

LEHIGH PRESBYTERY

“STRENGTHENING & SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS”



My First Easter

To All the Saints,

Grace to you all and peace.

After decades of knowing Easter only by chocolate eggs and bunnies, I can still remember my first Easter well. As was true so many other times, I had been invited to church by some friends. That it was Easter meant little more to me than a Sunday in April; that it was a Roman Catholic church was no different than Presbyterian.

Right away I knew something was different. One friend helped me find a pew, but then disappeared. Upon returning, her face was so serious. When I asked if she was all right, she simply shook her head, but my look of concern for her led her to say more: “I went to confession.” The meaning of that eluded me, but she was clearly moved by the experience.

As the service unfolded, my attention was re-directed to the service itself and another friend who was to be baptized. Again, I didn’t know exactly what “baptized” meant, but I knew it meant a lot to her. Later in the service, she joined others standing apart from the rest of us, there were questions asked and answered, and water poured liberally on her head. Again, I could see by her face that this

was a significant moment, but this time it was joy written on her face.

After worship, I went home to make my contribution for my first Easter dinner, and flipping through the television channels I stumbled onto the film *Godspell*. I remember that I didn’t know the story, and was kind of annoyed to have to leave before it was over: I wanted to see how it ended! But dinner with these friends, now in a new way, easily made up for it.

What does Jesus and his resurrection mean to you? Is your gratitude at being forgiven by God or the joy at being claimed in Christ’s name, written on your face? Does your faith allow for questions, and is being with a community of believers gathered by the Spirit answer enough for those sighs too deep for words?

May others see your faith on your face, and may you have the courage to invite others to join you and your community of faith — questions and all.

A blessed Eastertide to all of you,

Steven H. Shussett
Teaching Presbytery and Stated Clerk

Inside this issue:

Presbytery Meeting Highlights	2
First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua	4
Helping Hands	5
Annual Reading Church	6
Summer Interns needed	6
Brief Study on the Heidelberg Catechism	7
Upcoming Events	8

LEHIGH PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, April 23, 2013 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, PA
- Tuesday, June 25, 2013 4:00 p.m. Camp Brainerd, Stroudsburg, PA
- Tuesday, September 24, 2013 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Hazleton, PA
- Tuesday, November 26, 2013 1:00 p.m. College Hill Presbyterian Church, Easton, PA



THE CAVE

Thursdays at 7pm beginning in April 2013
Come away and rest awhile,
worshipping God in quiet space
Call 610/295 2930

PRESBYTERY OFFICERS

Moderator
Ruling Elder
Janet Ney

Vice Moderator
Ruling Elder
David Boltz

Chair, Presbytery Lead Team
Teaching Elder
R. C. Smith

Stated Clerk
Teaching Elder
Steven H. Shussett

Treasurer
David Boltz

PRESBYTERY STAFF

*Teaching Presbyter
& Stated Clerk*
Steven H. Shussett
steve@lehighpresbytery.org

Camp Director
Jen Henshue
office@campbrainerd.org

Office Manager
Robin Mathias
office@lehighpresbytery.org

*Administrative Secretary-
Bookkeeper*
Christina Conrad
accounts@lehighpresbytery.org

Lehigh Presbytery
710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18104

610-391-9020
Fax: 610-391-9023
office@lehighpresbytery.org
www.lehighpresbytery.org



Presbytery Highlights

The February 26th meeting of Lehigh Presbytery, which took place at the Community Church of Mt. Bethel-Portland in Mt. Bethel, PA, was unusual in several respects. This was the first time that the Presbytery ever met in February, and the hope of more favorable weather was borne out. There was also an intentional effort made by the Presbytery Lead Team to have more church representation, and this, too, bore fruit.

Those present were greeted by Ruling Elder Mike Feeney of the Community Church Session. Those visiting at the request of the Presbytery Lead Team were introduced, as was the Rev. Allen Hermansader, Senior Chaplain of Presbyterian Senior Living, who has recently been added to our pulpit supply list; his contact information is available through the website and the Presbytery office. Those gathered were also greeted by Teaching Elder Mary "Minner" Serovy, Presbyterian Foundation representative to our area and a member of Milwaukee Presbytery. Those interested in investment opportunities or seeking information on how to "repurpose financially burdensome church buildings into new opportunities for ministry" are invited to contact Minner at Mary.Serovy@presbyterianfoundation.org

Worship was led by Teaching Elders Jennifer Nichols (who presided at the Lord's Table) and Steve Shussett, with Teaching Elder R.C. Smith, Chair of the Presbytery Lead Team, preaching. Through the witness of the theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Society of Friends, R.C. led us to consider what "life together" means for us in this time and place. Other participants were Ruling Elders Melanie Thiel and Mike Feeney of Community Church, with music provided by Tierney Jory, organist, and a beautiful duet by Ellis and Laura Williams. The Presbytery also celebrated the retirement of Teaching Elder Carol Brown, marked by a testimonial by her long-time friend Teaching Elder Karen Nickels.

Continuing the Presbytery's practice of dialogue among commissioners, those gathered participated in *Life Together in Lehigh Presbytery: A Conversation*; the stage had been set by the sermon preached earlier. In ripples of exchange, from congregation to several congregations and back again, the assembled were asked to consider three questions:

(1) What is one thing that you boast about your congregation? (2) Where is one place you have seen God in your congregation's life and



Mike Feeney welcomes everyone to Community Church



Rev. Allan Hermansader was added to our pulpit supply. He is chaplain of Presbyterian Senior Living.



Minner Serovy
Presbyterian Foundation

Presbytery Highlights—continued from page 2

ministry in the past month? (3) What is one challenge that your congregation is facing? The responses have been gathered for further reflection in presbytery meetings ahead, and you and your church and session are invited to ponder these questions yourselves and share your thoughts with the Presbytery.

In turning to the business of the day, by voting to accept the consent docket as presented, the Presbytery approved the proposed amendments to the Book of Order. The last proposed amendment, to the Heidelberg Catechism, will be voted upon at the April presbytery meeting. Commissioners were informed that an opportunity to learn more about the Book of Confessions, the Catechism in particular, and the proposed changes, will be available live (in-person at the Presbytery office or via computer) on the afternoon of March 26. We thank Teaching Elder and Assistant Professor of Religion at Lafayette College, Brett Hendrickson, as well as the Synod of the Trinity, for making this possible. A recorded version of Brett's program will be available shortly after it originally airs.

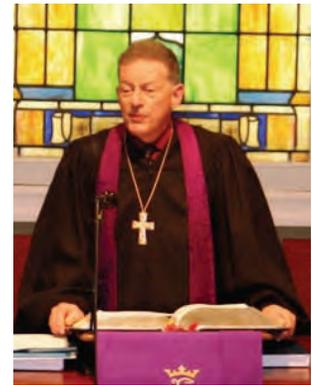
Stated Clerk Steve Shussett updated those present on an experiment in presbytery leadership, as a unicameral system of Presbytery Lead Team and Board of Trustees is tested over the next several months. It is hoped that this will improve the flexibility and timeliness of decision-making in these fluid times.

Ruling Elder David Boltz, Presbytery Treasurer and Chair of a Presbytery Engagement Team for Church Dismissals (as well as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery), offered several items from these bodies for the commissioners' action. Approved by the Presbytery was a decision to renew the Presbytery's practice of paying its full per capita obligation, as required by the Book of Order, rather than only that which is received. The commissioners accepted a number of changes to the Dismissal Policy, and permission was granted to the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem to sell a piece of property to Presbyterian Senior Living.

The next stated meeting of Lehigh Presbytery is April 23, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA.



There was a service of Honorable Retirement for the Rev. Carol Brown



Rev. R. C. Smith preaching.



An inspirational duet was sung by Ellis and Laura Williams



Communion led by Rev. Jenny Nichols

One of the Top Workplaces in the Lehigh Valley



The First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem has been recognized as a "Top Workplace" in the Lehigh Valley in a contest facilitated by The Morning Call and Workplace Dynamics, a Philadelphia-based research company.

The winners were unveiled at a reception hosted by The Morning Call on Wednesday, February 27, 2013. First

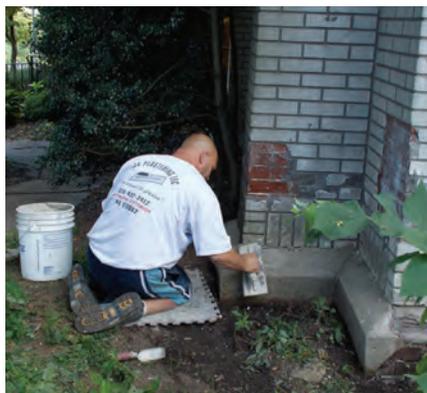
Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem was awarded third place in the Small Employer category and the only non-profit, religious sector employer to be selected as a "Top Workplace."

To read the complete story, visit: <http://www.morningcall.com/topworkplaces>.

First Presbyterian of Hokendauqua



Repairs to the aging façade after receiving a grant from the Lehigh Presbytery and Synod of the Trinity.



Offering hot coffee and baked goods to those waiting to vote.

In these trying times, the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua is fortunate to have energetic leaders who find joy in their faith. We have two active adult Bible study groups, one meeting every Sunday morning and the other gets together on Thursday evenings. In the summer, we shared a nine-week Bible study series on Revelation with the United Presbyterian Church of Slatington.

Our “Sky” Vacation Bible School attracted thirty-four children and kept ten adults and five teenage volunteers busy, sharing daily meals and snacks and teaching the Bible to little ones.

Our excellent website provides weekly sermons, church postings, and up-to-date information about our nursery school. A hundred and thirty people attended our annual Christmas musical, performed by our Sunday School children.

In 2011 and 2012, our congregation was chosen to represent Lehigh Presbytery in a visioning project, “Standing at the Crossroads,” sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity. Four elders and the pastor met regularly, in person and on the internet, with leaders of other PC (USA) congregations throughout the region. Discussions were led by Synod executives and pastor/consultants with expertise in congregational planning.

Our 144-year-old church building requires a great deal of maintenance. We received a grant from Lehigh Presbytery and the Synod of the Trinity to complete much-needed plastering and structural repairs. We conducted an energy audit, had maintenance work done on furnaces and chimney, enhanced safety features at two entrances, purchased new stoves, installed a wall oven in the kitchen, and (with the help of many volunteers) demolished a section of the church garage that had been in disrepair.

Our church is the polling place for the Whitehall 8th District. The presidential election provided an outreach opportunity. We greeted more than five hundred voters and 8th District workers on Election Day. Church leaders offered free coffee and home-baked goods as Hokendauqua residents waited in long lines to vote, from 7 a.m. through early evening. The Judge of Elections thanked us for “a good and caring show of faith”.

We provided help and canned goods for the Whitehall Food Pantry, purchased Christmas gifts for thirty-seven children, made monthly donations to Juvenile Diabetes, and collected new pairs of mittens for families in need.

We worship every Sunday at ten a.m. during the winter and spring, and celebrate the Lord’s Supper on the first Sunday of each month. **Come and join us!**



“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13:16

Helping Hands sends volunteers to New Jersey

After much waiting, the Helping Hands Care Team received the go ahead to send a team to the New Jersey shore to help with the rebuilding efforts. Why did they wait so long, you might ask? Well, it took awhile for the community to set up the infrastructure to be able to accept and house the volunteers and then job sites needed to be planned and coordinated.

On Sunday, February 24, 2013, seventeen dedicated volunteers headed to Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey for a week of hard work. Some were only able to stay a day or two and others were there for the whole week.

Once there, they were divided up into groups and sent to six different houses currently being worked on. They hung sheetrock, spackled, and tiled the walls of a shower. In a young couple's home, they painted the whole first floor so they could hang the kitchen cabinets. The couple should be able to move in within the month. YEAH!!

In another house, they installed baseboard molding, a sink and a toilet. In Joe's house, they removed and replaced the subflooring, treated for mold, and installed insulation. There is still a lot of work to be done before he can move back in.

On the last house, they installed insulation, did some framing to accommodate drywall and cleaned out the house.

All the volunteers had a great time. There were lots of laughs, they made many new friends and helped six families towards moving into their homes!

If you are interested in helping on any of their work trips, please check the Presbytery website (<http://lehighpresbytery.org>) for information and registration forms.

The Helping Hands Care Team is planning several trips to New York and New Jersey in the near future. To better fit the volunteers schedules and because the area is just a few hours drive from the Lehigh Valley, you will have the option of going for a day or two, or for the whole week.

If you can't volunteer, but would like to help by financially supporting these trips, please send your donations to:

Lehigh Presbytery-Helping Hands
710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104

The next work trip is scheduled for Johnson City, New York on April 7-20, 2013. Again you can choose either a few days or stay for a whole week or two. Information and registration forms are available on the website <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/helping-hands/> or by calling the Presbytery office at



Sharing resources, changing lives

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Your generous gifts to this Special Offering help provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support the following:

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)
[Presbyterian Hunger Program](#)
[Self-Development of People](#)



Annual Reading of Churches' Session Minutes

The Annual reading of Session Minutes will be held on **Saturday, May 11, 2013 at The First Presbyterian Church, 3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA** in Room 218. The reading will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Our method of review involves reading each other's Minutes while following a Session Minutes Examination Checklist. Given this method of review, **it is very important that each congregation be represented by its Clerk of Session.** If this is not possible, then we ask that you send your Minutes and Church Register with an Elder who would be prepared to join in the reading of the Minutes. This way each representative need only read one set of Minutes.

There will also be an opportunity for questions to be asked and information shared. If you have a specific question in mind at this time, please send it to the Presbytery Office.

If you would be interested in attending a clerk training

workshop, please contact the Presbytery office and let us know and also indicate your availability to stay for a few hours after our May 11th minute reading for this training. If training is held, a brown bag lunch is advised.

As we asked last year, please bring the following documents **if you did not do so previously.**

1. Property deed(s)
2. 2012 Annual Report
3. Most recent directory
4. Current bylaws and standing rules
5. Current Sexual Misconduct Policy (G-3.0106)

We hope that all Clerks can be present. Moderators of Session are also welcome to attend and participate, but their attendance is not mandatory. Many find this time helpful in their ministry as Moderator of Session.



A Brief Study of the Heidelberg Catechism

At the April meeting of Lehigh Presbytery, commissioners will be asked to vote on proposed changes to the Heidelberg Catechism, one of eleven foundational documents found in our Book of Confessions. Whether you will be voting or not, any change to this first part of our Constitution ought to be taken seriously by all of us.

On the afternoon of March 26, the Rev. Dr. Brett Hendrickson, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Lafayette College and member of Lehigh Presbytery, will be speaking on:

- the role of the Confessions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);
- the Heidelberg Catechism itself; and
- the nature of translation and the issues raised by the proposed amendment.

You will have THREE ways to learn from Brett:

1. Come to the Presbytery office and see him face to face;

2. Watch him live on your computer, on your own or in a group of your own invitation.
3. Watch him on tape-delay on your computer (alone or in a group), a few days after March 26.

Thanks to the Synod of the Trinity, we can provide this electronic access to you and across the Synod. During the live presentation questions may be asked of Brett.

More information on how to access the electronic feed will be forthcoming. For now:

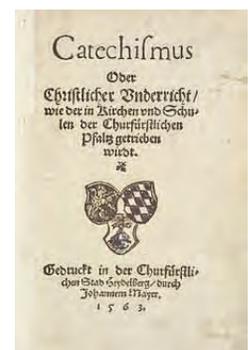
- Mark the date
- Read the Heidelberg Catechism in the Book of Confessions, at

<http://lehighpresbytery.org/lehighpres/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/boc.pdf>

- Talk to church friends and Sunday School classes about watching this live or recorded.

Save the Date!
March 26, 2013
12:30 p.m.

Where?
Lehigh Presbytery
710 N.Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18104



Leading Up

Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Association of Business Administrators (DVNACBA) presents

Leading Up: Strategies for Communication and Conflict Resolution

on April 4, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. (runs until 3:00 p.m., includes lunch) at Paoli Presbyterian Church in Paoli.

Elizabeth Guman of Strategy Arts is our speaker for this timely and important regional seminar. Elizabeth will cover:

- Start with Self: your preferred communication style
- Adapting Your Style: improving communications with all those you work with
- Conflict Work: a model for productive conversations

- Leveraging Your Power: understanding power dynamics and strategies for using the power you have more effectively

If you want to improve your communication and conflict resolution skills, this seminar is for YOU.

Register for this important seminar by sending your name, church or organization, address, phone and email to Jack Felch, jfelch@fpc-bethlehem.org.

The workshop cost is \$25 for DVNACBA Chapter Members and \$30 for Non-DVNACBA Members. The cost includes lunch and the BEST profile. A resource table of church administration books will be available for purchase with cash or check only.

All are welcome!

Summer Internship

Join Our Youth Ministry Team And Share Your Skills and Talents while experiencing ministry in an established Youth Ministry. We are looking for four Summer Interns: College students or Seminarians.

May 29 – August 10, 2013: Full-time, Paid Internship

Summer Interns:

- minister with completed 6th through 12th graders in various settings
- promote youth attendance at Sunday worship, Middle School and High School Fellowships, Middle School and High School Mission Mornings, and other special summer events (ie: Workcamps, High School Beach Retreat, End of Summer Celebration, etc.)

- actively participate in team planning and leadership of the Summer Youth Ministry
- and more!

Check out the full job description and application on line at:

<http://fpcallentown.org/WHOWEARE/ScholarshipsInternships.aspx>

For more information, contact:

The Rev. Stephen T. Emick
Pastor for Spiritual Formation and Discipleship
First Presbyterian Church Of Allentown, PA
610-395-3781, Ext. 19
stephen.emick@fpcallentown.org



“Follow Me”

Engaging, reflective, and theologically substantive, the 2013 Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry will focus on Christian discipleship, exploring the breadth and depth of what it means to follow Christ for a lifetime.

Today we “follow” the social media feeds of friends, celebrities, or a favorite product with the simple click of a button. Contemporary culture encourages young people to be “disciples” of brands and bands. Into this mix, the risen Christ calls, “Follow me.”

Be part of a gathering of youth leaders, pastors, and scholars as we ask, “How can the Church engage young people in the journey of a lifetime, following Jesus Christ?” Renew your energy for ministry as you create vocational friendships, stretch your imagination, and give Sabbath to your soul.

FOLLOW ME
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NJ

April 23-26, 2013
Program Fee: \$325.00

For details and registration visit their website at:

www.ptsem.edu/forums2013

Or contact them at: iym@ptsem.edu or 609-497-7914

Jesus said, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:17-18

LEHIGH PRESBYTERY

710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18104

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA
Permit No. 178

Other Upcoming Events of Interest

Christ, the Kingdom, and Culture

This seminar taught by Rev. Tony Sundermeier will facilitate learning and conversation at the crossroads of popular culture. There will be two identical offerings (one 10-11:15 a.m. and the other 5:45-7:00 p.m.) on each of the following Wednesdays: March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10, April 17, and April 24. To reserve your spot, please contact Keri Miller at keri.miller@fpcallentown.org or 610-395-3781.



First Presbyterian Church
3231 Tilghman Street
Allentown, PA 18104
www.fpcallentown.org

The Gospel According to St. Mark



Emmy Award-winning actor Wayne S. Turney will perform the entire King James Version of The Gospel According to Saint Mark on Friday, March 22, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem. This two-hour program is a unique blend of storytelling and drama.

Cost: \$15 per person. To register please call JOY's voice mail at 610-317-6162, ext. 205, and leave your phone number and a brief message. A member of the JOY Planning Team will contact you.

First Presbyterian Church
2344 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017
www.fpc-bethlehem.org



Dr. Bahmann Presents Lectures at Luther Crest

The public is cordially invited to attend Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann's lecture on "Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Jews" on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 3 p.m. This lecture will be held in Crest Hall at Luther Crest.

For more information, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for:

Luther Crest
800 Hausman Road
Allentown, PA 18104
610-391-8210, karehad@diakon.org
www.diakon.org/LutherCrest