

# E-Newsletter

# Louisiana Interchurch Conference

February 23, 2017

"To live the faith we hold in common"

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### Who is the LIC?

Article from our Director

#### Who is the LIC?\*

Bishop Shelton Fabre of the Catholic Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has a regular column in the diocesan news magazine, *The Bayou Catholic*. Though the focus of his article was on the ANA (Annual Bishop's Appeal) for the diocese, I particularly appreciated the initial paragraph where he offers a narrative description of what is meant by the term *Diocese*. In our part of the world where there are so many Catholics, culturally the term is fairly familiar; but other Christian Communions have a different terminology with many of the same functions, with terms like Conference, Region, Convention, Area and so on.

Though the terms are in the parlance of the different denominations, the local congregation is the basic organizing community. Bishop Fabre in his article described well, I think, the popular descriptions members have of the local church communities (parishes in the case of Catholics) of the Diocese. He says he often hears people "refer to the "diocese" as if the "diocese were some-thing and not some-one." He goes on to note that some people think of the diocese as the administration or as a building. Others think of the diocese as something abstract. To quote Bishop Fabre, "Yet, the reality is that WE are the "diocese." The "diocese is **you** and **me.** We are 90,000 Catholics together. We are 39 uniquely beautiful church parishes together with the bishop who serves you."

I appreciated Bishop Fabre's words particularly because I think his efforts to see the vital connection between what we describe generically as "judicatory" and its people are relevant to all of us. Also, The **Louisiana Interchurch Conference (LIC)**, is not a

thing, or only the fourth floor of the Louisiana United Methodist Area Offices. The LIC is **you** and **me.** The LIC is also 16 member denominations whose members and clergy spread across the State of Louisiana and beyond. We are Baptists, United Methodists, Catholics, Lutherans, African Methodists, Quakers, Disciples, UCC's, Church of God in Christ members, Church Women United and members of the Order of St. Lazarus!

Together as the LIC, we raise up Christ's call to unity in witness, fellowship, mission and service. We pray, worship, study and witness together. We are often at our best when we do as the prophet Micah admonishes God's people, "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." The LIC is not the Church in itself, but when we come together, we point to a future to which God calls the Church. God is calling us to witness to a vision of unity of all peoples that will eventually overcome the face of divisions caused by economic injustice, racism and a host of other "isms" including individualism. As we prepare the walk with the Lord in the Great 40 Days of Lent, let us pray that God will restore us to unity with God and one another in Christ Jesus.

\* Source quotes: Bayou Catholic, February 2017, Page 8



**LENT 2017** 

# <u>Update on the LIC Farmer's Advocate</u>

Thank you all for your prayers for Mrs. Betty Puckett, LIC Farmer's Advocate, after her diagnosis of chronic CML leukemia on November 30th. She believed she would have to resign from work with the LIC but prayers and medication are helping – thanks be to God! We are pleased to report that she is continuing her work with the LIC, helping farmers. Again, **thanks be to God!** 

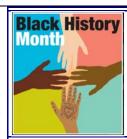


The LIC does currently have a limited supply of emergency grant funds available for farmers, so if you know of a farmer who has fallen on hard times, please let them know about our program!

## Black History Month - celebrating fellow Americans

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month."

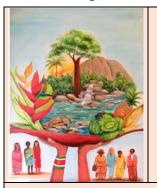
We owe the celebration of Black History Month, largely to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. (What an encouraging role model to those who might think of dropping out of school!)



Dr. Woodson graduated within two years at high school and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He was disturbed to find in his studies that history books of that time period largely ignored the black American population. Always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

### World Day of Prayer - March 3rd



World Day of Prayer (First Friday of March)

WDP motto "Informed prayer and prayerful action"
What is it that we can do, as the WDP
movement,
to keep God's creation good?

Find out more at: http://www.worlddayofprayer.net/

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

# Annual Assembly - hope to see you March 6th-7th!



The 47th Annual Assembly of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference will be held **March 6-7, 2017**, in Monroe, LA.

Theme: "Reformation: Watching the change in our Church and in our Coastline."

This year's Annual Assembly will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 4915 Pecanland Mall Drive, in Monroe, LA.

Guests are invited to all speaker sessions in the Courtyard's Meeting Room on the first floor of the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, and to the evening Ecumenical Worship Service at First Christian Church (see below).

#### **Public Schedule:**

#### Monday, March 6th

2:15 pm-3:30 pm Presentation I (part 1): "Watching the change

in our coastline"

3:45 pm-5:00 pm Presentation I (part 2): "Watching the change

in our coastline"

7:30 pm Ecumenical Worship Service at First Christian Church,

3400 Forsythe Ave (corner of Forsythe and Loop), Monroe

#### Tuesday, March 7th

9:30 am-10:30 am Presentation II, "Watching the change in our church"

#### Our Speakers:



Helen Rose Patterson



Dr. Alisha Renfro



Rev. Joseph Daly

Monday's speakers: Ms. Helen Rose Patterson is the Greater New Orleans Outreach Coordinator at Restore the Mississippi River Delta and is with the National Wildlife Federation. She has her degree from Bennington College.

**Dr. Alisha Renfro** is a coastal scientist with the National Wildlife Federation working on the Mississippi River Delta restoration in coastal Louisiana. She has her Ph.D. in Marine and Atmospheric Science from Stony Brook University.

Tuesday's speaker: The Reverend Joseph Daly is Rector of the Episcopal Church of Ascension in Lafayette, LA. Rev. Daly is a native of Nova Scotia and studied in Canada, the United States and the Middle East.

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The Monday evening Ecumenical Worship Service will be held at First Christian Church, 3400 Forsythe Ave (corner of Forsythe and Loop), in Monroe, beginning at 7:30 pm.

The Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton of the Great River Region Christian Church Disciples of Christ will be the preacher. Dr. Craig Ferguson is the host pastor. The service will include installation of new and re-elected officers including the incoming President, the Most Rev. Michael G. Duca of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shreveport.



First Christian Church - Disciples of Christ

3/6/17 at 7:30pm All are welcome!

# We hope to see you there!

### Spring forward on March 12th



Don't forget to move your clocks forward on Sunday, March 12th, at 2am!

You don't want to be late for church!

## Bread or Stones Listening Post - March 13th in Covington



## **March 13th - Covington**

The Bread or Stones Campaign is a Christian coalition of churches and concerned individuals working together to improve the lives of children in Louisiana.

Church members and leaders concerned with childhood poverty and child well-being in the Covington area are encouraged to attend the listening post at

# **Greater Starlight Baptist Church** 521 West 28th Ave, in Covington

on **Monday**, **March 13th**, beginning at <u>6pm</u>. This will be a time to learn about the issues effecting children in poverty and what the religious community can do to help.

Come voice your concerns and collaborate with others for the good of our children.

Please also mark your calendar for these two <u>Alexandria area</u> events:

June 1, 2017: Press conference with Bishop David Talley & Bishop Jake Owensby June 1, 2017 Listening Post (more info. on location to follow)

# Want more info on the Bread or Stones Campaign? Please contact Samuel Rottman or lainterchurch@aol.com

### Prison Ministry Conference in Baton Rouge March 27th-29th

The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana invites all who support Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Reform to a three-day conference on prison ministry: "Proclaiming Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration."

March 27 - March 29, 2017 St. James Episcopal Church 205 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge

### PRISON MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Proclaiming Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration

Monday-Wednesday, March 27-29, 2017 St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana

http://www.stjamesbr.org/2017Conference Registration is limited, apply online at: https://secure.accessacs.com/access/eventlogin.aspx?id=Eoudro/EY48AwthOXtubXA==&site=91377&ReturnUrl=events%2fwz\_people.aspx&ChurchID=3885&EventID=119360&sn=91377 or phone 225-638-8433 for additional information.

Please note that at this time the St. James website is in the process of being updated. It will soon reflect the following corrected **SCHEDULE**:

**Monday, March 27th**, the conference begins at noon with worship. The first speaker presentation begins at 2:00pm. Includes evening dinner, to end at 8:30pm for Monday.

**Tuesday**, begins at 7:30am with morning prayer and 1st speaker session begins at 8:30am. Ends at 6pm on Tuesday.

Wednesday, begins at 8am with a trip to Angola, to return for 2pm end of conference.

# <u>Governor's Prayer Breakfast April 11th</u>

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

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

Email <u>info@lagpb.org</u> for more info. or go to:

www.lagpb.org to reserve a table or order Individual tickets.



## 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 January 21, 2017 through February 23, 2017:

<u>Scholarship fund for Board Meeting applicants needing help with registration:</u>
Dr. Kenny Crump

<u>Endowment Fund for Christian Unity:</u> T. O. Perry; Louis & Jackie McHardy; Bishop Charles M. Jarrell; Bishop William H. Hutchinson; Ms. Jane Snyder; Sara L. Simmonds; and Dr. Kenny Crump.

# 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 <a href="http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm">http://www.lainterchurch.org/contribute/index.htm</a>.

### Dates to calendar

Mardi Gras (a/k/a Fat Tuesday) – February 28th

Ash Wednesday - March 1st

Next Faith & Order Commission Meeting: March 2, 2017, Pineville

Palm Sunday – April 9th

Good Friday – April 14th

Easter Sunday – April 16th

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

#### Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

#### **Annual Assembly meeting dates:**

| 2017 | March 6-7, Monroe      |
|------|------------------------|
| 2018 | March 5-6, Baton Rouge |

#### Fall Board meeting dates:

|      | 0                         |
|------|---------------------------|
| 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 Rev. Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr.; President Elect: The Most Rev. Michael G. Duca; 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 <u>click here</u> or call us at: (225) 344-0134.