

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others"

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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Epiphany

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The word "epiphany" means "to shine upon", "to manifest" or "to make known." The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made himself known to the world. The three events that manifested the mission of Christ were the visitation of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus and the miracle at Cana.



This first weekend of the new year we journey with the Magi to see the Christ Child. The Magi were joyful over the new star and the meaning behind it. Trusting in God, they prepared for their journey. They had frustrations in their search in the vicinity around Bethlehem and in Bethlehem itself. They found Jesus, now a toddler of three or so, and adored him. These were not "people of the covenant" yet they found the Christ.

The story of Jesus' baptism is one of Jesus seeking. Jesus knew that his cousin John was baptizing in the Jordan River. In the first instance recorded of Jesus astounding others since Jesus was grown we are told that Jesus sought out John. In this seeking Jesus requested to be baptized by John who protested then baptized Jesus.

In the last Epiphany story Mary is seeking Jesus. "Let the joy of this wedding continue, renew the wine." And Jesus is made manifest in the way that only John can with wonders and signs. "This is the first miracle that Jesus performed at Cana of Galilee." But old John will give us more so that we are sure who Jesus is.

Seeking and Sought. May it be our story in 2019. The year will surely be a journey. It will be a time of twist and turns for that is what life's journey does. Seldom is life a straight line until the very end. Look for opportunities amid frustrations this year. Seek out an odd relative (like John the Baptizer) who can bring you closer to God. Find joy even when the wine jar is nearly empty. So will Jesus be manifest once again.

Happy New Year's Friends,



Chris Hathaway	January 2 nd
Stephanie Schruff	January 15 th
Janette Dill	January 29 th



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Happy New Year to all from Long Beach Presbyterian Women!! A new beginning full of hope and promise of better things to come.

As we continue to study *God's Promise*, we invite you to meet with us on Tuesday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m. for a thoughtful lesson, coffee and goodies. Our December gathering showed us that God will be with us not only in our joys, but also in our discouragements. Thanks to Judy Dill for her guidance during this meeting.

We have received many thanks from King's Kitchen for our continuing delivery of much needed personal items to those who are homeless. In this colder, damper and dreary time of yer, reaching out to others is especially important. We will continue to gather and pack these items after our lesson. Thank you to all who have contributed to this mission; you will never know how far your kindness will spread and when a kindness will be returned to you.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Margaret Alfonso	McMillon Family
Cono Caranna	Ann Meuleman
Matthew Favre	Quinten McMillan
Family of Martin &	Mary Ann Pagano
Jerry Gaspar-Norman	Christine Poston
Alice Gaston	Judy Sawyer
Chris Hathaway	Scott Setzer
Jamie McKenzie	Robert Taylor



By Susan Littell

Welcome to a new column that will highlight a different person or family from our congregation each month. We see familiar faces and greet our church friends on Sundays but don't always get the opportunity to learn more about them.

To kick things off, I will share some things about myself and my husband, Al.

I was born and raised in Wiggins, MS and have spent most of my life involved with music in one form or another. As a young child, my mom, sister, and I would go to singing school at the old Big Level School. Some of my earliest memories are sitting down at a school desk with pencil and staff paper and drawing a variety of musical notes and clef signs. Fast forward to the third grade when I started taking piano lessons after my mom got tired of me beating and banging on the old upright piano in our living room.

In sixth grade, I started learning to play the trumpet and continued with that through the beginning of my second year at junior college in Perkinston, MS. At that time I changed my major to music. The piano was my major instrument through the remainder of junior college, where I earned an Associate of Arts in Music degree. I finished my education in 1994 at USM, in Hattiesburg, with a Bachelor of Arts in Music.

After Hurricane Katrina, I was the pianist and head of the worship committee for the Orange Grove Presbyterian Church. Since Orange Grove and Long Beach were having combined services at the time, I eventually became the pianist and also the secretary for Long Beach Presbyterian Church. After that time at LBPC, I went to work full time driving buses for the Coast Transit Authority.

While all this was transpiring in my life, the yet unknown love of my life was 920 miles away in the City of Chicago.

Al grew up in the projects of Chicago as the oldest son of Margaret Ludwick. His father left when Al was only two years old which left Margaret as a single mom. She eventually remarried and had his two younger brothers, Kevin and Karl. Al was named after his maternal grandfather, Albert J. Ludwick, a veteran of the United States Navy and railroad worker for many years. Albert lived to be 104 years old.

Al's first job was as a shoe shine boy, walking the streets of Chicago shining the shoes of businessmen for 15 cents which he later increased to 25 cents. He got so accomplished at his trade that there were days when he received as much as a \$5 tip! Growing up he worked odd jobs to help bring money into the house and pay for his own school supplies and clothes. When he was a sophomore in High School, he was employed at his first "real" job of sandblasting parts with Wayne Electric. After that he worked stocking shelves and working as a butcher for a major supermarket. He did all this while still going to school and playing defensive middle linebacker for Carl Shurz High



School Bulldogs. In his time there he even competed against Chicago Bears veteran Dick Butkis.

Little did he know that he would become a different kind of bulldog when he joined the United States Marine Corps near the end of the Vietnam War in March of 1971. He started off in the motor transport division and when he re-enlisted he was transferred to small arms repair. While stationed in California, he married and had three daughters from his first marriage. He was later stationed at Quantico, VA, where he was in charge of training the FBI agents in handling and making weapons.

After separating from the Marine Corps in 1979, he returned to Chicago and worked various trucking driving jobs until he got on board with the Chicago Transit Authority. His mother also worked at CTA as a bus driver. He worked in the maintenance division in multiple positions including mail car driver, tow truck driver, snow plow driver and supervisor.

In November 2004, his right knee (the one he recently had replacement surgery on) was injured and that forced him into early retirement. In 2005, he and his then second wife, with whom he had two daughters, moved to D'Iberville, MS – right before Hurricane Katrina.

In 2010, he went to work as a bus driver for a different CTA, Coast Transit Authority, where he met a beautiful redhead – Me!

After becoming engaged, we moved to Chicago for four years during which we were married in a Civil Ceremony and drove 18 wheelers over the road for U.S. Xpress and Schenider and then snow plows for the Illinois Department of Transportation. I told everyone I needed a bumper sticker on the back of my plow that said, "**Southern Girl in a Snow Blow. Give me a wide berth!**"

We moved back to Mississippi in 2015 after the death of his daughter. In April 2017 we started attending LBPC and on Christmas Eve that same year I started as the church's new pianist/organist. Finally in July 2018 we finally had our Church Wedding/Vow Renewal Service among our friends and family at LBPC.

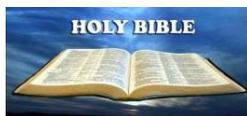


For many New Year's is a time to make resolutions to go to the gym and work off all of those holiday meals that we filled ourselves with. For some every day is a struggle to make sure they have enough food for their children and themselves. Your contributions of canned and non-perishable food items give support to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry which

works to meet those needs. Please contribute by placing your donations in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. Everything is delivered to the food pantry on a weekly basis.

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 January are:



6th – Keith Cox
13th – Susan Littell

20th – Bill Blackman
27th – Linda Osburn



Too Much To Do And Not Enough Time To Do It All?!

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Stewardship 2018

Hats off to the Stewardship Committee for the most innovative stewardship campaign I have ever been involved in. The concept was simple but the execution was perfect. Every Sunday the church members received a gift that would help us all remember the importance of stewardship. The first week we received a Long Beach Presbyterian Church pen. This pen was to help you write a check for your tithes and offerings. It could also be used to write a get well or 'thinking of you' note or heating directions for a casserole to help a family in a stressful situation.

The second week we all received an LBPC license plate. This plate can be attached to our vehicles to give other folks the message that we are here. It can also be placed in your vehicle's back window, your home or your office to let folks know where you attend church.

The third week we were given the gift of a candle to remind us to let the light of Christ shine through us. The darkness will always come in our lives but the light of Christ and our church helps us even in dark times.

The final week we received a paperweight made from two rocks. One came from our old flat roof and the

other from our newly redone roof. It is a reminder of the rock solid presence we have had in the Long Beach community for 109 years. It is also a reminder of what we can accomplish together. Working together we can weather any storm.

To Jackie, Amanda and Keith I say a huge "THANK YOU" for being excellent presenters of our stewardship emphasis. To Tal Flurry, chair of stewardship, I give very hardy thanks.

Our stewardship campaign culminated in receiving commitments for 12 to give the same as 2018 and 6 to increase giving in 2019. This represents a nearly 100% family based response of our members and attenders participating in the 2018 stewardship campaign.

Thanks to everyone,

Pastor Jim



We are now accepting donations through PayPal. Go to <http://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2411290> and PayPal will process your donation without charging us any fees. All donations through this PayPal program are tax deductible and a receipt will be generated that you can print at home.



Session

- In December we received \$637.00 for our outreach offering which was divided with \$254.80 each going to Long Beach Outreach and Rebekah's House and 127.40 to the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence.
- We collected \$683.00 for the Christmas Joy Offering which has been forwarded to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- We are still working on an official Church Photo Directory and anticipate having it printed soon.
- The Session will hold Elder Training on Saturday January 19, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the church dining room. Lunch will be provided.
- The next Stated Session meeting will be after worship on Sunday January 20, 2019.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Nov. 2018	\$ 6,443.35	\$ 6,643.51	\$ -200.16
YTD 2018	\$ 109,734.32	\$ 146,396.84	\$ -36,662.52



Visit Our Website

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.

Presbytery of Mississippi Newsletter

December, 2018

Through Word, Welcome and Wonder we partner to serve Jesus.

COLT – Church Officer and Leadership Training – Saturday, January 12, 2019, Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church, 6620 Spanish Fort Boulevard, Spanish Fort, AL 8:30 AM-1:00 PM \$15.00/person. 8 workshops, lunch and keynote speaker, Dr. Rebecca Davis, Associate Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus on “Connecting Faith and Daily Life”. Dr. Davis is an ordained Presbyterian minister, a Certified Christian Education and holds a Ph.D. and two Master degrees from Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. In addition, our own Dr. Christopher Crowell (Westminster, Hattiesburg) will lead a session on “A Top Ten List: Things that Leaders in Churches Need to Know!”

Registration deadline is January 9th online at www.presbyteryofsa.org OR send a check (\$15.00/person) to Presbytery of South Alabama (for COLT), P. O. Drawer 2157, Daphne, AL 36526 OR call the office 251-626-1915 to register by phone and pay on the day of the event. Brochures are available by calling Susan Sumrall at 601-946-5858.

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP – Old Town Presbyterian Church, Bay St. Louis, invites the presbytery to worship and celebrate with them on Sunday, January 20th at 10 AM as they begin a new phase of ministry led by Rev. Joe Pack Arnold and Rev. Dr. Barron Banks as co-Supply Pastors. We rejoice with them as God leads into the future. Exciting things are happening!

CONGRATULATIONS to First Presbyterian Church, Lucedale on their 62nd anniversary! They celebrated November 11, 2018 with a sandwich lunch and cake provided by the Presbyterian Women. We are grateful for your many years of worship and witness to your community and with God’s guidance look to many more.

RE-IGNITE WORSHIP GRANTS – There is still time to submit applications for the Re-Ignite Worship Grants program and there is still money available. reigniteworship2018@gmail.com How can the Presbytery of Mississippi help your congregation enhance their worship experience?

To date the following grants have been issued:

Long Beach, TV & stand; Fondren, Consultant for Young Adult worship; Briarwood, equipment to live-stream worship services; First, Natchez-a community Christmas Eve worship event; Handsboro, preparing for an outdoor worship space; Ruth Memorial, new Glory to God hymnals; Vernal, a quarterly Bible Camp for the community; Westminster, Hattiesburg-Consultant for Young Adult worship; and Pineville, a new sound system.

CONDOLENCES - Our love and sympathy are extended to the family of Rev. Rob Butler, Honorably Retired member of the presbytery. Funeral services will be held Saturday, December 22nd at 11 AM at First Baptist Church, 300 N. Cleveland Avenue, Long Beach, MS. Before retirement, Rob served at Old Town, Bay St. Louis and with the Long Beach congregation.

COMING EVENTS:

January 11-12, 2019 – PW Winter Retreat, Chatawa

January 12, 2019 – COLT, Spanish Fort Presby., Spanish Fort, AL (8:30 am-12:30 pm)

January 17, 2019 – Deadline for inclusion in the White Book

January 22, 2019 - Committee on Ministry meeting, 10 AM, Westminster, Hattiesburg

January 22, 2019 – Cabinet Meeting, 2 PM, Westminster, Hattiesburg

January 28, 2019 – Synod of Living Waters annual meeting, Franklin, TN (Bob Phelps & Susan Sumrall commissioners)

January 31, 2019 – White Book for presbytery meeting distributed.

January 31, 2019 - Last day to enter statistics on-line.

February 8-9, 2019 – Joint Presbytery Meeting with South Alabama, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, AL with Dr. Roger Nishioka as speaker. (Joint worship sessions; separate business meetings).

March 23, 2019 – PW Spring Gathering, Westminster, Hattiesburg

Any errors in this communication are by the editor and will be corrected as soon as reported. Submit articles by the 10th of each month for inclusion in the newsletter.

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Through Word, Welcome and Wonder we partner to serve Jesus.