



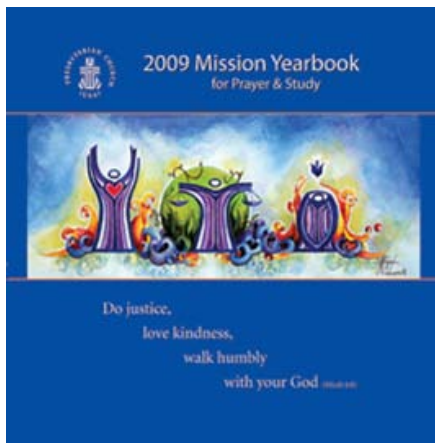
# *Lake Huron*

## *Bi-Weekly Brief*

**Rediscovering Our Partnership in Jesus Christ**

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April 15, 2009



***Gracious and loving God,  
we praise your holy name.  
You have richly blessed us, Lord,  
may we in turn be a blessing  
and through our actions  
may those we touch  
come to know your abundant  
grace and love.  
In Christ's name we pray.***

***Amen.***

***--- From the 2009 Mission Yearbook for April 3, 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 27th***



### **For Your Prayers:**

#### **Concerns:**

**Second Lieutenant Joshua Hetzel (son of the Rev. Ken Hetzel, pastor of Crosswell-First)**, his wife Nicole and young daughter, Chrystine. Joshua will be deploying to Iraq for the third time in early to mid-May. Nicole is pregnant with their second child, a son, who is expected to arrive in July. Joshua is tentatively scheduled for a mid-tour leave near Thanksgiving at which time he will have the opportunity to hold his son for the first time.

**Walter Fales** Elder Commissioner for Tawas who suffered a stroke earlier this year. His condition has not improved and he has been moved back to HealthSource in Saginaw. He is unable to receive visitors. This has understandably been a very stressful time for Walter's wife, Phyllis and she is in need of prayers as well.

**Freda Lawther** CLP and wife of the Rev. Rich Lawther (Fairgrove) who is having severe allergic reactions to chemotherapy. She is scheduled to have another treatment on April 24th and prays that the doctors will be able to find an effective medication that her body will be able to tolerate. Please keep both Freda and Rich in your prayers.

**Peter Gilbert, Clerk of Session at Midland-Memorial** who was hospitalized three months ago with pancreatitis and has yet to return home. As of last week, he was back in critical care with an infection. Peter's wife Mary Ann could use prayers as well.

#### **Joys:**

**The congregation of Bay City-Westminster** who are celebrating the installation of their new Pastor, the Rev. Matthew Schramm, on Sunday, April 26th at 3:30pm.

#### **Weekly Congregational Prayers:**

**April 12 - Rosebush** Elder Charles Moerdyk, CLP

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

**April 26 - Saginaw-First** The Rev. Dr. Robert Emrich, Pastor

**May 3 - Saginaw-Korean American** The Rev. Dr. Daniel Ahn, Pastor

***Prayer is such a powerful thing! Wouldn't be awesome to have your presbytery praying for you? Please send requests for both prayers of concerns and of joys to Staci Percy ([spercylh@presbylh.org](mailto:spercylh@presbylh.org)) so that we can have many voices lifting you up!***



#### **For Your Calendar:**

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

**April 15 Personnel Team** 12:30pm

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

**April 18 Alma College Commencement Service** Alma College, 2:00pm

**April 20-21 Healthy Congregations** St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI

**April 25 CLP Class of 2009** 9:30am

**April 16 Installation of the Rev. Matthew Schramm** 3:30pm, Bay City-

Westminster

**April 28 COM** 12:00pm

**April 29 Coordinating Team** 10:00am

**May 10 Scholarship Applications Due** This is a reminder that all requests for summer activity scholarships (for children, youth and young adults) need to be into the Presbytery Office by May 10. This includes scholarships to camps, to Montreat, and mission trips. At that time all requests will be

considered in order to allow for a fair distribution of available funds. Applications can be found on line at <http://www.presbylh.org/presbytery.html> (on the Presbytery Documents page) then scroll down and click on "Scholarship Application For Children, Youth and Young Adults."



**For Your Information:**

The focus of the May Presbytery meeting's worship service will be on Mission. To go along with that theme each church is asked to bring along display items that reflect the mission activities of that congregation. There will be room for a tri-fold and other materials such as would fit on one half of a typical rectangular banquet table (roughly 2 ½ x 4 feet). Be as creative as you like. ***Have fun and help us celebrate the many varied mission activities of all the churches of our presbytery!***

**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!**



**News and Information from the PC(USA):**

**PC(USA) Pension Plan Remains Fully Funded** [Click Here](#) for details

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** [Click Here](#) to find out ways to help out areas in need such as the flood communities in the Mid-West, the victims in Binghamton, NY, Summer 2009 Volunteer Opportunities, and much more

**College News** [Click Here](#) to read why our own Alma College made the news!

**Hog Heaven!** [Click Here](#) to read how one Harley-riding Illinois pastor extends ministry to biker world

**Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC)'s 2008 sales exceed previous year's** [Click Here](#) to read how that happened during such tough economic times

**Culture Windows in Peru** [Click Here](#) to read this interesting story of mission

**Bruce Blogs the Bay Area** [Click Here](#) to read how the Moderator of the General Assembly is connecting with the community



**Other Items of Interest/Resources for your Congregation:**

**FREE Webinars from Yvon Prehn!** She offers some wonderful, practical and easy-to-use tips on various church communications/publications. And these are all **FREE!**

**Church Communication Leadership: how to plan, measure and evaluate communication effectiveness**

Date: Friday, April 17, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM PDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/978745970>

Date: Friday, April 17, 2009

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM PDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/194971690>

**Mother's Day Publications for moms and the people who come with them to church**

Date: Friday, April 24, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM PDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/444232458>

Date: Friday, April 24, 2009

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/931119354>

**How to use Connection Cards effectively to grow your church and pastor your people**

Date: Friday, May 1, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM PDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/158981362>

Date: May 1, 2009

Time: 12:00 AM - 12:30 AM PDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/596478898>

**Alban Institute Membership** For clergy and lay leaders looking for the best resources, the Alban Institute delivers the best of practical knowledge and expertise. When you join the Alban community, you'll have the widest access to resources, research, and relationships that can make a difference in your congregation's life. [Join today for just \\$50](#) and join Alban on the leading edge. For 35 years, Alban has helped congregations remain vital and enduring communities of faith. And we're still pushing the leading edge. We focus on the issues and opportunities facing congregations and their leaders. We remain committed to advancing the congregational best practices and the highest quality publications, seminars, research, and consultations. [Join us today and see what we can do for you.](#)

### Get the new issue of *Hungryhearts* from the PC(USA)

The *Hungryhearts* issue focusing on praise is now available online. Augustine's sentiment that "the one who sings, prays twice" conveys that music is a spiritual language. This issue celebrates the vocabulary of praise. Get the [downloadable version of the magazine](#) in addition to bonus material including a [reader's guide](#) [pdf], an article by John Indermark, [Praise and Providence](#) [pdf], and an article by Anna Crean, [Marian by Moonlight](#) [pdf].

### Do You Know These People?

The following persons may be people you know from your presbytery. They have committed themselves to be part of the missions and ministries of the Synod of the Covenant. You may want to ask them about their work. They would be glad to tell you, and they may invite you to join them!

#### Church Development & Transformation Committee

- **Andrew Aboagye**, Moderator  
Scioto Valley Presbytery
- **Joe Atkins**  
Eastminster Presbytery
- **Raphael Francis**  
Detroit Presbytery
- **Kathy Horne**  
Miami Valley Presbytery
- **Brenda Jarvis**  
Detroit Presbytery
- **Tawee Layraman**  
Maumee Valley Presbytery
- **George Portice**  
Detroit Presbytery
- **Dale Swihart, Jr.**  
Lake Huron Presbytery



#### Covenants & Connections Committee

- **Mary Beth Hedlund**  
Eastminster Presbytery
- **Richard Lawther**  
Lake Huron Presbytery
- **Liza Miller**, Moderator  
Muskingum Valley Presbytery

#### 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 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 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 [spercyp@presbylh.org](mailto:spercyp@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 [spercyp@presbylh.org](mailto:spercyp@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:*

### **20th Anniversary Concert of the Casavant Organ at Saginaw-First**

**April 24th: Saginaw-First** The artists are "Organized Rhythm" featuring University of Michigan's Joseph Gramley, multi-percussionist and Clive Driskill-Smith the organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford England. [Click Here](#) for a brochure with more details.

### **Milestone Conference**

**April 25<sup>th</sup>: 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.

### **The President of Princeton Theological Seminary to speak at Alma College**

**May 5; Alma College** Dr. Iain R. Torrance, President and Professor of Patristics, at Princeton Theological Seminary will be at Alma College on Tuesday, May 5 to give a lecture and meet with friends and alumni of the seminary. Dr. Torrance will speak on "Theological Education in the Context of the Changing Church" at 10 am in VanDusen Commons at Alma College. The lecture will be followed by a noon luncheon. Prior registration and payment for the luncheon is required; please register on the seminary website at: [https://our.ptsem.edu/ics/Alumni/alma\\_alumni-ae\\_luncheon.jnz](https://our.ptsem.edu/ics/Alumni/alma_alumni-ae_luncheon.jnz). All are welcome to attend.

### **Alma College High School Leadership Institute is Now Accepting Applications**

The Alma College High School Leadership Institute is open to current high school juniors. While at Alma, students will develop leadership capabilities and an understanding of the complexity of local, state and global economic and technological changes. Students will be immersed into the study and practice of leadership through workshops, case analysis and experiential activities. Because the Institute is funded with a major grant from the Dow Chemical Company, **the fee for this week-long, residential experience is only \$50.** Please see [Click Here](#) for details and an application.



### **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](http://www.wendybyard.com) or call the Lapeer Book Shelf at 810.664.0731.

### **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](http://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](mailto:spercy@presbylh.org) with the name of your congregation, the dates and times of your VBS, and the theme you are using.

***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](mailto:spercy@presbylh.org) or call 800-621-6905 or 989-799-7481