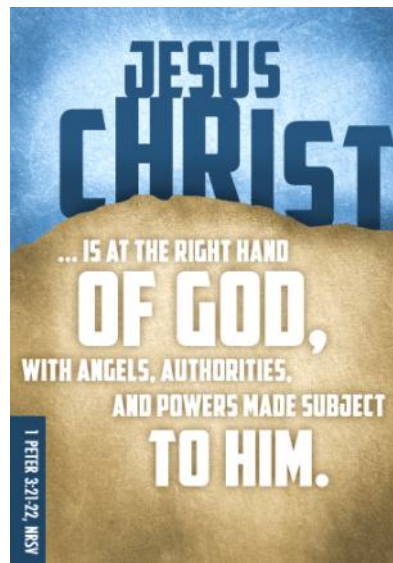


EC LEADER

MAY/JUNE 2018

From the Bishop:

There I was, on Easter Sunday, sitting in a chair in a nicely decorated sanctuary, listening to a good sermon, when a thought occurred to me. (Now I know your mind never wanders when listening to your pastor's sermon but, I confess, for a moment mind did.) What occurred to me was that we place a lot of emphasis on the cross; and from the protestant tradition – the empty cross. We place a lot of emphasis on the tomb – the empty tomb. Now I don't mean to lessen the atoning sacrifice of Christ, nor do I take for granted the victory that is ours through his resurrection; but understand this – while the cross is empty and the tomb in empty, the throne is not! Jesus lives and reigns today!



Peter preached to the crowds on Pentecost "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand." (Acts 2:32-33a)

While Matthew gives us the traditional Great Commission wording to "go and make disciples," Mark tells us "When Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down at the place of honor at God's right hand." (Mark 16:19) As commentators have noted it is a

"triumphal ascent;" it "signifies the completion of his work, his authority as God, and his coronation as King."

Continued on page 2

- **Bishop's Prayer & Praise**
- **News from the Executive Director**
- **Global Ministries Community**
- **What's Happening at Twin Pines**
- **Pre-Conference Meetings**
- **Evangelical Seminary**



I think most of us would describe this world and our culture to be pretty much of a mess. We all have those times when things seem out of control: the world's a mess, family members (even adults) don't play well together, work is crazy, someone we love is sick, etc. The list could probably go on and on. We are tempted to wonder where God is and what he's doing; if he's paying attention to the mess down here. But scripture is clear that he knows, he cares, and he is still at work, as Mark says, working through his followers.

It's good to see the empty cross and the empty tomb; they are symbols of deep love, great sacrifice, and sure hope. But don't forget the throne. It is not empty! Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father, the place of authority and power. Jesus crucified, risen, exalted and reigning. He is our living Savior and Lord!

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List

1. Continue to pray for the congregations and pastoral families who are involved in stationing changes.
2. Pray for me as I finalize the preparations for National Conference 2018.
3. Ask the Lord to bless those who will be retiring from pastoral ministry after Conference.
4. Pray for the Lord's leading of the graduates of Evangelical Seminary.
5. Join me in praying for the Holy Spirit to move in amazing ways during our National Conference, May 30-June 1.
6. Thank the Lord for the dedicated administrative staff at EC Church Center.
7. Praise the Lord for opportunities to interact with neighbors as we get out and do yard work.
8. Praise God for the gifted candidates who met with the Board of Examiners and will be recommended for credentials at National Conference.
9. Praise the Lord for the number of congregations who are sharing stories of exciting ministry and experiencing growth.
10. Thank the Lord for the people who are taking Jesus' commission to heart; reaching out and making disciples.



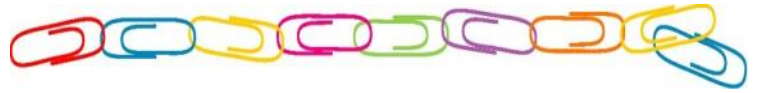
News from the Executive Director

We will be waiting on additional information to complete the **worker's compensation** billing to PA, Maryland and New Jersey churches. Hopefully the missing information will be received soon and the invoices can be sent to the churches. Early indications are for a decrease in the worker's compensation premiums.

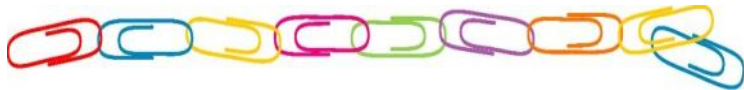
Churches not included in the denominational workers compensation group policy; Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky churches, however your individual state mandates workers compensation coverage. Please confirm that all employees of the church are covered by workers compensation insurance. Per EC Benefits Corporation policy H.3.b, churches not covered by the denomination group workers compensation policy shall submit proof of workers compensation coverage by July 1 of each year. Please submit proof of your workers compensation coverage to:

EC Benefits
100 W. Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Or fax 717-866-7553 or email
dking@eccenter.com



EC Benefits Corporation has five open lay trustee positions. Trustees represent the members of the Benefits Corporation who are the EC National Conference churches and pastors. Trustees provide insight and direction to the benefit plans offered to EC active and retired pastors, the benefit plans include: health insurance, pension, worker's compensation, short term disability and the Manna Fund. Trustees are expected to attend three Board of Trustee meetings per year with the slight possibility of additional meetings if an unexpected situation arises that requires trustee action. A commitment of about 15-20 hours per year would be required. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an EC Benefits Trustee please contact Jodi Earhart at the EC Church Center, jeahart@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581 to request a trustee application.



Retirement: As in past years, Jennifer Buehler, Wells Fargo Advisors, had the most visitors during National Conference, but please remember she is available for retirement planning assistance year round. Jennifer may be reached at 1-855-603-8146. We hope all our pastors are actively planning for their retirement; make consistent contributions to your 403(b) or Roth account (in addition to your church's contributions) and at minimum spend and hour or two annually with a financial professional reviewing your investments. Please don't delay in becoming personally involved in your retirement planning.

Please contact Dave King or Kevin Henry with any questions or problems.

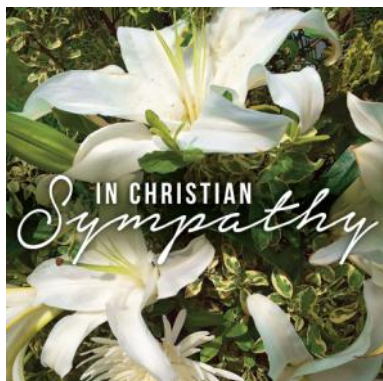
Kevin Henry David King
Executive Director Benefits Administrator
khenry@eccenter.com dking@eccenter.com



News from the Global Ministries Community

CONDOLENCES:

We wish to offer our sympathies to **Randy and Chris Amberman** on the recent passing of both Chris' and Randy's mothers. Chris' mother, Julie Stocker, passed at the end of February and



Randy's mother at the end of March. Please keep the family in prayer. You can email condolences to ramberman@msn.com or send a card to P.O. Box 1452, Fruitland, NM 87416.

Rev. Jack Murray, retired missionary, went to be with the

Lord on March 10th. Jack and his late wife Martha served for decades with European Christian Mission in various countries throughout Europe, including Italy (where stepson Wesley Copperwheat and family still serve) and several nations formerly part of the USSR. He was a lifelong devoted servant of the Lord, promoting the Good News constantly, even after officially retiring. Notes of sympathy can be sent to his son John Murray and family at john.w.murray@gmail.com.

CELEBRATIONS:

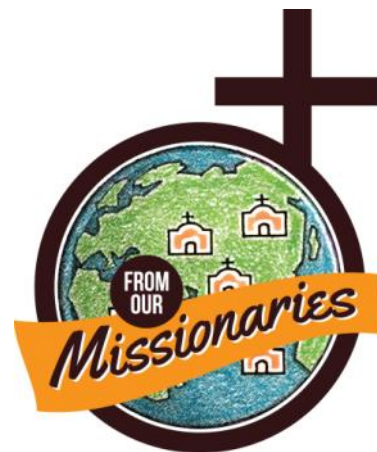
Rev. Randy Sizemore will be honored for his 10 years as Director of Global Ministries/Global Ministries Associate on Wednesday evening, May 30th, at National Conference. Randy will be stepping out of the GMA role as of June 30th but continuing to pastor at Bethel E.C. Church in Dixon, IL. If you would like to send a note to Randy and Carla thanking them for their years of service, please mail it to 123 N. Court St., Dixon, IL 61021.



Rev. Dan Moury was part of a team that made a trip to Indonesia in late April to video story gatherings among some tribes there which have been impacted by Wycliffe's work. They will be returning at the beginning of May.

PRAYER/NEED:

Ed and Val Schubert have a request. "We are praying for a Christian young woman to join our ministry team in the role of a mentor and education coach for our 12-year old daughter, Cheynece. Cheynece will be entering 7th grade in the fall of this year. The person we are seeking will supervise Cheynece as she uses a pre-designed educational study plan from Abeka Academy. Cheynece will do independent study using videos, established daily lesson plans, text books, and testing materials which are all provided through Abeka Academy. The mentor/educational coach will be available to answer questions related to lessons but will not need to teach or plan possible questions. This position also provides the opportunity to participate in our community children's ministry through our ministry Casa de Luz. There will also be opportunities to build relationships with other mission staff, other ministries and Honduran community members. The young woman interested in this position must be patient, pro-active, kind, able to live in a family setting, and be passionate about her relationship with Jesus and others. The position begins January 2019 and ends June 2019. Interested parties can contact us at: edvalarieschubert@gmail.com"



2019 Pastoral Assessment Center Enrollment

The deadline for registering for the 2019 Pastoral Assessment Center is June 1, 2018. The date and location for the PAC are January 15-19, 2019 at the campus of Evangelical Seminary. There is no cost to those who are seeking credentials in the EC Church. Because ministry requires more of the family than other typical vocations, the wife of each applicant is asked to attend. Please work out arrangements in adequate time for both of your attendance to participate.

Please enroll by requesting an entrance application from
jgbyerly@eccenter.com

DIVERSE CALLINGS IN THE CHURCH

The Ministerial Development Community (and previously the Conference Relations Committee) has listened to the stirrings within our men and women sensing ministerial callings over the years. As we have listened, we have noticed the opportunity to consider that God often speaks to people within a variety of contexts and toward a variety of different expressions.

We are reminded that Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-16:

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of God.

When we look at the five-fold ministry of APEST (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds (or Pastors), and Teachers), we see a diversity of gifts that are not easily categorized into our current pastoral structure. As we observe how God is working in the midst of our churches and field of ministry, we've been considering what might be involved in expanding our view of ministry and categories for ministerial credentials.

Therefore, the MDC leadership would like to facilitate a discussion around the diversity of gifts for ministry. Not only are we interested in how this conversation could enhance the ongoing work within our churches and our fields of ministry, but we would value the opportunity to join with others in these pursuits. We are likewise aware that many differing views exist around this five-fold ministry concept, and would appreciate dialogue, debate, and feedback in regard to this discussion.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff Byerly at jgbyerly@eccenter.com to join us for lunch and the discussion to follow.

DIVERSE CALLINGS IN THE CHURCH
at EVANGELICAL SEMINARY
Thursday, May 3rd, 2018
Noon—3 pm



May 11-12, 2018

Community EC
Sinking Spring

Friday 4-9 pm
Saturday 9 am—5 pm

Register on EVENTBRITE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/discipleship-and-mission-taster-workshop-reading-pa-tickets-43764596085>

COST

**\$99 for the first person;
\$59 for your spouse and/or additional team members.**

Questions or more info?
Contact Al Giles—610-389-5857—pastoral@ptd.net

Discover the principles of going from having a ministry to leading a movement:
reproducing disciples instead of just recruiting more volunteers,
multiplying communities instead of just adding more people.

MORE THAN THEORY—practical experience!

Large amounts of Q & A
Consultations for your team with our team
Worship
Down time
A great mixture of work, rest, practice, theory and team time

We strongly encourage you to come with at least one other person.

If possible, bring a whole team.
It'd be great to have the senior leader there.

The 3dm framework and tools *for discipleship and mission*
Strategically apply to church, para-church, campus ministries,
Non-profits, and everyday people of God
Who want to learn how to make disciples
In a way that mobilizes a missional movement!

What's Happening at Twin Pines from May 2018



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

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

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

ALL church personnel involved with pastoral compensation (treasurers, stewards, financial secretaries, PAC members, etc.) are encouraged to attend the pre-conference meetings along with the Pastor(s) and Lay/Alternate Lay Delegates. The pre-conference meetings will cover the new pastoral compensation rules and new pastoral compensation forms. Churches that out-source payroll will also find benefits from attending the pre-conference meetings.



The 33rd Annual Golf Tournament— Thursday, May 17, 7:15 am

The 2018 Golf Tournament will be held at the Fairview Golf Course on Route 72 in Lebanon, PA.

We anticipate a great day of golf, friendship, and good fun while also raising the funds needed to develop effective servant leaders. To learn more about some wonderful features of this tournament, go to evangelical.edu/golf. See you on the links!

The 2018 Friends of Evangelical Banquet—Thursday, October 11, 5:45 pm

We are pleased to announce that our guest speaker at the 2018 Banquet will be Dr. Leonard Sweet, Evangelical's Charles Wesley Distinguished Visiting Professor of Doctor of Theology Studies. Dr. Sweet has been one of the most prolific and provocative voices on the mission of the church in this generation. He has something to say, and a unique way of saying it which is accessible to ordinary people, not just to scholars or clergy. Watch for more information over the next few months.



May 3—National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is patterned after what took place on June 12, 1775, when the 2nd Continental Congress declared a Day of Public “Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer” for the citizens of all 13 colonies, urging them to gather in their churches to pray for America. Numerous American Congresses and presidents have called for national days of prayer down through the past 200 years.

If 2018 in America is not a time for a National Day of Prayer, there has never been a time!

You can join in one of the 50,000 or more events which will be a part of the 2018 National Day of Prayer or have a special prayer event in your own church. Visit the National Day of Prayer website, www.NationalDayofPrayer.org to find an event in your area or open your church, plan an activity, post it on the NDP event website and invite your community to join you. What else you do, please pray during the **National Day of Prayer: Thursday, May 3, 2018.**

Evangelical Congregational Church

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



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.

May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Pre-Conf Mtg Reamstown	2 Spring Spruce-Up, Twin Pines	3 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Diverse Callings in the Church	4 Adult Retreat, Twin Pines <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	5 Pre-Conf Mtg Christ, Allentown
6 Adult Retreat, Twin Pines <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	7	8 Youth Network Mtg.	9	10 ASCENSION DAY Pre-Conf Mtg Zion, Pitman	11 Evangelical Seminary Graduation 3 D Movements, Sinking Spring	12 Pre-Conf Mtg Palmyra
13 MOTHER'S DAY Mother's Day Offering	14 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg.	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17 StoneRidge "Senior Prom" Evangelical Seminary Golf Tournament For Ladies Only, Twin Pines	18	19
20 PENTECOST	21 Info for MAY EC Leader Due	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 MEMORIAL DAY Church Center Closed	29	30	31 NATIONAL CONFERENCE	June 1	

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

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

June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 National Conference <i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	2 Rosedale Camp Grove Ladies' Tea
3 <i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>	4	5	6	7	8 Twin Pines Board Mtg.	9 Summer Celebration, Twin Pines
10 Rosedale Camp Grove Meet & Greet Social Student Aid Offering	11	12 Youth Network Mtg.	13	14 FLAG DAY	15 Health Insurance Due	16
17 FATHER'S DAY Rosedale Camp Grove Father's Day Cookout	18	19	20 Heritage Comm. Mtg.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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