

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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The Twelve Days of Christmas



We all know the "Twelve Days of Christmas" perhaps not by heart but in essence. Perhaps you enjoy the challenge of trying to remember every part. This

familiar song brings to mind the tradition throughout the history of the Church once Christmas began to be celebrated in the 300's A.D. The twelve days of Christmas begin with Christmas Day and end on the 6th of January which is the beginning of Epiphany. On that day Christmastide slips away and Epiphany begins.

Epiphany is the season in which the church makes known to the whole world the newborn Christ as "God in the flesh." The word Epiphany comes from two Greek word "epi" and "phaino". The two words when put together mean "to appear" or "to show forth." The season of Epiphany we are about to enter is given to the Church to uncover who Jesus is. So Epiphany forms the foundation of showing us what Christ has done for us. This "showing forth" will be fully revealed in the Christian seasons of Lent, Easter and Eastertide.

During Epiphany several events in Jesus' life will be highlighted including the baptism of Jesus where each of us will be given the opportunity to reaffirm our baptismal vows, the calling of ordinary people like you and me to discipleship and the authority with which Jesus did his ministry.

We can take seriously this Epiphany theme of "making Christ known to the world" by focusing on Jesus' way of witness to the world. Richard Lischer in an older writing suggested that Jesus witnessed in five ways that may surprise you.

1. Jesus was a good listener. He kept listening until he knew the heart of the person.
2. Jesus was concerned about the whole person: their body and soul.
3. Jesus went to people where they were. We can do the same: the bank, the grocery, the pharmacy and our neighborhood are good places to show forth Christ.
4. Jesus used simple words and common everyday phrases that anyone can relate to like "thank you" and "I'm sorry." He also asked questions

like "how are you today" and then waited and LISTENED to the reply.

5. Jesus loved people. Because of this love we are free to become more today than we were tomorrow.

Happy New Year to you all!

Faithfully,



Chris Hathaway – 2nd
Jan Gadow – 13th

Stephanie Schruff – 13th
Janette Dill – 29th



Share the Love FOOD DRIVE

Please remember our weekly support of the Long Beach Community Food Pantry by bringing items each Sunday and placing them in the collection basket at the front of the sanctuary.

Needed 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:



7th – Keith Cox
14th – Bill Blackman

21st – Linda Osburn
28th – Terry Dill





Please remember the following in your prayers:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Barnett Family | Matthew |
| Boswell Family | Tom, Regina |
| Cono Caranna & Family | & Isaac McCarty |
| Corcoran Family | Jamie |
| Billie Holzweissig | Ken Pell |
| Marta Halliburton | Peterman Family |
| & Family | Ramsay Family |
| Alan Harlan | Mikey Sawyer |
| Joe Holloway | Becky Schruff |
| Cheri Jung | Stacey Stone |
| | Mary Westmoreland |



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2018

Spots are still available in the Confirmation Class which will be starting February 4, 2018 from 11:45am - 12:45pm each Sunday (immediately following worship). The classes will also include homework assignments.

The classes will be held on Feb. 4th, Feb. 18th, Feb. 25th, March 4th, March 11th, March 18th and March 25th.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 during the worship service.

If you, your child or other relatives are ready to be confirmed please let Dr. Hightower know or place the name of the attendee in the offering plate and it will be given to Dr. Hightower so enough materials can be prepared.



Session

- In December we collected a total of \$422.63 for our Outreach offering which was forwarded to Rebekah's House.
- On December 10, 2017 a Congregational Meeting was called where the 2018 budget was presented and received and the required annual meeting of the Corporation of Long Beach Presbyterian Church was held.
- On Christmas Eve we collected a total of \$655 for the Christmas Joy Offering which is being forwarded to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- On January 20, 2018 the members of the Session will be attending COLT 2018, (Church Officer and Leader Training), a half-day program being held at Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church in Spanish Fort, AL. The event is being presented by the Presbytery of South Alabama which falls under the guidance of our shared Regional Presbyter, Dr. Rachael Knoll.
- The next Presbytery meeting will be held in Laurel, MS on February 2nd - 3rd and Terry Dill will be attending as our commissioner.
- The next Session meeting will be on Sunday January 21, 2018.

Treasurer's Report

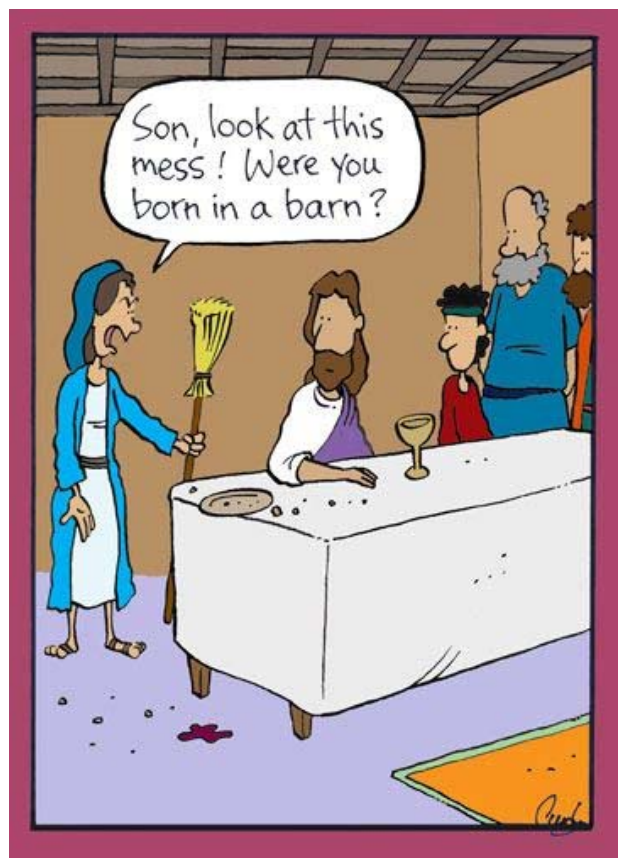
| | Income | Expenses | Difference |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| *October 2017 | \$ 5,220.83 | \$ 5,247.23 | (\$ 26.40) |
| November 2017 | \$ 6,142.44 | \$ 4,040.76 | \$ 2,101.68 |
| *YTD 2017 | \$ 60,221.96 | \$ 48,961.51 | \$ 11,260.45 |

*Corrected



Did you know?

In the last 30 or so years many people have commented about the beautiful stained glass windows in our sanctuary. These windows were installed back in the 1980's and each one represents a different story from the bible. Have you ever noticed that they are all arranged in a certain order? Facing the Chancel (the raised area at the front of the Sanctuary) the windows go from front to back with the Old Testament on the left and with the New Testament on the right. Can you identify all of the stories?



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And 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.