

Greetings,  
Please see attached

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# The Lake Erie Breeze

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## In This Issue:

**Headlines for new items will be in green and highlighted. Newer items will tend to be toward the top of the Breeze. Headlines for old items will be in red.**

### \*Upcoming Events

- ❖ Saturday, April 22, 9:30 AM, Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Tuesday, April 25, 4:00 PM, Presbytery meeting, First Church, Oil City
- ❖ Sunday, April 30, deadline for the Outward Mission Grant
- ❖ Tuesday, May 2, 10:00 AM, Worship Committee, Corry
- ❖ Thursday, May 4, 12:30 PM, Erie County pastor's luncheon, Eastminster
- ❖ Tuesday, May 9, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, Titusville
- ❖ Thursday, May 11, Venango pastor's gathering, First Church, Oil City
- ❖ Friday, May 12, 9:30 AM, Synod gathering, Crestfield
- ❖ Monday, May 15, 2:00 PM, Congregational Life Committee, Corry
- ❖ Thursday, May 18, 9:00 AM, Christian Education Committee, Corry



“Empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit through Scripture, our confessions, and conscience the Presbytery of Lake Erie journeys with congregations, ruling elders and teaching elders as we live, grow, fellowship and witness to the work of God through Jesus Christ in today’s changing world. Recognizing that we are called to serve all of God’s children, we do this through shared prayer, worship, training, evangelism, and mission to strengthen the dynamic Body of Christ.”

### \*Photographers Needed!!

The Presbytery of Lake Erie is searching for 3 or 4 volunteer photographers to help us populate the new presbytery website with pictures. Perhaps you are the ‘unofficial photographer’ for your congregation already. Or you would like to help out by taking pictures at a presbytery meeting or other presbytery related activity. Are you interested in learning more? Contact David Oyler ([david@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:david@pbylakeerie.org)) for more information. The church is strongest as we use all our gifts for the common good!

### \*Synod Gathering May 12

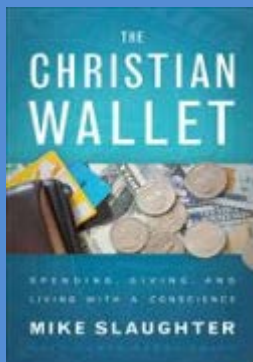
The Synods 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Regional Connection for Partnership and Networking meeting will be held May 12<sup>th</sup> in Slippery Rock PA at Crestfield Camp & Conference Center. It promises to bring congregations and presbyteries together to explore new ministries and deepen shared faith and connections. Attached is a flyer with more information.

### \*Synod, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Synod has big news as it celebrates its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. While

- ❖ Thursday, May 18, 4:30 PM, Administrative Committee, Presbytery office
- ❖ Thursday, May 18, 6:00 PM, Trustees meeting, Presbytery office
- ❖ Tuesday, May 23, 1:00 PM, Mission and Social Witness Committee, at CHOSEN offices
- ❖ Tuesday, May 30, 3:00 PM, Coordinating Committee, North Shenango
- ❖ Thursday, June 1, 12:30 PM, Erie County pastor's luncheon, Girard
- ❖ Tuesday, June 13, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, Titusville
- ❖ Tuesday, June 20, 4:00 PM, Presbytery meeting, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Friday, July 22-29, New Wilmington Mission Conference, Westminster College

### \*RESOURCE CENTER REVIEW



#### The Christian Wallet: Spending, Giving, and Living with a Conscience

Mike Slaughter offers a comprehensive look at how Christians use their money in *The Christian Wallet*. Slaughter explores today's culture of consumerism and the impact of what we buy, asking difficult questions about morality and money. *The Christian Wallet* helps Christians grapple with important questions about stewardship: how we spend, how we live, how we save, how we give, and what it all means. Questions for individual or group study are also included with each chapter.

This book is available for check out at the Resource Center. Hours are 9-1 Monday and

looking at their website one will find fascinating information about the happenings around the Synod and what each Presbytery has going on. There is information about the history of each Presbytery, some back to their foundation. They have even highlighted individual churches such as our very own First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Erie. Please check out their video at <http://www.syntrinity.org/revealing-hope-300th/> (scroll down to the bottom of the page.) The Synod offers a lot of information and resources for individuals and churches to continue their ministry in their community.

### Good News about Your Generosity in 2017!!

We are already ¼ of the way through 2017! And it is good to celebrate the financial faithfulness of the congregations of Lake Erie Presbytery! At the end of March a total of \$32,008 has been received through general mission giving in the first three months of the year – about on schedule with what is anticipated. Five churches have already fulfilled their pledge for the year! Thanks! About \$11,500 is needed per month to reach the mission goal for the year. YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN TELLING THE STORY OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST! Mission travel and energy efficiency grants are funded through your mission gifts. Children are fed and ecumenical campus ministry is engaged. Thank you!

On the per capita side there is additional good news of financial faithfulness. About \$19,100 is needed each month to meet budget expectations. During the first three months of the year a total of \$70,208 was received, including 14 churches that have already been able to fulfill their total per capita commitment for the year. This is slightly ahead of budget expectation which is unusual this time of year. Thank you for your faithful support – even paying advance when possible! And thank you for making all payments before the end of the year!

### Camp Lambec Open for the 2017 Season

Camp Lambec is a place for fun adventures in faith, family, and friends. If you'd like to have a great experience at camp, make new friends (and reconnect with old ones), enjoy our amenities, and grow in your faith, then choose the program that's right for you. Attached you will find information about Christian Camping ministries at Camp Lambec this summer as well as on their new website, [www.camplambec.org](http://www.camplambec.org). Check out the details. There are opportunities for both youth and family ministries!

### 2017-2018 Presbytery Planning Calendar

Presbyterian Programming Calendar, which begin June 2017 and continue through December 2018, can be ordered through the Presbytery Office (Melinda) at a discounted cost of \$10.00. Order copies for staff, session, committee members, educators and new members. **Calendars will be shipped to the Presbytery Office the first week of May.** Email your orders to [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org) or call Melinda at 814-868-4891 Ext 3.

### Outward Mission Grant Applications Due April 30

Applications for 2018 funding through Outward Mission Grants are **due in the presbytery office by April 30**. Applications can be accessed by contacting Melinda Wingenbach at [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org).

### Synod of the Trinity Grants

Tuesday and 9-12:30 Wednesday and Thursday.

## Mission Trip Opportunities!

Two mission trip opportunities are currently open to neighboring Presbyterian Churches. Consider participating in one (or both!!):

1. The Presbytery of Lake Erie is hosting a mission trip to address flood recovery in West Virginia on July 16 to 22. An attachment is included in this email with further information. Or contact Rev. Jamie Fowler ([fowler676@gmail.com](mailto:fowler676@gmail.com))
2. The Mission Committee of the First Presbyterian Church in Meadville is sponsoring a mission trip to La Gonave Hospital in Haiti. We're looking for a surgeon, a nurse anesthetist, nurses and others willing to work. The trip will be led by Helen Jacobson, who has worked at the hospital as a nurse practitioner for 14 years. It will be a week-long trip in November of 2017. Does such an endeavor interest you? Do you know someone else who might be interested? If so, please contact Mary (1-814-333-2161) at the church office.

## Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings for 2017:

For planning purposes the Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings have been announced for 2017:

### Coordinating Committee meetings

Tuesday, May 30, 3:00 PM, North Shenango  
Tuesday, August 29, 3:00 PM, Girard  
Tuesday, October 24, 3:00 PM, Ripley

### Presbytery meetings

Tuesday, April 25, 4:00 PM, First Church, Oil City  
Tuesday, June 20, 4:00 PM, First Church, Meadville  
Tuesday, September 19, 4:00 PM, Pleasantville  
Saturday, November 18, 10:00 AM, First Church of the Covenant, Erie

## \*Prayers for Your Colleagues in Ministry

I Thessalonians 5:17 encourage believers to 'pray without ceasing.' In your unceasing prayers for others you are encouraged to pray for your colleagues in Lake Erie Presbytery as well as beyond. The eNews this year will carry the prayer list which has also been distributed to the churches of this presbytery. Pray without ceasing

The Synod has recently updated their grant applications. Grants available: Peacemaking Grant; Mission Travel Grant; Student Study Grant; Partnership Grant (formally "Network"); Innovation Grant (formally the "New Initiative Grant,"); New Worshipping Communities Grant (for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level New Worshipping Communities applying for PMA funding). Applications can be found on the Synods website, <http://www.syntrinity.org/>.

## Good News about Special Offerings!!

A number of churches in the Presbytery of Lake Erie receive various denominational offerings throughout the course of the year. Some churches receive one of them; some receive all four. The four offerings include:

- One Great Hour of Sharing (traditionally the largest offering)
- Pentecost Offering
- Peace & Global Witness Offering
- Christmas Joy Offering

Each offering goes to support designated ministries. More information on these offerings can be found at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). In 2015 a total of \$44,188 was received for these offerings from Lake Erie Presbytery Churches. In 2016 a total of \$45,406 was received – an increase of almost 3%. Great work! Your gifts make a difference!

## New Wilmington Mission Conference

The New Wilmington Mission Conference is the longest-running mission conference in the United States and will take place July 22-29 at Westminster College. NWMC is intergenerational, Presbyterian-related, and youth-focused. About 1,000 people attend from over 30 states and 20 countries for a chance to connect with mission workers and hear what God is doing all over the world. This week-long conference features many well-known and engaging speakers for one low, all-inclusive price! This year's speakers include:

- **Dr. Rodger Nishioka**, Director of Adult Educational Ministries at Village Presbyterian Church;
- **Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary;
- **Shane Bennett**, speaker and writer for Frontiers;
- As well as many others!

For more details or to register visit: [www.nwmcmission.org](http://www.nwmcmission.org)

## 2017 VBS Reviews Available

The Resource Center does not provide VBS kit samples because of the expense involved. However, if you are interested in seeing reviews of all the programs available, the Center for the Ministry of Teaching reviews VBS kits and programs every year. They study each program then give a review including the strengths and weaknesses of each one. They list their top picks then all the other new programs and a listing of the "perennial" programs. For a free PDF of the 2017 reviews go to <https://www.vts.edu/page/center-for-the-ministry-of-teaching/publications/vbs-reviews>

## In search of "Feasting on the Word"

Kane Presbyterian is looking for someone that may have a set of "Feasting

for these partners in ministry.

April 23  
Ripley First Presbyterian  
Commissioned Ruling Elder Phil Johnson  
Rev. Carl Hull (HR)  
Rev. Joe Filer (HR)

April 30  
Candidates for Teaching Elders as they pursue  
seminary training  
Inquirers who are under care of Lake Erie  
Presbytery

May 7  
Oil City, Hasson Heights and Pleasantville Rev.  
Jamie Fowler, Temp. Supply Pastor  
Rev. David Fugate, Validated Ministry  
Chaplain, Veterans Administration Hospital

May 14  
Harborcreek  
Commissioned Ruling Elder Robin Cuneo  
Upper Northern Presbytery of the Evangelical  
Presbyterian Church, Ghana

May 21  
Coudersport  
Rev. Nelson "Bud" Horne (HR)  
Rev. Larry Myers (HR)

### With Sadness...

The recent death of a key former leader has had an impact on the Presbytery of Lake Erie.

- Virginia Edwards, wife of Rev. John Edwards, died on April 3. Virginia had a keen intellect and passion for learning. Her husband was the long time pastor of the Sarah Hearn Presbyterian Church and had preceded his wife in death by 11 years. A service to honor Virginia's life was held at Wayside Presbyterian Church on April 6.
- Ruling Elder Betty Irvin, charter member of the Wayside Church, died on February 26. Professionally she served as a nurse for many years but she was also known to many Presbyterians as the registrar at presbytery meetings in the 1980s and 1990s. She was a pleasant presence who always welcomed people in a kind fashion and an affirming smile. A service to honor her life will be celebrated at Wayside Church on March 18.

**Please note: The presbytery office is seeking to complete a significant overhaul of the eNews.**

1. **If you do not receive the eNews please contact**  
([adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org)). **We will**

on the Word" at a discounted rate. If you know of someone please contact Anne Cleer (814-837-6960)

### A Great Source for Presbyterian News!!

There is a wealth of Presbyterian news, but sometimes we don't know how to access it. Below is a link that allows you to sign up for a wealth of Presbyterian eNews. The resources for which you can sign up range from daily lectionary readings to weekly news updates a range of interesting topics to social justice and advocacy to youth and young adult ministries. Sign up for 1 or 2 or all of them! Grow your faith! Discover! Learn! Check it out at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/newsletter-subscription/>

### Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women

April 22 provides a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the very complex issue of Middle East relationships. Gather at First Church, Meadville at 9:30 AM with other Presbyterian Women to hear from Rev. Tim Solomon as he provides his keen insights on the dynamics of regional issues. A flyer is attached that provides further information. Don't miss it!

### Connect2Christ Spring Jam

Are you looking for an exciting worship event for your youth this spring? Then mark your calendars for the Connect2Christ Spring Jam 2017 Saturday April 29th at the Franklin High School Auditorium. Our opening act is Franklin's very own Country/Blues Rock performers the HUNTER COOK BAND. Our headliner is none other than the 5 time Dove Award winning Christian Rock band AUDIO ADRENALINE! This will be an exciting event that you do not want to miss! The doors open at 4:30 and the concert starts at 6:00. Admission is FREE with the donation of at least one canned food item to benefit Youth Alternatives of Venango County. For more information please check out our website at [franklinpresbyyouth.org](http://franklinpresbyyouth.org) Interested in helping? Call Tina Kaye at 814.493.3997.

### \*News from Our Churches and Pastors

- Sune Swart, daughter of **Rev. Jannie Swart**, had a wonderfully successful Patriot League women's basketball tournament. She was the team's leading scorer in their semi-final win over American University. In the final, against Navy, the Bucknell team was pushed to overtime but was victorious. Sune was the second leading scorer in the final. With the victory the team qualified for the NCAA tournament. Unfortunately in the NCAA tournament Bucknell lost badly to the University of Maryland but Sune ended up as the leading scorer for her team in her final college game. Congratulations!
- **Garland Church** will be celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. Pray with them in this milestone moment. Activities will take place Friday night, June 16th through Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow!
- In anticipation of the 2017 summer camping season there will be a major redesign and upgrade of the water system at Camp Lambec. Pray with the Board – and consider providing financial

make every effort to update/correct the oversight.

2. If you know of someone who you believe should be receiving this eNews you are encouraged to invite them to send along their email address.
3. If you no longer desire to receive the eNews please inform Melinda and she will remove your name from the list.

Thank you for your patience as we seek to undergo this upgrade.



Please remember to visit our website at:  
<http://www.pbylakeerie.org>

#### Contact Us

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support – for this important endeavor! Any questions? Contact General Presbyter David Oyler.

- **Rev. Lee Pomeroy**, a retired United Methodist pastor, began serving as the interim pastor of the Fairview Presbyterian Church, effective March 20.
- On February 26 **Rev. Greg Gillispie** concluded service as temporary supply pastor in Oil City.
- **Rev. Greg Gillispie** began serving as the temporary supply pastor at the Edinboro Church, effective March 26.
- **Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Kane Church**, will be concluding her service as their pastor on April 30. She has been a wonderful and affirming presence in the Kane community. **Rev. Taylor** will begin serving as the Temporary Supply pastor at the **Warren Church**, effective May 1. Welcome to new responsibilities!
- **Rev. Timm High, First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant**, will be concluding his temporary supply ministry at First Covenant as of April 30. Timm has shared in significant ministry in his nearly five years at First Covenant. Thank you!
- **Rev. Chris Weichman** will begin serving as called pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant on May 1. Welcome! His installation will be scheduled in June.



#### \*Prayer Concerns

- Prayer for wisdom in the serious conflict in the community of Bimbilla, Ghana. A dispute among tribal leaders erupted in early February that led to the death of 10 people. Schools are closed. Business and medical care has been disrupted. Bimbilla is the community in which Rev. David Bindati was engaged in ministry.
- Pray for Ruth Mills, wife of **Rev. Bill Mills, Honorably Retired**. Ruth continues to deal with the impact of Alzheimer's on her life, though she is resting comfortably at home.
- Pray for the continuing conversations around racism and violence that the power of God might be brought to these difficult conversations.
- Pray for wisdom to engage radical missional thought in each of our communities. The time to act for the Kingdom of God is NOW!