

## E.C. National News

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Summer, 2010

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### Remembering Bishop Kevin

Bishop Kevin Scott Leibensperger, 53, unexpectedly departed this life for his eternal home on Tuesday, June 1. During National Conference 2008, Kevin accepted the gavel to become the thirteenth Bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

As our denominational leader, he urged us to be “a missional people with a missional purpose.” In his first Episcopal Address, he said, “The E.C. Church must have a future pursuing Christ’s priorities. Sending will be a central theme, because God is a missionary God.”

He was passionate about making disciples, planting churches, and seeking God in his personal quiet time. His articulate preaching made him a popular speaker at churches, retreats, and camps. He was also an adjunct faculty member at Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Kevin was born on December 19, 1956 in West Reading, PA. His home church was Grace E.C. of Reading. He graduated from Muhlenberg High School and Ursinus College. He pursued a law degree until a call to ministry brought him to ETS. He married Deborah Kern of Mohnton on August 15, 1981.

He served the Slatington Trinity and Egypt St. Paul’s Churches from 1982 to 1986 and was senior pastor at Boyertown Trinity from 1986 to 2008.

Kevin lived in Cumru Township near Reading. He is survived by wife, Deborah; daughter, Sarah (Christopher) Mikaya; and sons, Peter (Kelly), John, and James. He is also survived by his mother, Marilyn Leibensperger, and a sister, Ann. He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Leibensperger.

His memorial service, held in Boyertown on June 5, was a powerful testimony to the Gospel, with message by Rev. Michael Sigman.

Kevin’s Episcopal Address, delivered at our recent National Conference, followed the theme, “A New Thing – Our Future is a Movement of God,” based on Isaiah 43:19, “See, I am doing a new thing... will you not be aware of it?”

He asked, “Do I believe it, can I perceive it, will I pursue it?” God’s new thing would include “A new passion (being consumed with obeying Jesus rather than consuming religious goods), A new engagement (holiness isn’t avoiding those who haven’t met Jesus yet), and New partnerships (we all need a fresh work).

Finally, “People are lost because we aren’t looking for them.”



### Pastor’s conference announced

Pastors and spouses are invited to the **Small Town Pastors’ Conference**, Monday thru Wednesday, September 27 to 29 at Calvary Church in Lancaster, PA. The seminar, sponsored by the Rural Home Missionary Association, includes such topics as “Ministry in Postmodern Rural America” and “Building a Growing Church in a Declining Small Town.”



Cost is \$105 per pastor and \$150 per couple. Registrations should be sent to RHMA, Box 300, Morton, Illinois by September 6. For more information, call 1-866-263-2350, or go to [www.rhma.org](http://www.rhma.org).



### Cyclists ride for wells



**Matt and Andy Friedlund**, sons of Pastor John & Kathy Friedlund, Boyertown PA Trinity, along with friend, Morgan Jones, are on a coast-to-coast bicycle tour to raise money for wells in Uganda.

They are working with Food for the Hungry.

Initial goal was to raise \$5,300 for a well-drilling project in Marale. As of July 21, \$10,600 has come in, making possible a second well in Piswa. Additional funds will go toward a third well in Kitany. Currently, women of the villages spend several hours a day bringing home water that is neither clean nor plentiful.

Matt is a recent graduate of Huntington University in Indiana, while Andy and Morgan are students at Albright College in Reading.

To follow their adventures, go to [www.ridemarale.blogspot.com](http://www.ridemarale.blogspot.com). Donations may be made at [www.fh.org/ridemarale](http://www.fh.org/ridemarale) or Food for the Hungry, Marale Water Project, 1224 East Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034.



## Men's retreat planned

The annual Illinois Men's Retreat will take place at Rock River Bible Camp, Dixon, IL, August 13-14. Speaker will be Pat Vandenburg of The Father's House in Lena. Pat has been a frequent speaker at Iron Sharpens Iron Conferences.

Cost is \$25. Contact Tom Brey at [tep915@yahoo.com](mailto:tep915@yahoo.com) or 1-815-284-3849.



## Camp dock is dedicated

A new dock on the lake at Camp ECCO, Carrollton, OH was dedicated at the recent Memorial Day picnic. The structure has been dubbed "Doc's Dock" in memory of Dr. Paul Dunn. The pastor and Western Conference Superintendent was instrumental in the beginnings of Camp ECCO.



## ECCI celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The 100th anniversary of the preaching of the Gospel in southern Manipur State, Northeast India was celebrated May 4 thru 7 in Churachandpur.

Those attending from the States were Rev. Randy & Carla Sizemore, Global Ministries

Commission; Rev. David & Dana Swift, Myerstown Zion Church; Dr. Kenneth Miller, ETS; Paul & MaryBeth Elsen, Winnebago, IL; and Jim Ehrman, Yale University. The visitors conducted workshops and participated in graduation at the Evangelical College of Theology.



The Good News of Jesus Christ was introduced to the area by Welsh missionary Watkin Roberts in 1910. He was followed by the North East India General Mission, Paul & Ella Rostad, and the E.C. Church.

A procession of over 30,000 villagers carried torches to the celebration hall, where the Centenary Flame was lit. GMC Director Randy Sizemore dedicated the Centenary Monument, and a 10,000 voice choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The Evangelical Congregational Church of India currently has 50,000 members. Rev. Lalroseim Songate is General Director. They deploy almost 200 missionaries into four countries, reaching 12 people groups, 20 languages, and five major religions. The missionaries had their first missions conference after the celebration, May 10-11.

A video of the event is available from the GMC office.



## Pastors win dirty sneaker

At this year's National Conference, the Healthy Pastors Task Force sponsored a "Passport to Health" contest between pastors and lay people. Individuals were given "passports" with twelve achievements to be stamped. By a close margin, pastors earned the most points and kept the Dirty Sneaker Trophy for a second year. It is on display at Church Center.



## Leadership changes reported



On Sunday, April 25, **Rev. Gordon Lewis** ("Gordy") was installed to serve as Conference Minister of the Susquehanna Region. Rev. Lewis was elected at

National Conference 2009 and began his first term July 1.

The service took place at Trinity E.C. Church, Harrisburg, PA, where Rev. Lewis was pastor. He previously served Allentown Grace as assistant, Bair, Pitman Zion & St. Paul's, and Royersford. Wife is Donna.

**Rev. Frederick Moury's** retirement after three terms as Susquehanna Conference Minister became effective July 1. We have much appreciation for Rev. Moury and wife, Miriam, as he fills the position of Conference Chairman in the unexpected loss of Bishop Leibensperger.

A nominating committee has been selected, and a new Bishop will be elected at National Conference 2011.



At this year's National Conference, **Rev. Gary Kuehner** was elected as the next Conference Minister of the Delaware Region. His first term will begin on July 1, 2011. He currently pastors at Lenhartsville

PA Salem. Wife is Carol.

**Rev. Bruce Wagner** has begun his final year as Delaware Conference Minister. Wife is Barbara.



## Thank you, Becky

July 13 was **Becky Reigle's** last day as President of the E.C. Benefits Corporation. She was elected to the Board of Trustees at the last General Conference in September 2002 and became President of the Corporation in July 2006. We greatly appreciate her help in matters of insurance and investments for pastors and families.



Becky's husband, Rev. Richard Reigle, serves Christ E.C. Church, Allentown, PA



**Rev. Franklin Schock** of Lititz is the newly elected President of the E.C. Benefits Corporation.

## New at Twin Pines

Several months ago, **Ben Gladhill** became new Assistant Director at Twin Pines Camp, Stroudsburg, PA. Ben comes from Waynesboro, PA, while wife, Becky, grew up in Washington and Michigan. Both are graduates of Huntington University and have much experience in Christian camping. They have a son, Braden.



Upcoming events at Twin Pines include the Summer Staff Concert on July 31; annual Bible Conference with Rev. Gary Brown, September 13-15; and the Fall Fix-up Retreat, September 21-23.



## Family News

### Weddings:

**Joel Roberts**, son of Pastor Kevin and Danette Roberts of Tamaqua PA Bethany married **Mary Papay** on March 13. The father of the groom officiated.

**Becki Stahl**, daughter of Pastor Robert and Christine Stahl of Schuylkill Haven PA Grace, married **Andrew White** on March 27 in Annapolis, MD. The father of the bride officiated.

**John Price**, son of Pastor James and Kathryn Price of Mohnton PA Zion, married **Rochelle Krantz** on May 15 in Avalon, NJ. Pastor James Price, brother of the groom, officiated.

**Brittany Hansen**, daughter of Pastor Glenn and Madeleine Hansen, who just retired from Canton OH First, married **Matthew Douglas** on June 11. The wedding took place at Canton Baptist Temple.

**Joshua Wert**, son of Pastor Donald and Rita Wert of Emmaus PA St. Matthew's, married **Nicole Martino** on June 12 in Lancaster County. The father of the groom officiated.

**Pastor Ronald Shipman** of Bangor PA First United married **JoLynn Dentith** on June 20 in the church he serves.

**Kayla Krcal**, daughter of Pastor Donald and Karen Howell of Clarks Mills PA Countryside, married **Gabriel Greathouse** on July 17 at Countryside. The father of the bride officiated.



## Graduations

The following pastors received Master of Divinity Degrees from Evangelical Theological Seminary on May 15:



**Adam Roberts**, Kutztown, PA  
**Kenneth Wiest**, Womelsdorf, PA  
**Douglas O'Brien**, Rextmont, PA

**Timothy Seiger**, Lewisberry PA Wyndamere Heights, recently received a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Biblical Seminary in Hatfield, PA.

## New babies

Pastor Glenn and Pam Lambert, Hatfield PA Emmanuel, have a new son, **Caleb Samuel**, born March 31. He has a brother, Issac, and a sister Cassandra.



Pastor Brent and Lisa Martin, Allentown PA Seibert, have a new son, **Noah Matthew**, born May 26. He has a sister Lael, and a brother Jaden. Noah arrived early, and his family hopes to bring him home in late July or early August.

## Remembering loved ones...

**Daniel Maurer**, Lay Delegate from Ashland PA Bethany, passed away on March 9. He is survived by wife, Janet; daughter, Lisa; son, Michael; and mother, Margaret.



**Linda Glauthier**, wife of Rick Glauthier, Lay Delegate from Akron OH Cottage Grove, passed away on May 2. She is also survived by daughters, Rene and Michelle, and son, Rich.

"Missions Activist", **Ruth Newcomer**, passed away on March 26 at Moravian Manor in Lititz, PA. She served on the Eastern Branch Missionary Fellowship and represented the Board of Missions to World Relief. Recently, she ministered to troubled teens as "Grandma Ruth" at Barnes Hall in Lancaster.

**Shirley Ragsdale**, wife of Dr. John Ragsdale, Associate Pastor at Reading PA First, passed away on July 2. She served with John in Zambia and was his helpmate in other ministries, including Director of

Missions. She is also survived by daughters, Wendy and Crystal.

We apologize for omitting the name of John Shields as a son of **Jim Shields**, Twin Pines Camp Director, in reporting Jim's passing in the last edition.

## Commissioning

**Nick and Lisa Lakatos** were commissioned for missionary service at their home church, Transfer PA Lakeside, on March 7. Children are Hannah and Samuel. They are headed for Mexico after language school in Costa Rica.



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