

COMMITTEE ON LAY PREACHING (CoLP)
Report to Presbytery Assembly -- March 1, 2014

CoLP = Committee on Lay Preaching
ALP = Authorized Lay Preacher
PC = Presbyterian Church

PTS = Princeton Theological Seminary
CLP = Commissioned Lay Pastor
PSV = Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley



Old Testament Introduction & Exegesis Course with Christopher Hooker

ALP Michele Brackin and ALP candidates Jo Ann Aymar and Mary Ellen Whitmore presented their Old Testament mini-sermons on Saturday, January 11th at Nineveh PC (delayed by about a month due to a winter storm and the Advent/Christmas season).

A few others participated in the course, but chose not to do final presentations.

CoLP Annual Retreat held January 24-25, 2014 at Sky Lake

Our 2014 retreat was held at Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor, New York on Friday/Saturday, January 24-25th with 15 enthusiastic participants.

“Spiritual Pathways” was our retreat theme led by Ella Campbell, an ordained (*Ruling*) Elder and a ministry associate in education in the Reformed Church in America.

PTS Certificate of Theology & Ministry instead of New Testament course

We were unsuccessful in finding an instructor to teach New Testament in early 2014.

In December Princeton Theological Seminary announced an online program for a Certificate of Theology & Ministry which includes courses in Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, Evangelism, and Spiritual Practices over a 10 month period.

We are delighted to report that ALP candidates Jo Ann Aymar, Karen Marshfield, Mary Ellen Whitmore, and CLP Pam Allen are appreciative of the Presbytery’s support in making it possible for them to enroll in this program.

Chris Hooker is our CoLP Liaison to those in this program and will work with our ALP candidates to address our exegesis requirement.

Challenge from Cabin Hill PC: Match Our Pledge!

The Session of Cabin Hill PC continues to be grateful for the Lay Preaching program of our Presbytery. They have donated \$500 to the CoLP Program and challenge other churches to either match their pledge or contribute what they can toward this valuable program. If you -- or your Session -- wishes to contribute, please make your check payable to “Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley” and send it to our bookkeeper with a 2014 PSV Remittance Form (at bottom under “Other” put CLP Program #400701).



Our CoLP program continues to evolve as we endeavor to serve the members and friends who worship with the congregations of our Presbytery.

For more information about the CoLP or being an ALP, please contact:

CoLP Chair Cynthia Walton-Leavitt at (607) 267-4333 or cynuff@aya.yale.edu
Or, CoLP Secretary Janet Schwengber at (607) 746-6099 or schwkenn@delhitel.net
Or, go to <http://www.susvalpresby.org/groups/committee-lay-preaching>

2013 ANNUAL PREACHING REPORT *(January thru December)*
Committee on Lay Preaching of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

Authorized Lay Preachers *(Ruling Elders commissioned 09/21/2013)*

<u>Name (Home Church)</u>	<u>Jan - June</u>	<u>July - Dec</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Michele Brackin <i>(First PC, Dryden)</i>	<i>Not commissioned yet</i>	3 services	3
Fred Downs <i>(Cincinnatus United PC)</i>	10 services	10 services	20
Marsha Muller <i>(Hamden PC)</i>	<i>Not commissioned yet</i>	2 service	2
Lynn Reeves <i>(Afton PC)</i>	4 services	3 services	7

Commissioned Lay Preachers *(Ruling Elders commissioned until September 2014)*

<u>Name (Home Church)</u>	<u>Jan - June</u>	<u>July - Dec</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Terri Barnhart <i>(Otego PC)</i>	9 services	17 services	26
Enid Carter <i>(Bovina United PC)</i>	2 services	5 services	7
Elmer Ewing <i>(First PC, Ithaca)</i>	0 services	3 services	3
Jean Fairbairn <i>(Conklin PC)</i>	3 services	3 services	6
Donald Law <i>(United PC Binghamton)</i>	3 services	2 services	5
Karen Marshfield <i>(Hamden PC)</i>	2 services	7 services	9
Stuart Rogers <i>(First PUnion, Owego)</i>	3 services	5 services	8
Tom Rossi <i>(United PC, Binghamton)</i>	10 services	11 services	21
John Truscott <i>(Otego PC)</i>	9 services	12 services	21

Summary:

- ALPs led a total of 32 worship services plus clpreachers who led a total of 106 worship services for a total of 138 services in during 2013.
- 23 of our 47 PSV churches invited lay preachers to lead worship during 2013.
- There are currently two new ALP candidates in addition to those listed above --
 - Jo Ann Aymar *(Federated Church of Masonville)*
 - Mary Ellen Whitmore *(First PC, Bainbridge)*

The need for Authorized Lay Preachers to serve churches in our Presbytery continues.

Our Pulpit Supply list may be found at:

http://www.susvalpresby.org/files/2813/9083/3818/Pulpit_Supply_List_-_Lay_Preachers_2014.pdf

Commissioned / Eligible Lay Pastor Track

All but one of the Ruling Elders in the CLP / ELP track have come from our lay preacher program. In 2013 they led worship from 33 to 53 times in the same church. They are:

- Pam Allen *(Home: Walton United PC; Serving Faith Parish in Hudson River)*
- Linda Breffle *(Home: First PC, Johnson City; Serving John Hus PC)*
- George Budine *(Home: Northminster PC; Serving Nichols PC)*
- George Carruth *(On loan from Cayuga-Syracuse; Serving Cincinnatus UPC)*
- Shirley Davis *(Home and Serving Margaretville-New Kingston)*
- Deb Fleming *(Home: West Delhi United PC; Serving Cabin Hill PC)*
- Judi Gage *(Home: First PC, Stamford; Serving Laurens PC)*
- Janet Schwengber *(Home: First PC, Delhi; Serving Walton Congregational, UCC)*