



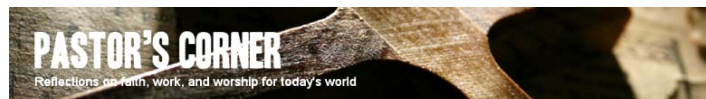
# Long Beach Presbyterian

# BEACON

*"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others"*

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## Easter Is Not Over Yet!

You may be surprised to learn that Easter is not over! In fact Easter will not end until June 9<sup>th</sup> when we celebrate Pentecost. So what is this all about?

Easter is not just one day for Christians to celebrate. Easter is a 50 day season...but let me start at the beginning. Let's go back to Lent. Lent was the time in the early Church where new converts learned the faith and prepared to be baptized on Easter Sunday. If you are thinking confirmation STOP THE THOUGHT. Many converts in that early era of Christianity were converted from paganism and knew nothing about the Christian faith. So the basics of the Christian faith were taught so that these adult believers were prepared to understand what they were doing when they were baptized on Easter Sunday.

Some traditions, mine included, often teach teenagers Confirmation during Lent today. Then the young person is confirmed on either Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. However communion occurs much earlier in the child's life. We believe that since a child is baptized into the Body of Christ they are able to come to the Table like any other baptized believer. In fact, every time we observe Communion men and women who have never been confirmed are welcomed to the Table. So are children.

Now back to Eastertide. Eastertide (the time from Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday) was originally a time to continue instruction of these new Christians so that their faith would continue to be transformed. That is not what we do as a part of confirmation but it is a good idea to think about. Confirmation, as this early Church instruction, was and is never intended to be an end to learning what it means to follow Jesus. It is a beginning. And Confirmation was certainly never intended to tell a person you don't need to come back to church again!

Today Eastertide is a time to learn about and experience what it means when we say, "Christ Is Risen: He Is Risen Indeed!" The Easter Season is also the time that we remember our baptisms and how through this act we are incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation. Near the end of the Easter Season we celebrate the birth of the Church on Pentecost. We recall the gifts of the Spirit and we pledge again how to live into our baptism as faithful Disciples of Christ.

No era of the Church has been more tested to live as faithful disciples than the churches in Asia Minor during the time that led to the writing of the book of Revelation. During the Easter Season in worship we will read their story and hear their message of encouragement to us. Civil government was asking them to say "Lord Caesar", rather than "Lord Jesus." We are called as well. Join us for this series of messages that are as old as the Roman Empire and as new as today's news.

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

Please pray for healing for Commissioned Ruling Elder Robert White of Pilgrim Grove Presbyterian Church, Newton, who suffered a stroke. He is at home and receiving physical therapy for the paralysis on the left side.

Cards and notes of encouragement are welcomed: Robert White, 160 Naomi Drive, Newton, MS 39345.





Jackie Blackman – 5<sup>th</sup>      Carrie Jones – 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Matthew Favre – 9<sup>th</sup>      Terry Dill – 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Alice Gaston – 12<sup>th</sup>      Judy Dill – 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Steve Dees 17<sup>th</sup>      Rosy Braud – 31<sup>st</sup>



As we are nearing the end of the lessons for the year, we reflect back on what we have learned. The most important of the lessons is remembering that God is with you and beside you throughout your life journey. Our responsibility is to listen for that guidance, trust His word, and show the action of our faith.

Our group is still enjoying helping those who need some assistance. We packed 25 bags of supplies and delivered them. We are also able to help those who are newly incarcerated with a beginning supply of personal products.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, at 9:30 AM. After this lesson, we will have our traditional lunch at Steve's Marina. We invite all of our women to join us for a worthwhile lesson, good fellowship, and a chatty lunch together!!!!



It is with deep sadness that we report Drake Ray, 8-year old great grandson of Honorably Retired Minister David and Pat Ray, choked to death on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. David and his family have worshiped at Briarwood in Jackson for many years after serving at the former Central Presbyterian in Jackson. Services were held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

Cards may be sent to the family: 625 Saw Pine Lane, Ridgeland, MS 39156



Our LBPC Food Pantry is now in its second month of operation. In March we assisted 15 households containing a total of 33 people and in April we assisted 16 households containing a total of 35 people. 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 bag of food per month per household.



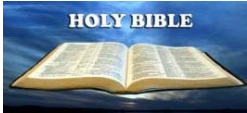
In addition to our Food Pantry we are still providing support to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. Your contributions of canned and non-perishable food items help them provide support to those in Long Beach and beyond. Please contribute by placing your donations in the basket at the front of the sanctuary. Those donations are then delivered to LBCFP.



Suggested items include but are not limited to peanut butter, jam, rice, dried beans, 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 May are:



5<sup>th</sup> – Tal Flurry      19<sup>th</sup> – Susan Littell  
 12<sup>th</sup> – Keith Cox      26<sup>th</sup> – Linda Osburn



We now have a wheelchair/scooter ramp available at the back door of the church. This second ramp has been needed for a long time and last week the Session approved the purchase. The ramp was ordered on that Sunday afternoon and unexpectedly delivered Tuesday afternoon. It has now been installed and is ready for use.



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.





Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School for 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. This year will have a camping theme titled God's Back Yard. More information will be provided as it becomes available.



The new Church Directory will be finalized and distributed within the next few weeks. This is your LAST opportunity to provide us with updates to any of your contact information. This includes any changes *within the last*

**YEAR** with your address, email address, home phone numbers (including disconnections) and cell phone numbers. We are not psychics and don't want to hear complaints about having published the wrong information if you have not taken the time to update it. Updating can be as simple as leaving a message on the church answering machine or emailing us at [LBPCUSA@outlook.com](mailto:LBPCUSA@outlook.com).



## Session

- In April we received \$611.00 for our outreach offering which was divided equally between Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah's House and the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup> the Session approved ordering a wheelchair/scooter ramp to be installed at the back door of the church.
- On May 26<sup>th</sup> we will again welcome the Rev. Van Edington to our pulpit as he fills in while Jim is on vacation. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Dees will deliver the sermon with Bobby Thomas administering communion.
- The next Session Meeting will be on May 19, 2019 immediately after worship.

### Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Mar. 2019	\$ 7,623.77	\$ 8,317.67	\$ (693.90)
YTD 2019	\$ 19,343.24	\$ 17,074.69	\$ 2,268.65



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.



# Presbytery of Mississippi Newsletter

April, 2019

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

**PRESBYTERY YOUTH EVENT** – A meeting will happen on **SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM** at Westminster Presbyterian in Hattiesburg to plan a Sunday afternoon back-to-school event for youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT** – The congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Lucedale invites the presbytery to a concert by the Youth Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Ocean Springs on **FRIDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-7 PM**. First, Lucedale used their Re-Ignite Worship Grant to have the piano tuned and the organ repaired and are excited to be able to share this musical time of worship with the community.

**RE-IGNITE WORSHIP GRANTS UPDATE** – There is approximately \$2,914 remaining in the Re-Ignite Worship Grants fund which will expire June 30<sup>th</sup> or when the monies are spent. Since the last newsletter, grants have been given to Pilgrim Grove, Newton for a new computer printer and microphone for the sound system; and to Westminster, Natchez for setup of their website and Facebook page. Additional applications are being reviewed.

If you need more information or need help with your application, contact Dr. Rob Lowry at 501-773-5131 or [Rob@FondrenPCUSA.org](mailto:Rob@FondrenPCUSA.org).

It has been exciting for me to worship in several congregations recently and see the grants in operation! Improved sound systems, tuned musical instruments, video presentations and live streaming all add to congregations' vitality and worship experiences.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS** – If you would like to be considered to be a Commissioner to the next General Assembly (June 20-27, 2020, Baltimore, MD), please submit your name to Susan Sumrall, Stated Clerk. Three commissioners will be elected at the August, 2019 Stated Meeting - a Minister of the Word and Sacrament, a Ruling Elder, and a Youth Advisory Delegate.

**SYNOD STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE** – The Synod of Living Waters needs your help in finding an individual or individuals to perform the tasks of Synod Executive, Stated Clerk and Treasurer, since our current Synod Executive, Terry Newland, will be retiring on 6/30/19. Attached are the three separate job descriptions. Interested candidates should send their resumes or PIF's to [slwinfo@synodoflivingwaters.org](mailto:slwinfo@synodoflivingwaters.org). A confirmation email will be sent to those who send in a resume or PIF.

**NEW ON-LINE CLASSES AT JOHNSON C. SMITH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY** – Christianity in America is facing a kairos moment. Old models of doing and being the church are being replaced with new ones. The prominence of the institutional church in the overall fabric of America has declined. Advances in technology and changes in education demand innovative modes of communication. In light of this, two self-paced classes are being offered:

*Speaking the Gospel in Public* is a course designed to equip Christians to speak and demonstrate Christ's teaching in arenas beyond the church's four walls. Cost is \$300.

*Why is No One Coming to Church?* Is a mini-course for anyone trying to understand the wider factors at play that make it difficult for churches to flourish today. Cost is \$40.00

For more information on these classes, visit [www.smithseminary.org](http://www.smithseminary.org).

**MATTHEW 25 IN THE PCUSA** – Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us. We are invited to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor. To learn more: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

Ministers and Clerks of Session, watch your inbox and mailbox for more information coming from the Presbyterian Mission Agency regarding Matthew 25 churches.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERY:**

- Family of John Willett who joined the Church Triumphant on April 7<sup>th</sup>; a memorial service was held in Pascagoula on April 12<sup>th</sup>. John formerly served Old Town as Commissioned Ruling Elder and recently has been doing some supply preaching at Gautier.
- Cathy Dudley, wife of John Dudley, who had complications from knee replacement surgery and is in the ICU in Hattiesburg as of this writing (4/17/19).
- Bill Fishinger of Gautier had knee replacement surgery on 4/16/19.
- Darla Ray, adult daughter of honorably retired minister David Ray, who is battling cancer.
- Judy Demarest, Clerk of Session, Old Town, Bay St. Louis as she awaits hand/wrist surgery.
- Diamondhead Community Church as they seek God's will.

All of our ministers as they lead and guide us, especially during Lent, Holy Week and Easter with the many services of worship. Help them be able to personally celebrate our Risen Lord.

## **COMING EVENTS:**

**April 21, 2019** – Easter Sunday

**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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the newsletter.

Susan H. Sumrall, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Mississippi

Blessings and Peace,  
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