



# EC LEADER

SEPTEMBER 2018

## From the Bishop:

Many people know that I love to be outdoors. In fact, one of the tests we administer for our Pastoral Assessment Center which helps us understand effective Christian leadership styles and needs indicates that I *need* to be outdoors. My two favorite seasons of the year are summer and fall.

Those are followed next by winter and lastly, spring. I never liked spring. I think it was because I was always outside playing in the fields and woods and spring meant mud; and coming home muddy every day was not a welcome sight in my mother's eyes.

One of the great things I have noticed about summer is that it is a time when many people stop going to church. Now you may think that's a bad thing and I suppose in



one sense it is, if you don't go back. But I want to say that in some ways it's a good thing. This summer I have been hearing more and more reports of individuals and groups who are finding lots of other good things to do other than going to church. More and more teens and adults are discovering the excitement of going on a short term summer mission trip. Some

of the trips are international, some are close to home, some involve direct teaching, some were work projects. It doesn't really matter exactly what they did but they got out of church and

served others. Praise the Lord! Then there are whole congregations who didn't go to church; instead they took their worship services outdoors into neighborhood parks. A great idea! Still others

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chose not to go to church for Vacation Bible School but to take the whole program on the road into their community and bless children there. Others actually went to another church while they were on vacation (a novel idea) and experienced new ways to worship. Some didn't stop going to church they just shifted their focus to a space other than the sanctuary—a basement where they operate a clothing bank or food pantry, or the fellowship area where they serve meals to anyone who has a need. Lots of great opportunities and ideas because they didn't go to church! And it doesn't have to end with the end of summer.

Fall is still a great time to get outdoors and touch people's lives with the Good News about Jesus. I already have heard of congregations that are planning to take ministries out of the church and into their communities. There are people getting involved in their local schools, helping in all kinds of ways. The needs are great; but that means there are lots of opportunities to get in-

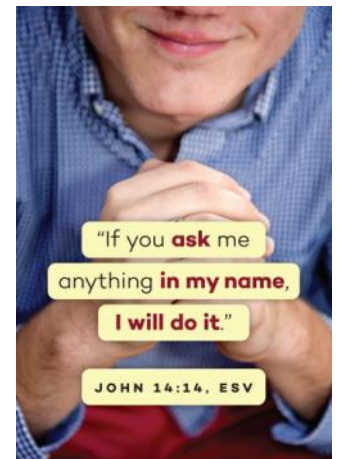
involved and make a difference for the Kingdom! So while it is still important to go to church, get out of the church, be the church in your community and make a difference. And remember—the fresh air is good for you too!

In Christ's service,



## Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List

1. Please join me in praying for the Stationing Committee as we continue to work on assigning pastors and churches in what is becoming a year-round endeavor.
2. Ask the Lord to bless the young people as well as the teachers, staff (like Gloria), and administrators who are beginning a new school year.
3. Pray for our Communities, Associates and members of the National Ministry Team as they prepare for their meeting in October.
4. Pray for God's leading and blessing of the many local ministries and programs which will begin again as the fall season gets underway.
5. Pray for those who made decisions for Jesus during the summer at one of our camps; that they may grow as disciples of Jesus.
6. Thank God for giving us times of relaxation and refreshment during the summer vacation season.
7. Praise the Lord for the new students who begin studies at Evangelical Seminary.
8. Thank the Lord for the congregations who continue to faithfully support the work of the denomination in prayer and with their ministry fund giving.
9. Thank God for the men who are beginning the process of seeking EC credentials and are enrolled in the next Pastoral Assessment Center.
10. Praise the Lord for two courses being offered through our Center for EC Studies at Evangelical Seminary: EC History & Polity and EC Ethos (doctrine).





# News from the Executive Director

The **active pastor's health insurance renewal negotiations** are better than in previous years. I wish I knew why. The renewal rates from Capital Blue Cross are currently in the single digits. However, please complete and return the Highmark Blue Shield applications. We are comfortable assuming that the lower than anticipated renewal with Capital Blue Cross is in some part due to our interest in Highmark Blue Shield product. The EC Benefits Trustees are meeting in early September and the new rates will be announced shortly after the meeting.

As we are currently in our **open enrollment period**, 60 days before the start of the new plan year of October 1, you can make changes to your coverage, join the plan, add dependents, etc. outside the change of life events. Please contact Dave King if changes to your health insurance coverage are needed.

Please remember to submit all of your deductible **and coinsurance claims to PrimePay** on a timely basis. PrimePay will track all of your covered out of pocket healthcare expenses, including the first \$500 in covered medical expenses and the first \$1,800 prescription co-pays and outpatient therapy visits (speech, physical, occupational and respiratory therapy) that are the responsibility of the pastor. Timely submission of claims helps EC Benefits monitor and assess the cost efficiency of the health insurance plan. Also, covered deductible and coinsurance claims must be incurred by September 30, 2018 and submitted to PrimePay for reimbursement 90 days from the end of the plan year which is December 29, 2018. Contact Dave King or Kevin Henry with any questions on submitting claims to PrimePay.

There are a number of churches that have not remitted the **\$100/year disability insurance premium and the \$100/year benefit services fee**. If the disability premium is not received for the year the pastor is not covered. The disability premium is listed in the treasurer's guide on the EC website and is due by January 15 of every year. The \$100/year benefit services fee is due April 15 every year and is due from every church with an assigned pastor.

Please contact Dave King, [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com) or Kevin Henry, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) with any questions or problems.

Kevin Henry                      David King  
Executive Director          Benefits Administrator

## PAYROLL SERVICE

In early July 2018 I asked churches for recommendations on payroll service providers. I was very pleased to receive seventeen recommendations. I have listed the providers below. Please note there are a multiple churches using the same provider resulting in a list that is less than seventeen.

Jet Pay  
Gerhart & Associates  
Covenant CPA  
Paychex  
Lettich & Zipay, CPAs  
The Waltz Group  
Sonrise Paymaster\$  
Ministry Works  
Leid, Lorah & Company  
Quickbooks  
Paytime

The denominational offices have not researched any of these payroll service providers nor are we making a recommendation for a specific provider. Each of these payroll service providers was suggested by the church utilizing their services. Please do your own research. If you are interested in one of the providers listed above I can pass along the church contact information that is currently using one of these payroll providers as I am sure the church will be able to provide an opinion on their service. I did not ask for cost information but a few of the recommendations provided an estimate of their costs which averaged from about \$75-\$125/mon.

The denominational leadership continues to recommend that churches outsource the payroll processing, tax withholding, and tax remittance for all church employees. It is better to incur an additional \$1,000/yr in fees than pay a multiple thousand dollar fine, penalties and interest from unremitted payroll taxes. Unfortunately, there has been more than one EC church that has learned an expensive lesson when payroll taxes are not withheld and remitted timely.

Please contact me with any questions (717)866-7581 or [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com).

Kevin Henry  
Executive Director

# News from the Global Ministries Community

## Missionary Updates & Prayer items:

- **Rev. Ted Rathman**, the Global Ministries Associate, has a new email address for his GMC work. It is [trathman@eccenter.com](mailto:trathman@eccenter.com). Please use this email if you want to contact Ted regarding Global Ministries matters. Thank you!
- **Troy Wills, son of Dan & Mary Lynne Wills**, is getting married this month on the evening of the 21st. He and his bride **Lacie** will be living about an hour from his parents. Congratulations to the newlyweds and to the parents of the groom!
- Please keep **Chris & Deb Bowers** and all the folks at the Moody Aviation in Spokane, Washington in

prayer. In July a plane with an instructor and two students crashed, killing all on board. Chris had worked with the instructor and knew him well. Pray for emotional healing, especially for the families of those lost in the crash.

- **Dan Moury** was in Uganda from August 3-17 to video another story-gathering of the impact of having scriptures in a tribe's heart language. The Keliko tribe is a displaced people group from southern Sudan.
- Save the date! - The **Susquehanna Region Brunch** will be held on Thursday, October 4th at our St. Paul's EC Church in Reamstown. Watch for more information soon, but mark your calendars now!



## 2018 FRIENDS OF EVANGELICAL BANQUET

Thursday, October 11  
Eden Resort  
222 Eden Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

5:45 pm Fellowship Time  
6:30 pm Dinner and Program

RSVP by October 3.  
[www.evangelical.edu/banquet](http://www.evangelical.edu/banquet)

Please join the administration and board of trustees of Evangelical Seminary for the annual Friends of Evangelical Banquet as we hear about applying the age-old-message of the gospel to individuals living in the flow of instant information and immediate results.

Consider inviting friends to join you as we hear inspiring testimonies from students, a challenging message by Dr. Leonard Sweet about how the gospel changes lives, and the latest exciting seminary updates from Evangelical president Dr. Tony Blair.



*From left: Teri Bixler, Nikki Miller, Nathan Schumacher (executive chef), Ruth Kissinger, Joshua Houtz (sous chef) and Ella Bennethum*

## “Feed Thy Neighbor” Recipe Contest

StoneRidge Poplar Run in Myerstown,\* held a “Feed Thy Neighbor” recipe contest among its nearly 170 residents. Recipes for entrees, side dishes and desserts were accepted over several weeks and reviewed by the chefs at Poplar Run. The winner of the “Feed Thy Neighbor” entrée submissions was Ruth Kissinger. Ruth submitted an old-family recipe for Chicken Paprikash, a favorite through several generations originating with her gypsy great, great grandmother Marya Danish of Czechoslovakia. Ruth learned it from her mother as she had learned it from her mother who worked as a cook for the Hungarian army.

When asked if this was a special occasion dish, Ruth shared, “No, we had this dish regularly.” This distinctly Hungarian dish is made with paprika, which may be either sweet, hot or somewhere in between. Ruth “never ventured into using hot paprika” in her version of the dish and added cooked pasta shells.

“My kids like it very much, and they used to fight over who would get to lick the sour cream bowl!”

As an entrée winner, Ruth’s Chicken Paprikash recipe was featured on the menu of Poplar Run’s Vista’s Restaurant for an entire week this summer. Ruth and her husband Charles, who hail from Allentown and are the parents of two grown daughters, have lived at Poplar Run for three years.

\*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](http://www.StoneRidgeRetirement.com) or call us at 717-866-3553. StoneRidge Retirement Living is all about Living!

## SAVE THE DATE:

Authentic Decision-making: Gain skills for productive team alignment.  
November 9, 2018

A leader has to manage group decisions. Too often, team (or church) dysfunction can be traced back to an unhealthy decision-making process. This seminar offers a simple and practical framework for leaders to develop skills to create an environment that give everyone a clear understanding of the core issues, a common language for discussion, and an authentic invitation to engage in productive decision-making.





# National Conference 2018 Education Experience

## Theme... ALL IN; Session One, Article Two

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life  
will no longer live for themselves.  
Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.  
2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

The previous article took us inward in search of identity. “Who am I?” We identified body, mind, heart, and soul, each an aspect of the whole person. We considered personal mission. We touched personal passions. In the end, we pondered our ownership of the life we live—“our own or another’s?” ALL IN begins with self-awareness that allows the true self to live. Here, we will consider the care of the whole person that we might truly have something to offer when we step forward to serve church and Kingdom.

### WE HAVE A BODY AND MIND

One aspect of preparation for being ALL IN for the Kingdom and ministry is personal health and wholeness, body and mind. Though we know we have a new and improved body on layaway, we are to be good stewards of the bodies and minds we have right now. They are the houses for the “me” that each of us are, as well as serve as the vessel/vehicle out of which we live and serve.

Here, like we noted before, we need to “own who and/or what” we are. This matter of “identity integrity” is a step toward being able to work at health and wholeness. We might need to own: “My body is too short for its weight.” “My body has bad eyes and limbs like an old man after playing games on the floor with the 4th graders.” Sometimes, these honest pronouncements are embarrassing—but each is necessary!

ALL IN demands that we own who we “actually are,” not who we imagine we are. Who we are includes strengths and weaknesses, capabilities and limitations. Sure, we want to be stretched, even set ourselves up to be stretched; but we should know ourselves well enough to know when we’ve had enough lest we break or crumble under too much.

We also come preloaded with a mind, housed by our brains. Or at least usually identified with our brains. Minds come prewired for certain inclinations and preferences. Minds come prewired with certain potentials for capacity, “able to do” or “able to learn how to do.” Minds come prewired to receive and process info, stimuli, and experiences. Our task is to figure out how we are wired and to make the most of who we are.

Our minds need to be stocked with worthwhile information and experiences. We need to read or listen to audio books or podcasts and to calculate. Stretch! We need to memorize, play word and number games. Stretch! We need to protect our minds from junk! Junk gums up the works, somehow even manages to displace the good stuff. It’s not unlike how some kinds of cancer destroy a body. Ideally, as we live and serve we should be lifelong learners, never quite there yet; ever seeking to be better equipped for life, for service, for our ministry roles.

In the end, as we think about our bodies—as in, bodies and minds—a noble goal is to be able to say, “I am the best (or healthiest) I can be.” This we say recognizing that stuff

happens; parts break down, and systems fail. We can at least NOT be the immediate cause of such things. You know, by being stupid! (Can I say that in this publication?)

### WE ALSO HAVE A HEART AND SOUL

Heart is the “who I am” that transcends body and mind. Nature or nurture, or both, this is who and/or what we bring to the table. Out of our hearts we get to say, “This is who I am.” Owning our identity enables us to know and prove, “I am living my life (not imitating another’s life).” Too often, too many of us are living someone else’s life. A good test for “identity integrity” is answering the question, “How much of what people see of me parallels who I am or what I do when no one is looking?”

Soul is the spiritual—maybe overlapping the heart—part of each person that lives forever in relationship and fellowship with the Trinity, or alone, forever separated from God. Our soul is the meeting place for self with the divine out of which we might proclaim, “I am abiding in Christ; he is my true source of identity.”

As much as our identity is built on nature and/or nurture, what we bring to the table; we must not overlook the redemptive work of Christ redesigning us into his image as Spirit bearers, as image bearers, as children of God, as his hands and feet and voice. Think about this: How has God’s presence in your life empowered you to be or become another?

### IN CHRIST, we are stewards! We are stewards of Body/Mind, Heart and Soul.

Stewards of Body and Mind need to be attentive to several areas of daily life. This attention is an attempt to care for and prepare ourselves for the day, as well as for ministry.

- Nourishment  
This would include maintaining a well-balanced diet of nonpoisonous foods, which doesn’t mean French fries are anathema! Just eat wisely! Use common sense. I’m not your mother or your doctor; and I’m not all that good at this either. So, let’s at least commit to “trying to do” what is best for life and health.

- Exercise  
As we care for the body and mind, we ought to be saying, “move that thing!” Joanie Greggains, an exercise guru chants, “You grew it, you lift it!” Pastors tend toward a more sedentary life, riding the dangerous chair behind the desk. We need to plan to get up and move every so often; we’re not meant to be potted plants! We don’t have to be the ultimate athlete; we just need to do what yields health and vitality.

Another helpful principle is “use that thing!” Our minds! We should read, compute, ponder, stretch our minds; be lifelong learners. Hanging a degree or ordination certificate does not preclude ongoing self-improvement. The times keep changing; we need to

keep up to be effective. Learning is part of that process.

- Community

We have been wired for community, which is ironically in our favor as research has proved that self-care is easiest in community. Join the gym. Find a travel buddy. Share interest with others. Enjoy your hobby with someone else.

Stewards of the Heart attend to the less visible, though very real, aspect of who we are. No heart, no life. We need to work to know ourselves.

It is always easier to go with the flow, to walk off the cliff with the other lemmings. But God designed you to be you. So, find your heart and live your own passions. Self-study is a good investment of time. Allow Scripture and prayer to guide your thoughts. Invite a trusted and honest friend or peer to describe for you what they see in you. Invite a spiritual mentor/guide to walk with you for a time of introspection. Hire or pay for a life assessment; there are many of these on the market. Again, I mention the DiSC, Myers-Biggs, TJTA, and GRIP-Birkman, as well as the many other tools that are available.

All of this feeds into—and is vital for—“fit and flourish.” ALL IN is simply not possible if we don’t know what makes us tick, or how we work best.

Stewards of Soul cultivate a healthy relationship with God. There is no ministry if we are not alive in Christ. There is just busy.

Abide in Christ! There is the heart of the matter. This is not simply racing through morning devotions. Not just working that prayer list. Not just writing sermons and lessons, attending worship and Bible studies. Listen to Jesus on this topic...

John 15:4-5 (NIV)... “Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

God loves us. God likes us. God aches to hang out with us. (Yeah; I don’t get that either!)

ABIDE, rest in his presence—long and slow and deep. No agenda, just be present. Pray, or not. Be! Read, or not. Be! Walk in the woods or lay on your sofa. Be! God is there waiting for us to slow down and to be with him. It’s okay to allow the moment to design the way we’ll be together. We don’t have to micromanage time alone with God.

Let me summarize some of the tools I’ve mentioned (and a few others).

- Body/Mind

Join your local gym or rec center. And go! Your home is probably surrounded by miles of sidewalks and roads. Your yard (see those weeds!) is a natural exercise arena. Sports, besides watching sports (walking to the stands is ONLY slightly better than sitting on the sofa), and hobbies (besides napping) can be ways to care for your body.

Your local library, the newspaper, puzzles, hobbies, conversations. Common interest groups could all be means to strengthen your mind. Read. Discuss. Stretch. There is a significant Kingdom aspect to this slice of life; doing thins with others OFTEN leads to sharing lives. Witness can accidentally take place.

- Heart

Find or hire a life coach, mentor, counselor. Find a travel companion, an honest “other” who can help you see yourself with new eyes. Life assessment tools help you answer, “Who am I?” in ways you otherwise might miss. Personal escapes to listen to your heart’s desires can also be valuable investments in your own health and well-being.

Honestly! Do you know what makes your heart beat faster just being close to or hearing about? Passion. Passion drives our lives. Does your life, or a significant part of your life, rise up out of your passions?

There is a principle that applies here. We do well to honor the 65–35% principle for life (or 60-40 or 70-30, depending on which book you read). We should balance what fills or thrills our hearts (at 65%) against experiences that suck the life out of us (at 35%). Ignoring this principle is a set up for burnout.

- Soul

We sometimes need assistance to be soul healthy. Helpful resources include spiritual mentors or guides, soul care retreats (camp out at a monastery or retreat center), disappearing for hours or days with your Bible. There are a significant number of retreat centers designed specifically for pastors (and spouses). Many are free or very inexpensive. These experiences are not to study, but to listen. You’ll want to practice the skills of dwelling, abiding, lingering and resting in God’s presence. The goal is to be with God wherever you choose to be. It is when we become silent and reduce distractions that we most clearly hear ourselves, and hear God.

There are several hard questions that could help you decide where to start...

- When was the last time you took a day off more than two weeks in a row?
- When was the last time you disappeared for more than four hours to be alone with God?
- When was the last time you had a complete physical and the doctor didn’t say you need to change your lifestyle?
- Have you confused serving, even leading, the church...with being lord of the church?
- When was the last time your wife, kids, friends, or peers in ministry said, “I’ve been missing you?”

These several questions confront us with the difference between busy and hurried. Life is busy, and ministry can be even more so. But it is possible to live with busy as long as we avoid hurry. Hurry is the enemy we must master.

Sabbath is a gift from God to you and to me, as well as to our churches. Sabbath helps us defeat the “hurry” temptation/trap. Woven into the fabric of Creation is rest, taking breaks, doing “something else or other” every seventh day. From the very beginning, God planned that Sabbath would be part of life, part of our lives. Incorporating a personal Sabbath into

our week, our month, our year goes a long way toward rescuing us from ourselves.

ALL IN is NOT just a cute National Conference theme. This is our high calling in Christ for daily life and for ministry. As I've thought about our theme, ALL IN, I've wondered if it is possible to be ALL IN...

- IF we don't know who we are?
- IF we're not maintaining something that looks like good health?
- IF we're imitating a life we wish we were living?
- IF we're not staying fresh...learning new tools for ministry?
- IF we're not planning to play at the top of our game?

### YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE.

Who are you?  
What are you doing with who you are?  
Are you approaching ALL IN?

In the next article, we will apply these principles, and a few others, to the work of determining who we are as congregations. Once again, self-awareness, is a good place to begin.

Until the next issue, I am available to discuss this article, as well as what will be shared in the previous or subsequent articles. Feel free to reach out (717-951-8433, or [revcool@ptd.net](mailto:revcool@ptd.net)); I will respond.

Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What did you hear/read?
- What do you think about what you hear/read?
- What will you do because of what you have heard/read?
- When do you think you will do this?
- Who do you think needs to be part of this conversation?



## A KEC Thought:

### 10 Simple Steps to Becoming Missional

*Les Cool*

A recent conversation caught me off guard. Out of left field came the question, "What does it mean to be missional?" My friend had seen something, someplace, and was curious. And then came the harder (or at least, harder to admit the answer to) question, "Are we missional?"

My first instinct was to offer a technical definition that would clearly (in my mind) answer my friend's questions. Fortunately, my coach training kicked in and instead of spouting a firehose of not really needed information, I asked, "What did you read or hear that caught your attention?"

In the end, we chatted about the missional (going and doing the will of God) aspect of our walk with Jesus as we serve as redemptive (that was my only big word) agents in our teeny tiny little worlds. God actually has entrusted us with the message of redemption (the Gospel). We are to be tellers of the Jesus Story and peacemakers (helping people realize peace with God and with each other).

During our chat, my friend doing most of the work, we came up with a list of things we might choose to do to be missional. Nothing here is rocket science. We were just looking for a way to meet people, get to know people, and to serve them. All in the hope of having a moment to bring Jesus into the often rather simple relationships we share with others. Here is our list, without explanation.

A neighbor theme...

1. Lean over the back fence and introduce yourself to your neighbor.
2. Take a tray of cookies or a pizza to the new neighbors who just waved good-bye to the moving truck.
3. Host a cul-de-sac dinner or cookout.

A work theme...

4. Never eat lunch alone.
5. Bring co-workers home for dinner (and their families; warn your spouse!)
6. Mention church when asked about your weekend (don't be a coward and simply talk sports or yard work).

A community theme...

7. Volunteer to tutor at a local school. Pick a grade you can handle.
8. Volunteer to coach a kids' sports team.
9. Volunteer to help at the kids' fishing derby. Or hunter's safety class.
10. Volunteer to work at any one of the stands at your community fair.

And one more missional idea that didn't make the "10 count" because who would read an article about "11 ideas" for anything?

11. On your morning walk (especially on rainy mornings), toss newspapers onto front porches or drag trash cans up to the house as you walk by houses along your path. Just be kind!

Be sure to keep in mind that these kindnesses are to be about initiating relationships (not making people projects) with the hope of someday talking about Jesus. You might. You might not. But the aroma of our lives will make sense later when these people we get to touch connect Jesus with the people who lived Jesus in their lives.



# MDC News for ALL Candidates & Pastors

In an effort to provide our churches with pastors who are thoroughly equipped for the work of ministry in the Evangelical Congregational Church, the Board of Examiners has reinstated the offering of the doctrinal course. Rule 804.3.2. already states that a doctrinal course along with the EC History & Polity course are required courses for our candidates, pastors, and elders. Unfortunately, it's been too long since we were able to offer the EC doctrinal course.

As the Board of Examiners considered the spiritual atmosphere within the EC culture, the board members sensed the obvious need to implement a doctrinal course that helps the learner connect our theology to our practice. When one considers the marvelous results of John and Charles Wesley in their cultural context, he can observe how their theology shaped their particular outcomes. In some circles, they were sharply chastised for their theological positions, but it was these very positions that birthed a movement for the centuries that followed. We, too, sense that a course that connects theology and practice (as doctrine) is necessary. Therefore, we are requiring all candidates, pastors, and non-itinerant elders to complete the new EC Ethos course taught by Rev. Kirk Marks.

For those with the following credentials: Local Candidate, Local Pastor, Licensed Candidate, Licensed Pastor, Approved Pastor, or Ordained Elder (not in the Itinerancy), you are now required to complete this course in one of four offerings over the next two or three years. It will be offered in the same way, and with a similar format to the current required EC History & Polity course.

Lastly, this decision was not something that the Board considered in order to make people's lives more difficult but rather they seriously evaluated the need for this course and unanimously deemed it necessary for the health of our overall EC cultural ethos.

We thank you for your steadfast pursuit of credentials with the Evangelical Congregational Church. If you have questions about this decision, please bring them to my attention at [jgbyerly@eccenter.com](mailto:jgbyerly@eccenter.com).

## A KEC Resource:

### Small Church on a Big Mission

By Jeff Allen

Jeff Allen's recent release, *Small Church on a Big Mission*, is vital for pastors, church leaders, and congregations (small groups, families, etc.) leaning toward Kingdom mission. There is a way to shift our lives from small church thinking to a big world and mission living.



Pick up a copy (<https://www.faithctr.org/small-church-on-a-big-mission>). Read it with anticipation—what would God have me do differently? Better yet, read the book with some friends. Enjoy the lively conversation the book inspires.

And while you're on Jeff's page, ordering a copy of *Small Church on a Big Mission*, sign up for his blog and check out the other resources Allen offers.

# PMT SWAT TEAMS

## What is a PMT SWAT team?

**Answer: It is a Prayer Mobilization Spiritual Warfare Attack Team**

The PMT has offered to send a team of prayer warriors to any church or district that would like to arrange a special prayer gathering. Whether a church is doing well and growing or struggling to make ends meet, it is a target for attacks from demonic powers that derail or even destroy an evangelical church, especially the pastor and his family.

“Satan’s desire is to keep us away from communion with God. He doesn’t care how he does it. God’s intention, on the other hand, is to use a spiritual warfare to draw us into deeper communion with Himself. Satan’s device is to isolate us and wear us out obsessing about what he has done and what he will do next. God desires to use the enemy’s attacks to remove the obstacles between ourselves and Him, to reestablish our dependency on Him as His sons and daughters in a much deeper way. Once we understand that, then the warfare we are in begins to feel totally different. It is not really even about Satan anymore, but about communion with God and abiding in Jesus as the source of life. The whole experience begins to feel more like a devotional.” (The Sacred Romance, by John Eldredge and Brent Curtis, p. 120).

SWAT gatherings are about all of the above. The PMT is beginning to realize that we need SWAT teams at all levels. We need them in individual churches, in districts, and at the denominational level. We have found that churches praying with and for each other is an awesome spiritual experience.

We hope that you will consider contacting the PMT to arrange a SWAT gathering for your church or district in the near future.

Contact Pastor Mike Campbell  
[Faithec-mike@comcast.net](mailto:Faithec-mike@comcast.net)



## Rural Home Missionary Association

Planting and Strengthening Churches in Small-town America

*RHMA (Rural Home Missionary Association) has two conferences planned for the Fall — a one day conference in Cedarville, Ohio, September 22 and a three-day conference in Lancaster, PA, October 8-10. To view the brochure and registration information for each event see the links below.*

*Cedarville, OH — September 22, 2018*

*<https://www.rhma.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Cedarville-2018-STD.pdf>*

*Lancaster, PA — October 8-10, 2018*

*<https://www.rhma.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Lan2018STD.pdf>*

*Feel free to contact Rev. Jim Price with any questions... [revjfp@mcast.net](mailto:revjfp@mcast.net) or 610-451-5908*

# Child

## 

In 2011 we watched the news reports of the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State and, our hearts broke for the children and families that were harmed in unspeakable ways. Now in 2018 our hearts are once again broken with the release of Pennsylvania Grand Jury findings regarding abuse in the Roman Catholic Church. We sit in front of our televisions and watch as so many people are caught in a web of destruction.

Back in 2008 our National Conference's Christian Education Committee made child protection/child abuse prevention a major focus of their work. They produced excellent material; sample policies and procedures for our congregations to implement in their own setting. The goal was to have every EC Church either have or be developing a child protection policy by the end of 2009.

We are approaching ten years from that goal; the question now is what have you done with that? For too many of us a policy is a well written statement that gets filed in a notebook, put on a shelf and forgotten about.



One of the lessons to be learned is that our child protection policies must be kept up to date and all our new and long-time volunteers must be regularly reminded of them to ensure that the policies and procedures your church has in place are being followed. There are sample guidelines and procedures on the denomination's website ([www.eccenter.com/Our-Structure/Committees/Christian-Education/Child-Abuse-Prevention-Guidelines.aspx](http://www.eccenter.com/Our-Structure/Committees/Christian-Education/Child-Abuse-Prevention-Guidelines.aspx)) or just search "child abuse" on the site. Of course the major church insurance carriers like Church Mutual and Brotherhood Mutual also have great online resources.

All the way back in the 1700's Edmund Burke observed "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Time has not changed the truth of that statement. As the Evangelical Congregational Church we must protect our children. And if or when we have concerns we must contact the authorities. The lives and the futures of our children are too important to do anything less.







# What's happening at Twin Pines this September, October & November?

## Fall Fix Up - Sept 18-20



Help camp as we "batten down the hatches" for winter, complete with special projects and extensive cleanup after summer camp has concluded! The various projects are both indoor and outdoor in nature. You may choose to participate for all or part of the time.

To register, call the office at 570.629.2411 or send an email to [linda@twinpines.org](mailto:linda@twinpines.org).

## Lift Hymn Up! Hymn Sing – Sept 23



The host church for the next Lift Hymn Up! hymn sing is Bethesda E.C. Church, Schuylkill Haven. Join us at 3:00 PM to sing hymns of the church.

## Fall Foliage 5K & Family Festival - Sept 29



Come run (or walk) the trails around Twin Pines amidst the beauty of the colorful fall foliage. Enjoy time with your family as you participate in pumpkin decorating, hay rides, homemade soups, and much more!

## Family Getaway Weekend - Begin Oct 5



As a Family Getaway, spend time with your family during the busy fall season. Getaway for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spend time with God. Housing, breakfast and spiritual guidance materials are provided in the rate. Choose from the basic weekend, a Weekend Extension (Columbus day), or Home school extension.

## Group's Local Children's Ministry Training – Oct 6



Twin Pines is locally supporting Group's Local Ministry Training event in the Stroudsburg area. This half-day training will focus on Cultivating Courage: Create a Fearless Environment for Children's Ministry.

## Married Couple Getaway Weekend - Oct 12-14



Take time to be together, alone, apart from your typical hectic life. Getaway for relaxation, relationship building, enjoying nature, and spend time with God. Housing, breakfast and spiritual guidance materials are provided in the weekend rate.

## Celebration Banquet - Oct 16



Good 'n' Plenty Restaurant, Smoketown, PA  
Doors open: 6:00 pm • Supper begins: 6:30 pm

Join us for a special evening as we celebrate how God has blessed and used the Ministry of Twin Pines the past year. The banquet is free; however, there is the collection of a free-will offering to support the ministry.

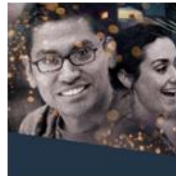
Although the meal is free, reservations are required, in order to give a head count to the restaurant. Please register by call the office at 570-629-2411 or send an email to Ms. Linda Foh, [linda@twinpines.org](mailto:linda@twinpines.org)

## Friends Getaway Weekend - Oct 19-21



Getaway 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.

## Group's Local Youth Ministry Training – Oct 20



Twin Pines is locally supporting Group's Local Ministry Training event in the Stroudsburg area. This half-day training will focus on Growing Spiritual Grit in Teenagers: The Strength They Need to do Tough Stuff

## Ministers' Retreat - Oct 23-25



A special mid-week retreat focusing on serving ministers. The event will focus on one's personal pastoral life. Based on Biblical principles, ministers will come away with practical concepts to encourage their own spiritual care.

Retreat Theme: *More than a Minister*. Rev. Wil Martin will be the presenter for this ministerial care retreat.

## Jr. & Sr. High Fall Retreat – Nov 3-5



The youth had fun at camp this past summer, and now they have a chance to enjoy it AGAIN! Join friends, summer staff, and other campers for a weekend of games, campfires, and growing in your relationship with Christ.

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Learn more about all of these at  
[www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org)

## Evangelical Congregational Church

100 West Park Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-7581  
[www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)



## MOUNTAIN MEN 2018

Saturday, September 22  
8:30 am–4:30 pm

Location:  
Trinity Lighthouse Church  
66 S. Limerick Road  
Royersford, PA  
610-948-5560

In cooperation with international men's ministry, Man in the Mirror, Mountain Men presents—the Rock Solid Men Conference! Speakers are Rev. Gary Kuehner, Rev. Cameron Smith, Dave Armstrong (Man in the Mirror) and Rev. Wayne Houck.

Sometimes it seems like there are no absolutes anymore. Moral relativism, political expedience, and simply trying to survive have many men feeling unstable. Trying to stand on your values and beliefs can make you feel like a man jumping from ice floe to ice floe. Each one teeters when it takes your weight, and you wonder if you will slip off into the icy water or if your footing will stabilize, at least for a while. What if you didn't have to jump—if you could stand on solid rock instead of tilting ice? What if you could walk with confidence, even while those around you were slipping and sliding through life? What would it take to live your life like that?

At Rock Solid Men, men will explore Paul's letter to the Corinthians, and be challenged to move toward manhood as described in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14: "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love." They will be encouraged to trust God more fully as their source of courage and strength, rely on other men and love well, seek wisdom and a deeper belief in Scripture, and be both offensive and defensive when it comes to their walk with God.

The event is divided into five teaching sessions, each one followed by discussion time in small groups. During the event, men will be given an opportunity to respond to the central gospel message, as well as join a six-week follow-up group with other men. Pastors—your men will bring home the materials and start the follow-up study at your church!

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
Vigilance:	Faith:	Courage:	Strength:	Love:
When I	What I	Who I	How I	Whose I
Act	Believe	Trust	Prepare	Am

To register go to:

[www.trinitylighthouse.org](http://www.trinitylighthouse.org)

Cost: \$29.00

Lunch will be provided





# September 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Ministry Funds to:</b> EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067</p>	<p><b>Insurance Payments to:</b> Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067</p>					
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Center Closed</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Youth Network Mtg Evangelical Seminary Convocation</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Benefits Corp Mtg  Camp ECCO Women's Retreat</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Health Insurance Due</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Camp ECCO Women's Retreat</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Info for October EC Leader Due</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Loan &amp; Investment Mtg  Fall Fix-Up, Twin Pines</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>StoneRidge Open House</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Mountain Men Retreat</p>
<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Church Health Community Mtg</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Camp ECCO Men's Retreat</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Fall Family Festival &amp; 5K Twin Pines</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Camp ECCO Men's Retreat</p>						

# October 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067		
				Kingdom Extension Offering to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate: Kingdom Extension Offering)		

100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067