



## Louisiana Interchurch Conference

### E-Newsletter

April 20, 2017



*“To live the faith we hold in common”*

Website links: [HOME page](#) [About Us](#) [Resources](#) [Daily Prayer Calendar](#) [Newsletter archive](#)

[\*The Church As A Voice For Unity \(Article from our Director\)\*](#)

[\*Prayers and Sympathy\*](#)

[\*Annual Assembly – on the LIC website\*](#)

[\*Bread or Stones – Need for Covenant Congregations\*](#)

[\*51st Annual Earth Day - church resources\*](#)

[\*Yom Hashoah events \(holocaust remembrance\)\*](#)

[\*Act to extend CHIP funding before it expires\*](#)

[\*National Day of Prayer May 4th\*](#)

[\*Children's Sabbath May 7th\*](#)

[\*Offering thanks to our recent contributors\*](#)

[\*Dates to calendar\*](#)

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### [\*The Church As A Voice For Unity\*](#)

Article from our Director

*A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

As the Church throughout the world continues to celebrate the Great Fifty Days of Easter we will hear stories of resurrection appearances and culminating with the reading from St. John's Gospel where he appears to the disciples, breathes on them and they receive the Spirit. Elsewhere in the *Acts* we hear the account of Pentecost wind, tongues of fire and people understanding one another though they speak in their own native tongues. Both stories offer signs of Pentecost in which God's Spirit provides for unity and a reconciliation even though people come from different places likely with different cultures and speak different languages.

It is only by means of the Spirit that these people live together in harmony. The LSU School of Mass Communications offered an event in these first days of Easter that focused on Public policy and Race. The Mayor of Baton Rouge spoke about the shooting of Alton Sterling last July followed by the deaths of three law enforcement officers just days later. The mayor is striving to provide leadership for a city populated with people where there are divisions around race and economics. Like citizens all around our state and nation we have become so accustomed to living with divisions that we are resigned to them.

Within the Church there are also divisions that members have accepted even though they are signs of sin and alienation. Aside from differences in doctrines our cultural differences can keep us apart. Our communities and our nation are desperately seeking a way forward, and the Church could provide an example of people seeking unity and reconciliation in spite of great differences. If we in the Church could achieve some measure of racial reconciliation, we could help others find a way forward toward a vision of a new heaven and earth to which God is calling us. May God’s Spirit fall anew upon us as we encounter the Risen Christ and are empowered by fresh winds blowing over us.

Fr. Dan Krutz

### Prayers and Sympathy



The late Rev. Richard Hardy, Jr., LIC Board Member

We were saddened to learn this week of the passing of LIC Board Member, the **Rev. Richard Hardy, Jr.**, who passed away back on December 20th.

Rev. Hardy served as LIC President in 2001. He also served as the Board Designate (an alternate representative for the Judicatory leader when needed) for the Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention of Louisiana, Inc. for the last twelve years, though for the last few years he has not been able to attend Board meetings or actively participate.

Our prayers are with his wife, Mary, his three sons, and the entire family. Here is the obituary link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/shreveporttimes/obituary.aspx?pid=183251931>

Our prayers are with LIC Board Member Rev. Dr. Herman O. Kelly, Jr., after the passing of his father, **Herman Osby Kelly, Sr.**, at 94 years old on March 23, 2017. Service and military honors burial was held in Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Kelly serves as the LIC Board Designate for the African Methodist Episcopal Church – 8th Episcopal District.

Our sympathy to the Rev. Dr. Mike Massar & his family after the passing of his mother, **Merle Clark Massar**, at 93 years old on April 7, 2017. Service and burial were in Houston, with Dr. Massar officiating. For more info.:

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Merle-Massar&lc=2092&pid=185031311&mid=7361575>

Dr. Massar serves the LIC as the Judicatory Leader for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana.

Please keep in prayer the **LIC Administrative Assistant**, Lorraine Grout. The Lord has already greatly answered prayers in lessening the severity of possible diagnosis - thanks be to God! However, unless the Lord intervenes further she will very soon have to have surgery to remove a large tumor. Please pray that she recovers from this quickly.

### [Annual Assembly – on the LIC website](#)

We have posted pictures and information from the March Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference on the LIC website. Please check it out!



We found a former Board Member of the LIC – can you guess who this is?



Find out why Rev. Callahan was wearing an apron – doesn't he look great!

**[Click here for Speaker Summary Info.](#)** as has been posted on the LIC website. We very much appreciate Dr. Alisha Renfro and Ms. Helen Rose Patterson for providing us with electronic versions. You can also find out more about the 2017 draft Master Coastal Plan, and the actions needed to help save our coast at: <http://coastal.la.gov/2017-coastal-master-plan/>



Board election information and other business session highlights are also on the web. This year's Annual Assembly theme was: ***"Reformation: Watching the change in our Church and in our Coastline."***

Thanks again to all who attended the Assembly!

### [Bread or Stones – Need for Covenant Congregations](#)

#### **Calling all churches!**

Our current grant that funds our Bread or Stones Program Coordinator has an **expected goal of reaching 50 churches before the end of June.** Please help us reach our goal! In an attempt to facilitate congregations joining the Bread or Stones Campaign we have created an online application for congregations and ministries to join. The link is



**BREAD or STONES**

below and is also available at website [www.breadorstones.com](http://www.breadorstones.com) on the "member" tab.

### ONLINE APPLICATION:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQbVBcVnIQ-uycDFbhorModhShXremLBqJzYqqEiweF6cNaw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQbVBcVnIQ-uycDFbhorModhShXremLBqJzYqqEiweF6cNaw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Application questions are simple: Contact info.; Fill in any programs currently available at your church/organization; and Are there any particular ministries that your congregation is interested in becoming involved with? Ministry ideas are available at: [www.breadorstones.com](http://www.breadorstones.com)

There are many ways that a church can participate and many of those have little or no monetary costs involved to the church itself. This is doable!

*Bread or Stones is an anti-poverty initiative for children.*

### 51st Annual Earth Day - church resources



The 51st Annual Earth Day will be Saturday, April 22, 2017.

We encourage you to celebrate this in your churches on Sunday April 23rd or April 30th. [Click here](#) for the 2017 bulletin resource for your church on Coastal Creation Care.

Care of our Earth begins with each person making a conscious effort to be good stewards of it. Recycle whenever possible; plant a tree; pick up trash. "Less concrete; more green." Find out more at: <http://www.earthday.org/>

### Yom Hashoah events (holocaust remembrance)



Eleven Candles – for **Eleven Million Lives** Lost

**This year Yom Hashoah falls on Monday, April 24, 2017.** The internationally recognized date by Jews for Holocaust Remembrance Day corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar. It marks the anniversary of the [Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](#). In Hebrew, Holocaust Remembrance Day is called Yom Hashoah. When the actual date of Yom Hashoah falls on a Friday, the state of Israel observes Yom Hashoah on the preceding Thursday. When it falls on a Sunday, Yom Hashoah is observed on the following Monday.

*These are the commemoration events in Louisiana that we have been made aware of:*

### Alexandria area:

Event will be this **Monday, April 24, 2017, at 6:00pm** starting at the Holocaust Memorial near Rapides Regional Medical Center (at the corner of Elliott and Fourth Streets). The event begins at the monument and then continues just down the block at Emmanuel Baptist Church. *This Holocaust Memorial site was dedicated on November 10th, 2014, to those who were lost but who will forever be remembered.*

### Shreveport area:

**The 34th Annual** Holocaust Remembrance Service of Northwest Louisiana will be held on **Sunday, April 23, 2017, beginning at 3pm** at First Baptist Church, 543 Ockley Drive, Shreveport, LA 71106. Guest Speaker will be Armin Guggenheim; the 2017 Chair is Reginald "Reggie" Abrams. *The service traditionally includes the lighting of eleven candles – in memory of the 11 million lives lost in the Holocaust.*

Pictured at right is a railcar that was used to transport Holocaust victims during World War II. These victims are remembered on Yom Hashoah.

*Note - January 27th is the 'international' remembrance day, but this April/May day is the Jewish commemoration day for those lost.*



### [Act to extend CHIP funding before it expires](#)

The **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** was enacted by a bipartisan group of lawmakers in 1997 to provide funding to states to reduce the numbers of uninsured children. **Funding is currently set to expire on September 30, 2017.** The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides health coverage to eligible children, through both Medicaid and separate CHIP programs.



Public support for CHIP has been instrumental in the past and **we encourage you to contact your congressman to voice your support** again to secure CHIP's future so that this essential program will continue to be available for the 8.9 million children and hundreds of thousands of pregnant women who rely on CHIP for their coverage.

First Focus is one of the organizations focusing on child well-being and they invite you to join in a **sign-on letter to congressional leaders** urging Congress to act quickly to enact a long-term extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). They encourage all interested stakeholders — whether your organization is a local, state or national organization — to sign-on! They also encourage distributing notice about the sign-on letter to your networks across your state and across the nation.

**TO SIGN ON to the letter from First Focus:**

Click [here](#) to add your organization's name, location and state to the letter  
The deadline for signing the letter is **Wednesday, May 3, 2017.**

## National Day of Prayer May 4th



The theme for this year is:

**For Your Great Name's Sake!  
Hear Us... Forgive Us... Heal Us!**

Taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, "O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God...". As the 2017 National Day of Prayer on May 4th approaches, thousands of churches, and communities will be working to rally millions of Christian's to once again heed this call!

## Children's Sabbath May 7th

Remembering our children as a precious resource from God, we encourage all congregations to incorporate Children's Sabbath activities and/or prayer into your worship services each May and October. Generally the May Sabbath is observed during the first week of May but dates may be tailored to suit your needs/schedules.



Please [click here](#) for Children's Litany information and links to printable programs for several area states, or [click here](#) for an informative bulletin insert for a Children's Sabbath.

## Offering thanks to our recent contributors

The majority of the LIC operating income is contributed through the leadership of our member Judicatories, whom we deeply appreciate and depend upon. Additionally, we offer our sincere thanks to our ministry partners who have contributed as listed below.

*Contributions received from March 29, 2017 through April 19, 2017:*

Endowment Fund for Christian Unity: Mrs. Patricia Wilkerson

**Thank you all!**

Please pray for this ecumenical ministry. If you would like to help financially, please mail contributions to: Louisiana Interchurch Conference, 527 N. Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or contribute online via PayPal at <http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm>.

Dates to calendar

Earth Day April 22nd  
Ecumenical Advocacy Days: April 21 – 24, 2017, Washington, D.C.  
National Workshop on Christian Unity: May 1-4, 2017, Minneapolis, MN  
National Day of Prayer – May 4th  
Children’s Sabbath – First week of May  
May Friendship Day – Church Women United – May 5th  
Bread or Stones Task Force Meeting – May 11th, Baton Rouge  
Day of Pentecost – June 4th

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

**Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

2018		March 5-6, Baton Rouge
2019		March 11-12, Lafayette

**Fall Board meeting dates:**

2017		Sept. 25-26, Alexandria
2018		Sept. 24-25, Lake Charles

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*Louisiana Interchurch Conference  
527 North Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
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*President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;  
Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz*

You are receiving this message because you have previously expressed interest in the work of Louisiana Interchurch Conference. **We hope you enjoy our newsletter!** However, if you’d like to discontinue receiving this e-newsletter, please [click here](#) or call us at: (225) 344-0134.