

# Long Beach Presbyterian BEACON

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)  
125 East 2nd Street • PO Box 332  
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560  
LBPCUSA@outlook.com  
Phone: (228) 863-7633

<http://Lbpcusa.org>

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Reflections on faith, work, and worship for today's world

If I were to ask you to name the three most significant religious days in the Christian year, what would you say? I think the first two would be easy.

Christmas begins the Christian calendar every year with the wonderful story of Christ's birth. It comes with beautiful hymns, delicious smells and even presents. That is one.

The next that you could easily name would likely be Easter with forty days of preparation, the big story of new hope and new birth and again, beautiful hymns and wonderful smells. To top both of these off our churches are uniquely decorated to remind us these are special times in the life of the Church.

So what would the third grand occasion be? Memorial Day? July 4<sup>th</sup>? Labor Day? No, all three of these are secular, not religious holidays. They help remind us of patriots who have helped and those who continue to help keep us free and laborers who have kept us economically strong.

The third of the most significant religious days is Pentecost. It is a time to celebrate the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthing of the Church. In the early Christian Church, Pentecost was a larger festival than Christmas. You will remember how the Spirit came to the disciples giving them hope in their confusion and giving them motivation to preach and witness to the Good News of Jesus. You may wonder why Pentecost is called the "birthday" of the Church. Simply put, that was when Christians began to regularly gather to worship and share communion.

One thing that I like that distinguishes Pentecost from Christmas and Easter is that it has not turned into a commercial holiday. There are no "Pentecost sales" or gifts of candy or toys. Pentecost has remained a purely spiritual holiday with none of the trappings of commercialization.

So this Sunday and every Sunday let's celebrate God's gift of the Spirit to the entire world.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Jim



Please welcome the two newest members to our church. Al and Susan Littell were welcomed by the Session at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting. Susan (formerly Susan Naramore) is a past secretary and pianist for our church.



Scooter Scarborough—June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Maya Hightower—June 18 <sup>th</sup>
Janis Holloway—June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Justice—June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Martha Thomas—June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Abby Lyons—June 21 <sup>st</sup>
Sandy Ramsay—June 11 <sup>th</sup>	June Strahan—June 27 <sup>th</sup>
Blake T. Carroll—June 14 <sup>th</sup>	



### Hurricane Season started June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Now is the time to make plans now for what you will do and where you will go in the event a storm heads for our area. Also, please take a moment to make sure that we have your current contact information (email and/or cell phone). Just because members of the congregation may have your new information doesn't mean that the church office has it.



We will be having our annual Hot Dog/Pot Luck Fellowship on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> in celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This year we will hold the event in McInnis-Wharton Hall. We will again be inviting our Special Needs Sunday School Class and our friends with the Resurrection Anglican Church on the Gulf. We will provide Hot Dogs, Buns, fixings & drinks and the congregation is asked to bring any other items such as sides, deserts, etc. Sign-up sheets have been placed in the narthex and in McInnis-Wharton Hall. Please sign up on one of these and indicate the number of people you expect to have with you even if you are unable to bring anything.



## Thank You!



Our Food Drive benefitting the Long Beach Community Food Pantry continues to be very successful. Your generosity and dedication fills the donation basket almost every week and the ladies of the church thank you for your participation. Please keep bringing items on Sundays and placing them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary. Together we are helping ensure that those in need do not have to go hungry.

# Sleep Well

by Amanda See

Sleep is a beautiful thing. I should know because I'm narcoleptic. Even without the chemical imbalance and the neurological phenomenon, I sleep very well both physically and spiritually. How is it that some rest so easily and others struggle to even get an hour in before the alarm clock buzzes? I can't say for sure, but if I took a guess I'd say it has something to do with A&W: **ANXIETY & WORRY**.



Well rest assured (puns intended) as these issues are addressed almost immediately in the New Testament:

## Matthew 6:25-34

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"

<sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

<sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

<sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?"

<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

<sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

<sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

## Matthew 11:28-30

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

There you go folks! As usual, Jesus has the answer. So if you find yourself unable to sleep at night, remember God loves you, Jesus loves you and we here at Long Beach Presbyterian Church PCUSA love you too.



We are asked to please remember the following in our prayers:

Barnett Family	Tom, Regina
Boswell Family	& Isaac McCarty
Cono Caranna	Jamie
& Family	Ken Pell
Corcoran Family	Peterman Family
Art Holzweissig	Ramsay Family
Robert Jones	Hilda-Jo Salyards
Matthew	Mary Westmoreland



# reading Scripture

Our readers for  
the month of June will be:

4<sup>th</sup> – Bobby Thomas  
11<sup>th</sup> – David Braud Sr.

18<sup>th</sup> – Steve Dees  
25<sup>th</sup> – Tal Flurry



## Session

- In May we collected \$292.01 in donations for Long Beach Outreach which was forwarded to the group. The group has recently been able to help a gentleman obtain cataract surgery that he would have been unable to afford without the group's assistance.
- Al and Susan Littell were accepted as new members of the church by Profession of Faith at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Stated Meeting and welcomed by the Session.
- The Property Committee looked into repairing or replacing the railings in front of the church. It recommended acceptance of a quote of \$1,712 from Eleven Oaks Forge, LLC in Pass Christian, MS to fabricate and install all new railings. The Session voted to accept that quote and authorized the Property Committee to initiate the work.

## Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
April 2017	\$ 6,390.58	\$ 3,387.06	\$ 3,003.52
YTD 2017	\$ 21,565.68	\$ 15,358.93	\$ 6,206.75




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Website

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<http://LBPCUSA.org>



and our Facebook page at  
<http://Facebook.com/LBPCUSA>.

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## Send us information to include in the Beacon

By email: [Lbpcusa@outlook.com](mailto:Lbpcusa@outlook.com)

By hand: Give to Keith Cox, Ruth Lewis or place in the collection plate at Sunday Worship.

By phone: Leave a message on the church answering machine at 228-863-7633.  
(Phone messages are checked on Saturdays)



To receive the Beacon by email, please send a request including your name and email address to [Lbpcusa@outlook.com](mailto:Lbpcusa@outlook.com). Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.