



# 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

<http://Lbpcusa.org>



## June Weddings and More

If you have not been invited to a June wedding this year it is likely not many Junes ago that you remember attending one or perhaps recall your own. There are



many reasons June weddings are so popular. They are not a culturally new phenomenon as they can be found in ancient history at least two thousand years ago. And who knows how much longer they were popular before that time. There were practical reasons for June weddings. In ancient cultures, and not so ancient, people bathed once a year in the calendar vicinity of May or June...warm weather you see. So if you had your yearly bath, why not go on and get married? I suspect it was easier to catch a mate if you didn't smell like a mountain lion!

Then there were the flowers. By June the flowers were up and were not only able to decorate a wedding festival beautifully they were able to cover any unpleasant odors that might still be lingering as well. I don't know if you ever wondered where the custom of flowers at weddings and funerals came from but now you know. For my funeral it will be okay to simply donate a gift to the church!

If a couple married in June the bride could have her first child the following spring. Most of us have heard stories of great grandmothers giving birth and being back to chopping cotton the next morning. After all, hands were still needed in the fields. They were tough out of necessity.

I am reminded that Holy Scripture tells of God as the bridegroom/husband. Throughout the Old Testament prophets remind us to be faithful. Jeremiah declares, "For your Maker is your husband, the Lord Almighty is His name." Don't break your covenant with your husband. Jesus is referred to as the bridegroom in at least two Gospels and Revelation.

As June unfolds and weddings abound let's remember that God has made a covenant vow with us as brides and grooms do with each other. Like any marriage vows via the waters of Baptism and the rite of Confirmation we promised to be faithful. We promised to love and to build up the Body of Christ. Husbands and wives live out their vows on a daily basis some days better than others, so do we in the Church. We too, rejoicing in our relationship with God, reflect that relationship in all we say and do. Married to God? That may sound intimidating yet it is one of the images given in scripture. Perhaps it is there to remind us how connected to God we are and how connected to us God is.

Time to go take my annual bath!

I will see you next Sunday as we celebrate Pentecost together!

Faithfully,  
Pastor Jim



Please remember the following in your prayers:

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Margaret Alfonso    | Al Littell       |
| Sally Boulay        | Jamie McKenzie   |
| Cono Caranna        | Maria Meador     |
| Matthew Favre       | Christine Poston |
| Family of Martin &  | David & Pat Ray  |
| Jerry Gaspar-Norman | Judy Sawyer      |
| Alice Gaston        | Patti Steagall   |
| Chris Hathaway      | Robert White     |
| Katherine Justice   | Marsha Willett   |



- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Janis Holloway – 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Maya Hightower – 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Diane Kerns – 8 <sup>th</sup>    | John Justice – 21 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Martha Thomas – 11 <sup>th</sup> | Abby Lyons – 21 <sup>st</sup>     |
| Sandy Ramsay – 11 <sup>th</sup>  | June Strahan – 25 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Blake Carroll – 14 <sup>th</sup> |                                   |

We will have our annual **Hot Dog / Pot Luck Fellowship on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>** in celebration of the **4<sup>th</sup> of July**. The luncheon will be held in



McInnis-Wharton Hall after worship. We will also be inviting our friends with the Resurrection Anglican Church on the Gulf. We will provide Hot Dogs, Buns, fixings & drinks and the congregation is asked to bring any other items such as sides, deserts, etc. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Please sign up and indicate the number of people you expect to have with you even if you are unable to bring anything. We need an accurate estimate to ensure we have enough hot dogs.



This has been a trying year for many of our members. As we were studying "God's Promise: I Am With You" the lessons have proven to be very helpful and encouraging. We are hopeful that next year more women will be able participate and receive the support and fellowship of the women of our congregation.

Our traditional lunch together proved to be more exciting than usual as some of us were delayed by 10 minutes waiting for the elevator to be turned on, but it ended with a good laugh. Our next meeting will be on September 10, 2019. There will be study but also a little laughter.

We will continue to prepare bags for homeless individuals in our community each month. During the summer, we pack 25 homeless assistance kits after church services on the second Sunday of the month. These dates are June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and August 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget others less fortunate than yourself when you shop. We are in need of soap, hand towels, deodorant, wash rags, toothbrushes with toothpaste, socks, rain ponchos, note pads, pens and any other items that you think would be helpful. These can be left in room 2 at any time. Remembering the words of our Savior, "What you do for the least of them, you do also for me." Matthew 25:40.



Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School from Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> when we will again be working with Grace Lutheran Church to present a joint Vacation Bible School at their facility (19221 Pineville Rd, Long Beach, MS 39560). This year will have a camping theme titled "God's Back Yard." For more information contact Grace Lutheran Church at (228) 864-4248.



Our LBPC Food Pantry is now in its second month of operation. In May we assisted 19 households containing a total of 50 people. If you encounter anyone in Long Beach who is in need of food, the rules are simple. Clients must be residents of Long Beach, MS and be able to verify that by providing something like a recent utility bill along with photo ID. We allow one pick-up of food per month per household.



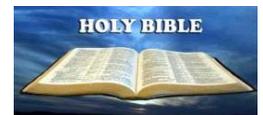
We are still providing support to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. We have now learned that the LBCFP is able to purchase canned goods through the USDA for only \$.17 a can. Donations of food in boxes or other packages such as boxed potatoes, pasta, dry beans, Hamburger Helper, etc. are needed more than canned goods. Your contributions of non-perishable food items help them provide support to those in Long Beach and beyond. Please contribute by placing your donations in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. Those donations are then delivered to LBCFP.



Suggested items include but are not limited to peanut butter, jam, rice, dried beans, 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, puddings, cake and cookie mixes, cheese whiz/Velveeta, macaroni and cheese, diapers and formula.



Our readers for the Month of June are:



- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Terry Dill
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Bobby Thomas
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Jackie Blackman
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Steve Dees
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Clay Hill



Looking for an alternative to writing a check? We are now accepting donations through PayPal. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/LBPC228> 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.



### Long Beach High School Class of 2019

We would like to congratulate Lauren Falks for completing this phase of her education and wish her continued success in the future.



# Session



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



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

- In May we received \$687.03 for our outreach offering which was divided equally between Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah's House and the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence.
- The next Session Meeting will be on June 23, 2019 immediately after worship.

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.

## Treasurer's Report



	Income	Expenses	Difference
Apr. 2019	\$ 7,528.76	\$ 8,261.86	\$ (733.10)
YTD 2019	\$ 26,872.00	\$ 25,336.55	\$ 1,535.45

# Presbytery of Mississippi Newsletter

May, 2019

**ANNOUNCING DR. CARY SPEAKER** – The Interim Regional Presbyter Search Committee is pleased to announce the hire of DR. CARY SPEAKER who will start working with the Presbyteries of South Alabama and Mississippi on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Speaker is currently serving as Interim Pastor at Government Street Presbyterian Church, Mobile, AL and has served churches in Alabama as well as serving as a hospital chaplain and pastoral counselor. He enjoys working with Habitat for Humanity, reading light adventure novels, and watching movies. We welcome Cary and his wife, Sally, and look forward to getting to know them.

**224<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS** – All persons interested in being considered to serve as a Commissioner to the upcoming 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June 20-27, 2020) in Baltimore, MD are invited to notify Susan Sumrall, Stated Clerk by July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Nominations Committee will present a slate of Commissioner and Alternate Candidates at the August 10<sup>th</sup> stated meeting of the presbytery. There are three commissioner slots – Minister of Word and Sacrament; Ruling Elder; and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD). Expenses for commissioners are paid by General Assembly from Per Capita funds.

The young person must be between 17-23 when the GA convenes; active in their local congregation; well-grounded in their faith; willing to listen and learn; and willing to work before, during and after GA. Those elected as commissioners will also serve on the Bills and Overtures Task Force of the presbytery to report on matters being introduced as overtures to the General Assembly for possible changes in the Book of Order.

**DIAMONDHEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH** has decided to go forward with the process to move to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). The presbytery commission will be co-chaired by Rev. Charles Bowdler, COM moderator, and Susan Sumrall, Stated Clerk. Keep this congregation in your prayers as they prepare to depart from us.

**MATTHEW 25 INITIATIVE** –Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222<sup>nd</sup> and 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

At the August Stated Meeting of Presbytery, each church is asked to bring a small table-top display of the ways they are meeting the challenge of Matthew 25. (Hint: check with your Presbyterian Women to see what they have.) We will discuss becoming Matthew 25 churches and a Matthew 25 presbytery. Please take the time to read about this initiative at

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

## COMING EVENTS:

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

**JULY 17, 2019** – **DEADLINE** for submission of items for White Book for next presbytery mtg.

**July 23, 2019** – 2 PM Cabinet Meeting, Westminster, Hattiesburg

**July 31, 2019** – White Book distributed.

**August 1-3, 2019** – Big Tent, Baltimore

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

**August 25, 2019** – Youth Back-To-School event 2:30-5 PM, Westminster, Hattiesburg

# JUST FOR FUN...

## The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.  
Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



X T O B P P H W G H X U E X I  
T G T F Z J V J Y I O C G M B  
Y B H J P X I L P F F U Z Z X  
L L E L E J O Z J M D E S I W  
I W R Y N H L A N G U A G E L  
S Q Z I T E Z F I L L E D A L  
J C C E E L J W H K K A Q D J  
R E G G C S F V Q A T L Q W X  
T Q S G O R W I E S O W H J M  
M D P I S H G P B O N J I V J  
F A I M T E S K J U G A R N H  
I Y R J N A B Y N N U H X K D  
R N I A E V W Q K D E E R L Z  
E L T R H E X M K Y S A P N A  
Z H O C R N S T F I A R K X K

PENTECOST  
HEAVEN  
DAY

FILLED  
FIRE  
HOLY

HEAR  
TONGUES  
SOUND

HOUSE  
LANGUAGE  
SPIRIT

WIND  
OTHER  
SPEAK

# A story fit for Easter



New Prospect Presbyterian Church

## New Prospect celebrates outgoing, incoming ministers

By **Tina Campbell Meadows**  
Managing Editor

DUMAS – Many people have read Christmas stories, but the New Prospect Presbyterian Church (USA) has a story they believe is most appropriate for the Easter season, which begins Sunday.

New Prospect is a small rural congregation on Highway 370 East about eight miles from Ripley and two miles before Dumas. The congregation recently celebrated the smooth and seamless transition of two ministers who enjoyed long-time associations with the congregation: Dr. Charles Holland and Rev. Bill Connolly. This tale of two old pastors/friends transition began on Saturday, March 23, when the congregation hosted a catered luncheon at The Peoples Bank Community Room to honor their long relationship during the past 26 years with Dr. Charles Holland on his third retirement from New Prospect as their Interim Supply Pastor.

His “last” Sunday with New Prospect was March 24. The very next Sunday, March 31, the congregation celebrated their “new” pastor, Rev. Bill Connolly, who has also had a relationship with New Prospect for almost 24 years.

The following is New Prospect’s tale of two pastors who were honored for their long relationships in service with New Prospect and what they all have celebrated as God’s continued blessings in a smooth and seamless transition as one pastor leaves and the other begins.

Dr. Holland has been a faithful friend and Interim Pastor for the New Prospect Church over the last 26 years. His three different terms of service with them includes 1993-1995, 2002-2012, and most

recently 2016-2019. His wife, Betty Guyton Holland, has also served New Prospect from 2002-2012 as their organist and pianist. After his second retirement in 2012, and during the ministry of the pastor who followed him, Rev. Howard Dudley, Charles was given the honorary designation as Pastor Emeritus for New Prospect. Dr. Charles and Mrs. Betty Holland are long-time residents of Tippah County. In fact, Mrs. Holland’s home church is the Ebenezer Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cotton Plant where Charles, a native of the Alpine Community in Union County, served as a student pastor.

Dr. Holland actually officially retired after 40 years from full time ministry in 1992 after having served the Long Beach Presbyterian Church in Long Beach where he was also honored with the title of Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Holland’s 40 years in active ministry also included military service in the Army Reserve and National Guard. He retired from the Louisiana Army National Guard as a Military Chaplain with the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1980. Like so many ministers after their retirement from full time ministry, Dr. Holland continued serving small Presbyterian Churches on a part-time basis in the Presbytery of St. Andrew, which covers Northeast Mississippi, including the Saltillo PC(USA) Church and Bethany ARP Church (at Bryces’ Crossroads).

The New Prospect celebration of his faithful, dedicated service on his third retirement with them was also a sort of belated birthday celebration for his 92nd birthday, March 12. But Sunday, March 24, his “last Sunday” with New Prospect, didn’t actually conclude



Rev. Holland and his wife, Betty.



Rev. Connolly and his wife, Deb.

his active preaching ministry because the following Sunday, March 31, he and Mrs. Holland traveled back to the Long Beach (MS) Presbyterian Church to participate in that congregation’s 110th anniversary service. (The follow internet link contains a video news story about that 110th anniversary and includes an interview with Dr. Holland: <http://www.wlox.com/2019/03/31/long-beach-presbyterian-church-celebrates-years>).

On Sunday, March 31, the first Sunday after Dr. Holland’s last Sunday, the New Church had a second celebration when they welcomed their “new” pastor, an old friend and another retired pastor, Rev. Bill Connolly. His association with the New Prospect Church began shortly after his arrival in Ripley in 1995 when he was installed as

the full time pastor of the Ripley Presbyterian Church (RPC). A few months his installation at RPC, Bill was named moderator of the New Prospect Session (the church's governing body of elders) by the Presbytery (the regional governing body of PCUSA churches in Northeast Mississippi) because the recently installed student pastor for New Prospect was not eligible to serve their moderator. Rev. Connolly's service with New Prospect as moderator of their session continued (much like Dr. Holland's) for various terms during Bill's ministry as a full time minister with RPC. Like so many small churches in every denomination, New Prospect had become an excellent teaching congregation which faithfully served as a training ground for new students seeking ordination or newly ordained ministers who usually only a serve a few years before moving on to larger churches. Thus Bill enjoyed a supportive relationship with New Prospect during his full time ministry of almost 18 years with RPC until his retirement with RPC on his 65th birthday, August 31, 2013.

Rev. Connolly's work of providing pastoral support with New Prospect at their different times of need for 18 years, also led to the development of a close relationship with Dr. Holland in their cooperative ministry supporting this the small, but very faithful, dedicated and loving congregation. These two pastors cooperative service, mutual appreciation, and friendship was also enhanced through their work together in the Presbytery and in their ministry of community service with the Tippah County Good Samaritan Center.

Rev. Connolly was one of the original founders of the Good Samaritan Center when that ministry began in October 1997. He helped with the organizational development, publicity, and outreach with other churches for volunteers and support. He especially remembers one of the most helpful early volunteers in helping him in this process, New Prospect Elder Jimmy Gaillard. Jimmy developed, printed, and donated many of the brochures, specialized stationary, and envelopes which were so helpful to the Good Samaritan Center's publicity and outreach in those early years. Dr. Holland was also a very helpful volunteer, and with their leadership the community mission oriented congregation of New Prospect became one of the first churches that began receiving special offerings and sending

volunteers to support for the Good Samaritan Center (as a number of churches in Tippah County have also done).

In addition to serving as the moderator for New Prospect during his ministry with RPC, Rev. Connolly also was called on to moderate the Sessions for four other small PCUSA Churches: in Tippah County, Walnut Creek, Falkner and Westminster; and in Prentiss County, the Booneville Presbyterian Church. Through his ministry with these small churches due to the lack of full time PCUSA pastors in the area, Rev. Connolly developed an awareness and appreciation for the growing problems small churches have finding part-time pastors, tent-makers, or elders who were willing and able to preach on Sundays. As a result, Rev. Connolly also became involved with the Presbytery's program to help church elders develop the skills, knowledge, and experiences to be commissioned to serve as tent-making/part-time pastors for small congregation who cannot afford full-time pastors.

Rev. Connolly's admiration for Dr. Holland's continued faithful pastoral ministry with small churches after his retirement was one of the examples that inspired him for continuing his service with part-time ministry after his own retirement. Bill had become so aware of the tremendous need for retired pastors to help serve small churches, he laughed when some people asked him what he was going to do at the young age of 65 after he retired. His answer was, "I'm going to preach every Sunday. That's what retired Presbyterian ministers do!"

So after a couple weeks vacation after retirement, Bill began supplying pulpits on Sundays for various churches in the Presbytery. Then he felt the call to serve two churches, Bethel Presbyterian Church in Olive Branch and the First Presbyterian Church in Byhalia, which yoked together so he could serve both churches as their regular pastor each Sunday. This position began in November 2013 so that he had a worship service at 9:30 a.m. and one at 11 a.m., since they were only 10 miles apart. Rev. Connolly would later say to people, "God has a marvelous sense of humor! I had said I was going to preach every Sunday after I retired and God worked it out so now I'm preaching twice every Sunday." The Bethel - Byhalia ministry continued joyfully and fruitfully for about four years with Rev. Connolly's regular service on Sunday's and part-time pastoral ministry during the week helping stabilize the two small congregations who

had both previously lost their pastors. In the Spring of 2017, he began to realize for a number of reasons it was time to consider extended time of rest, travel, research and study. After prayerful consideration, he gave the Bethel-Byhalia congregations four months notice of his resignation and after the Sunday worship on Oct. 1, 2017, he begin what he call a six month sabbatical.

What began as six months for Rev. Connolly, for a number of reasons, turned into another six months until the following October 2018. Then with the prompting of the Holy Spirit, he began considering a return to part-time pastoral ministry after the 2019 New Year. As Rev. Connolly describes the situation, the Holy Spirit began working on him and leading him to contact the New Prospect Church since he had already received a number of contacts from some members of the church, some of his colleagues at Presbytery, and his friend Dr. Charles Holland, who had advised New Prospect and Bill of his plans for his third retirement after his 92nd Birthday.

In late January 2019, he met with the New Prospect Pastor Nominating Committee and after coming to a mutual agreement, the committee then shared their proposed agreement with the Session and the Presbytery. The committee was delighted that both governing bodies approved the agreement for Bill to follow Charles. Now after his first two Sundays, March 31 and April 7, Bill recently said he has felt so empowered, excited, and energized by the Holy Spirit to be pastor for New Prospect that he developed a plan for the next six Sundays for the Easter Season which includes two guest speakers for the Sundays he and his family will be out of town for a previously scheduled trip. The following are the dates and titles for all who may be interested:

April 21: Easter: The Greatest (Ultimate Redemption) Story Ever Told.

April 28: "How To be A Christian WITHOUT BEING Religious."

May 05: Walking The Damascus Road, Guest: Ms. Lynn Tackett Byhalia Presbyterian Church.

May 12 : Mother's Day, Our Missionary Year in Peru 2018, Guest: Rev. Steve & L. Diane Hill.

May 19: Easter 5, God Answers the Saints Question: O God, How Long Before You Step in?

May 26: Memorial Day Sunday: "Greater Love Has No Man Than This To Lay Down One's Life."

(As a Veteran of four year active duty in the Army from 1967-1971, Rev. Connolly reported he loves to honor the lives and also the families of those who have lost loved ones through their military service on Memorial Day weekend.)

Rev. Connolly and the New Prospect Church invite all their friends, families, and interested community members to join them as, together they begin this new ministry chapter looking forward to the celebration of Easter - the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ, the Lord and Savior and the Easter Season.

Therefore, a very small, but loving, faithful, dedication congregation is very grateful to report their two very big back-to-back celebrations of a wonderfully smooth, seamless and exciting transition with two old pastor-friends who have both been so helpful with and in adding to New Prospect's fruitful ministry and long history of service with their faithful Risen, Living Lord who they celebrate provides for not only believers and churches, but also all who seek the loving Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit . All the participants and pastors from both these recent celebrations rejoice together in this story they believe is appropriate for the Easter Season and the also share in honoring the Living, Faithful God the old saying: "To God Alone Belongs All The Glory!"

The New Prospect Church is located at 6371 Hwy 370 East about eight miles from Ripley. Rev. Connolly's phone number is 662-587-6513. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and Worship follows at 11 a.m.