



The Light



Lowcountry
Presbyterian
Church

LPC Mission Statement

Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.

March and April 2023

LENT & HOLY WEEK

MARCH 12

8:30am & 10:30am
Worship & Jubilate Ringers

MARCH 19

One service only at 10:30am
Worship with guest preacher
Dr. Robert Gamble, Executive
Dir. of This Child Here -
Ministry in Ukraine
Presentation follows the service

MARCH 26

One service only at 10:30am
Worship and Cantata by
Sanctuary Choir with guest
instrumentalist

APRIL 2

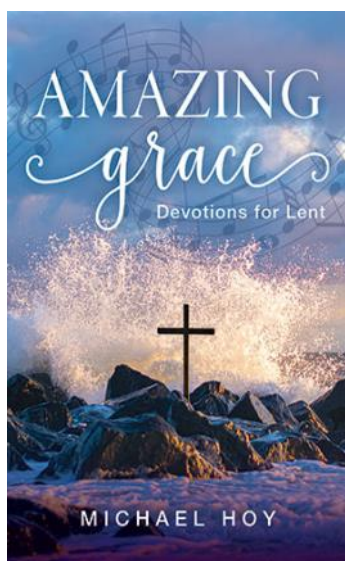
Palm Sunday
Worship at 8:30am & 10:30am

APRIL 6

Maundy Thursday 7pm
As the passion narrative is
read and music is shared, the
light of Jesus life is slowly
extinguished

APRIL 9

Easter Sunday Service
of the Resurrection
8:30am & 10:30am
One Great Hour of Sharing
Jubilate Ringers



Lenten Devotionals

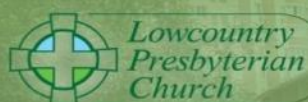
Our devotional guide this Lenten season is "Amazing Grace, Devotions for Lent" by Michael Hoy. In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of this beloved hymn, Hoy ties the words of the song and the history surrounding it to our lives today, as well as to the lives of those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God, revealed most profoundly in the salvation of Jesus. Copies will be available in the Narthex.

On March 12th, the Jubilate Ringers Bell Choir will perform the hymn during both worship services.

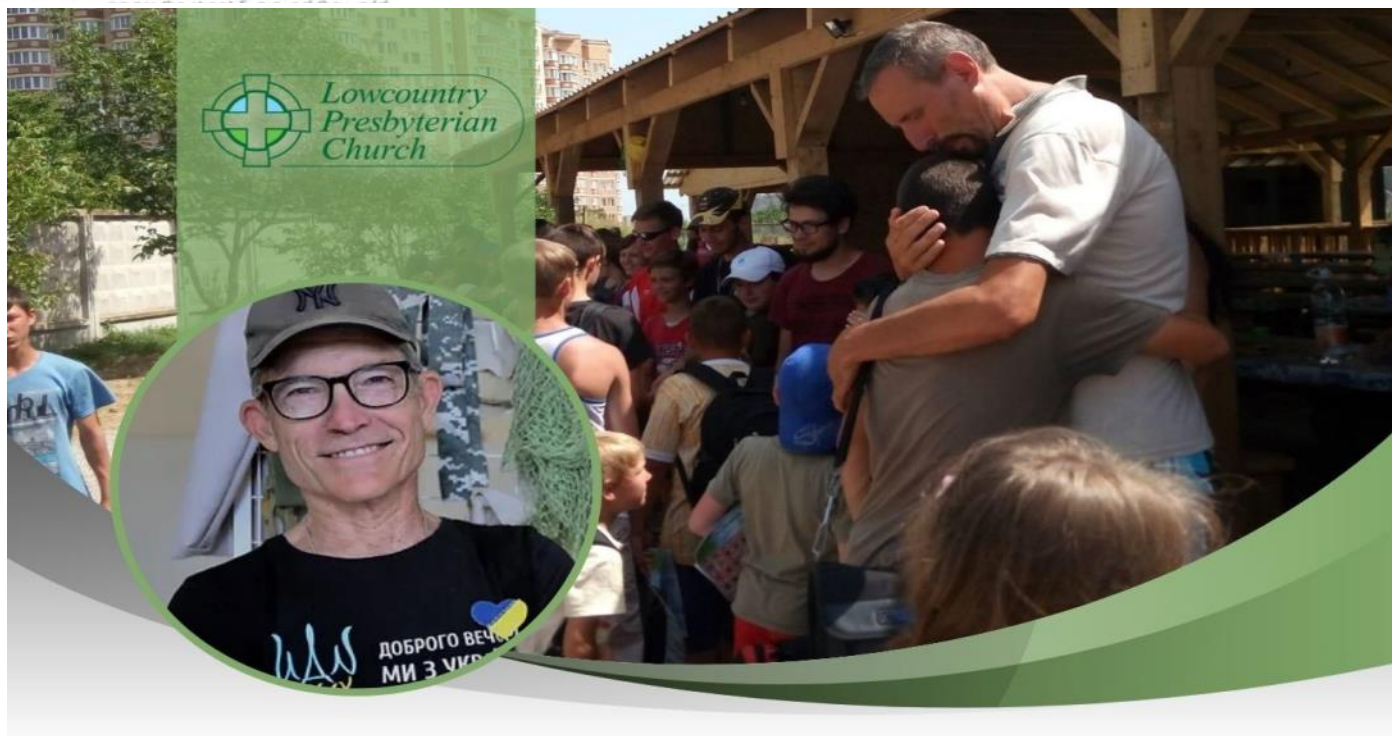
Look for other Lenten study opportunities in upcoming eBlasts.



MISSIONS



Lowcountry
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GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble

at work with refugees and families displaced by the war in Ukraine

19

March
2023

Lowcountry
Presbyterian
Church

Rev. Robert Gamble, Executive Director of This Child Here and Missionary to the people in Ukraine, will be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 19th.

There will be one service only at 10:30am in the sanctuary.

Following the service the Mission Team will provide a brief light lunch (sandwich, fruit and cookies) before being invited back into the Sanctuary to hear Rev. Gamble speak about his work in Ukraine and answer your questions. This is an opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to this service or the presentation starting at 11:45am. For more information about this ministry go to thischildhere.org.

Agape Food Drive



Sunday, March 5, 2023

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Spring is almost here and so is our next food drive for Agape! Please bring your food donations to LPC on Sunday, March 5 between 11:30 am & 1 pm. We will unload your vehicle so you won't even have to get out of your car! If you're attending church that day, please drive through to unload after the service.

We hope to see you March 5th, thank you for helping us support Agape! If you have questions, please contact Jan Catanese (248-766-0402).

Most Needed & Requested Items:

- Apples & Oranges
- Sweet & White Potatoes & Onions
- Mascea (Flour to make tortillas)
- Dry & Canned Beans and Rice
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Chicken & Tuna
- Baby Food
- Cereal



The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering

Thank you to those of you who donated last Sunday to this offering to benefit the Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen. Though the Eagles didn't win the actual Super Bowl, they did "win" the offering with \$1291 in their pots versus \$699 for the Chiefs.

Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC)

NOC is looking to hire a Program Manager at LPC. NOC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that focuses on community development in Beaufort county. The program manager is responsible for the educational and enrichment programs, adult classes, and health/wellness programs at the Lowcountry Presbyterian Learning Center. Hours are from 2:00-6:00pm Monday-Thursday and 2:00-6:00pm on Enrichment Fridays 2 times a month. It is a part time position ranging from 16-25 hours. Pay is based on experience, \$25.00 to \$27.50 an hour. Bilingual candidates preferred, but not necessary. Please contact NOC at 843-681-4100 or email information to juliepalma@noc-sc.org.



MISSIONS



Members of the Mission Trip to Puerto Rico were commissioned during the worship service at the Charleston Atlantic's stated meeting, Saturday, February 25th at Peace Presbyterian in Charleston. JR is pictured while Lila was not able to be present. Rev. Herrin and elder Karen Couser represented LPC at the meeting.

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

On Sunday, February 26th we commissioned Lila Wright and JR Wilson who will participate in a Mission Trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 4th to 11th with a group from the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, to help provide relief from lasting damage from hurricanes Maria and Irma. The projects will be led by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The team is staying in a former parish manse which serves to house volunteers working with PDA. Please pray for these and all on the trip as they step out in faith to serve others.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance remains committed to our siblings in Puerto Rico through Hurricanes Irma, Maria and Fiona's recovery in addition to the January 2020 series of earthquakes in the southwestern region. More than \$3.2 million in grants have gone to Puerto Rico to support the work of congregations and local organizations responding to the disasters, and over 2,000 PDA volunteers have worked in rebuilding projects since 2017.

Puerto Rico is a territory of the US about 8 times the size of Hilton Head and population 3.3 million. On September 20, 2017 hurricane Maria as a high category 4 hit the island directly killing nearly 3000 and causing 90 billion dollars in damage to the entire infrastructure and homes. Irma had just gone by it 2 weeks prior on 9/7/17 causing significant damage. Fiona occurred 11/22. On top of all of that Puerto Rico is earthquake prone, the last major one occurring 1/7/20

Commissioning prayer 2/26/23

Gracious God, your care and love for your children is not limited by nationality and geography. You call us to love you and our neighbor as ourselves. Bless Lila and JR who have committed to doing just that with neighbors they have never met, who live many hundreds of miles away. Keep them healthy and strong. Make their labor fruitful by the work of your Spirit. May all those they serve feel your love and your care through them. And may they in turn be open to learn from all those that they encounter and serve. Amen

by Rev. Chris Herrin



March Change Can Make a Change (CCMAC) is This Child Here

For the month of March, CCMAC will support This Child Here founded by Rev. Robert Gamble to support the people of Ukraine. Rev. Gamble and his team are located in Izmail, Ukraine and welcome displaced families. They meet families in grocery stores and invite them to join their activities at their center. They are conducting a blanket project with funds donated. For 3 hours on Sunday afternoon, they hold a woman's center with a time of games, art therapy and conversation led by a psychologist. Seventy two mothers have participated. The largest part of their work is with children who come in 4 age groups from 4 year olds to older teens. A litany of crafts, choir, guitar, English lessons and games led by the psychologist to build trust and community are shared with the children.

Rev. Gamble thanks the members of LPC for their ongoing support.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Change Can Make A Change for April is One Great Hour of Sharing

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. The offering will be collected on Easter, April 9th, with envelopes provided in the bulletin.

Response to Earthquake

LPC is continuing to collect a special offering for the people of Syria and Turkey for the next few weeks. Monies raised will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to address urgent needs and provide humanitarian aid. Write a check to LPC marked "earthquake" and place in offering basket or bring or send to the church.

2022 Surplus Funds 10%

Mission Ministry has voted to send the 10% of the 2022 surplus funds to charitable organizations on the ground dealing with the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and the war in Ukraine. All of those chosen have been awarded 4 stars from Charity Navigator. Those organizations are CARE (\$1,000); Water Missions (\$1,500); All Hands and Hearts (\$1,500); Save the Children (\$1,500); World Central Kitchen (\$1,500).

MISSIONS



BACKPACK BUDDIES

The next packing day will take place on Tuesday, April 4th, at 12:30 at the New Bluffton Worship, 39 Persimmon Street. For more information contact Sandy Benninger sbenninger@sc.rr.com



On January 31st, church members packed bags of food for the Backpack Buddies program. Those helping that day: Jane Lundblad, Janis Lakin, John Abernethy, Sally Stein, Linda Wright, Carol Bogle, Sandy Benninger and Evelyn Longsworth.

Thank you for your generous donations!

January CCMAC for Beaufort County Project Lifesaver \$971.79

February CCMAC + Souper Bowl offering for Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen \$3,007.00

Earthquake Relief (PDA) is \$1300.00 to date but is ongoing

Thank You!

Thank you to the congregation of Lowcountry Presbyterian Church for the use of the tables and chairs for our annual BTFD Auxiliary Chili Dinner and Baked Potato Bar. It was a wonderful success, thanks in large part to the church's generosity.

It was great to see so many people of all ages visit the fire station for a meal and to interact with the firefighters. We look forward to next year's dinner and hope to use the tables and chairs again. We couldn't hold our event without the church's generous loan.

Thanks again to LPC!

Leslie Jones Hart



LPC Connects

To be a church family we have to know one another.

I have challenged the elders on a quarterly basis, to reach out to someone they don't know and invite them out for coffee or a meal, whether it's a long time member, a brand new one, or a visitor. It would be a good goal for everyone in the congregation. How much more will our collective sense of community be if we were all intentional to build relationships. Pictured below are groups that gathered just the last weekend in February. If you'd like to be more connected, don't wait for someone else to take the initiative! AND if you do gather with other LPC folks, please take a picture and send to me. You will make my day and we'll put your group in the next newsletter!

Peace, Chris



Members of the Spring 2022 new member class enjoy lunch together.

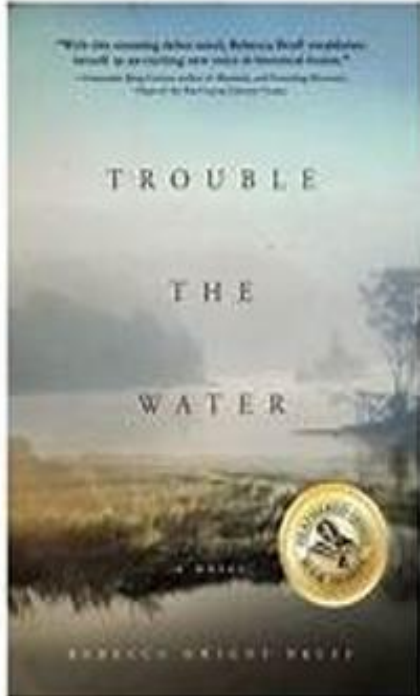


A great time was had by all at the closing performance of "The Odd Couple" at Coligny Theatre. LPC members showed up to see Dan Herrin shine in his role as Maury the cop.



LPC-ers who live in Hampton Hall enjoyed having dinner together.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY



Quarterly Book Club Tuesdays, May 2nd and 9th

Our next book is "Trouble The Water" by Rebecca Dwight Bruff. We will discuss the book on Tuesday, May 2nd and May 9th at 5:00pm in the parlor. This novel is inspired by the extraordinary life of Robert Smalls who was born into slavery and became a member of the U.S. Congress.

"Debut author Rebecca Bruff has made her mark with this exceptional examination of family, freedom, and what it really means to fight for the light" Julie Cantrell, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of Perennials.

"With this stunning debut novel, Rebecca Bruff establishes herself as an exciting new voice in historical fiction" Cassandra King Conroy, author of "Moonrise", and founding honorary chair of the Pat Conroy Literary Center.

There is a bust of Robert Smalls outside the Tabernacle Baptist Church, 901 Craven St., Beaufort. In addition, his former home is located at 511 Prince St., Beaufort.

How Rebecca came to write this novel is quite interesting and she will share that with us on Tuesday, May 9th at 5:00pm in the parlor. After both sessions, there will be the option to go out to dinner at a local restaurant.

Adult Sunday School

Please join us in the Parlor from 9:30 am to 10:10 am on Sundays. This year we will alternate studying the Psalms or discussing a timely, current event topic with Biblical connections from The Wired Word series.

Children's Sunday School for 4 & 5 year olds

Our children enjoyed lessons on Noah's Ark, The 10 Commandments, Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Rebecca during January and February. Teacher and LPC member Phyllis Willever teaches this class at 10:30 on the second and fourth Sundays of each month in the classroom near the nursery. The dates for March and April are: Mar 12, Mar 26, Apr 9, and Apr 23. Many thanks to Phyllis and her volunteers for continuing to contribute to our LPC children's faith formation.

Sunday April 23rd LPC will welcome
Rev. Martin B. Copenhagen
 as our guest preacher and seminar leader
 (One service only at 10:30am)

Rev. Copenhagen, pastor, scholar, writer, and brother of LPC member, Chad, will base his sermon and seminar on his book *Jesus Is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*. It is not necessary to have read the book ahead of time.

Following the service, the Faith Formation Team will host a reception in the Narthex with tea sandwiches and cookies (to tide participants over 'til lunch). We will then re-convene in the Sanctuary for a more in-depth look at the questions Jesus asked followed by a time of discussion.

About the book: Contrary to some common assumptions, Jesus is not the ultimate Answer Man, but more like the Great Questioner. In the Gospels, Jesus asks many more questions than he answers. To be precise, Jesus asks 307 questions. He is asked 183 of which he only answers 3. Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings. In fact, for every question he answers directly, he asks—literally—a hundred. *Jesus is the Question* considers the questions Jesus asks—what they tell us about Jesus and, more important, what our responses might say about what it means to follow Him.

About the preacher and writer: The Rev. Martin B. Copenhagen is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He served as a local church pastor for thirty-four years. He was Senior Pastor of Wellesley Village Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts for twenty years (1994-2014) before becoming president of Andover Newton Theological School (2014-2019), which is the oldest graduate school of any kind in the country. While serving as president, Andover Newton sold its Boston-area campus and moved to New Haven, Connecticut in order to become an affiliated seminary of Yale Divinity School. Martin is the author of nine books and is a Contributing Editor of *The Christian Century* magazine.



**Men of Purpose will begin reading
 and discussing Copenhagen's book
 on Saturday, March 18th
 WHY NOT JOIN THEM?**



Men of Purpose, a men's small group, open to anyone, meets Saturdays at gam in the parlor for discussion and fellowship. They will be finishing up their current book, *Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard in the next few weeks. They welcome visitors anytime and especially when they start a new book. If you will be new to the group, go ahead and purchase your own copy of *Jesus is the Question* and contact Bill Walker to be sure to know what to read for the first meeting. Reading and discussing the book with MOP, you will be especially prepared for Copenhagen's class on his book, which will follow worship on April 23rd. For questions contact Bill Walker – billwalker42@gmail.com.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY



Grow with us.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Faith Formation Ministry educates, inspires and grows disciples in Christ.



During 2023, our congregation-wide faith study initiative is *Seasons of Psalms*.

The Psalms were Jesus' prayer book and the hymnbook for the public worship of God in ancient Israel. The early Christians sang and prayed the Psalms as well. However, we are not to simply read or sing or pray the Psalms. We are to be immersed in them so that they profoundly shape how we relate to God.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Yes, it is already March, but it is never too late to join in. Participation is simple! The 150 Psalms have been arranged by season and week on the *Seasons of Psalms* reading plan.

- ♦ Read or listen to the 1-4 outlined Psalm(s) each week.
- ♦ Re-read and meditate on the Psalmist's words throughout the week.
- ♦ Choose to purchase a copy of "Praying with the Psalms, A Year of Daily Prayers and Reflections on the Words of David" by Eugene Peterson or "The Songs of Jesus, A Year of Daily Devotions in the Psalms" by Timothy Keller, available for purchase on Amazon.
- ♦ Choose to Dig Deeper by participating in upcoming study opportunities during Sunday School or other announced sessions.

You may also visit the Seasons of Psalms table (located under the TV in the Narthex) for a copy of the plan at any time or [click here](#).

"How to Read and Pray the Psalms"

A digging deeper/introductory class on the Psalms was led by Rev. Herrin on February 9th and repeated after worship on February 26th. It was livestreamed and recorded and available for viewing on our website along with recent livestreams, <https://www.lowcountrypres.org/virtual-worship>. It may give you a few helpful tips as you read the psalms.

The next Digging Deeper session on the Psalms (with new content) will be Tuesday, April 18th at 6pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Youngish Adult Group

The Youngish Adult Group, in their 30's and 40's, single and married, meets monthly for pizza and faith discussion led by Chris Herrin. Childcare is provided.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 1st at 5:30pm.

Visitors are welcome, and let Chris know to have enough pizza and childcare.

Women of Faith

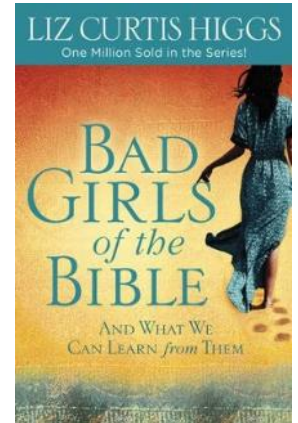
Women of Faith will meet on March 14th and April 10th at 11:00am in the parlor. The group, open to all LPC women, friends and visitors meets every second Tuesday to engage with God's Word in community. *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs is the current focus book.



Please read pages 9-40 (All About Evie) before our March meeting and pages 41-58 (Bored to Distraction) before our April meeting. Each chapter can be read as a stand alone section, making it easy to join this fun group at any time along their journey. Please consider joining us!

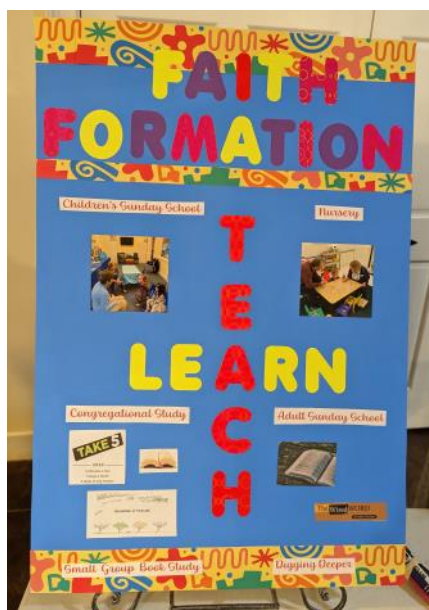
Contact Pam Davis-Webb (psdw44@gmail.com) or Venus Holland (reidallenholland@gmail.com) for more information.

Women of Faith member, Carol Bogle, models her pink boa at the kickoff Valentines Day meeting.



Ministry Fair Update from the Moving Forward in Faith Committee

Thank you to the Session elders for their creative efforts on their ministry message boards. Each one was unique. Clearly, the creative juices were flowing! Also, thank you to the elders and ministry team members who staffed the ministry tables. It was wonderful to see the conversations going on at the various tables. Over 30 people signed up to serve the LPC community, so a big thank you to all of you. You should have heard from a ministry representative, if not, please contact: Karen Couser at kcouser16@gmail.com; Jerri Hanna at jjhanna@aol.com or Carol Bogle at carolbogle21@gmail.com and they will help get you connected. It's never too late to get involved. 1Corinthians 3 states "For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."



Communications Ministry

LPC BLUFFTON FARMERS MARKET BOOTH

Thursday, March 16, 12-5 p.m.
(Rain Date: 3/23)

Visit us at our Farmers Market Booth to learn about Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, where all are welcome!

MARTIN FAMILY PARK

68 Boundary Street
Bluffton, SC



The Communications Ministry is hosting a booth at the Bluffton Farmers Market on Thursday March 16th with a rain date of March 23rd, if necessary, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

This will be an opportunity to introduce Lowcountry Presbyterian Church to the community. We will have a display and literature available that illustrates the scope of our activities within the community, both mission oriented or cultural. Church members will be available to speak with market visitors or answer questions.

Although an initiative of the Communications Ministry, we welcome any member to participate with us for an hour or two. Contact Lynn Cordy (914-475-2118, lcordy@me.com) or Communications chair, Janit Maguire (845-527-6409, janitmaguire@gmail.com) to volunteer.

And as you visit the market, drop by to say hello!



LPC is a sponsor for the April 1st Pulseology Fitness Club 5K run to benefit the Palmetto Animal League and will have our logo on the tee shirts and advertising.



Thank You!

Dear friends of LPC,

I want you to know how fortunate I feel to be a part of such a caring, dedicated, and prayerful congregation. I so appreciate the cards, meals, flowers, books, gifts, and most of all prayers. They are working... good things are happening regarding my health. Medical procedures, a wonderful new bed (a game changer) and I begin rehab at Encompass. Keep up the prayers!

With love, Kathy Crist

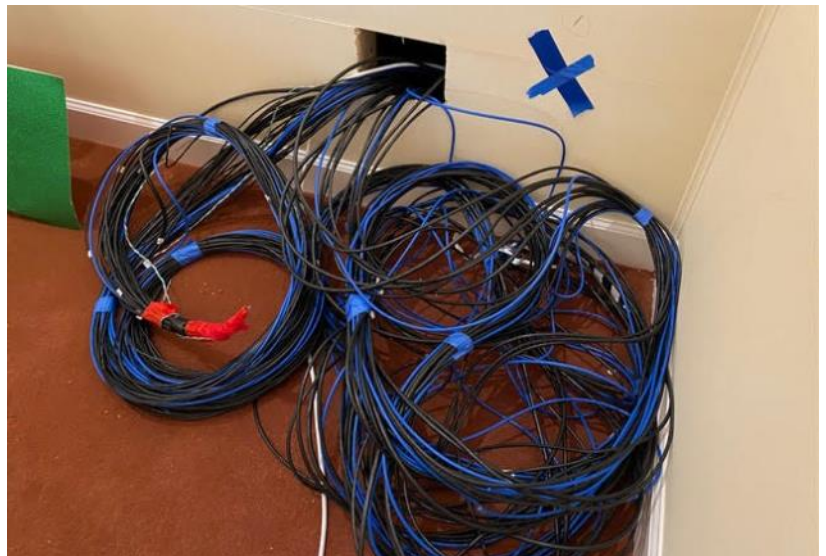
AUDIO VISUAL PROJECT UPDATE

As we have all witnessed, to date the AV project has been a great success. We have made tremendous progress with the audio in the sanctuary. The acoustical tiles, digital programable speakers, and the new soundboard have made a big difference for all of us. On the video side we have begun to be able to use some of the equipment on a limited basis. The projector and screen have been used by the FH team, and Chris has used it for her class on the Psalms. We have also used the rear monitor to be able to show the cross that used to be hanging there.

However, we still have much to be completed before we are fully operational. The live streaming equipment still needs to be updated. Microphone jacks need to be installed for the bells and guest musicians. The balance of our video capabilities needs to be completed. And in addition, there is still wiring that needs to be properly positioned.

Despite all the work that remains, I do expect it to be completed by mid-March. Of course, there will be a time needed as we learn how to operate all that the systems have to offer. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments please contact me at jblowry99@gmail.com. The following are a few pictures that give you a sense all that was involved in the installation.

Bob Lowry



WORSHIP MINISTRY

A Thank You and Need You!

After many years of dedicated service facilitating the sound and livestream components of worship at LPC, Bob Lowry will be "retiring" from this role in early April. We thank Bob for the time, energy and expertise he has brought to this ministry and for spearheading the successful acquisition, installation and transition to our new system.

The AV component of worship is a vital ministry at LPC.

- Did you know that our service livestream in 2022 had an average of 207 weekly views through Facebook, YouTube and our Website?
- This, coupled with our average weekly attendance of 154, helps us reach those who are unable due to health, distance or other factors, attend in-person services.
- We are in the early stages of enjoying the benefits of our enhanced sound and projection system and will have many exciting opportunities to explore and expand its usage in the weeks and months ahead.

We Can't Spell S CCESS without "U"!

Please consider joining the dedicated members of the sound and livestream team. We need **your** help and commitment today to maintain and grow this important ministry!

Need More Information?

Speak with Bob Lowry or contact Worship Ministry Elder Co-Chairs:

Pam Davis-Webb psdw44@gmail.com 607 215-2289 or

Larry Tremitiere captltrem@gmail.com 803 -517-6626

EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY



Our sanctuary will again be adorned with spring blooms on Easter Sunday. These spring plants are robust and suitable for planting in your garden. We have 2 varieties of spring flowers, Azaleas and Lilies this year.

Please place your order **by March 27th**. You may place your order form and payment in the Sunday offering or mail it to the church. **The plants may be retrieved after**

Easter Services, April 9th. **Please select an option "Donate" or "Take Plant" **

<u>Flower</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Lily	\$ 15.00	_____
Azalea	\$ 18.00	_____



Name _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

or

IN HONOR OF _____

Donate _____ *Take plant* _____

WORSHIP MINISTRY**Kirkin' O' the Tartan
February 19th**



MUSIC MINISTRY



February brought us the Scottish service of the Kirkin' of the Tartan. Special thanks to Peter Armstrong, bagpiper, and Dom Costabile, drums, for adding to the festive atmosphere. On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we enjoyed the music of Karen Bartlett, keyboard, and Tom Smith, vocalist. The last Sunday in February brought the return of Dr. Karen Ball to her seat at the keyboard, following her surgery. We are so thankful for her recovery and the musical blessings she brings to LPC. Also, on February 26, Dale Nordby provided special music for both services.



March and April send us on a musical spiritual journey through Lent. The Jubilate Ringers will be playing three selections on March 12: Meditation on Brother James' Air, Amazing Grace and the Benediction Response. The Ringers will also be playing at the Easter service on April 9. We are pleased to announce that Pete Stephenson, trumpet, will be participating again this year at the Easter service.

The Chancel Choir is excited to present this year's Lenten Cantata on Sunday, March 26. There will only be one service that day at 10:30. The title of the Cantata is: "On the Road Again." The title is taken from a reading by Walter Brueggemann, which is included in the Cantata. The Cantata will include 5 songs which tell the story of how we are called by Jesus to follow Him and to carry his message into the world. The five song titles create an inspirational message when grouped together into a paragraph: *We are secure in the promise that "Jesus will remain." Therefore, "We will Take up our cross, as the Savior said." "We will walk this road together" and "Go to the World." For Jesus has told us that "I am He."*

<i>Jesus will remain</i>	Words and Music by Amber Maxwell	arr. Heather Sorenson
<i>Take up your cross, the Savior said</i>		arr. Howard Helvey
<i>Let us walk this road together</i>	Words by Mary Kay Beall	arr. John Carter
<i>Go to the world</i>	(based on Romans 12: 9-21)	Karen Marroli
<i>I am He</i>	Words by Rose Aspinall	Music by Mary McDonald

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY

Help Us Make All Feel Welcome at LPC

Do you remember the first time you visited LPC? Did church members welcome you? LPC wants all visitors and members to feel welcomed and part of the LPC family. We hope that if you see someone with a visitor tag, or a couple or single person standing alone with or without a name tag, that you will reach out to greet them and engage them in conversation. If you ask someone without a name tag if they are visiting, and they say they have been a member for years, consider yourself lucky to have met someone you didn't know! We encourage everyone to look around you when you enter and leave the pews and when you enjoy hospitality time, and welcome someone you don't know!

Membership Ministry Committee Members enjoyed greeting attendees at the Ministry Fair! We hope some of you will consider joining in on one or more of our events.

On April 2, Palm Sunday, we are planning a picnic at Oyster Factory Park

We will order box lunches from Jersey Mike's and have water available to drink. Come with a chair and stay for lunch or spend the afternoon in the beautiful park. Hope to see many of you there. A sign-up sheet will be available soon to select your sandwich.



We are excited to see the work already completed as Fellowship Hall is transformed into Thomas Hall, and can't wait to get to work in the redesigned kitchen with an open house event. We are planning dinners for the second half of the year in September and December.

Dine Around

New Dine around groups will be formed to meet monthly from May through October. Look for ways to sign up in April.

New Members Class

The next New Member Class will start March 12th and will continue the two following Sundays, from 3:30 to 5pm. Meet others new to the church and enjoy conversation about faith and the meaning of membership. Contact the church office or sign-up on our website: lowcountrypres.org by March 9th. Accommodation can be made for missed classes, but attendance at all three is encouraged.

RENOVATION NEWS

To date the ceiling tile and metal support structure are down and removed from the building. All carpet has been removed. The kitchen has been gutted and all cabinets removed.

Construction

- .. The first visible construction will be a new roof.
- .. New kitchen including new cabinets and appliances
- .. Remodel of main restrooms – new quartz countertops, two new sinks, new faucets
- .. Other two restrooms will be remodeled.
- .. New luxury vinyl flooring throughout including the stage area.
- .. New ceiling tile and support system
- .. New 16 feet x 24 feet finished room
- .. Both inside and outside walls painted.

Efficiency Improvements

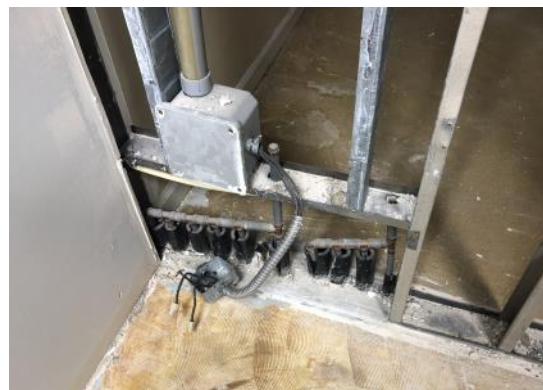
- .. Spray insulation under the new roof
- .. Replace two older water heaters with two efficient smaller on demand water heater units.
- .. All LED bulbs throughout will be used.
- .. New high efficiency HVAC units for back room and new room

Improvements

- .. New Audio-Visual equipment
- .. New alarm system

A Powerpoint presentation with renovation information details is available at www.lowcountrypres.org. On the home page click on Capital Improvement Projects.

We are grateful to all you have pledged and given toward our goal of \$120,000. When this was written we are a little of 70% toward our goal We thank our congregation for your generosity.



An unexpected surprise after removing drywall in the kitchen wall. This wall is to be moved two feet and we found water pipes rising from the floor. Just another problem to be solved. The water pipes are a part of a system to create equal water pressure throughout the building.



Gutted kitchen

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

Caring Meals

We want to thank all of the members who have offered to provide a meal for Kathy Crist. This has been a wonderful ministry to help one of our members. We would like to have a list of those members who would be willing to provide an occasional meal for members who are ill, recovering from surgery or dealing with a loss. If you would be willing to provide a meal when needed, please contact Karen Couser, kcouser16@gmail.com or 843 422-2473, and we will maintain a list from which we can find the help needed. It is sometimes difficult to find a way to help someone, and preparing a meal is one way to show our love and care.

Meals on Wheels

We know that we have church members who may not be able to cook for themselves for a variety of reasons. We can provide help with occasional meals, but for those who would like to have more help than we can offer, Meals on Wheels, Bluffton-Hilton Head is there to help. Meals on Wheels delivers one meal a day Monday-Friday to anyone living in Hilton Head, Bluffton or Sun City. This is a wonderful way to have a tasty meal that you don't have to cook!

Meals on Wheels does not receive any government funding but relies on donations from organizations and people being served who can afford to make a donation. LPC supports Meals on Wheels, sponsors one the routes, and several members deliver meals! If you would like to have meals delivered or know someone who would enjoy not having to cook, you can call 843 802-0919 to speak with a Meals on Wheels representative and set up a daily delivery. Meals on Wheels is always looking for volunteers as well to deliver or prepare food if you are looking for a way to serve our community.



Fellowship Luncheon

At our farewell luncheon for the original Fellowship Hall on January 22nd, over 60 members and friends enjoyed tasting 10 delicious homemade soups and a variety of sandwiches. Following the meal, everyone had their brains tested and learned how to keep them as sharp as possible! It was a great way to leave the old behind and look forward to the new!



Please remember with your prayers:

Dave Casperson

Kathy Crist

Chad Grayson

Christian sympathy is extended to:



The family of Betty Cooley

The family of Bill Box

The family of Nancy Spears

The family of William McDougall

Chris Richards on the death of her husband, Stan

Janit Maguire on the death of her sister-in-law, Pat Rotella

Debbie Sell on the death of her mother Rena "Bobbie" Ardan

Thank you for your expression of sympathy

Thank you so much for all the emails, cards, thoughts and prayers after the death of my husband, Stan Richards. All your expressions of concern helped me through very difficult time.

Chris Richards

March Birthdays



Happy
March
Birthdays!

2	Gail Box	12	Mel Gates	19	Hudson Johnson
3	Sandy Benninger	13	Diane Mikkelson	20	Noah Hale
5	Anna Anderson	15	Vicki Melton	22	Joan Kimble*
6	Bert Ruys	15	Carolyn Jones	25	Derek Hardin
7	Wim Tekelenburg*	17	Jim Hale	25	Bob Whitman
8	Bill Walker	19	Sharon Bogert	28	Alice Pierce
10	Brittany Wilson	19	Pat Kuhn*	30	Anita Juelch
11	Mendel Spears	19	Carolyn Whitman	31	Rosemary Bishop

* moved out of state

April Birthdays



Happy
April
Birthdays!

1	Cameron Fox	11	Marilyn Gearhart	23	Phil Day
2	Paige Lassen	12	Nancy Kozlowski*	23	Dennis Dawley
2	Jane Scott	15	Kelly Manning	23	David Given
4	Katherine Bleile	15	Judy Thorpe	25	Joann McElravy
4	Sarah Bleile*	17	Doug Adamson	26	Cal Beltman
6	Amilcar Chavelas	17	Elaine Dawley	26	Frank Waller*
7	Sophie Stauffer	20	Wanda Carter	28	Margie Dixon
9	Jean Willson	20	Debbie Paulick	28	Jake Herrin*
8	Jerry Wells	21	Ronda Adamson	29	Karen Smith
10	Jim Dove	21	Janit Maguire		
11	Emelie Costolo	22	Caralynn Scott		* moved out of state



THE GREEN TEAM (AKA—THE EARTH CARE TEAM)

SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN THE LOWCOUNTRY! WATCH THE E-BLAST AND BULLETIN FOR EARTH CARE ACTIVITIES IN MARCH/APRIL!

Here is a Lenten devotional by Rev. Dr. Paul Galbreath:

“Remember you are earth and earth you shall become.”

These words taken from the creation story in Genesis 3 accompany the action of being marked by the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday. It is a way to remind us of our limits – these days of our lives that we share on this fragile planet. This day invites us to look at ourselves as part of the earth, taken from the ground, breathed into life by the gift of air, and returned to the earth. The season of Lent invites us on a journey to reconnect with the earth. It is a chance to no longer look at ourselves apart from the earth, but to see ourselves as deeply part of the earth, the source of our life, and the place to which we will return. It is a challenging word and also a word of hope since our future is bound up with the future of the earth. Caring for the earth is a way of caring for ourselves.

We are invited this Lenten season to reflect on our relationship with the earth and to choose ways to act that care for the earth. It is a journey that we share together as we travel towards the hope of sharing resurrection life for ourselves and for all of creation. You are asked to commit to new practices of earth care during the coming weeks – a way of building new habits that show that baptismal life includes a commitment to care for the earth as central to Christian discipleship. For example, you may choose to focus on conserving your use of water or decide to pick up trash in a park near you each week.

Consider that your earth care practice is also a form of embodied prayer – a way to work for the healing of the earth.

By Paul Galbreath

Rev. Dr. Paul Galbreath’s new book, *[Elemental: A Journey Through Lent with the Earth](#)*, offers an intriguing, scripture-based format to bridge the gap of how people relate their own individual environmental activities to Christian faith.



Update from Associated Pastor Nominating Committee

Since the last update, we have loaded our Ministry Information Form (MIF) on the matching website and have read the PIFs (Personal Information Form) of our matches, listened to sermons and have begun interviews when appropriate. We have also contacted seminaries and distributed our MIF with them. We have received self referrals that we have followed up on and are hoping for more soon as the graduating sermonary classes are beginning to search and send out referrals. We have been busy and expect to be even busier this spring.

Please continue to pray for our work as they enter this important phase.

Diane Mikkelson (chair), Jan Catanese, Kelly Manning, Jon Nickel and Bill Thorpe

FINANCIAL RESULTS SUMMARY

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

	Actual	Budget
RECEIPTS	\$579,166	\$516,200
EXPENSES		
Clergy Staff	\$143,626	\$205,556
Support Staff	112,546	113,593
General Administration	79,252	76,640
Missions	44,000	44,000
Worship	10,184	10,950
Facilities Administration	116,763	92,850
All Others Combined	5,066	11,765
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$511,437	\$555,354
NET	\$67,729	(\$39,154)

With God's blessing, the generosity of the congregation and friends provided these positive results. The Net Surplus was allocated by the Session as follows: \$61,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund; and \$6,730 for additional Mission giving.

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LPC Mission Statement

Surrounded by God's grace, we are a family of faith joined together through Christ, offering meaning and hope to all by the way we worship, serve and live.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session convened in two called meetings, 1/25/23 and 2/22/23, where they:

- Invited Rev. Doug Fletcher (First Presbyterian, HHI retired) to serve as guest preacher on February 12, 2023, replacing Rev. Dr. Martin Copenhaver who is unable to participate as originally scheduled, and invited Rev Rebecca Bruff (retired Methodist clergy and author) to serve as guest preacher on May 21st.
- Determined that only the 10:30am Worship Service will be offered on March 19th, when Dr. Robert Gamble serves as guest preacher, March 26th when the choir presents the Cantata and April 23rd when Dr. Martin Copenhaver serves as guest preacher.
- Noted re-certification of LPC's "Earth Care Pledge" first adopted by the Session in 2019.
- Contingent upon revised bylaws at January 29th Congregational Meeting, designated Elder Jan Alpert as LPC Corporation President for a term of one year.
- Referred the matter of parental permission for children's photographs on LPC social media and newsletter to the Communications Committee for consideration and recommendation.
- Received reports from Clerks of Session Ernest Bush (outgoing) and Janit Maguire (incoming) that LPC had 313 members (301 active and 12 affiliate), reflecting the return of David and Carol Given, removal of Chris & Lynn Burns, Dick & Betsy MacDougal who moved out of state, and William Box, Nancy Spears, and William McDougal, who passed away.
- Elected Elder Pam Davis-Webb as Commissioner to represent LPC at the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Spring meeting on May 16, 2023.
- Session voted to go to one service for the summer (10:30am) beginning June 4th through Labor day. The 8:30 service will resume on September 10th. This will ease the burden to find ushers, greeters, sound people etc during the time when some in the congregation are away for the summer or travelling.

The next two Session meetings are scheduled for April 26th and May 24th. If you have any questions or would like to see the minutes, please contact Janit Maguire, Clerk of Session at janitmaguire@gmail.com or 845-527-6409.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Youngish Adults 5:30pm	2 Building & Grounds gam Membership 10:30am Faith Formation 2pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	3	4 Men of Purpose 9:00am
5 Worship 8:30am & 10:30am Adult Sunday School 9:35am	6	7 Bell Practice 12:30pm D. Herrin Book Study 6:00pm	8 Greeting Card Ministry gam Congregational Care 10am Small Group 6:00pm	9 Choir Practice 6:45pm	10	11 Men of Purpose 9:00am
12 Worship 8:30am & 10:30am Adult Sunday School 9:35am New Members Class 3:30pm	13	14 Moving Forward 9:30am Women of Faith 11:00am Bell Practice 12:30pm Communication 4:00pm	15 Small Group 6:00pm Worship Ministry 7pm	16 Admin/Finance 4:00pm Choir Practice 6:45pm	17	18 Men of Purpose 9:00am
19 Worship 10:30am Adult Sunday School 9:35am New Members Class 3:30pm	20	21 Bell Practice 12:30pm Missions Meeting 4:30pm D. Herrin Book Study 6:00pm	22 Small Group 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm	23 Choir Practice 6:45pm	24	25 Men of Purpose 9:00am
26 Worship 10:30am Adult Sunday School 9:35am New Members Class 3:30pm	27	28 Bell Practice 12:30pm	29 Small Group 6:00pm	30	31	