I arrived three weeks ago and since then you’ve had the coldest winter in more than a decade! That really wasn’t the kind of gift I thought I might bring! Despite the cooler weather, I have been warmed by your enthusiastic reception of me. So many of you have taken the time to welcome me and share very affirming words that, as I said in my first sermon, I almost feel like a celebrity!

Sunday we sang one of my favorite hymns, which may be new to some of you. In the chorus we sang, “O Lord with your eyes you have searched me and while smiling have called out my name. Now my boat’s left on the shore line behind me, now with you, I will seek other seas.” As disciples we are invited to journey with Christ, to take an adventure with Him to other seas.

When it comes to what that could mean for us as a congregation, long before I was called, you sensed God calling you to a new “sea;” to becoming a more multigenerational church. Clearly this will not be something that happens overnight, but the session believes that one step towards that will be to have a part-time staff person to work with our children and youth. So they have budgeted for this position and a committee is being formed to work on the job description. We ask for your input, prayers and support!

In my short time with you, my experience has far exceeded my expectations. I feel truly blessed to be your pastor. It is my desire to get to know you, to support you, and to equip you for the ministry to which God has and will continue to call you, as we walk together into the future that God has in store for LPC.

Blessings,
Rev. Chris Herrin

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday March 9th we will install Rev. Herrin, combining that day for one service at 10:30 am.
Plan now to attend this special service and celebration that will involve a delegation from the Presbytery and a special guest preacher, Dr. Tom Kort, senior pastor at Sardis Presbyterian in Charlotte (formerly from Pittsburgh!).

New Member Class

A New Member and Inquirers’ Class will be offered in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 23rd and Sunday, March 2nd from 4 to 5:30pm (those hoping to join the church should attend both). The class will be led by Rev. Herrin with assistance from Joe Crowley. In addition to learning about what it means to be Presbyterian, we will look at the meaning of membership, and have time in small group discussion to get to know one another. Those wishing to join the church would do so on March 16th during the 10:30am service. Please contact the church office to sign up, 815-6570.
January has been busy (and cold!)

We held a Called Congregational Meeting (the Annual Meeting) on Sunday, January 26th, immediately following the second service. Copies of the Annual Report were distributed. (If you didn’t get a copy at the meeting, you will be able to read it soon on our website. [Thanks Chuck Thomas!] ) There was brief presentation that touched on just a few of the key ministry reports. Treasurer Al Couper presented a summary of 2013 financial results – in a nutshell, the year ended well and we were able to restore a portion of our Capital Reserve Fund. (This last item is important as the cold weather taxed our HVAC systems recently, a reminder that big-ticket items do wear out sooner or later and need to be replaced – the function of a Capital Reserve Fund.)

Al also presented the 2014 budget that was approved by Session at the January Stated Session meeting. Elder Fran Casperson introduced two currently-serving Elders to be elected to the Class of 2016 (Dee Lehr and Elaine Branda) and noted that Elders Lowry and Guise were elected at the 9/22/13 Congregational Meeting. Dee and Elaine were elected unanimously.

The regular stated January meeting of Session was held in the Rose room at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 20th. The Session Meeting was opened with a devotional, meditation, and prayer. The Correspondence and Consent Agenda was reviewed and accepted as was the Agenda for the meeting. The Minutes of the December 16th Stated Session were approved. The AAMEN Initiative group recommended, as a follow up to previous discussions with Session, “the need for future staff to help us become multi-generational.” Session approved a motion to move forward to develop a paid, part-time “family/children/youth” position. Session also elected Elder Hale to serve as our Ruling Elder Commissioner from LPC for the 2014 Winter Stated Presbytery Meeting at St. James PC (Charleston) on February 15th.

On February 16th, we will ordain and install Elder-elect Bill Guise and install Elders Elaine Branda, Dee Lehr, and Bob Lowry. Also coming up will be a great event in the life of the church, the formal installation of Reverend Herrin. She will be installed on Sunday, March 9th. We will hold one Worship Service on that day at 10:30 so that all can participate.

If you would like to know more, please e-mail me (or any member of Session). You can reach me at jcrowley214@yahoo.com. Or, if computers aren’t your thing, please call one of us. Our telephone contact numbers are printed every week in the Sunday bulletin.

That’s this month’s news. The next stated” (a.k.a. regularly scheduled) Session Meeting will be on Monday, February 20th at 7:00 PM in the Rose room. Stay tuned, more to come….

Grace and peace,
Joseph P. Crowley

Stephen Ministry at LPC

Who Are We?
Devoted group of men and women.
Trained to be caregivers.

What We Can Do For You
Visit regularly with you.
Show there are compassionate people out there who care about you.
We are listeners; not preachers.

How We Operate
We seek out individuals going through a down cycle in life; seeking companionship.
(That person does not have to be a member of our church).
One of us meets with that individual for about an hour per week. Always the same person.
We operate on a confidential basis.

What Do We Talk About?
The care receiver directs the conversation.
We try to be very good listeners.

How to Contact Us.
Call the LPC Church Office 843-815-6570
Call Al Couper at 843-705-4774.
After two and a half years of enjoying the warm hospitality of the good people at Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, I have handed the baton to Rev. Herrin and drove off (literally) in the darkness, arriving home without any incident. Though the trip is long, I couldn't stop thinking about the many memories and fond farewells from my time in Bluffton. You've accepted me as a part of your family, and it would be rude of me to slip away without giving a forwarding address. Marianne and I will enjoy hearing from you at our home in Pennsylvania: we're at 728 Latonka Drive, in Mercer, PA 16137. My cell phone and email address stay the same: 724-301-4592 and bobmccreight@hotmail.com. Bob Who?

Worship & Music

Bob Lowry, Chair
815-4962 jblowry@hargray.com

IN THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP--

I have completed establishing permanent schedules for both ushers and liturgists. The support that I received from you, the congregation, to set up these schedules was nothing short of incredible. The level of response and participation was overwhelming and very positive. All of the positions have been filled with plenty of substitutes as needed. Having all of the teams in place will give us consistency in our worship services. It will improve the quality of what and how we help to conduct worship. It will ensure we put our best foot forward for those that worship with us as visitors. Finally, it will help us to adapt easier to changes in worship as we continue to grow. Now that these teams are in place I am working on putting together a worship committee. This will enable us to focus on the needs of the worship mission here at LPC. As we grow and continue to attract younger families and adults, we will be ready to meet the challenges this will bring. We are committed to making sure that our worship experiences are as uplifting and inspirational as possible. We are committed to making sure that no matter the age of those that worship with us, we provide an experience that will make them want to call LPC their church home.

My friends the Holy Spirit is alive and working with us. Open your eyes and your hearts. The journey we are on will be so very rewarding if we just believe, trust, have faith, and be not afraid!

Calling all VBS Volunteers

Join us for a fun time as we start planning for this year’s VBS. The first meeting will be held in the Rose room immediately after the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, February 9th. This year’s theme is “Workshop of Wonders”. Dates for VBS are August 4th-8th. Help is needed in many areas (stories, crafts, games, science, music, snacks, decorations, guides and more). If you are unable to come to the meeting but still would like to participate please contact Phyllis Willever (705-6193) email—pwillever@sc.rr.com or Linda Robertson (645-6364) email—doublefault@juno.com

Outreach & Membership

Fran Casperson, Chair
705-9973
franpetty@hotmail.com

It’s always an exciting thing when it is time to prepare for another new member class and it is that time again! We are looking forward to introducing a class of new LPC members in February or March and I need your help.

We provide a “mentor” for each new member. This is a person, or couple, who stands up with the new person on the Sunday when he/she/they are introduced to the congregation and then continues to develop a relationship by helping integrate our newest members into the life of the church. The members of the Session are very intentional about helping these folks find their place in ministry, but your help and encouragement is also needed to find just the right spot for their involvement. The social aspect of church life is also important, and mentors can be of great importance in this respect by taking a new friend to lunch, coffee, or some church event.

I am compiling a list of folks who would like to be mentors to the many new members as they are welcomed into our fold. Please catch me at church, call, or email and I promise to give you a job!
Look over the opportunities for Bible Study listed below and drop in on one … or more … to see if there is a fit for you. Everyone is invited.

SUNDAY ADULT CLASS  Joe Crowley is leading a study of the book of Isaiah in the Rose Room following first service.

CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION
Richard Robertson is continuing the study of “Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White”. The class meets in the balcony following first service. Come on up!

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Joe Crowley is leading a study of the Life of David – Warrior, Sinner, King and Hero. The Women meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Rose Room and the men on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m., also in the Rose Room.

MEN OF PURPOSE  Meet in the parlor every Saturday between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. for coffee. Study begins at 8:00. They are now studying a new book, “Risky Gospel: Abandon Fear and Build Something Awesome” by Owen Strachan.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY  Meet on Wednesday mornings at different homes. Call or email Brenda Sommerfeld: brendadonett@gmail.com for time and location.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL  Meets in Fellowship Hall following the Children’s Moment in second service. The children are walked over to the class which is taught by Phyllis Willever.

YOUTH GROUP, led by Christy James, meets the second and fourth Wednesday in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is February 12th.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study has been postponed.

The first meeting of the Vacation Bible School committee will be held on February 9th following the second service. Please call Phyllis Willever (705-6193) or Linda Robertson (645-6364) if you are interested in helping. It will be a blessing. The VBS dates are August 4th - 9th.
“Faith is not knowing what the future holds; it is knowing who holds the future!”

I am sure by now we all are settling in with our new Pastor. What a gift, and I am sure that all is going to be wonderful. I can feel an excitement in the congregation I have not felt in a long time. Chris is a gift, and it is up to us to cherish and love that gift that God has sent to us, and to work with her and for her as she works to make us the church I know God wants us to be.

February is coming in somewhat busy for Fellowship. As always, I am asking you to sign up for goodies to be enjoyed by all after services on Sunday. It really isn’t hard to do, and it doesn’t take much. Even if you don’t like to bake, you can buy cookies and cakes at Kroger’s, Publix and even Sam’s rather inexpensively. I know most of us enjoy standing around chatting after service, and a cookie and a cup of coffee just makes it that much more enjoyable.

Get your tickets now for the Game Day and Luncheon given by the WOC. It is an annual event, and the luncheon is always fabulous. The chicken salad, spiced peaches, roll, beverages and cookies hasn’t changed in years because it is so good. The ticket price is still $12 and it is a bargain. Remember, the WOC does a lot of wonderful things for the church during the year made possible by your participation in our events.

Talking about the WOC, we donated $900 this year split between three charities, the Young Life Group, Hope Haven, and Backpack Buddies. We normally donate 10% of our net monies raised each year which would have been about $625 this year, but we decided to up the ante to $900 this year. You can all be very proud of the work the WOC does on behalf of all the women of the church.

We also changed the meeting day of the WOC to Tuesday, at 11:15am to accommodate the people going to the Bible Study on Tuesday, and the Bell practice. This was done in hopes of attracting more women to join us in our planning efforts. So—if you are available on Tuesday’s at 11:15 come into the parlor and join us. Sometimes we even go to lunch together, so come on and join in the fun.

Fellowship is going to spearhead with Strategic Planning an Easter Egg Hunt for the community on Saturday before Easter. To do this we are looking to have about 2,000 plastic eggs for the event filled with candy (not chocolate), gum, toys, pennies, or whatever that we can place around the campus and have different age groups find.

We will have cookies, beverages and maybe even the Easter Bunny available. This is a real outreach program for us to get involved in. What I am looking for is help getting the plastic eggs done. I know this seems early, but the “early bird catches the worm”. If you can, please get a bag or two of the regular egg size plastic colored eggs and fill them. Then bring them to church marked in a bag for me and I will store them until we need them. The more we can get donated, the less we have to buy. I realize that this seems early, but before we know it Easter will be upon us. Easter is April 20th.

The Ladies of the Church under the leadership of Brenda Sommerfeld will also be doing the Ash Wednesday Lenten Lunch in Fellowship Hall. If you get a call for the entrée or the dessert, please say yes and help us out. This is always a great event, and people tell us they look forward to our lunch each year.

Elaine Branda and I will also this month be looking for some help writing notes to those people that we haven’t seen in a while, letting them know we have a great new minister, and that we miss them. It really is an easy thing to do, and we would love your help. Contact Elaine or me if you are willing to help.

Remember March is Dinner and a Surprise, so watch for the sign-up sheet near the end of February and sign up. Please don’t wait to the last minute.

Again, I thank the Lord, the PNC, Pastor Bob and the congregation for bringing Pastor Chris into the fold. I know we will grow and make a difference in the life of LPC and in the community we serve.

I Thessalonians 5:18 (NAS) in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Valentine’s Day Card and Games Luncheon
The WOC look forward to seeing many of you at our popular Valentine’s Day Card and Games Luncheon on Saturday, February 15th from noon until 4:00pm in Fellowship Hall. The annual Cards and Games Luncheon has always been a popular and well attended event. Tickets are available for $12 from Nancy Spears between services and after the 10:30am service. Both men and women enjoy this event in which the type of cards or game is your choice. Hope to see you there! Profits from our events are used to help maintain or improve our church facilities. Each January, we give 10% of our yearly profits to a local charity that helps women and/or children.

The Women of the Church meet the third Tuesday monthly at 11:15. All women are invited to attend.
“Just What Happens During a Family Promise Host Week?”

We have just completed our first hosting experience for Family Promise for 2014 and what a joyful experience it was! I think I speak for all of those who helped out during the week that the three families that we hosted this year were delightful….the moms were so helpful and appreciative and the children were a delight to have around. We had more volunteers helping us than ever before and that was most appreciated. Many of you know that we host these families four times a year but you may not know what happens during each week so I am going to tell you everything that occurred this past week which was typical of all of our hosting weeks:

Before the week begins, June Allison is lining up dinner hosts and Saturday hosts from those who have either signed up or called and are willing to help during the week. At the same time, I am scheduling overnight hosts, set-up and clean-up volunteers and laundry volunteers.

Beginning on Sunday, January 19, Mick Mikkelson travelled to the Baptist Church of Beaufort to pick up the Family Promise trailer containing all of the beds, the families’ belongings, car seats, strollers, first aid kit and pillows that will be used during the week and brings that to Fellowship Hall arriving as the second service ends. During that time, I was organizing the bedding and linens which we have stored for use each time in preparation for Bob & Bonnie Flack, Elaine & Frank Branda, Cameron & Alberta Anderson, Linda Wright and Sandra Benninger who will help set up the beds, TVs, nightstands, etc. in each of the families’ private room for the week. Each door has a welcoming sign with the names of the family members. Another room is set up as a common lounge with a TV with DVDs, games, toys, books, crafts and a couch. Prior to all of this being done, June Allison has stocked the kitchen with breakfast and lunch items to last throughout the week. In addition throughout the week, she will restock and bring fresh fruits.

Starting on Sunday evening and every evening through Friday, caring volunteers serve as dinner hosts bringing a portion of the evening meal, staying and offering Christian hospitality from 5:30 to 8:30.

During this week, Pam & Andy Carpenter, Sandy Benninger, Janit & Tom Maguire, BJ Campbell & Frank LeRose, members of Temple Oseh Shalom, Betsy & Dick MacDougal, Mary Ann Jones, Dianne Grazier, Elaine & Frank Branda served as evening hosts. Each evening throughout the week there was either one or two overnight hosts from 8:30 pm until 7:00 am, and these included: Jerry Kramer, Bebe Fasbender, Don Pierce, Chris Herrin, Bert & Anneke Ruys, Alex Atkins, June & Donald Allison and Mick Mikkelson & myself. Each morning at 7am during the week, the families were transported by a Family Promise van to the daycenter in Bluffton where they spent the day working with the social worker finding employment and affordable housing and learning life skills. On Saturday morning, members of Iglesia Casa del Rey prepared and served breakfast and hosted the families until noon. In the afternoon, June & Donald Allison transported them to and from the movies and in the evening the families ate at Mellow Mushroom thanks to generous donations from members & friends of LPC. Sunday morning after the families left at 7am, Mick Mikkelson & myself, Sally Stein and Dianne Grazier loaded the trailer once again in preparation for the next congregation and cleaned and organized Fellowship Hall. Laundry from the week was bagged and distributed to Bonnie Flack, Sally Stein, Elaine Branda, Betsy Rogers, June Allison and myself to wash and return before the next host week begins in April. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this host week so delightful!

This is the beginning of our sixth year of an association with Family Promise of Beaufort County and it is a very important ministry of Lowcountry Presbyterian Church. There are 350 homeless children in Beaufort County and this organization working with 13 host congregations such as ours and many other support congregations is the only shelter for these children and their families. It is a hand up, not a hand out as 85% of the families in the program are still employed in homes at least one year or more later. Please consider helping during the next host week April 20 through April 27 in some way. Remember as they say at Family Promise, “one homeless child is one too many”.

Diane Mikkelson, Chair
757-6686
dianemikke@aol.com
CCMAC

The Change Can Make a Change Offering is received for a hunger initiative during the month of February. The CCMAC and Souper Bowl money will be divided between First Baptist Shepherd’s Closet, Church of the Cross Food Pantry, Bluffton Self Help and Campbell AME Soup Kitchen.

Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 2nd the Youth Group will be collecting cans of soup and monetary donations for the local food pantries as a part of the nationwide effort to end hunger, the Souper Bowl of Caring.

February Birthdays

Dennis Lake 1 Kay Hollinger 16
Kay Moore 3 Kaitlyn Cimino 17
Leland Day 4 Margaret Hubsch 19
Janet Lang 4 Arthur Paton 20
Paul Cimino 6 Kiah O’Brien 21
Marilyn Miesner 7 Bob Replogle 22
Carolyn Alexander 8 Pam Carpenter 23
Dick Eberhart 9 Billie Hoskins 23
Fran Marshall 9 Phil Sanford 24
Kay Post 11 Dennis Jagt 25
Anne Louise O’Brien 13 Don Pierce 25
Clancy Mathews 14 Mick Mikkelson 27
John Rea 14 Janet Chamberlain 28
Bob Anderson 15

Member Prayer List

Dorothy Billings
Karel Bunker
Helen Joseph
Beverly Lockwood
Mary Mitchell
Connie Plumstead

Thank you for all your kind words and expressions of sympathy at the recent loss of my father-in-law. On behalf of my husband and our family, we appreciate it very much. Sincerely, Christy James

Ash Wednesday

LPC will host the Community Ash Wednesday Service and Luncheon on March 5th beginning at noon. The Community Lenten Services will continue Wednesdays through Lent at the various churches in the area.

Lowcountry Churches Coalition on Aging Presents Medicare, Medicaid and More

Do the terms Medicare, Medicaid, reimbursement sources, or community resources give you a headache? If so, plan to attend the Coalition on Aging presentation by Peggy Hitchcox, Tuesday, February 4th at 2:00pm. This is a free program, open to the public.
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<td><strong>Men of Purpose 7:30am</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Valentine’s Card and Game Party 12:00pm</em></td>
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