

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

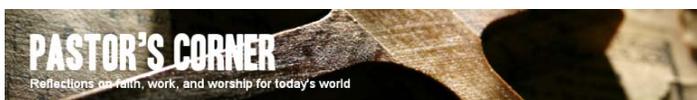
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Volume XXXIX

Number 2

February 2017



Even though I am part time at the church I do want to know what is happening within the congregation. Often church members are not sure when to call the pastor so this month I am using The Pastor's Corner to give you some ideas.

Call me when...

- you or a loved one are going into the hospital. It may be just a "routine" event or something more serious. It may be you went in through the ER and were admitted. Whatever the circumstance let me know so I can plan to visit or, if a visit is not appropriate at the time, I can be aware and prayerful for you or your loved one.
- you or a loved one are not able to come to church for a prolonged period of time. Pastors are the only professionals who still make house calls! I am glad to make a home visit. If you or your loved one would like communion brought to you please let me know and know how many people will be present so I have enough for all of us.
- you have a question, concern, or suggestion about something at church. Often a question can be cleared up just by asking. If you have a concern or a suggestion please let me know. I may not be able to implement every suggestion but your input is important and I want to know.
- you have a relationship issue or personal issue that is troubling you. Sometimes just a short conversation with someone who cares can do a world of good.
- you have a question about the Bible or what the Bible says. Questions often come up when you are talking with friends about the Bible or reading it yourself or even listening to a sermon. I love to talk about spiritual things so do not hesitate to ask.
- you know someone who would like to have a relationship with the Christian faith or someone who would want to have a relationship with a local church family.

Remember, this is not an exhaustive list; it is merely suggestive.

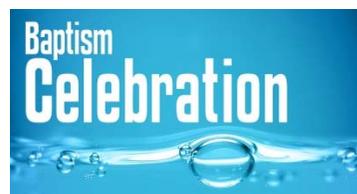
Now how can you reach me? Two ways for sure. My phone number is 504-615-2898. Call me. If I do not answer, leave a message and I will call you back. My email is JimHightower755@hotmail.com. I will also be spending a couple of partial days a week in my office at the church. I am typing this article in my office right now on a Wednesday morning. Feel free to drop in. If my door is shut and the do not disturb sign is out leave me a note or call me later. If the door is open stick your head around the corner and say hi!

I am grateful to be your pastor. Even though I am part time I want you to know I am available to you and care about you.

Faithfully,
Jim



Mitchell Blakeney	Friday, February 3 rd
Bobby Thomas	Tuesday, February 7 th
Katie Shifflett	Monday, February 20 th
Vivian Paniku	Thursday, February 23 rd
Michelle Blakeney	Friday, February 24 th



On January 22nd Lee Strahan and Ellasha Galloway presented their son Wyld Lee Strahan IV for baptism.



Please welcome our newest members Heather and Clay Hill along with their daughter Sarah who joined our church at the Stated Session Meeting on January 15th. The Hills have been attending our services for several months and are a joyous addition to our church family.



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.



Session

- Heather and Clay Hill, along with their daughter Sarah, were received into membership at the January 15th Session Meeting.
- The annual review of our church rolls placed our active membership at 41 as of December 31, 2016, prior to the addition of the Hill family.
- The next Session Meeting will be on Sunday, February 19, 2017 immediately after worship.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
December 2016	\$ 10,214.39	\$ 4,327.92	\$5,886.47
FYE 2016	\$ 61,455.85	\$ 37,237.83	\$24,218.02



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

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



Our readers for the month of February will be:

5 th	Keith Cox
12 th	Bill Blackman
19 th	Terry Dill
26 th	Bobby Thomas



Visit Our Website

Find us on Facebook

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.



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."



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)

The deadline for submissions to the March 2017 Beacon will be:

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 1, 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.

The following article has been reprinted from the Presbyterian News Service and reformatted to fit in this newsletter.

Rev. Layne Brubaker is the Stated Supply at Pineville Presbyterian, Pass Christian.....yes, we do share her with the Presbytery of South Louisiana.

*Susan H. Sumrall, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Mississippi*

Okra Abbey ‘cultivating community’ in New Orleans’ Pigeon Town neighborhood

Worshiping Communities January 31, 2017

PC(USA) New Worshiping Community unites work and worship

by Emily Enders Odom | Presbyterian News Service

ST. PETE BEACH, Fla.

Layne and Crawford Brubaker have taken church planting to the next level. Quite literally.

With Okra Abbey, a new worshiping community (NWC) located in the Pigeon Town neighborhood of New Orleans, the Brubakers, together with ministry colleague, Vincent Grossi, are more than just blooming where they’re planted—they’re cultivating community by growing not only vegetables, but also by nurturing faith and trust among their diverse neighbors.

And at the heart of their fledgling growth initiative stands a garden—reminiscent, not coincidentally, of another creation story.

“I’ve been working with this garden and have been a part of the committee that cares for it the entire time I’ve been the New Orleans Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) site coordinator,” said the Rev. Layne Brubaker, who began serving there five years ago.

The New Orleans YAV site is one of 15 national and 6 international sites for the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, a one-year service opportunity for young adults aged 19–30. At the New Orleans site, the JW Johnson Community School Yard Garden is one of eight available placements for the YAVs who apply to serve there.

“The neighborhood and the space kind of captured my heart,” she continued, “and while there were lots of opportunities to just give up on the garden and its future, I have always had an imagination.”



At the Okra Abbey, work and worship are intimately connected. This is worship in action as the abbey prepares for a neighborhood Christmas party. (Photo by Crawford Brubaker)

The NWC one-time Seed Grant provides up to \$7,500 for the first year of ministry to help start a 1001 community, for which the clergy couple was now more than ready, especially Crawford Brubaker.

“I think it was God’s sovereignty working out that Crawford was kind of stepping away from hospice chaplaincy and his work at that time,” said Layne Brubaker. “He witnessed my caring for the garden and because he was interested in it, he had the time to jump into it full steam. My role was the instigator of the new worshiping community, and now Crawford and Vinnie are taking the reins.”



Work as worship. Says Crawford Brubaker, “God made dirt and dirt don’t hurt!” (Photo by Crawford Brubaker)

So she and her husband Crawford—who met while earning their M.Div. and Th.M. degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary—brought their imagination, energy, and passion to “Go Disciple Live,” a conference sponsored last August by the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s 1001 New Worshiping Communities movement to get the conversation started.

“Even before that, though, we had already started pursuing the idea of becoming a new worshiping community,” said Layne Brubaker. “I knew about 1001, and hidden in the back of my heart has always been the desire to be a part of a new church development. In hindsight, I could see that I started pulling these things together—a great space, a cool idea, and the Holy Spirit working in it. I felt like I could get the support to go forward with it, so we began talking to Sara Hayden [a 1001 NWC coach] and we also put in an application for a seed grant.”

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(Continued from front)

Both Crawford Brubaker and Grossi, who was formerly a YAV at the same site, freely acknowledge the importance of starting small and being consistent.

“We started in September by offering one meal on Wednesdays at noon called ‘Grace & Greens,’” said Crawford Brubaker. “Sometimes up to 20 people come from a 6-block radius from around the garden.”

The Okra Abbey sees itself as an “urban abbey,” unlike more conventional abbeys that are set far apart from the people.

“But still in abbeys, you picture the monks doing work all day, and their work is part of their worship,” Crawford Brubaker said. “So when people ask us, ‘When do you guys have worship,’ we say every day—when we’re moving the dirt in wheelbarrows and when we’re planting the seeds and picking the weeds, this is all worship, as we start our day with prayer and we end our day with prayer.”

Historically abbeys are places and spaces that are often self-sufficient while using any abundance of produce or skill to provide care to the poor and needy, refuge to those who are outcast or persecuted, and education to the young.

“We chose to call it Okra Abbey because okra is a beloved vegetable in New Orleans,” he continued. “It serves as the base of gumbo and thus in the title of our worshiping community is a nod to the particularities of our context. If we were in Nebraska, we’d probably be ‘Corn Cloister.’”

The Brubakers, who were here in St. Pete Beach from January 16-19 to attend the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s 2017 Disciple-Making Church Conference titled *Abide in Me... A Spiritual Purging*, said that Crawford Brubaker and Grossi planned to start a second ministry upon their return to New Orleans, “Peas & Love.”

“We have these great bags that we made with the ‘Peas & Love’ logo and we’re going to fill them with vegetables and take them to homebound folks in the neighborhood,” Crawford Brubaker said. “We’ll start with maybe three or four people.”

A typical day for Crawford Brubaker and Grossi may be spent moving rocks, moving dirt, and giving water to the people who come by.



Children work in the garden at Okra Abbey ‘One plants, another waters, and God gives the growth.’ (1 Cor. 3:6 paraphrase) (Photo by Crawford Brubaker)



From left to right: Layne Brubaker, Crawford Brubaker, Vincent Grossi. (Photo by Haley Ingram)

“Many abbeys served as way stations where travelers could stop in and rest and receive nourishment for their bodies and souls before continuing on their journey,” said Crawford Brubaker. “Since we’re directly across from the Corner Store where everybody walks to in the neighborhood, they inevitably pass by the garden and stop in.”

In addition to being Okra Abbey’s executive director, Crawford Brubaker calls himself its writer-in-residence and a brother. He said that he has been writing liturgy and is hoping someday to have an Okra Abbey Worship Book.

“At the end of February, we will be sharing what makes Okra Abbey unique with our presbytery, the Presbytery of South Louisiana,” he said, “and I am looking forward to sharing one of our favorite vegetable liturgies with them, ‘The Passing of the Peas.’”

Find Okra Abbey on Instagram at @okraabbey or email them at okraabbey@gmail.com.

The Young Adult Volunteer Program is made possible thanks to your gifts to the Pentecost Offering.