

Long Beach Presbyterian BEACON

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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At our last Session meeting I asked the question, “Can a person be an affiliate member of our Church?” I knew a person could in the United Church of Christ and over the years we had several at Little Farms UCC where I served for 15 years. When I asked the question Terry immediately said, “Yes, associate members are allowed.” The Session then turned to the *Book of Order* to find the specific details to answer to my question. We did some digging and I want to share with you what we learned. There are actually 4 categories of membership in the PCUSA. You can go to G-1.04 in the 2015-2017 *Book of Order* and see the details but here is the recap.

G-1.0401 Baptized Member

This is anyone who has received the Sacrament of Baptism whether in a Presbyterian Church or elsewhere. I was baptized by immersion when I was 8 years old at Lithia Springs Baptist Church near Atlanta. You may have been baptized by sprinkling as a wee infant or baptized by sprinkling or immersion as an adult. It does not matter which method or if the theology behind it was exactly the same. If you have been baptized but have not yet made a profession of faith (what we normally call the process of Confirmation), you are a member of the Presbyterian Church, USA. The *Book of Order* states, “Such baptized members receive the pastoral care and instruction of the church, and may participate in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.”

G-1.0402 Active Member

This category is most of us. We have been baptized, made a profession of faith and been received into the membership of the church. Active members voluntarily submit to the government of the church and participate in the church’s work and worship. Another section (G-1.0304, if you are dying to know) says, “Active members shall regularly, after prayerful consideration, RECOMMIT themselves to the disciplines and responsibilities of membership. When I looked this up it included disciplines like, prayer, Bible study, regular attendance at worship, etc. In other words the active member believes that church membership should matter and act like it. It also means active membership is not

a one-time event but rather something so important that we continue to recommit ourselves mind, body and spirit to it.

G-1.0403 Affiliate Member

This is the category of membership that started our conversation. This is a member of this denomination or another denomination that has been received by the Session as an affiliate member. While this person may not vote in congregational meetings or be elected to an office of the church they are in every other way a full standing member of the congregation. Let me tell you about Katie. Katie is a young woman who came to New Orleans after Katrina to do two years with Teach for America. She held a national office in the United Church of Christ and had to maintain her membership with the New England Conference to keep the office. She became an affiliate member of Little Farms and was a blessing to all of us.

G-1.0404 Other Participants

This is the most interesting category to me. These are folks who are either not members of the PCUSA or use to be but for whatever reason(s) walked away. These folks are welcomed to participate in the life and worship of a PCUSA church receiving both its pastoral care and instruction. Now listen to this quote. “The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the table is not a right conferred upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance and love.” Other participants are also invited to bring their children for baptism.

That is what I want. A church where everyone is welcome rather than everyone has to fit one mold. So, whatever membership category you are in ... WELCOME! I look forward to meeting you at the Lord’s Table.

Faithfully,
Jim



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|--|--------------------------------------|
| Scooter Scarborough – June 1 st | John Justice – June 21 st |
| Janis Holloway – June 3 rd | Abby Lyons – June 21 st |
| Sandy Ramsay – June 11 th | Lynn Braud – June 23 rd |
| Blake T. Carroll – June 14 th | June Strahan – June 27 th |
| Maya Hightower – June 18 th | |



Hurricane Season starts June 1st. Please remember to make plans now for what you will do and where you will go in the event a storm heads for our area.



Session

At the May 15th meeting the Session voted to adopt the Manual of Operations as revised in the February Session meetings.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be on Sunday, June 19th, 2016 in the lounge immediately following the worship service.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
April 2016	\$4,073.49	\$2,470.02	\$1,603.47
YTD 2016	\$17,286.88	\$13,334.89	\$3,951.99



Rev. Hightower has been here about 18 months now. During this time, our attendance has increased. We now have an average attendance that is about double the average attendance in the year before Rev. Hightower arrived.

Our Church Financial picture has changed for the better. During the one-year period before Rev. Hightower arrived, the Church expenses exceeded Church income by an average of almost \$2,200.00 per month. (We were going down the "financial drain.") We are now experiencing a positive cash flow.

During the eighteen-month period since Rev. Hightower arrived, the Church income has exceeded Church expenses by an average of over \$1400.00 per month. There are many factors behind this change – including a slight increase in our tithes, and a marked increase in Church attendance, but the main factor is that we now have a "part-time" minister instead of a "full-time" minister.

Many of you are long-time members of The Long Beach Presbyterian Church. You have fond memories of attending Sunday School classes, vacation bible school, participating in the choir, Ladies of the Church, Men of the Church etc. In recent years, the membership and participation in Church activities has declined. I believe our Church is now going through a period of renewal.

For the past several years, the Church has not been able to afford insurance of any kind. The cost of "insurance" put our Church in a position of choosing between "insuring" the Church or shutting the Church down. The Session determined it would be better to keep the Church open. I am happy to report that we now have a Church "Liability" policy which will serve to protect the church from "personal injury claims".

During the past several months, Ruth Lewis and Keith Cox have spent many hours cleaning and rearranging things around the Church. Many of the books which had accumulated over the years were donated to others or given away. The carpets throughout the Church and all the cloth covers on the pews have been thoroughly cleaned.

Thanks to the efforts of Keith Cox, we now have a Church newsletter again. Keith spends many hours each month gathering material for the Beacon, our Church newsletter.

The Pastor's office and the secretary's office have been switched. This change was made in anticipation of our Pastor's retirement from his full time job in the not too distant future. After retirement, the Pastor plans to start a Family Counseling practice and will use his office at the Church for counseling services.

In the past few months, we have gained 5 new members, including 4 who have joined our Church so far this year. Two children from the Woodward Clan were baptized last summer and two children from the Braud/See Clan were baptized in March.

We now have enough children attending Church that we have been able to start a Children's Sunday School class. Amanda See has volunteered to be the Children's Sunday School teacher. Amanda and her daughter, Lucy, have spent many hours sprucing up the Children's Sunday School room and preparing Sunday School lessons. Many thanks to Amanda and Lucy for taking on this task!!

For the past several years, Elder Bobby Thomas has served as the Sunday School teacher for our Adult Sunday School class. The Adult Sunday School class meets each Sunday morning at 9:30. Many thanks to Elder Bobby Thomas for the countless hours he has devoted to this task!!

The Women of the Church meet regularly on the second Tuesday of every month – Although I understand that there will be no meetings over the "summer" months.

Our worship services would not be the same without our organist/pianist Scharlotte Saxon. Many thanks to Scharlotte for the countless hours she has devoted to her music.

We have started having monthly Fellowship Coffees. This gives everyone a time to get together and visit with one another. The Coffees have been held on the last Sunday of the month, they have been well attended, and everyone seems to enjoy the opportunity to visit with each other.

As you know, I have served as Clerk of Session for the Long Beach Presbyterian Church for many years. Many of you have served as members of the Session. I believe I speak for every member of the Session when I say "we are proud to serve you." If any of you would like to share your ideas or thoughts on how to improve our Church, please know that we would like to hear your ideas. If you would like to meet with the Session, we will be happy to include you at any of our meetings! Also, if you have ever wondered what goes on in a Session meeting, please know you are always welcome to sit in on any of our Session meetings.

I want to say again that, if you are interested in joining the Long Beach Presbyterian just let us know, we will make it happen, and we will welcome you to our Church membership with open arms!!

Terry Dill
Clerk of Session



We will **not** be having a Fellowship Coffee on the last Sunday in June. Instead we will be having a Hot Dog/Pot Luck Fellowship on Sunday, July 3rd in celebration of Independence Day. The church will provide grilled

Hot Dogs, Buns and fixings and the congregation is asked to bring any other items such as sides, deserts, etc. Please keep an eye out in the narthex for a sign-up sheet which will appear June 12th. We ask that everyone sign up and indicate the number of people you expect to have with you regardless of whether or not you are able to bring anything.



Our Food Drive benefitting the Long Beach Community Food Pantry continues to be very successful. Our dedication continues to fill the donation basket every week and the ladies of the church thank you

for your participation. Please continue bringing items on Sundays and place them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary.

The Service of Confirmation was held on May 15th to welcome Lucille Olivia Braud to full membership in The Long Beach Presbyterian Church. Lucy is the daughter of Amanda See and David Earl Braud, Jr. and is a member of the fifth generation of the Woodward family to be confirmed in the Long Beach Presbyterian Church. Her great-great grandparents are Kenneth Vernon Woodward, Sr. and Bertha Inez DeBergue Woodward, her great grandparents are Bertman Adam Braud, Sr. and Rosina Inez Woodward Braud. Her grandparents are David Earl Braud, Sr. & Glynnis Braud and April and Steve See.



The Congregation joins Amanda See in congratulating:

- Her daughter Lucy Braud who is moving on to the 7th Grade after winning both the Principal's Honor Roll and the Star Award,
- Her daughter Rosy Braud who is moving on to the 3rd Grade after winning the Superintendent's Honor Roll, the Bravo Award and the Spelling Award, and
- Her father Steve See for his new career as Director of Dietary Services at the Hancock Medical Center!

We also join Vicki Falks in congratulating:

- Her daughter Montanna Falks who has graduated from High School, and
- Her daughter Lauren Falks who is appearing in the play Hairspray, Jr. which is being performed by the Biloxi Little Theatre on May 27th - May 29th and June 3rd - June 5th!



We ask that you please include the following people people in your prayers:

Deloris Barnett	Art Holzweissig
The Barnett Family	Lizzy Jones
Buddy Bell	Jamie McKenzie
The Boswell Family	

Hennessey Poston asks that we please keep her teacher Miss Anna in our prayers as she battles colon cancer.



We Remember

Lucy Braud asks that we take a moment to remember her classmate Donovan Necaise who would have been going into High School next fall had he not suffered a fatal ATV accident on July 1st, 2015.

Do not mourn the dead, but comfort the living.
- Jonathan Lockwood Huie



reading Scripture

Our readers for the month of June will be:

5th Keith Cox
12th Terry Dill

19th Bobby Thomas
26th David Braud, Sr.



Please contact Ruth Lewis (228-864-7057) if you would like to provide floral arrangements (live or silk) for the Sanctuary and/or Narthex. Many florists will provide silk arrangements as well as live ones but require more time to prepare them since they do not keep a large supply of those flowers on-hand.



We are working to keep everyone informed by using a page on Facebook. Search for **Long Beach Presbyterian Church** and then Like our page to be notified of updates.

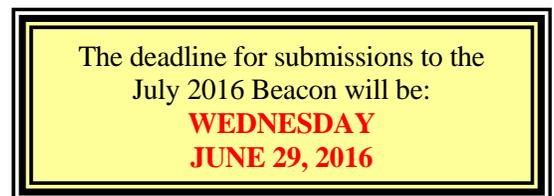


We are currently in the process of verifying and updating our church membership database. Please see Keith Cox or Ruth Lewis on any Sunday to make sure that all of the information we have for you is correct. The entire process shouldn't take more than a minute or two and we greatly appreciate your assistance.



Submit your content for future issues of the Beacon by any of the following methods:

- 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)



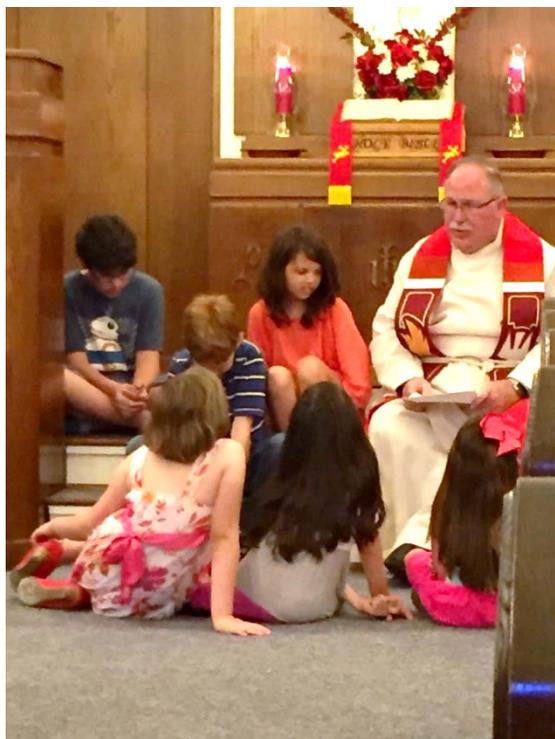
To have the Beacon emailed to you, please send a request including your name and email address to KCox2@cableone.net. Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.

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"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"

Ok, so I had an extra page...



Confirmation of Lucile (Lucy) Olivia Braud, 5-15-2016

Children's Sermon, Pentecost, 5-15-2016



Children's Sermon, Palm Sunday 3-20-2016



Children's Sermon, 4-24-2016



Baptism of Peter (Petey) Elliot Braud, 4-3-2016



Baptism of Rosina (Rosy) Inez Braud, 4-3-2016