



## 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

- ❖ Thursday, January 3, 9:30 AM, Warren/McKean/Potter County pastor's gathering, First Church, Warren
- ❖ Thursday, January 3, 1:00 PM, Nominating Committee, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Saturday, January 5, 9:30 AM, Elder Training, Church of the Cross
- ❖ Tuesday, January 8, 1:00 PM, Futuring Team, Titusville
- ❖ Tuesday, January 8, 4:00 PM, Committee on Ministry, Titusville
- ❖ Thursday, January 10, 12:30, Erie Pastor's Luncheon, 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant
- ❖ Saturday, January 12, 9:30 AM, Elder Training, Warren First
- ❖ Monday, January 14, 2:00 PM, CPM Meeting, Edinboro
- ❖ Tuesday, January 15, 1:00 PM, Mission and Social Witness, First Church, Meadville
- ❖ Thursday, January 17, 9:00 AM, Spiritual Formation, Conference Call
- ❖ Thursday, January 17, 4:30 PM, Administrative Committee, Presbytery office
- ❖ Tuesday, January 22, 2:00 PM, Congregational Life, Conference call
- ❖ Tuesday, January 29, 12:30 PM, Coordinating Committee, New Hope Church, Erie
- ❖ Thursday, January 31, 9:15 AM, Missional Church Conversations, Corry
- ❖ All upcoming events can be found on the Presbytery websites [Calendar](#)



"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."

## \*Christmas Joy from Your Partners in Ministry

The Scriptures proclaim 'And the Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth.' It is wonderfully clear that the incarnation of Jesus has an impact on the 58 congregations in the Presbytery of Lake Erie. The staff in the presbytery office – Melinda Wingenbach, Barb Sundberg, Elaine Garts, Marshal MacKinnon, Greg Gillispie and David Oyler – prays that the Good News of Christ will permeate your life in a way that is transformative in these days of Christmas. We extend the joy of Christ to you in this sacred season.

### You are Invited



The Presbytery of Lake Erie

Requests the pleasure of your company  
to celebrate

The Installation of  
**The Reverend Vaughan Smith**

as

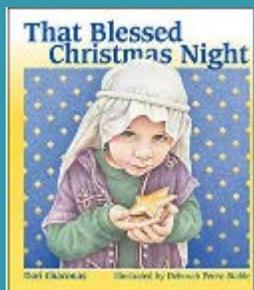
Pastor of the  
First Presbyterian Church  
219 Elm St. Titusville, PA

On  
**Sunday, January 13, 2019**  
**at 3:00 p.m.**

A reception to follow

## \*RESOURCE CENTER REVIEW

### That Blessed Christmas Night



**Chaconas, Dori**  
That Blessed Christmas Night is the story of the first Christmas night told in poetry form. The wonder of the first Christmas is seen through the eyes of children reenacting the

story. The simple things of earth - the clear, starry sky; a humble stable filled with animals; shepherds caring for their sheep - suddenly become bolder, clearer, and richer as the children don costumes and since their praises to the Child.

The Resource Center is staffed Monday & Tuesday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and is open Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. It is located in Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2816 Elmwood Avenue, Erie. Phone: 814 868-4891 ext. 5; Email: [elaine@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:elaine@pbylakeerie.org) Stop in or check online on the Presbytery website to find something to suit your needs.

### Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings for 2018:

For planning purposes the Coordinating Committee and Presbytery meetings have been announced for 2018:

#### Coordinating Committee meetings

Wednesday, January 30, 12:30, New Hope  
Tuesday, April 2, 1pm, Polk  
Tuesday, June 4, 1pm, Conneaut Lake  
Tuesday, August 27, 1pm, Corry  
Tuesday, October 29, Time & site pending

#### Presbytery meetings

Saturday, February 16, 10am, Westminster  
Tuesday, April 30, 3pm, Titusville  
Tuesday, June 25, 3pm, TBD  
Saturday, September 21, 10am, Warren  
Saturday, November 23, 10am, TBD

## \*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

## A CHRISTMASTIME BICENTENNIAL

The classic hymn, "Silent Night," first made its debut 200 years ago on Christmas Eve, 1818 at the St. Nicholas chapel in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. The melody by composer Franz Gruber is instantly recognizable from the first few notes, and the original text by Joseph Mohr has been translated from the original German into over 140 languages. In 1914, just four years shy of the 100th anniversary of "Silent Night," the soldiers fighting World War I along the Western Front held a [ceasefire](#) in some areas out of mutual respect for the holiday. Members from opposing sides exchanged gifts and stories with one another, played games, and sang Christmas carols together, including the beloved hymn "Silent Night." Today, churches all over the world gather together each year on Christmas Eve to join hands, light candles, sing "Silent Night," and participate in a timeless tradition of inimitable ritual power. -- Dr. Marcia McFee, [WorshipDesignStudio.com](http://WorshipDesignStudio.com)

## \*Advent Traditions and Decorations

Does your church decorate or have a special tradition for the Advent Season? Please share with us what your church does to bring the spirit of the season to life within their walls. Please send pictures and stories to Melinda in the Presbytery office.

## It's time for Annual Reports again

The GA online statistical program located at <http://oga.pcusa.org/stats> has officially opened for the season. Clerks will use the same "user name" and "password" as they have used the past few years. The deadline for entering your statistical information is February 14, 2019. If you have forgotten your user name and password, please call or email the Presbytery office.

## Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Get ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium-a gathering held every three years for high school age students in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth from all churches (across the sponsoring denominations) come together for this life changing, life giving, and faith growing gathering! Five days that helps grow a younger generation of active Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world! Find out more at [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) or contact your local registrar Britney Knight at 814-456-4243 x 112 or [Britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org](mailto:Britney.knight@firstcovenanterie.org)

## Deadline for Year-end Payments

Reminder that all year end payments need to be received by the Presbytery office by January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions please call the office 814-868-4891 prior to the deadline.

## Elder Training Made Available at Two Locations:

Has God called you to serve as an elder in your church for the very first time? Or are you a currently serving elder but would like to 'brush up' on what it means to be a spiritual leader in your congregation? If so, you are invited to a morning of elder training. This training might be especially helpful in congregations where there are only 1 or 2 new elders in any given year. This will allow you to:

-look at some of the Biblical responsibilities;

the prayer list which has also been distributed to the churches of this presbytery. Pray without ceasing for these partners in ministry.

Dec. 16  
Conneaut Lake  
Sam Heagy, Preaching  
Rev. Jim McCormack (HR)

Dec. 23  
Bradford, First  
Rev. Katherine Randall and  
Rev Rob Klouw, Co-pastors  
Rev. Christopher Fujii (HR)

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 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>



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- explore Book of Order expectations;
- come to know some neighboring elders who are engaging leadership in their congregations;
- have the opportunity ask questions and ponder this calling in your life.

Two identical training events will be held:

Saturday, January 5, 9:30 AM, Presbytery wide elder training, Church of the Cross, Erie

Saturday, January 12, 9:30 AM, Presbytery wide elder training, First Church, Warren

All are welcome! New elders! And experienced ones! Contact administrative assistant Melinda Wingenbach ([adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org)) if planning to attend (though you would be welcome even if you don't register.)

## What is happening at your Church

Do you have something exciting going on at your church that you would like to share with the Presbytery? We would like to highlight what you and your congregation are doing. Do have a rummage sale, a special dinner, maybe a movie night open to the community? Has your church started a new community project? Please share these with Melinda in the office, [adminasst@pbylakeerie.org](mailto:adminasst@pbylakeerie.org). Let's put the weekly eNews to good use sharing all the amazing things that the Presbytery of Lake Erie has to offer.

## \*Keeping the Community Warm

The First Presbyterian Church of Sugar Grove has collected warm winter articles to hang on their garden fences for the towns Christmas Walk. Any child in need of any articles can help themselves and any remaining items will be donated to a local facility for further distribution. Our tree was so full and so are our hearts this wonderful season. Merry Christmas to all!



## \*Another Successful Santa's Workshop

On December 8 Haddon Heights Community Church celebrated their 6th Annual Santa's Workshop. They hosted children from the local elementary school. Approximately 55 children attended the workshop. Parents helped fill out a list of people to shop for and then were able to relax in the parent room and enjoy coffee, cocoa, cookies and donuts. One of Santa's elves helped each child. After shopping, they visited with Mrs. Claus. After all their gifts were wrapped each child went back to his/her parent loaded with gifts they themselves had purchased, and full of the joy of giving to others. In all the "Happy Wrappers" wrapped approximately 500 gifts! The proceeds go to a local children's charity, CASA Venango. It is their mission to share the continued joy of giving thru the young lives that are touched by 'Santa's Workshop'!

## Undie Sunday

The Church of the Cross was featured on the Synod website for their efforts to help the homeless by collecting undergarments. Check out the whole story [here](#).

## Young Adult Volunteer Applications Open

[Spread the word!](#) Applications for the 2019-20 Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program open Oct. 1. All [sites](#) available. The YAV program is an ecumenical,

faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30. Volunteers accompany local agencies faithfully working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. YAVs serve during the academic year, August to July. Help plants seeds of service and share!

### **Mission and Per Capita Report**

To read the November report [Click Here](#)

### **\*Newsletter of Interests**

### **Spiritual Formation Committee**

Presbytery of Lake Erie Spiritual Formation Committee is seeking to get more information out to the Presbytery. Please contact Keith Sundberg, keith@wayside-erie.org, if you would like to be added to the email list.

### **Synod of the Trinity**

The latest eNews for the Synod of the Trinity is available. [Merry Christmas Enews](#) You can also email Mike Givler at [mgivler@syntrinity.org](mailto:mgivler@syntrinity.org) to be added to the eNews list. [Job Opportunities around the Synod](#)

### **Association of Presbyterian Church Educators**

Weekly newsletter from the APCE: [Visual Reflection for Advent: Is There Any Hope](#) is available online. Click above link to receive the eNews. It's not just a great resource for spiritual formation leaders but for anyone looking to strengthen ones faith.

### **Ruth Brown Ghana Newsletter**

[Click here](#) for the recent newsletter. If you would like to receive her newsletters please contact the presbytery office to be added to the list!

### **Josh Heikkila Newsletter**

Josh continues to be a valuable member of our Lake Erie Ghana Partnership. If you would like to receive his newsletters, check out this website. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-joshua-heikkila/>

### **Presbyterian Historical Society**

Check out the latest eNews from the historical Society [here](#). If you haven't signed up to receive this eNews you can [Subscribe Here](#)

### **\*Prayer Concerns**

- Please join in praying for our Ghanaian brother, Rev. Seth Agidi. He had back surgery Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Please pray for peace in the Northern regions of Ghana. The recent funeral on December 14th for former chieftans has the potential for some unrest around the cities of Yendi and Tamale (Places visited by the Ghana Team). There is a strong presence of our sister Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Rev. Vincent and Tony, who were in Lake Erie in September, live in Tamale.
- Please remember Ruth Brown, she is just north of Yendi. While the US Embassy in Ghana has issued a warning, the Chairman of the



National Peace Council of Ghana says this "should not create fear and panic".

- Let us take a moment to pray for peace on earth. So many hearts and homes, communities and countries are in need of God's Peace.
- 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!

**\*In Memory:**

- Rev. Charles Harvey McClung, Jr, father of Rev. Charles Harvey McClung III, New Hope Church, died in early December. He was 96. He and his wife had been married for 72 years. A minister member of Philadelphia Presbytery, he had served churches in Pennsylvania and New York. In addition he earned a PhD in Religious Education which led him to teach Christian Education at Beaver College, now Arcadia University. Services to honor the life of Rev. McClung, Jr. were held on December 12 at Rydal Park, Pennsylvania.

