

# E. C. Leader

FEBRUARY 2010

## Our Vision

*The Evangelical Congregational Church will be a dynamic movement of God that is led by pastors and laity who have a burning passion for God and a missionary zeal to reach the lost. We will creatively obey the Great Commission by transforming plateaued and declining churches into healthy, disciple-making churches that are committed to evangelizing the communities to which God has called them. Healthy churches will reproduce themselves by planting churches in least-reached communities. Interdependence will be the distinguishing mark of the Evangelical Congregational Church as local churches network with one another and ministries beyond the E.C. family to proclaim the Gospel to the world.*



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## Leaving the Upper Room

I'd like to have been there, in the "upper room" that seems to have been the primary gathering place for Christ's followers immediately after His ascension. I imagine them returning there as often as they could, filled with an urgent expectation, if not desperation. Praying and worshipping together as they waited for the promise of the Spirit to be poured out upon them.

When the Spirit finally came I wonder if the good people of "First Church Jerusalem" didn't have an urge to just stay where they were, soaking in all the goodness of God. It may have been hard to leave, but the Lord never really gave them the opportunity to remain. The localized hurricane of Pentecost drew a crowd, and somehow that congregation found themselves out on the street. The core group of one hundred plus now mingled with the thousands in the city.

Through the entire Book of Acts there are examples of Jesus moving to thrust His people out of places where they were comfortable into a wider world where they were not. Opposition propels them from the temple courtyard into nearby towns. Intense persecution eventually "drop kicks" them into contact with a gentile population they had largely managed to avoid. Old ways of serving God are replaced by new ones that took them beyond familiar traditions. It seems to me that part of their adventure as Christ-followers was seeing how God's plans surprised them next.

We seem to be living in a similar season. Christ is on the move and we're not always sure where He's leading. What we do know is that we want to get there with Him and stick close on the journey. That's not always an easy experience. Particularly when the Great Shepherd herds us into opportunities that leave us thinking "we're making it up as we go." Yet countless character studies in Scripture suggest that traveling without a detailed itinerary is a big part of what faith is.

So here we are (or should I say "here we go?") trusting Christ will give us the wisdom we need when we need it. Trying out different approaches to serving Him may seem as unusual to us as it did to charter members of THE church when they stopped hanging around the synagogue. Or when one of them thought, "I wonder what will happen if I share the Gospel with my non-Jewish friend?" Being Christ like just isn't a safe and predictable thing. It's not identical to merely "doing church" as we've always done it.

So be ready to leave your "upper room" whatever or wherever it may be. Yes... we'll always need the passionate prayer that went on there. It's simply the place itself and the familiar comfort it provides that needs to be left behind, over and over again for the sake of the people still "out there."

For Jesus,  
Bishop Kevin

## BISHOP'S TRAVELS...



### MARCH 2010

- 4 National Ministry Team Meeting
- 7 Ebenezer Church, Jim Thorpe
- 8 Pastoral In-Service & GLR Conference Minister Evaluation, Knox, PA
- 14 Faith Church, Williams Valley
- 17 Lenten Service, Reichs Church, Marietta
- 22-26 Study and reading week

## BISHOP'S PRAYER LIST...

- † The Stationing Process – may everyone involved be tuned in to God's voice and hearing His calling to match congregations and pastors for healthy ministry
- † The Strategic Planning Team – guidance to prioritize and refine the proposals so that they align with God's agenda and provide us with practical direction
- † The training events being offered this spring – that many will seize the opportunity and come away with all they needed and more
- † For our E.C. international partners – where the kingdom is enlarged, Satan often pushes back hard. The spiritual warfare is real; intercede for those in the heat of it.
- † For freedom to rejoice with those who rejoice – celebrate and affirm churches that are reaching out in new ways, adding services, and experiencing growth
- † For freedom to weep with those who weep – empathize with and encourage churches that are unsure about their future and looking for God's next step
- † Personally – for focus, clarity and better management of my time and schedule. I'm finding year #2 far more stretching than the first.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES...

### REMINDER:

**Women's Retreats: ALLEGHENY/BUCKEYE DISTRICTS**  
MARCH 26-28, 2010

**DELAWARE/SUSQUEHANNA DISTRICTS**  
"A TIME APART"  
APRIL 16, 17, 2010



Don't forget to check out our website: <http://ecwomen.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you!!! Words cannot express the feeling in my heart. Your prayers, cards, thoughts and words of sympathy at the loss of my dad will always be remembered. They have been a great comfort to me and my family. We are thankful to God for Dad and the fact that he is now with Him.*

*Isaiah 26:3*

*In Christ's Love,  
Pat Wolfe*



## FIT AND FLOURISH

In our experience with the Pastoral Assessment Center we have encountered a simple term that seems to work in just about every area of the church: FIT AND FLOURISH. This term was introduced to us by Tim Roehl (a consultant with Church Resource Ministries) in respect to evaluating men for ministry. It makes great sense! Place men according to the personality, talents, and the gifts that God has given them. This is what we try to do in the process of stationing too. It just makes sense to choose men for ministry whom God has already begun to prepare and assign those men according to what God has planned for them to do.

One of the things I dream about is applying this simple concept of FIT AND FLOURISH in areas beside pastoral selection. Immediately it is applicable to the selection of anyone, pastor or lay person, to church leadership. In fact, it is directly applicable to the selection for any area of service. Those whom God has created to be missionaries ought to be missionaries; and those whom God had created to be church treasurers to be church treasurers! You get the picture...

Of course, there needs to be a process of discovery to help an individual identify his or her place of service. Personality, leadership style, talents, and gifts all go towards fitting each and every one of us for service. The Pastoral Assessment Center is our process for helping men who feel called to pastoral ministry. We need to work on improving the process to help our churches.

It seems to me that this same concept ought also be applied to a church. Every local church has a calling from God that is unique to who they are. Not every church will be a "contemporary" church, and not every church will be a liturgical church. Rather, every church will be what God has made it to be with the personality, style, talents and gifts that God has given to that church for their particular ministry.

The simplest definition of church health is discovering what God has created a church to be; becoming comfortable with that identity; and then living it in ministry to the world so that people are drawn closer to Jesus Christ. We then live the Great Commission: GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

The tools that we offer through the Church Health Commission will help in that process.

**Our long term goal is to see each district equipped  
to network for the purpose of helping one another  
to be healthy and to reach a hurting world.**

Your feedback will be appreciated!  
Bruce Wagner  
Chair, Church Health Commission



## ***NEWS FROM BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION...***

Churches in PA, MD and NJ will be receiving shortly or already have received the annual Worker's Compensation audit forms. Please complete and return to Ken Wiest at your earliest convenience. These forms are vital to us receiving the best possible quote from our workers compensation insurance provider.

Treasurers please confirm that you are using your 2010 Ministry Fund forms which are available on the website, [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com)

*Kevin Henry*  
Controller



**“Spring Training” replaces W.O.R.D. Below are some confirmed dates and locations:**

- 1. April 7, 2010 St. John’s EC, Steelstown 8:30am – 3:00 pm**  
 Seminars: “Building Missions Into Your Congregation’s DNA”  
 “Money, Missionaries & Missions”  
 Refreshments & Lunch provided. RSVP 717-838-1171 or [Steelstown@earthlink.net](mailto:Steelstown@earthlink.net)
- 2. May 1, 2010 Ebenezer EC, Williamstown 8:30 am – Noon**  
 Seminar: “Building Missions Into Your Congregations’ DNA”  
 Refreshments provided. RSVP [rbbeilharz@tds.net](mailto:rbbeilharz@tds.net)
- 3. May 15, 2010 Community EC, Sinking Spring 8:30 am – Noon**  
 Seminar: “Building Missions Into Your Congregation’s DNA”  
 Refreshments provided. RSVP 610-670-1942 or [info@communityec.org](mailto:info@communityec.org)

\*A voluntary offering may be taken at these events to help cover the expenses of the host church

**Mission Mobilizer information meetings scheduled:**

- 1. March 6, 2010 Lakeside EC, Transfer Western PA/Ohio**  
 9:00-11:00am RSVP: [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com)
- 2. April 24, 2010 Zion EC, Myerstown**  
 9:00-11:00 am RSVP: [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com)

\*These meetings are open to anyone who has any level of interest in this exciting new strategy.



**New GMC DVD explaining Mission Mobilizer strategy:**

A short DVD explaining the Mission Mobilizer strategy is being produced. A copy will be sent to each church with the request that it be shown during the morning worship service. While you’re waiting to receive yours, you can view the rough draft on YouTube

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VB9IMj7K\\_0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VB9IMj7K_0)

**Spring Global Ministries Commission Meetings set for March 16 & 17, 2010**

**New Global Ministries Group page on Facebook:**

Check out the Global Ministries group page on Facebook and use it as a way to celebrate what God is doing in and through His people in our back yard and around the globe!



**ATTENTION! There are still 4-5 open slots for our July work team to Fairbanks, Alaska.** If you are interested, contact Pat at the GMC office. Email is [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com), phone number is 1-800-866-7584. We need to hear from you before the end of February!

**ACMC (Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment) is hosting a great Missions Workshop/Conference April 16-17, 2010.** This will be held at Calvary Fellowship Church in Downingtown, PA. Workshops include tracks in Leadership & Administration, Field Ministry Opportunities, Islam, Teaching Missions to Children, Missionary Care, Business as Mission, and Short Term Missions. Get more information and details at [www.acmc.org/conferences](http://www.acmc.org/conferences).

## CREATIVE EVANGELISM IDEAS

A missional people with a missional purpose – an example of creative outreach  
From Pastor Dan DeSchoolmeester and our church in Ashland, PA

Last summer we went around town on a very hot August day and gave away water bottles with a sticker attached which said, “If you only knew the gift God has for you...” John 4:10. Jesus is the living water!” We gave away free cupcakes to kids last year at the town’s fireworks, along with a paper inviting them to our VBS.

We have a free Clothing Closet every first and third Saturday of the month. We advertise on the radio, in the newspaper, and occasionally on the local TV. We have even had people call on an emergency basis, twice because of house fires, once because someone had a foster child who had been taken from his home, and only had the clothes on his back – no shoes, underwear, or anything else! Also, last year we had a “for what you want to pay” yard sale, and since then we have put household items in a “Next Time Around” room, which is also open for free to anyone who wants during Clothing Closet hours.



Every month to 6 weeks we have a free dinner. We try to have it on a Clothing Closet Saturday, to better get out the word out to those in need. It might be homemade chicken and dumplings, spaghetti, or baked chicken. Anyway, all this has people talking. The name of our church is being spoken of through Ashland, and many people just can’t understand what we’re about, but if we get asked we explain.

### NEWS FROM TWIN PINES:

#### Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for summer camp at Twin Pines. There are camps for kids and adults of all ages. If you like the outdoors you may want to try the “On The Edge” program or the “Green Scene” program. For fathers and sons there is “Dads 'n' Lads” camp and for moms and daughters there is “Moms 'n' Gals” camp. Both programs are only half a week and provide a great opportunity for parents to connect with their kids. For the whole family Twin Pines offers “Family Frolic”, with activities for every member of the family. Another opportunity for adults is “Adult Camp”, a special week for spiritual renewal, fun, fellowship, and interaction with other adults and the Twin Pines summer staff. New for 2010 is the “All Sports Camp”, directed by the staff of “Push the Rock”, a Christian based sports camp and seminar organization. Twin Pines also offers a wide variety of programs for kids of all ages. If you are unsure of what camp you would like to attend, take a look at the summer camp schedule on the Twin Pines website, [www.twinpines.org](http://www.twinpines.org).



#### Summer Staff

Twin Pines is currently in search of young people interested in Christian service. There are opportunities for summer staff available. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving on summer staff in 2010 please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org). If you are looking for a life changing service experience, don't hesitate and apply today!

## Summer Volunteers



Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer this summer?  
Are you 21 or older and willing to help in the kitchen or on maintenance?  
If you answered yes to these questions you may be interested in signing up to volunteer for a week at Twin Pines this summer. If interested in volunteering please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at [shawn@twinpines.org](mailto:shawn@twinpines.org).



## Calling All Ladies!

Do you enjoy Scrapbooking but can't find the time to work on your albums? Join us for the first ever Twin Pines Scrapbooking Retreat on March 26-27, 2010. Come join us for fellowship, devotions, seminars, and of course, scrapbooking! Creative Memories consultant, Julie Kindig will be here to help with all your questions and will have scrapbooking tools on hand for you to try out and purchase. Twenty percent of all Creative Memories purchases will be donated to Twin Pines. The Angel Company and Close to My Heart will also have some stamping and other materials on hand for you to use.



Registration is limited, so sign up today to secure your place! For more information or to get a registration form, please call the office or email our Guest Services Coordinator, Jill Matarazzi, at [jill@twinpines.org](mailto:jill@twinpines.org). Registrations are to be received no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. See you there!



## UPCOMING IN-SERVICE DAYS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

(Check out more information on the denominational website [www.eccenter.com](http://www.eccenter.com))

### Christian Ed In-Service Days

The 2010 in-service opportunities will be sponsored by the **Christian Education Committee**. Focus will be upon both children and youth ministries. ALL pastors are invited to this 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. event, in addition to children and youth workers from your church. Select one of the five dates which best fits your schedule – remembering to call Brenda at Church Center at least two weeks in advance of your in-service so the host church can be better prepared.

- March 2 – Emmanuel EC Church, Cedarville, IL
- March 8 – Grace EC Church, Knox
- SNOW DATE – March 11 – Bethesda EC Church (Reedsville), Schuylkill Haven
- March 13 – Grace Community EC Church, Willow Street

**REMEMBER:** Children and youth are not only the future, they are the present!!!

## “TransForMissional Coaching”

“Empowering Missional Leaders in a Changing Ministry World”

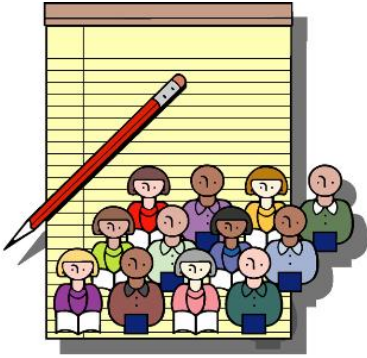
Thursday, April 8 & Friday, April 9, 2010

Seneca E.C. Church, Seneca, PA

Lead Coach/Trainer: Dr. Tim Roehl

Contact: Jodi at [jeahart@eccenter.com](mailto:jeahart@eccenter.com) or 1-800-866-7581





## THE WAYS OF THE ALONGSIDER

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Grace E.C. Church, Knox, PA

Presenters: Bill Mowry & Jim Lett

Contact: Jodi at [jeahart@eccenter.com](mailto:jeahart@eccenter.com) or 1-800-866-7581

## Leading Turnaround Churches

April 12, 2010

Salem E.C. Church, Lenhartsville

Speaker: Dr. Gene Wood

Contact: Brenda at [blong@eccenter.com](mailto:blong@eccenter.com) or 1-800-866-7581

## Pre-Conference Meeting Dates

Mon., April 26<sup>th</sup> – Emmaus

Tues., April 27<sup>th</sup> – Harrisburg, Faith

Mon., May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dixon, St. James

Thurs., May 6<sup>th</sup> – Sch. Haven

Mon., May 10<sup>th</sup> – Akron, First (OH)

Tues., May 11<sup>th</sup> – Countryside, Clarks Mills

Thurs., May 13<sup>th</sup> – Akron, Grace (PA)



## WORKSHOP ON BIBLICAL EXPOSITION 2010 – MAY 5-7

This year's workshop is designed to give you the tools to preach from these genres and to discover the connections between the poetic word and the Living Word, between wisdom and Jesus as Divine Wisdom.

### Guest Speakers include:

David Jackman, president of the Proclamation Trust, London, UK

Josh Moody, Senior Pastor at College Church, Wheaton, IN

Doug O'Donnell, Senior Pastor at New Covenant Church, Naperville, IL

To register go to:

[http://www.simeon.org/web/workshops/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=100](http://www.simeon.org/web/workshops/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=100)

Cost before April 21: \$99; after April 21: \$124.

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College has announced that they will be offering 25, 50 and 100 percent scholarship options to ministry leaders for their next Doctor of Ministry in Scripture, Spirituality, and Leadership.

Next June, ministry professionals will come from around North America to reflect, retool, and revitalize their ministry and inner life. The program is designed for the working professional, allowing D.Min. students to work at their own pace – two-week residencies, twice a year. Independent work for the incoming cohort starts on April 12, 2010; the first residency is weekdays, June 7-18, 2010.

Those who wish to be considered for the D.Min. scholarship should contact JP Anderson, Director of Admissions, at 585-594-6832.