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*Lower Merion Baptist Church Newsletter*

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# *The Messenger*

## *January-August 2023*

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We welcome all for we are neighbors to all. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39  
Let us Worship together on Sundays at 11:00am.

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### **PASTOR PAGÁN'S PARLANCE**

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult."*

Psalm 46:1-3

Present in times of trouble! We sometimes forget that God is ever present, especially in those times of trouble. Yet, our text above reminds us unequivocally that no matter the circumstance or situation the presence of God is ever present. Though we may struggle to believe or feel it, our faith should be certain that we are not alone. Words are easy to say or to even hear, but the moment of difficulty is when the rubber hits the road. It is in those moments of difficulty that we will either gain traction or spin our tires. This year has been a journey through the difficult moments and feeling tractionless. Yet, here we continue to be, reminded that though we may feel directionless at

times and feeling like we are barely making it through the current storm, we are still standing and able to continue. Do not underestimate the fact that you are still present, many have not made it to this point, you are stronger than you realize. More able to handle the present situation and the ones that are to come.

We individuals are in the midst of transitions, ever evolving, growing and learning from each situation and circumstance. We as a church are in the same boat, transitioning from what was, to what is, and towards what will be. On that road people will come and people will go, however, we must continue to move forward growing closer to God, who is our refuge and strength. Not looking at what was and staying stuck in how great it was, we must look to the future and understand how great it is yet to be.

In this time of transition, I encourage you to take a risk in your life, if God has opened a door for you, run through it! LMBC, God is moving us towards a future of untold blessings for those here and those yet to come. Let us remain faithful and focused on the

presence of God in our midst. We will be celebrating 215 years of ministry here at LMBC, may this be the beginning of the next 215 years of ministry!

Blessings,

Rev. Angel Pagán, Jr.

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### **News & Notes**

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE begins at 10:30am through Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11:00am starting Sept. 17.** Our Covid-19 protocols include open windows and fans turned on to keep the air circulating. Masks and hand sanitizers are available. If you are feeling any sort of sickness, we encourage you to stay home and watch the service on Youtube so as to not spread any illness to those most vulnerable among us.

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### **THURSDAY CHOIR PRACTICE**

The choir will continue to practice at 4:15pm on Thursdays and at 10:15am on Sundays. All are invited to join. If you have a favorite hymn you would like to be sung or would like to share your gifts of a musical offering of your choice, poetry, or dance during the service, please contact Ria Ellis or the church.

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### **WATCH PASTOR'S SERMONS, CHURCH SERVICES AND OTHER VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE AT:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_JhRjYo42KWWVvw1gif9Kg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_JhRjYo42KWWVvw1gif9Kg)

### **JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AT:**

<https://www.facebook.com/lowermerionbaptistchurch/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lowermerionbaptist/>

### **MESSENGER SENT BY EMAIL**

If you would prefer to have the Messenger sent my email, please email [secretary@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:secretary@lowermerionbaptist.org) or call the office at 610 525-1855.

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### **DONATE BUTTON ON LMBC WEBSITE**

We have a donate button on the church website, so that donations can be made through PayPal or a credit card. LMBC will continue to take donations of clothing and household goods for those in need.

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### **DONATION REQUEST**

If you have any gently used clothing, sneakers, shoes, and toys you would like to donate, please leave them in the collection bins in the Children's Sunday school room and label them for pick-up.

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### **JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00PM FOR OUR ZOOM BIBLE STUDY.**

We will resume our Wednesday night ZOOM prayer meetings on **Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>**. We begin each gathering with prayer followed by studying the Bible. Watch for an email with the information on how to connect for the prayer and bible study gathering. We will be using ZOOM which allows for Computer, Cellphone or call in connectivity, so we cover the different ways people can join the bible study. If you would like to be added to the list to receive the Bible study link, please call or email the church office.

## HOMEcoming SERVICE AND PICNIC

We will celebrate the 215th anniversary of Lower Merion Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 10. The service will be outside, weather permitting, and begin at 10:30am, followed by a picnic. All who are able are asked to bring along a PREPARED item to share with the church family for the picnic. Should the item need to be chilled, please bring along your own ice chest. Help is needed to: set up the picnic area, COOK, and/or clean up. We look forward to, once again, joining our church families in fellowship.



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Isabel Louise Hurtado, Ray Hurtado's granddaughter

## HYMN WRITTEN FOR LMBC

Back in 2008, we asked Kile Smith, former LMBC choir director in the 1980's, now a well know composer, as well as a Grammy Nominee, to write a hymn for our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Pastor Jonathan Malone suggested something involving Hebrews 12:1,2 and he wrote us a hymn called "Shall the Blessed Saints Surround Us". Its tune is named Lower Merion. Our hymn, written for our Baptist Church, has been chosen to be included in a new Anglican hymn book, Sing Unto the Lord.



Kile and Jackie Smith





## WHAT ARE MEMORIAL GIFTS ALL ABOUT?

When congregants or loved ones pass away many people like to remember them by making a donation to the church in their name, which benefits the church directly. Sometimes the family requests this in lieu of sending flowers. These donations can be small or large.

The funds are kept separate and have certain rules for their use. The deceased family can designate them for a specific project or they will be undesignated funds and available to be used for an approved project by the church. But they can't be used to pay for regular repairs or utilities, and the request must be approved by the Memorial Gifts Committee and the Church Council. These funds have been used toward new projects many times, and sometimes include a plaque honoring the deceased person. Examples might be the purchase of new outdoor tents, adding carpet to a room or installing outdoor spotlights to illuminate the bell tower (in memory of Tal Epps). Anyone can make a written request for their use; just ask a committee member or Mary Punshon for a form.

Peggy Miller & Julienne Mulindahabi  
Memorial Gifts Committee

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Ed Epps with Certificate of Appreciation  
offering best wishes for his retirement

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## AMAZON SMILE

Amazon has decided to discontinue the Amazon Smile program. We wish to thank those of you who participated.

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Sharon Kondaveti playing the piano in the  
church service

## STEPHEN KONDAVETI GRADUATES FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL ON THE HONOR ROLL

At the PA State and National Technology  
Student Association Competitions he



won:  
PA State 1st :  
Foundations of  
Information  
Technology  
PA State 2nd :  
Computer  
Coding



Programming  
PA State 2nd :  
Chapter Team  
National Level :  
Top 10 in Cyber  
Security

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## OUR DEAR FRIEND ROBERT EDISON PITTMAN, JR. OF WYNNEWOOD, PA DIED ON APRIL 22, 2023 AT THE AGE OF 75.



He was born on April 26, 1947 in  
Philadelphia, PA to the late Eleanor and  
Robert Edison Pittman, Sr.

He was a graduate of Lower Merion  
High School and honorably discharged  
from the United States Army, Rank of SP4.

Bob worked at Whole Foods in  
Wynnewood as a grocery clerk and  
enjoyed biking, golf and was an all-  
around sports enthusiast.

He was faithful member of his  
beloved First Baptist Church of Ardmore.  
After that church closed, in 2017 he  
became a much beloved member of  
Lower Merion Baptist Church. His gentle  
kindness will be greatly missed.

He is survived by cousins, Linda  
Zehner, Susan Frazee and Sallie Haines  
and his best friends, the Armenio family.



## EASTER

## PHOTOS





## Global Education Ministry (GEM)

One of the Objectives of Global Education Ministry (GEM) is to promote education among underprivileged African students by providing educational resources they need to learn.



*Umurebwa Diane,  
11th Grade, Rwanda*

Because of poverty, some African families are not able to send their children even to public schools. Some of the children drop out of school because their parents can't afford to pay school fees and other education expenses.

Since its inception, GEM has paid schools fees for 2 female students



*Akimana Kevine, 11th  
Grade, Rwanda*

who graduated from African Hope

University in Burundi and 1 female who just graduated from



*Muhawenimana  
Josee, 11th Grade,  
Rwanda*

University in Bukavu, Eastern Part of Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, 7 students graduated from

high school in Eastern Part of Democratic Republic of

Congo. Currently GEM is paying school fees for 4 students who attend secondary school in



*Mugisha Peace  
graduated from High  
School, Eastern Part of  
Democratic Republic of  
Congo*

productive members of their societies. On behalf of GEM, I would like to give thanks to Lower Merion Baptist Church for continuous financial support we receive through the Mission Budget.



*Angelique Mwavita graduated from  
Bukavu University, Eastern Part of  
Democratic Republic of Congo*

Rwanda and 1 student who is attending secondary school in Bukavu, Eastern Part of Democratic Republic of Congo. The kids who have been selected come from the poor and underprivileged families. Obviously, these kids are learning new skills which will help them to become



*Bigagwa Mastake, 11th  
Grade, Eastern Part of  
Democratic Republic of  
Congo*

Please see the photos of the children that Global Education Ministry is sponsoring to pay their education fees.

Sincerely,

Frederic  
Mulindahabi  
Chair, Global  
Education Ministry.

Mary Carolyn

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**(LYN) SITER MARSH**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 1948-MARCH 1, 2023**



Mary Carolyn Marsh, known to us as Lyn, peacefully passed away with her family at her side, on March 1, 2023 after a courageously fought illness. Lyn was born on February 20, 1948, in Bryn

Mawr, PA to William and May Siter.

Lyn was baptized and joined Lower Merion Baptist Church in April of 1960. She participated in BYF while in high school and was a close friend of Peggy Shank Miller. In 1982 she became a member of the Bloomsbury Presbyterian Church in Bloomsbury, NJ where she served as a Deacon and treasurer.

Lyn was the most loving and generous wife, mom, and grandma and is survived by her husband of nearly 54 years, Seymour (of York, PA); daughter Susan (of York, PA); son Jonathan, daughter-in-law, Michele, and granddaughter, London (of Bel Air, MD.)

Upon graduation from Harriton High School in Bryn Mawr, PA, Lyn studied to be a teacher at Tusculum College in Greeneville, TN. She moved to NJ with husband Seymour Marsh and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Newark State College in Union, NJ. Lyn devoted her career to teaching and thrived teaching kids who needed extra educational support. She was a patient,

inspirational teacher who turned the challenge of learning into something fun.

Lyn connected with everyone she met. Her sharp wit, quick tongue, and incredible sense of humor made everyone laugh, even in the worst of times. She was honest, direct, and never wanted to take life so seriously. She loved to entertain and knew how to throw a party, with no detail left undone. She traveled the world with Seymour, visiting much of Europe, the United States and Jamaica. She had an incredible affinity for vacuuming, having posed with pictures of vacuums in countless countries, hotels, hospitals, and homes, and indeed some of the stories of her vacuuming acquired a life of their own. She loved Broadway, shopping, and baking, though more importantly, she had a sweet tooth that was never satisfied!

Lyn will continue to provide light to all who knew and loved her.

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LMBC BYF reunion in 2017



## KIM BROWN, NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Kim receiving a thank you gift

Kim Brown who was our Pastoral Intern



Kim's special dancers

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## IRMA VIRGINA BENITES MORALES



Julio Alvarez' mother  
Passed away Dec. 22,  
2022. Her funeral was  
held at LMBC and she  
was buried in our  
cemetery on Jan 14.

## STUDENTS FROM SHIPLEY SCHOOL'S HORTICULTURE CLUB ONCE AGAIN PERFORMED MIRACLES IN OUR CEMETERY.





## WHO'S WHO IN LMBC CEMETERY BETTY ANN HODGKINSON CAIRNS

**Born: November 15, 1947**

**Died: February 12, 2023**



One of our dearest members went to be with the Lord after an illness that grew progressively worse over the last years.

Betty, the daughter of Robert and Thelma DeKay Hodgkinson, grew up in Lower Merion Baptist Church. She was baptized and joined Lower Merion Baptist Church March 15, 1964. Betty graduated from Radnor High School in June of 1965. Betty met her husband James R. Cairns, Jr. at a BYF party at the Gableman's house. Betty was slightly older and some of the younger girls decided that Jim looked old and should therefore be with Betty. Jim and Betty were married at LMBC on Sept. 23rd, 1969 while Jim was in the army. Jim was stationed in Germany, Betty went to visit him, but he spent most of that time stationed as a border guard



between East and West Germany and between Germany and Czechoslovakia. Betty, expecting her first child, returned to Bryn Mawr where their son James Cairns, III. was born. Their second son, Robert was born in 1982. Bobby died April 29, 2000 and Betty is buried next to him. The Cairns family continued to live in Bryn Mawr until their house was claimed and bought by Bryn Mawr Hospital in 2006 and then moved to Newark, Delaware.

Betty worked at the Baptist Convention Center in King of Prussia.

Betty served on the Christian Education Board and as a Deacon. She and Jim also served as Sextons from 2012-2020. If there was a dinner or party at the church, she was always involved in preparation. It gave her great sadness not to be able to clean up after the Thanksgiving Luncheon due to her difficulty getting around.



She is survived by her husband Jim, son James, III and brother and sister Chuck and Mary Hodgkinson. Betty was greatly loved and greatly missed. Donations in her memory can be made to the Lower Merion Baptist Church.



## **Praying together**

### **Church Family/Friends**

Judi Shank  
Pam Orr  
Rose Salios  
The Meneely Family  
Joe Faith  
Patty and Ron Epps  
The Ellis Family  
Steve Nicholas' Family  
The Paulson and Dampman Family  
The family of Lyn Siter Marsh after her passing  
Rich Orr's partner Stephanie  
Mary and Chuck Hodgkinson  
Peggy and Fred Miller  
Sheila Wilgas, Ed Epps' cousin  
The Hutchison Family  
The Cairns Family after Betty's passing  
Alexis McWhorter – Matt Loukota's  
partner's mother on hospice  
Marilynn Abraham's Family after the  
death of her aunt Iluminada  
Janice Scott's sister Venora Douglass  
Ron Schlosser

### **World/Nation**

Those struggling with Covid  
Unity and healing for our country  
The Government and Foreign Relations  
Worldwide countries affected by  
uprisings and violence and terrorism  
Families affected by the many  
shootings across the nation  
Fire, Storm, Flood, Tornado,  
Earthquake, Volcano, and Natural  
Disaster Victims and Volunteers  
People struggling with addiction,  
Depression, and mental illness  
Our Veterans and those who serve our country  
LMBC and our new journey  
A way out for victims of domestic violence  
Friends and Family undergoing cancer treatment  
For peace in the world

## **PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAIN: Pat Schlosser**

**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST**, an announcement, or if you would like someone's name added to or removed from the Prayer List, please contact the church office or email [prayers@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:prayers@lowermerionbaptist.org).  
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### **August Birthdays**

13 – Christopher Scott  
19 – Felix Mulindahabi  
20 – David Shank  
25 – Ben Loukota  
26 – Julio Alvarez

### **August Anniversaries**

15 – Frank Sr. and Karen Deasey  
5 – Frederick and Julienne  
Mulindahabi  
31 - Joe and Heather Hayes

### **September Birthdays**

3 – Scott Dampman  
3 – Tiffany Davis  
10 – Ryan Allison  
12 – James Cairns, Jr.  
17 – Graciela Merma Alvarez  
17 – Chuck Hodgkinson  
29 – Betty Brigham



Red Cross Volunteers replacing flags in the cemetery for Armed Services Day

## **CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor** – Rev. Angel Pagán Jr.

[Pastor@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:Pastor@lowermerionbaptist.org)

**Pastoral Intern** – Kim Brown

[Pastoral\\_intern@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:Pastoral_intern@lowermerionbaptist.org)

**Secretary** – Mary Punshon

[secretary@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:secretary@lowermerionbaptist.org)

**Music Director** – Ria Ellis

[Music@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:Music@lowermerionbaptist.org)

**Children's Ministry** – Marilyn Abraham

[ChildrensMinistry@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:ChildrensMinistry@lowermerionbaptist.org)

**Sexton** – Marilyn Abraham **856-823-1819**

[Sexton@lowermerionbaptist.org](mailto:Sexton@lowermerionbaptist.org)

**Lower Merion Baptist Church Phone**

**610 525-1855**

**Lower Merion Baptist Church Website**

<https://www.lowermerionbaptist.com/>

## **CHURCH SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY 10:30 AM** Though Sept. 10

**SUNDAY 11:00 AM** Beginning Sept. 17

Church Worship

Sunday morning Church services will be held in the Sanctuary with windows open and fans on to circulate the air.

Sunday morning Church services will also be live streamed online.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=lower+merion+baptist+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=lower+merion+baptist+church)

Lower Merion Baptist Church  
911 New Gulph Road  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

# January–August 2023

«Name»

«Address\_1»«Address\_2»

«City\_State\_Zip»