

APRIL PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Meeting of the Lehigh Presbytery took place on April 28, 2015 at the First Presbyterian Church of Reading. Following the Call to Order by Moderator, Teaching Elder David Duquette (Pennside Presbyterian Church of Reading), Teaching Elder David Watson, Interim Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Reading, delivered greetings from the First Presbyterian Church's congregation and shared some of the church's history and the church's ministry in Downtown Reading.



Our special guests for this meeting were the Moderator of General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Ruling Elder Heath Rada and his wife Peggy. The Moderator received gifts representing the different regions of the Lehigh Presbytery. Rev. David Duquette provided a tour of the Amish Country and Moderator Rada was reunited with an Elementary School friend, Courtney Stevens, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Reading. Moderator Rada's speech was exceptionally powerful as he reflected on what he has seen and heard during his travels as Moderator. (You can read his speech on the Lehigh Presbytery blog at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/blog/>).

During Open Mic time the names of those in Ministry celebrating their quinquennial anniversaries of their Ordination were read. Rev. Jeff Gissing - 5 years, Rev. Stephen T. Emick - 25 years, Rev. F. Leon Morgan - 55 years, Rev. Gary Miller - 45 years, and Rev. Carol Brown - 40 years. Congratulations to all.

Teaching Elder Dianne Kareha announced the details of the upcoming Pentecost Special Offering benefiting Youth Ministries. 40% for this offering will be given to home church programs. Administrative Professionals Week is being celebrated and Moderator Duquette honored Robin Mathias for her dedication to the Lehigh Presbytery. A plea to respond to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support those helping the Nepal Earthquake victims was made by Cindy Simmons.

Teaching Elder Sue Bennetch, Chair of the Administrative Commission, gave the report on the closing of Olivet United Presbyterian Church to take place with their last worship service being held May 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. celebrating the life of the church, followed by a reception. Sue closed her report by adding that for 116 years God has richly blessed the Olivet United Presbyterian Church. Moderator Dave Duquette offered a prayer.

Ruling Elder Sally Heimbach, chair of the Committee on Shared Gifts, presented a slate of nominees for Presbytery committees. Ruling Elder Jim Robinson and Teaching Elder Sue Bennetch were elected to the Committee on Ministry. Teaching Matilda Church was elected Chair of the Committee on Ministry beginning in June. Teaching Elder Helen Cochrane was elected to the Presbytery Lead Team. Additional positions will be filled in the coming months.



A very special Worship service included Moderator Rada's sermon, "Hope Abounds" and the Recognition of the Honorable Retirement of Teaching Elder Matilda Chase by Teaching Elder David Duquette. Communion was presided over by Teaching Elder Susan Tindall (College Hill Presbyterian Church of Easton). Special music was provided by Ellen Chen-Cooper, pianist and Greg Reber, violinist. Liturgists were Ruling Elder Courtney Stevens, Teaching Elder Matilda Chase, and Teaching Elder Stephen Emick.

Dinner was graciously prepared by a professional chef and served by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Reading.

The Presbytery is grateful for the hospitality of the church and the attention to details by Pam Bush.

The Presbytery approved the motion by Teaching Elder Stephen Emick, chair for the Committee on Ministry, to dissolve Olivet United Presbyterian Church of Easton with regret and Thanksgiving. The Presbytery then approved the Honorable Retirement of Teaching Elder Matilda Chase. Teaching Elder George Taylor provided a "*Trip Down Memory Lane*" in honor of Teaching Elder Matilda Chase.

Teaching Elder Emick then announced that the Committee on Ministry and the Presbytery Lead Team will have a joint meeting to review the Church Self Assessments. He also gave an update regarding PA Act 153 and its implications for the churches, and thanked the Presbytery for arranging the excellent presentation by Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Kurland at the Pre-Presbytery meeting on this subject. Chair Emick introduced Ruling Elder Joan Spangler, a candidate to be examined for Ordination. Candidate Spangler read her faith statement and after a question and answer time was approved by Lehigh Presbytery for ordination as a Teaching Elder.

The Presbytery approved the Amendments to the Lehigh Presbytery Dismissal Policy presented by Ruling Elder David Boltz.

After discussion, the Presbytery voted to approve Amendment 14-F Marriage (Amending W-4.9000, Item 10-02) of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Marsha Heimann
Stated Clerk

Friends of Brainerd:

We are auctioning off these name plates to the various buildings at Brainerd. You may submit a bid on one or all of these. The highest bid on each name plate gets it. You will need to make arrangements to pick it up or have it delivered.



We will close bids on June 7, 2015 at 6pm.



To make a bid on one of these signs, please visit the Camp facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CampBrainerd?fref=ts>

Just place your bid in the comment section for this posting. Please include your name and contact information.

Are you Passionate about Church History?



You may or may not be aware that the Synod of the Trinity is turning **300 years old** in the fall of 2016. They are in the very early stages of talks about how they are going to celebrate this milestone birthday. One thing they obviously want to do is include the history of our presbyteries in anything that we do.

They are looking for anyone who is passionate about history, specifically church history, in our presbytery. It can be someone who works at the presbytery and has knowledge of our presbytery's history or it could be someone at a church in our presbytery who has these qualities.

If you are interested, please send your name, phone number and email address to Mike Givler at the Synod of the Trinity (contact info below).

Mike Givler
Communications Coordinator
The Synod of the Trinity
3040 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-737-0421, ext. 233

Moderators Forums

Lehigh Presbytery Moderator Dave Duquette has held three Moderator's Forum's from the beginning of the year. The purpose of these forums is to discuss what our challenges are and what our future might be. The agenda for the forums is simple: Opening Prayer, Listening to what those assembled have to say, and Closing prayer.

Please make a note of the upcoming forum and join us:

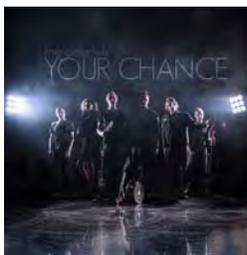
- [July 28, 2015](#) at Washington Presbyterian Church, 715 N. 10th Street, Reading, PA at 11:00 a.m.
- [August 25, 2015](#) at Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA at 2:30 p.m.
- [October 27, 2015](#) at Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 1129 Shawnee Church Road, Shawnee on Delaware, PA. Time to be determined.

Let us come together and discover what God has in store for us!

To read the notes from the previous meetings visit the Lehigh Presbytery website at:

<http://lehighpresbytery.org/news-events/moderators-forum/>

Bluegrass Concert



On **Sunday, June 14, 2015, at 4 p.m.** *The Doerfel Family Bluegrass Band*, a faith-based, contemporary band, will be performing a fundraiser/outreach festival at First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg. The Doerfels are headliners for the Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival the weekend of June 12-14. This performance will be held in the sanctuary and will be their final concert of the weekend. You won't want to miss this exciting event!

The band is composed of five permanent members, each primarily playing one instrument and singing, although they can play other instruments as well. T.J. is 26 and plays banjo. Kimberly is 24 and plays fiddle. Eddy is 21 and plays mandolin. Joey is 20 and plays bass. Ben is 18 and plays guitar.

You can find out more about the band at www.thedoerfels.com.

Tickets are \$15, on a first-come-first-served basis, as the capacity of the sanctuary is limited. They will be available starting June 4, 2015. You may purchase them during the week by calling Amy Wyckoff, Church Administrative Assistant (First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg, 570-421-7751), on Sundays June 7 and June 14 at First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg, or at the door.

A reception will follow.

First Presbyterian Church
579 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360



The Helping Hands trip to Jamaica on April 12-18, 2015 was a huge success!

As in the past the Helping Hands volunteers stayed at the First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, New York; but they had a change in venues as far as work was concerned.

On this trip they worked through Umcor (United Methodist) volunteer outreach. They found themselves working in two different sections of Brooklyn, Canarsie and Sheepshead Bay. They shared their talents with three different houses.

1. The First house was a row home. The family consisted of a Mom, Dad and five children who hadn't had any help to make the repairs since Hurricane Sandy damaged their home. The Helping Hands volunteers were able to gut the first floor bathroom down to the joists and made some plumbing upgrades; tore down the plaster and insulation of three ceilings and four walls; and removed the cabinets in two kitchens. During this demolition, they ended the day covered in cellulose insulation. But as the week progressed, they turned the corner and were able to frame and insulate four walls; sheet rock three walls, one ceiling and various places that had been removed due to water damaged. Fortunately, there was another skilled group coming in the following week and if the plumbing gets finished, they would be able to finish the painting and trim work. Then the family would be well on their way to moving back in.



2. The second house had a single mom. The Helping Hands volunteers removed a large dropped ceiling and several walls. They reframed the walls to create a new floor plan. They insulated and dry walled the front and rear walls. They also rearranged the bathroom walls to make it larger. This was the first help that she had received. Hopefully more volunteers will lend some additional help in the coming weeks.



3. The third house Helping Hands volunteers worked on was that of a Viet Nam Vet with some disabilities. His house was a complete rebuild. They had four volunteers working three and a half days. Two



laid hardwood flooring in one bedroom and then prepared another bedroom. Two other Helping Hands volunteers thin set and screwed down cement backer board in the kitchen. They laid and cut the tile and then thin set it in place. Hopefully there'll be another group to finish the work started and grout the floor in the following weeks.

Some notable happenings on this trip; there were four new people along with the minister (a member of Helping Hands who had been called to PDA gatherings at the time of their other trips). It was great to have new faces and to have him on this trip. The Magical disappearing van managed not to disappear and DD was not in the vocabulary every day, even though it tried very hard to be.

All who went had a great time and laughed much. Helping Hands is planning their next trip for the end of September-beginning of October and are looking to return to Point Pleasant, NJ. But the destination may change.

They are always looking for a few good people; young or old, handy or not, that want to challenge their boundaries and who like to laugh to join them. For more information, contact the Presbytery office or visit the website at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/helping-hands/>

2015 ARMSS / POAMN Conference
THE SPIRIT SUSTAINS: *Purpose, Call, Mission & Ministry*
October 13-16, 2015
Crowne Plaza, 1901 University Blvd., Albuquerque, New Mexico

Join us October 13-16, 2015 in Albuquerque for the 2015 ARMSS / POAMN Conference!

POAMN is the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network, a network of persons who are engaged in ministry with older adults. These people work in presbyteries and synods, they are leaders in congregations, and some serve in specialized ministries such as chaplains in care facilities and presbytery staff who are involved with older adult ministry committees. POAMN is related to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information or a brochure visit their website at:

<http://www.poamn.org/index.php/2015/04/23/2014-poamnamss-joint-conference/>

To register online at <http://www.poamn.org/index.php/association-events>

WANT to LEARN MORE ABOUT 1001 New Worshiping Communities?



If you are interested in learning what is 1001 Worshiping Communities

OR

Wonder how your church could be involved

OR

You have an idea or dream for a new worshiping community

OR

You are just wondering where the Holy Spirit is working on new things

Join us for a Conversation with Vera White
National staff for 1001 New Worshiping Communities

Monday, June 1, 1 – 3 pm
Presbytery of Newton Office
390 Route 10 West Randolph, NJ 07869

Please let us know you are coming by RSVP-ing to Sonja
at office@newtonpresbytery.org Or call 973-361-0084

[For more information about 1001 New Worshiping Communities](#)

A New Worshiping Community is...

- New
 - Seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ
 - Taking on varied forms of church for our changing culture
- Worshiping
 - Gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament
 - Sent by the Spirit to join God's mission for the transformation of the world
- Community
 - Practicing mutual care and accountability
 - Developing sustainability in leadership and finances

<http://newtonpresbytery.org/1001-worshipping-communities-conversation/>

<http://www.onethousandone.org/>

Calling All Aspiring Artists Entering Grades 9 to Age 100! Art Classes by Michael Harrar in June



Michael Harrar, an artist who serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators and a mission partner of First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, is offering a series of art classes at the church in June. Michael has taught art at the high school, Advanced Placement, University, and Masters levels around the world. He recently illustrated several sermons at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem.

Classes will be held in the Commons (former Youth Lounge) on **June 15, 18, 22, and 25 from 7–9 p.m.** at the **First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA.** Michael will also have an exhibit of his artwork in the hallway leading to the Chapel.

The series of classes will focus on various skills:

- **June 15:** Sketching and drawing—bring black pencils and a sketch pad
- **June 18:** Watercolors and pastels—bring watercolors, brushes, paper, easel, and a bowl
- **June 22:** Acrylics—bring acrylic paints, brushes, easel, paper or canvas, and rags
- **June 25:** Mixed media (no oils), where students will learn to portray a spiritual interpretation of an object they bring in—bring media of your choice.

There is a maximum class size of 18; preference will be given to those who can attend the entire series, but others will be welcome to attend fewer than four sessions, if space allows.

Suggested Donation: \$50 for the series or \$15/individual class to help purchase art supplies for artists Michael will be teaching in Africa who help illustrate Scripture translations. A detailed list of supplies will be sent to registrants. If you have questions, contact Cathie Ward, cathieward3@hotmail.com. Register on line at <http://form.jotform.us/form/51315532329147>.

The **registration deadline** is **June 7, 2015** or when the maximum of 18 students is reached.

Big Tent registration available now

Registration for the Big Tent gathering, which will be held July 30 through August 1, 2015 on the campus of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN, is now available.

Register by clicking [here](#).

View a one-minute video [here](#) that gives a quick overview of what makes this Big Tent unique.



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE – UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

http://www.upsem.edu/leadership_institute/

If you thought The Leadership Institute takes a break in the summer, think again! We have two great opportunities for those wishing to be certified in an aspect of ministry, or just want to learn more about how to better serve in the church.

- Christian Educator certification hybrid course: **Presbyterian Polity, Program, and Mission**. This course begins at home on **June 15, 2015** with at-home reading, online assignments, and conversations with peers, then concludes with three days at the Richmond campus, **July 14-16, 2015**. This course is taught by the Rev. H. Carson Rhyne, Jr., general presbyter and stated clerk of Presbytery of the James. ***This course is open to anyone with interest in this area***, but also fulfills the requirement for Presbyterian Polity, Program, and Mission for Christian Educator certification. The cost for the course is \$295.00. for more information and to register: http://www.upsem.edu/leadership_institute/upcoming_continuing_education_events/presbyterian_polity_program_and_mission/
- **Church Business Administrator** certification through The Church Network (formerly NACBA): The entire two-week core course requirement can be fulfilled on the Richmond campus from **July 21-30, 2015**. Or, if you need just a few of the seminars, register for one week, or individual classes. Again, ***these seminars are open to anyone with interest in this area***, and will give you some valuable information on the administration of your church. The cost for the full two weeks of classes (8 days) is \$550; for one week (4 days), \$275; and for individual classes \$85 (\$170 for a two-day class). for more information and to register: http://www.upsem.edu/leadership_institute/certificate_programs/church_business_administrators/

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.** – Presbytery Lead Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery
- **Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Committee on Preparation for Ministry in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery
- **Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** – Committee on Ministry in Room #115 of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown.
- **Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** – Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery at the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington

Please make note that Rev. Dr. Steve Shussett has resigned as Teaching Presbyter of Lehigh Presbytery to take a designated pastor position at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Allentown. His new contact email is sshussett25@gmail.com

In this time of transition, if you need to speak to someone about Presbytery business please contact the Presbytery office directly by either phone 610-391-9020 or email office@lehighpresbytery.org. Thank you.