



Lake Huron Bi-Weekly Brief

Rediscovering Our Partnership in Jesus Christ

April 29, 2009



Heavenly Father, you control the seasons
and you control your church.
In your providence and grace,
you twirl the planets to bring us spring.
We trust by the power of your
Holy Spirit that your church will
know spring as well.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
we ask it.
--- Amen

--- *From the 2009 Mission Yearbook for April 26, 2009*

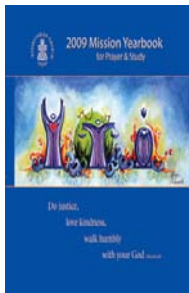
(To read the Mission Yearbook entry corresponding to this prayer, please [click here](#).)

The deadline for the next Bi-Weekly Brief will be Monday, May 11th

For Your Prayers:

Concerns:

Unfortunately since the last brief was sent out, we have had two deaths within the presbytery to report. It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of **Pete Gilbert, long-time Clerk of Session for Midland-Memorial** as well as the passing of **Honorably Retired Pastor, the Rev. Paul Jenkins**. Mr. Jenkins served the Fenton-Tyrone congregation from 1998 to 2001. If you would like contact information for the spouses of either of these gentlemen, please contact Staci Percy at the presbytery office. To view the obituary for Pete Gilbert, [click here](#). To view the obituary for Paul Jenkins, [click here](#).



Andrea Drapp, Presbytery Business Manager/Treasurer who is recouping and doing well after having had ear surgery on April 29th. She will be out of the office from April 29th until May 5th.

Second Lieutenant Joshua Hetzel (son of the Rev. Ken Hetzel, pastor of Croswell-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 in quite some time and he remains at 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 has one more treatment scheduled 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.

Joys:

The congregation of Fenton-Tyrone who are experiencing an increase in attendance and a renewed energy and spirit around the church.

The Rev. Parker Smith and the congregation of Linden as they begin the celebration of his retirement at the end of June.

The congregation of Saginaw-First for the wonderful review they received for their most recent concert. The church as well as the performers were very much appreciated. [Click Here](#) to read the story online.

Weekly Congregational Prayers:

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

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

May 10 - Saginaw-Second The Rev. Jim Neumann, Pastor

May 17 - Saginaw-Warren Avenue The Rev. Tom Cundiff, Pastor and The Rev. Dr. Rodney Shoemaker, Parish Associate

Prayer is such a powerful thing! Wouldn't it be awesome to have your presbytery praying for you? Please send requests for both prayers of concerns and of joys to Staci Percy (spercy@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 29 - Coordinating Team 10:00am

May 1 - Promoting Healthy Congregations Coaching Group 9:00am

May 4 - Nominating 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."

May 11 - IEPC Group 6:00pm in Flushing

May 13 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry 1:00pm

May 14 - Trustees 10:00 am

May 15 - Health Fairs Group 10:00 am

May 16 - Memorial Service for the Rev. Wesley Dykstra 1:00pm Remick Heritage Center at Alma College. Mr. Dykstra passed away on December 16, 2008. He was a long-time professor at Alma College. Please [click here](#) to view his obituary.

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.

So that we can ensure that there will be sufficient room for everyone, please RSVP to Staci Percy at spercy@presbylh.org no later than May 12th.

Have fun and help us celebrate the many varied mission activities of all the churches of our presbytery!

The 2009-2010 Presbyterian Planning Calendars may now be ordered. Please [click here](#) for the order form.

The 2010 Mission Yearbook may also now be ordered. Please [click here](#) for the order form.



News and Information from the PC(USA):

Northern Michigan Presbyterians help plant 12,000 trees in honor of Earth Day 2009 Read how this Interfaith group expresses care for God's creation by [Clicking Here](#).

PC(USA) agencies back Obama's nuke-free proposals 50 years of GA policy supports nuclear weapons ban, they say. [Read the story here](#).

The Presbyterian Center Wins ENERGY STAR Award The Presbyterian Center, home of the national offices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has been honored with an ENERGY STAR award for positive changes the center has made to conserve energy. [Read about it online](#).

Amendment B is defeated Presbyteries keep 'fidelity and chastity' ordination standard. [Read more about it](#). To read how church leaders are praising the tone of the debate, [click here](#).

Rest for the weary Alzheimer's center provides community, respite for afflicted and caregivers. Read how they are accomplishing this [online](#).



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!**

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>

Some of her webinars are now available 24/7! [Check them out!](#)

Want to honor mom? Yvon Prehn has some great ideas on how to do just that as well! [Click Here](#) to see how.

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 *World Mission Highlights* from the PC(USA) for FREE. *Highlights* is a twice-yearly magazine focused on the worldwide work of the PC(USA). It offers news and feature stories about mission personnel, international partners and grassroots Presbyterians involved in God's mission in the world. Download archived issues of *Highlights* or [subscribe to Highlights](#) to receive issues as they become available.

Need a good laugh? Our Resource Center has several books available to help us all lighten up and laugh a little. Please use the Resource Center link near the top left of this page and put "Humor" in the search box. Then enjoy a good laugh!

Upcoming Events:



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

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:*

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. All are welcome to attend.

Carol Kent events at Flint-First

May 12 and 13; First Presbyterian Church of Flint Carol Kent's vibrant personality and joyful spirit make her one of the top Christian communicators today. A gifted author and outstanding speaker, Carol will share her story of God's grace in times of trial. The first evening will conclude with an opportunity for you to join the Gerholz Center in meeting the needs of the Flint community. As resources continue to shrink in the area, the Center is committed to providing traditional and innovative resources for those in need. Through our “Igniting Fire” campaign, we want to partner with others in the area to rebuild our great community. Please call (810) 234-0500 for more information. [Click Here](#) for the May12th event and [Click Here](#) for details on the May 13th event.

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.

Ten Things They Never Told Me About Jesus

June 21-33; Clarkston, MI This retreat with John Bell of the Iona Community is sponsored by the Synod of the Covenant Ten Things They Never Told Me About Jesus...is a reflective session exploring facets of the Gospel witness to Christ which are either overlooked or consciously avoided in preaching and everyday reflection. Issues such as his relationship to women, foreigners, anger, the religious establishment, are all opened for perusal. Such stories about Jesus will engage our imagination as a resource for faith. The imagination is here attested as one of the means by which God communicates with us and we may be expected to respond in our personal devotions and public witness. [Click Here](#) for a brochure and registration form.

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.

*Staci Percy
Communications Manager/Recording Clerk
Presbytery of Lake Huron*

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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