



Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others"

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

Volume XLI

Number 4

April 2019



Anniversary Thanks

The 110th anniversary celebration was wonderful. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Special thanks to Keith Cox and Ruth Lewis for the beautiful flower bed in front of the church that sets the building off. Also, thank you for the work of getting us prepared for the celebration. It was a delight to have Susan Sumrall and her husband here representing the Presbytery of Mississippi and I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to meet our Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Holland delivered a fantastic message with a twist I had never heard to the familiar story of the Prodigal Son. Dr. Holland when you read this, know that you are beloved by our church.



Again we will have a Good Friday meal and brief service, both being held in McInnis – Wharton Hall. The service will be designed so a person could come over from work for one hour, participate and

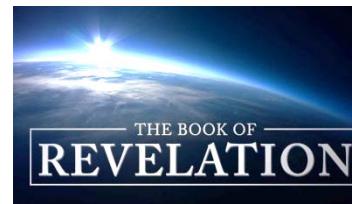
return to work. We will have a luncheon of Crawfish Étouffée for \$10 or Red Beans for \$5. Both options will come with salad, rice, cornbread and a beverage. All are welcome.

The Flowering of the Cross

Don't forget to bring flowers with you on Easter Sunday morning to Flower the Cross. There is a legend that the cross that Jesus died on burst out in blooming flowers after his death. It is a legend but for forty days of Lent we have been reminded of the cold, barren cross. Easter Sunday we will flower the cross as we arrive for worship. The flowered cross will be a reminder to us all of the hope of new life that is found in



following Jesus. The flowered cross is a beautiful visual reminder of the hope that we have.



For several weeks after Easter Sunday I will be exploring with you the Book of Revelation. Notice it is not the book of revelations. There is only one Revelation and that one is not hidden. The Revelation is that Jesus is Lord, not Caesar. The appeal to the churches of Asia Minor is to stay faithful even in troubling times.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

Faithfully,

Jim
•→←•

Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship

Please join us after worship on Sunday, April 21, 2019 for our Children's Easter Egg Hunt and our Easter Fellowship.



•→←•



Please remember the following in your prayers:

Margaret Alfonso
Cono Caranna
Matthew Favre
Family of Martin &
Jerry Gaspar-Norman
Alice Gaston

Chris Hathaway
Jamie McKenzie
Christine Poston
Judy Sawyer
Robert Taylor

•→←•



David Braud Jr – 4/8
Joe Holloway – 4/9
Amanda See – 4/14

Jeremy Schruff – 4/16
Jan Woodward – 4/20
April See – 4/24



GET TO KNOW US

By Susan Littell

This month we feature a couple that has strong ties to Long Beach Presbyterian Church, Andy and Judy Sawyer. Although most of you probably know the stories of their life's journey much better than I do, I found it very interesting and maybe those of you who aren't related to them might also find it interesting. (I say that jokingly since family ties run very strongly in our congregation.)



Judy was born Judy Prather in the town of San Antonio, TX on March 7, 1950 to Virgil and Thelma Prather. She has one brother and one sister and since she is the youngest she was referred to as "queen" growing up. This nickname was no doubt the result of having the run of the house and getting away with more mischief than her older siblings. Her dad, Virgil, served in the United States Air Force and, as was par for the course for any military family, was frequently moved from duty station to duty station.

As a result, Judy changed elementary schools quite often up until the fifth grade, which possibly led to her dislike of academic pursuits. She found more enjoyment socializing with friends. After her father was assigned to Keesler Air Force Base, her parents began attending Long Beach Presbyterian Church. She attended Gulfport High School and while there she met a guy that she would later marry named Andy Sawyer.

Andy was born on the west side of Gulfport on October 7, 1948 to Lenwood and Annie Jane Sawyer. He went all the way through the Gulfport District School System and met Judy in High School where they dated off and on for years attending various concerts and plays at the New Orleans Saenger Theatre. He was always very artistic and loved to draw.

Upon graduating from Gulfport High School in 1967, Andy volunteered for the draft and joined the United States Marine Corps where he served for 2 years during the Vietnam War. During the time he was overseas, Judy would write him to keep in touch and in return Andy would draw her pictures and send them to her as a way of letting her know he was alright.

When Andy returned, Judy accompanied his parents to meet him to welcome him home. However, Andy's parents were a little dismayed by Judy's choice of attire. Due to limited space in the newsletter I will leave it at that. After his return, they dated for about

a year and then Andy asked for permission from her Aunt (Chris Hathaway) and parents before proposing to Judy.

They have two very special blessings in their lives, their sons Drew and Mikey. What makes these two precious boys so special to their parents is the fact that they were both adopted. Drew was born on January 19, 1979 and Mikey was born on August 7, 1983. They could not be more proud of their sons.

Their oldest son, Drew, has a degree from Mississippi State in Starkville, Mississippi in Computer Science. He is currently the head of the computer department for Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Drew has also had an interesting journey himself which includes spending seven years in a Buddhist Monastery before attending college.

Their youngest son, Mikey, has always been very outgoing and has never met someone he could not talk to. From the eighth grade, he has been a math genius and also very athletic in high school having played soccer. He also attended college, graduating from Milsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi with a degree in business. He now works with his dad selling real estate and is an invaluable asset to the business.

Andy and Judy are a wonderful couple and have had a fantastic journey through life with both blessings and obstacles along the way. I really enjoyed sitting down with them and learning more about their story.

DONATE FOOD HERE



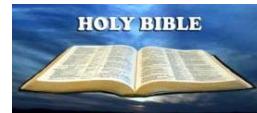
Your contributions of canned and non-perishable food items give support to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry which works to meet those needs. Please contribute by placing your donations in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. Donations are delivered to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry every week.

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 April are:

7th – Bobby Thomas
14th – Jackie Blackman

21st – Steve Dees
28th – Clay Hill



Looking for an alternative to writing a check? We are now accepting donations through PayPal. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/LBPC228> which is just a shortcut for <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 March we received \$689.41 for our outreach offering which was divided equally between Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah's House and the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence.
- The new landscaping at the front of the church was donated by Ruth Lewis and Keith Cox in loving memory of her husband, Chris Lewis and his mother, Bettye Cox.
- Due to Easter falling on the third Sunday of April, the next Stated Session meeting will be after worship on Sunday April 28, 2019.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Feb. 2019	\$ 5,761.65	\$ 4,210.32	\$ 1,551.33
YTD 2019	\$ 11,719.47	\$ 8,757.02	\$ 2,962.45



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 button to be notified when we post updates.

JUST FOR FUN...

Easter Word Search



eggs
bunny
rabbit
chick

spring
April
Sunday
basket

hunt
candy
vacation
lamb

gift
sun
duckling
holiday

Presbytery of Mississippi Newsletter

March, 2019

ELDER TRAINING – Saturday, March 30th 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, Pineville Presbyterian Church, 4476 Menge Avenue, Pass Christian, MS

This is training for serving The Lord's Supper in your own particular congregation in the absence of an ordained minister. The presbytery is offering this for our smaller churches that often have difficulty arranging for a visiting minister to be with them. Any Ruling Elder who is interested in this training is encouraged to contact Dr. Rob Lowry (Rob@FondrenPCUSA.org) or 501-773-5131. A number of Elders have completed the course and will be commissioned by the presbytery for this limited service.

CONGRATULATIONS – LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is celebrating 110 years of ministry on **SUNDAY, MARCH 31st** at the 10:30 AM worship with their former pastor, Dr. Charles Holland, preaching. A catered lunch will follow the morning worship. Presbytery members are invited to come and join us as we celebrate our past and anticipate our future.

PRESBYTERY YOUTH EVENT – A meeting will happen on **SUNDAY, MAY 5th at 2:30 PM** at Westminster Presbyterian in Hattiesburg to plan a Sunday afternoon back-to-school event for youth (6th grade-12th grade) in August of this year. Each church is invited to send a representative (or two) to the meeting. Please contact Christopher Crotwell or Tommy Suttle at Westminster by calling the church office 601-584-7574 to share your church's interest.

CERTIFIED EARTH CARE CONGREGATION – Congratulations to Gautier Presbyterian Church for being named a “Certified Earth Care Congregation” for 2019. They are 1 of 232 churches in the PCUSA with this designation; Gautier has held the certification since 2014. This is a program sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program for congregations that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God’s earth. The current designation is through February, 2020. For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program, visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.

RE-IGNITE WORSHIP GRANTS – New grants have been made to the following congregations working to improve their worship experience: First Presbyterian, Lucedale for organ repair and piano tuning; Faith Presbyterian, Jackson for new computer software and a new printer for bulletins; St. Luke’s Presbyterian, Jackson for portable sound system, LCD projector and computer; Gautier Presbyterian, Gautier for new signage and installation of same.

Approximately \$5,900 remains in the fund; join the 13 churches of the presbytery who have received grants by submitting your application today. It must be for something that will enhance your worship; not for salaries; and limited to \$1,000 per church. Submit applications to reigniteworship2018@gmail.com or contact Dr. Rob Lowry (Rob@FondrenPCUSA.org) or 501 -773-5131 cell.

COMING EVENTS:

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

March 30, 2019 – Elder Training for Communion, Pineville Presbyterian, Pass Christian 9:30 am

March 31, 2019 – Long Beach Presbyterian 110th celebration 10:30 AM followed by lunch

April 21, 2019 – Easter Sunday

May 2-5, 2019 – MS Presbyterian Cursillo, Camp Wesley Pines, Gallman, MS. Registration at www.ms presbyterian cursillo.org No charge for 1st time attendees.

May 5, 2019 – Presbytery Youth Planning Event, Westminster, Hattiesburg 2:30 PM

June 13-15, 2019 – PW Triennial, First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo

August 1-3, 2019 – Big Tent, Baltimore

August 10, 2019 – Presbytery meeting, Prospect Presbyterian Church, Meridian

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

Presbytery of Mississippi

P. O. Box 13451

Jackson, MS 39236

601-946-5858

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