

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others"

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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Time



Here in the dog days of summer I am beginning to explore themes for Christmas sermons. At the same time stores are preparing for Halloween and Thanksgiving already. In addition I celebrated my birthday last month. All of this makes me aware that time is passing very quickly. One of my favorite hymns declares, "time like an ever rolling stream takes all her sons away." Her daughters as well.

The psalmist says, "this is the day that the Lord has made." We could say all three zones of day God has made. The past, the present and the future are all in this moment to God. And if I understand the physicists who study time correctly there is no then and now and then again. Time, like God, is one. That is all too deep for me.

What I do know is that living in the past can be dangerous to one's health. Constantly pining over the "way it use to be" is no good for our emotional or physical health. Churches do it for sure. Remember when...{and you fill in the blank}. Remember when the sanctuary was full and we had two dozen confirmands. We do the same thing in our personal lives also. Remember when the kids were still home and being involved in all their activities? Now the house is too quiet.

Our sense of the future is the same. I hope in the future...{and you fill in the blank}. It could be I hope I will have good health, I hope I have enough money to retire comfortably; I hope I have an easy death. Someone falls over dead and we all say, "boy, that was the way to go." Yes and no. We may also imagine the future as the time dreams will come true. In the future I will finally see...{and you fill in the blank}. The West, Europe or Canada may well be on someone's bucket list for the future.

Which brings us to the present and living fully today. Forgiving ourselves for the past, whether others do or not, is a key to living fully today. Preparing for the future is a key to living fully today. Avoiding trying to be in control of everything or everyone is a key to living fully today. If we find ourselves carrying regrets for the past or fears about the future then we find we have lost today.

The Psalmist has another helpful comment concerning time, "Lord, teach us to number our days." The life lesson is not to fully live on alternate Thursdays when we think we have things under control (reminder: that is always an allusion). The trick is to live fully in the present even when it is quite clear we have little or nothing under control.

So time is passing. How fully alive are you in the day which has been given to you as a gift. Christmas is coming; but it is not coming today!

Faithfully,



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lucy Braud – 4 th | Frances Favre – 22 nd |
| Bailey Blue – 9 th | Sarah Hill – 23 rd |
| Keli Paniku – 14 th | Steve See – 24 th |
| Jeffrey Lyons – 18 th | Keith Cox – 25 th |
| Johnny Lackey – 20 th | Lauren Falks – 25 th |
| Eric Niemann – 21 st | Ruth Lewis – 25 th |



For anyone wishing to send anything to Chris Hathaway, her new address is:

Chris Hathaway
c/o Brookdale Senior Living
2750 Drew St, Apt. 219
Clearwater, FL 33759



Please remember the following in your prayers:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Margaret Alfonso | Ann Meuleman |
| Cono Caranna | Quinten McMillan |
| Matthew Favre | Mary Ann Pagano |
| Chris Hathaway | Christine Poston |
| Jamie McKenzie | Robert Taylor |



Thank you to all who continue to donate food each week. These small gifts make a big difference in the lives of those in need.

Suggested items include but are not limited to 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.



Our readers for the month of August are:



5th – Bobby Thomas 19nd – Steve Dees
 12th – Jackie Blackman 26th – Tal Flurry



We now accept donations through PayPal. Simply go to <http://lbpcusa.org/give/> or select the “Give Online” shortcut at the top of any page on our website.

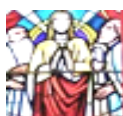


HAVE YOU NOTICED? We now have our own room (#2). YEAH!! With this space we can organize better and be more efficient in our mission of helping homeless individuals.

We welcome anyone who would like to help us and we appreciate the support of the whole congregation. These are the items that we particularly need: granola bars, individually packaged toothbrushes, hand towels, bottled water and travel sized deodorant, soap, shampoo and wet wipes.

On July 8th we packed 10 bags for women and 15 bags for men. These were delivered on the 9th to Kings Kitchen for distribution. Our next packing session will be after worship on Sunday, August 12th. Please join us, work a little and laugh a lot.

Being able to touch others’ lives, extend a helping hand and share in our good fortune is a large part of our continuing faith.



Session

- Last month we incorrectly reported the total collected for the June Outreach offering. The June amount was actually \$525.00 and the July collection was \$773.16. All money was divided between and forwarded to Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah’s House, and the Presbyterian Women’s choice of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence.
- The roofing contractor has ordered the supplies to

replace our roof and we are just waiting to be scheduled.

- The next meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi on August 11, 2018 **has been moved** to J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church in McComb, MS.
- The next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday August 19, 2018.

Treasurer’s Report

| | Income | Expenses | Difference |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| June 2018 | \$ 6,672.10 | \$ 4,739.09 | \$ 1,933.01 |
| YTD 2018 | \$ 44,166.13 | \$ 29,691.65 | \$ 14,474.48 |



Pictured above is the wonderful turnout for Chris Hathaway’s Farewell Potluck Lunch.

Shown below is “the moment” when Al Littell went off script and spontaneously promised to “Love, Honor and **OBEY**” his wife Susan during their Vow Renewal Ceremony on July 27th, 2018. Please note her reaction as well as the faces of Rev. Hightower and her Matron of Honor, Ruth Lewis.



Find us online at <http://LBPCUSA.org>



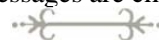
Visit our Facebook page at <http://Facebook.com/LBPCUSA>.

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.



PLEASE send us information to include in the Beacon

- By email: Lbpcusa@outlook.com
- By hand: 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