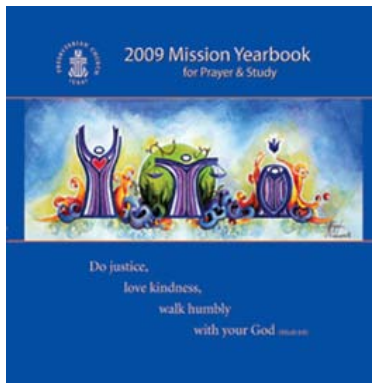




Lake Huron Bi-Weekly Brief

Rediscovering Our Partnership in Jesus Christ

March 18, 2009



***God of all peoples, we are your hands; we are your feet;
we are your eyes, ears, and smile.
Use us, American and Ugandan,
to serve one another, to help one another,
to challenge one another, and to love one another,
just as the Lamb has taught us.
Amen.***

***--- From the 2009 Mission Yearbook for March 9, 2009
(This entry features our own presbytery)***

(To read the Mission Yearbook entry corresponding to this prayer, please [click here](#).)

The deadline for the next Bi-Weekly Brief will be Monday, March 30th.

For Your Prayers:



Concerns:

Freda Lawther CLP and wife of the Rev. Rich Lawther (Fairgrove) who is having severe reactions to chemotherapy

Joys:

Wally Mayton (Associate Pastor at Midland-Memorial) Was named the 2008 Leader of the Year by the Leadership Midland Alumni Association at its annual meeting on February 11th.

Weekly Congregational Prayers:

March 15—Marlette-Second Elder Chris Wolf, CLP

March 22—Midland-Chapel Lane The Rev. David Young, Pastor

March 29 - Midland-Memorial The Rev. Dr. David Pierce and the Rev. Wally Mayton, Associate Pastor

April 5 - Mt. Pleasant-First The Rev. Dr. Steve Shugert, Pastor and the Rev. Peter Russell, Parish Associate

For Your Calendar:

(All events are at the Presbytery Office unless otherwise noted)



March 18: Personnel 12:00pm at Saginaw-Second

March 18: CPM 1:00pm

March 21: CLP Applicant Interviews

March 24: COM, 12:00pm

March 28: Clerk of Session and Treasurers Training, 8:30am, Saginaw—
Countryside Trinity



For Your Information:

Do you have something that is working really well in your congregation and want to share it with others?

Are you starting to panic about what to do about Vacation Bible School this year?

Wonder who else may be going on mission trips?

We have set up a discussion group through Google Groups for all members of LHP to use (clergy, elders, members of congregations) to discuss these topics and many more. You can share things such as those mentioned above or things like: what Sunday School curriculum and activities are you doing, seasonal activities such as Easter Egg Hunts or Christmas craft fairs and many other topics related to church activities.

This group is a private group and membership is limited to people with an association with one of our congregations. Posts are not viewable by the public and other non-group members. Membership must be approved prior to posting any comments or questions.

Follow click on the Google Groups logo to start connecting with your fellow LHP congregations today!



LHP-Position Posting Announcement

Resource Center Director Needed: The Presbytery of Lake Huron is seeking someone to fulfill the duties required to maintain and update the Resource Center located at 5560 McCarty Road, Saginaw (in the Presbytery Office). This position will require ability to understand and apply a cataloguing process, familiarity or ability to learn how to acquire and develop summaries for materials used by P.C. (USA) Lay Leaders, Clergy and Christian Educators in creatively serving their congregations. Attached please find the position description, the application form, and the list of supplementary questions to be returned with the application form. **Applications are due April 3.** Interviews will be held before May 8.

Click on the links to view and print the documents to apply for this position:

[Job Description](#)

[Application](#)

[Additional Questions to the Application](#)

Costa Rica Hurricane Response:

On January 8 an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck Costa Rica. The main event, followed by over 1,200 minor aftershocks, caused multiple landslides blocking roads and collapsing bridges and totally or partially destroying several hundreds of homes, schools and public buildings. The death toll stands at 23 with some entire families still unaccounted for. **More information may be found by [Clicking Here](#).**



News and Information from the PC(USA):

APA Certification Event The Administrative Personnel Association of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will conduct a week-long certification event in conjunction with its national conference at *Walt Disney World, FL*, in July. [Click Here](#) to read the story online.

Pillows Talk...To find out how, [Click Here!](#)

Summer's Not Far Off...See what exciting things are happening at [Camp Greenwood!](#)

A Place Where Peace Truly Abides...[Read the story](#) by the GA Moderator.

Hot Wheels!...[Read how](#) one congregation engaged an unlikely group in their community.



Together, We Can Change The World...[Find out how](#)



Other Items of Interest:

The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle; Baker Books, 2008.

As a pastor nearing the end of his career, I was comforted by one particular section in this brief look at "How Christianity Is Changing and Why," as the book's subtitle says. I'll share that comforting quote later in this review. Phyllis Tickle, the founding editor of the Religion Department of Publishers Weekly, has been in an excellent position to observe the changes in the Christian churches since 1992...[Continue reading this review by one of LHP's pastors.](#)



Vassar-First Members Return to Louisiana to continue their mission work in the still devastated NOLA area. [Click Here](#) to read a brief summary and view pictures of their most recent trip.

[Upcoming Events:](#)



*Events Sponsored/Hosted by
the Presbytery of Lake Huron:*

“Tips For a Thoughtful Servant of God: The Clerk of Session” led by Douglas Tracy, Stated Clerk and

“More than Ledger and Balance Sheets: The Church Treasurers” led by Elder Andrea Drapp, Business Manager/Treasurer

March 28th: Saginaw-Countryside Trinity; Training session for Clerks of Session and Church Treasurers on Saturday, March 28th from 9:00am to 12:00pm (Coffee, Tea, and Fellowship starting at 8:30am). All Clerks of Session and Church Treasurers are invited and encouraged to attend. For reservations, call 989-799-7481. [Click Here to view the flier for this event.](#)

Diana Butler Bass: Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith

April 17th-18th, 2009: Horizons Conference Center – Saginaw; *“Like the Biblical character Joshua, I set off to spy out the land and find some like-minded pilgrims, hoping to discover a different kind of Christianity – a Christianity for the rest of us – by listening to real people in the pews, finding out what makes their churches work, and giving voice to their understanding of the gospel.”* This is how Diana Butler Bass describes her three-year study of contemporary American mainline Protestantism. She studied 50 churches, 10 of them in depth, by visiting the churches, interviewing members and participating in church activities. Along the way, her study became a personal pilgrimage and she found herself transformed by the process. She presents what she learned about these churches in her book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith*. \$50.00 per person; *A brochure is included in the attachment with additional details and registration information. This information may be found under Upcoming Events or [Click Here to view the brochure.](#)*

Promoting Healthy Congregations – Part II

April 20-21: St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI Objective: to introduce participants to coaching skills for use with groups of people and give them an opportunity to practice these skills using case studies and examples from their ministry settings. The emphasis is both theoretical and practical. The leader will tie together previous Healthy Congregation Seminars on Conflict Resolution, Appreciative Inquiry, and Grief. Bring your notebook from the October 2007 Coaching Conference and a case study. [Click Here to view the brochure regarding this event.](#)

Health Fairs Are Coming!

July 6-9: Lake Huron Presbytery On our home page we have a link to a presentation that was made about last year's health fairs and how much the children enjoyed it. If you would like to have a copy of this e-mailed to you to use in your congregation, please contact me at the presbytery office or via e-mail at spercyl@presbylh.org. [Click Here for the brochure regarding the Health Fairs.](#)



**Events Sponsored/Hosted by
the PC(USA):**

The PC(USA) Big Tent Event is Happening This Summer

June 11–13: Atlanta, Georgia Join us at the Big Tent! Big Tent is a first-of-its-kind event scheduled for June 11-13, 2009, in Atlanta under the theme, “... and the word became flesh.” There will be some common meals and worship services, a shared exhibit hall, some common workshop sessions and a Saturday evening celebration event. [Ten Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) ministries and groups will hold their conferences in conjunction with the Big Tent event:](#) the Healthy Ministry Conference, the Presbyterian Communicators’ Network Conference, the National Multicultural Church Conference, the Stewardship and Investment Conference, the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, the National Elders Conference, the Peacemaking Conference, the PHEWA Social Justice Biennial Conference, the Racial Ethnic Convocation and the New Immigrants Ministries Convocation. ***An introductory video can be found on our home page.***

The presbytery office will be keeping a list of people that will be attending this event. Please contact sperc@presbylh.org or 989-799-7481 or 800-621-6905 to be added to the list.



**Events Sponsored/Hosted by
LHP Congregations and other groups:**

“Disarm and Live: The Christian Life of Creative Nonviolence in a World of Violence”

March 24th: Alma College; Alma College will be hosting Fr. John Dear, a Jesuit priest, who has dedicated his life to pursuing nonviolence. I invite you and your congregation to attend his lecture which will be open to the public. Fr. John Dear will be speaking on Tuesday, March 24 at 8 pm in the Alma College Chapel on the topic of “Disarm and Live: The Christian Life of Creative Nonviolence in a World of Violence”. In this presentation, Fr. Dear will share reflections about the world of violence and war, and the life of creative nonviolence and peace, the spiritual basis for nonviolence, and how we can be contemplatives, activists and prophets of peace and justice to our culture of war and injustice. Dear is an internationally known voice of peace and nonviolence. He is a Jesuit priest, peace activist, lecturer and author of many books. For more info see <http://www.johndear.org/>

Flint-First Women’s Leadership Forum

March 25th 8:30am to 5:30pm and **March 26th** 8:30am to 4:00pm; Cost \$100 or \$90 for 2 or more from the same congregation. Contact Kim Skaff for more information at 810-234-8673

Milestone Conference

April 25th: Grosse Pointe, MI; Milestones Ministry Conferences are presented by the Youth and Family Institute in Minnesota. We will have 2 presenters with us for the day to discuss ways in which we can partner the parish and the home in faith formation for all ages. Milestones focus on the turning points in life, and celebrate God’s presence with us in the highs and the lows. By fostering caring conversations, Christian service, rituals and traditions, and family devotions, each household becomes an intentional place for faith formation. ***Click Here to view a brochure regarding this event. Or visit their website by clicking here.***

Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry

June 2-4 Pittsburgh, PA [Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry](#) is designed for practicing ministers and church administrators interested in sharpening their skills on managing church congregations during times of transition and change. IMN is ecumenical in membership and all are welcome. This introductory course focuses on the leadership skills needed by the senior pastor of a church undergoing a major transition. A more advanced course, [Intentional Interim Ministry](#), is focused on the change management work to be done by the congregation itself. For more information about classes and conferences, see the IMN Homepage at www.imnedu.org or call 1-800-235-8414.

Vacation Bible Schools 2009

We would like to list your church's VBS on our website. Please e-mail Staci at spercy@presbylh.org with the name of your congregation, the dates and times of your VBS, and the theme you are using.



Celebrate 500 years of John Calvin:

60-minute documentary chronicles John Calvin LOUISVILLE – A new documentary – John Calvin: His Life and Legacy – reexamines the life and thought of the seminal Protestant Reformer as the 500th anniversary of his birth approaches in July of this year. The documentary – subtitled in English, Korean, German, French, Dutch, and Spanish – also includes a 20-page printable study guide and a 51-page PowerPoint supplement. [Click Here](#) to continue reading.

Calvin Jubilee

Listings on through the PC(USA) on various events to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Calvin's birth. [Click Here](#) for listing.

The presbytery's **Resource Center** has many items regarding John Calvin as well. Please visit our website at www.presbylh.org and click on Resource Center. Type in Calvin to find all of our current holdings. To request an item to be sent to you, please contact the office at 800-621-6905 or e-mail Marquetta at mdavis@presbylh.org.

And finally, this wonderful reminder of the reason for the season...

Lenten Reflections

- Fast from judging others; feast on the presence of God within each person.**
- Fast from focusing on differences; feast on the unity of all life.**
- Fast from apparent darkness and gloom; feast on the reality of light and enthusiasm.**
- Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.**
- Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.**

- Fast from anger; feast on patience.**
- Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.**
- Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.**
- Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.**
- Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.**

- Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.**
- Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.**
- Fast from facts that depress; feast on promises that inspire.**
- Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.**
- Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the brilliance of Resurrection!**

Staci Percy
Communications Manager/Recording Clerk
Presbytery of Lake Huron

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Please feel free to forward this to others who may be interested.

To join this mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at spercy@presbylh.org or call 800-621-6905 or 989-799-7481