

## Featured Guest

Our guest of honor today is Mayor Billy Skellie. Not only was Mayor Skellie born and raised in Long Beach, but his family has been involved in this town's civic affairs since the early 1900s. His grandparents were some of the earliest successful farmers in this area, helping to establish Long Beach as an agriculture truck-farming center. Many of the wonderful old pecan trees that are seen today were planted by his grandfather. His father and his grandfather alike owned grocery businesses in the town, as well as serving as aldermen. Many of us remember his father, who also served as mayor.

When Mayor Skellie was elected to office in 2004, he had no way of knowing that he would be charged with rebuilding a town his forefathers had helped build. Through the trials and tribulations brought on by Katrina, Mayor Skellie has been committed to bringing Long Beach back bigger and better than ever before.

To learn more about Mayor Skellie, his family, his accomplishments, and his vision for Long Beach, visit his website at [www.billyskellie.com](http://www.billyskellie.com).

## What is LENT?

### (The Christian season of Lent)

- Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, therefore, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.
- The color used in the sanctuary for most of Lent is purple, red violet, or dark violet. These colors symbolize both the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. Purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.
- Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Christian churches that observe Lent focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate Easter, and the resurrected life that Christians live and hope for.
- Many modern Protestants consider the observation of Lent to be a choice, rather than an obligation. They may decide to give up a favorite food or drink (e.g. chocolate, alcohol) or activity (e.g. going to the movies, playing video games) for Lent, or they may instead decide to take on a Lenten discipline such as devotions, volunteering for charity work, and so forth.



## COMING IN MARCH:

Dr. Timothy James Bergman, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Symphony and Music Director of the the Gulf Coast Symphony Youth Orchestra.

## THANK YOU to:

JOHN CROUCH for bringing us the Thought for the Day.

ANDY CROUCH for furnishing today's door prizes.

TERESA CARROLL for decorating tables.

LOIS JONES AND MARSHA McELVEEN. for heading up our kitchen help.

Penny Denmark, President  
Wanda Stevens, 1st Vice  
President  
Sharon Pierce and Joyce Hill,  
2nd Vice President  
Ruth Swofford, Secretary  
Barbara Barlow, Treasurer

LIVE O.A.K.S. NEWSLETTER  
Jane Cockrell, Editor

### O.A.K.S. BOARD MEETING

The O.A.K.S Board met on February 15, 2012 at the home of Penny Denmark. President, Penny Denmark opened the meeting with prayer and then called the business meeting to order. Those in attendance were Penny Denmark, Ruth Swofford, Joyce Hill, Andy Crouch, Barbara Barlow, Sharon Pierce, and Lois Jones.

The minutes from January 18, 2012 were read and approved. The Treasurer reported a bank balance at the beginning of January of \$313.57. Dues/donation collected were \$36.00. Cash on hand was \$5.19. This leaves a balance of cash on hand of \$41.19. Expenses for cards and postage were \$11.00 leaving a cash on hand balance of \$29.69. It was agreed that we would contribute \$100.00 to the trip for the Long Beach Middle School Jazz Band. Penny called Mr. Long and we will go ahead with our contribution.

The "Mystery Trip" is scheduled for Thursday, April 12 and a signup sheet will be on the table at our luncheon. The cost of the trip will be \$20.00 and this price will include lunch.

The Food Pantry is still in need of non-perishable food items and we will keep a box or bag on hand for collection of these items.

Meeting adjourned to meet again on March 21, 2012.

The next O.A.K.S. luncheon will be on March 28, 2012.

Ruth Swofford, Secretary



Feb. 24: Ruth Swofford  
Mar. 01: Cissy Meadows  
Mar. 19: Trudy Newland  
Mar. 20: Barbara Barlow



As always, we want to remember our members who have been ill and have medical problems.



#### PRAY FOR:

Jean Sneed  
Trish Badeaux  
Andy Crouch  
Polly Mincher

#### Lenten prayer

"So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper. Haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish. Thanks for your grace thus far. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed; and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help."

#### *A note from the editor ...*

During Lent, Christians traditionally "give up" something in recognition of the suffering of Christ. Usually, that "something" involves food, candy, other delicacies and maybe a beer or two.

The Rev. Wanda L. Weidman, pastor of Covenant Moravian Church in York, PA, suggests a new wrinkle ... give up "something which might change your life forever."

Among her suggestions, attributed to an anonymous source ...

- Give up complaining -- focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism -- become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments -- think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry -- trust Divine Providence.
- Give up bitterness -- turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred -- return good for evil.
- Give up pettiness -- become mature.
- Give up gossiping -- control your tongue.
- Give up sin -- turn to virtue.

*Jane*

