

ORANGE BEACH NEWS

ORANGE BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sept. 2016



Worship: Sunday 10:00 am

Fellowship: Sunday 11:00 am

Men's Coffee: Tuesdays 9:00 am

Bible study: Thursdays 9:00 am

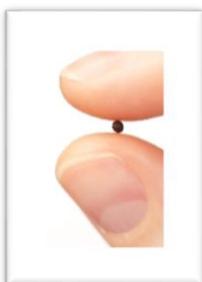
Everyone welcome – please invite others!

From the pastor's desk:

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

Have you ever seen an actual mustard seed?

If not, come visit me in my office – I have a little jar. I bought the jar many years ago



when I was the Christian Ed director at another church. I used the seeds because I love to use visual props to illustrate and demonstrate a lesson. I kept the seeds, because – as is often true – the lessons we share with children have deep meaning for adults, too. Having faith the size of a mustard seed. That's doable, right? A mustard seed is very tiny! But knowing what that seed can do – that

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is the lesson that sticks with me.

Seeds are not meant to stay seeds. Their whole purpose is to grow, to change, to become something else – something bigger. A mustard seed grows into a large bush or tree, which is amazing when you consider the size of that seed. Look at a watermelon seed, a pumpkin seed, a peach pit. All much larger than a mustard seed, but they grow something so much smaller than the mustard bush. Jesus' words tell me that there are no limits to what I can do through God. This tells me that with God, nothing is impossible, no matter where I started, no matter how small I might feel. Put my faith in God, and I can do big things.

I also learn another lesson from this tiny seed – that I cannot just sit and do nothing and expect my faith to grow. I've had that jar of mustard seeds for many years now, and no mighty tree has grown on my bookshelf. Seeds, when left dormant, grow nothing. In order to grow and change and become something bigger, seeds need good soil. Water. Light. Weeds must be pulled and care must be shown. So, too, are we disciples of Christ. If we sit dormant, we stay dormant. We need to be planted in good soil – the Word of God. We need to be rooted in church, and we need to be fed with Scripture. We need to be watered. Jesus said, *"...but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* John 4:14. Drink, my friends. Drink, and drink often. And we need Light to grow. *"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"* John 8:12. And yes, we need to pull those weeds – the most dreaded of garden chores. Weeds are in our lives and as painful as it is, we need to pluck them and get rid of them or we will find they rob us from what we need so that we can grow.

How amazing. How joyful. How incredible. God gives us everything we need to grow and become mighty and do his works. Never think that you are too small, that your faith is too small to do mighty works. God calls each and every one of us to do Kingdom work – sharing the Good News, finding the lost sheep, and spreading his love throughout our world. Happy growing, everyone!

Peace,

~Kim

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Teachers Coffee

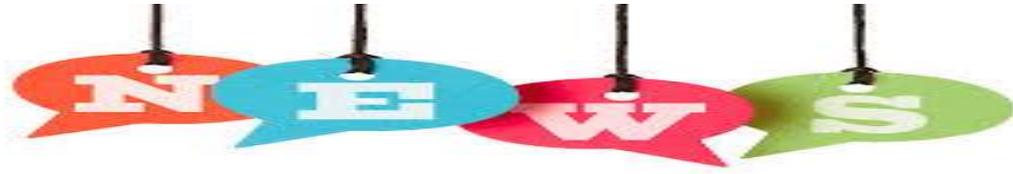
We kicked off the school year with coffee hours for the local teachers. For two days from 7:00am-9:00am we had coffee and treats available for the teachers to stop by and start their school year off knowing that we love

them and are praying for them. There was a prayer jar there for them to submit prayer requests, and Kim prayed with one teacher right there over coffee and muffins. We also sent a basket full of cards written by church members. Bible verses, notes of encouragement, and prayers will uplift and support our teachers. Thank you to everyone who wrote a card, and thank you to Nancy Brislin for providing the baked goods!



Family Promise is our next outreach ministry, with families here Sept 4-18. A huge thank you to Orange Beach Methodist Church, who is providing the majority of the dinners through the Meals on Wheels program. Thank you also to Debbie Freund, whose seemingly tireless efforts bring this whole ministry together. As of the writing of this newsletter there are three adults and five children, ages 1-17, who will be here. Please keep these families and all of the volunteers in your prayers.





Presbytery Meeting

The Presbytery meeting was held on August 19-20 at Providence Presbyterian Church in Mobile. Pastor Kim and Elder Sam Miller attended the meeting. The theme was "The Hope of Our Calling," which was discussed in small group studies. No major items were up for a vote, just a few procedural ones – please let me know if you'd like a copy of the docket.

PW Fall Gathering!

Presbyterian Women's fall gathering is Saturday, October 1, 10:00-2:00, and it's at Swift Presbyterian Church in Foley. The theme is "Connected thru God's Creation," and our own Pastor Kim is the keynote speaker. Registrations received before September 21 - \$10; registrations received after September 21 - \$15. Registration forms are available on our website:
www.orangebeachpresbyterian.org

Orange Beach Presbyterian Church - September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|---|
| 4 Worship 10:00 am Holy Communion | 5 Labor Day | 6 Men's Coffee 9:00 | 7 | 8 Bible Study 9:00 am | 9 | 10 |
| -----Family Promise----- | | | | | | |
| 11 Worship 10:00 am | 12 Christian Service Center Board Meeting | 13 Men's Coffee 9:00 | 14 | 15 Bible Study 9:00 am | 16 | 17 |
| -----Family Promise----- | | | | | | |
| 18 Worship 10:00 am Session Meeting 11:15 | 19 | 20 Men's Coffee 9:00 | 21 | 22 Bible Study 9:00 am | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Worship 10:00 am | 26 | 27 Men's Coffee 9:00 | 28 | 29 Bible Study 9:00 am | 30 | 1 Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering |

Upcoming events:

- Oct. 1: Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering
- Oct. 2: World Communion Sunday

Prayer Requests

If you have any additions or updates to the prayer list, please email Pastor Kim at obpchurch@gulftel.com.



Nancy Potter

Myrna Cattlett

Larry Hill

Margaret Walker

Wally Lindenmuth

Pam Malbis

Debbie Myers

Family of Bill West

Jim Grace

Brenda Stricklin

Jody Cantwell

Marion Collins

Ron Hill

Bill Grace

Sam Pampel

Judy Rutledge

Robin Brown

The Goode Family

Family of Larry DeLong

Family of Ed Borman

D.D. Dixon

A letter from interim Executive Presbyter Al Thompson regarding the Louisiana flood:

The Silent Disaster - Louisiana Flood of 2016

The rain began on August 12. In a 24 hour period, 24-30 inches of rain fell on a 20 parish area in and around Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The flood waters rose very quickly. In one of the hardest hit areas, the town of Denham Springs had 9 feet of water and 90% of the homes and buildings were flooded. Faith Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge and the office of the [Presbytery of South Louisiana](#) were severely damaged.

Thirteen people died from the recent flooding. Sixty thousand (60,000) homes have been damaged or destroyed and 90% of homeowners did not have flood insurance because they were not in a flood zone. Thousands of people are living with family or friends, staying in shelters and hotels, as they struggle to clean up the damage.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is actively involved in the recovery effort. [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) has deployed three National Response teams to the Baton Rouge area. The first team was sent to support the Presbytery of South Louisiana, local churches and pastors as they begin to organize for the recovery effort. The



second team is assessing churches that would be suitable to serve as hosting sites for volunteer work teams. A third team is working with the American Red Cross to provide spiritual care with displaced persons in shelters.

The Red Cross has said that this is the worst natural disaster to hit our country since Super Storm Sandy four years ago. Recovery is going to take a long time and the people impacted by this storm need our help.

If you would like to make a financial contribution go to pda.pcusa.org, click on the “Gulf Flooding 2016” link, then click on the “Give Now” button (<http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/gulf-flooding-2016/>). Your gifts will go directly to the disaster recovery effort in Louisiana.

An urgent, short term need is for volunteers to help muck out/gut out flood damaged houses. For more information contact: Eden Roberts at the PDA call center at PDA. CallCenter@pcusa.org or [866-732-6121](tel:866-732-6121) for more information or to register your team.

If you have resources you would like to donate or you would like to volunteer you can also contact the Rev. Crawford Brubaker, who is the Flood Relief Coordinator for the Presbytery of South Louisiana at pslfloodrecovery@gmail.com.

As this story fades to pages 3 & 4 of the news cycle, I know that you will continue to pray for those who have lost so much and face a long struggle to put their lives back together. Please pray for members of the PDA National Response Team who are on site working in the recovery effort.

Thank you for your prayers and your support,

Al Thompson

Albert Thompson
Interim Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of South Alabama
Member of the PDA National Response Team

Winter Visitor News

If you are one of our winter visitors, please feel free to email me any news, updates, birthdays, anniversaries, summer parties, travels, pictures, or anything else you'd like to share.