



Long Beach Presbyterian **BEACON**

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
125 East 2nd Street • PO Box 322
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Volume XXXVI

Number 1

January 2016



Dear Friends:

Experiencing the warmth and wonder of Advent with you was amazing. Now God has given us a new year. The old year with all of its problems, with all of its mistakes and even with all of its victories is gone.



Photo by Keith Cox

Last year is behind us and now we are on the threshold of a wonderful new year. The signs are abundant of the unity of our people and that we are praying and moving in the direction of being a solid witness of God's amazing love for all peoples.

I pray that this will be a wonderful year for each of us personally. Beginning the new year with faith and anticipation is very important even while knowing challenges and perhaps even loss will come our way in 2016. In life how we begin an adventure will say quite a lot about how it ends. Have you ever noticed that? The way a team begins a ballgame is important. The way you begin 2016 is important. The way Long Beach Presbyterian Church begins 2016 is important. I hope that you will have an amazing amount of fellowship with your church family in 2016. I hope our Sundays will be filled with meaningful worship. I pray that our unity of spirit will bring us fresh ways to do God's work in the world. And as we covenant together to raise our children in a church in which they know they are loved and valued we will all be the better for it.

On the first Sunday of worship in 2016 we will hear how God became flesh and dwelt among us. The literal translation of the John 1 text is that God "pitched His tent with us."

On the second Sunday we will remember again the Baptism of Jesus.

On the third Sunday we will go with Jesus to the wedding in Cana and watch him turn 180 gallons of water into wine!

On the fourth Sunday we will be reminded of the importance of Church unity and how important the phrase: "In essentials: unity, in non-essentials: liberty, in all things: charity" is to the life of the modern Church.

On the fifth Sunday we will be reminded that if we are going to be in the 'in-group' that makes the rules for those whom we consider to be outsiders that God needs to open our eyes, soften our hearts and renew our minds so that we do not miss what God is saying to us.

Remember, God loves you.

Faithfully,
Jim



reading Scripture

The Scripture readers for the month of January are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 rd Keith Cox | 24 th Terry Dill |
| 10 th David E. Braud, Sr. | 31 st Bobby Thomas |
| 17 th Steve Dees | |

Readers are asked to please notify Terry Dill if you are unable to read on the date shown above.



- January 2nd – Christine Hathaway
January 15th – Stephanie Schruoff
January 29th – Janette Dill



The congregation would like to thank the Braud and See families for the beautiful hand-painted Christmas tree ornaments they gave out after Worship on December 13th. We would also like to thank Sandy and Chloe Ramsey for the tasty homegrown oranges they gave out after Worship on December 20th.



During its December meeting, the Session expressed a unanimous vote of confidence in Dr. James E. Hightower for the work he has done leading our church and formally asked if he would be willing to continue serving as our Stated Supply Pastor for the coming year. Dr. Hightower said that he would be honored to do so.



The first meeting of the Presbytery in 2016 will be held on Friday, February 19th and Saturday, February 20th in Natchez.



The next regular monthly meeting of the Session will be held immediately after worship service on Sunday, January 17th.



Elder Ruth Lewis was elected to serve on the Session Officer nominating committee along with Dr. Hightower and Elder Terry Dill.



The incoming Elder class of 2018 (David E. Braud, Sr., Tal Flurry and Keith Cox) will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, January 3, 2016.



Elder training is anticipated to be conducted in the early part of 2016 during Lent.



Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
November 2015	\$4,111.15	\$1,492.71	\$2,618.44
YTD 2015	\$40,343.88	\$28,293.32	\$12,050.56



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered on January 3, 2016. Communion Servers will be Vicki Falks and Sarah Parker.



"Remember when you could still refer to your knees as right and left instead of good and bad?"



Christian sympathy is expressed to the family of Glee Simmons, a former long-time member, former Elder and pillar of our Church who passed away at the age of 90 on December 20, 2015 and also to June Strahan and her family for the loss of her sister who passed away on December 25, 2015. Please remember them in your prayers.



The Ladies of the Church are continuing to sponsor a food drive benefiting the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. Please remember to bring a food donation with you on Sundays and place it in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary. The simple act of buying one extra item of food when you go to the store can mean the difference between someone having a meal or going hungry. ***Recently we have been filling the basket almost every week!***



Needed items include:

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.



Please send in your news, information, photos, prayer requests, praises and anything else that you wish to share.

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)

The deadline for submissions to the February 2016 issue will be:
WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 27, 2016

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.