



The Light

A Publication of Lowcountry Presbyterian Church

May 2011

Thoughts on My Retirement

To be honest, my plan to retire was not an easy decision. My sense from most people is that they cannot wait to retire. That hasn't been true for me. Setting aside what I have considered my life's calling has come with a mixture of joy and tears. For the last forty-five years I have been able to do what I have consistently enjoyed. "Do what you love, love what you," is very true for me. Ministry has been filled with much fulfillment and variety. Along the way I have served seven very different kinds of congregations primarily in the upper Midwest and two in South Carolina. We've lived in many kinds of communities: small town/rural, small and big cities and in resort/retirement. I've been a life-time learner and have had so many wonderful learning and life opportunities. There were several distinctions which I have been especially proud of, but now all of that seems to be quite insignificant, compared to my new calling of purposeful leisure.

There is no doubt that I will miss many things about my pastoral career. I will miss the disciplines of weekly preaching preparation and the affirmations often received. I will miss doing pastoral care and counseling with persons whose lives were touched and enriched. I will especially miss those persons with continuing health issues. I will miss officiating at weddings and memorial services. I will miss working closely with so many fine committed persons. I will miss just knowing that my pastoral presence would make a difference. And there are many things I will not miss. I will not miss the many things I felt responsible for, but didn't really have the power to change. I will not miss the unproductive meetings and the many deadlines. There are any number of things about which I have begun to say, "I'm not responsible for that anymore. I can just let go of it." And that feels really good. There are things that I wish would either have happened differently and/or that I would have done differently. But, that's life; we all make better Monday morning quarterbacks!

I like to think that I have received a new call to what I like to call purposeful leisure. I don't like the idea that I will not need to do anything. I'm going to enjoy spending quality time with my wife who has been so loyal and supportive of me and my pastoral calling for so long. We'll be able to visit my 91 year old mother more frequently and our four children and six grandchildren and hopefully attend more of their school and milestone events. We want to travel and our recent trip to Turkey only confirms that. I've always been an ardent believer in the stewardship of self-care. You'll see me at the fitness center and I hope to kayak our many beautiful waterways and golf our great courses. I want to learn better how to operate my camera, i-pod, i-pad, Blackberry, remote control, Bible and other software programs. I may also explore what it would mean to either lecture on or become a pastor on a cruise ship. I think I would enjoy being an audiobook reader. I plan to sell my many books on amazon.com. I love to read fiction and just maybe will try to write one, incorporating the interesting places, people and plots I've met both in my real and imaginary life. Before we moved to Hilton Head Island, I prayed "Lord, I'm a feather in the wind. Guide my descent." Our good Lord who brought us here may have other surprises that yet await.

It's been my special privilege these last eight years to be your pastor and that it will be here that I will become *honorably retired*. Every pastor leaves his or her own legacy. Barb and I have many happy memories and we cherish the time we have spent among you. We will continue to live in Moss Creek in retirement. We hope to remain friends and hope to see you often. LPC is positioned for a bright future. We are confident that our Lord will bless you as He has so richly blessed us.

Jerry

Women of the Church

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH (W.O.C.) RUMMAGE SALE, JULY 2011

Save your treasures for the W.O.C. rummage sale this year Friday, July 15, and Saturday, July 16, 2011 are the dates. You may drop off your items at Fellowship Hall Monday through Friday, July 5 through July 14, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Donations of CLEAN household items, linens, sporting equipment, WORKING electronics/appliances, furniture, NEW or GENTLY worn shoes (no old/worn shoes), and miscellaneous items. We will not accept: swimwear/bathing suits; underwear of any kind; socks; weapons; knives or sharp objects; old shoes. Sorry, no pick ups. Questions may be directed to the Co-Chairs Brenda Sommerfeld, 705-4851, or Kathy Griebel, 837-7427.



Volunteers are needed to do a variety of tasks. We will sort the donations, sort clothes, check equipment, etc. between July 5 – 14th. Come and work as much or as little as you want before, during, and after the sale!! Snacks will be provided to keep our energy up.

Remember: bring your donations only to Fellowship Hall at the appointed days and times. Please DO NOT leave items in Sanctuary building!

WOC Bible Study

The WOC Bible Study will be meeting in hostesses homes on Wednesdays at 10am through May and will resume in September. You may contact Doris Stratton, 705-6993, for Information concerning the group and its schedule. The ladies encourage anyone interested in an informal Bible Study, with a congenial group of women, to join the group. **Bring a friend or two!**

The next WOC Planning Meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 10:00am in the church parlor. “Ladies! Please come and join the group - make it Your Group! All ladies are encouraged to get as involved as you wish in the WOC group. Upcoming events to be discussed are the Rummage Sale and the Fall Fashion Show/Tea.

WOC Book Club

WOC Book Group will meet on **Monday, May 9th** at 2:00pm at Bobbie Gasser’s home, 14 Larkspur Lane in Sun City. RSVP to 705-9808. Following is a list of reading selections for the WOC Book Group for the rest of 2011. All women of the church are invited to join us at any time. We meet the second Monday of the month at the home of Bobbie Gasser unless otherwise specified. Maybe you will find some of these books of interest for your summer reading and join us to discuss them in the fall.

May - *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See

June, July, & August - no meeting

September - *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah

October - *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake

November - *Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand* by Helen Simonson

December - no meeting



Christian Education

Joe Bates, Christian Education Chair

290-4282 ~ lpcedu@aol.com

Summer Break



As the summer season approaches, it's that time of year when the educational activities of the church will be winding down. Sunday School classes, Bible study groups, Men of Purpose, and the Youth Group will all be taking a break after their last sessions around the Memorial Day weekend. Nursery and child care will of course continue to be provided during the summer months at the single Sunday service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The upcoming Vacation Bible School will be the main activity for the summer educational program. Plans are already well under way with the next organizational meeting to be held on Monday, May 9th at 2:00 p.m. in the Rose Room. VBS will be held the first week of August from August 1-5. Registration will begin in June. Volunteers are always needed and welcome for this fun program. Call Joe Bates at 290-4282 or Linda Robertson at 645-6364 for information about the program and opportunities to volunteer.



Looking Ahead to the Fall



Classes and Bible study groups will resume the week after Labor Day. The Adult Sunday School Class will be beginning new studies on Romans and Revelation. A great time to join the class! The Men's and Women's adult Bible study groups as well as the Youth Group will resume in the fall with new leadership. Our special thanks to Jodi Butterworth who has so faithfully dedicated her time and energy in leading our Youth Group program!

Contact Me

Although the Education program will be on break for the summer, please continue to feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, or questions on e-mail at lpcedu@aol.com or phone: 843-290-4282.

WHEW!!! What a busy Spring we're having!! Easter Week not only brought the last of the Lenten Series, we were host to the last Lenten luncheon on Ash Wednesday. Maundy Thursday brought us The Seder .

NOW, we go forward to May 9th, our next M & M Night and Mortgage Burning Celebration, soon to be followed by the bittersweet end of a journey for Pastor Jerry, May 22nd, his last Sunday as our Minister and the beginning of his retirement. We will have a farewell reception following the Sunday service, details to come soon!! Please mark your calendar for both:

M & M – MEET 'N MINGLE

~ as well as ~

MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION

Monday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner – Fellowship Hall

Mortgage Burning Events: In/Out of Sanctuary

COMFORT FOOD MENU:

Grilled Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, (& all the fixins'),
baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, & finger lickin' fun dessert!

Many thanks to those who donated grills!!



FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR JERRY (AND
BARB)

May 22nd, immediately following the 10:00 Service

Location: Offsite – still to be determined

Details coming SOON!!!!!!

*THANK YOU to all who participated in any way to make the
Maundy Thursday 'Seder' experience meaningful and inspiring
for the 82 who attended! A special thanks to Judy Ferguson and*

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE/SNACK TIME IS WAITING FOR YOU!

Have you provided the "goodies" we have on Sunday mornings or just been the Host/Hostess who sets everything out, serves and cleans up? Well, if not, what are you waiting for? It's such a simple way to serve and have a good time 'catching up' or 'meeting' your fellow church members, and more importantly, 'greet a visitor' and give that LPC special greeting! A great way for you and your spouse or friend to serve together. Requirements on food? Just provide! Some bake, others buy! Either way works!! The food is secondary – the fellowship is primary!

Take the time to sign-up ~ WE WANT you!!!

Clerk of Session

Jo Stephey

jostephey@gmail.com 705-5525

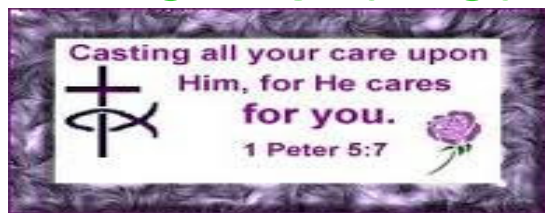
The regular Stated Session meeting was held on Monday, April 18 in the Rose Room. Some of the actions taken were:

- Approved minutes from the March 20, 2011 Called Congregational Meeting.
- Approved minutes from the March 21, 2011 Stated Session Meeting.
- Approved membership changes of 3 new members and 1 transfer to inactive status due to relocation out of the area.
- Approved terms for Dr. Lu Lunardini to serve as temporary supply pastor from May 27, 2011 to Aug. 18, 2011.
- Approved design of new sign to be erected near the intersection of the new service road and Simonsville Road. Funds were set aside from the road widening proceeds for the sign. It should be installed in 20-60 days and will allow for changeable messages.
- Received report from the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee on their progress in locating candidates for the interim position.
- Approved letter to be sent to Christian Heritage Montessori School regarding the changes effective 8/1/2011 regarding rooms 6, 7 and 8.
- Approved the summer worship schedule of one service per Sunday at 9:30am.
- Received update on plans for the mortgage burning ceremony on May 9.
- Received financial report from treasurer that receipts exceeded the budget for the month of March although the year-to-date total is still below budget. Expenses are pretty much on track.
- Received report from Ann Puls on the Presbytery meeting held 3/31 for the purpose of voting on 3 proposed amendments. Results of vote were 1) proposal on NFOG passed 53 to 51; 2) proposal regarding Belhar Confession passed 69 to 36 and 3) proposal on new wording pertaining to the ordination of Deacons, Elders and Ministers did not pass (49 for, 55 against).

Our next Stated Session meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2011 in the Rose Room at 7 pm. Unless declared an Executive Session, any interested members of the congregation are welcome to attend as observers.

Jo Stephey

The Congregational Meeting for electing a new elder will be after the FIRST service on May 1st.



The LPC Christian Caring Committee

touches the lives of many members every day of the year. This ministry, with the mission of providing comfort to those who have "rough spots" in their lives, quietly provides support just as Jesus

did for the people who came in contact with Him. This ministry communicates the need for prayerful support to those who are ill, homebound, lonesome, cumbered with overwhelming burdens of all sorts.

Help is available regardless of church membership. If you know of any of our members who will be having surgery, or going into the hospital, or moving to a nursing facility, or is going to be homebound for any reason, please notify the church office so we can make sure someone from the church contacts them.

Pastoral Care Ministry is available for those in need. The ministry volunteers are dedicated to visiting congregants in need to provide comfort, consideration and prayer. Thank you so much for the volunteers who have stepped up to join the team to visit those in need in homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities. Families and friends of congregants in need should notify the church office to request a Pastoral Care member visit. lpcoffice1@hargray.com or 815-6570

Greeting Card Ministry - Carol Fleisher

The group of gals who send greeting cards are: Linda Fischer, Carol Fleisher, Carolyn Kline, Judy Thorpe, and Alice Yancey. This group sends greeting cards to those who are ill, in the hospital, or have suffered a loss. This generally happens automatically when a call comes into the church office. However, if you know of anyone deserving of a card, for any other reason; i.e., *thinking of you*, etc., please contact Carol at 705-5322 or cfleisher@sc.rr.com.



Flower Ministry

– Emily Bortz

What happens to the beautiful flower arrangements that grace our Sunday services each Sunday? Why, they're fashioned into two (sometimes more) little bouquets and delivered to church folk or friends in need of some cheering or recognition. The members who deliver these flowers are: Emily Bortz, Hazel Burgler, Connie Davidson, Joy Guyer, Andy Hoerner, Lois Johnson, Marge Lantz, Kathy Lindabery, Barbara McNeil, Fran Parker, Dorothy Schroepfer, Nancy Spears, Doris Stratton, Maggie Taylor, Joan Watson and Joy Walker. If you would like to help with this ministry, either by arranging or delivering please contact me at 705-5472 or emilybortz@hargray.com.



The Stephen Ministry Program is a vital and very active ministry at Lowcountry Presbyterian. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to provide one-on-one Christian friendship to anyone experiencing difficult times. Please stop by the table in the narthex featuring the *Stephen Ministry* banner and photo gallery.

Worship & Music

Bill Taylor, Worship & Music Chair

wmtaylor@hargray.com ~ 208-2468

As of this date we will have brought an end to our Easter Celebration at Low Country. This Season was especially busy for much of our Committee, as well as all the many volunteers who make the difference for our many special Worship Services that are so meaningful to all who attend during one of the most sacred times in the life of our church.



Palm Sunday was one of the most joyous and beautiful in memory with our full choir doing The Cantata. Kiah, Mary Sue and the entire choir gave a truly outstanding performance ~ one that should be remembered for some time to come!

The noon Lenten series, which was so meaningful, ended on April 20th with Low Country as Host with a luncheon following. The next evening we celebrated Maundy Thursday with a very unique Seder Dinner led by , our outside resource, Judy Ferguson, which included a variety of “different” dishes, followed by Communion by Intinction to end a most memorable evening.



Our Easter services were well attended and most inspiring. The Sanctuary was adorned with an array of beautiful plants donated by our LPC members in honor or in memory of loved ones.

The W & M Committee, along with full Session have decided that the summer schedule at LPC should revert back to **ONE** Service, beginning Sunday, May 29th which will officially begin our summer schedule, with a starting time of 9:30 A.M., coffee hour immediately following.

There were numerous reasons for taking this direction from having TWO as we did last year: it is believed by most that these weeks will help to “blend” our membership as many who principally go to one hour of Worship may not really know those who go to the other. We are prayerful that this will have a positive effect on all who are here and attend during the summer months.

There will also be only **ONE** Service May 22nd, at 10:00 A.M., which will be Pastor Kramer’s last Sunday. The Committee continues to encourage our membership/visitors to please wear your names tags and sign the attendance pads as they are passed in the pews, as it is extremely important to know that YOU are worshipping at LPC on a regular basis.

The W & M Committee continues to encourage as many of you as possible to be INVOLVED with the many different responsibilities we are charged every week to fill. By doing so will only help each of you to become better acquainted with another member or visitor who you may not know all that well.

Blessings to All and for the Committee,
Bill Taylor, Elder



Baptism

Caralynn Jane Scott, daughter of Charles and Jane (Wyatt) Scott, born April 22, 2008 was baptized March 27, 2011

May Birthdays



<i>Joe Bates</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Keith Blair</i>	<i>8</i>	
<i>George McCartney</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Dianne Couper</i>	<i>8</i>	
<i>John Reneau</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>David Simpson</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Harold Edwards</i> 22
<i>Tony Pannozzo</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Don Knoll</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Jack Alexander</i> 23
<i>Fran Parker</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Jane Snyder</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Carolyn Alexander</i>
<i>Dave Casperson</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Chad Grayson</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Terry Parker</i> 23
<i>Carol Mock</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Bette Hammer</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Doug Scharp</i> 25
<i>Greg Bemister</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Evelyn Blizzard</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Kris Mak</i> 26
<i>Dottie Frear</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Brenda Sell</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Roger Bunker</i> 27
<i>Sharon Stauffer</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Gail Henderson</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Bob Bashore</i> 28
<i>Nancy Spears</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Naomi Davis</i>	<i>22</i>	

Member Prayer List

Please keep them in your thoughts & prayers

Jack Alexander
Peggy Audet
Roger Bunker
Marjorie Cain
Joy Fall
Hank Gureck

Jim Hale
Kay Hollinger
Kathy Lapp
Ross Legler
Paul & Fran Marshall
Joann McElravy

Mary Mitchell
Joan Mullins
Connie Plumstead
Rod Pittenger
Ed Swift
Bill Tietjen
Frank Waller

Ann Puls, Missions Co-Chair

anncrp@aol.com ~ 705-9119

Bobbie Gasser, Missions Co-Chair

rdgasser@hargray.com ~ 705-9808

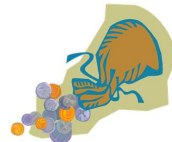


CAROLINA HOUSE "HYMN SING"

Sunday, May 15th from 9:45-10:15am

Anyone who can carry a tune is welcome.
Even if you cannot sing, you are welcome to
help hand out the music to the grateful
residents. **Come! Sing along!**

*"The Change Can Make
a Change Offering" this
month goes to
Presbyterian Homes.
Please bring
your change
on Sunday,
May 8th.*



PIERRE FERRARI

13 April 2011

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Kramer
Lowcountry Presbyterian Church
10 Simmonsville Rd.
Bluffton, SC 55122

Dear Rev. Kramer,

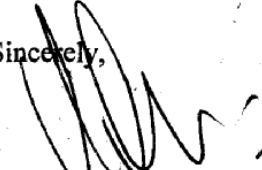
Thank you so much for your congregation's generous giving to Heifer's mission. The economy continues to show signs of recovery but still struggles to find its spark; more than ever we are grateful for our sustaining donors.

Around the world events seem to overtake us with blinding speed. The civil unrest in Libya, still in doubt, could be over in minutes or weeks. We just can't know. We saw, to our horror—within minutes—a large part of one of the most highly industrialized nations in the world turned to ruins.

In the face of uncertainties about politics, Mother Nature and economics, Heifer leadership has decided to claim certainty and faith in our model to lead communities out of hunger and poverty by scaling up our work to emphasize larger projects assisting one thousand families rather than one hundred.

We know we cannot do this alone. We will rely on partnerships, previously existing and new NGO relationships and, of course, our donor partners. Thank you for joining us in our mission to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. Please contact us at 888-5hunger if we can help you with any resources you need to continue your good work.

Sincerely,


Pierre Ferrari
CEO, Heifer International



May

2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>1 Communion 8:30am & 10:30am Congregational Meeting 9:30am</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 <i>Women's Bible Study 10am-RR</i> <i>Jubilate Ringers 12:30pm—S</i> <i>Stephen Ministry 6pm—RR</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Men's Bible Study 8:30am—RR</i> <i>WOC Bible Study Offsite 10am</i> <i>Finance Committee 6:30pm</i> <i>Yoga 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Jubilate Ringers 5:15pm—S</i> <i>Choir 7pm—S</i></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 <i>Men of Purpose 7:45 am RR</i></p>
<p>8 <i>Jubilate Ringers</i></p> 	<p>9 <i>M&M Night & Mortgage Burning 5:30pm</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Women's Bible Study 10am-RR</i> <i>Jubilate Ringers 12:30pm—S</i></p>	<p>11 <i>Men's Bible Study 8:30am—RR</i> <i>WOC Bible Study Offsite 10am</i> <i>Yoga 6:00pm</i> <i>Youth Group 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>12 <i>Choir 7pm—S</i></p>	<p>13 <i>7:00pm - S&FH Temple Oseh Shalom</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Men of Purpose 7:45 am RR</i> <i>Temple Oseh Shalom FH</i></p>
<p>15 <i>Carolina House Hymn Sing 9:45 - 10:15am</i></p>	<p>16 <i>Session Meeting 7pm—RR</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Women's Bible Study 10am-RR</i> <i>Stephen Ministry 6pm—RR</i></p>	<p>18 <i>Men's Bible Study 8:30am—RR</i> <i>WOC Bible Study Offsite 10am</i> <i>Yoga 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>19 <i>Choir 7pm—S</i></p>	<p>20 <i>WOC Meeting 10am</i> <i>7:00pm - S&FH Temple Oseh Shalom</i></p>	<p>21 <i>Men of Purpose 7:45 am RR</i></p>
<p>22 <i>One Service at 10:00am</i> <i>Jerry's Retirement Party</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>Women's Bible Study 10am-RR</i></p>	<p>25 <i>Men's Bible Study 8:30am—RR</i> <i>WOC Bible Study Offsite 10am</i> <i>Yoga 6:00pm</i> <i>Youth Group 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>26 <i>Strategic Planning 3pm RR</i> <i>Choir 7pm—S</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 <i>Men of Purpose 7:45 am RR</i></p>
<p>29 <i>Begin Summer Schedule One Service at 9:30am</i></p>	<p>30 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i></p> 	<p>31 <i>Women's Bible Study 10am-RR</i> <i>Jubilate Ringers 12:30pm—S</i></p>				

Summer Preaching at Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, Bluffton, S.C.

The Rev. Louis S. Lunardini., Honorably Retired Minister Member, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

Sunday, May 29, 2011—Easter VI

St. John 14.18-27

The Blessing of an Untroubled Heart

Sunday, June 5, 2011—Easter VII (HOLY COMMUNION)

St. John 17.1-11

The Comfort of the Gospel

Sunday, June 12, 2011 (PENTECOST)

St. John 7.37-52

The Challenge of the Gospel

Sunday, June 19, 2011 (TRINITY SUNDAY)

St. Matthew 28.1-10, 16-20

The Christ of the Gospel

Sunday, June 26, 2011

St. Matthew 10.32-42

A Love That Never Lets Go

Sunday, July 3, 2011 (HOLY COMMUNION)

St. Matthew 11.25-30

Easy Living

Sunday, July 10, 2011

St. Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Against All Odds

Sunday, July 17, 2011

St. Matthew 13.24-30, 44-53

The Power of a Faith Like Yours

Sunday, July 24, 2011

Hebrews 12.1, 2; St. John 16. 25-32

Invitation to Joy

Sunday, July 31, 2011

St. Matthew 14.13-21

Bread for the World

Sunday, August 7, 2011 (HOLY COMMUNION)

St. Matthew 14.22-33

Think Outside the Boat

Sunday, August 14, 2011

St. Matthew 15.21-28

Getting What We Want, Receiving What We Need

Sunday, August 21, 2011

St. Matthew 16.13-20, 24-26

The Church of Our Dreams

Sunday, August 28, 2011

St. Matthew 5.13-20

How Good Do I Have To Be?

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church
10 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, SC 29910-5920



Let's Please Christ

Love the Word, Please the Lord, Care for Others
LPC.....Let's Please Christ

STAFF

Jerry Kramer.....Pastor
Home: (843) 706-2015
Email: LPCpastorkramer1@hargray.com

Christy James.....Office Manager

Gayle Myers.....Financial Assistant

Kiah O'Brien.....Choir Director

Mary Sue Pico..... Organist/Pianist

Beverly Stuart.....Handbells

SCHEDULE

Two Sunday Services: 8:30am & 10:30am

Communion served 1st Sunday of month

Nursery facilities available.

Sunday School Classes:

Adults at 9:40am ~ Children at 10:40am

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays 8:30am - 4:00pm (M-TH); -12:00pm (F)

Our pastor is in the office daily except Friday

Office.....(843) 815-6570

Fax.....(843) 815-4165

Email.....lpcoffice1@hargray.com

Website.....www.lowcountrypres.org