

## INSTALLATION OF THE REV. SUSAN TINDALL



On Saturday, November 8, 2014 Lehigh Presbytery installed the, newly ordained, Rev. Susan Tindall as Associate Pastor of the College Hill Presbyterian Church of Easton. Susan received her M.Div with a MA in C.E. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2010.

Growing up in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a pastor's kid, Susan teathed on several church nurseries, sang in a few church choirs, and ate at a smorgasbord of church potlucks. Somewhere in the middle of all this activity, Susan found a deep love of Christ in people around the country. Whether she

was in middle of nowhere, Missouri or an East Coast city, each church demonstrated their love for one another and their love for God in many different ways. In her variety of church life experiences, Susan soon became interested in pursuing pastoral ministry upon realizing her true dream of becoming a professional volleyball player was not a viable option (she's only 5'1).

With a bachelor's degree in Elementary education from Millikin University in Illinois in hand, Susan sought to continue on a path towards becoming a teacher but found more joy in volunteering at church. Susan decided to attend Princeton Theological Seminary. It provided a lot of opportunities which included joining the pilot year of the Seminary Immersion Program, a joint initiative of Broad Street Ministry and Arch Street Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. Living and working in the city molded and shaped Susan's ideas about ministry in a completely new and different way. Upon graduating in May 2010, she received her Master of Divinity and a Master of Christian Education. For the last 3 ½ years Susan has served Overbrook Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia as their Director of Christian Education.

During her spare time, Susan enjoys sipping on good cups of coffee while reading a good book. She is also an avid film watcher. Susan considers herself a connoisseur of television and will gladly discuss the upcoming episodes of *Community*, *Walking Dead*, or even *Game of Thrones* (and of course she has read all the books). Last summer, Susan married Liam O'Donnell and also adopted a cat named She-Ra.

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### *Here We Come A Caroling . . .*



The Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church invites you to a carol fest featuring your favorite Christmas carols, decorating their tree with small gifts, stories of Christmas's past, present, and future, a choir gathered from the Upper Tier Churches, memories of gifts given or received and a Christmas Tea and fellowship. If you wish, you may make or bring a special decoration for the tree or a seasonal dessert to share.

**Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church  
44 West White Street

Summit Hill, PA 18250

For additional information please contact Paul Lucia at 610-385-0909 or [paullucia@dejazzd.com](mailto:paullucia@dejazzd.com)



## HELPING HANDS OF LEHIGH PRESBYTERY



The dedicated **Helping Hands** volunteers completed another mission work trip to Jamaica, New York (Sandy Relief).

On the last Sunday in September, twelve sets of willing hands left from the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church of Allentown to brave the streets of New York City as they headed off to the First Presbyterian Church of Jamaica. This group of dedicated volunteers have become an extended family because of the many mission work trips they have taken together to help rebuild homes and bring hope to those affected by a disaster such as Super Storm Sandy. Along with the hard work there is a lot of love and laughter.

After travelling about 45 minutes from Allentown, they stopped for a much needed coffee break which was the first of many that week. They would find that all these coffee breaks would pose a problem for some later in the week due to the fact that several folks seemed to forget where the van was parked after returning from getting their morning brew.

Their arrival in Jamaica was anything but ordinary. They arrived at the church, which would be their home for the week, in grand style as they pulled up in the middle of a wedding. One of our volunteers was invited to sit inside the Rolls Royce. The phones came out and pictures were snapped. Now her mug shot is all over the internet!

During this trip they worked with the *Friends of Rockaway*, one of several organizations running work camps in the area. On Monday morning they were off to an orientation meeting at the warehouse in Rockaway Beach. (You think that Route 22 in Pennsylvania is bad in the A.M., think again! The traffic is unbelievable.) It was here that they were given their work orders, names of site leaders and the lists of jobs to be done. Over the next week they would work on three different houses and started off by splitting into two groups.

The first house was located in Breezy Point, a gated beach town. Our Helping Hands volunteers had worked on this house on their spring trip. On this trip, the front patio roof was dangling in the breeze so they installed new footers and posts, stabilized the attachment points to the house, frame enclosed the gable end, installed nailers for ceiling soffit, and installed rafter ties. Inside the house, they framed rough openings for six windows, made window jams, and installed the windows. They also, framed one bedroom doorway and enclosed the same, made a new doorway in a different wall, made door jams for three doorways, and did some insulation.

The second house was located in Rockaway Beach. Here the volunteers removed the installed laminate flooring, saving as much as they could and then re-install the same. It was a slow and tedious job. By the end of the week they had completed several rooms.

For the third house, several volunteers from the previous group split off for one day to install a counter top. After much leveling and fitting they managed to attach it and still get home in time to dandy themselves up to go out for dinner.

On their trips to Jamaica and Point Pleasant, the Helping Hands volunteers had the opportunity to work with many young people from Americorp. These young folks came from all over the country. They were hard working, responsible, and always a pleasure to be with. Our hats go off to them.

The Helping Hands volunteers had a great trip and much work was completed in order to get families closer to being back in their homes. They met many new folks, they still have all their digits 😊, they've seen a different part of the country and had many, many laughs!!!!

You can learn more about the Helping Hands Care Team and their mission trips by visiting the Lehigh Presbytery website at <http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/helping-hands/>

They are always looking for volunteers and new team members! Why don't you join them on their next trip and become part of this family that is rebuilding homes and hope to those who have lost so much. You can contact the Presbytery office (610-391-9020, [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)) or Sandy Jenkins (610-298-2106, [csc72ban@ptd.net](mailto:csc72ban@ptd.net))

Lehigh Presbytery Helping Hands

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## WHAT'S NEXT FOR CAMP BRAINERD

The Christian Camping Transition Team, a group of your representatives, is working faithfully and diligently to create a new camping ministry using the resources of camps Brainerd and Kirkwood and of both Lehigh and Philadelphia Presbyteries. Correspondence will follow each of our meetings to make you aware of tasks with which we are dealing and directions in which we are headed.

Our team believes that walking together and combining the resources of leaders, campers, materials, assets, and visions will make Christian camping stronger in both our Presbyteries.



Members of the Christian Camping Transition Team include: George (Skip) Brecht, Ruth Ann Christopher, co-moderator, David Duquette, Peg Elliot, Carter Lester, co-moderator, Barbara Lucia, Paul Lucia, Dick McClain, Brian McShane, Ben Hooper, Tim Peckham, Roland Chandler, Joan Spangler, Courtenay Willcox. If you have joys, questions or concerns, please contact any one of the members of the team.

To read their complete letter to the Presbytery or to keep up with what is happening with the new camping ministry please go to the Lehigh Presbytery website page:

<http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/camping-ministry/>

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## Synod of the Trinity Grant for Assistance with the new Family Board of Pensions Model

In response to a request from our Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity is making available a one-time grant to local presbyteries **to assist congregations in paying for the increase in Board of Pensions dues for family plan members in 2015.**

Starting in 2015, the Board of Pensions (BOP) requires payment for medical coverage for the family of the member enrolled in the plan. Dues for medical coverage for a member's family will be 1.5% of effective salary. For part time teaching elders, dues for the BOP's medical coverage is on church-wide median, even if the teaching elder's salary is below that median.

At the meeting of Lehigh Presbytery on June 24, 2014, we approved a recommendation from our Committee on Ministry (COM) that each church and its called and installed pastor or temporary supply pastor negotiate responsibility for covering the additional 1.5 % increase for dependents in BOP medical dues for 2015. (e.g. that the Presbytery not adopt a uniform dues policy for all congregations.)

At the September 23, 2014 meeting of Lehigh Presbytery, we approved a recommendation from the COM that our 2015 minimum terms of call for called and installed pastors and temporary supply pastors remain the same as 2014 at \$43,478. This minimum was recommended in part because of the new medical dues model for family coverage and the increase this would represent for congregations. For a pastor receiving the minimum salary, the increase for

family medical coverage will be \$675. At the same time, however, this recommendation does not permit a pastor to realize a decrease in their total income in 2015 due to the increase in the dues for family coverage.

The COM **will consider all requests from congregations in Lehigh Presbytery for assistance from this grant** from the Synod of the Trinity. If your congregation is interested in receiving this one-time assistance for 2015, you must:

- Notify the Committee on Ministry of your request no later than January 15, 2015
- Specify the amount you are requesting
- Provide a copy of the terms of call for your pastor/temporary supply pastor for 2015
- Offer in writing an explanation of why you need this assistance and how, if you receive it, you will cover this expense in 2016.

After January 15, 2015, the Committee on Ministry will consider all requests and notify congregations by February 15, 2015 of their decision.

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## PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE TOUR OF SCOTLAND



Join the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown on a **Presbyterian Heritage Tour of Scotland** on July 5-14, 2015. Tour guides and land transportation are included.

Cost: \$2,525.00 per person, double occupancy.  
Airfare pricing in process.

A \$250.00 per person deposit is due by December 15, 2014 for those who are interested.

Highlights of the trip include visiting:

- Glasgow Cathedral
- Stirling Castle
- Scone Palace
- Blair Castle
- Loch Ness
- St. Andrews Cathedral and Castle
- John Knox House
- St. Giles Cathedral
- Edinburgh Castle
- Breakfast included every morning
- Welcome dinner
- Farewell dinner

For more information, please contact Jenney Henderson at [jenney@elitetraveljourneys.com](mailto:jenney@elitetraveljourneys.com), 610-462-2277.

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## *Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

### **Appeals Court Ruling Preserves Clergy Housing Exemption**

A federal appeals court [has thrown out](#) a lower court ruling that the federal income tax exemption for clergy housing allowances is unconstitutional. The appeals court directed the U.S. District Court in Wisconsin that ruled on the suit November 21, 2013, to dismiss the complaint.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit [ruled on November 13, 2014](#), that the plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the constitutionality of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides the exemption. The Freedom from Religion Foundation and two individuals filed the suit. The appeals court did not address the constitutionality of Section 107.

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## SYNOD OF THE TRINITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Rhythm of the Synod from last month's meeting in State College can be found online at (<http://www.syntrinity.org/news-events/synod-news/october-2014-rhythm-of-the-synod/>) along with a photo gallery from the two-day meeting at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

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### Ministry with Our Elders (Senior Adults)

*For Clergy, Parish Nurses, Secretaries of Congregations, Pastoral Care Visitors, and Other Caregivers*



Luther Crest (800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104) will host a Moravian Theological Seminary course on **Mondays, January 26 through March 2, 2015, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**

This six-week course is designed for clergy and laity who want to become more effective in ministry with the senior adults with whom they serve. Participants will have an opportunity to improve their skills of communication with older adults, as well as gain an understanding of the life issues that confront them.

The course will cover the following topics: grief, dynamics and issues of dementia and aging, caring for the caregiver, life review, spirituality and faith, visitation and communication skills, effects of aging on family systems, and community resources.

Cost for this 1.8 CEU course is \$60 (payable to Moravian Theological Seminary, 1220 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018-6650); early bird registration is \$50 (by January 19, 2015). For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210) or go to <http://moravianseminary.edu>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DISCUSSIONS AT LUTHER CREST

### Suicide Prevention

Learn the warning signs and other facts about suicide from representatives of the Allentown Health Bureau and the Lehigh County Office of Aging & Adult Services during their Suicide Prevention presentation on Tuesday, **December 2, 2014, 2:30 p.m.** in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104. For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

### When All Hell Breaks Loose

The public is cordially invited to listen in on a panel discussion of Dr. Manfred Bahmann's new book *When All Hell Breaks Loose* on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 2:30 p.m.** in Crest Hall of 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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Shopping for books, curricula, downloadable resources, and the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*, just became easier with the new PC(USA) Store—a seamless, one-stop web-shopping site featuring books and resources from Congregational Ministries Publishing and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

The comprehensive online store at [PCUSASStore.com](http://PCUSASStore.com) offers easy-to-use navigation, weekly sales and promotions, and the opportunity for customers to pay using their current church PINs.

As a bonus, now through December 15, 2014, your first purchase made on [PCUSASStore.com](http://PCUSASStore.com) includes an additional 10 percent discount. To take advantage of this offer, enter discount code **PCUSA10** at checkout. Offer excludes purchases of *Glory to God*.

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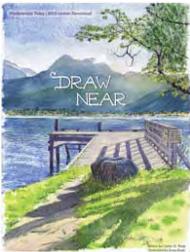


## Introducing 2015 Alternative Giving

The 2014 Presbyterian Giving Catalog, filled with gift suggestions that make a difference in the world, is now available in print and online. The resource includes tools to help Christian educators, Sunday school teachers, and pastors engage faith communities in conversations about generosity and alternative giving. Read more about the giving [catalog](#) and visit the [online](#) gift-giving site for more information.

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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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## APARTMENTS AVAILABLE



The **N. Milton Wood Home for Presbyterian Ministers** has **two apartments available** for immediate occupancy. The basic qualification is that the tenant be a retired Presbyterian (USA) minister. The apartments are provided **rent free**, but tenants will be asked to contribute toward the heat and utilities.

The available units are two of three located in an historic stone dwelling in Paradise Township, Lancaster County, PA. The Home is situated on a four-acre parcel with a maintained lawn and mature trees. Tenants may, if desired, establish flower and vegetable gardens.

The ground-floor apartment has one bedroom, a bathroom with shower, a large living room, and an eat-in kitchen. The second-floor apartment (with star lift) is comprised of two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a dining area, and a bathroom with shower. Included with each unit is one bay of the garage storage with automatic garage door opener.

If you are interested in learning more about these apartments, or know of someone you believe may be interested, contact Edwin Margerum (717-442-4027) or David Homsher (717-687-6469).

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## PINEBROOK BIBLE CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Pinebrook Bible Conference would like to introduce ourselves to your congregation. We have been serving the greater Christian community since 1933. Our facilities consist of over 100 acres located just north of Stroudsburg on Route 191.

We are one of the best kept secrets in the Poconos and we want to get the word out!

We would like to invite you and your congregation to visit us and check us out. We are Celebrating **Christmas at Pinebrook on December 13th with a Banquet and Concert**. Doors open at 3:00 PM and we usually conclude by around 7:00PM so it is not too late getting home in case the weather is not ideal. **This would be the perfect opportunity to see what we are all about.**

We look forward to having you join us for a great evening of good food and fellowship as we worship the King of Kings and celebrate His birth!

If we can answer any questions please contact us! Thank you.

Serving together,

Val Lockhart

Pinebrook Bible Conference & Retreat Center

Marketing, Programming, & Publications

570-424-1212

[www.pinebrook.org](http://www.pinebrook.org)

### *CHRISTMAS AT PINEBROOK*



Celebrate! **CHRISTMAS AT PINEBROOK** on December 13, 2014. Enjoy a delicious banquet with Hot Hors d'oeuvre, carving station and more. Finish off your meal with a dessert buffet! Followed by a concert of seasonal favorites featuring New Fellowship Trio, Bruce Heffner with Piano and Organ music.

Doors open at 3 pm and the evening concludes around 7 with a candle light Carol sing. Tickets are \$25.00 - host a table and SAVE!

**Contact Pinebrook at 570-424-1212** or visit our website at [www.pinebrook.org](http://www.pinebrook.org).

**Pinebrook Bible Conference**

**5339 Pinebrook Rd**

**East Stroudsburg, PA 18301**

**570-424-1212**

[www.pinebrook.org](http://www.pinebrook.org)

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

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org) or call 610-391-9020.