

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others"

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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This month's Pastor's Corner is the second of two installments 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."

I will be inviting you to attend an after-church group on an upcoming Sunday to discuss this and last month's column. I hope these two months are enlightening to you.

The election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation According to the Reformed tradition, who is saved and who is not is up to God and God alone. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. As defined in the *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, salvation is understood to be "God's activities in bringing humans into right relationship with God and with one another through Jesus Christ." Salvation is purely of God's choosing and has nothing to do with your "good works," but rather with the faith God gives us. Even so, God elects us for service as well as for salvation. We may be called by God to a specific profession, to a particular act of service, or more generally to a way of life. The way one lives one's life as a disciple of Jesus can be a service of God and others.

Covenant life marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the Word of God. The Reformed tradition understands that God invites us to live in covenant. Through the ages we have broken the covenant; we have pretended that God wasn't there; we have shirked our responsibilities. Because we are in covenant with God, we are in covenant with one another. As Jesus summed it up, the first and greatest commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other

commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31). The polity (form of government) of churches in the Reformed tradition keeps congregations and governing bodies in covenant with one another, interrelating and working together, each for the good of the other, and for the good of the whole.

A faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation. The Reformed tradition recognizes that "going for show," instead of simplicity, honesty and stewardship, usually leads us to a misuse of the gifts of God's creation. In the face of burgeoning population and the depletion of the earth's resources, we people of faith, particularly in North America, must question our ostentatious lifestyles and hoggish consumption of much more than our fair share of the earth's goodness.

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. Reformed theology resists the urge to control God (as if we could) or to box God in. Any attempt to tame God, to define God according to humanity's finite knowledge and desires, is idolatry and must be repudiated. If we claim to know God completely, if we claim that our understanding of God is the right one and all others are wrong, then we have created our own idol. Likewise, if we worship money, or if we worship fear – being afraid to speak out, for example – then working for justice will not be on our agenda. If we worship God, then we must work to bring about justice in the world.

Faithfully,



Jill Lyons – 3rd

Martin Flurry – 5th

Judy Nides – 9th

Susan Hightower – 21st

Sara Parker – 25th

Wyld Strahan IV – 25th

Vance Justice – 30th



“God is with us in our uncertainty.”
 What a powerful message. As we learned in our October Presbyterian Women’s meeting, it is a strong but true message to be remembered. We all have times of doubt and questioning, but God is standing beside us, supporting us and guiding us.

We are continuing to gather needed items for homeless individuals. 10 bags for women/children and 15 bags for men were packed and delivered to King’s Kitchen. Many lives are made better by the love and kindness that Long Beach Presbyterian Church provides through this mission. Keep up the good work and remember the sign-up sheet in Room 2. Check it out!

Thank goodness cool weather has finally arrived and we can pull out warmer clothes! When you do that, REMEMBER we have the perfect place for you to put some of those things that no longer fit or that you haven’t worn in a couple of years. They can be used by someone in need. Please bring them to Room 2 and they will be donated to the Humane Society of South Mississippi’s Thrift Store where clients of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence will be given first choice and an opportunity to do some free shopping.

Don’t forget those old pairs of glasses you have tossed in a drawer somewhere. The frames can be reused and assist with Long Beach Outreach’s eye care assistance mission.

We want to continue reaching up to God and reaching out to our fellow men, women and children.



Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon

Our Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, November 11, 2018. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex where you can see what others are planning on bringing and indicate anything that you plan to bring. Please remember that everyone from the congregation is invited to come and celebrate regardless of whether you are able to bring something or not.



This year the Long Beach Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held on Sunday, November 18th at Grace Lutheran Church, 19221 Pineville Road, Long Beach, MS. The service will begin at 6:00 pm with a reception to follow.



Now that you’ve changed your clocks back one hour for the end of Daylight Saving Time, don’t forget to go around and replace the batteries in all of your smoke detectors.



Please remember the following in your prayers:

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



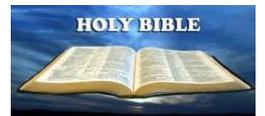
In this season of Thanksgiving we are reminded not only to give thanks for all that we have but also to share our bounty with those less fortunate than ourselves.

We thank everyone who continues bringing items on Sundays and placing them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary or by the door in McInnis-Wharton Hall. These acts of generosity will be transformed into expressions of Thanksgiving from the recipients.

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 November are:



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 th – Keith Cox | 18 st – Bill Blackman |
| 11 th – Jim Hightower | 25 th – Linda Osburn |



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 October we received \$706.25 for our outreach offering which was divided between Long Beach Outreach (\$282.50), Rebekah’s House (\$282.50) and Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence (\$141.25).
- The 2018 Stewardship Campaign will run from November 11th through December 2nd. Special giveaways will be handed out to all in attendance on each Sunday.
- On November 11th the sermon will be delivered by Steve Dees.

- The November Outreach Offering will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assist with victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael.
- The next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday November 18, 2018.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
September 2018	\$ 7,507.87	\$ 6,002.66	\$ 1,505.21
YTD 2018	\$ 95,722.08	\$ 43,733.94	\$ 48,988.14

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)



Visit Our Website



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

Find us on Facebook

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

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 October, 2018

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

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY, Jackson, invites you to the following:

*The Way It's Supposed to Be:
 Flourishing, Mental Health and Shalom*

Thanks to a generous grant by the Presbyterian Church USA, Belhaven is continuing their lecture series on the Bible and Mental Health with one lecture each semester in 2018 and 2019.

We are excited that on **October 23**, Dr. Ulrich Giesekeus, Ph.D, will be on campus for a community wide lecture titled "*The Way It's Supposed to Be: Flourishing, Mental Health and Shalom*" to be held at **7:00 pm in Irby Room 200** on campus.

Dr. Giesekeus is Professor of Counseling Psychology at the Liebenzell International University of applied Science in Germany. A doctoral graduate of US International University, San Diego (now Alliant International University) and the University of Delaware (M.Ed., B.AS) , he has been involved in research and teaching on Christian counseling for many years and authored numerous books.

Giesekeus is the academic director of the M.A.-course "Integrative Counseling" at Liebenzell University. He was director of the first "International Conference on Global Mental Health and the Role of the Church" in 2015 with speakers and participants from over 20 countries. The former track leader of the "Global Issues track" at several AACC World Conferences is now involved in the "Christian Care and Counsel" track of the Lausanne Movement, a global missions network.

*** CALLING ALL RULING ELDERS - ACTIVE AND INACTIVE *** The Presbytery of Mississippi and the Commission on Ministry are pleased to announce the upcoming training for Ruling Elders who wish to be commissioned to serve communion within their congregation in the absence of an ordained minister per W-2.0303 of the Book of Order.

Two dates for training have been set: (The date for the Coast churches to be determined.)
Thursday, November 1 (9 AM-5 PM) - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg
Saturday, November 3 (9 AM-5 PM) - Fondren Presbyterian Church, Jackson

Cost: \$25 including lunch and class materials.
 Deadline to register: Monday, October 15th. Pre-Registration required.
 Registration: Dr. Rob Lowry, robertwilliamlowry@gmail.com 601-982-3232, office

CONGRATULATIONS to the latest recipients of Re-Ignite Worship Grants: Ruth Memorial, Poplarville for "Glory to God" hymnals; Vernal Presbyterian, Lucedale for a quarterly Bible Camp; and Westminster, Hattiesburg for a consultant and workshop(s) on young adult worship. To date, eight of our churches have applied for and received grants to enhance their worship experiences. There is about \$7,300 remaining so think about how to add a spark to your congregation and submit an application.

2018 CLERK ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE – Just a quick reminder to all Clerks of Sessions that these forms are due back at Presbyterian Research Services (Perry Chang) by early November. Please let me know if you need assistance.

MONTREAT CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE-AGED YOUTH – January 2-5, 2019 at beautiful Montreat, NC conference center. We currently have room for additional people to participate. Please contact Dr. Christopher Crotwell, Westminster, Hattiesburg to register or to get more details (601-584-7574 or Christopher@WPCHattiesburg.com).

For more information on this conference see: <http://www.montreat.org/college/> Thank you to Westminster for subsidizing this trip and making it affordable for these students!

NEXT STATED MEETING OF PRESBYTERY – (Feb. 8-9, 2019) – There has been a change in the speaker for the joint meeting with South Alabama Presbytery. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is an American preacher, Seminary professor, and Christian educator. He currently serves as director of Adult Educational Ministries at Village Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He was previously the Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. We look forward to having Dr. Nishioka with us.

HURRICANE KITS are needed more now than when the last newsletter was prepared! Hurricane Michael struck our region with a vengeance earlier this month on the heels of Hurricane Florence in September. Dr. Rob Lowry will be making more trips to Arkansas 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 (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.

CARE CONCERNS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERY: Let's continue to lift up the following people and congregations. You may not know the particulars of the situation, but God does.

- ELLEN & CHAS JONES as she takes chemo for lung cancer;
- ELLEN & STEVE RAMP as she deals with Parkinson's.
- RUSSELL & LUCY THOMPSON and the congregation at First, Lucedale, as he deals with congestive heart failure and upcoming dialysis treatments.
- ROBERT WHITE and the congregation of Pilgrim Grove Church, Newton as he faces various health challenges.
- NORMA JONES, retired minister living in Vicksburg, who fell and suffered several broken bones recently.
- The CONGREGATION OF DIAMONDHEAD CHURCH as it is in a time of discernment regarding its future in the PCUSA.

COMING EVENTS:

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 Dr. Roger Nishioka 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.

Susan H. Sumrall, Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Mississippi

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