

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Help us celebrate the
10th year anniversary of
ONE Sunday at LOPC!



LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10 Years

2.26.2017

ONE SUNDAY

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The logo features a large green '10' with 'Years' written in a script font inside the zero. To the right of the '10' is a stylized green church building icon. The text 'LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH' is arched over the top of the '10'. Below the church icon, the date '2.26.2017' is printed, followed by 'ONE SUNDAY' in large, bold, green letters, and 'SERVING THE COMMUNITY' in smaller green letters at the bottom.

JANUARY 2017

God's Providence

by Jaime Polson, Pastor-Family Ministries



“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all ways acknowledge God and God will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Providence: a manifestation of God’s care and direction in your life.

Although I am not one for New Year’s resolutions, I do have an annual practice of looking back at the previous year and finding times God was active in my life. This is one of the spiritual practices that draws me closer to God every time I practice it.

Now, I have to confess, I am a person who likes planning, certainty and to know exactly what is going to happen next, so you can probably guess that I sometimes struggle with trusting God. This is why I have found this practice to be a meaningful experience for me. Sometimes when I am in the thick of things, due to busyness or being in a challenging time of life, I need to look backward in order to remember how to trust God and that God is trustworthy. I experience providence in this practice, meaning I can look back and see where God has been present in my life.

As I enter my fourth year of ministry as a pastor at LOPC, I spent some time thinking about how God directed me here and how incredibly thankful and grateful I am to be a pastor here. Six years ago, I was doing work that I loved, found rewarding and very much felt led to when I started in that position five years earlier. Then, after six years at the organization, things began to shift. I still loved the work, but after much prayer and thought, I knew it was time to leave. So after giving one year’s notice, I left the organization. I decided to take a little time off and after six months, I shifted between panic and peace. During my moments of panic, I thought to myself, I had worked so hard to build a career and I left it. What was I thinking? And in the peaceful moments, where I remembered God had called me to take a break and rest, I trusted all would be well.

One year after leaving my last position, I received my call to LOPC. It wasn’t something I was expecting or planning. I had been an ordained minister for 10 years, but I never envisioned myself as a pastor at a church. I thought I would work in non-profits or hospitals forever. As I look back, I am thankful for God’s providence in leading me to LOPC. I hope you will try this practice and experience how God is working in your life.

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See more at LOPC.org



Please see below for the 2017 ONE Sunday Partner Agencies. Agencies with a 😊 indicate they are child friendly. Please sign up online at LOPC.org.

Agency	Child	Mission	Project
	😊	To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the homeless and needy and empower them to change their lives.	Create hygiene kits for the many homeless of the Bay Area.
	😊	To serve Christ by addressing the physical, educational, spiritual and social needs of underprivileged children in Visakhapatnam.	Create polar fleece blankets for children that reside at Children of Faith orphanage.
	😊	To provide permanent, affordable housing and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa County.	Build and install raised beds in order for residents to maintain a vegetable garden and complete work on a gardening shed at Garden Park Apartments.
	😊	To expose young children and their families to mission work.	Create artwork to be used in stationery to benefit children.
 2 shifts 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.		To alleviate hunger and provide an efficient coordinated system for collecting and distributing food in Contra Costa and Solano counties.	Sort food to be distributed to the hungry in Contra Costa and Solano Counties. NOTE: Ages 13 & up
		To provide programs and resources that build the futures of Bay Area foster children; and are a guiding source for successful transition into the adult world.	Sew pillowcases to be distributed to foster children in Contra Costa County.
		Seeking to put God's love into action, and bringing people together to build homes, communities with hope.	Work at the new Muir Woods development in Pacheco. All levels welcome. NOTE: Ages 16 & up
	😊	Our mission is to support adults with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and to lead fuller lives in their home, at work, and in the community.	Help paint and update facility as well as install new raised beds and garden.
	😊	To provide community based food programs and partner services that focus on basic needs. We nourish lives!	Deep clean the Martinez Dining Room where over 200 meals per day are served, Monday to Friday to feed the hungry. Team will clean the kitchen, dining room, and help organize storage room and other supply areas.
	😊	Dedicated to delivering gently used and new baby clothes directly to underprivileged newborns upon their departure from hospitals.	Package gently used and new baby clothes for distribution to economically challenged mothers.
	😊	To provide food, education, assistance and referrals to families and individuals in crisis situations in the Monument corridor.	Prepare and package bags of rice and beans, birthday bags and diapers for MCC clients. Assemble carts for clients of MCC.
		A church dedicated to creating disciples of Christ and supporting the surrounding predominantly Hispanic Fruitvale District.	Help with facility improvements.
	😊	To prevent homelessness and promote self-sufficiency among Contra Costa residents.	Work on various projects including painting and organizing facility. In addition, engage with families by preparing lunch and participating in fun activities and crafts with residents.
		To break the multigenerational cycle of violence, promoting safe and strong relationships and rebuilding lives.	Deep clean kitchen and facility maintenance. NOTE: Ages 16 & up

The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion!

by Lauren Gully, Pastor – Mission & Spiritual Formation

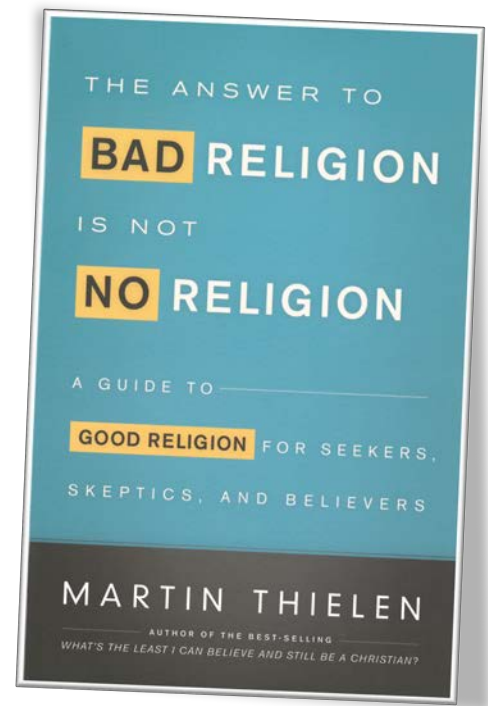
“I thought Christians were judgmental...”

So often I come across people who really have no idea what encompasses a moderate Christian view of the Bible, theology, or even current events. I have even heard some of our members claim that when they come across non-Christians they are told: “I have never met a Christian like you,” signaling that the non-Christian experience of our faith is something, shall we say, less than positive. In light of our changing national landscape, it is important to think about what we believe, and represent, as Presbyterians in 2017.

This Lent we will be using the book by Martin Thielen to reflect on how “toxic religion dismays...and how to get into the clear about what good religion is and can be.” Thielen reminds us that “Christians need not be sexist, anti-Semitic, literalistic, antievolution, or judgmental; they do, however, need to believe in and embrace Jesus and his message.” What examples of bad religion have you seen or heard of lately? Do you ever define yourself or your faith, by what it is not, or what it is against?

This Lenten series will remind us how “good religion keeps an open mind” and will begin the day after Ash Wednesday. Join us as we study and celebrate the best of our religion, and what it has to offer our community, the country, and the world!

You can go to LOPC.org now to sign up for one of the studies listed. If you'd like childcare (at one of the studies offering it) your reservation must be received by Feb. 19. Books will be available (for a suggested donation of \$12.00) on the Worship Plaza on Sunday mornings and at the Ministry Center reception desk during the week. Questions? Contact becki@LOPC.org.



We Believe (!?) – 2/5 & 2/12

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Room
Led by Lauren, Peter, Gerald and Jaime

In an ever-changing world...Christian faith is centered on the Bible, Jesus and the Church.



Topics this time include:

- 2/5 - Gerald Chinen - Forgiveness: A path for healing
- 2/12 - Peter Whitelock - Diversity: Is there one right way to be a Christian?

Bring your questions as we continue our exploration of various topics and navigate our way through faith and doubt with fellowship!

Annual Congregational Meeting - 2/12



12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Lunch will be served. \$10 suggested donation. Sign up on the plaza or R.S.V.P. to elizabeth@LOPC.org.

We will review the past year, hear what is coming up in 2017, and vote on Pastor's salaries.

Annual Reports are available on the Worship Plaza, online, and in the church office.

Questions? elizabeth@LOPC.org

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**LENTEN****STUDY GROUPS** 2017

FACILITATORS	DATE	DAYS	TIME	LOCATION	NOTES
Darlene James	3/2 - 4/6	Thursdays	8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Library	Open to 4
Staci Johnston & Sue Nagle	3/2 - 4/6	Thursdays	9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	CLC - 204	Open to 5 Women
Lauren Gully	3/2 - 4/6	Thursdays	6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Davies Room	Open to all
Jody Black & Chad Runyon	3/2 - 4/6	Thursdays	7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	At their home	Open to all
Sharon Bartlett	3/3 - 4/7	Fridays	9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Oak Room	Open to all
Gerald Chinen & Larry Ricksen	3/4 - 4/1	Saturdays	7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Oak Room	Open to Men
Bonnie & John Turpin	3/5 - 4/9	Sundays	9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Oak Room	Open to all
Lori Robinson	3/5 - 4/9	Sundays	12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	CLC - 205	Garden Volunteers
Zach Flanigan & Jaime Polson	3/12 - 3/26	Sundays	5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Davies Room	Families
Chris Baldwin & Alex Paras	3/6 - 4/10	Mondays	6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	CLC - 204	Men with Young Families
Carl & Diane Grant	3/7 - 4/4	Tuesdays	6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Davies Room	Open to all
Tom Scovel	3/7 - 4/4	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	At his home	Open to all
Matt Crossland	3/8 - 4/5	Wednesdays	6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	CLC - 205	Parents with school age children
Jeff & Sue West	3/8 - 4/5	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	Fireside	Open to all

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BECKI@LOPC.ORG

We Want You!

Lifetouch

New 2017 LOPC Church Directory Coming Soon!

Photography sessions for our new directory have begun! Here are some frequently asked questions:

What are the dates for the photography sessions?

Lifetouch has given LOPC intermittent dates between now and Feb 14th. Weekday, early evening and Saturday appointments are available. Please don't wait, book your appointment today! **Scheduling Update! - Due to demand, beginning February 2nd additional afternoon appointments have been added to the schedule. Appointments will now begin at 11:30 a.m., and the last weekday appointment will be at 6:50 p.m.**

I'm not a church member, can I still participate?

Absolutely! This is for members of our "church family" and all are welcome to participate.

I don't want to bother with having a photo taken; can I just pick up a new directory when they are available?

Sorry to say, no. Lifetouch produces directories only for those who pose for photos, with a small overrun given to the church for staff members. To receive a directory, you must be included in it.

What contact information will be included?

As much or as little as you want! There will be an opportunity to add your home address, phone number (s) and email address(s). You may choose to list all contact information, some of it, or none.

Can my contact information be included even if I don't pose for a photo?

Absolutely! But please note directories will only be produced for those who have their photograph taken.

Where will the photos be taken?

All photographs will be taken in Room 201 of the CLC Building. The CLC Building has an elevator.

What will happen during the photography session?

Please arrive a few minutes before your scheduled appointment. A volunteer greeter will check you in. After your photos have been taken, you will have the opportunity to review them and make any purchases. You are under no obligation to purchase any additional photos. All families who pose for pictures receive a complimentary photo and a copy of the directory.

How do I schedule a photography session?

So glad you asked! Go to our website, www.LOPC.org/directory to sign up, stop by the table on the Plaza on Sundays or contact Janet, in the Ministry Center office, at (925) 283-8722 for scheduling assistance.

Our New Teachers

by Molly Maduck, Seedlings Communications Board Member



Just as every student at Seedlings is special in his or her own unique way, so are all of our teachers. Last year, we published a series of articles in Focus in which we interviewed all of our Seedlings staff members. Through these articles, our church community was able to “get to know” the individuals who help make Seedlings such an exceptional preschool. This year, we are fortunate to have three new women join our team of educators. These new teachers are: Paige Moulton, who is co-teaching the Sprouts class (for toddlers), Kim Brooks, who is co-teaching the Petunias class (for young 3-year-olds), and Traci Weldon, who is co-teaching the Dandelions class (developmental kindergarten). This month, we interviewed these women, who are all bringing such great energy, knowledge, and support to Seedlings.

In an attempt to get to know them better, we asked them the question, “What brought you to teach at Seedlings?”

Paige: I started out attending preschool at Seedlings, then began volunteering at Seedlings to help my mom (Coleen Moulton), and now I’m teaching here! While at college, studying and working at my university’s lab school, I found my passion is working with children.

Kim: I fell in love with the field of early childhood education during my own children’s preschool years and decided becoming a preschool teacher was the right next step for me. We have been attending LOPC for three years so when a teaching position became available at Seedlings, I jumped at the chance to be part of this awesome school community. I couldn’t be happier to have landed here.

Traci: I was brought to Seedlings through an online ad for a teacher. It sounded like an amazing opportunity and I am so glad I applied. I had recently moved back to California from Texas and was looking for a school I felt would be a great fit. From the first time I walked into Seedlings, I knew it was special!

Next, we asked them, “What do you love most about the age of kids you work with?”

Kim: Petunias (young threes) are natural explorers and problem solvers. I love watching children this age light up when they discover something new or come up with a way around, through, or over any obstacle in their path.

Traci: I love the Dandelions class age because they are so full of energy and thirst for knowledge. They grow and change so fast this last year before Kindergarten. I love their wonder for the world and how everything is so exciting. Nothing makes me happier as a teacher than to see the joy in children’s eyes when they know they have mastered a new skill.

Paige: I love watching the change and growth with the Sprouts (1s and 2s)! It’s amazing to see them start the year hardly talking to then building their confidence and speaking full sentences!!

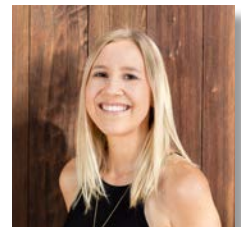
Lastly, we asked, “What is something important to you outside of teaching?”

Traci: Outside of school I love spending time with my family. My husband and I have three boys 6,12 & 15. The boys are all involved in sports (which takes a lot of time). When we have down time, we love to spend time outdoors.

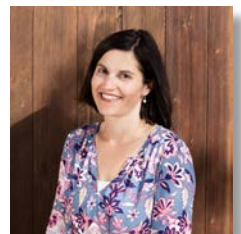
Paige: My relationships with family, friends, and my dog are very important and to me! I enjoy spending my time with them and exploring and being in nature!!

Kim: I’m a mom to two beautiful daughters who keep me very busy! Whenever I can, I love to find quiet time to read a great novel, cook a new recipe, or start a knitting project.

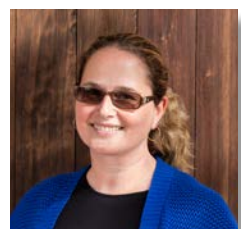
Please join us in welcoming Paige, Kim and Traci, who have already brought so much to our remarkable community here at Seedlings!



Paige Moulton



Kim Brooks



Traci Weldon

Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



Eli Olson

Eli Olson begins his story with this. “There’s no denying I’ve lived an amazing life so far. I’ve been blessed with great friends, family and opportunities throughout my 17 years of life. My grandfather has been a special influence in sharing his faith journey with me,

and inspiring me to go through the confirmation process. I’ve made some of my best friendships in middle school at LOPC and although I go to a different high school than those friends now, I’m thankful to LOPC for helping me strengthen those friendships through mission trips and weekly meetings and prayers.

Eli says that without a doubt the most important events for his faith journey would be the weekly BTW (By The Way) meetings held every Sunday night. “It was there that I developed friendships with not only like-minded Christian peers, but also with outstanding adults, namely Keris Dahlkamp, Larry Rose and Tom Scovel. The latter two are the leaders of our small groups during the BTW meetings. These meetings have taught me lessons about the value of compassion and how to be a better Christian.

“BTW has shaped me in ways nowhere else could, and although as a junior in high school I often find myself stressed and weighed down by my work, it’s comforting to know I can always rely on LOPC to provide a good laugh and lesson at the end of the day. I honestly believe that I wouldn’t have much of a faith journey, if at all, if it wasn’t for BTW.

“On top of that I’ve enjoyed being able to develop my faith journey through a mission trip two summers ago. We spent a week in Seattle working with churches and Christian organizations in their efforts to help homeless and low income families. It was an eye-opening experience to help so many people in such a short span of time.”

Eli selects as a very important opportunity in his life his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, and

recently reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. He explains, “As an Eagle Scout, we’re taught to honor our country, our God, and our fellow man. “For my Eagle scout project, I built sensory tables for a school in Concord called the George Miller Center. The George Miller Center focuses on helping both children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. The tables have Tupperware bins built so they are flush with the surface like a sink. The teachers then filled the bins with differently textured materials like sand, beans, and uncooked rice. Not only are the tables fun for the kids, but they also help develop the sensitivity in their hands.

“Going through confirmation and the beginnings of my faith journey at the same time as my career in Boy Scouts has given me more meaning to what it is I’m doing as both a Scout and a Christian,” Eli says. “My connection to God has given me a deeper appreciation for the scouting organization, and has helped me better recognize the importance of loving my neighbor and serving a community under God.

“Each and every Monday night scout meeting the senior scouts would open the meeting with the scout oath; ‘On my honor, I will do my best - To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.’ I think this oath sets a good standard for not only Boy Scouts, but also for Christians in general. Overall, my experiences the past three years at LOPC have made me a better Scout, and my experiences in the Boy Scouts has also made me a better Christian. I’m truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to make both Eagle Scout and Christian titles I’ll hold proudly for the rest of my life.”

This Bible verse is meaningful to Eli; Matthew 7:12
“So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

Christmas Offering Update

The Christmas Special offering was designated to support two of LOPC’s Mission partners, FotoKids and the JF Kapnek Trust in their effort to help children thrive, despite the challenges they face daily. The special offering resulted in \$16,472 dedicated to both organizations. Thank you for your generosity!



First Friday Forum

by Bobbie Dodson, LOPC Member

2016 Speaker Series

FEBRUARY 3

PROF. DEAN HENRY BRADY

“Public Policy and Politics Going Forward”



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

See more at LOPC.org

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(925) 283-8722

Prof. Henry Brady is the featured speaker when First Friday Forum (FFF) convenes at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. He is Dean of the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP), at U.C. Berkeley. (UCB) and titles his talk, “Public Policy and Politics Going Forward”

Brady says, “These are exciting times for the Goldman School, and for the public, because the world, the nation and the State of California are facing thorny and complex public policy problems that rouse us to action.”

The genesis of Brady’s passion for politics and public policy can be traced to the 1960’s when he was an undergraduate studying math and physics. “I became involved with student organizing at the Claremont Colleges. Through these experiences, I became intensely concerned about race relations and public policy in America and about how we might better live up to our fundamental beliefs about equity and freedom.”

After four years of working in Washington D.C., including a stint as a staff member for a White House Council led by General Bernard Schriever, Brady’s interest in politics and public policy led him to graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he completed doctorates in political science and economics. His first

teaching post was at UC Berkeley in the fall of 1978 of what was then called the Graduate School of Public Policy. Now, more than thirty years later, he is dean of the Goldman School.

Prof. Brady has written numerous books, including “Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics” which won the Philip Converse Award for a book making a lasting contribution to public opinion research. He has served as President of the American Political Science Association and the Political Methodology Society of the American Political Science Association and director of the UCB Survey Research Center. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003 and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2006

“We welcome visitors to our lecture series,” says Caroline Giers, a co-chair of FFF. “Our average attendance has grown to over 200 because of the high quality of our speakers. Having heard Dr. Brady speak several times, I highly recommend our February meeting. As usual, refreshments will be served at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.”

Men's Breakfast - 2/22

Where women are always welcome.
7:00 a.m. | Davies Room

\$5 donation at the door for breakfast
R.S.V.P. to janet@LOPC.org or call
(925) 283-8722 x223 before noon on 2/21



Jamie Patrick

“Long Distance Swim History”

Former Long-Distance Open Water
Man of The Year

Now in training to swim at Green
Bay, WI, on Lake Michigan, An
Ironman Triathlete Extraordinaire!

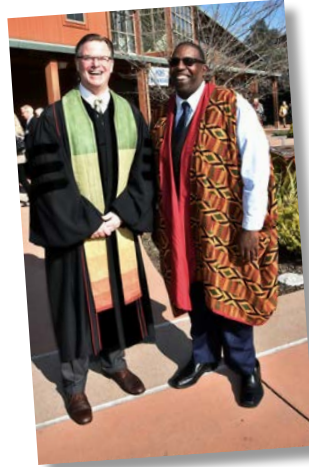
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at LOPC

*"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."
—Martin Luther King, Jr.*

On Sunday, January 15, LOPC welcomed Rev. Floyd Thompkins, Director for the Center of Innovation in Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary, to preach in our morning services in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The celebration was also attended by Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr. for whom the Center's Smith-King Initiative is named, and by Jim McDonald, President of SFTS. Rev. Thompkins spoke powerfully on the legacy of Dr. King first as a Christian minister, and second as a man who had civil rights leadership thrust upon him. The Incarnation of God was working through King, and Rev. Thompkins encouraged us to follow in his legacy of faith and optimism in challenging times, saying "... what is important is that God believes in us."

After the services, our congregation joined Rev. Thompkins for a lunchtime discussion and presentation on the Center as a catalyst for building bridges toward racial reconciliation. Participants engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue about how to humanize each other, and to recognize that we are all connected. Harm to others is harm to ourselves, and bearing the weight of hate is more of a burden than bearing the lightness of love. At the end of the event, Pastor Whitelock presented Rev. Thompkins and the Center for Innovation in Ministry with a \$10,000 donation on behalf of LOPC. Rev. Thompkins and SFTS President Jim McDonald were deeply appreciative and extremely grateful!

Would you like to find out more or get involved with the Center for Innovation in Ministry? Please RSVP for a Shifts Happen Lecture at <http://innovation.sfts.edu/events/> OR participate in an online Collaborative Seminar at <http://innovation.sfts.edu/seminars/>. The first Shift Happens lecture is taking place right here at LOPC on February 27. We'd love to see you there!





Sea kayaking in the Bahamas and camping on its remote and uninhabited beaches: the weather is cool but the water stays warm; the sand is pure and white and the ocean more blue than your dreams; the islands are secluded and the kayak camping is classic.

Join us for a paddle through Paradise as we slip between the islands of the Greater Exumas and camp on pristine beaches where we are the only visitors to be seen. You'll learn kayaking and camping skills, enjoy a supportive and fun community all in a setting that couldn't be more beautiful.

Trip cost is \$950 (airfare and pre-trip lodging not included). The trip is for novices who have never done this before and should be considered moderately strenuous. The trip is led by Steve Harrington, a certified Open Water Sea Kayak Instructor by the American Canoe Association who has guided in this area before for Higher Rock Wilderness Adventures and as an instructor for both Outward Bound and the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Join us—participant numbers are limited!

For more information contact lauren@LOPC.org.



The Value of Community and Choice as we Grow Older

A live-streamed event with
Atul Gawande MD, MPH, and Author

Being Mortal:

Medicine and What Matters in the End

Presented by Beacon Hill Village in celebration of 15 years of the Village Movement

Monday, February 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
Oak Room

49 Knox Drive, Lafayette
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

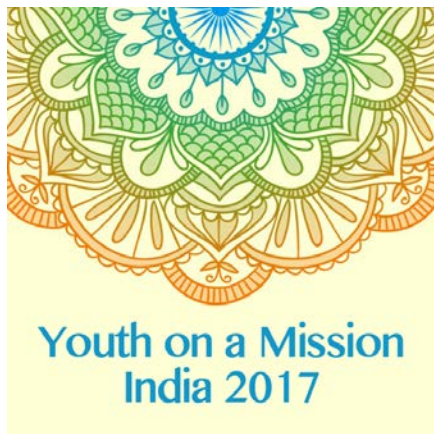
Discussion and light refreshments to follow

Dr. Gawande is a renowned surgeon, public health researcher and writer, who will speak about the value of community and opportunities as we grow older. While Dr. Gawande's book "Being Mortal" alludes to death, the stories in it are actually about life. He describes people's efforts to maintain autonomy as they age in the face of ingrained habits, cultural expectations and one-size-fits-all corporate offerings.

One of the great issues worldwide today is how to support and care for aging populations. By 2030, twenty percent (20%) of our nation's population will be over 65, an estimated 83 million people. Dr. Gawande's profound understanding of the importance of choice and community offer valuable insights and solutions for this challenging phenomenon.

To RSVP by February 7, or if you have any questions about the event, please contact us at (925) 253-2300 or RSVP@LamorindaVillage.org.

Youth Corner



This July 15-31 the LOPC high school youth will be returning to the Children of Faith (COF) mission partner in Visakhapatnam, India for an incredible mission trip. Having been there in 2014, our youth know that this trip is an opportunity for the youth of LOPC to broaden their vision of the world and experience

transformations in their faith as they act as the light of Christ by responding to real needs in the world.

The group will be participating in missional service at the COF orphanage and school. Students and advisors will assist local contractors on construction and beautification projects, help tutor the children in English, and worship alongside the COF students and staff in their church. There will be an LOPC led vacation Bible school in the afternoons, along with plenty of time to simply play and fellowship with the children and staff residents there. Please reflect on how you can be involved whether through prayer, a donation, or both. We will have opportunities to sign up as a prayer partner for various youth, which is an incredibly powerful way to support the team going on the trip.

In March, our youth will kick off a fundraising effort to help subsidize students and advisors that would not otherwise be able to participate, help fund sustainable projects at the orphanage and ultimately increase the standard of living for the children who live there. Our goal is to raise \$23,000. We are also collecting children's books, iPads/Tablets/Notebooks. We will be on the plaza accepting donations on March 12th, 19th and 26th.

As you discern how you will support the youth, please think of the following passage from John; As the Father sent me so I send you. John 20:19-30. Use this as your inspiration to help these youth on a mission as they go to do God's work.

Middle School Lock-In

Overnight Friday 2/17
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Register by 2/10



5th-8th grade youth are invited to an all-nighter on LOPC's campus filled with games, food, and fun! Registration now open. Cost \$12. Contact Allison Kunz at allison@LOPC.org for details.

Join the Congo Mission Team!

Since 2012 LOPC has had a team that assists the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to overcome years of wars, violence and poverty. Presently, the team concentrates on supporting the work of the Presbyterian Church in the Congo. The current team has 12 committed, active members but it is always seeking new members to help carry out our strategies and to provide new ideas. What could you work on?

Particularly exciting is that LOPC will be hosting the Congo Mission Network on September 22-23. This is a Presbyterian network of U.S. and Congolese people, all working together for the common good of the people of the DRC. We will need help for this event, e.g. greeting, helping with food, hosting a guest. This event would be a good first step for someone interested in working with the team.

Other areas of focus are:

- fundraising for education and for trauma healing for children. You probably have seen the tremendous work of the necklace team spearheaded by Bobbie Dodson selling their products to raise money for education.
- using our voices to be effective advocates for the Congolese people by building relationships with government officials and providing input on issues that most help the people.
- educating the congregation and community on the Congo.

Also, those on the team will attest to the spiritual and personal growth they have experienced by helping others. If you would think that maybe you would like to get involved with the team, please come to one of our meetings. This will give you a chance to see what areas best meet your talents and interests.

The Congo team meets on Sundays at the church. Our next meeting is Feb 8, 10:15 in the library. If you would like to come or have questions about LOPC's Congo Mission team, please contact Herb Long at (925) 948-5113 or herblong7@gmail.com.

A Man After God's Own Heart

2017 Men's Retreat

A Man After God's Own Heart™

Location: Zephyr Point Conference Center

Facilitator: Ray Campton, M.F.T.

Dates: May 5-7, 2017

Registration Opens Online (www.LOPC.org): February 1st



Far too often our society calculates the measure of man by his successes, accomplishments, ability to control people and circumstances – in short, a man is admired by the culture for his overall power. How very different that the Christian faith esteems the very opposite values, focusing instead on compassion, presence, surrender, and love.

On the weekend of May 5-7, 2017, the men of our community will gather at beautiful Zephyr Point Conference Center on Lake Tahoe. During that time, we will explore these cultural and faith-based differences. We will focus on the particular needs, challenges and gifts of men as young adults, middle age, and older. We will discuss why it is important and necessary to have a mid-life crisis (and healthy ways to experience that). We will examine how men can experience a vibrant faith that energizes life, rather than a faith that can be best described as “boring obligation.” We will look at how men can deal with loss and grief creatively. Attention will be given to how to mitigate the pressure many men feel to provide and produce, while at the same time being asked to be an intimate partner and involved father.

Perhaps the best part of the weekend is the time we share together, laugh together and work together, to appreciate how best we can come alive to God, self, and others.

Session Highlights – December 2016

by Bill DeWolf, Clerk of Session

December Session meetings are often characterized by yin and yang emotions. It is the last meeting of our fiscal year but the beginning of the church's liturgical year. It is a time to acknowledge members of Session who after three years of service will be going off and at the same time welcoming new members who are just coming on. It is a time to receive updates on the church's finances for the year ending and to hear how our stewardship campaign and budget are shaping up for the new year. Our meeting on December 20 reflected all of this.

We have truly been blessed to have had the faithful service of our outgoing elders and extend to them our heartfelt thanks for all the good work they have done on behalf of our church. We are also grateful for those who have answered the call to join Session to help steer the course for LOPC next year and look forward to another productive year.

We were very pleased to hear from Finance that we will end 2016 tracking very closely to our budget, depending in part on the response to our end of the year Faith Component outreach. And while our stewardship campaign is ongoing, the response thus far has been very good. Session is so grateful to all of LOPC's members and friends for their generous support.

Session was excited and impressed to get an update on the Special Needs program that is developing at LOPC. Recognizing that it is often hard for those with special needs to feel comfortable and welcome at church, Jamie Polson and Susan Wentworth described to us the work that has been done to create a sustainable program to meet this important need in our community. This includes reaching out to other success programs elsewhere in the country and partnering with other faith groups in the community to share resources. We look forward to watching this program grow and engage with our church family.



LOPC Foundation Finances - A Snapshot

By Phil Placier, Foundation Trustee, Treasurer



Phil Placier



The LOPC Foundation closed its September 30, 2016, fiscal year with \$9.5 million of invested assets, the largest ever due to receipt of a \$5.2 million estate gift endowment from Jean and Craig Gregerson, restricted for facilities and capital equipment and limited annual disbursements.

The investment rate of return on the two Foundation investment portfolios for the fiscal year was 7.98% for the Facilities Fund Portfolio, 10.18% for the Primary Portfolio.

Asset values September 30 for the Foundation's seven funds and two accounts:

General Ministry Funds- Unrestricted	\$2,243,288
- Restricted*	194,203
Deacons Fund- Restricted*	219,456
Dornsife Youth Fund- Restricted*	308,977
Thursday Fellowship Fund- Restricted*	220,386
Seminary Scholarship Fund- Restricted*	211,012
Landscaper Maintenance Fund- Restricted*	107,227
Facilities Fund- Restricted*	5,655,296
Facilities Unexpected Projects Account- Restricted*	49,180
Facilities Reserve Study Projects Account- Restricted*	153,829

*Restricted funds and accounts are available for limited or restricted uses only, as designated by donors or Foundation trustees.

Based on the September 30 fund asset values, Foundation trustees appropriated \$272,000 for 2017 fiscal year from these funds for Session and Deacons grants to support LOPC ministries. In addition, in October, \$100,000 was paid to the Sanctuary Capital Campaign, and for future facilities and capital equipment projects, \$60,000 was added to the Facilities Unexpected Projects Account and \$150,000 was added to the Facilities Reserve Study Projects Account.

You will hear more in 2017 about rekindling initiatives for encouraging Foundation estate and other gifts, after several years of quiet time due to successive LOPC capital campaigns.

Learn more about the Foundation at the LOPC website and from Foundation trustees:

Dick James (President), Lynn Trowbridge (Vice President, Secretary), Phil Placier (Treasurer), Alan Kizor, Staci Johnston, Kristi Haigh, Dara Youngdale.

Family Faith Formation - Talking with Your Children about Communion - 3/12

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Davies Room



How do I talk with my children about Communion? If you have ever asked this question, you are not alone. It is one of the most frequently asked questions Family Ministry receives from parents and grandparents. Please join us as we lead a discussion and class to talk about Communion and what it means in our life of faith. There will be a time for families to engage in small group discussion. Led by Rev. Jaime Polson, Ryan Timpote and Lori Robinson.

Parents, grandparents and caregivers of children are invited to attend this with their children. Childcare will be provided as well. Please R.S.V.P. to Dave Engelbretson at dave@LOPC.org.

2017 Elders

Alex Aruliah
 Sharon Bartlett
 Jim Beckemeyer
 Jody Black
 Conrad Breece
 Lois Boyd
 Steve Crocker
 Matt Crossland
 Peter Darbee
 Bill DeWolf
 Julie Fulford
 Bettie Graves
 Kathy Hart
 Chris Johnson
 Michael Kim
 Laura Lowell
 Jonathan Lee

Lori MacLeod
 Patrick Morrissey
 Jim Nagle
 Alex Paras
 Liz Rusk
 Shelley Wu
 Wayne Young

2017 Foundation Trustees

Dick James, President
 Lynn Trowbridge, Vice President and Secretary
 Phil Placier, Treasurer
 Alan Kizor
 Staci Johnston
 Kristi Haigh
 Dara Youngdale

2017 Board of Deacons

Suganthi Aruliah
 Rebecca Bassak
 Carson Beckemeyer
 Joan Bellows
 Brad Buchman
 Ethan Casella
 Sebastien Dubois
 Alex Duff
 Barbara Duff
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 Muriel Fore
 Jim Hiatt
 Margaret Kaluzny
 Thomas King
 Rebecca Kunzman
 Bud Lake

Gale Lana
 Heather Logan
 Fran Mathews
 Troy McKinley
 Richard Miles
 Judy Nielsen
 Sandy Peter
 Marnie Peterson
 Alan Saxton
 Dianne Schneider
 Rob Schock
 Todd Severson
 Kathy Smith
 Sophie Smith
 Graham Wiseman
 Eng Young

LOPC Staff

Allison Kunz
 Ashley Jackson
 Becki Rieger
 Brett Strader
 Char Casella
 Chris Baldwin
 Chuck Fry
 Colleen Whitelock
 Dave Engelbrekton
 Devin Crane
 Elizabeth Ball
 Gerald Chinen
 Harry Jayasingha
 Hiroko Shibuya
 Jaime Polson
 Janet Jourgensen
 Jennifer Shaul
 Keris Dahlkamp
 Lauren Gully
 Lidia Jesionek
 Lori Robinson
 Matt Bell
 Peter Whitelock
 Robin Freeberg
 Ryan Timpte
 Stewart Sarch
 Susan Wentworth
 Terry Conte
 Tess Houston
 Tony Domenick

Ministry Area and/or Title

Associate Director - Youth Ministry
 Communications Director
 Admin. Asst. - Care / Formation
 Director of Worship and Music
 Treasurer
 Director of Community Engagement
 Director of Operations
 Facilities / Database Manager
 Admin. Asst. - Operations / Family Ministries
 Audio / Video Technician / General Admin.
 Executive Ministries Coordinator
 Pastor - Congregational Care
 Chaplain
 Worship and Music Coordinator
 Pastor - Family Ministries
 Receptionist
 Admin. Asst. - Communications
 Director of Youth Ministry
 Pastor - Mission & Spiritual Formation
 Accountant
 Associate Director - Children's Ministry
 Director of Community Life
 Pastor - Head of Staff
 Associate Director - Mission
 Director of Children's Ministry
 Organist
 Associate Director - Preschool Ministry
 Kitchen Ministry Administrator
 Bell Choir Director
 Assistant Music Director

Extension

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 Coleen Moulton

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 Director - Seedlings

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 coleen@lopc.org

Thursday Fellowship

Julie Peterson
 Clarita Wooldridge

Ministry Area and/or Title

Thursday Fellowship Co-Coordinator
 Thursday Fellowship Co-Coordinator

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 thursdayfellowship@lopc.org



FEBRUARY 2017

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Lafayette, CA 94549

IMPORTANT:
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PLEASE DELIVER
Before 1/31/16
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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 Sarch, Organist

TREASURER

Char Casella

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chris Baldwin, Community Engagement
Matt Bell, Community Life
Keris Dahlkamp, Youth
Chuck Fry, Operations
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool
Ryan Timpte, 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:

FEBRUARY 1 for the **MARCH** issue.
Email items to communications@LOPC.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

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

New Members Class - 3/3 - 3/5



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 March 3-5, 2017. Childcare available by reservation.

Questions? Contact matt@LOPC.org.

Connect with us online!



Livestream.Com/LOPC



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Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family

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

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