

The Larroux Story



Church Planter

LPC's organizing pastor is Jean F. Larroux, III. Larroux is a native of Bay St. Louis having graduated from St. Stanislaus High School and lived most of his life in this area. This is an abbreviated version of his story in his own words:

"I was born in New Orleans and grew up in Bay St. Louis. My Aunt and Uncle, Gloria and Luke Benigno, lost their lives in that storm. My mother's home was destroyed by floodwaters, which rose into the

attic, almost 11 feet. As you can imagine, I was immediately drawn to the coast to aid my family and others in any way possible.

My plans of 'short-term' relief soon began to transform into whispers of a calling from God to return to the land of my fathers with the Gospel of grace. In the first chapter of the book of Nehemiah an inquiry is made by Nehemiah as to the condition of the city of Jerusalem following the exile of God's people. Nehemiah is informed of the walls being broken down and the gates having been burned by fire. The destruction of that city and the condition of his people cuts Nehemiah to the core of his being. While serving the King of Susa he is asked about his fallen countenance. Having prayed and being led by the Holy Spirit, he tells the king of that city's condition and of his passion for that great city.

The king then asked Nehemiah a very pointed question, "What is it you want?" Nehemiah responded, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." (Nehemiah 2:4-5)

In late October I met with the Elders of my present church, Independent Presbyterian Church in Memphis, and made the same request of them that Nehemiah made of the king. With heavy hearts on both sides, we jointly acknowledged God's clear calling, and they have granted my request to 'return to the city where my fathers are buried so that I may rebuild it.' That rebuilding, as in Nehemiah's day, will be physical and spiritual.

My service on the staff of IPC will be completed on December 31, 2005, and I will pursue this good work on a full-time basis. I have received the blessing of our denomination and have been approved as a church planter through the Mission to North America of the Presbyterian Church in America."



(From left to right) Hannah Grace, Jean III, Jackson, Kim, Ann Elizabeth, Jean IV

The Larroux Family

Larroux is the son of Jean Larroux, Jr. and Toni Larroux, both of Bay St. Louis. His grandfather is the late "Jimmy" Larroux of Cedar Point. He is married to the former Kimberly Fulford of Greenville, Mississippi and they have three children Jean F. Larroux, IV (12), Ann Elizabeth Larroux (9) and Hannah Grace Larroux (8).

Jean & Kim met at Ole Miss and have been married 14 years. Along with their three children they have a golden retriever named 'Stonewall' Jackson Larroux. Jean graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi with a Master's of Divinity degree emphasizing missions. He has served churches in central Mississippi and North Alabama before joining the staff of Independent Presbyterian in 2000. When he's not at work Jean can be found on the water sailing or fishing while listening to

Jimmy Buffett. If it is deer or turkey season he is likely somewhere in the Mississippi, Tennessee or Louisiana woods freezing or slapping mosquitoes depending on which season it is.

What does the word "LAGNIAPPE" mean?

lagniappe (lan-yap) n. *Chiefly Southern Louisiana and Mississippi* 1. *A small gift presented by a storeowner to a customer with the customer's purchase.* 2. *An extra or unexpected gift or benefit.* [Louisiana French, from American Spanish *la napa*, the gift.] -AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Why call a church "Lagniappe" Church?

Lagniappe is a concept that is well-known and appreciated in the culture, but is has been only applied to limited areas of life such as an extra few shrimp added to the order at a seafood market or an extra donut in the dozen. While coastal dwellers in Louisiana and Mississippi are accustomed to a shopkeeper giving a piece of candy to a child as 'lagniappe,' they are not nearly as accustomed to this concept in a spiritual context.

Lagniappe is simply grace. It is unearned, unmerited favor. Far beyond donuts and candy we see the lavish blessings of God's free grace extended to us in Jesus Christ. Our church's name is our passion. LAGNIAPPE church seeks to marry two profound concepts together: Lagniappe (grace) and Church (a body of believers).

Many have asked, "Are you really going to call it Lagniappe Presbyterian Church?" The response is always, "of course!" We wouldn't hesitate to call a church "Grace Presbyterian!" LPC is simply grace conceptualized for the culture. It is our prayer that the concept of lagniappe and religion is as startling and surprising as the name.

Mission

LPC exists to participate in the restoration of the Mississippi Gulf Coast through the declaration and demonstration of the love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

The engine of LPC has two cylinders: declaration and demonstration. We are committed to teaching the truth and accompanying that declaration with the unassailable apologetic of life. We seek to live the Gospel in such a profound way that the theology of the Gospel makes sense because it has been seen in our lives! Everything that is done will filter through this mission: if it embodies BOTH declaration AND demonstration then and only then can that program, idea, ministry or outreach be considered!

Vision

To begin a PCA church-planting movement of physical and spiritual restoration directed at target communities in distress led by indigenous pastors.

LPC will not be content with simply planting one Gospel outpost in one devastated area. It is our hope and dream that mercy would give birth to mercy. Success at LPC will be measured by her members giving themselves away to others in need. God will continue to sovereignly provide opportunities and we must continue to humanly respond to those divine appointments, which He will set. Our dream is to see indigenous pastoral leadership challenged to return to needy cities in which they already have strategic connections.

Long-Term/Short-Term Needs

LPC is focused on an area of the country that is in deep financial need. The ability of current families to support this work will be EXTREMELY limited in the next few years. Many of them are paying mortgages on homes that no longer exist.

For that reason we are seeking to secure funding from outside the Bay St. Louis area for almost 6 years of ministry. While this task is immense, we are confident that where God calls He will provide. Our budget is roughly \$875,000 for 6 years (about \$145,000 per year), which includes plans for worship services, facility rental, re-building supplies and staff/administrative expenses during that time.

Our budget breaks down in roughly 5 categories:

- 55% Salary & Housing
- 14% Insurance/Benefits
- 11% Operations
- 10% Benevolence/Mercy
- 10% Start-up costs (including moving) which transition to worship/facility costs

Urgent Need

Our family left the IPC staff on December 31st of 2005, there is a certain urgency in our present fund raising. We are seeking to secure support now, while the work of long-term support raising is being done. All gifts are tax-deductible through the Presbyterian Church in America.

Gifts for Lagniappe Presbyterian Church can be mailed to:

Mission to North America
1700 N. Brown Road STE 101
Lawrenceville GA 30043
RE: Lagniappe Presbyterian/Jean F. Larroux, III

One day, week or month at a time...

- 1.) Link to the LPC video and see the profound need.
- 2.) Read about the vision and mission of LPC. Consider how God might use you to support this ministry AND how God might be challenging you to live missional lives in the places where He has you.
- 3.) Consider how you might be a part of this good work, either financially, spiritually or personally.
 - One day of ministry at LPC can be funded with a gift of \$400
 - One week of ministry at LPC can be funded with a gift of \$2,800
 - One month of ministry at LPC can be funded a gift of \$12,000

Please consider pledging your gift now, even if there are needs to delay the *actual* giving.

Pledges become IMMEDIATELY available to LPC through the denomination, which will advance those resources based on pledges. Giving may also be done monthly, quarterly or annually based on the pattern, which is best for the giver during the pledge period.