

Long Beach Presbyterian BEACON

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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The Season of Lent

On February 10th the Church Universal will celebrate Ash Wednesday and begin the 40 day season of Lent. You may remember on November 29th that I told the children of our church that Christmas was 40 days away because Advent was 40 days long. That was set straight after some swift math by several in the congregation, but you have to trust me on this Lent REALLY DOES have 40 days (not counting Sundays). Those 40 days turn back the clock to help us understand who Jesus was in his life and ministry. This is particularly true as we travel with him closer and closer to the Cross. When people of faith remember what God has done in the past, we are given courage for the present and hope for the future.



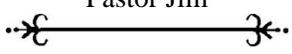
Several years ago a film was produced based on a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald entitled "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." As the film begins the narrator describes the opening of the grandest train station in America. Even President Teddy Roosevelt was there. The best clockmaker in the country was appointed to make the clock for the station and he worked night and day to make sure that it was ready for the unveiling.

It was a morning to remember! To everyone's surprise when the clock was unveiled it ticked backwards. It seems the clockmaker's only child had been lost in the Great War and he explained "I made it that way so that perhaps the boys that we lost in the war might stand and come home again- home to farm, work, have children, to live long, full lives." As he is speaking moviegoers are seeing footage of World War 1 playing backwards and the dead on the field rising up. "Perhaps my own son might come home again." As the film unfolds we realize that no matter how badly we wish we could turn back the hands of time it is impossible, but remembering does help us claim values from the past that we can use in the present.

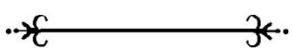
The Season of Lent asks us to remember the mighty acts of God, to remember the person of Jesus of Nazareth and to remember our own wayward wanderings. Looking back is a large part of looking forward and trying to be more grateful and faithful in our discipleship. Lent invites us to remember that we are disciples and to re-commit ourselves to the way of Christ.

I look forward to seeing you in church on the Sundays of Lent.

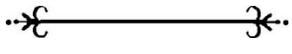
Faithfully,
Pastor Jim



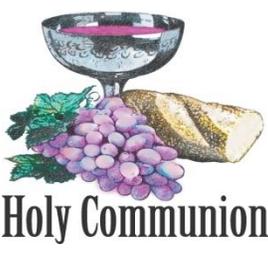
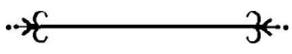
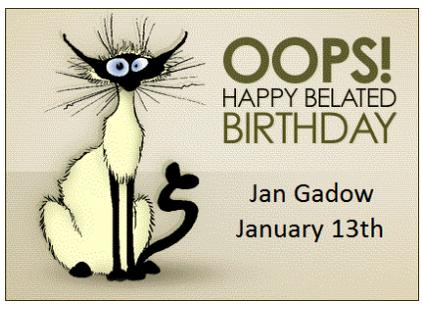
The Women's Circle will be meeting on Tuesday February 2nd at 9:30 am instead of the normal second Tuesday time due to the Mardi Gras holiday.



Please join us in the kitchen for **Coffee & King Cake** after Worship on **Sunday, January 31st**.



- February 3rd – Mitchell Blakeney
- February 7th – Bobby Thomas
- February 20th – Katie Shifflett
- February 24th – Michelle Blakeney



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered on February 7, 2016. Communion Servers will be Vicki Falks and Sarah Parker.

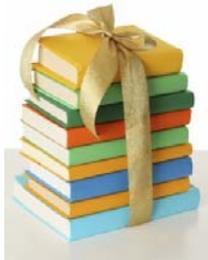
Readers for the month of February are as follows:

7th Steve Dees 21st Keith Cox
14th David Braud, Sr. 28th Terry Dill

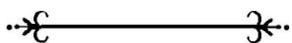
Please notify Terry Dill if you are unable to read on the date shown above.



The church will have a Book Giveaway during the month of February. We have a large number of books including Fiction, Non-Fiction, Cookbooks, Hymnals and paperback Bibles that need loving homes.



The books will be laid out on tables in the East Hallway of the church during the month of February. Members of the congregation, guests and church visitors are invited to take any that they would like to have. Any remaining books, with the exception of Hymnals, will be donated to the Long Beach Public Library.



The Ladies of the Church are continuing to sponsor a food drive benefitting the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. Each item you bring has the potential to prevent someone from going hungry so please remember to bring a

donation with you on Sundays and place it in the collection basket at the front of the Sanctuary.

Needed items include but are not limited to peanut butter, jam, rice, dried beans, stews, canned tomatoes, baby foods, snacks, fruit juice, raisins, soda crackers, cereal, tea, coffee, baking items, flour, honey, salt, pepper, spices, sugars, ketchup, mustard, relishes, spaghetti sauce, dry pastas, canned meat, canned fish, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, puddings, cake and cookie mixes, cheese whiz/Velveeta, macaroni and cheese, diapers and formula.



The Congregation is asked to include the following in their prayers:

Art Holzweissg Lisa Ladner
Barnett Family Jim Nothstine
Boswell Family Charles Roye
Dorothy (Steve Dees' Neighbor) Eunice Roye
Edith Holloway Jennifer Roye

Michelle Blakeney asks that we please keep her cousin-in-law Daryl Powell in our prayers.

Lucy Braud asks that we please keep her Language Teacher Ms. Tutor-Brown in our prayers as she has been out of school for over a month.



Congratulations are in order for Lucy and Rosy Braud who are both on the Honor Roll for getting all A's on their progress reports, for Evan Hightower who made the Superintendent's Roll for all A's and Maya Hightower who made the Principal's Roll for all A's and B's.



Sharing the beauty of flowers is a wonderful way of celebrating an event, memorializing a loved one or simply spreading joy.



Please contact Keith Cox or Ruth Lewis for details if you would like to provide arrangements for the Sanctuary and/or Narthex on any specific Sunday. A dedication will be included in the Worship Bulletin and you may take the flowers with you after the Service if you desire.



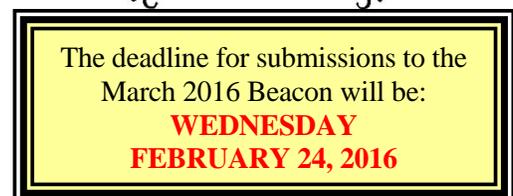
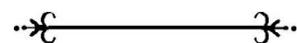
The next regular monthly meeting of the Session will be held immediately after worship service on Sunday, February 21st.

The Session approved hosting a book giveaway to be held in February.

Elder Training will begin during the next Session Meeting and continue after worship service on Sunday, February 28th from Noon - 3:00 pm. All current Elders are asked to attend.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
December 2015	\$9,390.69	\$2,496.49	\$6,894.20
FYE 2015	\$49,734.57	\$30,789.81	\$18,944.76



By email: KCox2@cableone.net
By hand: Give to Keith Cox, Ruth Lewis or place in the offering 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 have the Beacon emailed to you, please send a request including your name and email address to KCox2@cableone.net. Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.