

September, 2008

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**

The Call Continues

The apostle was stating the obvious when he said, "And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:14 When it comes to our dreams of becoming a movement that multiplies disciples and churches, something is equally clear. "How can we plant churches without church planters?" Plainly you can't. It's no more possible to do that than it is to be saved without hearing the gospel.

I'm utterly convinced enough pastors and equip- they need to birth new ones. Let's pray together that those He is preparing, the summons and the heart to



that Jesus is still calling ping them with all the gifts churches and restart old the Holy Spirit will give ears they need to hear the obey.

I'd encourage you to God about calling others.

to be a planter or a part of a new church launch team. Perhaps we should all operate from the assumption that we are called to that work until the Lord tells us otherwise! And if you've seen a fellow believer in action whom you think might have the call upon them, ask him if he's ever imagined himself in that ministry. That simple suggestion has been a pivotal moment in many a person's search for God's purpose for their life. Your sincere and prayer tested counsel could be that start of journey filled with eternal significance. As usual the harvest is plentiful and the workers few, but the call continues.

go further than talking to Ask Him if He's calling you

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Bishop Kevin

"It was he who gave some to be apostles... prophets... and some to be pastors and teachers." Ephesians 4:11

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In the Works

The Governance Manual is in the process of being written and edited by the Leadership Commission. This tool will serve as a companion piece to the Discipline and provide guidance to our congregations as they organize and structure themselves for ministry using principles based approach. We hope to have this ready for distribution prior to National Conference 2009.



The updated edition of the Discipline is being proofed and finalized in preparation for being sent to print. We'll keep you posted on the anticipated release date.

Evangelical Theological Seminary... Presidential Search

Evangelical Theological Seminary invites applications for the position of president to succeed Dr. Dennis P. Hollinger, who left office to become the President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The Seminary's seventh president will be a passionate follower of Jesus Christ and a person of the highest personal and professional integrity. The Seminary seeks a team-focused, visionary and energetic leader who is able to communicate Evangelical's story with confidence and enthusiasm.

The Seminary was founded in 1953 to provide a Wesleyan-Arminian education for pastors of the Evangelical Congregational Church. From its earliest years, Evangelical has welcomed all who respect this Wesleyan and evangelical heritage. The Seminary currently enrolls students representing more than 25 Christian denominations.

Nominations and applications should be received by October 31, and directed to: Dr. William Worley, Chair, Presidential Search Committee, Evangelical Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 482, Myerstown, PA 17067 or e-mail at gscheirer@evangelical.edu. For more information, visit the Seminary's web site at www.evangelical.edu.

Special Events:

- October 31-November 1 ***"Pray Big, Pray Bold, Pray Better"*** The first Eastern Regional Conference of the Church Prayers Leaders Network will be held at ETS in Myerstown. We are excited to announce an exclusive offer for E.C.'s!! Watch for the letter and registration form in your mail this week.
- November 18-19 ***Evangelical Leadership Academy*** will be held from noon to noon at Grace Community E.C. Church in Willow Street PA. The topic is "Becoming A Healthy Pastor. Dr. Tom Clegg of CoachNet is the presenter.
- January 22-25, 2009 **Pastoral Assessment Center** will be held at the Evangelical Theological Seminary. Deadline for registration is November 7th. Contact Jodi at jeahart@eccenter.com for more information.
- March 14, 2009—***Multiply***—an event for leaders of churches interested in planting churches with resource person Phil Alessi. Location to be announced.
- May 2, 2009—***Reaching People Without Christ with Life to Life Discipleship*** This seminar is extended to help churches involved in disciple making to take that process to the next level. Milfred Minatrea, author of "Shaped By God's Heart" will be the featured speaker. Location: Wyndamere Heights E.C., Lewisberry.



Bishop Kevin's Travels October 2008

October	7-9	Mission America Gathering, Minneapolis, MN
	10-11	Worldfest, Myerstown, PA
	12	Christ EC, Whiting, NJ
	19	Lawn EC, Lawn, PA
	26	Reich's EC, Marietta, PA



From the Bishop's prayer list...

- Praise... that we've located a home and are hoping to make settlement by the end of October and move sometime in November.
- Pray for the planning underway for National Conference 2009.
- Pray for the process of preparing for Stationing in the new year.
- Pray for the special offerings that sustain Global Ministries & Church Planting Commission initiatives.
- Pray for churches that are multiplying disciples and preparing to plant churches.
- Pray for churches that are grappling with the need for a turnaround or restart.

News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

INFORMATION FOR THE PASTOR'S 2009 SALARY: Go to the EC Church website (www.eccenter.com) under Compensation, click either 2009 Information or the 2008 Compensation Report. For information on the 2009 Health Insurance rates, go to the Benefits Corporation section of the website.

SAMPLE PASTOR'S SALARY FORMS: There are completed sample 2009 Compensation forms now available on the Compensation section of the EC Church website. These provide examples of a pastor's compensation package with housing allowance and one with a parsonage and utilities paid by the church. All of the 2009 Pastoral Compensation forms are also available on the website, along with instructions for completing the forms.

PARSONAGE REVIEW FORM: The Lay Delegate of every church whose pastor lives in a church-owned home, is responsible to see that there is an annual walk-thru of the parsonage as outlined in the National Conference Rules Section 1002b. At the time of the walk-thru, the Parsonage Review Form is to be completed, signed and submitted to that church's Conference Minister. The Parsonage Review Form is available on the Compensation section of the EC Church website.

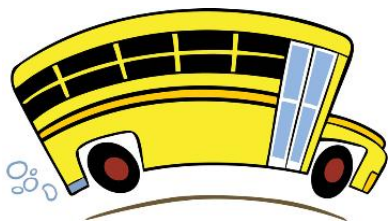


ALLONE WELLNESS PROGRAM: Each active, full-time pastor and/or Aetna health insurance participant received a letter introducing our new Wellness program with ALLONE Health Management Solutions of Wilkes-Barre, PA. For those enrolled in our AETNA health insurance plan, ALLONE is included with your benefits. Therefore, there is no additional cost to you. Your church is paying for wellness program, whether or not you and your family participate in the program.

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ELA Reminder

This year's Evangelical Leadership Academy will be held on November 18-19 from noon to noon at Grace Community E.C. In Willow Street, PA. The topic is "Becoming a Healthy Pastor." Dr. Tom Clegg of CoachNet is our presenter. Overnight housing is available. Registration information will be forthcoming.



Local Church Historians

Gary Brown, National Conference Historian, will present an evening training at ETS, room 110 on Monday, October 27 at 6:30 pm. This will be for **Local Church Historians**. It will be a workshop on *"How to and Why Do Local Church History."*

From Twin Pines Camp:

Calling all Golfers and Golf Sponsors!

The 15th annual Twin Pines Golf Classic will be held October 7th and 8th. This is a great time of fun and fellowship. It also raises funds to help with the upkeep and renovation of the many buildings at Twin Pines. If you are a golfer or would like to sponsor a golfer please contact the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411 and more information is available on our website at www.twinpines.org.



Retreat Season



If your church is considering a retreat now is the time to book a retreat at Twin Pines. There are still dates available but they are filling up fast. A retreat experience can have a lasting impact on your churches growth and well being. Perhaps booking a retreat for members of your church would allow them to be spiritually renewed and continue to grow and lead the church. For more information about availability of dates please contact Pam Rankin at pam@twinpines.org or by calling her at 570-629-2411.

Twin Pines Banquet

The Twin Pines Celebration Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at Good n' Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown, PA. The doors will open at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30. Reservations can be made by calling the Twin Pines office at 570-629-2411 or emailing Shawn Fetterhoff at shawn@twinpines.org. We hope you can join us for an evening of celebrating what God has done in the ministry of Twin Pines this year.

News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . . continued

For those pastors not enrolled in the denomination's health insurance plan, the ALLONE WELLNESS program is available to you at a cost of \$100 for the year, beginning January 1. The cost includes you, your spouse, and any adult, dependent children, over age 18. (The fee is due to the Benefits Corporation by Dec. 15th.)



ALL ONE will be able to provide you with a broad range of health management resources, enabling you to take control of your health, make the right health-related choices, and manage a health problem should one arise. The program will include your own personal health coach, available to you by phone or email, to answer your questions, give you encouragement, and help you make the choices for a healthier you and your family.

In October you will receive a confidential wellness survey from ALLONE which we strongly encourage you to complete and return to ALLONE. It is through this survey that ALLONE will be able to tailor specific programs to meet the needs of our pastors, their families and our other participants.

More information will be forthcoming over the next few months, with January 1 as our planned start-up date. This is a major initiative of the Benefits Corporation and the EC Church. It is our hope that as our pastors and their families use the ALLONE Program, we will see healthier pastors and lower health insurance costs. Statistics show that after several years, there is a direct correlation between offering a wellness program and the reduction in health insurance costs for those who participate. For more information on ALLONE, contact Becky Reigle.

PRESCRIPTIONS: Don't forget to check out Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Target or Sam's Club if your doctor prescribes a generic drug for you. You can probably get it much cheaper going to one of these retail pharmacies than if you use your health insurance card.

ELECTION NOT TO ENROLL FORM: September is Open Enrollment month for our AETNA health insurance plan. For those pastors who are waiving coverage with Aetna because they have coverage under their spouse's insurance or they have coverage through a previous employer, the Election Not to Enroll Form is due by October 1 to Ken Wiest, Benefits-Compensation Administrator. The form is available on the EC Church website under the Benefits Corporation section.



I.D.E.A.L. INVESTOR: (from Jennifer Buehler, Wachovia Securities)

Volatile financial markets tend to bring out the worst in people — particularly when a steep drop occurs. Oftentimes a bad string of trading days causes many investors to throw out the investment principles that made them successful in the first place. In reality, your investments shouldn't change because of what happens in the market on any given day, week or month — they should change when your goals and dreams change. This being said, there are a couple of easy steps you can follow to be an I.D.E.A.L. investor:

Invest. Patient investors can outlast a bear market. In fact, every 10-year period in the past 50 years, regardless of the date you invested, has shown positive stock market gains in the S&P 500*.

Diversify. Diversification of your portfolio is designed to reduce your overall risk by spreading your investments over a wide range of economic sectors. The markets do not all move in sync. Stocks may go up as bonds go down, and international markets may outperform as the domestic markets are weak. By putting your investments into several asset classes, you may offset losses from the poorly performing areas with gains in the areas that are doing well. Diversification, however, cannot eliminate the risk of fluctuation prices

News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . . continued

and uncertain returns.

Expect the Market to Go Down Sometimes. Stocks decline, sometimes for extended periods. Market pauses and declines, including ones that may be long and steep, are part of the investment process. There have been 11 U.S. bear markets since 1950 — each with an average duration of 13 months and an average decline in the Dow Jones Industrial Average of 29%.

Average Costs. By dollar-cost averaging, you regularly invest a specific dollar amount regardless of market swings. You buy more units of a fund when its price is low and fewer units when its price is high. This strategy does not assure a profit and does not protect against loss in declining markets, but it can help you keep your long-term plans on track to meet future goals by building up your holdings on a regular basis. Because such a strategy involves continuous investment, investors should consider their ability to continue purchases through periods of low price levels.

Long-Term Investing. Although you may lose money in any given year, remaining committed to a long-term approach — 7 to 10 years — may be an important defense against a downturn.

(* Source: Bloomberg market data/Wachovia market analytics)

THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT: Pastors, if you are thinking about retirement, please contact Jennifer Buehler, our Wachovia Securities advisor, at least 5 months before you think you will be retiring. Don't wait until a month or 6 weeks before retirement to check in with Jennifer and ask your questions about your 403b pension plan. Your planning needs to begin long before the National Conference in which you actually plan to retire. The earlier that you consult with Jennifer, the better your retirement planning will be. (Jennifer Buehler: 717-761-7344 or Jennifer.buehler@wachoviasec.com)

SOCIAL SECURITY—Important Information you need to know about your Social Security Benefits: Beginning with the September EC Leader and for the next 3 issues, watch for articles on important information you need to know about Social Security.

September—"Your Social Security Earnings Statement"

October—the new "Social Security Retirement Estimator"

November—"Stretching Social Security Benefits"

December—"Survivor Benefits and Delayed Retirement Credits"

SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS STATEMENT: Each year about three months before your birthday, you should receive a report from the Social Security Administration called Social Security Earning Statement. This report, four pages in length, provides your projected benefits status. In fact, on page two of the statement your projected benefits are listed based upon your current contribution levels. From the statement, you can determine what Social Security is projecting that you will draw upon reaching retirement age. The statement also provides you with details on your Medicare eligibility.

Besides the information on page two that is helpful for your future financial planning, the most important page of the whole report is your statement of earnings on page three. The report actually details how much you made each year during your working career and how much you paid into the Social Security system each year. It is critical that this information is correct. If not, you will be short-changed on what you draw from Social Security.

It is important to remember that Social Security benefits are calculated based upon your total earnings during your lifetime. There continues to be a myth that your Social Security benefits are based upon your "top three earning years" or your "last three earning years." That is nothing but a myth. Your Social Security benefits, in fact, are based upon your lifetime of work, or more specifically, on your 35 best years of

News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

earnings from work. Therefore, it is critical that all years are properly accounted for on the earnings statement. If not, you should provide the Social Security Administration with data to correct the errors. It also is much easier to make the corrections now than to be forced to make such corrections in the days leading up to the time that you want to draw your first Social Security check. So read the Earnings Statement carefully and make sure that it is correct.

Evangelical Theological Seminary

Nearly 200 students are registered for the 2008-2009 academic year, which began with a September 2 Convocation. Dr. Jim Schwenk, professor of church history, delivered the Wittmaier Lecture, and the presidential search committee was consecrated for its task. The recommendation for ETS's next president is scheduled to go to the Board of Trustees for their February, 2009 meeting.

Leadership Contact course on "The Healthy Church" begins October 21, from 6:30-9:15 p.m., and continues on Tuesday evenings through December 9. Rev. Jeffrey Byerly is the instructor. Local church leaders are particularly urged to consider this opportunity for growth and enrichment. Cost is \$175, and deadline for registration is October 14. Contact Miriam Moury in the Center for Servant Leadership, 717-866-5775, ext. 2106.

Dr. Myron S. Augsburger, president emeritus of Eastern Mennonite University and noted pastor, teacher, and author, **will present the annual Ritter/Moyer Lecture on Thursday, October 23, in Dech Chapel.** His 9:30 a.m. presentation is "The Centrality of Reconciling Grace," and the 11:00 lecture is "Bridge Building — The Strategy of Love." A break between sessions allows opportunity for conversation with Dr. Augsburger. The event is free and open to the public. Pastors wanting to receive CEU's for the lecture should sign up in the ETS office before 9:30 a.m. on October 23 and pay a \$10 fee.



Friends of Evangelical Banquet is set for Friday, October 24, at Calvary Church, Lancaster, with Dr. Augsburger as speaker. A fellowship time begins at 5:45, and dinner is served at 6:30. Cost for the event is \$40. Contact the ETS advancement office at 717-866-5775, ext. 2116 by October 5 to make reservations.

Evangelical is hosting the Eastern Regional Church Prayer Leaders Network Conference on October 31 and November 1. Through a special arrangement with CPLN, EC pastors, their spouses, and local church and district prayer coordinators may register for only \$20. The conference begins Friday night at 7:00 and continues all day Saturday with keynote addresses by Jonathan Graf and David Butts, dynamic worship, and practical workshops. Call the Center for Servant Leadership for information or registration.

Address CHANGES

Address:

- Rev. Joel Christman, 1836 Thorntree Lane, Justin, TX 76247; 940-648-2602
- Rev. David Heil, % Mennonite Homes (Ju 305), 1520 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601; 717-490-8630

Email:

- Todd Wolfe—twwolfe@bethesdaec.org
- Trent Stehr—tstehr@verizon.net

