

# Long Beach Presbyterian

# BEACON

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

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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Volume XL

Number 5

May 2018



## Our Mission Statement

Recently an Elder asked in a Session meeting if Long Beach Presbyterian had a mission statement. After some discussion it was determined that we used to but that was some time back in the life of the church. The Session agreed that it would be helpful to have a more current mission statement. We also agreed that the Session would pray and think for a month and then see if anyone had a proposed statement to consider, at least as a discussion starter.

What is a mission statement? Wikipedia says, "It is a short statement of an organization's purpose, identifying the goal of its operations, what kind of product it provides, its primary customers and its geographical region of operation." Why might it be helpful for our church to have a mission statement? A mission statement would focus and direct our church.

The following month when the Session convened we again entertained the topic of a mission statement. Elder Osburn said she had been researching church mission statements and had one to propose to the Session. Great! So what was it... "REACHING UP TO GOD, REACHING OUT TO OTHERS." Immediately the Session saw the wisdom of this simple statement. A mission statement should be brief enough to remember and strategic enough to implement. This mission statement had both of these components. So after some favorable discussion this mission statement received a unanimous vote. This statement will help us to think deeply about our life together, it will help us clarify our purpose and help us see what is truly important to us.



Reaching up. The first question in the Brief Form of the Westminster Catechism is, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer is, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." In Reformed Theology all else issues forth from the worship of God. That is why attending worship on the Lord's Day is at the core of who we are as a church family. The study of scripture and the worship of God make us who we are as the people of God. In our common life together the hearing of God's Word through

music, prayer, scripture and sermon is the focus of worship. With our new mission statement we can ask the question when considering an item before us, Does this activity help us reach up?

Reaching Out. I am very proud of our congregation for many reasons. One is how we have enhanced our reaching out as a part of the mission of the church. We reach out through our weekly food drive for the Long Beach Community Food Pantry and our monthly Outreach offering which is split between several local agencies. One agency helps people with dental or vision needs and another helps homeless families stay together while getting back on their feet financially. That same monthly offering allows our Presbyterian Women to reach out to people in need of support in several different settings.

I am so proud of our Presbyterian Women at Long Beach Presbyterian being a praying, studying and mission oriented arm of our church. You have also reached out by a renewed enthusiasm to support the mission life of our PCUSA denomination. We have a renewed emphasis on the life of our Presbytery and the valuable mission offerings of our denomination. Now we can ask the question : Does this item we are talking about help us to reach out to others?

Notice the mission statement now being printed in your worship guide, in the Beacon and on church stationery among other places. More importantly print it on your heart. At the end of May and the beginning of June I will take a three week departure from the lectionary and do a three Sunday series on the new mission statement. I hope you can be here all three weeks.

Reaching Up and Reaching Out with you,

Jim



Bobby Gaston – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Steve Dees – 17 <sup>th</sup>
Jackie Blackman – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Rouse – 26 <sup>th</sup>
Lori Ann Carpenter – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Carrie Jones – 28 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew Favre – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Dill – 29 <sup>th</sup>
Kaye Taylor – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Dill – 30 <sup>th</sup>
Alice Gaston – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rosy Braud – 31 <sup>st</sup>

WEAR RED FOR  
**Pentecost**

**PENTECOST**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

As a show of unity, everyone is asked to wear something red to church for Pentecost on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church.



If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to welcome our two newest members Jerry and Martin Gaspar-Norman. They were both received into membership by the Session on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and we are very happy to have them as part of our ever-growing family.



The Long Beach Community Food Pantry has asked us to relay a big "Thank You" to everyone who continues to donate items to this important mission. What we may see as a small donation makes a huge difference.



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.



*Prayer Requests*

Please remember the following in your prayers:

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



Our readers for the month of May are:



- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> – Susan Littell  | 20 <sup>th</sup> – Linda Osburn |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> – Bill Blackman | 27 <sup>th</sup> – Terry Dill   |



The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.

Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

These lessons might be taught through a congregation's commitment to Educate a Child, Transform the World in ministries that shape a child's academic achievement, setting them on a path toward a stable future. They might be taught through one of the youth events sponsored by Ministries with Youth at the national church that brings together young people from all over the country to share their experiences of faith with one another, and learn how their faith can help them address challenges all over the world. Or our young adults may be guided through a year of intentional service where they discern God's call upon their lives by our Young Adult Volunteer Program.

And there is more -- Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at-risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults. We invite your congregation to join with the worldwide church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Won't you join us? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. We will collect this offering on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



The Women of the Church (WOC) wish to thank everyone for their kind and meaningful contributions to our continuing missions. On April 21<sup>st</sup> we met with a representative of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence which is a nonprofit organization based in South Mississippi. Their mission is to support and serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and family members of homicide victims. A check for \$302.30 representing our share of the Outreach offering for February through April was given to them at that time. Long Beach Presbyterian Church continues to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you, again.





If you shop on Amazon.com you can also generate donations to Long Beach Presbyterian Church at no cost to yourself. Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to the church on a quarterly basis. Our first year with the program resulted in \$122.48 being donated to us by the AmazonSmile Foundation.

The program uses your existing Amazon account so all you have to do to set things up is go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/64-0535185> (sign into your Amazon account if necessary) and select us as your charity. After selecting us as your charity start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

If you currently use the Amazon app on your smartphone to shop you can continue to do so but when it's time to Check Out, switch to a browser either on your smartphone or on a computer and go to [SMILE.amazon.com](http://SMILE.amazon.com) to check out. If you check out using the Amazon app on your phone no donation will be generated.



## Arts and Crafts at the Farmer's Market in June

Susan Littell will be displaying and selling her jewelry and crafts on Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 8 am until noon at The Farmer's Market in Long Beach. The Farmer's Market is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street side of the Town Green and items on display include jewelry, original paintings and drawings, and crafts of all kinds. The Arts and Crafts are a part of the Farmer's Market on the first Saturday of every other month.



- In April we collected a total of \$521.90 for our Outreach offering which was divided between Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah's House, and the Women of the Church mission projects.
- This July we will be welcoming Dr. Richard Gillespie as our guest pastor while Jim is on vacation.
- We are continuing research on options available to replace the flat roof on the main church building.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi will be on August 11, 2018 at Diamondhead Community Church.
- The next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday May 20, 2018.

### Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
March 2018	\$ 6,997.58	\$ 5,181.17	\$ 1,816.41
YTD 2018	\$ 18,437.79	\$ 15,853.17	\$ 2,584.62



Rev. Hightower teaches the children about being a Good Shepherd on April 22, 2018.



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



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 button to be notified when we post updates.



### PLEASE send us information to include in the Beacon

- By email: [Lbpcusa@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:Lbpcusa@outlook.com). Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.