It is important that we receive all the salary information to obtain an accurate worker's compensation billing. Missing information will be estimated and most likely estimated higher than actual, resulting in a higher bill. Please help yourself and other EC churches by returning the Worker's Compensation audit forms.

The **annual disability premium** was due January 15 and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee is due by April 15, 2018, retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both of these fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website. Many have remitted the disability fee timely and a few have submitted the administrative fee and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurers 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.

Pastoral Compensation Forms

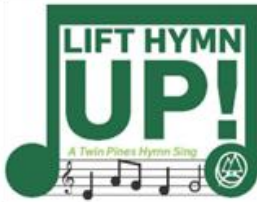
To date only about 50% of pastoral compensation forms have been returned. We will be reminding non-compliant churches to complete and submit their pastoral compensation forms. Please save Dave King some work by submitting your pastoral compensation forms as soon as possible.

As always, 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

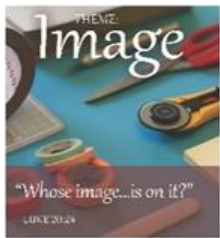
What's Happening at Twin Pines from February—May 2018 ??



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. More information available at <http://bit.ly/3-18LHU>.



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. Brochure and registration materials are available at <http://bit.ly/2018CraftRetreat>



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

Believers seek a time to retreat from their daily busyness and spend time with the Father, just as the Gospel writers state Jesus did. Enjoy spending a weekend with God in nature to rest, relax, and delve into the Word, with Rev. Jim Price as the speaker. He will focus on Exodus 34:6-8, and Moses' encounter with God, guiding you to be lost in wonder, love and praise. More information and registration is available at <http://bit.ly/TPAdultRetreat>



For Ladies Only Retreat May 15-17

Back by popular demand, Sue Duffield, with her love to make people laugh with her off-the-wall Jersey logic and sacred sarcasm. Not surprising, Sue has found it's a style of humor that resonates with audiences everywhere. Come to enjoy time with other ladies of faith, growth in your spiritual life, and time away from your normal life. For more information about Sue, and to register, go to http://bit.ly/2018_TPLadies.

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



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**

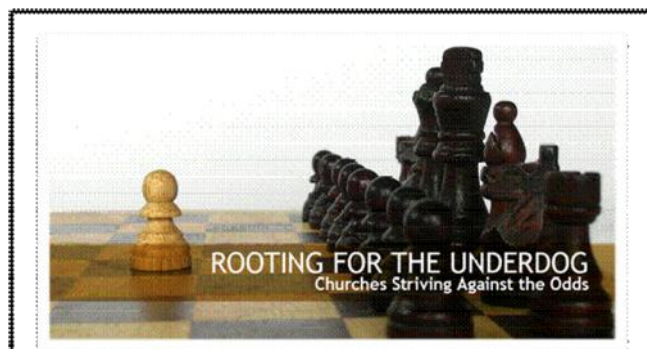
**Heritage Fellowship Church
2501 Fox Mill Road
Reston, VA 20191**

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).



Saturday, March 17

9:00 am—3:30 pm

at New Life Community Church
64 East North Street, Carlisle, PA

\$35 per person CEUs available

To learn more and register:

www.evangelical.edu/underdog

Presenters

Les Cool, Evangelical Congregational Church,
Akron, PA

Ryan Brown, New Life Community Church,
Carlisle, PA

Ryan Braught, Veritas Church, Lancaster, PA

Presented by

Barnabas Initiatives and Anabaptist Center at
Evangelical Seminary

A day of storytelling, teaching, and mutual encouragement—to root for the underdog, for churches choosing to push back against daunting odds. Presenters stir hope and offer tools for pastors and people in challenged and/or under-resourced churches. Break-out sessions allow leadership teams, clusters of pastors, and denominational cohorts to interact throughout the day.



PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Saturday, April 21

- ◆ 9:00 AM (Eastern) meeting live at Lakeside EC Church, 3203 North Hermitage Road, Transfer, PA 16154
- ◆ 8:00 AM (Central) meeting via video conference at Bethel EC Church, 131 North Court, Dixon, IL 61021

Tuesday, May 1—7:00 PM

St. Paul's EC Church
46 East Church Street, Reamstown, PA 17567

Saturday, May 5—9:00 AM

Christ EC Church
2135 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Thursday, May 10—7:00 PM

Zion EC Church
247 Zion Church Road, Pitman, PA 17964

Saturday, May 12—9:00 AM

First EC Church
55 West Main Street, Palmyra, PA 17078



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

Evangelical Congregational Church

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



Registration forms
will be available on
the EC website
(www.eccenter.com)
by March 12th.

2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 30, 31—June 1
Messiah College, Grantham, PA

What is the life of following Jesus all about? We go to church on Sunday morning to enjoy fellowship and worship. Those are good things; but is that all there is to it? An hour or two until next Sunday when we show up and do it all again; but nothing in between changes—there's no difference at home, work, school, or in our relationships. Paul tells us Jesus died so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ. We are to be ALL IN! That means more than what I do—it is who I am as a disciple of Jesus.

March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Church Center Closed <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 Hymn Sing, Youngstown, OH <i>Self-Denial Offering</i>	12	13 Global Ministries Community Mtg..	14 Conference Network Team Mtg.	15 Health Insurance Due National Ministry Team Mtg.	16 Delaware Region GMC Bruch	17 Rooting for The Underdog
18 PASSION SUNDAY Hymn Sing, Clarks Valley, PA	19 Info for APRIL EC Leader Due PRESIDENTS' DAY	20 Loan & Investment Committee Mtg.	21	22 Heritage Committee Mtg.	23 Finance Committee Mtg.	24 Camp ECCO's Got Talent, Knox EC
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

April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 EASTER SUNDAY <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	2 Church Center Closed	3	4	5	6 Craft Retreat, Twin Pines <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	7 Twin Pines
8 Craft Retreat, Twin Pines	9 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg.	10 Youth Network Mtg.	11	12	13 Health Insurance Due Twin Pines Board Mtg. Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat	14
15 Allegheny/Buckeye Women's Retreat	16	17	18 Episcopacy Mtg.	19	20	21 Pre-Conf. Mtg. Lakeside, Transfer And Bethel, Dixon
22	23 Info for MAY EC Leader Due	24 StoneRidge Trustee Mtg.	25	26 Evangelical Seminary Mtg.	27 StoneRidge Open House Spring Fling-Children	28 Retreat, Twin Pines
29 Spring Fling-Children Retreat, Twin Pines	30					

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 EC Church
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