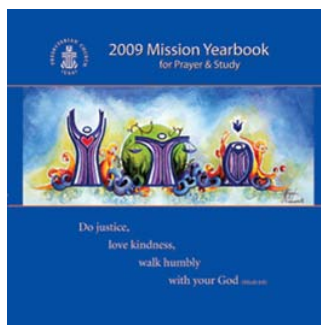




Lake Huron Bi-Weekly Brief

Rediscovering Our Partnership in Jesus Christ

April 1, 2009



Merciful God, we pray for children, especially those children whose lives are torn apart by poverty, who are confronted with racism, and who cry out for love, justice, and hope. Enable us to respond to their cries not simply with words but with deeds. Enable us to challenge the comfortable, lift up the brokenhearted, and confront those who claim poverty and racism as insurmountable. Amen.

--- From the 2009 Mission Yearbook for March 26, 2009

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

The deadline for the next Bi-Weekly Brief will be Monday, April 13th

For Your Prayers:



Concerns:

Walter Fales Elder Commissioner at Tawas who suffered a stroke earlier this year. Early last week Walter developed fluid on the brain. Instead of moving him home, as his family had hoped for, Walter was readmitted to St. Mary's Hospital, and a shunt was inserted to help relieve the pressure. He is still at St. Mary's, but now there is some concern about his heart - and he is being moved to the cardiac unit for further treatment.

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

Joys:

Grand Blanc-KAPCOB who were awarded a grant from the Synod for their program "Hospitality for the Asian exchange students in UM-Flint" for the second year.

Weekly Congregational Prayers:

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

April 12 - Rosebush Elder Charles Moerdyk, CLP

April 19 - Saginaw-Countryside Trinity The Rev. Ken Parker, Pastor

For Your Calendar:

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



April 2 - Trustees 9:30am

April 3 - Resource Center Director Applications Due

April 10 - Presbytery Office Closed in observance of Good Friday

April 17 - 18 Diana Butler Bass Horizons Conference Center, Saginaw

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 the link below 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](#)

[Response to the Flooding in the Midwest](#) Please read here about how the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program is helping out those affected by flooding in the Midwest and how you can contribute as well.



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.

Lots of Hope...To find out about what, [Click Here!](#)

General Assembly Budget Changes...To see what the GA is doing in response to the economic downturn and resulting budget shortfall [Click Here](#)

The Thing That Unites Us All...[Click Here](#) to find out what it is.

Eye of the Hurricane...[Click Here](#) to read how today's church is in midst of a "hurricane of change."

Check it with God...[Click Here](#) to read about how a group of youth and young adults are answering God's call.



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:**

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.**

Book Signing



May 30: Lapeer-First member and Deacon will be signing copies of her new Christian book for teachers, ***Teach and Reach for Classroom Miracles! Lessons on Teaching With Love*** on Saturday, May 30, from 1-4 PM; Wendy Byard will be signing copies of her new book at Lapeer's Book Shelf. Byard is having her book published through FaithWalk Publishing, and imprint of CSS Publishing. *Teach and Reach for Classroom Miracles! Lessons on Teaching With Love* is an inspirational, Christ-based book for teachers, youth leaders, and those in a position to empower others. The book has special ties to the church: Two reviews that appear in the book were written by Lapeer's First Presbyterian Pastor, the Rev. Todd Smith, and congregation member, Dr. Shirley Harris-Carlson. Also, Marji and Al Peet, owners of Lapeer's Book Shelf, have graciously arranged to hold the book signing at their downtown store. For more information, visit www.wendybyard.com or call the Lapeer Book Shelf at 810.664.0731.

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 spercy@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 spercy@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:**

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.***

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders

May 4-8; Maumee, Ohio How much time do your pastors invest in having to address destructive conflict in their churches? If you’re like most judicatories, the answer is “too much!” The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering our *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* May 4-8, 2009 in Maumee, OH. This training event has consistently been rated by judicatory leaders and pastors of multiple denominations as “the best continuing education event I’ve ever attended.” One Lutheran Bishop wrote in his evaluation form, after attending the institute: “The best and most thorough model for mediation with individuals and congregations that I have experienced in more than three decades of ordained ministry.” This would be a valuable leadership training event to promote among both clergy and lay leaders in your judicatory. **The registration deadline is April 17, 2009.** [Click Here](#) to view a brochure.

Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry

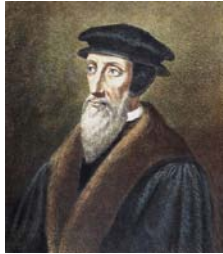
June 2-4 Pittsburgh, PA [Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry](#) is designed for practicing ministers and church administrators interested in sharpening their skills on managing church congregations during times of transition and change. IMN is ecumenical in membership and all are welcome. This introductory 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.

Covenant Gathering 2009

June 28-July 3 [Click here](#) to visit their website for details on this weeklong affordable family event.

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:

Calvin Jubilee

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

Looking for more ways to celebrate Calvin's 500th? [Click Here](#) to go to the Presbyterian Outlook website for details on upcoming events

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.

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