

Lehigh Presbytery News

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November 15, 2016

Lehigh Presbytery Installs Rev. Dr. John Haberer, Jr. as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown



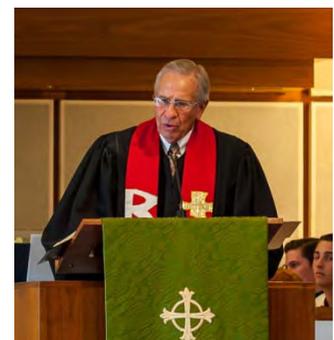
The installation service, on October 23, 2016, capped a two-year national search headed by First Presbyterian's 10-member Pastor Nominating Committee, whose decision to issue a formal call to Rev. Haberer was reviewed and approved by Lehigh Presbytery.

Rev. Haberer is well known in the Presbyterian Church (USA), having served on several denomination-wide committees and task forces, most notably the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and Purity of the Church from 2001-2006. He previously served PC(USA) pastorates in Houston, Texas, Satellite Beach, FL, and Naples, FL; two of them long-term positions as Lead Pastor. Rev. Haberer was Editor-Publisher of *The Presbyterian Outlook* for nine years and is the author of three books.



The installation service opened with bagpipes—a reflection of PC(USA)'s historical Scottish roots—and included clergy and leaders from throughout Lehigh Presbytery as well as numerous clergy from other local denominations. Many friends and former colleagues of Rev. Haberer also attended. Music was provided by the Covenant Brass and First Presbyterian's 10:10 Alternative Band, Chancel Choir and Youth Choir.

After Rev. Keith Brown, Honorably Retired Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, delivered a sermon titled "The Life-Saving Station," Rev. Haberer was formally presented for installation through a series of statements from the Presbytery, questions to the candidate and questions to the congregation. Dozens of elders and teaching elders came forward to lay hands on Rev. Haberer during the prayer of installation. The service was followed by a reception in First Presbyterian's Fellowship Hall.



Rev. Haberer was drawn to First Presbyterian Church of Allentown because of its earnest pursuit of being disciples of Jesus Christ and its variety of worship styles. "I want members of this church to cherish their memories of the church they once were, and yet march into a vital new future," he says. "I look forward to joining a community of people who promote traditional values and

fight against traditional injustices. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this congregation and engage in the surrounding communities.”



Lehigh Presbytery Installs the Rev. Laura Stone as Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington



On March 13, 2016 the congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington voted to call their temporary supply pastor, the Rev. Laura Stone, as their part-time pastor. The Committee on Ministry, acting on behalf of Lehigh Presbytery, approved this call and petitioned the presbytery to appoint an Administrative Commission to install her.



On September 25, 2016 the Lehigh Presbytery installed the Rev. Laura Stone as Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington, PA.

Commissioners and clergy from the Presbytery were invited to attend this joyous occasion for the Slatington church. Clergy were asked to wear red stoles.

During the prayer of installation, elders and clergy came forward to lay hands on Rev. Stone. The service was followed by a reception in their Fellowship Hall with food provided by members of the church.



Community Presbyterian Church of Mt. Bethel & Portland recognizes area Fire Companies and PUMP Volunteers



For the past 4 years, the Community Presbyterian Church of Mt. Bethel and Portland congregation has been recognizing the three local fire companies, North Bangor, Portland and Upper Mt. Bethel during their worship service. They are all located in Upper Mount Bethel Township. Each fire company was presented with a monetary gift to show appreciation for their service to the community.

This year in addition to recognizing the firemen, they also honored the volunteers who work with PUMP [Portland Upper Mount Bethel Food Pantry] and presented them with a monetary gift to continue their ministry in the community.

After the worship service, the firemen, volunteers, and congregation members were treated to a wonderful luncheon provided by the worship committee.

Two years ago, during the service, the Portland fire company received a call. They are also the water rescue unit for this area and someone was in the Delaware River and needed to be rescued. The volunteers left in mass. After the service the congregation members packed meals and brought them to the firemen and volunteers. They were very appreciative.

Celebrate Thanksgiving in Bethlehem!



The congregation of First Bethlehem (PCUSA) invites our brothers and sisters in Lehigh Presbytery to join us for a **Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** at the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem PC(USA), 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA. The service will feature choir and brass quartet.

All clergy are invited to robe with red stoles for the service and are requested to arrive by 6:30 PM so we can facilitate worship leadership.

If your congregation does not have a Thanksgiving Eve service, please come to Bethlehem. Your presence is an encouraging word!

HELPING HANDS MAKES A DIFFERENCE GEORGETOWN, SC

The Helping Hands Care Team of Lehigh Presbytery has just completed their second mission work trip to Georgetown, South Carolina to help the residents rebuild after flooding damaged their homes.

Three Helping Hands volunteers left early on Thursday, October 13, 2016 to scout out the work sites in Georgetown and plan the work load for the week. The ride from Allentown, PA to Georgetown, SC lasted 13-1/2 hours due to the many roads that were washed out or flooded by Hurricane Matthew the previous Saturday.

On Friday, October 14, 2016, the team assessed the work needed on three different houses and trailers. Two needed roofs, the third, and the one that Helping Hands would work on, needed a handicap ramp. As they walked around the house/trailer, they noticed that the roof was in need of repairs. Rafter tails were rotted, as well as the fascia and soffits. What they couldn't see, left much to the imagination and they planned for the worst.

On Saturday, two of them went downtown to visit the Wooden Boat Show festival that was going on in Georgetown. There was a boat building contest with ten teams of two people building 10 ft rowing Skiffs. They had 4 hours to complete them. One team had the fastest time and finished their boat in 1 hour 34 minutes and 40 seconds. The teams then had to row their boats across the river to the island. It was fascinating to watch.

The bulk of the Helping Hands volunteers left on Saturday, October 15 from Allentown, PA and arrived at the church in Georgetown at 9:30 p.m. after a 15-1/2 hour trip by van.

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, seven volunteers were dispatched to Deanne's house. (She is the Regional PDA coordinator.) A very large branch had fallen from the tree in her yard during the storm. The volunteers were tasked with cutting it up into manageable pieces and hauling it to the curb. The branch was about 14" in diameter and it took about 3 hours to complete the job. When the team returned to the church they had some down time to do whatever they wanted.....read, visit the boat show, or visit one of the many State Parks.



Monday thru Friday, the volunteers were broken up into two teams. One on roof repairs, the other on constructing a deck and ramp. The roof required much dismantling and the removal of the old shingles, various pieces of roof sheathing and fascia. Many of the rafters also needed repairs. The team worked hard and finished the roof on Friday morning.



The team constructing the ramp removed the steps from the deck and then built a new 5'x6' deck to connect the ramp. The ramp would eventually be 28' long. The team dug holes for posts at prescribe locations, placed posts and filled holes with concrete. Decking, along with railings, was added to the ramp. They also replaced the old deck stairs at a rear entrance to the house.



On Tuesday and Wednesday several volunteers went to the home they worked on during their spring trip to do some painting and mudding. It was great to hook up with old friends at the Jerusalem Center.

The Georgetown, SC area is still in the need of help. It will be interesting to see where their spring trip will take them. That chapter will be decided at their November meeting. Stay tuned!!!

Ps. Why don't you think about joining them. They laugh a lot, learn new skills, and bring hope and joy to those who have lost so much. They'd love to have you come along. You will see that YOU gain more than you give.

If you can't join us on a trip there are other ways to help.....

- monetary donations to help purchase the materials needed to rebuild homes that are damaged. Donations can be sent to Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104. Please mark Helping Hands in the memo line;
- become a member of the Helping Hands Care Team and lend your talents to help plan these mission work trips. Please call 610-391-9020 or email office@lehighpresbytery.org the presbytery office and we will give you more information or put you in contact with the planning team.
- praying for those affected by disasters and the volunteers who give of themselves to help rebuild these homes and give them hope.

New Cabins Dedicated at Kirkwood Camp

2015 was the first summer as a joint camping ministry between Lehigh and Philadelphia Presbyteries, and it was an incredible success. They are blessed to have this unique combination of traditions, with both Brainerd and Kirkwood's respective histories blending into a new, and unique, living community.

As of January 2016, Kirkwood started operating with a new Board of Directors, as well as a new on-site Director, to grow their reach as a ministry. As a part of this, they have built two brand new cabins identical to Carr Cabin, and have updated a ton of key aspects to their facilities and property. Of course, all of this has been made possible by the generous support of the presbyteries they serve, individuals and families who identify with their mission, and a huge assistance from their volunteers.

Folks from Lehigh and Philadelphia Presbyteries were invited to the dedication of the two new cabins. The dedication took place on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Participants were given an opportunity to check out the camp and become acquainted with the facilities by being able to stay overnight for a nominal fee. Then wake up to enjoy a worship service on Sunday morning at the Gorman Roof Chapel.

A small dedication ceremony took place on Saturday, before the unveiling of the new names for the cabins.



Tommy Campbell, Camp Director helps unveil the names of the two new cabins built this year at the camp. In honor and memory of Camp Brainerd, the first cabin was named Brainerd Cabin and the second was named Lehigh.



Many folks from Lehigh and Philadelphia joined in to dedicate these two new cabins. Afterwards they enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by Ben Hooper of the Catasauqua Presbyterian Church.



Don't forget the summer camping season is just around the corner. It is a wonderful opportunity for youth to make new friends in a safe, non-judging environment and check out the new cabins and programs. Watch for details after the first of the year.

Shoppers Wanted!



The Women of Faith at Faith Presbyterian Church is holding their annual **Holiday Craft Fair** on **Saturday, December 3, 2016**.

We'll have Christmas ornaments, handmade baskets, jewelry, homemade candy and baked goods, just to name a few of the beautiful gift items that will be offered. Last year we had nearly 30 vendors!

Anyone interested in signing up for our holiday craft fair, whether as a vendor or craft seller, please contact Sandy Gingrich at 610-967-3419 or Sue Lawall @ suelaw2@verizon.net ASAP for more information and registration forms.

Faith Presbyterian Church, 3002 N. Second Street, Emmaus, PA



Congratulations to the **Rev. Grace Kim**, minister member of Lehigh Presbytery on the validated ministry roll. Rev. Kim launched her latest book, "Making peace with the Earth" at the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

To read more about this and her new book, please visit:

<https://gracejisunkim.wordpress.com/2016/09/22/making-peace-with-the-earth-book-launch-and-discussion/>

KEEP UP WITH THE NEWS AROUND THE SYNOD OF TRINITY



The Synod of the Trinity sends out an e-news letter that highlights the presbyteries and churches in the Synod. Learn about their missions and events.

To view the most recent newsletter from the Synod of the Trinity visit:

<http://www.syntrinity.org/news/synod/> or
<http://www.syntrinity.org/news/featured/>

You can sign up to receive their news via email by emailing Mike Givler at mgivler@syntrinity.org. They are looking for interesting events and happenings in the churches. If you have events of interesting stories about your church, please contact Mike Givler at the Synod of the Trinity. You never know, you may be featured in their next edition.

2016 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

The 120 year old *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* has transformed to a new digital-only resource. By offering this as a free resource through our website, we are able to broaden its reach, share inspiring content in a timelier manner, and demonstrate better stewardship.

Click the link to read the daily Mission Yearbook article.
<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>



2017 Urban Mission Camp Program

Government Street Presbyterian Church (GSPC), located in historic downtown Mobile, Alabama, is currently preparing for our 2017 Urban Mission Camp program. For 25 years, GSPC has welcomed youth and adults throughout the church and provided life-changing experiences during Urban Mission Camps.

At GSPC's Urban Mission Camp, campers will:

- Bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ through service to urban poor.
- Learn about urban issues from those they serve and receive testimonies concerning God's presence in their lives.
- Reflect on poverty issues in light of Biblical and Reformed understandings of Christian faith.
- Live together and build a Christian community.
- Experience the connecting foundation of the Christian community.
- Grow spiritually through worship and devotion guided by our staff.

Campers will reside at Baytreat, GSPC's beautiful conference and retreat center, located on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay (enjoy a virtual tour at http://youtu.be/giuTmej_sU). Campers arrive Saturday afternoon, worship at GSPC on Sunday, work Monday through Thursday at a variety of mission sites, enjoy Thursday afternoon at the beach, and depart Friday following breakfast. The following dates are available for 2017 Urban Mission Camps:

June 3-9	July 8-14
June 10-16	July 15-21
June 17-23	July 22-28
June 24-30*	July 29-August 4

*Week 4 (June 24-30) some participants will help lead *Richard Mighell Day Camp*, our VBS program hosted at Baytreat for children from the Boys and Girls Club in Mobile, alongside our other opportunities.

Urban Mission Camp is designed for high school and college age students; therefore middle school youth group requests will be evaluated on a case by case basis. One adult advisor (at least age 25) must accompany every seven youth participants. The age limit does not include church employees. Although our maximum capacity is 32 participants per week, we encourage smaller groups (at least three or four youth and one advisor) to participate. We will work to combine several smaller groups for a richer experience. The cost of \$330 per participant includes six nights lodging, sixteen meals, and a t-shirt. Please see the Urban Mission Camp brochure to learn about saving \$50 per participant. *Space will be officially reserved for your group only when the deposit of \$150 per camper is received.* For more information about Urban Mission Camp or Government Street Presbyterian, visit www.gspcmobile.org.

Sincerely,

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PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

The new Presbyterian Giving Catalog will be arriving in mail boxes soon! To begin your holiday shopping now, visit presbyteriangifts.org.

We have been working hard to ensure that Presbyterian Giving Catalog resources are easy to access and understand. Please visit our updated resource page (<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pgcresources>) for downloadable resources, stories from congregations, and examples of how gifts like yours can impact an entire community.

Join us to see how a small gift can make a big impact.



The Feasting on the Word curriculum explores lectionary passages in ways suitable for all ages: children, youth, young adults, and adults. There's also a special resource for pastors that includes weekly children's bulletins. With this unique approach, the curriculum connects worship and faith formation like no other lectionary curriculum ever has.



Including both downloadable and print-and-ship options, along with seasonal, 9-month, and 12-month purchase options, educators and pastors of all types of congregations will be able to find what works for them. You can save money with total church plans, and if you're a small church (under 50 congregants); we also have plans specifically for you.

The Winter curriculum covers every Sunday from December 4, 2016 to February 26, 2017.

Click here to learn more about the best-selling series.

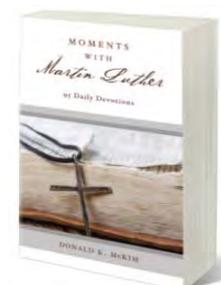


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Moments with Martin Luther

95 Daily Devotions
Donald K. McKim

~~\$15.00~~ **\$9.00**
You Save 40%



As the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation approaches, take time to reflect on the writing and through of its founder Martin Luther. Inside, readers will find ninety-five entries, each with a passage of writing from Luther followed by a reflection by Reformed theologian and writer Donald K. McKim.



Make a gift to mission co-worker support now and double its value!

Gifts from individuals, combined with Basic Mission Support funds from congregations, enable Presbyterian mission personnel to work in approximately 50 countries.

As church wide mission funding continues to change, we cannot keep dedicated mission workers in service unless Presbyterians support us with gifts over and above their congregational giving. Presbyterian World Mission will send as many mission workers as the church will support. Your financial gift blesses our sisters and brothers in countries all across the globe by expanding World Mission's capacity to respond to urgent requests for mission personnel.

Some generous Presbyterians have agreed to **match all gifts** to Presbyterian mission personnel support **up to \$56,000 between now and December 31, 2016**. This means your \$50 gift will double in impact and value by leveraging a matching gift for all mission co-workers. You can help alleviate poverty, hopelessness, and violence in every region of the word.

When you give, simply write matching gift E132192 in the comments filed.

HURRICANE MATTHEW – Disaster Assistance Response



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support for those affected by Hurricane Matthew. The category 4 hurricane has already been blamed for hundreds of deaths and continues on a path of destruction toward the southeastern US coast. Earliest assessments confirm extensive damage in southwestern Haiti and eastern Cuba. PDA was already active in the area, doing long-term recovery work related to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and Superstorm Sandy of 2012.

PDA will immediately begin working alongside established partners to respond to this latest crisis. Immediate response will help provide essential food, water, and supplies for impacted communities and villages. As long-term recovery needs are determined, PDA will continue to support those in impacted areas to ensure a comprehensive recovery.

"It's not just coastal areas that have been impacted," said Jim Kirk, associate for U.S. disaster response with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. "Because of the heavy rains in North and South Carolina as well as Virginia, there is a concern about flooding in the central parts of the states."

Kirk and other PDA staff have been in constant contact with church leaders in the affected areas.

"I've been in touch with presbytery and synod execs," said Kirk. "We've let them know that we care and are willing to help. We will have boots on the ground."

Because of the rising water, Kirk says it's difficult to determine the extent of damage, but expects the long-term recovery to take three to five years.

"This is an event that has significantly impacted nine presbyteries and that's unusual. We're talking something on the level of a Hurricane Sandy. It has covered a lot of territory," said Kirk. "If there is a blessing out of this, it didn't make landfall as a Category 4 hurricane, but it hugged the coast from Florida to Virginia."

GIVE: This designated account, **DR000193**, supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering to enable a significant response for relief and recovery from Hurricane Matthew which in October 2016 caused widespread destruction in Haiti, Cuba, and the United States.

ACT: As Christ's followers, we are called to action. It is a way we show our love for Christ and display God's faithful love to those around us. Here you will find ways that your love in action can involve you in the ministry of disaster response.

[Stay Informed](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Assemble Kits](#)

You can also join the Helping Hands Care Team of Lehigh Presbytery as they plan mission work trips to the affected areas on the East coast. Or sign up to work on one of their trips.

PRAY: Our best response is prayer. Pray that through the response of the faith community, survivors and those offering assistance will be reminded of the hope that is found in Christ.



Around your Synod

The Synod of the Trinity is dedicated to keeping our presbyteries and congregations updated on events happening within our region. If you haven't visited our website recently, here's what you have missed:

- **Fire destroys Philadelphia church** Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Overbrook regrouping after blaze.
- **Kiskiminetas welcomes new General Presbyter** Rev. Dr. Don Wilson began his call in May. Learn about his ambitions and passion for running marathons.
- **Commissioner Corner** Meet Dianne Kareha (Lehigh Presbytery) and William Moore (Presbytery of Lake Erie).

Resources Available

Here's a list of some other things you can find on the Synod website at www.syntrinity.org:

- **Applications for these Synod grants:** Peacemaking Grants New Initiative for Presbyteries Grants Network Grants Student Study Grants **Plus:** DREAM Grants offered by presbyteries and colleges
- **Events Calendar** See what's going on around the Synod, from workshops to special celebrations.
- **Employment Opportunities** Job listings are updated regularly as received.
- **Coming Soon!** The Synod of the Trinity will celebrate its 300th birthday beginning in October. Look for details as they are finalized.

Being More Together