

March 4, 2009

## Welcome to the new Lake Huron Bi-Weekly Brief



This is the first edition of our new announcement format. As the name implies, these announcements will now be sent out on a bi-weekly basis. We plan to continue making changes and improvements over the next few months.

Since there will no longer be a printed newsletter this publication will soon include more newsletter-type articles. Please submit any items you would like to have included by the Monday prior to each publication date.

***The deadline for the next Bi-Weekly Brief will be Monday, March 16th.***



***Holy God, take away the day-to-day habits that keep us from seeing the needs of the world and the apathy that drains away our best intentions. Make us see more clearly the way to walk with justice and kindness. Amen.***

***--- From the 2009 Mission Yearbook for March 3, 2009***

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



### **For Your Prayers:**

#### **Concerns:**

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

**Karen Cullen** wife of the Rev. Dr. Randy Cullen (Holly) who is experiencing health concerns

### **Joys:**

**The Rev. Young Kwon and wife Heidi** (Grand Blanc-KAPCOB) who recently learned they will be grandparents for the first time

**The Rev. Matthew Schramm** as he begins his call as pastor of Bay City-Westminster next week.

### **Weekly Congregational Prayers:**

**March 1—Linden** The Rev. Parker Smith, Pastor

**March 8—Marlette-First** Elder Chris Wolf, CLP

**March 15—Marlette-Second** Elder Chris Wolf, CLP

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

### **For Your Calendar:**

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



**March 9-11: Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference**, Kansas City, MO

**March 11: Coordinating Team** 10:00am

**March 12: PW** 10:00am

**March 13-15: Syn0d Assembly**, Synod Office, Maumee, OH

**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:**

**If you need to have your address, phone number, email address changed** please send the change request to Marquetta at [mdavis@presbylh.org](mailto:mdavis@presbylh.org).

Also, when mailing items to the Presbytery using the USPS please do NOT include our street address. That only delays the delivery of your item.

**Our correct mailing address is:** Presbytery of Lake Huron, PO Box 6129, Saginaw, MI 48608.

**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.

**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](#).**

**Scenes From The February Stated Meeting** To view a short PowerPoint-style slideshow of the most recent presbytery meeting [Click Here](#). It is a PDF file so you only need Adobe Reader to view the file. If you would like a copy of this to show to your sessions and/or congregations, please e-mail Staci at [spercyc@presbylh.org](mailto:spercyc@presbylh.org).

**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 28<sup>th</sup>:** Saginaw-Countryside Trinity; Training session for Clerks of Session and Church Treasurers on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 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 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 also be found on our website 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. ***A brochure regarding this event is included in the attachment.***

### **Health Fairs Are Coming!**

**July 6-9: Lake Huron Presbytery** See the attachment or our website home page ([www.presbylh.org](http://www.presbylh.org)) for more information. 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](mailto:spercy@presbylh.org).



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

### **PC(USA) sponsors National Pastors Sabbath**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>:** Presbyterians pastors from all over the country will gather for a time of rest and renewal – a time apart to break bread with those in common vocation. **Come to the Sabbath!** Is sponsored by the six agencies of the PC(USA). The retreat dates are April 17- 20. Registration will begin at 11:00am on Friday, a free afternoon, followed by an evening dinner and worship. The Sabbath will conclude on Sunday evening. The retreat will be led by an outstanding group of inspirational speakers and preachers. **Walter Brueggeman** will lead the Bible study and reflection on the book of Exodus. **Frances Taylor Gench and J. Herbert Nelson** will be our daily preachers. Pastors who are actively serving PC(U.S.A.) congregations, including pastors, associate pastors, interims, designated pastors, stated supplies, commissioned lay pastors and others serving in the ministry of PC(U.S.A.) churches and middle governing bodies are invited to attend. Registration will be \$275 per person and includes five meals. Spouses are also encouraged to attend as full participants in the retreat. Registration for couples is \$550. ***More information can be found at: [www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath](http://www.pcusa.org/pastorsabbath).***

### **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 website home page at [www.presbylh.org](http://www.presbylh.org).***



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

**Stewardship Kaleidoscope: Presbyterian Stewardship Conference**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>:** Kansas City, Missouri. For elders, pastors, presbytery staff and volunteers. Leadership provided by Marc Carmichael, Laura Mendenhall, Debra Mumford and Shannon Webster. Keynote presentations, workshops and inspiring worship. Registration fee: \$165. **Information can be found at [www.heartlandpby.org/kaleidoscope](http://www.heartlandpby.org/kaleidoscope).** (Mary Anne Evans-Justin is curious to know if anyone else from this presbytery is registered for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Kansas City in March? Perhaps those attending could caucus to discuss ways to support one another in what we have learned as well as designing ways to share information with those who could not attend. You can let her know through: [majustin@verizon.net](mailto:majustin@verizon.net))

**Tell Me A Story: A Workshop On Effective Christian Story-Telling**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Midland-Memorial; We can all tell stories! But to relate events and happenings in a clear, compelling and picturesque manner is a skill that few of us have. The purpose of this workshop is simply to help us as adults become better story-tellers. Whether in a formal classroom situation or in informal face-to-face conversation, story-telling skills help us explain our own experiences as well as relate the experiences of others. **[Click Here](#) for a brochure that provides additional details and registration information.**

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

**March 24<sup>th</sup>:** 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 25<sup>th</sup>** 8:30am to 5:30pm and March 26<sup>th</sup> 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 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](#).**

**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.

## "God Will Do Wonders Among You"

**July 11-15:** Louisville, KY PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS CHURCHWIDE GATHERING Scholarships available from PW in the Presbytery of Lake Huron. Applications must be sent by **February 16, 2009** to Nadine Baxter. See information in the March issue of Journey Journal.



### 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 in 3-D!

Geneva Museum celebrates reformer's 500th birthday with new exhibit by Jerry L. Van Marter; Presbyterian News Service; GENEVA – Imagine: John Calvin in 3-D. The award-winning International Museum of the Reformation (IMR) here is unveiling a new exhibit in late-April to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, one of the founding fathers of the Protestant Reformation. "A Day in the Life of John Calvin" – which runs from April 24-Oct. 31 – will feature virtual representations of Calvin's Reformation-era world. Museum officials say 3-D simulations of Calvin in his familiar surroundings and activities will help foster a better understanding of his life and actions, in the manner of a documentary film. [Click Here](#) to continue reading this story.

### 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](http://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](mailto:mdavis@presbylh.org).



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

**Congregation celebrates the gifts of women to kick off Lenten season** This article includes a reference to LHPs own the Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter. [Click Here](#) to read the story online.

**Notes about people** Includes an article about LHPs newest minister member, the Rev. Jonah Salim. [Click Here](#) to read the story online.

**College News** This article has a story about Alma College. Check it out by [Clicking Here](#).



**Other Items of Interest:**

**ChurchSafety.com** Great website with lots of valuable information for congregations on such things as background screenings, keeping financial records safe, safe work/worship environment. [Click Here](#) to check it out.

**FREE Worship Materials** Wonderful free worship materials from Cokesbury. [Click Here](#) for more information.

**Easter Bulletin Inserts and Worship Materials** Inexpensive downloads that are reproducible PDFs and other forms through Yvon Prehn. [Click Here](#) to see if it right for you.

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

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