



LEHIGH PRESBYTERY NEWSLETTER

Strengthening & Supporting Congregations

Volume 24, Issue 1

March 2014

Ever Dream What Comes True

To all the Saints of the Lehigh Presbytery,
Grace to you, and peace.

The February Presbytery meeting was a memorable one, hopeful for some, frustrating to others, and, at times, confusing to many. For those who were not there, the Presbytery Lead Team, after much prayer and consideration of recent task group reports, data, and Presbytery finances, came to the difficult conclusion that it is time to close Camp Brainerd. The motion was to close the Camp after this summer season, and to do so well, with appropriate care for the staff and celebration of its long ministry.

Not unexpectedly, there were others at the meeting who felt this decision was premature, that other options and strategies are available. Lehigh Presbytery entered the rarely visited world of substitute motions and amendments. My thanks to Moderator Dave Boltz and Parliamentarian Jack Felch for steering the boat through occasionally rough waters of parliamentary procedure and discerning God's will.

When the final votes were cast and counted, the Presbytery accepted the substitute motion. A task group of six ruling elders and six teaching elders has been given until September 2014 to determine whether there are viable alternatives for supporting the Camp, or if it should be closed. Regardless of one's position on the original motion or the substitute, I don't believe anyone has serious grounds for complaining about the process. Those so empowered and led, spoke and voted, and action was taken.

I found myself troubled later, without knowing exactly why. I could feel "it" even if I couldn't identify "it." Eventually, however, I knew.

The Presbytery took the time needed to discuss Camp Brainerd and to cover some other important parts of our life together. But we rushed the two guests representing the SHARE Food Program (sharefoodprogram.org). And we skipped altogether the docketed time for churches to talk about the realities of hunger in their area and how that might be addressed, perhaps through SHARE.

I have made clear to our leadership that this is not a critique of their direction of a complicated meeting. But it is a critique

against all of us in that we were prepared to take as much time as necessary to discuss an existing ministry, but could not spend the time to consider whether and how God is calling us to a new thing. Yes, the Camp is an important matter, and no, SHARE is not for everyone. But hunger is a reality in every one of our communities. Some of our congregations have already found ways to address it and this meeting was a chance for them to share what they have learned and are doing. Others might find SHARE a new possibility.

We handled the process of the Camp discussion well. But whenever we become so focused on the "what is" that we do not have time for the "what might be," our Process is flawed. It is not that the time on the Camp was not well-spent, but that we are poor stewards, miserly even, when we give short-shrift to new things God might be doing among us. And I believe that is true for every committee, session, synod, and General Assembly meeting as well.

A few days after our presbytery meeting I heard a song that has been with me ever since, especially as I consider my feelings about that meeting. Beth Nielson Chapman's album *Sand and Water* was written in the wake of her husband's death from cancer, and "The Color of Roses" is an especially poignant piece from that haunting collection. I wonder, does this chorus reflect the sadness God might feel at our missed opportunities, and the hope that they will not be missed again?

Only the ones who believe
Ever see what they dream
Ever dream what comes true

May God bless us with eyes of the heart to see visions and dream dreams, this day, and every day.

God is all in all,

Steve Shussett
Teaching Presbyter & Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY OFFICERS

Moderator

Ruling Elder David Boltz

Vice Moderator

Teaching Elder David Duquette

Chair, Presbytery Lead Team

Ruling Elder Janet Ney

Stated Clerk

Teaching Elder
Steven H. Shussett

Treasurer

David Boltz

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Allentown, PA 18104

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www.lehighpresbytery.org

SUMMER CAMP

It is time to sign up for Summer Camp. The brochures are in the mail!

If you haven't received one you can contact the Camp or go on line at www.campbrainerd.org to check out the great camp experiences being offered.

Also this is the second year for Day Camp. So if you have a camper who doesn't like to sleep over, then sign them up for the day camp for days filled with fun activities.

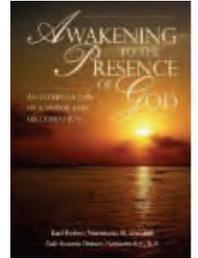
Camp Brainerd, 128 Brainerd Lane, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
phone: 570-992-4127; email: office@campbrainerd.org
website: www.campbrainerd.org

In the News

Read the article in the Pocono Record about the **Rev. Karl Vierstein** (Shawnee Presbyterian Church) and his many interests at:

<http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140317/NEWS/403170330&emailAFriend=1>

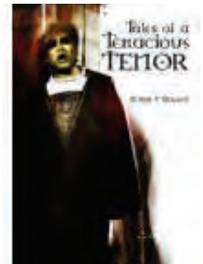
You can also check out the autobiographical book he co-authored with his wife called "*Awakening to the Presence of God: An Intimate Story of a Pastor and His Companion.*" It is available through amazon.com.



The **Rev. Robert Mitchell**, Temporary Supply Pastor at the Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church in Brodheadsville, has published a new memoir, "*Tales of a Tenacious Tenor*". This book is available on Amazon.com in paperback and kindle version and takes you on a journey of a young man as he follows his passion to become an opera singer.

You can read more about this memoir or order it at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Tales-Tenacious-Tenor-Robert-Mitchell-ebook/dp/B00HZ4DFNS/>



To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

*Do you, or someone in your congregation, have professional experience in
architecture and/or construction?*

*One of Lehigh Presbytery's congregations is considering a major project,
and its leadership knows they would benefit from a skilled practitioner's opinion.*

The gifts we have been given are for the common good.

If you can share these needed gifts, contact Steve Shussett at 610/391-9020.

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery was called to order by Moderator David Boltz on February 25, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg, PA. A number of invited guests attended, including Clerks of Session or their representatives, and Rev. Don Brown, transferring from Palisades Presbytery, with his call to Salem United Church of Christ in Bath, PA.

The Rev. Stephen Emick, Chair of the Committee on Ministry, introduced the proposal for a presbytery-wide effort called *Knowing Your Present to Live into God's Future*. The purpose of this initiative is to have congregations examine their strengths, weaknesses, and possibilities for the future. There will be four waves of eight congregations each. The process will be tailored for each congregation individually, based on input from the church's leadership, COM-appointed facilitators, and COM. Among the types of information to be analyzed will be financial data, statistical trends, capital needs, and community connections. The Presbytery has contracted with Mission Insite, a national demographic firm, to provide data, and the opportunity for additional information, for each congregation.

In the fall of 2013, an insurance survey was conducted by a task group under the direction of Ruling Elder Debbie Prince (former President of the Trustees). Upon its recommendation, the Presbytery has renewed its arrangement with Guide One (National Penn). Richard Pritts of Guide One will contact each session for renewal of individual church policies.

After prayer and study rooted in efforts dating back to 2009 and before, the Presbytery Lead Team moved that, because financial commitments have not been met, Camp Brainerd's operations should cease at the end of the 2014 camping season, and celebration of its long

ministry be observed. A substitute motion was made, eventually defeating the Lead Team's recommendation. By majority vote the new motion was approved, calling for continued Presbytery support for the Camp through September 2014, and a Moderator-appointed task group made up of six ruling and six teaching elders. This task group will bring recommendations concerning the Camp to the September 2014 presbytery meeting.

Several congregations and individuals in the Presbytery are considering participation in SHARE, a budding presbytery-wide initiative which would provide healthy food to residents of our eight-county region. SHARE is designed to enable lower-income individuals and families to eat well at low cost, but the service is available to "anyone who eats," according to Regional SHARE Director Steveanna Wynn, who spoke at the meeting. More information can be found at sharefoodprogram.org or by contacting the Presbytery for resource persons.

A multimedia worship service was prepared and led by Teaching Elders George Taylor (Stroudsburg, First) and Ruth Ann Christopher (Pen Argyl), and host church organist Michael Capone and music director Pat thor Straten-Mohr. Teaching Elder Lindsay Harren-Lewis presided at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Thank you to all planners and participants.

Special thanks to the First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg, its Session, congregation, and the Rev. George Taylor, for their wonderful hospitality and all of their efforts to make this meeting a success.



Rev. George Taylor welcoming Presbytery Commissioners.



Stated Clerk Steve Shussett and Moderator David Boltz



Presbytery Commissioners



Steveanna Wynn and Rayna Kratchman from SHARE



Rev. Dick McClain—PDA display

The Rhythm of the Synod

The Synod Assembly met at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center February 24-25. The Commissioners approved the following Consent Agenda items:

- The Expanded Leadership Team moves authorization for the Sacrament of Holy Communion to be observed during worship this evening.
- The Expanded Leadership Team moves the seating as corresponding members those whose terms as Synod Commissioners expired at the end of 2013 and who are present at this meeting, Dr. Phil Bergey who will serve again as facilitator for this meeting, and Rev. William Heard who will be our music leader.
- The Expanded Leadership Team moves the authorization of Susan Wonderland, Associate Synod Executive, and Debbie Hough (Christian educator from Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey, PA) to form ad hoc task groups to initiate and develop appropriate covenants with Synod related institutions of higher education to be presented to the Synod for action when appropriate.
- The Expanded Leadership Team moves acceptance of all 2013 summary written reports.
- The Expanded Leadership Team moves receiving the 2013 End of Year Financial Report (Unaudited).
- The Expanded Leadership Team moves the transfer of the Coudersport congregation from the Northumberland Presbytery to the Presbytery of Lake Erie in accord with the actions of the Session and both presbyteries.
- The Expanded Leadership Team moves the following dates for Synod meetings in 2015: March 23-24, June 22-23, October 12-13.

The Synod Commissioners acted on two important issues. The Commissioners approved the Executive Transition Task Force motions:

1. That the Personnel Committee be charged with drafting a position description for a Transitional Executive with a limited term, not to exceed a period of three years and with no limitation on eligibility for the permanent Executive position, beginning 01 August 2014 to be presented at the May Synod meeting.
2. That the position description reflects the following priorities for transitional leadership;
 - a. Serving as head of Synod staff
 - b. Providing leadership in the ongoing support of the presbyteries
 - c. Providing leadership as the Synod continues the transition into "policy governance."
 - d. Providing leadership as the Synod responds to actions of the 2014 General Assembly (possible partnering with another Synod)
 - e. Providing staffing to the Personnel Committee as they develop a position description for the executive that reflects the Synod's transition to policy governance and GA actions related to Synod.
3. That the Personnel Committee present a contract for the Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland to fill that Transitional Executive position, effective 01 August 2014, at May Synod meeting.
4. That the Personnel Committee works with the Executive Transition Team, Rev. Bruce Stevens and Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland to bring recommendations related to additional staffing to the Synod Assembly in May.

The second group to report was the Stated Clerk Search Committee. The Commissioners approved the election of Teaching Elder Wayne A. Yost as Stated Clerk (part-time) for a five year term, effective 01 March 2014, at the following terms of call: Salary of \$24,000, mileage reimbursement at the IRS maximum allowable, administrative expenses, and expenses for attendance at General Assembly meetings, the Fall Polity Conference/Association of Stated Clerks and other meeting/events where the attendance of the stated clerk is required or is advisable.

Dr. Phil Bergey facilitated the Commissioners as they considered the double layers of their role as "governors" and as "liaisons with their presbytery." As "governors", the commissioners set the direction for Synod mission, employ executive staff and hold staff accountable for the realization of Synod establishes missional ends. On the second day of the Synod Assembly, Dr. Bergey led the commissioners in considering the four levels of policies by which the Synod will function. Between this meeting of the Synod Assembly and the May meeting, four groups will draft working papers relative to the four levels of policy development.

The Commissioners observed African-American History Month being led in songs throughout the meeting by the Rev. William Heard who serves as Minister of Liturgy, Worship and Family Life at the historic Kaighn Avenue Baptist Church, Camden, NJ. He has produced three album compilations presenting and preserving the music of the African American worship experience entitled "Songs From the Sanctuary: Hymns, Spirituals, and Classic Gospels", and is working on an urban gospel project called "Love Like This!" on the Heardsong Productions label.

Monday evening worship continued the observance of African-American History Month. The Rev. Dr. Johnnie Monroe (HR) of the Pittsburgh Presbytery delivered a soul-stirring sermon entitled "Let's Go forward." Building on the Scripture Exodus 14:10-18, Dr. Monroe's sermon, punctuated with excerpts of African-America hymns and spirituals, with four strains of people for whom turning back was out of the question and going forward was imperative: the Israelites in the wilderness; his forebears who were slaves escaping on the Underground Railroad; those involved in the Civil Rights movement; and President Obama. Dr. Monroe urged the Synod Assembly to go forward; go forward in witness and social justice.

The next Synod Assembly will occur on May 19-20, 2014 at the Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel in State College, PA and will include a celebration of the approaching retirement of Synod Executive, Bruce G. Stevens ... stay tuned for details!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN UPCOMING EVENTS



The Presbyterian Women will hold their annual gathering at Waynesburg University on June 19-21, 2014. The gathering will begin at 1:30 p.m. on June 19th and end at noon on June 21st.

The rooms at Waynesburg University are air-conditioned with a private bath. Electric carts (driven by college students) are continuously available for transportation from one building to another. Meals eaten in the college dining hall are included in your registration fee of \$250. They include Thursday and Friday dinner, Friday and Saturday breakfast, and Friday lunch.

Workshops include Practicing God's Radical Hospitality; Planting Seeds for Leaders; Letting Laughter Lighten the Load; Listening with Your Heart; Hope in Orange Blossoms; PW Mission and many more.

The Synod mission project this year is "*Hands Across the Street*". There will be an opportunity to give to this mission project through the mission offering received at the gathering.

The gathering's mission project is "*Avis Arbor*", a rescue mission for homeless, abused women/children in the Washington area. Each woman is asked to bring a \$10.00 gift card, if they choose, for this mission. This is a way of giving back to the community that is hosting this gathering. These gift cards can be from Walmart, K-mart, or

Target. Please bring only \$10.00 gift cards.

If you are interested in attending, please fill out the registration form (found on the Presbytery website below) and send it along with your check to:

Deborah Wilson
425 Haines Hollow Road
Waynesburg, PA 15370

by May 15, 2014.



The Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is sponsoring a Travel Study Seminar to Central America. The theme of this travel study is Healthy Food, Healthy Children, Healthy Communities – "God fills the hungry with good things". The travel study seminar runs January 19-31, 2015 and will include travel among several Central American countries to give a panoramic view of the issues in the region, how they differ in each context, and how different partners are responding to these challenges. The registration deadline is July 9, 2014.

Information on these two events can be found on our website at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/presbyterian-women/>

The Primacy of Healing in the Spread of World Christianity

Thursday, April 24, 2014 — 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Lafayette College, Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, rm. 104
730 High Street, Easton, PA

Presenter: **Dr. Candy Gunther Brown**

Over the course of the twentieth century, Pentecostalism grew from a handful of adherents to a quarter of the world's two billion Christians. This lecture explains why and how by examining the prevalence of healing prayer practices--despite advances in scientific medicine. In an age of evidence-based medicine, should scientific metrics be used to evaluate claims of healing through prayer? The talk examines what medical records, clinical studies, surveys, and long-term follow up reveal about the effects of praying for healing, both for individuals and for Christian communities worldwide.



The lecture is the **second Pope Lecture in World Christianity**. This lecture series was inaugurated in 2013 in honor of the late Prof. Earl A. Pope, a trail-blazing scholar on the religious situation in eastern Europe during the Communist Era. The series seeks to illumine various topics concerning Christianity and its global reach and influence. Dr. Brown, associate professor of religious studies at Indiana University, is an expert in the study of global Pentecostalism and Charismatic healing as well as in the area of complementary and alternative medicine.

Free and open to the public.

Sponsored by: Religious Studies Department; Pope Lecture in World Christianity; Lyman Coleman Fund

Contact information

Name: Brett Hendrickson

Phone: 610-330-5963 Email: hendribr@lafayette.edu

Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs

Triple-A Affiliate, Philadelphia Phillies

Friday, May 16, 2014 at 7:05 p.m.

Coca-Cola Park, 1050 Iron Pigs Way, Allentown, PA



Ticket ONLY \$10.00 per person (group seating)

Ticket Includes

- a \$2.00 ball park credit on each ticket redeemable for food, beverage or merchandise inside Coca-Cola Park
- And "Pig in a Poke" raffle card

There is a \$3.00 parking fee.

Ironpigsbaseball.com

ORDER DEADLINE: APRIL 11, 2014

ORDER FORM: May 16th at COCA-COLA PARK, Allentown

Contact Name: _____

Church: _____

Address to mail tickets to: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

_____ @ \$10 ea = Total due to Lehigh Presbytery: \$ _____

Mail order form with payment to (order deadline-April 11th):
Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104

Scranton/Wilkes Barre Rail Riders

Triple-A Affiliate, New York Yankees

Monday, June 30, 2014 at 7:05 p.m.

PNC Field, 235 Montage Mountain Rd, Moosic



Ticket ONLY \$8.00 per person (group seating)

Ticket Includes

- Free parking
- Raffle ticket for **Rail Riders** jersey

swbrailriders.com

ORDER DEADLINE: May 30, 2014

payment due at time of order

ORDER FORM: June 30th at PNC FIELD, Moosic

Contact Name: _____

Church: _____

Address to mail tickets to: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

_____ @ \$8 ea = Total due to Presbytery of Lackawanna: \$ _____

Mail order form with payment to (order deadline-May 30th):
Presbytery of Lackawanna, 550 Madison Ave, Scranton, PA 18510



Jesus said to his disciples,
"Why are you afraid?
Have you still no faith?"
—Mark 4:40

The 2015 Annual Event in Baltimore
In a time of fear and confusion, God is calling us to act in faith; to bear witness to God's unfolding kingdom.

www.apcenet.org/2015-annual-event.html

The 2015 APCE Annual Event

In a time of fear and confusion, God is calling us to act in faith, to bear witness to God's unfolding kingdom.

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators will hold their annual event on February 4-7, 2015 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore Maryland. This year's theme is Fear NOT! With keynote speakers Brian Blount, esteemed preacher, New Testament scholar, author, and president of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. He will be joined by Carol Howard Merritt, noted speaker and ward-winning author.

For more information or to register go to <http://apcenet.org/2015-annual-event.html>

A Workshop for Church Leaders

Boundaries For Believers

There is no doubt in anyone’s mind that the world goes through changes. We need not determine if they are bad or good—they are simply changes. Among them is the reality of the ways in which we relate to each other as the people of God. As leaders in the church we need to have a grasp of what is appropriate and what is not as we try to guide our congregations through these changing times.

Who is it appropriate to have as a “friend” on Facebook? What are the indicators that someone is on the “slippery slope?” What steps do you need to take to safeguard those you are called to serve?

In conjunction with our ecumenical partners, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) is hosting a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop. This fall, three all-day events are planned to help church leaders and members address topics that arise in your settings. These will also fulfill the every-four-year requirement for Lehigh Presbytery Teaching Elders, and be good education for others in your congregation.

According to the Sexual Misconduct Policy of Lehigh Presbytery, adopted January 25, 2011,

“The Presbytery shall provide access to annual educational programs to inform and to promote the prevention of sexual misconduct. **All Covered Persons shall be required to attend such programs every four years**, and at a minimum must review this policy annually and attest in writing that the policy has been reviewed. **Attendance and compliance records will be kept by the Stated Clerk.**”

Each workshop will last from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Workshops will be held as follows:

- Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at Zion Lutheran Church, Perry Township [Shoemakersville]
- Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingston
- Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Nazareth

The Synod asks that each participant contribute \$20 to cover the cost of lunch and leader expenses.

Return your registration form to Pastor Mary Gade, NEPS, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, PA 18109 no later than September 17th [so arrangements can be made for lunch and materials]. Contact Pastor Gade at maryg@nepssynod.org or 610-266-5101 if you have any questions.

Name _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I will be attending the following Boundaries for Believers workshop:

- Tuesday, September 30, at Zion Lutheran Church, Perry Township
- Wednesday, October 1, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kingston
- Tuesday, October 14, at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Nazareth
- My CHECK for \$20.00 is enclosed

2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendar

The Presbytery office will be ordering the **2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendars** in Bulk.

If you or your church wishes to order any through the Presbytery office, please fill out the form and return it with your check to:

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

Order deadline—May 1, 2014

If you have any questions please contact Robin at the Presbytery office 610-391-9020 or email at office@lehighpresbytery.org

Order Form

2014-2015 Presbyterian Planning Calendar

Name _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church: _____

Quantity _____ @ \$9.00

Total Enclosed \$ _____



Lehigh Presbytery

710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Allentown, PA 18104



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U.S. Postage

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LEHIGH VALLEY, PA
Permit No. 178



**CAMP BRAINERD
Aerospace Camp
April 11-13, for Ages 8-16**

How do airplanes fly?
And how did we ever get a man
onto the moon?

Learn about atmospheric flight and space
flight, Bernoulli's Principals, Newton's
Laws and the Laws of Aerodynamics. And
build stuff to prove it!

If you want to know more or would like to
register, please go to:

[http://www.campbrainerd.org/programs/
engineering-robotics-camps/](http://www.campbrainerd.org/programs/engineering-robotics-camps/)



June 25-28, 2014 — Mt. Union, PA

The nation's largest Christian Music Festival. What is the purpose? To present the Gospel through music, teaching and any other creative means so that those attending will be drawn to salvation and discipleship in Christ. We come together by the thousands to "Give Tribute to Our Creator" and to allow His Spirit to birth many as "new Creations" in Jesus Christ who will love and serve Him. (*Colossians 1:15-18*)

Visit their website to view the many bands, extreme games and sport, seminars, art gallery, fireworks and more. Choose YOUR Creation experience. This just may be the highlight of your summer.....maybe your life.

For more information or to register go to [http://
creationfest.com/](http://creationfest.com/) or call 800-327-6921