

# PASTORS' CONFERENCE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE

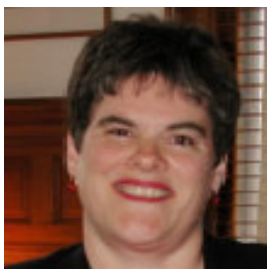


Sponsored by  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
900 South Arlington Avenue — Suite 211A  
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5024  
pcc@pachurches.org 717 545 4761

## Featured Plenary Speakers

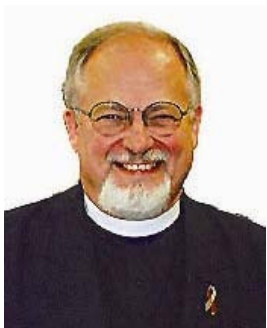


**John A. Berntsen** is the Director of Student Services at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Prior to beginning that work in early 2010, Berntsen served over 30 years in parish ministry, most recently as senior pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Perkasie. He served on the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Candidacy Committee, as a member of the First Call Theological Education Colleague Mentor Group, has led a Formation Group at LTSP, and was a Guest Lecturer in Religion at Muhlenberg College and Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology at Mary Immaculate Seminary. He holds degrees from St. Olaf College, Yale University Divinity School, and Emory University, where he completed his Ph.D. in theological studies with a dissertation on the theology of Karl Barth.



**Anabel C. Proffitt** is Associate Professor of Educational Ministries at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, she is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D.), the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (M.A.), and Hood College (B.A.). Author of numerous articles on religious education, she is currently completing a book entitled *The Sense of Wonder: Pathos and Play in Religious Education*. Proffitt also serves as faculty advisor to the seminary's youth program, is a member of the "Women in Leadership" steering committee of the Association of Theological Schools, and is a poet and djembe drummer.

## Opening Luncheon Speaker



**John P. Croneberger** is the Assistant Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem and the retired bishop of the Diocese of Newark. As Assistant Bishop he shares in the work of episcopal visitation in the diocese. Elected Bishop Coadjutor of Newark in 1998, he was invested as Ninth Bishop of Newark in 2000, and served there until 2007. In 2005, citing the failing health of his wife, Marilyn, he notified that diocese of his intention to call for a special convention for the election of a new bishop. A native of Pottsville (Schuylkill County) and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Bethlehem, he served parishes in Pennsylvania, and New Jersey prior to his election as bishop.

# Workshop/Luncheon Leaders

**Workshops** [Leaders will present the same workshop twice, except Anabel Proffitt—note workshop I and II.]

**John A. Berntsen**—“Conversation with the Speaker”

**Barry K. Durie**—“Building and Sustaining a Clergy Support Group” With a career beginning in the Methodist Church of South Africa, Durie has served as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, as Director of Pastoral Care with a nursing home/rehabilitation chain, and, from 1996–2009 as a parish pastor. Along the way he created and facilitated a variety of support and continuing education, peer groups, cancer care, bereavement care and peri-natal loss.

**Elizabeth Haynes**—“Meditation and Labyrinth Walk” Meditation, contemplation and body movements come together and that provides an ongoing metaphor for a spiritual journey. Its mysterious winding path moves one toward the center, toward God; the journey outward symbolizes one toward integration and the offering of one’s gifts to the world. The labyrinth walk mediation will be led by the Rev. Elizabeth S. Haynes, Episcopal priest, who has trained with Veriditas Labyrinth Program of Grace Cathedral in California, and has led workshops and retreats since 1996.

**Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman**—“Preaching Mark and John in Year B” Bringing a clear sense of how scripture is a life source for Christians and the church, Vitalis Hoffman is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. His recent areas of research include narrative and reader-response approaches to the Gospel of Mark and the experiential character of the parables.

**Laura Thomas Howell**—“Teach Me to Pray” Thomas Howell, Obl.S.B. is an Episcopal priest, spiritual director, and Benedictine oblate.

**Anabel C. Proffitt**—**Workshop I**—In this workshop we will use poetry and art to explore the role of wonder in the lives of Christians (from childhood through older adulthood), and discuss ways to keep the sense of wonder alive in our lives and ministries.

**Workshop II**—Participants will explore the role of religious imagination in the spiritual life and be introduced to a variety of educational methods for cultivating religious imagination in themselves and in their congregations.

**Bronwyn Yocum**—“The Awe/Wonder of Call through Ordination” Yocum is superintendent of the Northeast District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. Prior to ordination, she was Director of Human Resources and Employee Communication in the publishing division of CBS, Inc. and managed the MBA recruiting program for Conrail. A graduate of Wellesley College and Palmer Seminary, she is completing studies in liturgy and worship at Drew University.

**Labyrinth**—Available throughout the conference, the labyrinth offers an opportunity to experience this ancient practice of spirituality. Walk it at your leisure. A printed guide will be available to assist you.

## Tuesday Special Interest Luncheons

**Capitol Hill Update**—Sandra L. Strauss, pastor in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is director of public advocacy for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Her responsibilities are to inform, educate, and empower people of faith on significant public policy issues and to coordinate and articulate public policy positions that reflect the Council’s constituent church bodies’ commitments.

**Something Old, Something New: Keeping Local Ecumenism Alive and Well**—Philip A. Altavilla is the regional Episcopal Vicar of the Northern Pastoral Region of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton, pastor of St. Peter’s Cathedral Parish, and chair of the Diocesan Committee on Ecumenism. He also chairs Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

**Practicing Wonder and Joy through the Printed Page: Books to Enhance Your Pastoral Calling**—Byron Borger, along with his wife Beth, owns and operates Hearts & Minds, an ecumenical, independent bookstore in Dallastown, Pennsylvania. They attend First Presbyterian Church in York. Borger says “Join us as we consider the strategic necessity (and joy) of reading as a spiritual practice, and learn about great books for your own journey, or use in the congregation.”

**Location:** Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Phone 717 939 7841 or 1 800 315 2605. Go to [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) for driving directions. The hotel is readily accessible from I-283, I-81, I-76 (Pennsylvania Turnpike) and Harrisburg International Airport. There is complimentary on site parking.

**Worship Leadership:** A worship service begins each plenary session. Gwen Bernstine chairs the conference worship team. Pastor Ann Graves is conference pianist. Homilists are members of the Pastors’ Conference Planning Committee.

**Offerings** received during the conference benefit the farmworker ministry programs through the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.

In order to continue to provide major speakers, consider making a contribution to the **Exceptional Speaker Development Fund**. You may also contribute through the Council’s Web site, [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org).

**1.5 Continuing Education Units** (CEUs) are available for those completing the conference. Certificates may be picked up Wednesday at the registration table, or will be mailed if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is provided. To receive full CEU credit, check the box on the registration form and participate in the full program.

**CDs** of most presentations will be available through Un’I Tape Duplication. A **book display** will be provided by Hearts & Minds Bookstore.

Members of the **Pastors’ Conference Planning Committee** assist in managing the conference.

# Schedule—2011 Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference

## Monday, November 14

10:00-11:55 AM Registration  
 12:00 PM Luncheon: **John P. Croneberger**  
 1:45 PM Worship  
 2:00 PM Presentation: **John Berntsen**—*Our Human Stuff: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Psalm 139:14)*  
 3:15 PM Break  
 3:30 PM Workshops  
 6:00 PM Denominational dinners

## Tuesday, November 15

9:00 AM Worship  
 9:15 AM Presentation: **Anabel Proffitt**—*The Importance of Wonder in Life and Ministry*  
 10:15 AM Break  
 10:30 AM Workshops  
 12:00 PM Luncheons  
     Capitol Hill Update—**Sandra L. Strauss**  
     *Practicing Wonder and Joy through the Printed Page: Books to Enhance Your Pastoral Calling*  
     —**Byron Borger**  
     *Something Old, Something New: Keeping Local Ecumenism Alive and Well*—**Philip Altavilla**  
 1:45 PM Worship  
 2:00 PM Presentation: **John Berntsen**—*Glad and Generous Hearts: How Awe Came upon Everyone (Acts 2:43)*  
 3:15 PM Break  
 3:30 PM Workshops

## Wednesday, November 16

7:30-8:55 AM Breakfast buffet  
 9:00 AM Workshops  
 10:30 AM Break  
 10:45 AM Worship  
 11:00 AM Presentation: **Anabel Proffitt**—*Cultivating Religious Imagination in Ministry*  
 12 Noon Adjournment

## Conference Registration

- Registration Fee @ \$150 per person [include \$25 late fee after Nov. 7] # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Tuesday Lunch @ \$20 per person # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
     \_\_\_ Capitol Hill Update   \_\_\_ Ecumenical Luncheon   \_\_\_ Books to Enhance Your Calling
- Exceptional Speaker Development Fund: \$5 or more, please \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Workshop Selection** Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank workshops for each session in order of preference (1=highest). If spouse is participating, add letter ranking of spouse (A=highest).

<b>Monday, 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.</b>
___ 1. John Berntsen	___ 5. Barry Durie	___ 9. John Berntsen	___ 13. Laura Howell
___ 2. Barry Durie	___ 6. Beth Haynes	___ 10. Laurel Howell	___ 14. Anabel Proffitt <b>II</b>
___ 3. Mark Hoffman	___ 7. Anabel Proffitt <b>I</b>	___ 11. Bronwyn Yocum	___ 15. Bronwyn Yocum
___ 4. Labyrinth	___ 8. Labyrinth	___ 12. Labyrinth	___ 16. Labyrinth

Title/Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Please send: \_\_\_ Hotel/Motel List   \_\_\_ Map of Area   \_\_\_ CEU Certificate

Registration includes Monday lunch and Wednesday breakfast. **Fees are refundable until November 7.** Please inform us of any mobility, dietary, or other special needs so we can facilitate appropriate accommodations.

A block of rooms is being held for conference participants at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Phone 717 939 7841 or 1 888 465 4329. **Place reservation by October 24, 2011 using Reservation Identification Code PIS at \$96** (per night per room for up to four persons).

Complete registration form, detach and mail with check to: **Pennsylvania Council of Churches, 900 South Arlington Avenue—Suite 211A, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5024**

**Secure online credit card registration available; visit [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org).**



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Return Service Requested

# Practical and Practiced Awe: Reclaiming the Joy and Wonder of Our Call

Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference

November 14–16, 2011

Holiday Inn Harrisburg East

**About this conference**—Keeping “wonder, love, and praise” in one’s practice of ministry can be a daunting task. The routine, the tasks associated with the management of what some see as a not-for-profit business, the sense of having (after awhile, at least) “been there...done that”—all conspire to make one’s sense of call less a matter of joy and wonder and more a matter of jaded, perfunctory professionalism. How, in the face of all the practical demands of ministry, can we sustain a sense of awe, a wonder that we are summoned to stand on “holy ground?”

With the assistance of skilled, experienced speakers and workshop leaders, this conference offers participants an opportunity for spiritual refreshment, challenging ideas, and inspiring conversation—and maybe even a bit of wonder and awe.