

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Please join us on
June 4 for
Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday June 4



"When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place..." Acts 2

JUNE/JULY 2017

	Page
Adult Mission Trip.....	6 & 7
All Together.....	1 & 3
Aloha Sunday.....	5
Congo Mission Team.....	10
Farewell Becki.....	13
First Friday Forum.....	13
Journey of Faith.....	12
LOPC Foundation.....	15
Member Highlight.....	14
Men's Retreat Recap.....	8 & 9
Monument Crisis Center.....	7
Mount Hermon.....	4
Noteables.....	14
Pastor's Column.....	2
Seedlings.....	10
Session Highlights.....	15
Summer Choir.....	16
Vacation Bible Camp.....	14
Visitation Training.....	10
Youth Corner.....	11

See more at LOPC.org



Hearing God's Call

by Jaime Polson, Pastor-Family Ministries



"All who believed were together and had all things in common." Acts 2:44-45

During my senior year of college, I was really struggling to figure out where God was calling me once I graduated. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life next and I didn't feel I had any real answers so I sought the advice of one of my favorite professors who had also been my mentor over the past four years. As I told her about my struggles, she took out a blank piece of

white paper and placed a black dot in the middle of the paper. She looked at me and said something along the lines of this – "Jaime, your biggest problem is that you are looking for a very specific plan and a perfect answer from God and you are missing God's greater call for you.

The call that is the same for everyone in the church – you are called to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind and all of your strength. You are called to love your neighbor as yourself." She reminded me that no matter what I chose as a profession, as a Christian, as a follower of Christ, I was called to serve and love God through loving my neighbor in whatever path I chose – be it graduate school or a career. And that is where I should focus my heart and my work.

As we celebrate Pentecost, the commemoration in Acts 2 which marks the beginning of the church, I think about what my professor told me. So often, we as the church get so focused on planning for the church or the goals that lie ahead that we forget our call to serve God and our neighbors. Acts 2 reminds us of the ways people came together to serve others and go forth and minister after receiving the Holy Spirit, the gift that was promised by Jesus; the gift that guides and leads us in our ministry and our service to others. We all have different gifts which have been given to us by God, talents that we have cultivated and experiences that have formed us and make us unique.

As part of the Body of Christ, we are called together in this place we call church, bringing our diverse gifts and experiences, to serve our common mission as those who believe in Christ and hold our shared church mission in common – to love God above all else and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

All Together

ALL TOGETHER COMMITMENT OPTIONS

You can check as many boxes as you like!

- ☐ **Prayer** : I/We commit to include LOPC – its health, vitality and faithful witness for Christ – in my/our prayers.
- ☐ **Hold Fast** : I/We believe that what, and how, we are currently giving is what I/we can offer at this time. I/We will consider future gifts as the year progresses.
- ☐ **Increase** : As I/We have considered this information, our pledge can be adjusted with an increase of \$_____ for 2017, and I/We will prayerfully consider this increase on an ongoing basis.
- ☐ **One Time** : I/We would like to keep our current level and means of giving, but we do understand the situation and would like to make a one-time gift of \$_____.
- ☐ **New Pledge** : We've been giving regularly, but not pledging, and in light of this information we'd like to make a pledge for 2017 of \$_____.
- ☐ **Time** : I/We understand that the real strength of LOPC is the gifts of time and service that people offer, and I/We are interested in volunteering some time in the area of _____.

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYERFULLY
CONSIDERING YOUR COMMITMENT TO LOPC.**

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive | Lafayette, CA 94549 | LOPC.org

Throughout the month of May, we highlighted various ministries to show just how much we do here at LOPC. In a church as big as LOPC, it's easy to lose sight of everything that we accomplish on an annual basis – but we get it done by working **All Together** to support the things we care so deeply about.

In addition to sharing our ministry stories in May, we also provided information on the giving trends at LOPC over the past 10 years. While our giving has been stable, we have lost purchasing power due to inflation, which has resulted in delayed program development in multiple ministry areas coupled with staff salaries staying stagnant over the past five years. Our All Together emphasis is about one thing – raising up resources to recover the financial strength that has eroded over time.

Please join us on June 4, Pentecost Sunday, with your All Together commitment card to show your support as we lift up the culmination of our All Together efforts and celebrate together.

Commitment cards can be found in the in the Sanctuary pews, Ministry Center, All Together mailed packets, and online at LOPC.org/alltogether.

Questions? Please email elizabeth@LOPC.org.





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

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

Questions? Email dave@LOPC.org. Last day to register: 9/29/17



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Register online at
LOPC.org

A STORIED PEOPLE

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

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell



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



Join us Sunday, July 30, 2017

**Pastor Gerald Chinen and the Na 'Okina Hawaiian Band and Dancers
will lead an inspiring and joyful morning of worship.**

Lunch tickets available on the Plaza 7/9, 7/16 & 7/23

Adults \$12

Kids 13+ years, \$8; 4-12 years, \$4; 0-3 years, FREE

Tickets also available online at LOPC.org

Bring Family and Friends, and share the Aloha Spirit!

Volunteer! Contact Janet@LOPC.org or call 283-8722 x223

Adult Mission Trip

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

Twenty-six members of the LOPC Mission Team traveled to Weed, CA for a second time to continue rebuilding work because of the Boles fire which occurred in September of 2014. 150 homes were completely destroyed along with the Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, the library and community center. They worked with the Weed Long Term Recovery Group and Siskiyou County Habitat for Humanity.

Pat "Oly" Olson, construction coordinator said, "It's people like your group coming to our aid that restores my belief in the inherent goodness of people." The volunteer coordinator, Brenda Duchi, added, "Your team's kindness and friendship is a treasured gift to the people of Weed. What you have given to us through your volunteering is immeasurable. It must feel great knowing you change people's lives."

Rich Lewis was again the team leader and was happy that he could bring along some very competent workers, who not only did a great job, but were there to help the less skilled learn how to do their jobs.

Gladys Schaible says, "Rich and Chris Johnson preceded us by doing all of the hard things, getting the posts, and gates ready so we could put up the slats. We really wanted to get the project finished, and on Friday Marty Lewis and I put up 188' of fence. This was so Shannon Kennedy, the home owner, could keep her dog enclosed, and her lot private. She had just purchased her home three days before the fire and because she'd paid cash, she had not yet gotten insurance. Shannon was always there with a smile and she kept walking around saying how blessed she was and how special she felt. You just wanted to do more for her."

"This was my fourth mission trip. The reason I started going, and continued, is because there are times that I feel I am stuck in my spiritual journey and that every now and then I need to step out of my comfort zone and allow God to stretch my faith. I know through these experiences God has something in mind for me to do. I do what I can for these families who have lost everything and it causes me to come back feeling blessed by their thankfulness, friendliness and the smiles they give us for doing the smallest little thing for them."

Rich remembers Shannon's joy when she saw the completed fence. "I love it when I look out and see the fence, and you added two arbors and a double gate—you do things right. I just love it to death," she said.

"I go on mission trips because I enjoy helping people and working with my hands. In the past I have been blessed many times by strangers or friends when I had problems to overcome," Terry Gleason explains. "This is how I can give back. I am always able to make friends on Mission trips—friendships that last. This year my crew of seven enthusiastic workers and I started to lay the foundation, setting forms and re-bar, for the future home of Lewis Powell and his family of four. They were renters in Weed and lost all their belongings in two different fires in the houses in which they were living. What a good feeling to be able to help them."

In all the group worked on five projects. Daniel and Sarah Casorlas will soon be able to move in their new home with the two small grandchildren they are raising. Jackie Brown's home should be finished by the time she finishes her cancer treatments. Shannon has her fence and the Powells expect work on their home to continue. The team also built a storage shed for the Grace Community Presbyterian Church. Again, this year, LOPC member, Ann Loar, made a quilt for every family and the coordinators. The good news is that soon all the residents affected by the fire have either had a home built for them, purchased a replacement home or moved out of Weed. The Weed Long Term Recovery Group will close their doors at the end of November.

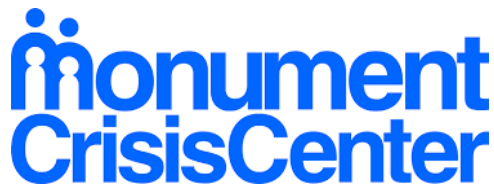
The LOPC Adult Mission Team began when then Pastor, Janet Russell, took a group to New Orleans, in 2005, just a few months after their devastating losses. Then in 2006 Rich Lewis organized a team to go back to the area and he's been doing it ever since. Besides Rich, and his wife, Marty, Kathy Bradshaw, Bob Heaney have been on every trip. Places where they all have worked are in Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri and California.

This year Mike Kotrick and Rita Neill again journeyed from Wyoming to pitch in and Rick Frank came from North Carolina. Bob Heaney says, "Special friendships are made when you live together and work together for a week. Most of us have been on multiple trips and we're so happy to be together in the mission setting. These trips are an important part of my life. It's a trite saying, but I truly do feel I get more out of it than I give."

Pictures from Weed, California.



Monument Crisis Center Summer Camp



Monument Crisis Center is an anchor for many families experiencing hardship in the Monument corridor and beyond. During the summer many low income families cannot afford to take a vacation let alone send their children to summer camp. MCC makes summer camp possible for 50 children every summer. They succeed by the help of volunteers and donations.

Please see below on what you can donate or how you can help make summer special for 50 children that otherwise not experience the joys of summer camp.

- Donate small terracotta pots and seeds
- Donate a healthy box of snacks (i.e. granola bar, fruit snacks, etc.)
- Make sandwiches for campers' lunch

In order to fund the six- week long camp, MCC will have a Summer Solstice fundraiser on Friday June 16. Stop by for cocktails, music and fun from 4:30-7:30 p.m., \$40 per person, \$75 per couple. Contact mccfaithcommunity@gmail.com if you can help or call (925) 825-7751.

LOPC's 2nd Annual Men's Retreat Recap

by Chris Baldwin, Director of Community Engagement

The 2017 Men's Retreat at Zephyr Point Conference Center of Lake Tahoe was a weekend filled with key messages from Ray Campton, M.Div., MFT, that encouraged and challenged men to grow in their calling to be "Men After God's Own Heart." There were 42 men in attendance and we were excited to be gifted over an inch of snow (in May!!)

Below are some of the key highlights of our time together:

1. The Spiritual Journey of Men (Kingdom World vs. Kingdom of God, Faith: Dynamic/Not Static, Christian Faith & Culture, Identity as "The Beloved" as a gift from God)
2. True Self/False Self (Path to transformation, Temptations of Jesus: Matthew 4:1-11, Surrender vs. Control, & Masking: "Getting Real")
3. Loss/Grieving/Death (Transition through Life Stages – First Half of Life vs. Second Half of Life)
4. Additional Topics (Forgiveness, Busyness & Importance of Boredom, Friendships, and Relationships)

The Men of LOPC connected with God, themselves, and each other while crafting intentional time to rest, reflect, and rejuvenate. We look forward to another retreat in 2018!

In response to the retreat...

1. New Men's Small Groups - Men are forming small groups and will begin a 4-week study on Henri J.M. Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved." If any men would like to join or facilitate these groups (even if they were unable to attend the retreat), please let me know. chris@LOPC.org
2. Talk-Back Session w/ Ray Campton - We are also hosting a "Talk-Back" on Saturday, June 3, from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. in the Oak Room. All men are welcome (including those who did not attend the retreat).





Summer at Seedlings

by Molly Maduck, Seedlings Communications Board Member



Summer is just around the corner, and we can feel the excitement growing in our children. They are anticipating more relaxed days where they can play outside for hours, enjoy ice cream and snow cones, splash and swim in the water,

and simply spend more time exploring and having fun with their siblings and friends. Many of our children at Seedlings will be able to do all of these things and much more with our program, "Summer at Seedlings," which will begin on June 20.

This unique program is part summer school, as the children learn through play, and part camp, as each day is a new adventure. "Summer at Seedlings" will run for six weeks, and is led by our fantastic summer director, Kathy LaPlante. She has worked with our talented staff to create exciting themes and activities for each week of the program. This year, the weekly themes are inspired by the elements of nature: fire, wood, earth, wind, metal, and water. Many of our Seedlings staff members will teach in the summer program, providing lessons that correspond with the fun, camp-like feeling of the program. They will guide our children in science experiments about electricity, teach our students about wind with bubbles, and for water week, they will play with our kids on a GIANT slip and slide! Many special guests will join us at Seedlings as well. During fire week, the kids will be visited by a local fire department and during earth week, they will enjoy visits from amazing animal experts. We'll have magicians, scientists, gymnasts, and of course, many of our favorite teachers and friends!

When Kathy was asked about what our kids can expect, she said, "All children should come ready to have fun, explore, and meet new friends. We will get dirty, wet, and we will laugh. It's going to be a wonderful summer!" During the summer, it is refreshing to look through the eyes of our children. Through them, we see how it's the simple things: moments of exploring outside, getting dirty, getting wet, and laughing with our friends, that inspire the most joy.

Visitation Training - 6/3

9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Davies Room
Sponsored by the Deacons of LOPC

All of us have the opportunity to visit with loved ones or friends, when they are ill, whether in their homes or in the hospital. Often these days, we are likely to visit people as they are recovering or rehabbing in the many Care facilities in our community. It isn't always easy to know the best way to be supportive while visiting and we wonder at times whether we are being helpful or not. Perhaps you've wondered when it is appropriate to share a Bible verse, or to say a prayer. If you would like to improve your skills, come join us for this interactive workshop. Gerald Chinen, Pastor of Congregational Care will be leading and facilitating.

Please call or email Janet to register at janet@LOPC.org; ext. 223.

Mission Team Advocates for the Congo



A contingent from the LOPC Congo Mission team recently traveled to Sacramento to meet with the staff of the new Senator, Kamala Harris. The purpose of the visit was to educate the Senator's office on the issues and challenges facing the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to seek her help.

The joint team described the current situation in the Congo - one of increasing violence and instability, particularly in the Kasai region where the Presbyterian Church works. The group discussed why it is important for the U.S. to aggressively work to bring peace and stability to the region. We left a list of ways the Senator could help. We offered our services to provide more information as needed and the staff replied that such a relationship would be most helpful. We also requested a meeting with the Senator at some point.

If you have any questions about the Congo team's advocacy efforts, please contact Sue Gibbons (clearspeech@suegibbons.com) or Herb Long (herblong7@gmail.com).

India Mission Trip Update



Olivia Toth has been attending LOPC all her life. She was baptized here and has grown up attending the children's and youth programs. Mission has always been a central focus in her faith journey, as she has been able to truly focus on what is important and commune with God without distractions.

She has attended numerous mission trips over the years, and is very much looking forward to the India trip this summer. On July 15, Olivia will travel with 65 other students and adult volunteers to Vishakhapatnam, India, where she will serve for two and a half weeks at Children of Faith (COF) orphanage and school. Her sister Melanie went there in 2014 when the LOPC youth first visited, and Olivia was immediately struck by how much her sister's outlook on life had changed. "Something was different," Olivia noted. She had a greater appreciation and seemed more mature than she was before the trip.

Olivia has felt this type of culture shock before, when going to serve with LOPC in places like New Mexico and Salinas. She feels that this trip will bring even more of a change, and she welcomes the opportunity to deepen her faith. She is excited to build, to paint, but most of all she relishes the idea of connecting with the over 100 children and youth at COF. "Some of them will be older than me!" she exclaimed.

Olivia is nervous about potentially getting sick, but sees this trip as much bigger and more important than herself and her own comfort levels. Her favorite verse in the Bible is Matthew 25:40, where it says, "The King will reply, truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This verse is central to her faith and her outlook on how she should live. "The whole idea of being a Christian is to be a servant. To serve people no one else wants to or expects you to," she says.

She can feel anxious and depressed when just she's focused on herself, rather than others. The pressures in school and life sometimes makes it easy it is to lose perspective on what God wants for us. She asks we pray that everyone involved on the trip will come to a deeper level of faith.

You can donate to the trip costs by going to lopc.infellowship.com/onlinegiving/givenow/noaccount and select 'India Trip Donations.' You can also give by check, made out to LOPC with 'India Mission Donations' in the memo line. The youth have raised \$15,516 toward their goal of \$23,000.

Youth Corner

Senior Blessing

What are Faith Milestones?

We honor and celebrate children and youth as they grow in faith by marking significant moments along their journey.

What's the purpose of the Senior Blessing?

At this stage, youth are asking, "How can I matter?" We want to affirm that each student matters and has something valuable to carry with them into the world as they begin the next phase of life.

As High School students prepare to venture into the world on the next stage of their journey, the Church community recognizes the tremendous ways each student has grown and contributed while a part of this community. Parents and other leaders who have been instrumental in students' lives send youth off with a blessing and a charge to grow in faith, to lead purposefully, and to serve generously as they continue to share God's love with the world wherever they may be.

What else do I need to know?

The Senior Blessing will take place on Sunday, June 4 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Seniors and their families will be called up to the chancel near the end of the service. Pews will be reserved at the front of the Sanctuary for high school seniors and their families. All those who have helped guide these youth in their faith, from birth to now, will be recognized.

Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



Robert G. Johnson, Jr.,
M.D., Ph.D.

Robert Johnson says the writings of Albert Schweitzer had a great influence on his faith journey—and his career path. “I started reading his writings when I began to devote my life to science and medicine and was looking for direction. As a physician, theologian and philosopher he wrote in a way that really spoke to me, and still does, particularly about ‘Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben’ – ‘Reverence for Life.’ He says the purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others. He was also an accomplished organist. Perhaps that’s why there is a pipe organ in our living room now, Robert says. He has his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees and is actively trying to live a life which exemplifies Schweitzer’s teaching.

A native of Altoona, Pennsylvania, Robert says he grew up in a “hurting” railroad town. His grandparents attended Christ’s Second Lutheran Church and were pillars there. “Their faith and life journey was an early influence on me. The church’s theology was based on the Good News of the Bible mixed in with old fashioned fire and brimstone. In the summer, revival tents went up for a week. Catechism classes were serious business with lots of memorization. I did what was expected, Sunday school, church choir, acolyte, etc. – but didn’t really connect.” Robert explains that his initial faith journey began at a church camp where the staff/instructors/clergy were young, rigorous and had a love for Christ. “They made the teaching relevant to everyday life.”

“My journey became more personal when I was badly burned in junior high, at a different camp. It was touch and go for a while, followed by many painful surgeries. I ended up missing over half the academic year. As like most kids of that age, I had not pondered my own death in real terms but while recovering I began to read a wide range of theological and religious literature. ‘Where did I fit in the universe?’, ‘What was expected of me?’ I realized that death, even at a young age, can be just around the corner.

“Around this time, another tremendous influence on me was a trip I took to the South. Seeing segregation for the

“My journey became more personal when I was badly burned in junior high...”

first time, particularly the inequity of it all made battling against inequities, and for equalities very important to me, then and now.”

Robert attended the University of Pennsylvania for his undergraduate degree as well as his M.D. and Ph.D. His internship was the Massachusetts General Hospital, which is associated with Harvard Medical School. That’s where Margaret Liu obtained her M.D. and began her internship the same time as Robert. They met, married, now live in Lafayette, and have two children, Matthew and Ariana. “Margaret has had an immense influence on me in her strong belief and faith in Christ and the ways she displays her faith in her daily life.”

Fast forward to a few years ago when family began attending LOPC. “I’d been an elder at a local church, but was dissatisfied with the way things were going,” Robert says. “I was very cynical about the established church, but found LOPC a breath of fresh air – relevant, inclusive. It is a church of action. The staff and congregation make a difference through every-day acts, as the focus is not just a Sunday focus. There are tremendous examples of individuals living their faith—amazing LOPC members, with loving hearts, who are out contributing to changing the world for the better. Being an active member has brought back my equilibrium and allowed me to regain my path toward entering the maturing phase of my journey of faith.

“Considering activities in which I have participated that helped me on my faith journey, I think of small groups, retreats, teaching Sunday School (you only really understand something when you try to teach it!), supporting mission initiatives, listening to sermons, and an active reading list. I am currently reading the ‘Letter to My Congregation’, by Ken Wilson and ‘Soren Kierkegaard’ by Joakim Garff. Continuing to work close to the hospital setting and recently dealing with my mother’s terminal illness and preparations for death have also strengthened and boldened my journey.

I have many favorite Bible verses, but two of my dear are: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13) and “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) to which I add hope and forgiveness and recite to myself multiple times a day.”



2017 Speaker Series

June 2

Judge Peggy Hora
"Justice In Our Courts"



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

"Tough on Crime is not Smart on Crime" is the topic Judge Peggy Hora will present at First Friday Forum (FFF). Judge Hora retired from the California Superior Court after serving 21 years and is now President of the Justice Speakers Institute.

Judge Hora says, "It is clear that the 'War on Drugs' and 'Tough on Crime' initiatives succeeded only in increasing the number of people in prison in the United States. In the 40 years from 1970 to 2010, incarceration rates increased 700 percent. Alcohol and other drugs are the drivers for the vast majority of crimes. Drug treatment courts have a quarter century of research and experience to show that they are the best solution to the high-risk/high-need offender. These 'problem-solving courts' reduce recidivism and cost less to operate than business as usual."

A global leader in the solution-focused court movement, Judge Hora has written comprehensively on justice issues. She explains, "Drug courts that focus on solutions rather than punishment became my passion. I've done trainings all over the United States and I've taught all over the world. Throughout the 21 years I spent on the bench, the best part of my job was presiding over the drug court."

Raised in Oakland and Castro Valley, Hora began her education at Chabot Community College in Hayward after her youngest son started kindergarten. She then graduated magna cum laude, with a B.A. degree in political science, from Cal State, Hayward. She obtained her law degree from the University of San Francisco.

Hora is the former dean of the B.E. Witkin Judicial College of California and has been on the faculty of the National Judicial College for over 20 years. She was a Senior Judicial Fellow for the National Drug Court Institute and the Global Centre for Drug Treatment Courts. Her international work includes speaking at conferences worldwide and hands on training on drug courts in 12 countries, including Japan, Russia and South Africa. She is the recipient of the Bernard S. Jefferson Judicial Education Award from the California Judges' Association and the winner of the Rose Bird Award from California Women Lawyers. She was honored as Woman of the Year by the California Legislature.

"With her years of experience, Judge Hora is well equipped to discuss how 'Tough on Crime is not Smart on Crime' and ways she knows the court system can do better. Don't miss her lecture on this pressing problem," says Caroline Giers, FFF committee member. "Come at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments in Fellowship Hall." For further information call 925-283-8722.

Farewell Becki



On Sunday, April 23, 2017 the Pastors and congregation said Bon Voyage to Becki Rieger, as she begins her retirement adventure of traveling across the U.S. Don't worry, Becki will continue to visit LOPC in between her road trips and share with us her traveling tales!



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

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

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

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

**MAKER FUN FACTORY
CREATED BY GOD:
BUILT FOR A PURPOSE**

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



Member Highlight: 100 Years Young



Congratulations to George Jedenoff who turns 100 July 5. To celebrate he plans to meet up with long- time friends and take to the slopes at Alta, Utah, as it's predicted there will still be snow. For the last several years George has travelled to Alta where a video has been made of his excellent form skiing down a run as well as his words of wisdom.

This year it was on happiness. He said, "Happiness is attained if one looks at the bright side of life and takes a positive attitude toward everyday activities. There are many problems and disappointments in life. Sometimes we dwell on these events, overlooking all the wonderful things we have to enjoy. I'm constantly thankful to God for the good things he has given me and for the courage and direction He provides."

George was born in Russia. His family escaped during the Revolution through China, eventually getting permission to immigrate to the US where they settled in San Francisco. He graduated from Stanford, where he met and later married his wife, Barbara. He had a distinguished business career, concluding as President of Kaiser Steel.

Sing with the Noteables



No tryouts are necessary to join the Noteables- just a love to sing. Rehearsals are every Thursday from 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. in the Davies Room -directed by Barbara Vail.

Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses are needed. Please call Barbara Vail at (925) 254-1819 for more information.

Are you a Friend of the LOPC Foundation?

by Kristi Haigh, Foundation Trustee



Kristi Haigh



On a recent Sunday a group of nearly 90 “Friends” gathered in Fellowship Hall after the second service for a tasty lasagna lunch, lively conversation, and a noteworthy talk. These friends didn’t all know each other, but they were “Friends” by virtue of the fact they have all made a financial provision for the LOPC Foundation, either as an outright gift now or as a bequest in their estate planning.

“Friends of the LOPC Foundation” was formerly called the Heritage Society. We haven’t heard much about this group in recent years, but that is changing as the Foundation seeks to rekindle existing friendships and make new ones.

The speaker was Pastor Peter Whitelock, whose topic was “Megatrends: challenges and opportunities in the church.” His audience learned that, while LOPC continues to be well supported financially compared to many churches, the nature of the support has changed, and rising costs continue to challenge us. His conclusion is that increased financial support from the LOPC Foundation will be even more crucial in coming years, if the church is to be all it wants to be. His words provoked thoughtful questions that demonstrated the engagement and support of the Friends gathered there.

If you would like to become one of the Friends who have decided to make a gift to the Foundation now or as part of their legacy, please contact a Foundation Trustee: Dick James, president; Lynn Trowbridge, vice president and secretary; Phil Pacier, treasurer; Kristi Haigh, Staci Johnston, Alan Kizor, Dara Youngdale. Together, we can go over the Foundation gift form, which you can then discuss with your financial/estate advisor and your family.

April’s Session meeting began by lifting up the several highlights of our celebration of Holy Week. The triumph of Palm Sunday was captured by the palm waving procession of our children’s choirs. We remembered the celebration of the first Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday and its foreshadowing of the events of Good Friday and Easter. Several people commented that the Good Friday Service was especially meaningful, highlighted by special choir music, a live painting rendition of the crucifixion and a wonderful interpretation of the events of that day. Easter Services captured the joy and excitement of the resurrection through word and music. We are truly blessed to have the professional, dedicated and creative staff to make Holy Week such a memorable part of the life of our church.

Session Highlights – April 2017

by Bill DeWolf, Clerk of Session

The Personnel Team updated Session on the processes they have adopted to guide them with respect to regularly evaluating staff salaries to ensure that they are market-based and fiscally responsible. Session was particularly appreciative of the professional approach that has been adopted as we move forward to try and close the gap that has been created as our giving has remained flat but the buying power of resources has been eroded by inflation. We will be hearing more about this soon.



LOPC
LAFAYETTE-ORINDA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

49 Knox Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

JUNE/JULY 2017

IMPORTANT:
Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
Before 6/1/17
Thank you!

Return Service Requested

PASTORAL STAFF

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Brett Strader, Director
Stewart Scharch, Organist

TREASURER

Char Casella

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

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

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

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

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

Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

JULY 1 for the **AUGUST** issue.

Email items to communications@LOPC.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Monday by 5:00 p.m.

Email communications@LOPC.org.

Summer Choir Opportunities

We are offering two Summer Choir sessions this July and August.

Session I - Led by Tony Domenick

Rehearsals:

Wednesday, July 19, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and
Sunday, July 23 between services.



Worship:

Sunday, July 23 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 30 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



Session II - Led by Brett Strader

Rehearsals:

Thursday, August 10, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 13 between services.

Worship:

Sunday, August 13 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 20 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.



Sign up at worship@LOPC.org for one or both sessions. Attendance is required at rehearsal and both Sundays for each session.

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family

Connect with us online!



Livestream.Com/LOPC



Facebook.com/lopchurch



Google.com/LOPC



Vimeo.com/lopchurch



@lop_church



@lopchurch

Tag us in
your posts
using
#LOPC