



Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

“Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others”

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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The Reformed Tradition

For the months of October and November the Pastor's Corner will be about Reformed Theology. What you are reading is not original from me. Rather, it is from a PCUSA document entitled “The Reformed Tradition: Exploring the Foundations of Faith.”



After you have read October and November I will be inviting you to an after church discussion group one Sunday. I hope these two months are enlightening to you.

This will be a brief overview of the stream of Christianity known as the Reformed tradition. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Reformed Church are among those considered to be churches in the Reformed tradition.

Readers who are not Presbyterian may find this topic to be “too Presbyterian.” We encourage you to find out more about your own faith tradition.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is part of the Reformed tradition, which, like most Christian traditions, is ancient. It began at the time of Abraham and Sarah and was Jewish for about two thousand years before moving into the formation of the Christian church. As Christianity grew and evolved, two distinct expressions of Christianity emerged, and the Eastern Orthodox expression officially split with the Roman Catholic expression in the 11th century. Those of the Reformed tradition diverged from the Roman Catholic branch at the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.

Martin Luther of Germany precipitated the Protestant Reformation in 1517. Soon Huldrych Zwingli was leading the Reformation in Switzerland but there were important theological differences between Zwingli and Luther. The main difference was over the Lord's Supper. Luther held to a Catholic view of transubstantiation and Zwingli held to a view of “spiritual presence.” As the Reformation progresses, the term “Reformed” became attached to the Swiss

Reformation because of its insistence on reforming the church strictly through the application of biblical principles to the life of the church. John Calvin, who came after Zwingli and is one of the Swiss Reformers, wrote the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which set forth the tenets of the Reformed tradition. John Knox studied with Calvin in Geneva and returned home the hero of the Scottish Reformation. As the Church of Scotland came into existence, influenced by Calvin's theology and polity, it developed Presbyterianism.

Reformers made their way to the American colonies beginning in the 1600s. Some church historians estimate that by 1776 three-fourths of the population of the soon-to-become United States were of the Reformed tradition. The Reformed tradition was influential in the development of the United States and its government. In the 19th century, Reformed missionaries from north America spread across the globe. Today, Presbyterian and Reformed churches can be found on six continents.

How Faith Speaks

The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gives us a summary of the themes of the Reformed tradition from the perspective of the PC(USA).

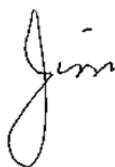
“Central to this tradition is the affirmation of the majesty, holiness, and providence of God who creates, sustains, rules, and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love. Related to this central affirmation of God's sovereignty are other great themes of the Reformed tradition:

1. The election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation;
2. Covenant life marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the Word of God;
3. A faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation.
4. The recognition of the human tendency to idolatry and tyranny, which calls the people of God to work for the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God” (F-2.05).

The majesty, holiness, and providence of God, who creates, sustains, rules and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love.

Calvin's central, unifying theme, and perhaps the foundation of Reformed theology, is that in every moment of our lives we are in the presence of the living God: "In life and in death we belong to God" (From A Brief Statement of Faith(10:1, line 1). We are never beyond God's purview and never beyond God's grace.

Faithfully,




Kenneth Rouse – 4 th	Kimberly Ann Plata – 11 th
Andy Sawyer – 7 th	John Gooch Jr. – 28 th
Susan Littell – 9 th	



We began a new spiritual journey together as our class met on the second Tuesday of September. This year we are following the lessons of "God's Promise: I Am With You". Sally-Lodge Teal is our moderator and we encourage all women of the Church and our community to come and share in these important and thought-provoking messages.

Don't forget, the second Tuesday of each month!!

There is an amazing outpouring of love, hope and generosity that is alive and well at Long Beach Presbyterian. We have collected many needed items for our homeless outreach mission which we are continuing. The packing of 10 bags for women and 15 bags for men will be completed after our lesson at the second Tuesday meetings and delivered that same week. We will continue to gather items during the month to meet the needs of others in our community.

When you look through your closet and see those dresses, shirts, blouses, pants and so on that you have not worn in a year or more, THINK. Could someone else use this item? Bring these things to Room 2 and we will sort, pack and deliver them for you. The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence clients could certainly use your donations.

Also, don't forget those old glasses. You know, the ones with an outdated prescription that you've been keeping in that drawer for the last few years "in case" you need to go back to them some day. The eyeglasses will be sent to Dr. Max Edrington who is the local Ophthalmologist who works with Long Beach Outreach in providing discounted eye-care services to approved clients. They will go to help those in our community who need glasses but simply cannot afford the price of new frames.

We are reaching up to God and reaching out to help others.



Please remember the following in your prayers:

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



Don't forget to **set your clocks BACK 1 hour** before going to bed on Saturday, November 3, 2018 unless you like getting to church an hour early.



Thank you to all who continue to donate food each week in support of the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. Your generosity means the

world to those in our community who are unable to afford food on their own.

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 September are:



7 th – Bobby Thomas	21 st – Steve Dees
14 th – Jackie Blackman	28 th – Tal Flurry



We are now accepting 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 (LBPCUSA.org).





Session

- In September we received \$1,093.36 for our outreach offering which was forwarded to the King's Kitchen in Bay St. Louis to assist with repairs to their air conditioning system and replenish their food stores.
- The annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon has been scheduled for Sunday, November 11, 2018 immediately after worship.
- A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, October 7th. At that time Keith Cox and Susan Littell were elected to serve on the Session in the Elder Class of 2021.
- Van Edington will return as our Guest Pastor on Sunday, October 21, 2018 while Jim is away on business.
- Bill and Jackie Blackman have generously donated a pop-up canopy tent to the church.
- The replacement of the flat roof on the church and the repairs to the roof on the bell tower have now been completed. We would like to thank Joey Lacy from Mandal's Inc. for the excellent job he did as Project Manager.
- The next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday November 18, 2018.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
August 2018	\$ 5,506.69	\$ 6,111.36	\$ 604.67
YTD 2018	\$ 88,214.21	\$ 40,731.28	\$ 47,482.93



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 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

Presbytery of Mississippi Newsletter

September, 2018

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FALL CLUSTER MEETING – Saturday, September 22nd, Prospect Presbyterian Church, 7876 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian, MS. All women of the presbytery are invited to this one-day gathering. RSVP needed for lunch.

MINISTERIAL EVALUATIONS have been sent to all ministers in a non-installed position, CRE's and their Sessions for the annual review required by the Book of Order (G-2.0503 and G-2.1001). Please return by October 1st. Remember Clerks, the Session must approve this report before submission.

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS! The 2019 College Conference at Montreat will be held January 2-5th, 2019. Registration opens October 8th at 10 AM. The presbytery is working to take a group to this event. If you are interested, please contact Susan Sumrall, Stated Clerk or Dr. Christopher Crotwell 601-550-9518, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg as soon as possible. For more information on this conference see: <http://www.montreat.org/college/>.

REFORMATION SUNDAY is October 28th and the Presbyterian Historical Society has developed bulletin inserts especially for that week. You may download and print as few or as many as you want at no charge from <http://history.pcusa.org/rs>.

ATTENTION SMALL CHURCHES!* The Presbytery of South Alabama is teaming up with the Presbyterian Foundation to offer *TRANSFORMED CHURCHES – A Clearer Look At Your Church* on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018 11 AM-1 PM** (Lunch included) at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1255 Navco Road, Mobile, AL. Reservations required by Tuesday, October 9th. This is for small church pastors, CRE's, Clerks of Session, Treasurers and other key leadership.

* That's all of us!

REST & RENEWAL: PASTOR AND CRE RETREAT – November 4-6, 2018 at the beautiful Baytreat on the Eastern shore of Mobile Bay. The Presbytery of South Alabama has graciously invited our ministers and CRE's to participate in this weekend retreat. The cost is \$150; the registration form is attached to this newsletter.

HURRICANE RELIEF – Unfortunately, once again clean up supplies as well as hygiene kits are desperately needed for hurricane relief. Rev. Dr. Rob Lowry has taken one load of items from the presbytery to the distribution point in Arkansas for Church World Service but more is needed. Dr. Lowry will be making more trips to Arkansas this month and will be glad to take items so you don't have to pay postage! Contact him at Fondren (601-982-3232) or directly (501-773-5131) for pickup and to coordinate travel.

Items for Hygiene Kits:

- 1 — hand towel (approximately 16" x 28", no fingertip or bath towels)
- 1 — washcloth
- 1 — wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
- 1 — nail clipper (UPDATE: nail clippers with metal files or emery boards attached are now accepted; remove from package)
- 1 — bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- 1 — toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 10 — Band-Aids® or other adhesive bandage strips

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.

Clean up kits requested items are:

- 1 — 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid
- 5 — scouring pads
- 7 — sponges, assorted sizes
- 1 — scrub brush
- 1 — pkg. cleaning towels (18 reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- 1 — box dry laundry detergent, 50-78 oz.
- 1 — liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®), 12 oz.
- 1 — bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®), 24-28 oz.
- 1 — 1 pkg. clothespins, 48-50 Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- 5 — dust masks
- 2 pair — latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- 1 pair — work gloves
- 1 — 24 to 28 count roll heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon, remove from carton)
- 1 — bottle insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion; not aerosol), 6-9 oz.

Please purchase all liquids in plastic bottles. Send only new, unopened materials. [For those who already have the buckets: Put all items in the plastic bucket, packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape.] People are available to put together the kits if you want to send various items in bulk.

COMING EVENTS:

- September 22** – PW Fall Gathering, Prospect Presbyterian Church, Meridian
- October 5-9** – Mid-Council Leaders Meeting, Chicago (Susan Sumrall attending)
- October 16** – Small Church Conference, Grace Presbyterian Church, Mobile
- January 17, 2019** – Deadline for inclusion in the White Book
- 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 disbursed
- February 8-9, 2019** – Joint Presbytery Meeting with South Alabama, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, AL with J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the PCUSA as speaker. (Joint worship sessions; separate business meetings).

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.

Blessings and Peace,

Susan H. Sumrall, Stated Clerk
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