

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

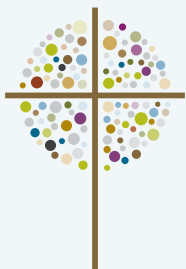
Alive!
In Christ... in the World



February 2021

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Pastors

Peter Whitelock

Head of Staff

Gerald Chinen

Care

Lauren Gully

Mission & Spiritual Formation

Jaime Polson

Families & Executive Leadership



the same but DIFFERENT

By Lauren Gully - Pastor, Mission & Spiritual Formation

In one year so much has changed and so much is different! Almost one year into the pandemic, some things are the same and some things are not. We are still the church, but how we do “church” looks different. We still have the values of charity and justice for our neighbors, but these things have taken on new meaning because of events highlighting racial injustice and the unevenness of who is suffering financially and physically in the pandemic. Our values of diversity and justice are still the same in our call as Christians, *and* more important in this present moment as well.

And through all of this, God is the same. By saying “God is the same,” I don’t mean God is unmoved or inattentive to our present needs or the state of affairs in our world or our country. Instead, I mean God has been concerned about these things all along. God is with us today just as much as last year. God loves us all just as much and is still longing for true restoration, right relationships, and peace on earth. God is the same, but perhaps now, we have a more specific desire for how we wish for God to show up in the world.

Our community still needs us to show up and lend a hand in all of the safe ways we can through LOPC’s annual-service event of *love does*, but it will look different this year in order to promote social distancing and asking our members and friends to participate by assembling things like hygiene kits at home. (See page 3.)

Also, we are gearing up for our annual Lenten study that helps ground us in our journey of faith before Easter, but this year it happens over Zoom. This year we will again be looking at the final week of Jesus’ life, but this year we will be reading and learning from Amy Jill Levine, a Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, whose historical and Jewish perspective will give us new understanding of what we celebrate in Holy Week. (See page 2.)

I pray that as the days and weeks and months continue, that we all continue to grow into the people who God is calling us to be and remember that we are still the same community that last met together in the Sanctuary all those months ago!

spiritual formation

Lenten Study 2021

By Lauren Gully, Pastor, Mission & Spiritual Formation

This year, let us begin again the journey of Holy Week – the story of Jesus’ Passion – with author Dr. Amy Jill Levine’s book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. We will walk through a deeper understanding of this biblical story with Prof. Levine, who is professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Prof. Levine brings her Jewish background, historical expertise, and vast knowledge of the New Testament and Hebrew Scriptures into this six-class study, looking at six different moments in the last week of Jesus’ life, while connecting Jewish traditions and the events of the Passion. Let us again prepare our hearts and minds to look at the events of Holy Week with new eyes.

For a complete schedule of classes and to register please go to lopc.org/lent2021.

As a result of online programming this year, we ask that participants order the book themselves. If you need assistance with ordering please email LOPC Receptionist Ciara Bird at ciara@lopc.org.

Spiritual Journaling Class

Tuesdays: February 16, March 16, and April 13 from 2-3:00 p.m.

“Releasing the Old, Embracing the New” is a three-session ZOOM class on Spiritual Journaling with Bob Finertie. Learn how writing can help you heal.

“It’s not the wound that keeps you stuck, it’s what you tell yourself about it.” - MM

“Writing has helped me heal. Writing has changed my life. Writing has saved my life.” - Louise De Salvo

“Your life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be opened.” - Wayne Muller

Please visit lopc.org/registrations to register. Questions? Email Lexi Morrissey at lexi@lopc.org

session highlights

By Paul Koenig, Clerk of Session

Session met on December 15, 2020.

The outgoing elders provided their thoughts and feelings about their service while on session, their faith growth and changes, and thoughts as to what session must pay attention to in the next few years. They were thanked for their service.

Peter Whitelock, pastor, reported to session, including as to the following items: the approved grant agreement with Presbytery to facilitate support directed to Monument Crisis Center; the LOPC leadership retreat to take place on Zoom on January 23, 2021; an update on the progress made by the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee; the session vote electing Linda Johnson and Julie Atkinson to serve on the Session Planning Council in 2021; the approved bonuses distributed to LOPC employees; and Brett

Strader’s work on a virtual Christmas concert.

Jim Nagle, Finance elder, provided a further update as to finances, including that tracking for 2020 was on target as of November with a further need for \$175,000 as faith component contributions. As to the pledges for 2021, such pledges will be clearer after the first week of January.

We are all grateful for all great work of the pastors, staff, and teams at LOPC, who have done such great work in this difficult year, and continue to provide for all their blessed talents and work. We thank them all, and our wonderful congregation, for all their work and contributions. Blessings to all!

mission

a month of **love** does

Go to lopc.org/lovedoes to sign up!

This year, one day is not enough to support and love our community, so we have dedicated a whole month of curated projects from which to choose. Though we can't work side-by-side as we normally do, we will work separately but together. The goal is for everyone to choose at least one project to work on and collectively make a difference in the greater community.

Participants can choose from a variety of ways to help!

- Donating gently used clothing
- Assembling hygiene kits
- Creating polar fleece blankets
- Assembling breakfast bags
- Assisting Winter Nights Shelter by providing meals and shopping
- Building shopping carts

Please drop-off all completed kits to LOPC on Saturday, 2/20 from 9-11 a.m. Enter the LOPC parking lot and drop off your donations curbside. A volunteer will pick-up the completed kits from your car.

Breakfast Kit Contents

- Individual juice box
- 2 Bars - 1 granola or breakfast bar and 1 protein bar
- Cup of instant oatmeal
- Box of raisins
- Snack size can of fruit (pop top)
- Note: Place all items in a gallon bag

Hygiene Kit Contents

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lip balm
- Hand sanitizer
- Deodorant
- Comb
- Crew Socks (preferably black)
- Masks
- A note of encouragement
- Note: Place all items in a gallon bag



love protects, love hopes, love never fails

Special Offering to benefit Shelter Inc. Feb. 21 & 28



During the month of *love does* each year LOPC highlights a local mission partner. This year the special offering will benefit Shelter Inc., an organization that works to prevent and end homelessness by providing housing, services, support, and resources that lead to self-sufficiency.

Shelter Inc. seeks to:

Prevent Homelessness

Housed parents can remain employed, and keep their children safe, educated, and fed. Prevention services include rental assistance, a needs assessment, and financial goal setting with a case manager.

End the Cycle of Homelessness

Homeless families and individuals are provided housing plus services including employment, education, counseling, and household budgeting to help regain self-sufficiency and permanent homes.

Provide Affordable Housing

Shelter, Inc. owns or master leases hundreds of units throughout the county, renting to low-income vulnerable residents, many of whom have otherwise been unable to find housing, such as disabled persons and veterans.

Three ways to give:

- Write a check to LOPC with "Shelter Inc." in the memo and place in black mailbox outside the Ministry Center Office.
- Go to LOPC.org > GIVE BACK > ONLINE GIVING and click "Give one time" and then click "Shelter, Inc." in the dropdown menu.
- Use the LOPC APP > Press "Give button" > Click "Shelter, Inc."

Ruby Slippers: There's No Place Like Home!

Hope Solutions' 2021 Virtual Gala
February 27, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Long-time LOPC Mission partner, Hope Solutions, continues to work to fight the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support to highly vulnerable families and individuals throughout Contra Costa County. All proceeds benefit local homeless families and individuals in Contra Costa County.

For more information and to register for free, visit lopc.org/registrations.

care

Care Ministry Presents:

Care and Senior Ministries are pleased to continue hosting Zoom sessions for Tuesday's "Keep Moving" and "Friday Faith 'n Fun" in February. Please join us for the fun and community!

"Stretch 'n Strength" returns with Keris Dahlkamp on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. on February 2, 9, 16, and 23.

"Faith 'n Fun on Fridays!" second and fourth Fridays Feb. 12 at 9:00 a.m.: Wallace De Young, a docent for Mount Diablo Park and a member of the Peregrine Team in Pine Canyon, will share an uplifting documentary on the reintroduction of Peregrine, once extinct in the Bay Area, followed by a Q&A session Feb. 26 at 9:00 a.m.: Nancy Henderson will present an interactive "Creative Writing" session. We will focus on life experiences as a resource, with the operative word being "fun." This will be the first of four consecutive monthly sessions. Please join us!

To register, please go to lopc.org/registrations. Add these events to your calendar now, and you will receive an email Zoom invitation the day before the class.

foundation



Staci Johnston

Isn't That Special?

By Staci Johnston, LOPC Treasurer & Foundation Trustee

My friends call me a “church lady” because I spend much of my time involved with Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC). For people near my generation, that name might remind them of a quirky church-lady television character known for saying “Isn't that special?” played by Dana Carvey on Saturday Night Live in the 1980s! I like being known as an “LOPC church lady,” particularly because of how LOPC reaches out to others in need. From time to time, I have had the opportunity to share with my friends about my faith and why I am an active, serving member of LOPC. Two recent examples of LOPC supporting the community come to mind.

Recently, one of my friends who was distraught, “Dee,” called me. Her best friend was on Hospice care at home in the midst of the pandemic; the friend wanted Dee to be her daughter’s godmother. Her friend was not a member of Dee’s church, and as a result, the church declined Dee’s plea for help. I put Dee in touch with LOPC Pastor Jaime. Jaime was able to visit, pray with, and bless the two families. She lifted Dee up to God as the godmother to her friend’s daughter, which gave Dee’s friend the peace she needed.

Another way LOPC has shined Christ’s love in the community is through our support of our sister church, Primera Iglesia, located in Fruitvale. Early in the pandemic, an LOPC women’s bible study heard of Primera’s families’ and neighbors’ need for food and offered to start a food bridge for Primera’s community. Initially, a modest donation of 300 pounds of rice and beans were provided every-other week through a restaurant supplier. As word spread about Primera’s community food needs, members and friends of LOPC, the deacons, and the Mission Team all made donations to support Primera. Now, weekly donations of meat, fruits, vegetables, and pantry staples of over \$500 are sent to assist about 70 families! The LOPC faith community responded with a special outpouring of love for Primera during Christmas. Primera children received handmade quilts and individual gift boxes with age-appropriate toys and goodies. Additional

food, including turkeys for 70 families, was provided in December because of a special gift by two members! It is hoped that the food bridge will help sustain these families until the effects of the pandemic fade in 2021.

The LOPC Foundation provides direct support of over \$400,000 per year to LOPC’s ministry teams. I have no way of knowing or predicting what the world’s or our greater community’s needs will be in the future, but there will no doubt be continuing needs. I want to be a part of LOPC’s ongoing vision of sharing God’s love and light in our community and in the world, by including the LOPC Foundation as a part of my estate planning. Legacy giving truly is special!

To learn more about how you can continue support LOPC’s mission and leave your lasting legacy gift, please contact a Foundation trustee: Jim Beckemeyer, Lois Boyd, Jen Crocker, Jerry Ducey, Kristi Haigh, Staci Johnston, Phil Placier, Mike Ross, or Dara Youngdale.

journey of faith

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC member



Carolyn Bauer

Carolyn Bauer Bauer says the way she and husband, Mark, found their way into the life of LOPC was a role reversal. Their daughter, Lily, joined the youth group, YOW (Youth on Wednesdays). She enjoyed it so much she encouraged them to attend church on Sunday mornings. They found it was just what they needed. “Mark and I realized when we sat together in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we felt palpable comfort. The beautiful music, the well-kept sanctuary, and the people all around made us feel at ease and have a sense of belonging. It was a transcendent time for us each week.”

continued next page →

In time, the Bauers joined the church. “With that, my faith experience expanded,” says Carolyn. “I became a youth advisor, as I wanted to give back to the experience from which Lily had gained so much. Each year I ‘re-up’ because I cannot imagine life without the high schoolers. I’ve had the good fortune of serving on many mission trips with them, and one adult trip. Special were the ones to Africa and India.



For more information on LARC, go to the LARC website or call 925-254-3465.

“In 2017, we visited one of our mission partners, Children of Faith, a nonprofit organization caring for at-risk children in India. Those blessed children with their deep faith in Jesus were such a joy to live and learn with for two weeks. The year 2018 brought an adult trip to Zimbabwe with our partner, the JF Kapnek Trust. Both of these trips took me beyond my comfort zone and brought spiritual growth. To see people who live happily, without all of our conveniences and surplus of what we have, is a gift. They make beautiful lives with so little, having spirits full of radiant faith.”

Carolyn says her faith journey began at the First Congregational Church in Western Springs, Illinois. Her father was a Catholic who had left the church, and her mother had no religious beliefs “beyond the Golden Rule,” as she put it. It was her best friend who led her to Sunday school at age 6. “I remember there was a portrait of Jesus as we descended the stairs. He had long, wavy brown hair and a kind smile. I would smile back at his face, acknowledging he was the reason I was there. I have fond and significant memories of attending that church.

“However, for the next 30 years, I explored my faith very little until I joined a 12-step program for food addiction and later joined Alanon; its programs were founded upon many faith traditions, including Christianity. I started reading about how people developed a relationship with a higher power, who, as I explored further, I chose to call God. Other practices included letters to God, prayer, meditation, and reading psalms in the Twelve Step Bible. This was the way I was led back to the church.”

When Carolyn and Mark married in 1986, they began attending Unity of Chicago. “The congregation was a wondrous melting pot, ranging from ‘bag ladies’ to CEOs. I was always comforted with how we were all one as we sat in the sanctuary seeking God. We were homogeneous only in our pursuit of faith.”

The Bauers moved to Lafayette in 1995 where they raised their family and became part of the LOPC family. Carolyn points out that singing in the Festival Choir was special. “I’ve learned so much from Brett (worship and music director) and other choir members. I look forward to the time when we can sing together again.” She is serving as a deacon and feels honored to have worked on memorial receptions. “I have this as a calling. To give energy and enthusiasm and be present for a deceased’s family and friends as they honor their loved one is so worthwhile.

“I am grateful for all our pastors and the staff at LOPC. I have gained deep connections with them and church members. It helps my faith journey to continue to grow.” Carolyn extends her love of service to others working as activity director for the last 10 years at the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) in Orinda’s Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. “We serve clients with memory loss due to mild-to-moderate Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia. An online program was launched recently since we can no longer meet on campus. I’m also facilitating the caregiver support group on Zoom. I feel my work there is part of my call from God to serve those in need, and I have a wonderful time doing so. I can sing and dance at my job. That’s not an easy position to find!

“I believe God can guide us to the right decisions if we pray about them. We can pray today to be shown the right way and achieve a real harmony with God’s purpose in our lives.” Carolyn chooses as her favorite Bible Verse, Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.”

Editor’s note: In the January issue of Focus, the “Journey of Faith” article incorrectly spelled the name of Jody Black.

community

First Friday Forum Looks at Homelessness

February 5 at a new time: 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

February's First Friday Forum (FFF), will feature Deanne Pearn, executive director of Hope Solutions, with the topic "Housing and Homelessness in Contra Costa County - Responding in the Context of COVID." This will be a webinar presentation. Registration is required.



Deanne Pearn

"Prior to COVID-19, the housing shortage and homelessness crisis in California was acute," Pearn says. "While one-in-nine Americans live in California, one-in-four homeless Americans live in California. The health and economic crises brought on by the pandemic are only exacerbating this situation. Hope Solutions has worked to blunt the impact of the pandemic. We emptied the shelters and moved people into safer space in hotels and are being creative in how we create permanent housing solutions."

Pearn will discuss the successes and challenges it has had in ending homelessness and how other partners can continue to be part of the solution. Pearn has been the head of Hope Solutions since 2017. Its mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness

LOPC Membership Class

Please join us for four consecutive Sundays as follows:

- February 21 with Pastor Peter Whitelock (Class #1: Presbyterian History & Reformed Theology/Q&A).
- February 28 with Pastors Lauren Gully and Jaime Polson (Class #2: LOPC History & Vision).
- March 7 with Pastor Gerald Chinen and Chris Baldwin (Class #3: Meaningful Membership).
- March 14 for a Session Vote and Reception with Pastor Peter Whitelock, followed by Chris Baldwin and Connecting Team Activities.

Register at lopc.org/welcome/join-lopc.
Questions? Contact Chris Baldwin.

by providing permanent-housing solutions and vital -support services to homeless and poverty-impacted families and individuals. Hope Solutions was founded in 1997 as a partnership between Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Temple Isaiah, and other faith communities. It has grown into an \$8.5-million organization, with over 60 staff, offering a range of critical services to over 1,800 clients a year.

Prior to coming to Hope Solutions, Pearn co-founded First Place for Youth, a nationally recognized organization dedicated to ending poverty and homelessness among transition-age youth. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from UC Berkeley's Goldman School and an undergraduate degree from Stanford University. She lives in central Contra Costa County with her husband and three children.

For this FFF, guests need to register at lopc.org/first-friday-forum. Click on the link in the blue font and fill out the webinar registration form with your name and email address. The Zoom link required for the presentation will be sent on February 5.

Heart to Heart

with Neighbor 2 Neighbor
February 21 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join the LOPC Interfaith Team in connection with Temple Isaiah and the San Ramon Islamic Center for a live Zoom event. We'll gather for a short time in a large group and then break out into smaller groups to meet each other and talk together about what's happening for us now. Let's go virtual for a winter gathering to meet again and talk with neighbors of different faiths and our own.

To sign up, visit Temple Isiah's website: temple-isaiah.org/values-in-action/neighbor-to-neighbor/.

seedlings

Register now for the 2021- 2022 Seedlings school year!

Despite these extremely difficult times, Seedlings is optimistically moving forward with the 2021-2022-school-year-registration process this month. We are excited to be moving into our 38th year of providing quality care for the Lamorinda area. Although we were limited in the number of families we were able to care for this year due to COVID- safety guidelines, we were still able to serve 68 families! If you are interested in enrolling your child at Seedlings Preschool or know a friend who is, here are a few tips and reminders! Registration will be processed in the following order. Please read carefully for dates and directions that apply to you!

Current Seedlings Families:

Currently enrolled families have priority for registering their children. After processing all of the currently enrolled students, their siblings (who aren't currently enrolled) will then be accepted. Look for a registration information emailed to you in early February.

Members of LOPC:

Registration for current members of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (who have completed the required membership class and are currently in the LOPC membership database) will be enrolled online this year. To register, please email the Seedlings office at seedlings@lopc.org by the end of February.

Families on the current (2020-2021) waitlist: (This waitlist is currently closed.)

Registration information will be sent via email in early February.

Community Members:

Community members are those NOT currently enrolled in our program, registered to our 2020 - 2021 waitlist (this waitlist is now closed), or a current member of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC). Registration for community members for our 2021-2022 Seedlings program will be on Thursday,



March 18, via email. If you are interested in registering for our 2021-2022 school year or 2021 summer program, please email us for specific instructions and to find out about availability at seedlings@lopc.org.

Please also note: space in all Seedlings classes is limited and may be filled by current Seedlings children and their siblings. If a

space is not available at the time you register, you will be placed on the 2021-2022 wait list for a \$50.00 non-refundable fee. This will be applied towards the annual registration fee if you are placed in the program during the 2021-2022 school year. After the LOPC member registrations, we will then slot in anyone who has turned in a Wait-List Renewal form. Then we will enroll community members on Thursday, March 18.

We look forward to another wonderful school year!

If you have questions, please contact the Seedlings office at seedlings@lopc.org.

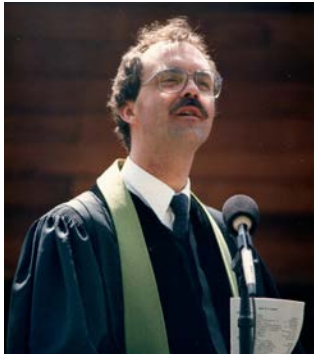
youth

Register now for our in-person youth group events on Sundays running from February 21 - March 21. YOW (for youth in 5th-8th grades), will take place from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. and BTW (for youth in 9th-12th grades) will take place from 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. Due to the higher potential for rain this time of year, we'll be under our new and very big tent canopies! Youth will gather socially distanced and outdoors (bundle up!) to enjoy games, biblically-based devotionals, time for small group discussions, and other engaging hands-on activities with their friends. Space is limited so register soon.

Questions? Contact Keris for high school at keris@lopc.org and Allison for middle school at allison@lopc.org.

clayton cobb a remembrance

By Dick James, LOPC Member



Many people – and Clayton Cobb was one of them – are like the sun in the sky: they radiate a loving warmth that lasts even after the sun sets.

The recent, untimely death of the Rev. Clayton Cobb, a former LOPC associate pastor who led the youth program and later became

Head of Staff, has demonstrated dramatically his loving – and lasting – effect on many LOPC members, non-members, and some former pastors.

If anyone’s death can be called untimely it is certainly Clayton’s at age 67. Aside from his relatively young age, he and his wife, Jeannie, were just about to begin a new chapter, with retirement and a move to Monte Vista Grove in Pasadena, home to many former pastors, including Anne Whitelock’s father, the Rev. Gary Demarest, and the Rev. Jim Hinch, LOPC interim pastor immediately prior to the arrival of the Rev. Peter Whitelock, current pastor and head of staff.

“I would say that over the years, LOPC has been served by many clergy, all of whom had their unique gifts,” says Peter, “but Clayton Cobb was a pastor who stood out as an exceptional model of love, encouragement and conviction. To this day, even though he left LOPC in

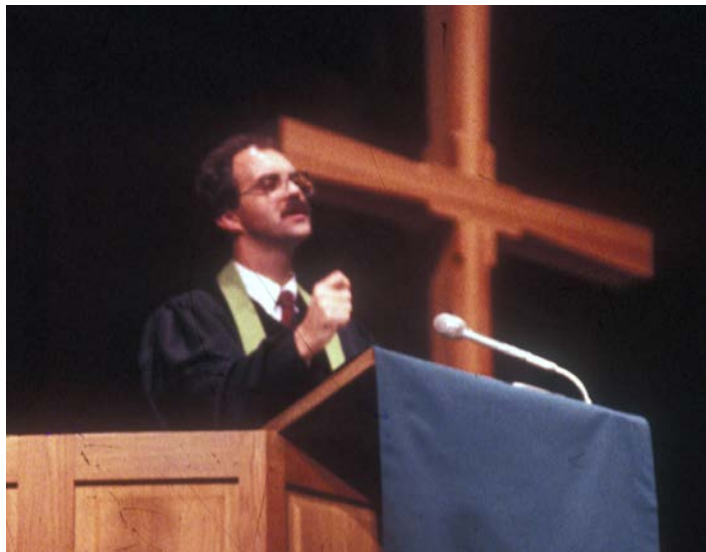
1990, people regularly identify him to me as someone who deeply and significantly affected the direction of their lives and walk with God.”

Clayton touched hundreds of lives during his dozen years at LOPC. Their testimony follows the themes Peter highlighted: love, encouragement and conviction – plus an added one – music. “My commitment to music has persisted all these years,’ [Clayton] said, glancing at the decal-covered guitar case sitting near the door of his office.’ That from a 2010 newspaper interview.

True enough. Who can forget his singing guitar, the country music, “Tennessee Stud” and “bump-another-rump” songs he taught everyone at LOPC’s all-church Mt. Hermon retreats. The Tennessee-Stud label, which his former wife, Deirdra (Deedee), stuck on him, endured. It’s only slightly ironic because Clayton, and his southern drawl, were born in Louisiana, not Tennessee, although Tennessee culture was planted early and deeply, thanks to attendance at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis and, later, the University of Memphis.

At LOPC, his love, warmth, and leadership drew a wide swath of youth followers from among those inside and outside the congregation. His youth group “was such a great group that it drew kids who hadn’t even gone to church (at LOPC), like me,” remembers Dr. Gayle Long, now a Denver physician. “Some of my friends had

continued next page →



been in it and I started going, and it became a really important part of my (and I'm sure lots of others') high-school years. We learned a lot, through retreats and covenant groups, about how to have good relationships with friends and family. Clayton was really funny, and a great musician. Tennessee Stud was Clayton's quintessential song, but mostly we sang a lot of other songs, every Wednesday night at our meetings."

And echoes from other former high-schoolers: "He was a kind soul to us and he knew we loved to sing," says Dr. Long's close friend, Dena Odell, whose parents are long-time LOPC members. From another former-high-schooler, Jill Amstutz, with deep parental LOPC roots: "The words and memories come pouring back while listening to Tennessee Stud. Such a caring, guiding force in my life, our lives." And from Jill's brother, Paul, whose marriage Clayton performed: "I close my eyes and can so clearly see his beautiful smile, head tilted a bit to one side, the twinkle in his sparkling eyes.... Clayton was a role model of kindness and compassion."

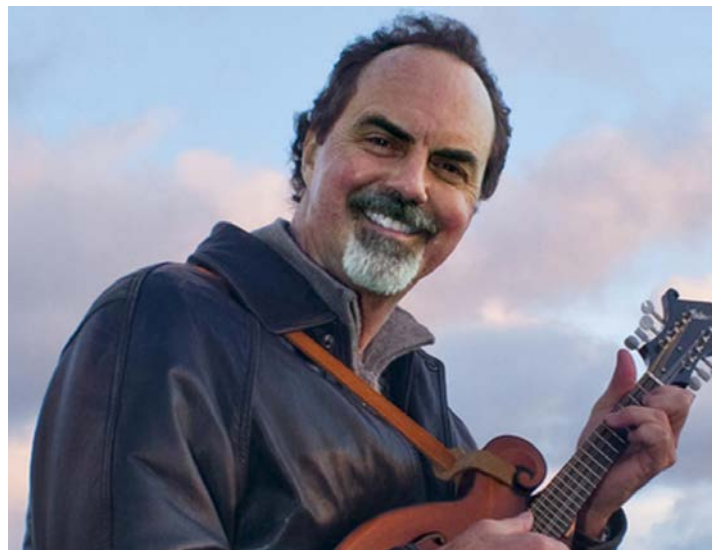
Clayton's abundant leadership qualities similarly marked the youth program's adult lay leaders, too. Listen to Fred Tuemmler, current LOPC member and former volunteer advisor: "I admired Clayton who was so skilled working with the high school youth.... He had an amazing capacity for...being able to understand teen youth and all of the social, academic and family sensitivities and insecurities of that age group...." Like

the youth, Fred attests to Clayton's "excellent" guitar skills, and adds: "Above all, Clayton was valuable in helping the senior-high youth develop their spiritual faith and connection to God in their lives in a meaningful and supportive way."

At the church staff level, Clayton's guidance as interim head of staff became invaluable during LOPC's clergy transitions in the 1980s, following the retirement of the Rev. Jim Little. Lois Boyd, former business administrator and current LOPC member, was an eye-witness to that period, when, she says, it seemed like "we were flying the plane while it was still being built." "The reason he (Clayton) was so effective...is the staff and congregation had developed such a strong trust in him. They respected his faith, his gifts as a pastor, and unquestioned commitment to LOPC."

And from the perspective of a former LOPC associate pastor, the Rev. Steve Wirth, who was Clayton's colleague at LOPC nearly the entire time: "Our relationship was forged in the fire of LOPC working hard to serve a large, busy congregation. We shared the mentorship of Jim Little and I know it was LOPC and Jim Little who made us the pastors we became. Clayton and I shared every significant life event since then, and hardly a meeting passed where we didn't share a fond memory of people and events at LOPC. My heart aches, as I am sure do many others."

Amen.





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Lauren Gully, Mission & Spiritual Formation
Jaime Polson, Families & Executive Leadership

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Brett Strader, Director
Stewart Sarch, Organist

TREASURER

Staci Johnston

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chris Baldwin, Ministries Associate for
Community Life
Keris Dahlkamp & Allison Kunz, Youth
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool
Ryan Timpte, Children

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Jon Corry, Communications
Editors: Dick James & Lexi Morrissey
Thank you to all who contribute to each issue!

Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

February 1 for the March issue.
Email items to communications@lopchurch.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Every Monday by 5 p.m.
for the following Sunday's issue.
Email items to communications@lopchurch.org.



2021 Annual Congregational Meeting

February 7, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

We will review the past year, hear what is coming up in 2021, and vote on pastors' salaries. Annual Reports are available online. All are welcome but only LOPC members may vote.

Register online at lopchurch.org/2021annualmeeting

**ONLINE Sunday
Worship Service**
9:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family!

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