

Long Beach Presbyterian **BEACON**

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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Last month in this column I wrote about how individuals can join a Presbyterian congregation. I am happy to say that so far this year we have had four people join our church and two baptisms. If you are interested in joining Long Beach Presbyterian please see either Terry Dill or myself. We will schedule a meeting with the Session and welcome you with open arms!



This month I am writing about how the Presbyterian Church is governed. Like the United States of America, Presbyterians have a representative democracy. This representative democracy governs itself with representatives elected by the local congregation; these women and men are called elders. This representative government also consists of governing bodies from lower to higher. These bodies are the session (local church), the presbytery (the Presbytery of Mississippi in our case), and the synod (a collection of Presbyteries). We are in The Synod of Living Waters which includes Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.

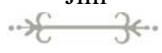
A major contributor to Reformed theology was John Calvin. Calvin converted from Roman Catholicism after training for the priesthood and the law. In exile in Geneva, Switzerland Calvin was the one who developed the Presbyterian pattern of church government vesting authority in elected laypersons known as elders. The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word for elder. The Book of Order (one of the official documents used by The Presbyterian Church) says this:

“Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament”, that’s me, “they exercise leadership, government and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular congregation as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships. They shall serve faithfully as members of the Session. When elected, commissioners to higher governing bodies (Presbytery or Synod) elders participate and vote with the same authority as ministers of the Word and Sacrament and they are eligible for any office.”

The body of elders elected to govern a particular congregation is called a “Session.” They are representatives of other members of the congregation. However, the Session’s primary task is to seek to discover and represent the will of Christ as they govern. Presbyterian elders are both elected and ordained. Through ordination they are set apart for special service. Ordination is retained beyond their term of service. The session is the smallest, most local governing body.

Your Session is proud to serve you and Long Beach Presbyterian. We also want to hear your ideas for how to grow our church and how to make our church more faithful to the will of Christ. If you have an idea or if God is calling you to begin a ministry within our church, talk with us. The Session will be glad to include you in a monthly meeting. Also, if you have ever wondered what goes on in a monthly Session meeting, please know you are welcome to attend. The meetings are open but only sitting elders are able to vote. Finally our Session has agreed to make periodic reports to the congregation about what the Session has been doing and to report on the vitality of our church.

Faithfully,
Jim



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| Bobby Gaston – May 2 nd | Keith Rouse – May 26 th |
| Lori Ann Carpenter – May 5 th | Ken Pell – May 27 th |
| Matthew Favre – May 9 th | Terry Dill – May 29 th |
| Kaye Taylor – May 10 th | Judy Dill – May 30 th |
| Alice Gaston – May 12 th | Rosy Braud – May 31 st |
| Steve Dees – May 17 th | |



The Women’s Circle will be meeting in the church dining room on Tuesday May 3rd at 9:30 am instead of the normal second Tuesday time. There will be no meetings in June, July or August.



Please welcome our newest members Amanda See and David Braud, Jr. who both joined our church at the stated Session Meeting on April 17th. Amanda and David have been attending our church for a long time along with their family and Amanda has recently started leading a Children’s Sunday School class with has some exciting projects in the works. We are thrilled to have both of you as official members of our congregation.



Sunday, May 8th is Mother’s Day. We look forward to being joined for worship by all mothers and those who wish to honor them.





The image to the left is the main symbol of **Pentecost** which is a Christian holy day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit 40 days after Easter and occurs this year on May 15th. Many Christian denominations consider it the birthday of the Christian church and celebrate it as such.

Please wear something red to the worship service on May 15th in honor of this very special day.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:16-18



Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost and it falls on May 22nd this year. It is a time to honor the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although the word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:14 (and many other biblical passages). The concept of the trinity can never be completely understood or rationalized, but it is clearly taught in Scripture. Understanding of all scriptural doctrine is by faith which comes through the work of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred.



Food Pantry Donations Needed

The ladies of our church are sponsoring an ongoing Food Drive benefitting the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. Our dedication continues to fill the donation basket every week and makes a real difference in people’s lives. Please remember to continue bringing items on Sundays and place them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary.



The church’s Manual of Operations was revised in the February Session meetings and is currently being reviewed. A vote will be taken at the stated meeting on May 15th on whether or not the updated version will be adopted.

On March 29th we had the church carpets and pew upholstery steam cleaned. Thanks to the congregation’s generosity and continued support we were able to afford this important task.

Our monthly Fellowship Coffee will be held on Sunday May 29th in the church dining room immediately following the worship service.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be on Sunday, May 15th, 2016 in the lounge immediately following the worship service.

Treasurer’s Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
March 2016	\$4,376.40	\$5,262.09	(\$885.69)
YTD 2016	\$13,213.39	\$10,864.87	\$2,348.52



reading Scripture

Our readers for the month of May will be:

- 1st Vicki Falks
- 8th Terry Dill
- 15th Bobby Thomas
- 22nd Tal Flurry
- 29th David Braud, Sr.



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

- Barnett Family
- Boswell Family
- Carol Langston & Family
- Jillian & Seth Lyons
- Janice McKenzie
- Sandy Ramsay
- Jeremy Schruff & Family



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.



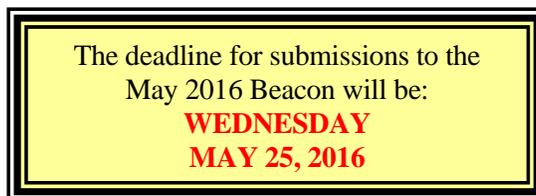
Search for **Long Beach Presbyterian Church** on Facebook and then Like our page to be notified of updates.



The Beacon needs your help!

We accept your news, information, articles, photographs, prayers, praises, etc. by any of the methods listed below.

- 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.