



Lehigh Presbytery E-NEWS

"Strengthening & Supporting Congregations"

January 16, 2015

NOVEMBER 18TH STATED MEETING OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY

The November 18, 2014 Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery was graciously hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Easton, where Temporary Supply Pastor Cindy Simmons warmly welcomed those gathered. Among those introduced were Teaching Elder Stuart Wilson, the new interim pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg, and Marianne Kitzmiller, who would later be elected as the new Treasurer of Lehigh Presbytery.

Of the five proposed amendments to the Constitution presented at this meeting, the Presbytery voted in favor of actions to adopt a child/youth protection policy, changes in the processes and examinations of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and a new statement on a denominational stance on interreligious relations. The Presbytery voted against changes surrounding renunciation of jurisdiction.



Along with the slate of persons elected to a variety of presbytery and synod committees and teams, and the aforementioned election of a new treasurer, Teaching Elders David Duquette and Susan Bennetch were elected to moderator and vice-moderator of the Presbytery respectively. Outstanding vacancies remain on the Presbytery Lead Team, Committee on Ministry, and Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Also a new stated clerk is to be elected at the February meeting, if the way be clear. Concluding this report was recognition of, and gratitude for, Dave Boltz' eight years of service as presbytery treasurer.

Two additional, and significant, moments of recognition took place later in the meeting. First, a memorial tribute to the Rev. Al Stone was offered on behalf of the Presbytery by the Rev. Dianne Kareha. Rev. Carol Brown subsequently led a celebration of the ministry of the Rev. George Taylor, who retired earlier this year as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Stroudsburg. George offered some words of his own, and was lifted up during the worship service.

The Presbytery was given an update on the transition in camping ministry of "Kirkwood-Brainerd" (featuring the Brainerd logo), including an open house scheduled for January 24th at the camp. Prayer and thanksgiving was shared regarding former Camp Director Jen Henshue's service to Brainerd.

In preparation for the presentation of the 2015 budget, the Presbytery Lead Team presented a document entitled "Areas of Focus for the Teaching Presbyter," identifying teaching and congregational transformation as the primary duties. A consequence of this is eliminating stated clerk responsibilities from the Teaching Presbyter's portfolio; the clerk position will be funded from reserves in 2015. Ultimately the budget was approved with only a 20¢ increase in per capita, to \$27.33 per member in 2015.



Among the several important matters brought to the Presbytery by the Committee on Ministry, Ruling Elder Joan Spangler was examined and approved to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (formerly known as "Commissioned Lay Pastor") at the First United Methodist-Presbyterian Church of Ashland. Additionally, it was announced that the Synod of the Trinity has made \$10,000 available (for one-year) to each of its presbyteries within its bounds in response to the increased Board of Pensions family health coverage costs for teaching elders.

The meeting concluded with a lovely service designed around the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and music provided by the Chancel Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Easton, Director Elizabeth Campbell, Organist Gloria Snyder, and Flutist Elaine Martin. In addition to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, presided by Teaching Elder P. Douglas Cronce of Catasauqua, the annual reading of the Necrology took place, remembering all the saints who went before us in 2014.

The next stated meeting of Lehigh Presbytery is scheduled for February 24th, 2015 from 1-5 p.m., at the Presbyterian Parish of Bangor-Roseto.

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Memorial Tribute~The Rev. Alfred W. Stone
January 14, 1927 - September 30, 2014



"Call the question!" That's how I'll remember Al Stone, a no-nonsense, humble teaching elder, full of integrity and a great sense of humor. Al's wife, Jeanne, remembers him as a kind, caring husband, who regularly conveyed his love in word and deed. As a father, Al made up stories, read to the kids, and did many other fun things with them.

Born on January 14, 1927, in Jersey City, NJ, Alfred William Stone graduated from High School in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ, in 1944 and enlisted in the US Army, serving until his discharge in 1946. After graduating from Cornell University in 1950 with a degree in engineering, Al took a job with an engineering firm in Jackson, Michigan, where he met Jeanne. Following their wedding on June 29, 1952, Al and Jeanne moved to Poughkeepsie, NY, where Al worked for the Public Utility Company. They became very active in the First Presbyterian Church of Poughkeepsie, where they organized a Bible study group; and Al served as a deacon, coached basketball, sang in the choir, and served on various committees.

When Al decided to pursue a call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and enrolled in Princeton Seminary in 1957, they and their three children lived on a chicken farm in the Princeton area.

Reverend Al's first pastorate was in Fairless Hills, PA, where he served for 7 years. Al's next call was to Bellville, NJ, where he served for 22 years, including one year as Moderator of Newark Presbytery in 1979, and where Jeanne taught elementary school in Glen Ridge, NJ.

After retirement to Allentown in 1989, Al sang in the choir at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, served as a Stated Supply Pastor in Reading for 4 years, and served on nearly every committee of Lehigh Presbytery.

Surrounded by his loving family, The Reverend Al Stone died peacefully in his Luther Crest apartment on September 30, 2014. He will be deeply missed by his dear wife Jeanne, their daughter Susan, sons Jeff and Doug, grandson Derric, and many friends, including us here in this presbytery.

We thank God for Al's life and ministry, and we commend Al to God's never-failing love and care.

Gratefully,
Rev. Dianne Kareha, Luther Crest Chaplain

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TEACHING ELDERS...SAVE THESE DATES!

In 2015 there will be two opportunities for teaching elders to take a day away from normal responsibilities in order to experience learning and spiritual refreshment. Please reserve on your calendar the dates for these two retreats: **Wednesday, March 25, 2015 and Wednesday, October 28, 2015**. The March retreat will be held at Kirkwood-Brainerd Camp.

If you have suggestions for presentation topics, or other ideas toward making these opportunities worth your time and effort, please contact RC Smith: 610-253-4792, or revrc5@aol.com. Offers of help are also welcome!

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Lehigh Presbytery has an Opening for a part-time Stated Clerk

The Committee on Shared Gifts of Lehigh Presbytery is seeking to fill the position of Stated Clerk.

This is a part-time position and any interested candidates are asked to send a letter of interest along with contact information, qualifications, and why they feel they would be a good candidate for the job.

The deadline for receiving this information in the Presbytery office is **January 23, 2015**.

To view a job description, [please click here](#).

Please send letters of interest to:

Lehigh Presbytery

Attn: Committee on Shared Gifts

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

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ON-LINE EDUCATION FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (UDTS) has online education for CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder) students. Registration is now opened for the Spring 2015 semester.

UDTS will be offering the following eight online classes for CLP/CRE students this coming Spring, 2015. All classes begin February 2, 2015, and space is limited. Therefore, students are encouraged to register soon by going online at <http://udtslearning.net/mod/page/view.php?id=15076> or by contacting Carla Gibbons, Distance Education Coordinator (CGibbons@dbq.edu or call 563-589-3630 /1-888-207-8218). As always, students may pay through PayPal online or by credit card or check by contacting Carla.

Our Spring 2015 classes are:

- Christian Education – Dr. Susan Forshey
- Pastoral Care – Dr. Beth McCaw
- Reformed Theology – Dr. Gary Hansen
- Introduction to Preaching – Dr. Timothy Slemmons
- Presbyterian Polity – Dr. Scott Nesbitt
- Introduction to Old Testament – Rev. Martin Benckhuysen
- Introduction to New Testament – Dr. Annette Huizenga
- Reformed Worship & Sacraments – Dr. Timothy Slemmons

Application and course information for our CLP/CRE program can be found at <http://udtslearning.net/> and then click on "CLP Registration Information."

Feel free to contact Carla or me if you have any questions. In addition, remember to check our continuing education website (<http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>) for upcoming spring events.

Richard J. Shaffer Jr.

Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Ministry, Director of Distance Education

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT LUTHER CREST

Dr. Bahmann's Presentations at Luther Crest

The public is cordially invited to attend Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann's presentations at 2:30 p.m. in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104:

Tuesday, February 10, 2015: "Islamic Imperialism"

Tuesday, March 17, 2015: "A God of Mercy or a God of Grace? Jewish and Christian Perspectives"

Tuesday, April 21, 2015: "Two Different Promises: A Christian View of Jewish Worship"

For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

A Valentine's Day Special at Luther Crest

You are cordially invited to reaffirm your marriage vows or to celebrate with others who are reaffirming their marriage vows on Saturday, February 14, 2014, 2 p.m. in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104. Refreshments to follow the service. For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

Luther Crest to Host Model Passover Seder Dinner

Would you like to experience the beautiful traditions and the distinctive foods of a Passover Seder? (As you may know, Passover is a Jewish commemoration of deliverance from bondage. According to the gospels, the "Last Supper" that Jesus shared with his disciples occurred around the time of the celebration of Passover.)

On Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, Katyah Gohr will lead a model Seder service, which will include a full, buffet-style meal. Cost is \$11.00. For reservations or questions, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest (610-391-8210) by Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104

For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

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Courage and Renewal Retreats at [Kirkridge Retreat Center](http://www.kirkridge.org) 2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013, 610-588-1793, www.kirkridge.org

It's Not Really Gone! Reclaiming Your Vision for Education

Feb. 27 - March 1, 2015 -- Morgan Lee and Pat Mulroy

Join us to re-discover what you "never really lost"; your passion, your vision and your excitement for making schools places where children and adults learn together. Some days, amid the policies and paperwork, we forget about why we got into teaching in the first place. Schools seem to be bound by mandates, budgets and plenty of things that do not seem related to learning. This retreat will help you to re-connect to your passion for the mission and vision of quality education for all children.

Cost \$425 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition -- visit their website for more information or to register.

Daughters: Searching for the Garden of Plenty

April 24-26, 2015 -- Jean Richardson, Marcia Eames-Sheavly

The deep connection between mothers and daughters can be filled with joy, fraught with challenge, and often contains everything in between. This special weekend will offer a safe place to explore our relationships with our mothers through the lens of a garden metaphor - of germination, growth and plentiful harvest, as well as the natural processes of decay, death and transformation.

Cost \$445 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition -- visit their website for more information or to register.

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It's time to order your *Presbyterians Today* 2015 Lenten Devotional



Presbyterian Today's new Lenten Devotional for 2015 invites you to journey with Jesus to his cross and resurrection with the help of the book of Psalms, often called the prayer book of the Bible. Along this journey, you'll sample a variety of spiritual practices and seek prayerful ways to draw nearer to God.

Draw Near features a Scripture reading, meditation, prayer, and set of reflection questions for each day of the Lenten season. The beautifully-illustrated devotional is a perfect daily companion, making it easy to grab a moment for quiet meditation.

Lynne M. Baab, author of this year's devotional, has written numerous books about Christian spiritual practices. She is a PC(USA) minister who now lives in New Zealand, where she is a lecturer in pastoral theology. Her husband, Dave Baab, created the rich pen and ink watercolors throughout.

2015 Lenten Devotional Discount Pricing: 1 copy, \$4.50 • 2-9 copies, \$3.50 each • 10-99 copies, \$2.50 each • 100-249 copies, \$1.95 each • 250+ copies, \$1.65 each. Shipping: 10% of order, \$5.25 minimum. Order by phone at 800-524-2612 and ask for PDS 17116-14-013.

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UPCOMING LEHIGH PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. – Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. – Committee on Ministry

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. – Worldwide Ministries Care Team

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. – Moderator's Forum held at the Faith United Presbyterian Church, 218 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. – C-Change Meeting at "The 412", 412 Chestnut Street, Emmaus

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. – New Worshipping Community at the First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem

2015 LEHIGH PRESBYTERY STATED MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. (no meal) – Presbyterian Parish of Bangor-Roseto, 332 Kennedy Drive, Bangor, PA

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (meal) – First Presbyterian Church, 37 S. Fifth Street, Reading, PA

Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (meal) – United Presbyterian Church, 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (meal) – First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. (no meal) – Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church, 150 Pilgrim Way, Brodheadsville, PA

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

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email office@lehighpresbytery.org.

If you have an article or event you would like to include, please email it to office@lehighpresbytery.org.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at office@lehighpresbytery.org or call 610-391-9020.