

Acts 2

"They were all together
in one place."



Pentecost, June 4, 2017

MAY 2017

	Page
All Together.....	9
Chicks With Sticks.....	8
Congo Mission Network.....	7
Congo Necklace Team.....	7
Dancers Circle.....	13
First Friday Forum.....	11
Garden Party.....	8
JF Kapnek Trust.....	9
Journey of Faith.....	10
LOPC Foundation.....	15
Men's Breakfast.....	11
Mount Hermon.....	3
New Members.....	4-5
Officer Nominations.....	14
Our Journey Through Grief.....	7
Pastor's Column.....	2
Science & Religion.....	9
Seedlings.....	6
Stephen Ministry.....	9
Vacation Bible Camp.....	16
Youth Corner.....	12

See more at LOPC.org



Genuine Outreach

by Peter Whitelock, Pastor - Head of Staff



"What do you want me to do for you?"

- Mark 10:51

This question from Jesus to a blind man seeking healing so wonderfully captures, for me, the essence of ministry done in his name. Jesus was, quite simply, a man for others. As the noted 20th Century Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, once observed:

"The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members."

How easy it is for churches to become inner-focused and primarily concerned with their own affairs. In settings like this, outreach tends to mean something like "How can we get more people to come here and be like us?" The gospel imperative, though, is quite different. The way of Jesus invites us to see our community, and indeed the world, as a place to discern and meet needs that contribute to human flourishing. We "reach out" with the love and justice of Jesus Christ, and proclaim the gospel in both word AND deed. Now, more than ever, this is the kind of outreach that truly matters!

Grace and peace,

Peter Whitelock



MOUNT HERMON ALL-CHURCH RETREAT OCTOBER 6-8, 2017

A STORIED PEOPLE

From Abraham and Esther to Peter and Mary, there is no doubt that Christians have a rich and complicated narrative. Some of our stories are hard to tell while others offer life and hope. Yet we live in a world that encourages us to filter our stories and our identity to the point of perfection. How do we, as people of faith, reconcile our storied pasts? More importantly, how do we tell our stories in a way that honors what God has done and also speaks to what God is doing? Join Executive Pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell as she leads us in a weekend of story-telling and story finding.



SAVE THE DATE!

Registration begins
June 1

Located in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains, surrounded by stunning redwood forests and meandering creeks, it is the ideal retreat location. As early as October 1954, the LOPC All-Church Retreat has been held at Mount Hermon. Since that beginning, the first weekend in October has remained a vibrant LOPC tradition. Mount Hermon is an opportunity for God's family to spend time together. An opportunity to laugh, relax and to play together. It is also an opportunity to learn and be inspired. There will be dedicated programs for preschoolers, children and youth, a barbecue, family-style meals, outdoor worship and outdoor activities for all ages. Please join us. Online registration begins 6/1 Questions? Email dave@LOPC.org. Last day to register: 9/29/17

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell



All the way from New York City, the Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell is an East Bay native (and devoted Oakland A's fan). Currently serving as the Executive Pastor at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Charlene is passionate about what lies ahead for the church in the 21st century and being responsive to the what the Spirit is calling us to change and retain. The proud daughter of immigrants, she is committed to the unique cultural interpretations of faith and theology. Charlene and her husband Jordan (both graduates of Monte Vista High School) have two daughters, Amelie (3 years) and Noa (1 year). They live on the Upper West Side where they make sure they always keep a good supply of Legos, Play-Doh, wine, and pizza.

New Members - March 2017

by Matt Bell, Director - Community Life



Michelle & Randy Browning have lived in Orinda for the past seven years along with their children, Dylan (11) and Ashlyn (10). Randy is a Director for Union Bank and

enjoys skiing, traveling and coaching baseball, while Michelle is busy with their kids and volunteering, but enjoys tennis and yoga as well. They are thankful for the sense of community at LOPC, both for themselves and their children.



Charlotte Dethero and her husband, Ham, settled in Lafayette in 1969, but prior to that lived in England, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico, among other places.

Charlotte has a background in teaching, and has supported a number of organizations as a volunteer, including the Oakland Museum of California. She enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren, all of whom live nearby.



Greg & Jennifer Duff both grew up in Lamorinda, and now live in Moraga with their son, Nolan (6). They both work for a steel detailing business that Greg

started, and are thankful to have been shepherded to LOPC by Greg's mom and church member, Barbara Duff. They enjoy sports, and also appreciate the accepting community of LOPC, along with the children's programs.



Kristen Cobo lives in Lafayette with her husband, Matt, and their children, Reese (3) and Rawson (1). She previously worked as a Medical Writer for

Genentech, but is currently enjoying being home with her kids, and supporting her husband's new business. Kristen and her family love outdoor activities and are thankful for the faithful, welcoming community at LOPC.



Bob and Kay Dewell are returning to LOPC, having originally joined the church in the 1960s. They raised their children, Todd

and Heidi, while living in Lafayette, but recently moved to Moraga, where Bob maintains his architecture business. They appreciate the fellowship of the LOPC community, the church's leadership, and how much the organ and choir contribute to the spiritual message.



Rochelle Leflore lives in Oakland, and along with loving being in the Bay Area, also enjoys spending time in nature and

national parks, as well as hiking in the mountains and spending time at the coast. She is happy to be joining the community at LOPC, and notes enjoying worship, and in particular the message, offered on Sunday mornings.



Deanne Pierre is a Bay Area native, currently living in Walnut Creek, but sometimes you can find her at Boswell's in Lafayette, where

she works part-time. She also enjoys hiking, art, and music. Deanne's late mother, Arline, came to LOPC in 1960, so Deanne spent a lot of time at the church as a child and youth, and is happy to be rejoining the LOPC community.



Sandra Stone is a Bay Area native and recently moved to Martinez to be closer to family. She is enjoying retirement by spending more

time in her garden, cooking, traveling, and spending time with her grandchildren. Sandra is thankful for the welcoming and friendly community of LOPC, and appreciates worship services and the number of activities offered here.



Araceli & Jerry Resus have lived in the Bay Area for close to 30 years, and currently reside in Pittsburg. They are both retired college

professors, and Jerry is also a Presbyterian pastor, having retired from St. James Presbyterian Church in 2006. They have two children and four grandchildren, who have enjoyed LOPC's Sunday programs and Vacation Bible Camp as well.



Eileen Tarrab and her husband, Tony, have lived in Moraga for 24 years, where they raised their four

children, including son Nick, who is also a LOPC member. She is retired as a court reporter, and enjoys spending time with friends, as well as her grandchildren. She enjoys much of what LOPC has to offer, and knows that she has found a wonderful church home.

New Members Class - 5/19-5/21



The LOPC Membership Class is an opportunity to meet the pastoral staff, have your questions answered, learn about the programs and ministries of the church, and make new friends. The class also serves to clarify what LOPC believes God has called this church to be, so visitors can make an informed decision about formalizing their commitment to this faith community. Ask questions and find out more about LOPC. All are welcome! The next LOPC Membership Class takes place on the weekend of May 19-21. Childcare available by reservation. Questions? Contact jaime@LOPC.org.

Spring Showcase

by Molly Maduck, Seedlings Communications Board Member

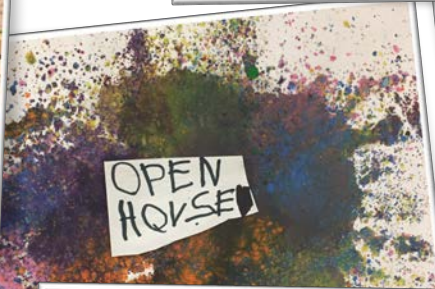


Each spring, the students at Seedlings grow excited in anticipation of a special event. This event is truly a celebration that they look forward to all year long. The Spring Showcase is a night to honor our students, as we gather to admire and applaud the children's work from the entire school year. This year, the Spring Showcase took place on April 18th, and it was an evening to remember for all who attended.

The Seedlings teachers have spent months fostering their students' creativity and preparing developmentally appropriate and beautiful projects for them. Although the walls of Seedlings are always filled with student work, on the week leading up to the Spring Showcase, the students' "top-secret" projects began to appear. Most of the work was covered up, with the promise to be revealed the night of the

Showcase. On April 18th, many students came with their families and friends to show them all that they have accomplished. The children shared the work in their own classrooms, and were also able to visit friends' and siblings' classrooms, the hallways, the lobby, and even the playground. Art, writing, and projects were everywhere!

Another wonderful component of the Spring Showcase is how it brings our community together. It is always an opportunity for our preschool families to connect with friends and meet new families as well. This year, the Top Dog food truck was present, so after racing around school in excitement, the children and their families could take a break, relax, and eat dinner together. Our families were so grateful for a night to share a meal, socialize with friends and teachers, and stroll throughout Seedlings to appreciate the lovely art and proud children all around them.



SAVE THE DATE

LOPC HOSTS CONGO MISSION NETWORK (CMN) SEPT 22-23



The CMN is a Presbyterian group made up of those people who support the invaluable work of the Presbyterian Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Who makes up the CMN?

- Individuals, churches, and Presbyteries and members of the Congo community that support the Congo with the advice of our mission co-workers and PC(USA) Mission staff.

Why meeting at LOPC?

- The CMN has an annual conference but none have been on the west coast. LOPC stepped up to host the inaugural one in our area. The CMN is a principal mission partner of LOPC, helping fund schools and trauma healing for children.

What will be discussed/presented?

- An attendee will learn about the amazing efforts of the PC(USA) to help the people of the Congo and the challenges/opportunities in the Congo. The theme of the conference is "Moving Mountains in the Congo for Reconciliation."

ALL ARE WELCOMED TO ATTEND. COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE CONGO AND MEET THOSE WHO WORK AND LIVE THERE.

More will be forthcoming about this event, but please save SEPTEMBER 22-23.

Also, if you wish to help the Congo Mission Team with this event, for example: Host someone in your home, or assist at the conference, please contact Herb Long (herblong7@gmail.com) or Roberta Spalding (rlspalding@earthlink.net)

Our Journey Through Grief - 5/21

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Oak Room

Lunch – suggested \$5 donation at the door



There are many who care for a loved one experiencing a life altering transition. Caring for someone who is actively dying, and/or has been diagnosed with some form of dementia is challenging as we deal with our own sense of grief and loss, while still being present for our loved one. In this workshop, you will gain valuable insight in adapting to the changes, and in caring for yourself in the midst of the daily care you give to your loved one.

Our speaker is Carol Dolezal, who is the Spiritual Care Counselor at Hospice of the East Bay. Carol has spent six years caring for the seriously ill and dying as a Spiritual Care Counselor and Hospice and Hospital Chaplain. She has had first-hand experience as well, walking alongside family members through illness, death and grief.

To register, contact Natalie Rodriguez at Natalie@lopc.org 925-283-8722 ext. 228. This workshop is sponsored by the Congregational Care team of LOPC.

The Perfect Gift for Mom - 5/7



Mother's Day is coming and the Congo Necklace team has a wide selection of necklaces with hearts, crosses, cute animals and many lovely pendants as choices for gifts, as well as an assortment of name tag holders. Come to the display on the Plaza May 7 to make your selection. All proceeds go to Build Congo Schools (BCS). BCS is now building their seventh brick-and-mortar school to replace one made of mud with a thatched roof. Education is a key to success for Congo's children. Help us provide good learning environments for them where rain doesn't cause schools to close. One school at a time we can make this happen.



Garden Party

All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's annual Potluck Salad Birthday Luncheon on Wednesday, May 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year's theme is Garden Party and guests are encouraged to dress in old-fashioned garden party attire. Who knows— there may be a prize for the fanciest garden party hat! All are asked to bring a salad to serve six. Coffee, tea, rolls and dessert will be provided.

The Reverend Glenda Hope, a Presbyterian minister who until recently headed the San Francisco Network Ministries, will be our speaker. She has worked for many years helping the homeless and other residents of the Tenderloin neighborhood and has interesting stories to share.

The Presbyterian Women's annual Birthday Offering will be received during the afternoon. Each year a committee chooses projects to benefit from this nationwide offering. This year's recipients are: the Navajo Water Project in New Mexico that will provide running water systems to 205 families at Smith Lake Navajo Reservation; the Family Justice Center in two counties in South Carolina to construct a new violence shelter for victims of abuse; and, the First Hand Aid Rural Clinic Development in Cuba which will build, fund, stock and staff six medical clinics.

Bring a friend, wear a hat, get acquainted with new friends, and enjoy the tastiest salads you have ever eaten!

A JOYFUL START

Chicks with Sticks Donation Drive



Help new arrivals and their families have a joyful start! Chicks with Sticks is collecting donations of new and gently used baby clothes and stuffed animals for families in need throughout our community and we need your help. Make a donation (Please, no holes, stains or missing buttons/snaps.):

Sunday, May 21 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • Worship Plaza

Items most in need:

- Onesies
- Hoodies
- Baby gowns, sleep sacks
- One and two-piece outfits
- Sweaters, hats, booties
- Burp cloths, bibs, changing pads
- Books
- Socks, shoes
- Blankets of various types
- Teething rings, rattles
- Hooded bath towels, facecloths
- New stuffed animals, teddy bears

Can't make it on Sunday, May 21? No problem!

Place your donation in the white bassinet at the Ministry Center front desk anytime in May!

Questions? Contact Ellena Bloedorn at enblo@comcast.net, or Dianne Schneider at dianneschneider@hotmail.com.

Thank you!

Stephen Ministry



For nearly 15 years, Stephen Ministers have given one-on-one care to individuals facing difficult transitions in our LOPC community. This Ministry has been mutually beneficial to both those receiving care and those providing it. If you sense that you have a gift for compassionate listening and you are able to keep confidences,

consider applying for Stephen Ministry training which will begin in September 2017. You will find that being a Stephen Minister is not only helpful to others, but a personally fulfilling and joyful experience. For information contact Gerald Chinen at gerald@LOPC.org or (925) 283-8722 extension 227.

Science & Religion - 5/15

7:15 p.m. in the Oak Room



How do we know so much about science? In biology, how do we see what goes on inside single cells? In cosmology, how do we see objects that are so far

away and extremely dim? Over centuries, we have developed microscopes and telescopes with ever-increasing capabilities. We have grasped how to use light and magnification to learn that the cells in our bodies function as miniature factories and that stars are born, live lives of varying, but predictable, lengths and eventually die.

Join us for the May meeting of the Science and Religion study group on Monday evening, May 15, in the Oak Room at 7:15 p.m. where Chuck Smith will describe some of the techniques and inventions that have brought us to our modern understanding of the cosmos. While that understanding seems to differ from descriptions given in the first chapter of Genesis, do we need to be concerned about these differences in our understanding?



14th Annual JF Kapnek Fun Run
Supports Education and Wellness for Zimbabwe Children

The 14th annual JF Kapnek Trust Family Fun run will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at Miramonte High School (750 Moraga Way).

The event supports preschool, nutrition and AIDS treatment and prevention programs for children and families in Zimbabwe.

Along with a 5K run and a 1K children's run/walk event participants will enjoy music, art and crafts, food and prizes for the top finishers including certificates from Dick's Sporting Goods, Sports Basement and A Runner's World. And all participants will receive a commemorative t-shirt.

Visit www.jfkapnektrust.org for more information, and to register go to <http://jfkapnefunrun.eventbrite.com>



Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



Bettie Graves

Bettie Graves remembers, “My growing up years in Nashville, Tenn., were spent with brothers and sisters playing pretend. I remember lying on a blanket in our backyard watching the clouds float by. It was through these times, with these experiences, that I truly believe set me on the firm road of my faith journey. This rich environment

gave me the space and opportunity to imagine God, to wonder about him, to form my beliefs about him, his son, and his creation.”

Bettie’s great grandmother, Elizabeth Norvell, whom the children called Granny, was the most influential person in her life. “Winters would find us sitting by the fireplace while Granny read Bible stories to us, she reminisces. “She had a great huge Bible, leather-bound, carrying the names of our family members in the front. I found out later Granny was really telling us the stories because she was almost totally blind. I can still hear her voice, ‘in the beginning God created’, ‘it rained for 40 days and 40 nights’, and of course, many stories about Jesus. We went to church each Sunday morning and sat with Granny in the big church. I don’t remember going to Sunday School until much later. Granny taught us all that we needed to learn. She placed me and each of my brothers and sister on the road to a Christ-filled walk.

“Out of high school I didn’t know what I wanted to do so I shocked my family by joining the Women’s Army Corp. Basic training was in Alabama where they discovered I had a ‘command voice.’ I was given the honor of marching the other ladies around camp.”

Bettie says during her three years in the military she had many opportunities. “I did a few TV-recruiting spots in Florida, served as a representative of 3rd Army in NATO in Turkey, and worked in the Pentagon. I was in D.C. when Bobby Kennedy was killed—I stood at the Gates of Arlington National Cemetery as his body passed inside.” While in the Army, she met “a very good looking young Lieutenant” by the name of Ray Graves. “About a year and a half later we were married. They made many moves finally ending up in the East Bay.

The Graves family joined LOPC about 30 years ago, “Ray and I raised our children, Joanna, Christian and Timothy, at LOPC. All of them are happily married and we have seven grandchildren, five of whom have been baptized at the church, and the last two will be Aloha Sunday. I consider many members of LOPC as close friends and extended family. As for me, LOPC has given me an opportunity to explore several leadership positions in multiple ministry areas. I have been encouraged to develop my God-given gifts in the areas of teaching, singing, formation development and church administration. I think that there is no activity that has not broadened my experience of what it means to be called a Christian.

“As a class facilitator, when preparing to teach a class, I learn more than one can imagine from the preparation process and then from the class participation. When I sing in the choir and learn the music, I have the opportunity to internalize the teachings of the Bible and other Christian practices. When I work with the Companions program, I feel as if my spirit soars to new places as I put into practice what we learn. As an elder, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work closely with so many wonderful brothers and sisters who are also in service to Christ. I have had the special opportunity to pray for LOPC, for staff and church members, both in times of need and during the good times. I have had the humbling honor of serving communion to Christ’s church. I believe all our work, yours and mine, leads to the foot of the cross and to the worship of Jesus Christ.”

Betty says she believes we represent the church and Christ in every aspect of our lives. We can see him in the person of that clerk at the drug store or the lady in line at the supermarket. Even in the form of the person who cuts us off on highway 24 in the morning, or the person who is traveling far too fast. “I often find myself praying for that person who is in such a hurry, that they get to wherever it is they are going and for those who are in their way also get safely to their destinations.”

She adds, “Another great prayer time for me is when I become short or impatient with others. Then it is time for me to ask a very patient Father to forgive me.” She concludes; “Each Sunday at LOPC I feel my spirit is lifted and fed so that I can leave the Sanctuary and return to the world refreshed for the coming week and the work God has planned for me.”

Bettie chooses as her favorite Bible verses: Psalm 46:10 & 121:1-2.



First Friday Forum

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

2017 Speaker Series

May 5

Jill West, Nutritionist

Nutrition & the Media:
Separating Facts from Fiction



1:00 p.m. Refreshments – All Are Welcome
1:30 p.m. Speaker – Free

A very popular series of outstanding speakers on topics of
current interest

“Nutrition and the Media – Separating Facts and Fiction” is the title of Jill West’s presentation at First Friday Forum, May 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. West is a Registered Dietitian, Nutritionist and Certified Health Coach.

“There is so much information and misinformation on the internet and in the media today that it’s difficult to know what to believe,” West says. “Is butter best? Should eggs be limited? Is coconut milk healthier than dairy milk? The volume of research in the field of nutrition has expanded tremendously in the last 15 years. Based on current research I will present information to help separate nutrition facts from fiction and also highlight foods that promote healthy aging.”

Jill West graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Nutritional Sciences and completed

her dietetic internship at UCSF Medical Center. She has worked for several major hospitals, including UCSF Medical Center, Joslin Diabetes Center, and UC Davis Medical Center.

A nutrition consultant with a private practice in Lafayette, she works with women, teens and families to help them make lasting changes to improve their health, manage their weight, and increase their energy. Jill writes a column for Bay Area Parent magazine, titled “Just Try it” and is the author of the book, *400 Moms*. She is currently the president of the Mt. Diablo Business’ Women organization and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Guests are invited to meet for refreshments at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Men's Breakfast

Where women are always welcome.
7:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall



May 24*

JIM BARNETT
LOPC Member/Color Commentator
& Broadcaster

“Warriors Basketball”

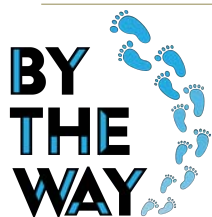
*Date Subject to change

\$5 donation at the door for breakfast
R.S.V.P. to janet@LOPC.org or call
(925) 283-8722 x223 before noon on 5/23

Youth Corner



On Sunday, March 19, our newest class of confirmands were confirmed and became members of LOPC. Youth also assisted with leaders as worship leaders, greeters and musicians. Congratulations to our 2017 confirmands: Maggie Gerding, Nathan Hiss, Katie Ingrey, Caroline Kim, Colette Kimura, Hannah Lee, Emily Marston, Molly Midthun, Sofia Olsson, Kiki Rosson, and Joshua Summerlin.



BTW Senior Night

Sunday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Our Senior class will be well celebrated at the last BTW youth group of the year! Seniors will be given an opportunity to share about their faith journey, what LOPC has meant to them, and give advice to younger students.



YOW Messy Game Night

Wednesday, May 24, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Come to our last YOW youth group of the year to experience games that involve water balloons, a slip n slide, shaving cream, and...jello? Come dressed to get messy and have fun! We'll wrap up with a time of small group affirmations.

Senior Blessing

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services

During both worship services, we will honor and pray over our class of 2017 students and send them on to the next phase of life with a blessing. We know God will go with these wonderful young people and it is our prayer that they will continue to grow in faith as they discover new faith communities wherever they may be.

The Spring Lotus: Blossom in the Spring! Celebrate Your Divine Essence!

Experience an opportunity in this beautiful workshop to discover inner wisdom and spiritual unfolding toward unity with God. . .

Khaleghi Quinn, Ph.D.
in collaboration with **Dancers Circle**

Saturday, May 6, 2017, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Registration at 8:45 a.m.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549

Suggested Donation: \$25

Nourishing refreshments will be provided



You will be guided with tools to center yourself in tranquility and harmony, deepening your spiritual grounding amidst the chaos of the world. Spring is the time of resurrection and new beginnings – the essence of everything. Dr. Quinn will guide you in the deeply grounding and edifying Qigong form. Dancers Circle will present the poetry and music of Hildegard von Bingen with an introduction to the Labyrinth as a metaphor for what is sacred in our lives. You will have an opportunity to walk the labyrinth and respond through movement, art, journaling, and sharing.

Khaleghi Quinn, Ph.D., (pronounced Kah-lel) was described in 1991 by Dr. Anton Jayasuriya, Chairman of the World Congress on Traditional and Complementary Medicine, as “one of the greatest exponents of East meets West who creates forums for human flowering.” Dr. Quinn is a best-selling author, composer, and spiritual teacher. She holds a doctorate in philosophy and is a Qigong Master. Awards for her work on world peace, anti-bullying, and healing include the St. George’s Cross for courage from the Knights of Malta, the Kidscape Award in London, and recently the Sui Generis Foundation Award in Berkeley.



Dancers Circle, under the direction of choreographer Genia Simpson and co-choreographer/director Jacqueline Corl-Seidel, has presented sacred dance in workshops, concerts, and worship services throughout the Bay Area since 1974. This interfaith group brings creativity, theological awareness, and liturgical sensitivity to their presentations.

For more information and to register:

Jan Browne: email at janbrowne3@gmail.com or (925) 899-6685

Genia Simpson: email at geniasimpson@hotmail.com or (925) 330-9898

Nominations for 2018 Church Officers needed by May 7, 2017



One of the cornerstones of our Presbyterian heritage is election by the congregation of church officers to provide leadership for the church, as well as loving support for those in the church community. Each year we elect officers to serve for the following year, drawn from nominations from the congregation.

We are now in the process of selecting new officers and leaders for LOPC for terms beginning January 2018. It is a great privilege and responsibility to nominate members who will serve LOPC as elected lay leaders. It is also necessary for us to participate in the essential process that will influence our church in the near future.

The primary qualifications for nominees are:

- Strong commitment to Jesus Christ and the church's Mission Statement.
- Active participation in worship and in other ministries at LOPC.
- Stewardship commitment of time, talent and financial resources.
- Leadership ability and organizational skills.
- Compassion in human relationships.
- An open-minded approach to ideas and problems.
- Spiritual depth and maturity.
- Ability to equip people for ministry and work in a team-based leadership role.

Elders, together with the pastors, lead and direct the ministry of the church. They are persons of faith, dedication and good judgment. Elders serve on Session, the governing body of the church. They also chair various church teams through which all ministries are conducted. Eight elders are ordained to serve a three-year term.

Deacons, as set forth in Scripture, are leaders who serve as the caring, compassionate arm of the church, providing loving support to all those in need within the church community. The primary area of Deacon service is care of members. Ten deacons are ordained to serve a three-year term and one deacon, a high school age person, serves an 18-month term.

The Congregation Nominating Committee (CNC), members are elected for a one-year term. Their duties include receiving and reviewing nominations for church officers and selecting candidates to present to the congregation.

Foundation Trustees, serve on the LOPC Foundation. This seven-member Foundation receives gifts in various forms and designations, manages investments and provides funding for LOPC needs that cannot be accommodated in the church's annual operating budget. Trustees serve an initial term of four years. They can be re-elected for one three-year term. Members who have served in the past can be nominated for a two-year term.

Nomination forms will continue to be available through May 7, in the Ministry Center, the Sanctuary Pew Racks and on-line at LOPC.org. We need your nominations.

Please fill out at least one nomination form. If you are feeling called, please nominate yourself. Any questions? Contact a CNC member.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. We are looking forward to hearing from each of you.

2017 Congregation Nominating Committee – CNC

Michael Kim, Chair, Bob Hoots, Randi Long, Katie Owensby, Carey Starn, Bud Lake: Deacon Representative
Bill DeWolf: Clerk of Session, Peter Whitelock: Staff

Moving Forward at the Foundation

by Staci Johnston, Foundation Trustee



Staci Johnston

This past year has been a busy one for the LOPC Foundation. One of the most important and satisfying accomplishments was reviewing, discussing and praying about the Foundation's goals. These exercises ensure the wishes of our donors are honored, define the Foundation's role with respect to LOPC, and enable the Foundation to help meet the needs of the church for the future.

With that accomplishment behind us, we are well-positioned this year to undertake a new initiative of telling LOPC members and friends about what God helped us discover. As one means to that end, we have a new Foundation brochure entitled "What Will Your Legacy Be?" You can find copies around campus. It highlights our Mission Statement, which is the foundation of our goals:

The Mission of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Foundation:

To grant funds to LOPC to help:

- Support Vibrant, Ongoing and New Ministries.
- Expand Mission Outreach.
- Maintain LOPC's Buildings and Campus.

To encourage and assist members of the LOPC members and friends to contribute to the Foundation through outright and planned gifts.

To preserve Foundation capital and promote its long-term growth through prudent investment.

Ask any Trustee how you can join "Friends of the LOPC Foundation" and help achieve its ongoing mission, now and in the future. Contact: Dick James – President; Lynn Trowbridge - Vice President and Secretary; Phil Placier – Treasurer; Kristi Haigh; Staci Johnston; Alan Kizor or Dara Youngdale.



Session Highlights – March 2017

by Bill DeWolf, Clerk of Session

Session in March had the pleasure of voting to support the request for Chris Baldwin to move from Inquirer to Candidate in his path to ordination, which, when completed, will make him eligible to receive a call from a church to become a Presbyterian pastor. Chris joins a long list of dedicated people that LOPC, over the years, has taken under care as they pursued a call to ordination. It is a tribute to the quality of our leadership, both in the clergy and our lay people, that we are able to provide this support.

Session continues to examine our finances. We were reminded again of the extraordinary generosity of the

congregation. The success of our recent capital campaigns, while maintaining our annual operating budget, is truly remarkable. That said, an analysis of giving trends suggests that giving to churches is on the decline in the rest of the country; even our own giving, while stable, has lost its "buying power" over time. We will continue to prayerfully explore opportunities to tell the LOPC story, with the belief that as the congregation appreciates the need for greater predictability in our finances, we will be able to better secure our current and future financial security. More to come.



LOPC
LAFAYETTE-ORINDA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2017

49 Knox Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

IMPORTANT:
Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
Before 4/30/17
Thank you!

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, CA
PERMIT NO. 835

PASTORAL STAFF

Peter Whitelock - Pastor / Head of Staff
Gerald Chinen - Pastor, Congregational Care
Lauren Gully - Pastor, Mission & Spiritual Formation
Jaime Polson - Pastor, Family Ministry

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Brett Strader, Director
Stewart Scharch, Organist

TREASURER

Char Casella

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chris Baldwin, Community Engagement
Keris Dahlkamp, Youth
Chuck Fry, Operations
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool
Ryan Timpfe, Children

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Ashley Jackson, Communications Director
Jennifer Shaul, Digital & Print Admin
Chuck Fry / Dick James

Thank you to all who contribute to each issue, and to proofreaders Bev Fellows and Janet Jourgensen.

Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

MAY 1 for the JUNE/JULY issue.
Email items to communications@LOPC.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Monday by 5:00 p.m.
Email communications@LOPC.org.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

MAKER FUN FACTORY CREATED BY GOD: BUILT FOR A PURPOSE

**JUNE 12- 16, 2017
REGISTRATION OPEN**



Gear up for an adventure! At Vacation Bible Camp this year, we will ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God's love through songs, stories, games, experiments, and more. **Who:** Kids 4 years old (by Sept 1, 2017) to completed 4th Graders (June 2017).

For more info, to register your child and to sign up to volunteer, visit our page at LOPC.org.

► Volunteer at Vacation Bible Camp, and make an eternal difference in the life of a child!

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family

Connect with us online!



Livestream.Com/LOPC



Facebook.com/lopchurch



Google.com/LOPC



Vimeo.com/lopcc



@lop_church



@lopchurch

Tag us in
your posts
using
#LOPC

LOPC: Where everyone is welcome, nobody's perfect and anything is possible with God.

Volume XXXVI, No. 5