

EC LEADER

MARCH 2019



From the Bishop:

Recently, I was able to participate in an Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoe box distribution in February. Several invitations were extended before but it never worked in my schedule. This year I finally made time and headed to Lima, Peru with a team of about 55 invited guests, like me, and OCC staff members. I'm glad I went!

Operation Christmas Child is most well known for collecting shoeboxes full of gifts for children in orphanages and other at-risk areas. But the amazing thing to watch was how much more is involved in providing these gifts to children in more than 100 countries. The shoeboxes are not an end to themselves—they are a tool, an illustration of the Good



News and great joy for all people. As OCC says, “The amazing journey of a shoebox gift begins with you and results in evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication.”

I was intrigued to see that OCC does not do this ministry on their own; they simply provide resources local congregations use to reach the children and families living in their communities. Long

before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The churches host child-friendly outreach events, and how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discip-

ship program.

- **Bishop’s Prayer & Praise**
- **News from the Executive Director**
- **National Conference**
- **Global Ministries Community**
- **StoneRidge Retirement Community**
- **Ministerial Development Community**
- **Twin Pines Camp**



In fact, the children who are invited to participate in outreach events like Vacation Bible School don't even know they are receiving a shoebox until it's handed to them. Local congregations host outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. In addition to the shoebox, every child received a copy of a short booklet, "The Greatest Gift" which tells them about God's great gift of love to us in Jesus and is invited back to participate in a discipleship program, "The Greatest Journey." During this 12-lesson discipleship course, which includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization, they learn how to follow Christ in their daily lives as they share him with friends and family. More than 14.9 million children have enrolled in this program since 2009 and 75% go on to complete the discipleship program. It was a joy to discover that some of our translators as well as some of the young adults leading the local outreach events had received shoeboxes years ago and now were deeply involved in ministering the Good News and great joy to the next generation.

So the next time you see an announcement about Operation Christmas Child or their shoebox ministry don't just think of gifts—think of evangelism, discipleship and multiplication!

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List

1. Please remember to pray for the Stationing Committee as they seek the Lord's will and help churches and pastors work together so they can all "fit and flourish."
2. Pray for safe travels as I participate in the National Association of Evangelicals board meeting (March 4-7) and then preach and visit in our Illinois District (March 23-31).
3. Ask the Lord to bless some key spring denominational meetings: Global Ministries Community (March 14), Conference Network Team Strategic Meeting (March 20), and the National Ministry Team (March 21).
4. Praise God for a number of our pastors and lay people who volunteer their time and talents on our denomination's communities, committees, and boards. We need each and every one!
5. Pray for a number of our pastors and their families who are dealing with significant illnesses and challenges.
6. Pray for our brothers and sisters in the EC Church—Japan as they send out Tomo and Jessica Abe as missionaries to Japanese students in France.
7. Please continue to pray for the Lord's guidance in the planning of our National Conference which will be held May 29-31.
8. Praise the Lord for a great trip to Peru with Operation Christmas Child and pray for all the children who are being touched by the Gospel.
9. Praise God for the reports we are receiving of growth in our local EC congregations. Continue to pray for those churches who struggle to return to spiritual health and vitality.
10. Thank the Lord for the way he encourages us just when we need it; through the kindness, support, assurances and even hugs individuals share.

News from the Executive Director

Thanks to everyone who has returned the **Worker's Compensation audit forms** in a timely manner. The return rate this 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, 2019, 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.

Treasurer's 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.

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 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 have begun soliciting the recipients of our hard copy publications how they choose to receive future copies: electronic or hard copy. If you have a preference to an email copy please respond accordingly. Thanks to those that have already responded. We will continue to offer paper copies of publications as long as the demand exists.

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

Who We Are

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

1 PETER 2:9



2019 National Conference

May 29-31

Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Some new info about the National Conference Registration

Registration for the 2019 National Conference will be available by mid March 2019. We are transitioning to a simplified registration process this year that will be predominately electronic and require changing some long standing practices. Such as there will be multiple educational sessions on Thursday afternoon this year that will require a second registration process. Below are the significant changes...

- The preferred registration method will be electronic with paper registration only as requested by the attendee.
- There will no longer be “send me an invoice” option upon registering. Payment will be required at the time of registration via a credit card or a check must accompany a paper registration.
- Each attendee will register separately, no combined pastoral or lay delegate registrations.
- Attendees will purchase a meal plan. There will be two meal plans available or purchase individual meals at the time of the National Conference.
- Meals purchased during National Conference must be paid at the time of purchase with a credit card, cash or check. We will not send invoices and multiple reminders.

At this time final costs have not been received from Messiah College. There are no indications that a significant cost increase is forthcoming from Messiah College so it is unlikely that attendees will experience a significant increase in their registration cost. Please read all registration information carefully when it is released and ask any questions.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director

Global Ministries Community

- An Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 23rd for **John & Carolyn Miller and Jim & Joan Farr**. The Millers retired a few years ago but have continued to serve SIL as they are able, and the Farris are officially retiring in June after decades of serving as translators in Papua New Guinea. The luncheon will be held at the Commons of Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, PA. The cost is \$10 per person. Everyone is invited to attend, but reservations are required. The **deadline for reservations is Friday, March 8th**. Contact the Global Ministries office for more information. Phone 717-866-7594 or email ecglobal@eccenter.com.
- The **Delaware Region Missions Brunch** will be held Thursday, March 28th. Hope Community Church in Fogelsville, PA once again has agreed to host this event. This brunch is open to anyone who is interested in hearing about what's going on in EC missions and updates from EC missionaries. Rev. Ted Rathman, our GM Associate, will be sharing his vision for GMC in the coming years. No fee will be charged, but reservations are necessary so we can have a head count. Please contact the GMC office by email (ecglobal@eccenter.com) or call 1-717-866-7584. The **deadline for reservations is Friday, March 15th**.
- **Val Schubert** recently had to have another surgery to remove a non-cancerous tumor. She is doing well but has to take it easy for a bit. Please keep her in prayer for a full and complete recovery, and that she won't be anemic.
- **Beth Grimm** has a new email address, as her old one evidently was hacked. Her new email is 428Lighthouse@comcast.net. Please change your record immediately.



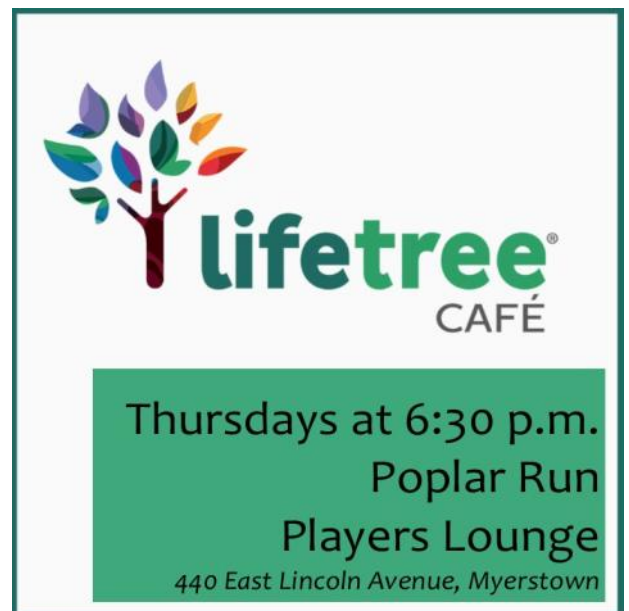
Lifetree Café at Poplar Run, Myerstown

Everything from politics to prayer is featured at a new weekly experience called Lifetree Café. This "conversation café" - located at StoneRidge Poplar Run, 440 East Lincoln Avenue, Myerstown—is part of a national network of locations that offers participatory events related to life and faith. Topics, which change weekly, focus on popular life issues such as loneliness, immigration, health, angels, guilt, prayer and life after death. The exclusive documentary-style films feature everyday people and well-known people with unusual stories.

Lifetree Café is offered at 6:30 pm on Thursdays. Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Snacks and beverages are available.

Questions about Lifetree Café may be directed to Chaplain Dana Logan at 717-866-3507.

**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.*

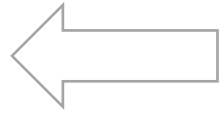


3DM LEARNING COMMUNITY



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



Ministerial Development Community

Ministry Self Care

BECAUSE WE KNOW WE NEED IT

Center for EC Studies | with Gene & Beth Stevenson | April 5 – 6, 2019

Location: Evangelical Seminary | Available: Online

A W A R E N E S S

COST: \$75

Sometimes we are swimming through ministry and instead of a quick dip in the waves of the ocean, we find ourselves being pulled out into the deep murky waters. We do everything we can to stay afloat, but eventually we find ourselves getting exhausted and wondering how much longer we can tread water before we drown.

Perhaps these words not only describe your ministry, but also define it. If so, when will things change? They won't, until you make self-care a priority. You may know the proper thing to do is to take a breather or seek help, but where does one turn?

Here's a convenient opportunity that requires a few hours one evening and concludes the next day at noon to examine the importance of caring for the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of oneself and one's family (as the pastor's first church) in the midst of the rigors of congregational ministry.

To register, please go to: <https://evangelical.edu/events/ministry-self-care/>

NOTE: Spouses are strongly encouraged to attend – FREE of course!



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)

+++++

**NURSES AND
OTHER MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS
NEEDED!**

**How to
volunteer**
Contact
Shawn Fetterhoff by
sending an email to
shawn@twinpines.org,
or call him at
570-629-2411



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



PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your
calendars!!!

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|--------------------|
| May 7 | Tuesday | 7:00 PM | Delaware Region |
| May 9 | Thursday | 7:00 PM | Susquehanna Region |
| May 11 | Saturday | 9:00 AM | Delaware Region |
| May 14 | Tuesday | 7:00 PM | Susquehanna Region |
| May 18 | Saturday | 9:00 AM | Great Lakes Region |

**Locations have not yet
been determined.**

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 Global Ministries Community Mtg. | 15 Health Insurance Due Finance Comm. Mtg. | 16 |
| 17 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT | 18 Info for April EC Leader Due | 19 Heritage Comm Mtg. Loan & Investment Comm. Mtg. | 20 Conference Network Team Mtg. | 21 National Ministry Team | 22 | 23 |
| 24 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Delaware Dist Mission Lunch | 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)

April 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|---|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i> | 6 |
| 7 PASSION SUNDAY <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i> | 8 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 PALM SUNDAY | 15 Health Insurance Due | 16 | 17 | 18 MAUNDAY THURSDAY | 19 GOOD FRIDAY Church Center Closed | 20 |
| 21 EASTER SUNDAY | 22 Info for May EC Leader Due Church Center Closed | 23 StoneRidge Board Mtg. | 24 Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 | | | |