

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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Lent 2017

As you read this it will be the First Sunday in Lent 2017. We will spend seven weeks walking to Jerusalem with Jesus knowing that the celebration of Easter is on the other



side. But I get ahead of my story. Lent is a season of forty days not counting Sundays. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because the early church saw each Sunday as a "mini-Easter." Each Sunday is a joyful anticipation of the Resurrection to come. During Lent the church says no "Alleluias." That is why on the 5th in the children's sermon the "alleluia" that the children decorated the previous week is being hidden away until Easter Sunday.

Lent is intended to be a time of preparation for the glory of Easter that we know is coming. Some people make sure they read their Bible every day during Lent. Others give up a specific item they enjoy. It might be a food or an event. Lent is a time of self examination and reflection. Out of that reflection may come the idea that to follow Christ more faithfully it is time for you to volunteer your time to a community organization that aids those less fortunate than yourself. Giving of ourselves to others is a powerful symbol of what matters most in life.

Lent is also an invitation to face the darkness or wild animals in our own lives even as Jesus did in the wilderness. The darkness may be anger, bitterness, unresolved hurts, dark secrets, jealousies, doubts or addictions. Rather than avoid the dark through busyness, entertainment or work, Lent invites us to slow down, travel through the darkness and open ourselves more fully to God.

Join me in the Lenten journey!

Faithfully,
Pastor Jim



| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Vicki Falks | Wednesday, March 1st |
| Linda Osburn | Tuesday, March 7th |
| Hilda Jo Salyards | Tuesday, March 7th |
| Sally Boulay | Wednesday, March 8th |
| Charles Holland | Sunday, March 12th |
| Katherine Justice | Wednesday, March 15th |
| Robert Osburn | Thursday, March 30th |



At the Called Session Meeting on February 12th, Martha Thomas transferred to our church from First United Methodist Church of Long Beach, MS. Martha is the wife of Bobby Thomas. At the Stated Session Meeting on February 17th

April and Steve See, parents of Amanda See, were accepted by Affirmation of Faith. We are thrilled to have these long-time attenders as formal members of our church family.



Christian sympathy is expressed to Joe Holloway and his family upon the passing of his mother, Edith Holloway, who went to her eternal rest on Sunday, February 26, 2017.



Don't forget to set your clocks **forward** one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12th. Those who still forget can always listen to a recording of the Scripture Lesson and Sermon by going to either our Facebook page or our website.

On Ash Wednesday morning, our Pastor Jim participated with several other local religious leaders in a drive-up Imposition of Ashes at the Long Beach Pier. Jim has been having weekly lunches with the leaders of other local churches and religious centers in our area. We may not all hold the same beliefs but we are all of the same people and this kind of outreach serves to foster a sense of unity within our **Community**.



The next Women's Circle meeting will be Tuesday, March 14th at 9:30 am in the church dining room. The group is led by Rev. Sally-Lodge Teel and is pursuing the topic "Who is Jesus?"



The need is constant. Give often.

Thank you to all who continue bringing items on Sundays in support of the Long Beach Community Food Pantry and placing them in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary or by the door in McInnis-Wharton Hall.



Our readers for the month of March will be:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 5 th | David Braud, Sr. |
| 12 th | Steve Dees |
| 19 th | Tal Flurry |
| 26 th | Keith Cox |



reading
Scripture

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW REGIONAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Dr. Rachel Knoll

The following is reprinted from an email from Susan H. Sumrall, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Mississippi

The joint search committee of the Presbyteries of Mississippi and South Alabama is very pleased to announce Rev. Dr. Rachel Knoll as our next Regional Presbyter beginning March 15, 2017. Dr. Knoll comes very highly recommended and we feel she is the right person to lead us forward. Attached is a flyer introducing Rachel.

The search committee included three representatives from Mississippi - Rev. Sally-Lodge Teel, Elder Susan Sumrall and Rev. Mark Flynn - and three from South Alabama - Rev. Joe Johnson, Rev Dr. Buz Wilcoxon and Elder Sue Martino - who developed a narrative description of the position, interviewed candidates, and unanimously voted to extend the call to Rachel. Our work was undergirded by much prayer and Bible study over the past two years. The Commission on Ministry of South Alabama interviewed and examined Rachel

and she was approved by the Presbytery of South Alabama on February 11th, 2017 at their stated meeting. Rachel will be employed by the Presbytery of South Alabama for simplicity of employment, payroll, and tax issues and will be a member of S. Alabama. Our presbytery will contribute \$30,000 annually towards her salary and receive 25%-30% of her time as approved by the presbytery in August 2015 and reaffirmed August 2016.

The search committee wanted the person to be more of a Pastor than an executive and we want the presbyteries to return to a more missional focus than a corporate mentality. In that respect, we are using the term "Regional Presbyter" and we want the following goals to be accomplished:

- Ruling Elders and laity in the presbyteries will be more engaged and involved in the mission and ministry of the local church and the presbytery.
- Congregations will be strengthened toward ministry that is reflective of the Kingdom. We have in mind such things as:
 - transformative mission work in the community,
 - inclusive, nurturing communities within congregations,
 - congregations that will find a "prophetic voice" in their communities.
- Congregations will be educated and energized to develop and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Rachel's primary responsibilities will be to the congregations within the bounds of the two presbyteries. An additional responsibility will be to participate with colleagues in the larger church. Functions of the Regional Presbyter will include (but not limited to):
 - providing vision for congregations and the presbyteries,
 - being a Pastor to the Pastors and leadership of the presbyteries,
 - providing training to presbytery leadership,
 - participating in denominational responsibilities.

The search committee looks forward to working with Rachel and we welcome her as a colleague and partner with us. Rachel looks forward to being with us and getting to know us.



Dear Friends in Ministry,

I am incredibly excited to have been chosen as the candidate for Regional Presbyter. I am honored, humbled, and look forward to serving both Presbyteries faithfully. I am also excited about the many possibilities we will have to be powerful Christian witnesses and a strong body of Christ in the world.



Grace & Peace,
Rachael

Faith Journey

I grew up in Brandon, Florida a suburb just outside of Tampa and attended the First Presbyterian Church of Brandon. The church has always played an important role in the life of my family. The church was a place where each of us were able to explore our God given

gifts and be able to use them to serve God and others in a variety of ways particularly, in the area of missions. Each summer, I would spend a week at Cedarkirk, a Presbyterian camp and conference center nearby. My experiences at summer camp were incredibly formative for my faith journey and relationship with Jesus.

I attended The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where I received a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs. During summer breaks, I would return home and work as a counselor at Cedarkirk. In the summer before my senior year, a mentor and Presbyterian minister suggested to me several times that I should consider whether or not God was calling me to seminary. Like Sarah in the Old Testament, I laughed every time she suggested it because it was my intention to attend law school. However, on my way back to Washington D.C. for my senior year I found myself on the campus of Columbia Theological Seminary and completely enamored with the campus and courses of study.



On June 10, 2000 I married Eric Knoll and on June 17 I began serving my first call as the Associate Pastor of Timberridge Presbyterian Church in McDonough, Georgia. I can attest to the fact, that was a very busy week! I was so fortunate to have a wonderful first call

and was blessed to learn so much from their guidance and our growth together. In 2004, Eric and I welcomed a son, Jack Knoll who has been our most fun challenge as we face the teen age years. In 2006, I resigned my position since it became clear to me that the new pastor who had been called intended to explore separating the church from the Presbyterian Church (USA). This was a time of great sadness and I experienced a real need for God's strength.

In June of 2006, I was asked to consider a position at McDonough Presbyterian which is a mere four miles away from Timberridge. Again, I laughed at this idea because it seemed rather absurd at the time. Ten years later, I have been blessed by a wonderfully strong and spiritual congregation. After finishing my D.Min. in May of 2015, I very clearly felt the stirring of the Holy Spirit encouraging me to be open to a new opportunity for ministry. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve both the Presbytery of South Alabama and the Presbytery of Mississippi as their Regional Presbyter. I look forward to new challenges and new things that God will raise up as we are in ministry and service together.



What Members of the Nominating Committee had to say about Rachael:

"Rachael brings a deep passion for the church, its present and future. With her compassionate spirit and pastoral heart, she will stand beside us as we move into the future of our Presbyteries."

Joe Johnson, chair, pastor of Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Dothan, AL

"Rachael's pastoral gifts, enthusiasm, and energy make her a perfect fit for our two Presbyteries"

Sally-Lodge Teel, pastor of Ruth Memorial Presbyterian Church in Poplarville, MS

"Rachael quickly grasped the new ways we are thinking about this role. She has the energy and creativity to serve well - in addition to being a delightful person!"

Sue Martino, ruling elder, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Mobile, AL

"Rachael's people skills; love for the church - it's structure, polity and future; respect for our traditions yet vision for our future; and her willingness to be challenged make her a wonderful fit for our way forward."

Susan Sumrall, ruling elder & stated clerk, Presbytery of Mississippi

"In our ordination vows, we promise to 'be a friend among your colleagues in ministry.' Rachael embodies those words in her ministry both in the congregations that she has served and her deep involvement in her previous Presbytery. She is a trusted leader, faithful pastor, and supportive friend. I am so excited to have her with us!"

Buz Wilcoxon, vice chair, pastor, Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Mobile, AL



Rachael, Eric, and Jack (12)



Session

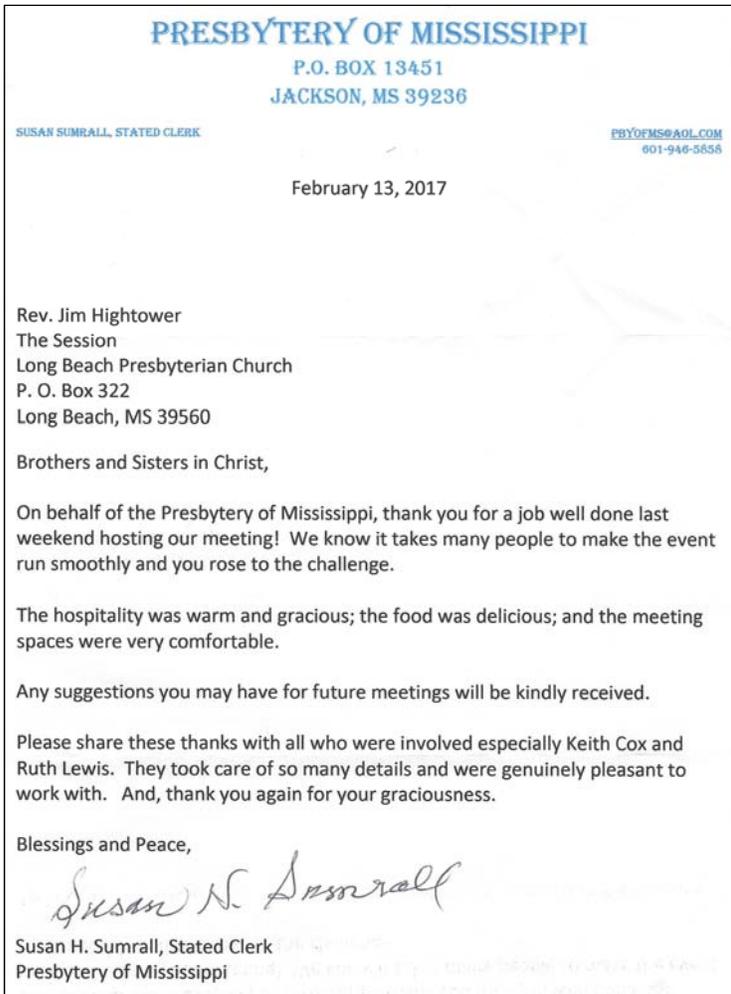
- We would like to thank everyone who helped us make the Presbytery Meeting such a success. You may feel your part was small but your impact was great!
- The Session approved a motion to hire a company to professionally strip, seal and polish the floors in McInnis-Wharton Hall. This has not been done since the building was rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina.
- Rev. Dr. Rachael Knoll will be the guest speaker at our worship service on Sunday, April 2, 2017.
- The next Session Meeting will be on Sunday, March 19, 2017 immediately after worship.

Treasurer's Report

| | Income | Expenses | Difference |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| January 2017 | \$ 5,989.77 | \$ 4,712.16 | \$1,277.61 |
| FYE 2016 | \$ 61,455.85 | \$ 37,237.83 | \$24,218.02 |

*Ever wonder why the Treasurer's Report is always 2 months behind? The report isn't accepted by the Session until the meeting following the end of a month. There are no official numbers to be published in the Beacon until after that meeting. *—and now you know!—*

We received the following letter from the Presbytery expressing thanks for our hosting of the February 2017 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi.



Our monthly Fellowship gatherings after worship on the *last* Sunday of the month continue to see a great turnout. Everyone seems to be enjoying the opportunity to take a few minutes to get a bite to eat, visit with friends and learn more about others in the congregation.



Visit Our Website

We can be found 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 Like button to be notified when we post updates.



The Beacon is looking for someone to help by writing a monthly piece for the newsletter. We are always open to printing anyone's submissions but would like to have at least one that we can depend on. The article doesn't have to be long and the subject matter is open. Please contact Keith Cox by one of the methods below.



Submit your content for future issues of the Beacon by any of the following methods:

By email: Lbpcusa@outlook.com

By hand: Give to Keith Cox, Ruth Lewis or 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)



We are asked to please remember the following in our prayers:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ann & Ed | Jamie |
| Barnett Family | Robert Jones |
| Blakeney Family | Matthew |
| Boswell Family | Tom, Regina |
| Chelsea | & Isaac McCarty |
| Cono Caranna | Peterman Family |
| & Family | Louise Ramsay |
| Corcoran Family | Hilda-Jo Salyards |
| Chris Hathaway | Sergio |
| Art Holzweissig | Mary Westmoreland |



The following pictures are from our impromptu bonus Fellowship on February 5th where we "disposed" of the excess food from the Presbytery meeting.



The deadline for submissions to the April 2017 Beacon will be:
WEDNESDAY
MARCH 29, 2017

To have the Beacon emailed to you, 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.