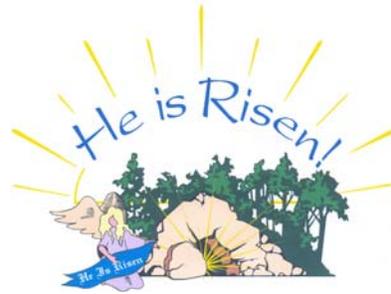




E-Newsletter

March 29, 2017



Louisiana Interchurch Conference "To live the faith we hold in common"

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Article from our Director

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 17:34-35

During my senior year at high school the youth group at my church volunteered to visit a nursing home in my hometown one Sunday afternoon to lead residents in singing Christmas carols. We arrived, and the real Seniors were seated -- some in chairs and others in wheel chairs around the family room. I was standing in the front and noticed a man seated in his wheel chair with his feet dangling out. One of his slippers had come off, and I slipped down to the floor to put his slipper back on his foot. Before I was able to put the slipper back on, the condition of his foot got my attention: somewhat discolored and disfigured. It was hard not to rush to get that slipper on again. It was a humbling experience.

Though it was long ago I only recently made a connection to the experience with the elderly gentleman that day and the account of Jesus and the Twelve in St. John's account of the footwashing. Of course, Jesus had developed a relationship with each one of his disciples. I am sure the disciples were humbled by their master washing their feet, and surely Jesus humbled himself as well. In fact, Jesus in washing the feet of his disciples modeled for them and for us as well the attitude we should have toward one another. It's

not altogether clear, but it seems as though this event sealed the bond among those around Jesus that fateful night.

Jesus showed how to be a Servant, and in so doing also showed all who would be his disciples how to be in relationship with others. God's Spirit working in the Church and through its members provides the love that enables everyone to fulfill the ministry to which we are called. This is a giving away of ourselves rather than a taking, and that means that the Church to some degree goes against the culture. This is a culture often that preaches consumption with the goal of having more and more possessions. It seems impossible not to become enslaved to the cultural message except for Holy Week and Easter. It is the events we commemorate during these holy days that show us a way of experiencing freedom and new life. May these days we will soon enter provide a way that we arise to new life from the darkness that at times surrounds us. Yes, there is a Friday, but Sunday's coming—the Day of Resurrection and the promise of New Life!

Fr. Dan Krutz

Prayers and Sympathy



The late Rev. Paul Pic, LIC Board Member

Our prayers are with Mrs. Rosemary Pic and the family of LIC Board Member, the **Rev. Paul Pic**, who passed away on March 6, 2017. He was 78 years old and had been dealing with heart disease and ultimately succumbed as a result of congestive heart failure. Paul began participating with the LIC in 1982 and served as a Board Designate for the United Church of Christ, South Central Conference. He was also a member of the LIC Faith & Order Commission for several decades. We will miss his faithful presence as well as his wit.

Here is the obituary link with an option to post condolences: <http://obits.nola.com/obituaries/nola/obituary.aspx?n=paul-joseph-pic&pid=184410817&fhid=4708>

Please remember in prayer the **Rev. John Scott** of the Presbytery of the Pines as he is undergoing medical tests. Rev. Scott has been a delegate at LIC Board meetings and is active in the Bread or Stones campaign for children.



Mrs. Delancey

We offer appreciation to and prayers for **Mrs. Dora Delancey**, as she has been undergoing some serious health issues. Dora was elected an LIC Board Member at Large representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in March of 2009 and had to resign early this month. We appreciate her commitment to serve on the Board as long as possible and will continue to remember her in prayer. (Photo at left is from a 2013 LIC Board meeting.)

Our prayers remain with all of our law enforcement officers, and especially with the family of **Sheriff's deputy Sgt. Shawn Anderson** who was killed in the line of duty on March 18, 2017 in Baton Rouge. He was shot while questioning a suspect. He was 43 and a father of two. He earned many accolades in his career and was known for doing whatever job needed done, whether it was helping deliver a baby, finding a lost cat, or

saving a woman from jumping off a bridge. Even as we grieve over this police officer, we remember three others who were recently murdered in Baton Rouge while several others were injured as well. We continue to pray for all of our public servants.

Annual Assembly highlights

The 47th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference was held **March 6-7, 2017**, in Monroe, LA, with the theme: *Theme: "Reformation: Watching the change in our Church and in our Coastline."*



Speaker Summary Info.: On Monday, March 6th, Dr. Alisha Renfro presented first, giving us a history of the Mississippi River; alerting us to just how major this waterway is with the largest discharge of any river in the U. S., and the important role it played in creating much of the land in South Louisiana that we have been and now see eroding away. Ms. Helen Rose Patterson's presentation followed with more detail on the 2017 draft Master Coastal Plan, and the actions needed to help save our coast. Find out more at: <http://coastal.la.gov/2017-coastal-master-plan/>

On Tuesday, March 7th, the Reverend Joseph Daly provided a history of the Protestant Reformation mixed with some interesting anecdotes, beginning with Martin Luther and his '95 Theses' in Germany and continuing with highlights from the 500 years that has transpired since then. (We are awaiting electronic copies of the speaker presentation information and will be posting those on the LIC website as soon as received.)

A few of the Business Session Highlights: There was discussion on the LIC's commitment to Racial Reconciliation and a meeting was set up and held in Shreveport on March 15th (another meeting has been scheduled for May 8th in Shreveport.) Bishop Jacob Owensby of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana authored a statement voicing concerns over an anti-terrorism training event in Rapides Parish (the full statement is currently available on the LIC home page at www.lainterchurch.org). Officer elections were approved. The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shreveport is the incoming President. Rev. Michael Otkins is the new coordinator for Region 7, and Rev. Margaret Simms and Rev. Susan Lassalle were elected as Board Members at Large.

We've had a little trouble with the LIC website but hope to soon have a complete webpage

with various pictures from the Annual Assembly. Please keep checking the website for it!
(Always good to have more 'hits' on it anyway! ☺)

Thanks to all who attended the Assembly!

Bread or Stones Needs You!

Your Church can Help!

The Bread or Stones Campaign is a Christian coalition of churches and concerned individuals working together to improve the lives of children in Louisiana. This program is funded through grants and individual contributions and church participation is vital to its success. Opportunities for grants are often measured by the success rate of successfully reaching churches and having them commit to involvement. Our current grant that funds our Coordinator has an **expected goal of reaching 50 churches before the end of June.** Please help us reach our goal!



There are many ways that a church can participate and many of those have little or no monetary costs involved to the church itself. Help us build momentum! Many small voices make a giant chorus and a load is always lighter when carried by a group.

Want more info on the Bread or Stones Campaign?

Please contact [Samuel Rottman](mailto:Samuel.Rottman) or lainterchurch@aol.com

Bread or Stones – a heartwarming success story

Excerpts from an update by Rev. Craig Dalferes, Rector at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church & School in Houma, LA:

"I want to tell you a story about something God's been cooking up here in Houma these past several months. It's still coming together so I'm not sure exactly how it's all going to turn out. But I feel so privileged to watch the Lord bringing it all together, into something really beautiful.

About a year ago a few of our parishioners attended a "Bread or Stones" listening post here in town. We were challenged to become a "Covenant Partner," of this ecumenical initiative to improve the wellbeing of children in our community, particularly those living on the ragged edge of poverty. We mulled this over for a while, prayed about it, and without really knowing just what it would mean, our Vestry decided to "adopt" a nearby elementary school as our way of contributing to the effort. The idea of the Bread or Stones campaign is for churches to partner with other churches, with civic groups and governmental agencies to find ways to improve Louisiana's consistently low ranking across nearly every metric of childhood wellbeing.

Our adopted school is Legion Park Elementary School, which is located only a few

blocks away from St. Matthew's Church & School. They have about 300 children, grades Kindergarten through 6th grade, all of whom are eligible to receive 'free and reduced' lunches. I'm embarrassed to say I only recently learned where Legion Park School is—it's tucked away in a bit of a rough neighborhood---in an area which, until a few months ago, was just not on my mental map. With the School Superintendent's blessing, we went to speak with the Administration and told them we wanted to help, and asked them to tell us what they needed. I couldn't believe the kinds of things I was hearing: jump ropes for the kids to play with at recess, bulbs for the projectors in the classroom, chargers for the 6 laptop computers they had received but couldn't use because they couldn't plug them in!

We applied for and received a grant from the Community Mission Appeal funds. It was about \$3,500 which in the face of such enormous need seemed only a drop in the bucket. But it has proved more than enough. We were able to begin by providing a few of these much needed items. As we enlisted support from all across our community, the resources began to flow: not just monetary donations, but also time and talent. As an example, the Houma Tree Board, on which our St. Matthew's Head of School volunteers, heard of our project and donated 11 trees to beautify the barren school campus. A friend from Rotary donated the soil and mulch. Our 7th graders here at St Matthew's Day School went over to Legion recently, led by our Head, Myers McAllister, and with some of Legion Park's 5th graders planted the trees together, as a symbol of the new relationship we are forging. An observer noted, "these kids live in totally different worlds, and yet here, on this playground, planting trees together, they're all just kids." As I thought about the day's events it struck me that all of us learned something that day: the joy of reaching across boundaries that divide us, the beauty of something so simple as planting trees together, the joy of giving, the importance of relationships with our friends just next door.

About the same time we were organizing the tree planting, I heard from a Parishioner who had just come back from North Mississippi with 50 gently used pc's which were donated to St. Matthew's by a big medical consortium. This was literally like manna from heaven, as I had no idea this was even in play. We decided to send 25 machines, complete with monitors, keyboards, mice—all of it, to Legion Park which translated into a much needed computer lab for the children. We figure it was at least \$5,000 worth of equipment.

Most recently I got a phone call from a very large company who heard about what we've been doing, and may be interested in partnering with us as part of their corporate outreach to the local community. This is still in the works, but if it comes together, then we'll again see remarkable resources of time and volunteer labor flowing to Legion to the benefit of the children.

We are also partnering with a neighboring Roman Catholic church to get together some volunteers to help with after-school tutoring. This, too, is still in the formative stage, but I believe we'll truly be able to help some of these children develop their full potential.

What we're doing takes money, but the money and the stuff, is only a part of a much greater whole. What really excites me are the relationships we're beginning to form, which hopefully will continue to bring light and love into our community. It's also deeply inspiring, I believe, for the beleaguered faculty and administration to know that the community cares about what they're doing, and wants to help them in whatever small

way we can to meet the enormous challenges they face each day. As a show of support we are partnering with St. Francis Catholic Church to create a 'Teacher Appreciation' event later this Spring.

So, all I can say is 'the Lord is so good'! He provides all that we need to do what he calls us to do. We just have to begin by offering what we can, as generously as we can. The Spirit will take care of the rest, and in the process, create something truly beautiful."

Below are a couple of pictures Fr. Craig sent.



[Volunteer Case Manager & Long Term Recovery Training-Hammond](#)

Tangilena Long Term Recovery Group is **excited** to be able to offer a VOLUNTEER CASE MANAGER TRAINING and Long Term Recovery Group Training provided by UMCOR.

Training Schedule and Costs are:

April 4th - 5th Volunteer Case Manager Training
8:30 - 5:00 PM First United Methodist Church, 2200 Rue Denise, Hammond, LA

April 6th Case Managers AND Long Term Recovery Group Participants
8:30 - 5:00 PM First United Methodist Church, 2200 Rue Denise, Hammond, LA

The cost for the 3-day training is \$25 and this covers your course materials and lunch.
The cost for the 1-day training is \$10 and this covers your course materials and lunch.

REGISTER EARLY to SAVE YOUR SPOT!!!

UMCOR is humanitarian and relief organization of the United Methodist Church's Global Ministries. Responding to global crises since 1941, UMCOR also provides training and support to United Methodist Conferences in the United States as they respond to natural and humanitarian disasters.

Tangilena is currently seeking people that are interested in volunteering their time to be a Case Manager for flood survivors. Volunteers will be able to set their own schedule to work with their clients, as well as choose how many clients they would like to manage. Case Managers will have a United Methodist Conference Supervisor that is available to assist them with handling their cases.

For questions please contact Beth Lafargue, President, Tangilena Long Term Recovery Group at [985-320-0425](tel:985-320-0425).

Governor's Prayer Breakfast April 11th

The **53rd Annual** GPB will be held on:

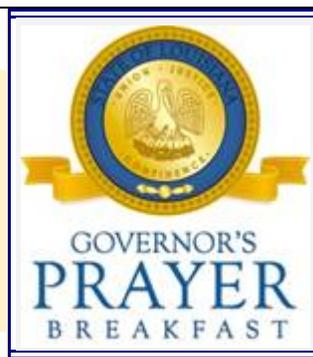
April 11, 2017 at Raising Cane's River Center
in Baton Rouge

Email info@lagpb.org for more info.

or go to:

www.lagpb.org to reserve a table

or order Individual tickets.



51st Annual Earth Day - April 22nd

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. 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. Find out more at: <http://www.earthday.org/>



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 February 24, 2017 through March 28, 2017:

Friends of the LIC and Miscellaneous Contributions: Rev. Jan Holloway; Karen C. Hayward; Rev. Barbara Driscoll; Rev. Nancy Andrews; Rev. Lynn Malone; Madre Annie Etheredge; Marie Ducote-Comeaux; Rob Gorman; and many anonymous contributors at the Annual Assembly worship service.

Endowment Fund for Christian Unity: Ann Romero; Catherine Townsend; Bill Rucker; Bill & Winkie Bouldin; Fannie Perkins Reddix; Rev. Marie Williams; and one anonymous contributor.

Bread or Stones Children's Anti-Poverty Campaign: Bill and Winkie Bouldin – in memory of the late Rev. Paul Pic

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

LIC Commission on Criminal Justice Meeting – April 7th
Palm Sunday – April 9th
Governor’s Prayer Breakfast - April 11th
Good Friday – April 14th
Easter Sunday – April 16th
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

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

“To live the faith we hold in common”

Louisiana Interchurch Conference

527 North Blvd., 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(225) 344-0134 www.lainterchurch.org

President: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; President Elect: The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey;

Executive Director: Fr. Dan Krutz

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