

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
125 East 2nd Street • PO Box 332
Long Beach, Mississippi 39560
LBPCUSA@outlook.com
Phone: (228) 863-7633

<http://Lbpcusa.org>

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In a time of political strife around the world, this month we celebrate the independence of our nation. Both myself and our church as a whole are grateful to all the men and women who have served our nation helping to keep us free.



I am old enough and seasoned enough in ministry that it's hard to throw me a curve ball but it happened in the June Session meeting. One Elder suggested that I write a mission statement for our church so it could be used on our website. Seconds later I tossed the ball back suggesting that it would be a good topic for our annual Elder training. Afterwards it would go to the congregation for reflection, prayer and refinement so that the end product is the congregation's statement rather than the pastor's or the Session's.

It is a very good idea and one we will be pursuing. Now we have a decision to make. Are we talking about a mission statement or a vision statement? A mission statement is a one-sentence statement describing the reason an organization or program exists and is used to help guide decisions about priorities, actions, and responsibilities. A vision statement is a one-sentence statement describing the clear and inspirational long-term desired change resulting from an organization's or program's work. Both of these definitions come from an article on churchrelevance.com.

In that same article there are 30-50 examples. They go from a simple "To be a place where Love Works." to some that are 9-10 lines long...too long for me to ever remember! What is clear though is that the mission or vision statement needs to be the work of the church. You want a statement that belongs to the church and outlasts any pastor.

That led me to ponder about what makes a "good enough" pastor. It seems to me that a good enough pastor...

- is a warm, non-anxious, loving person.
- is someone not allergic to fears and not afraid to be that way on a daily basis.
- will refuse to play God or attempt to fulfill the Messiah's role.
- loves beyond fears.
- truly desires to point us all to God.

Thanks for letting me be your good enough pastor without having the burden of being perfect.

Faithfully,
Jim



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Al Littell - July 2 nd | Tal Flurry - July 20 th |
| John Cox - July 5 th | Clay Hill - July 21 st |
| Jim Hightower - July 8 th | Petey Braud - July 28 th |
| Montanna Falks - July 14 th | Chloe Ramsay - July 30 th |
| Anna Favre - July 20 th | |



Last month two members of our extended family went on to join the Church Triumphant. Hilda Jo Rouse Salyards, a longtime member and leader of the Special Needs Sunday School Class passed on June 16th and Robert Karl Jones, son of Carrie Jones passed on June 25th.

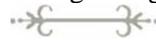


We are happy to announce that on Thursday June 29th Carrie Jones requested that we transfer her membership from Pineville Presbyterian Church. We are very happy to have her as the newest addition to our church family.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Summer is here and electric bills are on the rise which for some people means even less available money to spend on necessities like food. Please keep bringing items on Sundays and placing them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary. Together we are doing our part to see that those in need do not have to go hungry.



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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Barnett Family | Tom, Regina |
| Boswell Family | & Isaac McCarty |
| Cono Caranna | Jamie |
| & Family | Ken Pell |
| Corcoran Family | Peterman Family |
| Art Holzweissig | Ramsay Family |
| Matthew | Mary Westmoreland |

Bite Your Tongue

By Amanda See

Gossip is nothing new. Since the time human being began to speak words have been used as weapons that cause pain and heartbreak. Even with all we know today, all the wisdom we obtain through the Bible and through experience, we tend to revert back to our animalistic nature of tearing each other down with lies and threats.



Years ago we were gifted with instant knowledge through the internet, but not all you read is true. Correct?

Soon after we were given the means to network through the use of Social Media. It has given us the chance keep in touch with family and friends from years past, a lot of whom we would not be able to contact without it.

Regrettably, Social Media has also become a catalyst for hatefulness. We are subjected to day-in-day-out abuse and criticism and negativity that has manifested from what could be a wonderful invention. Whether it be politics, sports, relationships, or any commonality, people have begun to attack one another from the convenience and vail of a computer screen or smartphone. Anonymity has made it too easy for those with different views and beliefs to drive others to the breaking point.

It's scary! I am truly terrified of what we have become as a people. Friends, family, and complete strangers voice a recollection or simply their personal opinion as if it is a fact and wind up causing pain and anguish to others.

So what do we do about it? I stay away. I educate my children on its dangers and I put out the fires and disasters created by people who spread hate to my friends and family members. Let me provide a bit of hope and comfort from our dear Lord with the following passages.

In **Ephesians 4:29** we are reminded of the Golden Rule: If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all:

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Some things never change! **James 1:26** brings up a great point that we often witness on a daily basis. Do you know anyone like this? I'm sure you do.

²⁶Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

Unfortunately there will be times when your sincerity, judgement, and reputation will be challenged. People tend to allow themselves to believe the untrustworthy, follow the crowd of liars and feed on the false claims that others who are untrue of heart proclaim. This can be especially painful from those closest to us. In those times where you feel betrayed and alone, please remember this beautiful verse from **Psalms 34:18**.

¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. We are never alone, even when we feel everyone is against us.

Be strong. Hold on to your faith and do not be shaken. Although the emotional pain of harsh words and contentions may make you weaken at the knees, follow these words from **2 Timothy 1:7**.

⁷For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Finally in **John 14:27** we are told that we don't have to live with worry and fear; there is a better way.

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Be kinder than necessary to each other and give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Know in your heart that you are loved. The truth will set you free, or as I like to say, "It all comes out in the wash."

Remember: God loves you, Jesus loves you, and everyone at Long Beach Presbyterian Church USA loves you too!



Our readers for the month of July will be:

reading
Scripture

2nd – Keith Cox

23rd – Bobby Thomas

9th – Bill Blackman

30th – David Braud Sr.

16th – Terry Dill



Session

- In May we collected \$274.00 in donations for Long Beach Outreach which was forwarded to the group.
- A deposit of \$560.00 has been paid to Eleven Oaks Forge and they are currently creating new railings to replace the deteriorating ones in front of the building.
- The next Presbytery meeting will be held August 11-12 at the Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS. Elder Bobby Thomas was elected to serve as our commissioner for that meeting.
- Due to Rev. Hightower's scheduled vacation there will be no Stated Meeting of the Session in July. The next Session meeting will be on Sunday, August 20, 2017.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
May 2017	\$ 4,409.60	\$ 4,181.67	\$ 227.93
YTD 2017	\$ 25,975.28	\$ 19,540.60	\$ 6,434.68



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<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  button to be notified when we post updates.



Send us information to include in the Beacon

We would love to share any holiday family pictures or stores that you have with others the congregation. Not everyone has Facebook! Please send anything you would like us to include by one of the methods below.

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 receive the Beacon by email, 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.