

Long Beach Presbyterian

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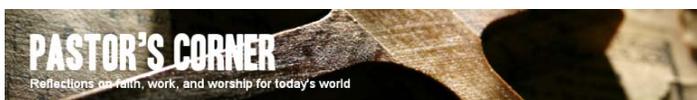
LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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| David Braud, Jr. – April 8th | Jeremy Schruff – April 16th |
| Joe Holloway – April 9th | Jan Woodward – April 16th |
| Amanda See – April 14th | Seth Lyons – April 18th |
| Martha Bellina – April 16th | April See – April 24th |



Easter closes out the season of Lent when we are called upon to remember that it is from dust we were made and to dust we shall return.

The great fifty days following Easter can help us better understand what the early church intended for the celebration of the Lord's resurrection to mean for the Church Universal. The first day of the celebration, Easter Sunday, is the opening of a protracted celebration even as the Resurrection itself is the opening of a vast new reality. Easter is not just one Sunday. In the life of the Church it is the Easter Season and it lasts for fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. It is no accident that the Easter Season lasts for fifty days. It is based on the Jewish festival of Shavuot, fifty days which began with the opening of the harvest season two days after Passover and extended until what has become known as the Day of Pentecost.

Numbers in the Bible are very important. The number seven has particular importance. Seven means fullness. God celebrated the fullness of all created things on the seventh day. The number seven is what we know as a "week." But if seven was a good number how much better would forty nine be. It would be seven squared. As one seventh of the week is set aside as holy so one seventh of the year is held in special regard within the church from Easter to Pentecost. So that is how we get the seven weeks of the Easter Season.

In Hebrew scripture the year of Jubilee occurred every fifty years. The year of Jubilee was an effort to redress the social and economic disparities that had taken place over the last fifty years. It is such a radical idea that it never occurred in Hebrew history. You can imagine families being given their land back. Elders being given money with interest that they had overpaid. It was an ideal to aspire to. Last year Pope Francis declared it to be a year of Jubilee. Maybe the point is every year should be a year of Jubilee where we treat all other people as we ourselves want to be treated.

We are waiting for Easter and anticipating the fifty days of the Easter Season.

Faithfully,
Pastor Jim

This month we celebrate the 108th Anniversary of Long Beach Presbyterian Church. Please join us after worship on April 2nd to enjoy a piece of cake and an opportunity to meet our new Regional Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Rachael Knoll.

LBPC Joins Long Beach Outreach

This month we will begin taking up a monthly collection during the Children's Sermon that will be directed to a consortium of churches in our area working together as Long Beach Outreach. Long Beach Outreach was formed almost three years ago to allow the local churches to pool resources to help those in need in our community. Each church was providing rent, utility assistance, and other monetary help, but none of us had a great deal of money. Many needs could not be met by just one church; working together, we can do much more.

When the need for vision or dental arises, no one has enough. Each church contributes what it can to a fund, held at First United Methodist, to cover these costs. So far, we have helped two people with vision care, and one with dental care. Drs. Sheila Farley (local dentist) and Max Edrington (local optometrist) provide their services at a good discount because of their generosity and commitment to the Long Beach Community.



On Easter Sunday we will be displaying a Resurrection Cross in front of the church building. We ask that everyone bring one or more flowers with them on April 16th and add them to the cross in front of the church before coming inside for the Easter Worship Service.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship will be held immediately after worship on Easter Sunday.



Biloxi Little Theatre and Triple Threat Academy Presents



April 21, 22, 28 & 29 at 7:30pm and April 23 & 30 at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$12 for Student/Senior/Military and \$15 for General Admission.

220 Lee Street, Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: (228) 432-8543
<http://www.4blt.org>



On Easter Sunday we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.



Thank you to all who continue bringing items each Sunday and placing them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary or by the door in McInnis-Wharton Hall. Our support of the Long Beach Community Food Pantry helps them in their mission to feed those in need.



Our readers for the month of April will be:



- 2nd Keith Cox & Dr. Rachael Knoll
- 9th Bill Blackman
- 16th Terry Dill
- 23rd Bobby Thomas
- 30th David Braud, Sr.



- A motion was approved joining other local churches and participating in Long Beach Outreach by taking up a once-a-month collection to assist their efforts.
- A motion was approved to add Elders Keith Cox and Bobby Thomas as authorized signatories to the church checking account in addition to Elders Terry Dill and Ruth Lewis who were already signatories.
- A monitor speaker has been added to the Nursery to provide the ability to hear worship services.
- The next Stated Meeting of the Session has been pushed back one week due to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt falling on the 3rd Sunday. The meeting will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 immediately after worship.
- Ken Pell was hospitalized recently but is now recuperating at home. Chris Hathaway has returned to Church as she continues to recover after her recent fall. Hilda Jo Salyards is now a patient at the Dixie White House Nursing Home.

- Rev. Hightower visited recently with Hilda Jo Salyards, John Cox and Ken Pell.
- Rev. Dr. Charles Holland, a former long-time pastor of our Church celebrated his 90th birthday on March 12, 2017.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
February 2017	\$ 4,073.44	\$ 4,865.89	\$ (792.45)
YTD 2017	\$ 10,063.21	\$ 9,578.05	\$ 485.16



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

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



Our website has been updated with two new pages of interest which can be accessed by the menus at the top and bottom of each page (or the menu icon on a smartphone). The first (<http://lbpcusa.org/Beacon>) is a page giving access to issues of the Beacon going back to the 2016 Preview issue and the second (<http://lbpcusa.org/Sermons>) is a page giving access to the audio recordings of our weekly Scripture Lessons and Sermons going back to July 10, 2016 when we started recording them. In addition, as of March 19, 2017 there are links for each Sunday's Children's Sermon.

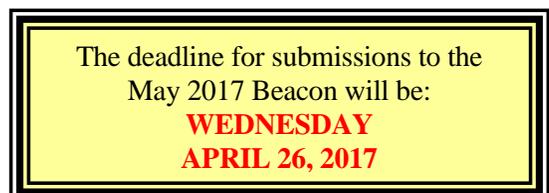


We can be found online at <http://LBPCUSA.org>



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

You can view our Facebook page even if you don't have a Facebook account but, if you do have one, click the Like button to be notified when we post updates.



- By email: 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 have the Beacon emailed to you, please send a request including your name and email address to Lbpcusa@outlook.com. Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.