

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LOPC is here to
support you on your
journey of faith.

A vibrant graphic for Easter. It features three white crosses of varying sizes arranged in a triangular pattern. Above the central cross is a white dove in flight. Radiating from behind the crosses are numerous thin, white lines that spread across the entire page, creating a sunburst effect. The background is a mix of green and blue at the top, transitioning to orange and yellow at the bottom, with stylized floral and leaf patterns. The word "Easter" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script in a gradient of pink and purple. Below it, the date "SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017

APRIL 2017

Finding God in the Wilderness

by Lauren Gully, Pastor – Mission & Spiritual Formation



In late February, I co-led a sea-kayaking trip with a few others from LOPC in the Bahamas. Needless to say I was excited for this opportunity since I love to be out on the water and knew that this would provide for many special moments to take in the beauty of the environment and to grow closer to God.

There is always something special about getting away. There is something more special about getting away to a remote desert island, by kayak, surrounded by teal oceans. There is a simplicity to life when you are

in places like these and certain things in life become more clear. Our days were spent setting up camp, cooking, kayaking or snorkeling, learning about tides, lightening, and coral, doing pertinent devotionals, and of course chatting! For five days we did not see anyone else, except for one sailboat that passed by our island. We became community to each other and needed each other's help from doing everything to helping you get a drink of water from our water supply to setting up a tent.

Out in the water and on the island, the simple things take longer, but the things that don't matter—don't matter. I didn't get sucked into any social media, I wasn't thinking about any sales that were happening at my favorite stores, or any achievements that were waiting for me upon my return. Instead, we were all face to face with the beauty of the place, the God who created it all, and the joys and sorrows that were still on our hearts.

That kind of simplicity is clarifying. You are aware of God in the wildness and beauty of nature, the strengths you bring to the group and the things that irk you, the things that make you—you, and the person that you are (with God's help) working to become. Everything else slips away...

Rev. Steve Harrington, who has been leading these trips for years, says that it isn't uncommon for people to make major life changes after these sorts of trips, and I am not surprised based on the clarity that I found with God's help on the trip.

As for myself, I am trying to choose more simplicity in my life. I am striving to put first things first. Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who was referenced in many of our devotionals, said it best when she said: "I must remember to see with Island eyes."



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See more at LOPC.org



LOPC PALM SUNDAY EGG HUNT & POTLUCK BRUNCH

This Palm Sunday, April 9, come join us for our annual egg hunt and potluck brunch! Our talented kitchen staff will provide an egg dish and attendees are asked to bring a side item to share.

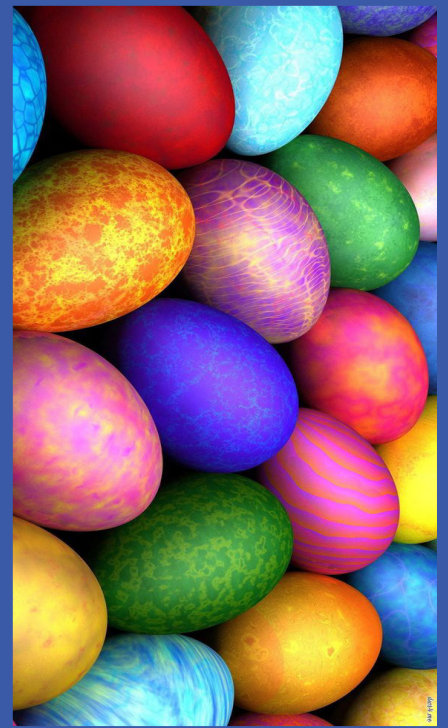
Brunch will be served at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Immediately following brunch, children through grade 5 and their families are invited to participate in an egg hunt! Bring your kids, grandkids, and your neighbors' kids!

All who enjoy fun and celebration are welcome to attend! Brunch tickets are available each Sunday on the Worship Plaza.

SEE YOU ON PALM SUNDAY!

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette CA • (925) 283-8722 • LOPC.org



Easter Lilies

Once again, during Easter Week, our Sanctuary will be adorned with lilies. Their bloom coincides with the beginning of spring, the season of our earth's renewal. They have special significance for us as Christians, symbolizing rebirth through Christ's resurrection. Before fully opening, lilies assume a trumpet shape. This shape is said to represent God the Father calling his son Jesus home. The choice of white lilies indicates purity and freedom from sin through Jesus' death on the cross.

You may donate a beautiful Easter lily for the Sanctuary, available for purchase at the Deacon Booth on the plaza after Sunday services on April 2. The cost is \$15. Donors will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. After the Easter services, the lilies will be delivered to the homebound and to those in convalescent care facilities. Questions? Contact beckybasak@comcast.net

Easter Lilies

Deadline to receive form: Sunday 4/2/17

\$15

Yes, I / we would like to donate an Easter Lily to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday Worship Services.

☐ In memory of _____

OR

☐ In honor of _____

☐ I would like to help the Deacons deliver lilies to the home-bound and/or those in care facilities.
Questions? Contact janet@LOPC.org.

Given by _____ Phone # _____ Amount \$ _____



Holy Week

◀April 9▶

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

◀April 9▶

Egg Hunt & Potluck Brunch

12:00 p.m.

◀April 13▶

Maundy Thursday

Communion Served
7:00 p.m. (childcare)

◀April 14▶

Good Friday

7:00 p.m. (childcare)

Easter Sunday

◀April 16▶

6:30 a.m. **8:00 a.m.**
9:30 a.m. **11:00 a.m.**

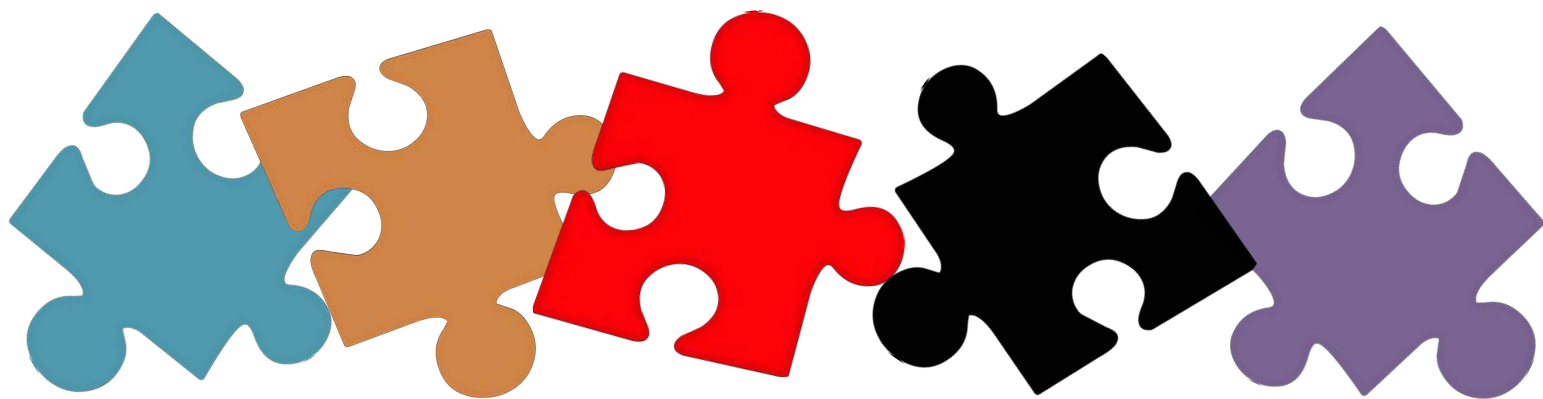
Childcare

4 years and under
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.

Children's Programs
Pre-K - 4th Grade
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • Alive! in Christ...in the World • (925) 283-8722



familyministry & Special Needs Ministry present

Respite Night

Friday, April 28, 2017, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

For parents who have children & youth with Special Needs, ages 2-22

Dinner, games, therapy dogs, crafts, activities and a movie!
Children and youth will be divided up by age groups with age-appropriate movies.
Sensory and quiet rooms are provided. All staff and volunteers have had background checks and have had basic training in working with children and youth with special needs. Several professionals who work with children/youth with special needs will be onsite the entire evening.
We will provide a staffing ratio to match your child's needs.

Register

Dave Engelbrektson, dave@LOPC.org, (925) 283-8722 x280

Deadline for registration is Friday, April 21, 2017. We welcome you to connect with us before the Respite Night.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra concludes its 27th season at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, led by Maestro Lawrence Kohl. The program includes Brahms's Symphony #1 and Elgar's Concerto for Cello with Nina Flyer, soloist. Tickets may be purchased at the door, with a group discount for Voyager Groups [sign up with Voyager Captains] and LOPC choirs. Children are welcome FREE of charge. Contact wholmen@aol.com for more information.



ONE Sunday 2017



In spite of countless days of unending rain this year, ONE Sunday 2017 was a sunshine-filled day of service. Over 400 people, many from outside the LOPC community, participated in helping 14 different agencies throughout Contra Costa County, including Bay Area Rescue Mission, Children of Faith Missions, Contra Costa Food Bank, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Creek Kids, Foster A Dream, Las Trampas, Loaves and Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, Loved Twice, Monument Crisis Center, Primera Iglesia, Shelter Inc. and STAND.

Though the focus of ONE Sunday is service in the community there is an equally important aspect of meeting people where they are in their journey. Participants at Habitat for Humanity worked alongside Bianca and Girma, two new homeowners; putting in sweat equity to their new homes at the Muir Ridge development in Martinez. At CCIH, Kenny, a longtime resident, worked alongside LOPC participants installing two new planter boxes in the vegetable garden. His enthusiasm and commitment to the garden has inspired fellow residents to help tend it, and the result has not only been an increase in the residents eating fresh produce but also a sense of community from the maintenance of the garden. At Loaves and Fishes, an employee who was once homeless described how vital Loaves and Fishes has been to her transformation from living on the street to becoming employed and obtaining a place to live. These stories demonstrate the impact our service has on people and the change it can make in their daily lives. Though it is only one day of service for LOPC participants it can make a lasting difference in the daily lives of those we serve.

One Sunday is one way our church aims to be a blessing in our community, and teaches us how we can love our neighbors. Our hope is that, through One Sunday, participants will receive a greater introduction to our mission partners and local non-profits as well as participate in something that is beyond mere service as we provide an opportunity to learn why our faith calls us to action.





Words of Thanks

"Words cannot express how much we appreciate the generosity of our friends at LOPC. On behalf of all the residents and staff at Garden Park Apartments, Thank you!"

Louise Bourassa, Executive Director
Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

"Your group was amazing yesterday! As always, it's a pleasure to partner with LOPC for the One Sunday volunteer project."

Teresita Gonzalez
Shelter Inc.

Grateful Gatherings

by Molly Maduck, Seedlings Communications Board Member



A goal at Seedlings is to provide outreach opportunities that our children can truly connect with and that will raise awareness within them. We want our students to learn about other kids in need and recognize, "I know we may live in different circumstances, but

deep inside we all want and deserve the same things: safety, happiness and love." We were so excited about a recent outreach project called "Grateful Gatherings" that allowed our students to learn about others in need, and that provided an opportunity for many of our Seedlings families to give in a very impactful way.

Grateful Gatherings is an amazing organization that helps provide families in transition with a furnished, comfortable, and safe home. On March 13, a Grateful Gathering donation drive took place here in the LOPC parking lot. Here, families could donate new bedding, furniture, cleaning and cooking supplies, and other household necessities. Prior to donation day, the Seedlings community learned about St. Raymond's House in Concord, a new transitional home for pregnant women, mothers and their children that Grateful Gatherings will be sponsoring. Four families in

need were selected to move into the house at the end of March. With the help of Grateful Gatherings, they were able to move into a fully furnished home filled with household items donated by Seedlings families and many other generous individuals throughout the East Bay. Chipman Relocation and Logistics (owned by a wonderful Seedlings family), was our volunteer workforce for the day and delivered all of the items to St. Raymond's House.

During the month of March, our older Seedlings students were able to learn about the families who will live at St. Raymond's House. Wonder Time Leader, Bobbi Cassettari, talked to our children about the gift that has been given to these four families who didn't have a home to live in. She asked the students questions like, "What would it be like if you didn't have a place to live?" and "Would you need someone to show kindness to you and offer you help?" Our students considered these questions, had thoughtful discussions, and Bobbi helped them make colorful placemats as welcome gifts for these families. What makes organizations like Grateful Gatherings so special is that they help those in need in a very practical way, but also raise the awareness in our children that there are many others in our community not as fortunate as they are, who can benefit from help and kindness.

www.grateful-gatherings.org
www.srshelp.org





Calling all Men!

Please join us for LOPC's 2017 Men's Retreat
May 5th - May 7th
Zephyr Point Conference Center at Lake Tahoe

Theme: A Man After God's Own Heart
Keynote Speaker: Ray Campton

Cost: \$225 Shared Room - ^{Full}~~\$325 Single Room~~
Deposit: \$50 to reserve your spot!
Register Online at LOPC
Questions? Email Chris@LOPC.org



Garden Party

All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's annual Potluck Salad Birthday Luncheon on Wednesday, May 24 from 12:00 p.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!



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

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell

The Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell is a second-generation Korean American who holds an M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a D.Min. degree from New York Theological Seminary. She is currently serving as an Associate Pastor for Education and Engagement at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Her passion is helping people understand and articulate their faith in our diverse, multicultural, multifaith world.

SAVE THE DATE!

Registration begins
June 1



How Congo Mission Team Helps the Congolese



In 2016, the Congo Mission Team, with the invaluable help of many members of the LOPC family, continued its work to assist the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Regarding financial aid to the Congo:

- \$26,000 was raised at the Special Offering at Easter to fund the training of facilitators to implement a trauma healing curriculum for children in the violence-ravaged eastern part of the Congo.
- Necklace sales and other donations raised \$12,000 for Build Congo Schools and Computer/English program for girls, both programs sponsored by PC(USA).
- Some funds were donated to Presbyterian mission co-workers to help them with their work in the Congo.

A significant amount of effort went into training on being effective advocates for the Congolese people and then encouraging government and church representatives to take specific actions. Building relationships with the Congolese community is another goal. We will continue to use our voices to help the Congolese.

In 2017, we are especially excited that LOPC will host the annual meeting of the Congo Mission Network on Sept 22-23. This event will bring together Presbyterians from the Congo and the U.S. who are devoted to helping the people of the Congo.

SAVE THE DATE- you will hearing more later.

Adventure Awaits!

Becki Rieger is Retiring

After 16 years of serving LOPC in a variety of capacities, both as staff and a church member, Becki will retire on April 28 and begin her much anticipated adventure of hitting the road and traveling across the U.S. with her husband Don.



**Becki & Don
Happy Trails**

Becki joined LOPC in 2001 as the Calendar Coordinator. In 2003 she transferred to the new position of Executive Ministries Coordinator. It was in this capacity that she provided support to Pastor Peter, Session and LOPC staff for the next 14 years.

Becki's Retirement Reception

Sunday, April 23, between services in the Oak Room (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Please drop in between services for light refreshments and cake while we wish Becki the very best as she starts her new journey.

If you would like to contribute to Becki's 'Love Gift' please write a check to LOPC with 'Becki' on the memo line. Checks may be put in the offering plates, dropped off at the Ministry Center or mailed to Lidia's attention by April 16.

Men's Breakfast

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

April 26
Peter Whitelock
Pastor/Head of Staff



"The Presbyterian Historical Society: The Best Thing You've Never Heard About!"

\$5 donation at the door for breakfast
R.S.V.P. to janet@LOPC.org or call
(925) 283-8722 x223 before noon on 3/28

What is Per Capita?



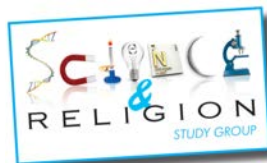
Per Capita is a Latin phrase that means "for each head." We use it to refer to an annual fee that our congregation pays to higher levels of the Presbyterian Church based upon the number of active members in LOPC. For 2017, the Per

Capita amount is \$36.00, or \$72.00 per couple. We encourage members to make an extra contribution to help defray this expense in addition to their other gifts. To facilitate this, you will find a blue Per Capita envelope in your box of giving envelopes. You can also give a check to the church with "Per Capita" noted on the memo line. We have budgeted \$66,564 this year for our Per Capita obligation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a significant portion of this could be covered by your extra contribution enabling us to add additional support to ministries of LOPC?



Science & Religion - 4/17

7:15 p.m. in the Oak Room



Listening to Emerging Adults on the Future Conversation of Faith and Science: many today see religious faith and science as two titanic forces

battling for supremacy, but emerging adults (age 18-30) tend toward a more nuanced approach. In this talk, Greg Cootsona will present how emerging adults are helping shape a future beyond warfare and toward an exciting and challenging interaction between science and Christian faith, one which also includes new topics such as Transhumanism and artificial intelligence. Greg Cootsona is Lecturer in Religious Studies and Humanities at Cal State Chico. He also directs a three-year, \$2 million grant project housed at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, which offers resources for leaders of emerging-adult ministries on how to engage Christian faith with mainstream science. From 2002-2016, he served as associate pastor for adult discipleship at Bidwell Presbyterian Church in Chico and from 1996-2002 at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. All are welcome to join Science & Religion Study Group. Questions? Contact nancy.boren@att.net.



Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



Herb Long

“As with any journey, sometimes you go fast, sometimes you go slow. And sometimes it is never-ending,” says Herb Long. “My journey started at a young age. I grew up in Texas (still use ‘you’all’) and went to church with my parents. My first memorable faith moment was at around 10 years old when I went to

camp. I did the usual stuff there – played sports, rode horses. Then, one night we went up on a mountain, and, lo and behold, it was a faith revival setting. That was a surprise! We were asked to accept the Lord as our Savior, and I remember going forward to do so. Did I realize what was going on? I am not sure. While I did not go home and start preaching on the corner, obviously it had an impact on me, as I still remember it well. I have always assumed that, at least subconsciously, I accepted the Lord that night.”

During middle and high school, Herb attended church with his parents in Connecticut and was in various Methodist youth groups. His parents were always supportive of his participation. He suspects such times get tucked into one’s brain and are more steps on the journey. In college, he still attended church at times and even remembers reading the Bible at night, much to the surprise of his fraternity brothers!

“I married my high school sweetheart, Randi, after college,” Herb continues. “We followed the saying, ‘go west young man’ and headed off to San Francisco. We started a family, moved to the suburbs, bought a station wagon and got a dog – not an atypical routine! Our journey was blessed by adopting two wonderful children, Melissa and Kent. We had prayed for years for children and are forever thankful that God brought them to us to raise as our very own.” Early on, the Longs found LOPC. They did some Sunday school teaching, joined Voyagers, and while they went to church, admittedly, sometimes on Sundays, it was a question whether they had time to go. The journey slowed down. Career aspirations sometimes got in the way.

“Later, with our two children now moved out of the nest, I got a call from Bill Rolland to be a Deacon,” Herb recalls. “I told him he must have the wrong number but he assured me he did not. This was a significant first

step to speeding up on my journey. As a deacon, one becomes exposed to others who are role models for serving the Lord. I still exchange ‘deacon hugs’ with fellow Deacons from that time.”

“It was the next step that, as I look back, started to put me in overdrive on my journey. I was asked to join the search committee for a Head of Staff at LOPC. Again, I was very surprised to be asked, but I assumed it was because I was complaining that it always took so long to find new pastors. This would never happen in the corporate world!”

“I still remember the first few meetings – the time spent on ‘spiritual formation’ was frustrating as we had ‘a job to do’. But I soon came to appreciate this time of the meeting because I learned so much from others. When you have people like our leader, Phyllis Bell Stover, and the others on the team, you learn so much about what it means to be a Christian.

My next steps revolved around Mission at LOPC,” he says. “It started with LOPC’s response to 9/11 and the decision to support the Atfaluna School for Deaf Children in Gaza. Before going to Gaza, there was some concern about safety but I still remember Peter’s words that sometimes the Lord’s work is not accomplished without some risk. (As stated with the Beatitudes, disciples must ‘be unafraid’.) The trip to Israel was another opportunity to learn from others -- from Jim Szezyller, our team and the staff and children of Atfaluna. Mission at LOPC has become my focus whether it was as Mission Elder, heading up the Atfaluna team, working on One Sunday, or now as team leader for the passionate Congo team.

“The bedrock of my journey is my wife, Randi, as we have taken this journey together,” Herb states. “Having that support is so meaningful and a necessary component to continuously move forward on the journey.

A common thread of the journey is learning from others. I continue to be amazed and encouraged at the passion, commitment, and sacrifice of the people around me at LOPC as they follow Jesus’ direction to help those in need. There is not enough space in FOCUS to list all the people I have encountered who help others in so many ways. The journey continues, sometimes challenging, but always rewarding. There is the comfort of knowing there are so many others with me as we journey together.”



First Friday Forum

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

2016 Speaker Series

APRIL 7

DR. DAVID VASQUEZ-LEVY

"A World on the Move"



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

Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) will speak at First Friday Forum (FFF), April 7, 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Focusing on immigration issues his title is "World on the Move."

"Discussions and realities about immigration are reshaping the political, social and economic reality of our world. How we understand migration matters greatly and religious traditions, which capture our understanding and aspirations about the most significant aspects of our lives, have much to say about migration. In fact, migration is at the core of the biblical narrative," Vasquez-Levy states.

He is well equipped to discuss immigration issues. Following the devastating May 12, 2008 immigration raid in Postville, Iowa, at the time the largest single-site immigration raid in United States history, Vasquez-Levy

served as part of the Postville Relief Effort core team. This work has led him to serve as a consultant on various documentaries and contribute a faith perspective to the national conversation on immigration including speaking at a congressional briefing and participating in two immigration consultations at the White House.

Vasquez-Levy is the author of various publications that explore migration stories in sacred texts and in people's lives. He has lived in four countries, taught courses and led international study and service trips across the globe. His international experience has also included refugee resettlement work in Canada and studies at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany.

Vasquez-Levy received a bachelor's degree from Texas Lutheran University, Summa Cum Laude, and Master's and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. One of his assignments was on the Lutheran Refugee Committee at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Ontario, Canada.

He has served at President of PSR for two years. Darlene James, co-chair of FFF comments, "The school is described as a progressive, interdenominational Christian seminary committed to preparing theologically and spiritually rooted leaders for social transformation. Dr. Vasquez-Levy is a committed pastor, a nationally recognized immigration leader, and a sought-after speaker. Please join us in this free event. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m." For further information contact LOPC at (925) 283-8722.

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 matt@LOPC.org.

Register Now for Summer Mission Experiences!

5th-6th Grade Service Squad Daycamp

Date: June 12-16

Location: LOPC & East Bay

Register at www.LOPC.org/ministry/youth

Deadline: 4/12



An intermediate service-learning experience for youth to serve others locally with Christ's love in a variety of ways. Camp will run concurrently with LOPC's elementary VB Camp program (M-Th at 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Fri. at 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.). Parent participation expected, with many ways and times to contribute, including serving alongside youth. For students who will have completed 5th-6th grade as of Summer 2017.

6th-8th Grade Mission Trip

Date: June 17-23

Location: Austin, Texas

Register at www.LOPC.org/ministry/youth

Deadline: 4/17



A Group Mission Trip Week of Hope. We'll discover God at work in the Austin community, develop empathy for the hurting, and serve through relational mission experiences with open hands and hearts. For students who will have completed 6th-8th grade as of Summer 2017.

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing



On Sunday, April 9th from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. the high school youth will be leading time of games, food and fellowship for families at our longtime partner Contra Costa Interfaith Housing in Pleasant Hill! Students interested in volunteering should contact Keris at keris@LOPC.org. Parent drivers and volunteers are also needed.



8TH GRADE SNEAK PEEK AT BTW - 4/30

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

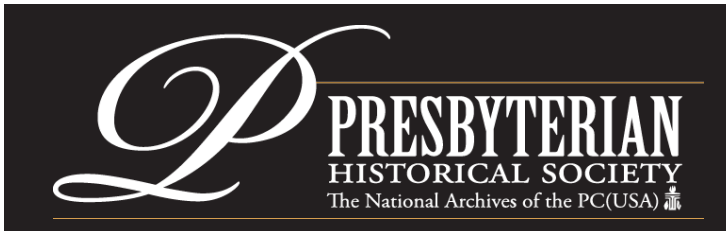
Eighth graders, you're invited to check out what's in store for you at BTW (By the Way), our high school youth group. You'll enjoy fellowship, games, worship, prayer, devotion, and small group alongside high school youth while getting to know BTW Advisors. We hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Keris Dahlkamp keris@LOPC.org.



Want To Know More About Presbyterian History? Check Out The Presbyterian Historical Society

The Presbyterian Historical Society, the National Archives of the PC(USA), is the place to go for in depth resources in the areas of Presbyterian history, genealogy, records, traveling exhibits, workshops, and more.

Sign up for the Presbyterian Historical Society's monthly e-newsletter:
www.history.pcusa.org/enews



Rossmoor LOPC Parishes Present Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social & Hymn Sing

April 30, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
THAT'S THE DATE!

Dollar Clubhouse at Rossmoor
THAT'S THE PLACE!

Ice Cream Social and Hymn Sing.
THAT'S THE EVENT!

What more is needed?
YOUR PRESENCE!



Choose your favorite hymn; choose your favorite ice cream; bring your favorite friend; bring a brand new friend. Enjoy singing old beloved hymns and savoring delicious ice cream served from an old-fashioned cart. All this for only Ten Dollars per person—a bargain at any price.

We look forward to seeing all Rossmoor LOPC friends on April 30!

Voyagers Embarking Soon



It's that time of year to sign up for one of the Voyager social groups. These groups are known as ships and presently include: Ark, Explorers, Friendship, Hobie Cats, Lasers, Schooners, and Windjammers. Voyager social groups are part of LOPC history. Through the years, being a member of a ship has been a great way to form friendships and meaningful connections within our large congregation. Being in a Voyager ship is an opportunity for couples or singles to gather in small groups, and come together monthly with others in the ship for food, fun, fellowship or service. There are dinners out or in homes, theater or musical events, outdoor activities like bocce, picnics and sailing on the San Francisco Bay.

Upcoming events for the various ships include helping at the Food Bank, visiting the Ruth Bancroft Succulent Garden, and making chocolate with a chocolatier. If you ever stop on the worship Plaza after church for a cup of coffee or cookie, you are likely being served by members of a Voyager ship, as twice a year each ship serves coffee following worship. It's a great way to meet others.

Now is the time to get signed up as Voyager ships are embarking on a new year of fun and fellowship. If you are a couple or a single – Voyagers are typically aged 50 and up, but all are welcome – and want to sign-up, visit a ship, or even just help us serve coffee on occasion, contact Bev Fellows at beverlyfellows@comcast.net.

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 be available early March, and 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, Boob Hoots, Randi Long, Katie Owensby, Carey Starn, Bud Lake: Deacon Representative
Bill DeWolf: Clerk of Session, Peter Whitelock: Staff

Take the LOPC Foundation Quiz!

by Alan Kizor, Foundation Trustee



Alan Kizor

Match Word in left-hand Column with its appropriate Description

A) ENDOWMENT

B) DIVERSIFIED

C) LOPC FOUNDATION

D) LEGACY

E) FRIENDS OF THE LOPC FOUNDATION

F) PRUDENT

- 1) A tax-exempt corporation formed to provide financial support for LOPC ministries, with a special interest in expansion of mission outreach and maintenance of buildings and campus.
- 2) Individuals and families who are dedicated to supporting the near and long-term growth of LOPC by making gifts or bequests to the LOPC Foundation
- 3) A gift or bequest that provides income for a person or institution
- 4) Decisions that are based on sound judgment carefully considered and align with Christian values.
- 5) An investment portfolio that is designed to reduce market and individual security risks.
- 6) Money or Property left by will or bequest that signals what is important to the donor.



ANSWERS: A,3/B,5/C,1/D,6/E,2/F,4

Session Highlights – February 2017

by Bill DeWolf, Clerk of Session

At our February meeting, Session approved the board of the Kurth Memorial Garden. This was preceded by a presentation on the recent improvements that were undertaken to take advantage of the downtime during the sanctuary upgrade. This wonderful asset will be available for years to come and serves as a lasting memorial to our church community.

Budget constraints were the topic of some discussion. While recognizing the remarkable generosity of the congregation, Session wrestled with the reality that our current “flat” budget leaves little room for program innovation and by freezing our personnel budget we run the risk that we will be less competitive in retaining our wonderful church staff. Session agreed that while the budget we approved at our January meeting is fiscally responsible we should apprise the congregation of its impact and provide opportunities for additional giving for those who may be in a position to respond. The Stewardship Team is developing an outreach program to let the congregation know of the opportunities for giving beyond our annual pledge drive.



LOPC
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APRIL 2017

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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
Matt Bell, Community Life
Keris Dahlkamp, Youth
Chuck Fry, Operations
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool
Ryan Timpote, 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:

APRIL 1 for the MAY issue.

Email items to communications@LOPC.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Monday by 5:00 p.m.

Email communications@LOPC.org.

Pastor Peter is Blogging



Check out Pastor Peter's new blog! Each week, Peter publishes a blog entry that offers wisdom and support from his more than 35 years in ministry. His weekly thoughts will cover a wide range of issues to help you in your role as a disciple of Christ.

www.LOPC.org/category/pastor-peters-blog

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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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