

E.C. Leader

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.



Evangelical Congregational Church

Rev. Randall Sizemore Named New Director of Global Ministries



Rev. Randall Sizemore was named the eighth Director of Global Ministries Commission of the E.C Church during a special meeting of the National Ministry Team on January 14. Rev. Sizemore is currently pastor of Williams Valley Faith and Gratz Good Shepherd EC churches. He formerly served Community EC in Sinking Spring (1996-2002) and the Herndon-

Mandata EC charge (1992-1996). He holds a B.S. in Bible and Missions from Lancaster Bible College and the M.Div. from Evangelical Theological Seminary. He and his wife Carla reside in Lykens, PA, with their son Caleb, 18, and daughter, Leah, 16.

An Itinerant Elder, Pastor Sizemore is currently vice chair of the GMC and has served on its executive committee since 2001. He has also been spiritual director of Herndon Camp Meeting and Anthracite District facilitator since 2003 and a coach for ministers in training since 2004. He was elected to the Susquehanna Region CRC in 2007.

Randy has always had a passion for missions and a desire to know our missionaries and international churches better. In 2004 he accompanied Dr. John Ragsdale to Costa Rica, where he shared in conference meetings, preaching, teaching, and dedication of a church building. His wife Carla was preparing for the mission field prior to their marriage, and she shares a deep commitment to global outreach as well.

Randy succeeds Jim Ehrman as DGM on July 1, 2008. Pray for him and his family as they prepare for the responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities associated with this office. We have the confidence that Randy, like the Apostle Paul, will be able to do all things through Christ who strengthens him.

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Leadership Notes

- Mrs. Madeleine Hansen (Canton, First) has been added to the membership of the Great Lakes Region Conference Minister Nominating Team.
- Rev. Wayne Yarnall has accepted a long term appointment to Bethany Church, Pleasantville.
- Joshua Metz left for Afghanistan for his one year deployment. Keep him in your prayers.

Notes from National Ministry Team (NMT)

The financial partnership shared by the Church, the Seminary and the Village underwent a thorough evaluation at the end of 2007. We have watched the Village ministry grow increasingly complex with the addition of a family health practice and the envisioned addition of child and adult day care programs. The new entities, coupled with an increase in governmental regulations and the significant building program that will soon begin at the Stone Ridge campus, have led us to conclude that the current partnership should be dissolved thus allowing the Village finance department the opportunity to focus their personnel and resources on ECCRV's every expanding needs.

The partnership was reconstituted as a partnership between ECC and Evangelical Theological Seminary. A Chief Financial Officer has been employed to serve both ministries. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Kevin Henry as the Controller of the ECC and the Vice President for Finance and Operations of ETS. Kevin holds a BA in Business Economics from University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and an MBA in Finance from St. Joseph University in Philadelphia. He held a number of finance positions with Catholic Health Initiatives and St. Joseph Regional Health Network before joining the Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital as Controller. He is an active member and financial secretary of the Lancaster Evangelical Free Church in Lititz. He resides with his wife Nancy in Ephrata, Lancaster County.



Please note that the new partnership involves little change in policy and no change in budget. The partnership fees included in the 2008 NC budget will be sufficient to provide for a strong financial leadership team at Church Center. The change is in the office of Controller. Our current Controller, Eric Bender, and the Village Senior Accountant, Scott Graham (who kept an office at Church Center and assisted with some aspects of Church accounting) will relocate to the Stone Ridge campus by the end of January. We are grateful for the leadership and friendship of these brothers in Christ.

The Church should experience very little interruption of financial services during this transition period. Shirley Long and Ken Wiest will continue to provide outstanding service to our pastors and congregational leaders. Eric and Scott will provide Kevin Henry with excellent training and support. They will also assist with the 2007 year end tax reporting and audit preparations. Additionally, I am pleased to report that the information technology services will continue to be contracted through the Village and the Village facility services staff will continue to be available to our Office Manager, Brenda Long, when minor building problems arise. Major building issues are addressed by the NC Property Committee.

Although the formal partnership is dissolved, the Village is a valued member of the ECC family. As the Church invests resources in the Village, the Village will invest in the life of the Church. Praise the Lord! I invite your prayers for our new controller and his finance team.

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Bishop's Travels February 2008

3	Berlinsville
3-4	Illinois District visit
9-12	Buckeye District visit
10	Akron, Cottage Grove
11	Great Lakes Region CM interviews, Youngstown
21	Evening service at ECCRV-Albright
22	Finance Committee
24	New Tripoli, Jacob's
25	Pastor's Discipling Others Seminar, Myerstown
26	ECC Benefits Corporation Board
27	Church Planting Commission



News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

By the end of January, the church treasurer must provide an IRS Form W-2 to the pastor and any other staff member of the church. On the other hand, IRS Form 1099s are provided to "independent contractors," such as evangelists. A line-by-line discussion of how to complete the IRS Form W-2 is included here. Completing the W-2 should be relatively simple for the church treasurer. Additional information can be obtained from the **Compensation Manual** available at www.eccenter.com Step-by-step instructions and tips follow:

- Box a—list the employee or minister's Social Security number (**NOTE: For this year's W-2, the employee's Social Security number has been relocated from Box d to Box a.**)
 - Box b—list the employer/church's IRS identification number. Every church should have an Employer Identification Number. If not, the church treasurer on behalf of the church may obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) by completing IRS Form SS-4 or by applying on-line for an EIN number at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html>.
 - Box c—list the name and address of the employer/church
 - Box d—nothing goes in this box generally
 - Box e—list the name of the employee or minister as it appears on his or her Social Security card
 - Box 1—list all reportable taxable income for the employee or minister (do NOT include employer/church retirement plan contributions, amounts reduced for retirement from the employee or minister's salary through a valid salary reduction agreement, or ministerial parsonage/housing allowance).
 - Box 2—if the minister voluntarily requested that federal income taxes be withheld from his taxable compensation, including additional amounts to cover his Social Security tax liability, then list those amounts here. If there was no voluntary withholding agreement, nothing should appear in Box 2 of the minister's Form W-2. Of course, all Federal income tax withheld from an employee's compensation should be listed here.
 - Box 3 through 6—nothing appears in these boxes for *ministers*.
 - Box 3—for employees, the amount of compensation subject to Social Security appears here. The church
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Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .(continued)



treasurer should be aware that the “cap” amount subject to Social Security adjusts each year based upon inflation. The treasurer should also be aware that while salary reduction amounts withheld from a minister’s income are not taxable for income tax purposes or Social Security tax purposes, salary reduction contributions for non-ministers are taxable for Social Security purposes but *are not* taxable for federal income tax purposes.

- Box 4—for employees, the amount of Social Security tax withheld appears here.
- Box 5—for employees, the amount of compensation subject to the Medicare tax appears here. There is currently no cap on how much compensation can be taxed for Medicare purposes.
- Box 6—for employees, the amount of Medicare tax withheld appears here.
- Box 7 through Box 11—nothing generally appears in these boxes for ministers or employees in a church setting.
- Box 12—use the following codes and state the amount (additional codes may be applicable):
 - C—reports cost of group life insurance benefits in excess of \$50,000 paid by the employer/church
 - E—reports amounts contributed to a 403(b) retirement plan (like the Minister’s Retirement Plan) by *salary reduction* from the employee. Please note that retirement plan contributions made by the employer are not reported anywhere on the IRS Form W-2.
 - P—Reports qualified moving expenses reimbursed to the minister or employee. If the employer/church pays the moving company directly, those costs are not reported on the Form W-2.
- Box 13—if the minister participates in the Minister’s Retirement Plan, either through employer/church contributions and/or salary reduction contributions, check the box that reflects “retirement plan”.
- Box 14—Report housing allowance or fair rental value of parsonage for ministers. For example, if the minister received a housing allowance, box 14 would report “12000.00—Minister’s Housing Allowance.” If the minister lives in a parsonage, box 14 would report “12000.00—Parsonage Rental Value.”
- Box 15 through Box 20—nothing appears in these boxes generally for ministers. However, in the case of employees, the church will most likely be required to withhold state and local taxes. If so, then the treasurer would complete these boxes as appropriate.

The IRS provides detailed instructions on the completion of Form W-2 if such is needed beyond these cursory guidelines. In addition, the church treasurer should seek guidance and advice from a qualified tax professional if he or she is unsure on how to adequately complete the Form W-2 or the Form 1099. Seeking advice before providing the forms to the wage carrier and before filing such with the IRS is much easier than the treasurer trying to correct incorrect forms already filed.



2008 National Conference May 26-30

ALL National Conference information (registration forms, reports, etc.) will be web-based.

You will **NOT** receive any information through snail mail unless you request it. (Contact Brenda at 1-800-866-7581 or blong@eccenter.com) Forms and reports will be available as hard-copies or CDs but again **ONLY** if you request it.

Free Youth Leader Workshop "4 Programming Keys to Reach Youth for Christ"



Sponsored by:



What do Bill Gates, John Wesley and Albert Einstein all have in common?

They all made a significant contribution to the world before their 20th birthday.

How many students are sitting in the pews of our churches with this kind of talent, but without engagement? How many teenagers walk the streets of our communities longing to unleash their dreams without a place for them to get connected?

Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor (PACE) is offering the free workshop, "4 Programming Keys to Reach Youth for Christ" in four locations this Winter/Spring. The content will be presented by PACE director and adjunct professor of youth ministry at Evangelical Theological Seminary, Dr. Dave Coryell. Churches are encouraged to bring along all adults that currently serve with the youth ministry as well as any teens interested in the overall direction of the ministry. Dates and locations include:

Community EC in Sinking Spring/Berks County, Monday - February 25

Bethany United Methodist in Allentown/Lehigh County, Thursday - April 10

Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown/Lebanon County, Tuesday - April 14

Grace Community Church in Herndon/Northumberland County, Tuesday - April 22

All workshops start at 6:30 PM and end by 8:25 PM.

To register please call the Pennsylvania Christian Endeavor office at 610-369-0207, e-mail eventinfo@pachristianendeavor.org, or visit the PACE website at www.pachristianendeavor.org to register online.

Twin Pines

For Ladies Only Retreat—April 15-17, 2008

It's not too early to register for Twin Pines "For Ladies Only" Retreat on April 15-17, 2008. Our guest speaker is Rev. Ruth Puleo, who is an ordained minister and serves as an associate pastor on staff with her husband, John, who is the Senior Pastor at Christian Life Assembly in Stroudsburg, PA. She has a heart for souls and especially for the needs of women. Her dynamic delivery expresses the depth of her conviction and the compassion with which she ministers. Ruth is the mother of three children and grandmother of three. She is also the Women of Purpose Director for the Penn-Del District of the Assemblies of God. It is Ruth's desire to equip women and girls for ministry and God's service. See our Pines Lines newsletter for more details on this special retreat geared to women of all ages.



Volunteers and Summer Staff Wanted at Twin Pines

Looking for a local opportunity to serve God this summer? Give Twin Pines a call to see how God might be able to use you through this special Summer Camp ministry. Call 570-629-2411 or email to jim@twinpines.org or shawn@twinpines.org. Don't miss out on a special blessing this summer!

Spring Spruce Up Retreat—April 29-May 2, 2008

Spring Spruce Up is around the corner! This is another opportunity for you to volunteer and help keep your camp in "tip-top" shape. Mark will have many things on the list for you to choose from and I'm sure will include anything from raking to painting. This is a free retreat, but you do have to be in physical condition to do the work. We'll supply the tools, place to lay your head at night, great food, and wonderful fellowship! Advance reservations are required, give us a call or send us an email.

◆ Sailer Lecture

Evangelical Theological Seminar begins its spring semester with the Sailer Lecture in Dech Chapel on Thursday, January 24, at 11:00 am. Dr. Kenneth H. Miller, professor of Christian theology, will speak on "Message in a Bottle?...The free flooding sermon in uncertain waters." The public is invited to attend.

◆ Rose Fest 2008

July 11-13, 2008

Rosdale Camp Grove in Laureldale, PA right outside of Reading

The event begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, July 11th but people need to arrive early to sign in at registration table and get settled in if camping for the weekend. Event ends at 2:30 pm on Sunday, July 13th.

Youth/young adult festival and conference (or for anybody young at heart). Tickets are now on sale. Visit: www.rosedalegrove.com/rosefest for more information.

◆ Save the Date!

F.A.T. Lock-In at Ozzy's is

November 28-29, 2008!

Sponsored by the EC Youth Network. More details to come!

- ◆ The **Christian Ed Committee** of the EC Church is in search of a resource librarian who would be willing to advertise and promote the resources that are available at Church Center. It behooves us to be good stewards of all God has entrusted to us. Collecting dust and taking space is not our intention. If you would like to be in the know and share the wealth of our resources with others please contact...Mike Snedeker by phone at 610-670-1942 or e-mail him at mike@communityec.org. How wonderful it would be to lend these jewels that are presently just sitting pretty!

2008 Pastors' In-Service Day

SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan 17 (Thurs)	Northeast/Lehigh	Bethlehem Emmanuel
Jan 18 (Fri)	Berks/Penn Jersey	Boyertown Trinity
Jan 31 (Thurs)	Conestoga/Red Rose	Brownstown Ebenezer
Feb 4 (Mon)	Illinois	Dixon St. James
Feb 6 (Wed)	Susquehanna/Capitol-Lebanon	Lewisberry
Feb 7 (Thurs)	Anthracite/Schuylkill	Williamstown Ebenezer
Feb 12 (Tues)	Allegheny/Buckeye	Delightful

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

9:30 am—2:00 pm

Session 1	9:30-10:45	"I Want to Hear Your Heart" Dialogue with the Bishop Elect
Break	10:45-11:00	
Session 2	11:00-12:00	"Prayer for The Church"
Lunch	12:00-12:45	
Session 3	12:45-2:00	"When God Speaks About Money...Do We Listen?" Rev. John Ragsdale
Dismissal		

Notes from National Ministry Team (NMT) continued....

Pray too for the Partnership Leadership Team comprised of Dennis Hollinger (ETS president), Becky Reigle (EC Benefits president), Jim Ehrman (GMC director) and Mike Sigman (Bishop). I also extend appreciation to the National Executive Committee that gave leadership to the transition. The NEC is charged with the oversight of the partnership.

— — — Bishop Mike Sigman

Church Planting



fering promotion.

Bishop elect Leibensperger and I are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Les Cool as the denomination's first Church Planting Associate. Les began this work on January 2nd. It is a part-time position requiring approximately 10-12 hours of work each week. A salary of \$12,000.00 was included in the 2008 NC budget. Job description details are being worked out with the goal of finalizing the description by March. He has assumed immediate responsibility for the church planting newsletter and the February of-

Les also serves as the pastor of Hope Community EC Church in Newark, Delaware. As you may recall, Les is the church planting pastor of this church. He currently serves on the Church Planting Commission, providing pastoral support and church planting resources to our church planters. Les and his wife, Carol, live in Bear, Delaware.

— — — Bishop Mike Sigman