

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Summer at LOPC:

Now – 9/4

Worship times will be at
9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FALL KICKOFF

Come one, come all
Kick off the program year at LOPC!

Join us to learn about all of the exciting programs and upcoming events at LOPC. We'll have games and treats for kids of all ages, as well as our annual Homecoming BBQ lunch. Tickets for the BBQ will be available beginning Sunday, August 21, after worship, as well as weekdays in the Ministry Center, and online at www.LOPC.org.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Kick-Off • 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • FREE

BBQ Lunch • 12 Noon • Ticket required

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

Kick-Off festivities will be taking place on the Worship Plaza,
and the BBQ lunch will be on the Fellowship Patio.

If you have a LOPC program or group that you would like to promote with the Fall Kick-Off,
or have any questions, please contact Matt Bell at matt@LOPC.org.

49 Knox Drive, Lafayette CA 94549 • LOPC.org • (925)283-8722

August 2016

Shielded From the World No More

by Gerald Chinen, Pastor - Care



As a child living in Hawaii I can remember adults joking about how we were always 10 years behind everything. For example, when the National Football League began televising "live games" we in Hawaii were watching these "live games" on tape delay, at least 3 or 4 hours after the fact! More importantly information on major events around the world seemed to take a long time getting to us over in the islands. It wasn't until the death of President John Kennedy that we were truly brought up to speed with the rest of the world. With minute to minute coverage of this awful event, we became connected to the rest of the United States and the rest of world.

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The world is getting smaller and we are more and more connected to each other and to all of life's tragedies and life's joys. Today with the speed of information a click away, we are drawn intimately into local, national, and international events as they occur, and depending upon the circumstances we experience euphoria or sorrow almost immediately. Last year right around this time, all of us in the bay area were celebrating the championship won by "our" Golden State Warriors. Conversely, this year, we walked around for a few days in a daze because they lost. But at a far deeper level, we hear the names of these cities, Istanbul, Orlando, Paris, Charleston, Riverside, Newtown, and now we add the cities of St. Paul, Baton Rouge, Dallas and Nice and we are instantly thrown into despair. And there are so many other tragedies and disasters that go unnoticed because unfortunately, it happens too often.

It is troubling, terrifying, sickening. We have to contend with our own anger, sadness, and anxiety. And through it all, we, the Church of Christ Jesus are called to bring a message of hope, a message of healing, and to bring all people to God in prayer. But we often feel paralyzed and we struggle with the senselessness of it all. However, each of us might be moved finally to act out our faith because rather than being stymied by fear and hopelessness our sense of justice and compassion rise to meet the challenge. Already, I'm sure, many of you have raised your voices and given your resources that changes can be made. And I know that we as a church too, will be faithful, we must be faithful to be bearers of wisdom, healing, and reconciliation.

In reading a column this week by David Brooks, I was reminded that I can do something daily on a personal level to contribute to someone's healing. He writes "The social fabric is tearing across this country, but everywhere it seems healers are rising up to repair their small piece of it. They are going into hollow places and creating community, building intimate relationships that change lives one by one."

I sometimes wish I was that child again in Hawaii, shielded from the sorrows of the world, living joyfully even for a few moments instead of grieving for yet another city and its people. That is not, however, the world we live in today. We may not in any immediate fashion heal the pains of the world, but we certainly can make a difference in the life of at least one person in our midst who is suffering. In some ways, when suffering is right in front of us, it makes it more real but more uncomfortable. May God grant us the strength and the courage to shed our fears and our discomfort so that we may become healers and work to repair our own small pieces of our country's and the world's social fabric.



Mount Hermon All-Church Retreat - 9/30 - 10/2

Space is filling quickly! Register TODAY online at LOPC.org



“Faith in a World Like Ours”

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. From her soon to be released book, “Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don’t Belong To,” our guest speaker, Lillian Daniel, will lead us in exploring faith in a world like ours. Humorous and sincere, Lillian Daniel will give a new perspective on why church community matters with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. There will be dedicated programs for preschoolers, children and youth, a barbecue, family-style meals, outdoor worship and outdoor activities for all ages.

ABOUT MOUNT HERMON: 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. For decades, it has been a place where lives have been forever impacted by wonderful speakers, fellowship of the church family, and the person of Jesus Christ and His Word.



Lillian Daniel

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Lillian Daniel is a preacher, teacher, writer, and speaker whose honesty and wit have taken her from the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. to the Festival of Homiletics in Denmark. Wherever she goes, Lillian brings a deep understanding of scripture and how it can be practically applied to everyday life. She has taught preaching at the University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago Theological Seminary, and Yale Divinity School, where she received the 2010 distinguished alumni award for “Distinction in Congregational Ministry.” Equally comfortable in convention centers, classrooms, lecture halls and church pulpits, Lillian has spoken at Duke Chapel, Princeton Seminary, King’s College London, and Queen’s University Ontario. After leading three churches, most recently a 1,400 member congregation in the suburbs of Chicago, Lillian spent a year away from parish ministry to explore full-time writing and speaking. In 2016, she became the Senior Minister at the First Congregational Church of Dubuque, Iowa.



**Attention
Small Group
Facilitators**

If you’re planning to attend and interested in leading a group of 8-12, please email chris@LOPC.org.

You are invited! Please join us! Registration Deadline: 9/23/16. Questions? dave@LOPC.org.

New Members - May 2016



Denali & Kevin Allen live in Lafayette with their five year-old twins, Bennett and Piper. Denali has worked as a recruiter in the Biotech/Healthcare industry and is enjoying community activities with the kids.

Kevin practices employment law and enjoys hiking, skiing and science fiction books. They appreciate the inclusive community of LOPC.



Jerry & Sherry Hook are both retired but enjoy volunteering, Jerry with Habitat for Humanity and Sherry with Capes 4 Heroes, providing superhero capes to kids with illnesses

and disabilities. Jerry retired as a Harbor Master, which may explain why they both enjoy being near or on the water. They appreciate the community at LOPC, which includes their daughter Ali and her family.



Trudy & Bill Ausfahl have lived in Moraga for 50 years, where they raised their three sons. Bill is retired from Cutter Labs and Clorox, and they both have enjoyed volunteering for several organizations. Bill and Trudy celebrated their

54th wedding anniversary this year, and enjoy spending time in Tahoe, and with family, which includes five granddaughters.



Keith and Linda Lahonta live in Walnut Creek, have two grown sons, and were married at LOPC 31 years ago. Linda was involved with the youth group at LOPC,

and owns her own accounting business in Lafayette. Keith is the general manager of a wine grape merchant, and they both enjoy traveling and baseball. They are thankful for the inclusiveness and focus on service at LOPC.



Vicky & Paul Cohune are both East Bay natives, and have lived in Moraga for over 40 years, where they raised two children. Paul is a retired Management Consultant, and Vicky is a retired Speech

Therapist. They enjoy having time to travel and dote on their five grandchildren, and appreciate the inclusive nature of LOPC.



Dennis & Robyn Mahoney live in Lafayette with their two daughters, Imogen and Maeve. Dennis works in management for Mixpanel, and

Robyn is an Accounting Manager for Kong Basile Consulting. They are thankful for the children's programs and community at LOPC, where Robyn attended church as a child, and where she and Dennis were married.



Corinne Cooper lives in Lafayette with her husband Andrew and their three boys, Jackson (5), Zac (2), and Brandon (8 months). She works in finance with Blackrock and enjoys going to the beach and

traveling with family. Corinne is thankful for the LOPC community and looks forward to raising her kids in the church.



Cheryl & Ken Miller have lived in the Bay Area since the early 80s, and have three grown children. Ken works in financial services in San Francisco, and Cheryl is retired, allowing

her more time to volunteer, play the piano, and exercise their Jack Russell terriers. They enjoy traveling and appreciate the welcoming community at LOPC.



David & Christine Statton live in Lafayette with their three daughters, Claire (7), Audrey (3), and Madeline (1). David is an engineer and works for Bechtel, while

Christine juggles the schedules of three young girls. They appreciate the family ministries at LOPC, in which David was involved as a youngster growing up in the area.



Kay Poulos has lived in Moraga for 43 years, where she raised her three grown children. She runs a business called Service With A Heart that helps serve the elderly, and her many interests include

gardening, tennis and traveling. Kay enjoys the welcoming nature of LOPC, and that it has so many different opportunities to serve others.



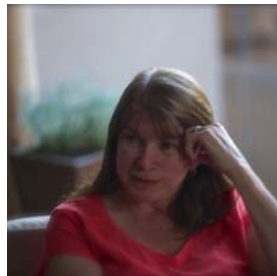
Alexis Thompson was happy to move back to Orinda after having been gone for several years. She and her husband Austin have a son Jackson (5), and a daughter Lily (4). Alexis is a realtor and

works in residential real estate with the Grubb Company. She is a member of the Children's Health Guild and enjoys the community at worship services at LOPC.



Chris & Brianne Riley live in Walnut Creek with their young daughter, Mirabelle. They spent time in Washington DC, and are now enjoying being in the Bay Area, with both working in public policy, Chris with

Mozilla, and Brianne with the Bay Planning Coalition. They appreciate the community and number of programs at LOPC, which Brianne attended while growing up nearby.



Susan Williams lives in Walnut Creek, where she and her husband raised three children. She is a Marriage and Family Therapist, and also enjoys drawing, photography, and ceramics. A lifelong Presbyterian, Susan's first church was in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

She appreciates worship, spiritual formation, and service opportunities at LOPC.



Carol Singer has lived in the same Lafayette neighborhood for 48 years, and is returning to LOPC, having previously been a member for many years. She was part

of a women's backpacking group for 27 years, and during that time, covered all of the Sierras and most of Europe. Carol still loves to hike and is happy to be back at LOPC.

New Membership Class



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. The next LOPC Membership Class is scheduled for October 21-23. Ask questions and find out more about LOPC. All are welcome! Questions? matt@LOPC.org.

LOPC: Where everyone is welcome, no one is perfect and anything is possible with God.

Summer at Seedlings

by Molly Maduck, Seedlings Communications Board Member



The children love getting their faces and arms painted by Mr. Max.



A student helps Miss Noelle in "The Very Grouchy Ladybug."



The children enjoy an exciting magic show with Magic Dan.



Mr. Max makes a giant bubble around a happy student.



Two of our youngest campers take a stroll.



Miss Noelle performs an amazing puppet show for the kids.

Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



Brett Strader

In response to the question, "How has belonging to LOPC enhanced your faith journey," Brett Strader, Director of Worship and Music, responds, "After a 20-year career in music ministry, finding LOPC has been an enormous blessing to me. It gives me great joy to serve among others who love God and God's people. Over the years I have resisted growing jaded with the church and all its flaws. LOPC is a different kind of church, and while not perfect, is an example of what I believe the church should be. It is exciting to be a part of this ministry."

As Brett reflected on God's word and His direction for his life, he said, "Faith is something we should practice in our lives 100% of the time and not just on Sundays. In my profession I often work with musicians and performers from all walks of life. Many of them have a hatred toward and distrust of anything religious because religious people have hurt them in the past. I feel it is my responsibility to show the love of Christ to those hurt by the church and, with God's help, try to undo some of their past experiences."

Brett comes by his strong faith naturally saying he was blessed to grow up in a Christian home and a great church, Arcade Baptist in Sacramento. "I have been immersed in the faith for as long as I can remember. However, I can point to a time in my youth when I made a conscious decision to follow Christ's call on my life and to dedicate myself to His ministry." He felt called in high school to study Music and Worship and Music Ministry as a major. He attended Biola University where his piano teacher convinced him to major in Piano Performance. During his senior year, he met Krista, and the two started dating. They were married in January of 1999 at the Crystal Cathedral, where Brett was working as the Associate Music Director. Not long after, Brett started working at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church in 2007 and began his Master of Music, in Conducting at San Francisco State, which he completed in 2010.

Brett says doing the Lord's work as a vocation is a challenge that requires a deep God-given faith and he gives us some insight into a leader's spiritual journey. "In ministry there are times of great joy and times of equal sorrow. While a congregation is often a stable source of encouragement for its members and participants, it can also be an emotional void for its leaders. It is easy to forget that spiritual leaders are on the journey as well. With Christ as a perfect companion and with faith at the core of my being I have grown and matured in both faith and ministry. I take joy in seeing God's great work in my life and in the lives of those around me."

Brett understands, "God has been working on me, and with me, my whole life. It is the faith that God has given me, and my personal relationship with Christ, that has allowed me to persevere in times of trial and when the path is unclear, and there is little encouragement from others. My relationship with God and the call to ministry He placed on my life are inseparable. I have been called to be a vessel for His work in the world, and it would not be possible for me to follow that call without His guiding hand and sure presence in my life."

God has given many gifts to His people, and those gifts should be used to glorify Him. Brett explains, "I believe in a high level of congregational involvement in worship both through participation in a worship service and by leading worship. A clear philosophy of worship and arts ministry is essential to success and should be developed with the larger church ministry in mind, and with its leaders' involvement. Worship must be authentically led. It must be crafted to move worshipers to a closer encounter with God. This can be accomplished by creating an experience that will reach worshippers on multiple levels. Maintaining flexibility is one of the most challenging aspects of creating worship experiences, but it is facilitated by a team approach and a high level of involvement, investment, and ownership by its leaders and the congregation."

Brett says he finds great joy in his position at LOPC and in seeing others experience Jesus through worship and fellowship adding, "I am secure in my faith and salvation, with the daily responsibility to work with the Holy Spirit on my walk." Brett's favorite verse in regards to worship is Psalm 66:1-2, "Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious."

As to the favorite passage as relates to his life, Brett chooses Romans 5:1-5: "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Summer at LOPC **Now – 9/4**

Now – 9/4,
Worship times are
9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Questions? Email
worship@LOPC.org



Summer Choir Opportunity

We are offering a Summer Choir sessions



Session II - Led by Brett Strader & Mitchell Covington

Rehearsals Wednesday 8/3 & 8/10, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Singing in worship services 8/7, 8/14 & 8/21.

Attendance at all rehearsals and a minimum of two out of three Sunday services required.

Music will be provided along with practice recordings.



Email worship@LOPC.org to sign up.

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO OUR

Organ Rededication Concert

The Ken Mansfield pipe organ has been restored and reinstalled by Schoenstein & Company Organ Builders (Benicia, CA) with additional digital stops from Walker Technical (Zionsville, PA).



YOU'RE INVITED

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

2:00 p.m.

This concert will feature LOPC Organist Stewart Sarch and guest organists: Jonathan Dimmock (former LOPC Organist) • Christian Elliott (Menlo Park Presbyterian Organist) • James Warren.

Each organist will, through solo repertoire, demonstrate a distinct style of playing. The LOPC Chancel Choir will sing an anthem accompanied by each organist, and the congregation will sing from "Glory to God", our new hymnal.

A free-will offering will be taken.

Stephen Ministry

By Kathleen Hallock, LOPC Stephen Ministry Leader

A Win - Win - Win For Pastors, Caregivers, and Care Receivers

Pastors have many people that need care and often don't have the time to see every person as often as they need. The team of Stephen Ministers at LOPC provide care for people as long as they continue to need it. The New Testament talks about everyone having a responsibility to love and care for one another and help each other through difficult times. Stephen Ministry empowers our church to do just that, equipping Stephen Ministers to be ministers of Christ.

Caregivers grow in kindness, compassion, a focus on others, faith and trust in God as they serve, connect and relate to people. Stephen Ministers benefit from the skills they learn in training - listening, using reflective questions, and attentiveness to someone else's needs. Stephen Ministers grasp the idea that when we serve "the least of these" - people who are suffering a crisis or difficult time - we are serving Jesus Christ. Stephen Ministers express their faith as they connect with others in a caring relationship.

Care Receivers often feel very alone during difficult times. They may not have anyone who will really listen and not judge. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one care as they meet with people on an ongoing basis, offering distinctively Christian care and support. Stephen Ministers walk alongside people going through difficult times - times of grief, divorce, separation, sickness, or loneliness. They bring Christ's healing love and spiritual support to people for as long as they are needed. For more information about Stephen Ministry at LOPC please contact Pastor Gerald Chinen.



familyministry & Special Needs Ministry present

Respite Night

Friday, August 12, 2016, 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 group 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 Engelbrekton, dave@LOPC.org, (925) 283-8722 x280

Deadline for registration is Friday, August 5, 2016. We welcome you to connect with us before the Respite Night

Children's Ministry Updates

Introducing Our new Director of Community Engagement

by Chris Baldwin, Director of Community Engagement



Chris Baldwin

Dear LOPC Community: For the past two years, it has been a privilege to grow in my ministry skills as the Associate Director of Children's Ministry, and build the volunteer development plans. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to disciple and support the leaders in the Children's Ministry. I can't express enough how excited I am by this new opportunity. Thank you for allowing me to grow at LOPC and for affirming my leadership here.

As many of you know, I have been promoted to new ministry opportunities right here at LOPC! So do not fear, I'm not going anywhere! I'm excited to announce that as of this past June I have officially transitioned to the position of Director of Community Engagement. In this new role, I will help develop the small groups ministry, off-the-hill ministry initiatives, support the men's ministry, assist with teams/team building opportunities, and support the worship leadership. In addition to

that, I have come under care at LOPC and have been accepted as an "Inquirer" in the process toward ordination in the San Francisco Presbytery. As a 2014 graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education & Formation) this new ministry role affords me the opportunity to grow as I continue the process of discernment toward ordination in community with you all. It's an exciting time all around for my wife, Carly, our son, Reed, and myself.

If you are interested in any of my ministry initiatives, please let me know! I'd love to connect with you. I look forward to what God does in and through us all in this new season of ministry. Peace & Blessings, Chris Baldwin, M.Div., M.A., chris@LOPC.org.

Meet Lori Robinson

by Lori Robinson, Assoc. Director of Children's Ministry, lori@LOPC.org (beginning August 1st)



Lori Robinson

To the LOPC community: I am Lori Robinson and I will be your new Associate Director of Children's Ministry beginning in August. For the last ten years, I have been the Associate for Family Ministry at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville. In that role, I oversaw faith formation for families with children including Sunday school, family worship services, Vacation Bible School, Christmas pageants, outreach projects, family programs and special events. Before that, I was the volunteer Director of Children's Ministry at St. George's Episcopal Church in Antioch, California, for eight years.

I am a graduate of John F. Kennedy University and have a B.A. in Social Ecology with a minor in Multicultural Studies. Social Ecology is an interdisciplinary program of study that examines cultural and spiritual practices as well as social and political institutions and processes with a focus on becoming informed, empowered, and committed to contributing to the betterment of a complex world.

I have a certificate in theological education for completion of the EFM (Education for Ministry) program from the University of the South School of Theology. I hold a certificate in Christian Education from The Center for Faith Formation of the Episcopal Diocese of California. I am also a certified Godly Play teacher. I grew up in southern Indiana and moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1980. I worked in accounting before pursuing full time ministry with children. I'm married to my husband, Ty, who is a Bay Area native. We have a son, David, and two daughters, Charlene and Christine along with three grandchildren – Sienna, Ethan and Sofia.

Working in ministry with children is my greatest joy and I'm very excited to be joining you at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. I look forward to working with the family ministry staff and getting to know your families!

Youth Corner

Tuesday, August 16: Trip to Santa Cruz Boardwalk



For incoming 9th graders and just graduated 12th graders. Come spend time together, meet new friends and have a blast! Students will pay for rides and food on their own once in the park

Leave LOPC at 12:00 p.m.
Return to LOPC at 10:00 p.m.

Forms due to Keris or Allison by Sunday, 8/7

Sunday, August 21 Youth Sunday!



Come celebrate the youth ministry at LOPC with both services led by the youth, with a lunch and continued program after in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Contact keris@LOPC.org or allison@LOPC.org

familyministry
Presents
MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, 9/16
Fellowship Hall Patio
6:00 p.m.

Catering By
TOP DOG OF BERKELEY

No Host Catering:
Families may purchase
their own food & drinks
at standard menu pricing.

The poster is a vertical purple rectangle with a yellow border and a dotted pattern. It features the text "familyministry" in a green and blue font, "Presents" in white, and "MOVIE NIGHT" in large white letters. Below this is the date and location. A movie poster for "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" is shown. At the bottom, it says "Catering By TOP DOG OF BERKELEY" and includes a note about no host catering.

Widows & Widowers - 9/13 - 11/15



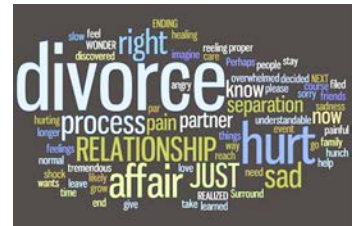
Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all Widows and Widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted for the next class on September 13-November 15, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Pre-Registration required.** The workbook is \$15. If you want to register or have more information, contact Bev Fellows, 925-949-7628 or beverlyfellows@comcast.net.

Divorce Recovery Workshop

Thursdays: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in CLC 202
September 22 - November 3

This seven-week course is open to all individuals, regardless of where they are in the separation/divorce process. Groups are facilitated by Ray Campton, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an ordained Presbyterian minister. Ray has been leading these sessions for ten years.

If you, or someone you know is going through the pain of losing a significant relationship and might benefit from our Divorce Recovery Workshop, please tell them to register online at LOPC.org. Questions? Contact Becki at (925) 283-8722 x221, or email becki@LOPC.org.



**Registration Deadline:
September 15, 2016**

New Beginnings Workshop - 10/29



Preparing For And Coping With Significant Life Changes
Facilitated by Dr. Katherine Hart
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Oak Room
Lunch will be a \$5 donation at the door

The underlying psychological processes of transition and coping are similar for everyone. Join us as we explore concepts related to moving, becoming a new parent, caring for others, a new marriage, and/or growing older. When we understand the process and all of its struggles,

learnings, and new beginnings, it becomes much easier to support both ourselves and others through changes. If you missed the last class, please mark you calendar for a life-changing seminar. Even if you attended the last class, you will be in for a treat, as Dr. Katherine Hart will build off the last class and go more in depth.



Dr. Katherine Hart

Dr. Katherine Hart is a performance consultant and coach who works with companies in times of change and transition. She presents both nationally and internationally on the topics of change, leadership, and team performance. Kathy and her husband, Paul, are members of LOPC, participating in leadership and the Chancel choir.

Jocelyn White



Mission in Society Seeking Biblical Justice - 9/25

Sunday, 9/25 at 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall.

“What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” - Micah 6:8

Our Faith is rooted in the work and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus’ ministry touched the lives of his society’s outcasts, as well as their ruling politicians. His words and deeds rattled the halls of power in his day, attracting the attention of religious and political authorities who taught to arrest him. We follow Christ and accept his call to love our neighbors with a passion that reflects His own. We, as people trying to live into the call of discipleship, must take our faith outside church walls by getting involved in pressing issues of today. Biblical Justice is something that we see together as a community of faith.

Come hear Jocelyn White, Director of Church Mobilization for International Justice Mission (IJM) speak on Sunday, 9/25 at 12:15 pm in Fellowship Hall. She will explore the biblical call to seek justice and her work with IJM in mobilizing churches and communities to engage in both local and global ministry to work against human trafficking, modern day slavery, sexual violence, citizen rights abuse and property grabbing. Learn how we are all called as Christians to educate ourselves of injustices that exist against humanity and to respond through prayer, action and advocacy. Lunch will be provided with a \$5 donation. Contact robin@lopc.org for more information.

Healing Hearts Update



“We’ve been overwhelmed by the spontaneous and generous response from the LOPC congregation to the need expressed and prioritized by PCUSA partners of the Church of Christ in Congo for the support of training of facilitators in Trauma Healing for Children in East Congo.” - PCUSA Mission Co-Workers, Jeff and Christi Boyd

The implementation of Healing Hearts, the trauma healing program for children funded by the special offering collected during Easter earlier this year has begun in the Congo. Those instrumental to the program’s implementation include; Rev. Nzeba, a Presbyterian Pastor; Jean Mateyabo, the Trauma Healing Institute lead facilitator; PCUSA Mission Co-worker Christi Boyd, and other Protestant church women leaders. The training will be held the week of August 18-26 in Goma, located in eastern Congo where local church leaders have begun the process of selecting trainees.

Please keep the people of the Congo and the Presbyterian mission co-workers there in your prayers as violence and political unrest continue to escalate in this country.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Gibbons at clearspeech@suegibbons.com or Herb Long at herblong7@gmail.com.

Adult Mission Trip to Weed

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



"We are so grateful" were the words homeowners of Weed, California said over and over again to the LOPC Adult Mission Team which spent a week helping rebuild their town from the devastation caused by the Boyles fire in 2014. 150 homes were burned to the ground along with the Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, the library and Community Center. In addition the elementary school and the town's last remaining wood mill were damaged. There is still a huge amount of work which needs to occur in this economically depressed town of 3,000.

LOPC member, Rich Lewis, headed up the team and said he was glad the team could help people in their home state of California. This is his twelfth year of leading the LOPC Adult Mission trip. Previous Adult

mission teams have worked in Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Oklahoma, doing disaster recovery.



The LOPC team worked with the Weed Long Term Recovery group which was formed by citizens of the town after the fire. The 31-member LOPC team was assigned five clients. Some had already begun building, but lacked funds to complete the work as they were not insured to receive complete replacement costs.



One such house was a Habitat for Humanity home where the mission team was assigned to work on the foundation. The homeowner, had purchased her home three days before the fire, and had no insurance. In addition to helping her with foundation work, the team was able to erect a much needed fence to keep her dog safe. Security was at the forefront of a mother and her two teenage daughters request for a fence to keep out intruders. The work at another site included installing siding, painting the exterior trim, installing interior stairs and ceiling joists in the upstairs hallway and at a fifth location installation of a new electrical system was needed. In addition to labor, the LOPC Team was able to donate 2 boxes of children's books which Judy Kronmiller collected to the Weed library and a homemade quilt sewn by Ann Loar to each family the team helped.

Along with the labor LOPC provided, the team brought a large cross to the local Presbyterian Church which they plan to use when they rebuild. In addition, church members, Carol and Tom King, donated an organ which will also be a part of the new church when it is finished. The team also donated some of LOPC's used bibles to the Weed Presbyterian Church as well.

The LOPC Adult Mission Team left feeling fortunate to help the people of Weed rebuild their town. Pat Olson, the construction coordinator said, "I'm so glad you chose us as your mission project this year. I can't believe the work you accomplished." Rich Lewis responded "I never find any grumbling or complaining even though we work long, hard days. The team always gets more out of it than we have give. It is heartwarming to see how much our work is appreciated by those we help. As the Bible says, in Acts 20:35, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

The Noteables Silver Anniversary

by Bob Marshall, LOPC Member

The Noteables began in 1991 as part of LOPC's music ministry of 35 daytime singers who love to sing. Founder Lorraine Lyon started this music fellowship for the Lamorinda community. With 65 percent LOPC members, others are from our community and other churches. They rehearse each Thursday morning, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Davies Room, except for July and August. They performed their spring program at the following assisted living facilities: Chateau III in Pleasant Hill, Moraga Royale, Bryon Park, The Waterford at Rossmoor, The Kensington in Walnut Creek and for our own LOPC Seniors, at Thursday Fellowship.



Muriel Fore was the Notables first director. Since then, Barbara Vail had directed this special group for the past 19 years, with Marjorie Kingland, accompanist.

No tryouts are necessary to join the Noteables- just a love to sing. To learn more, call Director Barbara Vail at (925) 254-1819, or email Bob Marshall at b-mars@att.net.



Companions

by Joan Beerline, LOPC Member



Join Companions for the Journey when it begins again in the fall. This community uses Scripture, prayer, silence and time in smaller Companionsing groups with a trained facilitator to reflect on God's presence and guidance in our seemingly ordinary lives.

Listen to Scripture and ponder how ancient stories are connected to the life we live today. If you have not already attended an Introduction to Companions, select from one of three dates in September. Details are on the web, LOPC.org, and registration is available there also. If you have questions, email companions@LOPC.org or call the church office, extension 221.

thursday Fellowship Updates



Karen Lake

On June 16, LOPC staff celebrated Karen Lake's birthday. They also bid her sad farewell. For the past year, Karen has served effortlessly as the Thursday Fellowship Coordinator; however, Karen decided to step down so she could devote more of her time and attention to being an in-home health assistant, which is her first passion.

Karen said, "It has been my privilege and joy to be the coordinator of Thursday Fellowship this past year. In particular, getting to know the fine folks at LOPC who serve our community, as well as the precious guests that Thursday Fellowship cares for, serves and loves. As a caregiver for over 10 years, I am so pleased to have this wonderful program to encourage my clients to attend. My thanks to all who welcomed, encouraged and helped train me in this position. May God continue to bless LOPC and Thursday Fellowship!"

Julie Peterson and Clarita Wooldridge have graciously agreed to take on Karen's role as Thursday Fellowship co-coordinators. They are excited to join the LOPC team and have many creative ideas to help enhance the program.

Thursday Fellowship will resume on September 8. Be on the look out for new activities and great speakers for the 2016-2017 calendar year.



Julie Peterson and Clarita Wooldridge

Presbyterian Women Election of New Officers



Gail Parker-Marshall has been elected to serve as Moderator for Presbyterian Women for the 2016-2017 year. Other new officers are Colleen Fawley, Secretary; Catherine Coleman, Mission Chairman; and Barbara Gustafson, Special Events Team. Serving with them will be Sue Fernstrom, Treasurer; Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, Special Mission Projects; Charlotte Britton and Marsha Dean, Special Events Team; Ginny Murphy, Church Women United; Cathy Gallinger, Publicity/Historian; Vickie Hipkiss, Media Coordinator; and Diane Steuber, Circle Development Coordinator. Matt Bell is our Staff Liaison and Cheryl Tibbals is our Elder Liaison. A big thank you to our outgoing Moderator, Hazel Clendening, who has done a wonderful job for the past two years. Hazel and her family are moving to the Seattle area and will be missed.

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Jesus looks us squarely in the eyes and asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Now, there's a good question! LOPC Presbyterian Women will be contemplating this question beginning in September as they begin their new Bible study "Who Is Jesus?" We will look at this question through the eyes of the gospel writers, of Paul, of other Abrahamic faiths and of our contemporary culture. The study guides are available in the church office for a \$10 donation.

All of our circles welcome new members as we meet for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. Circles meet during the day and in the evening. If you would like to be a member of a Presbyterian Women's circle, contact Diane Steuber at (925) 283-3871.

Volunteer at LOPC

familyministry Volunteers

Have you ever wanted to help out with one of the Children or Youth events but did not have the time to commit to an ongoing program? We could use your help! Family Ministry would like to develop a list of individuals who would be willing to lend a hand for a one-time event. For more details, or to add your name to our list, please email dave@LOPC.org.

Join the Worship Team



The Worship Team is in need of a few additional members who would like to join this group in a team leadership role. Responsibilities may include Sanctuary decoration, ushering, greeting and traffic control just to name a few. If you are interested in learning more, please contact one of the Worship Elders: B. Dana Lindstrom, bdana.LOPC@gmail.com or Jody Black, jody.black@libertymutual.com.

Connecting Ministry

The Connecting Ministry is in need of volunteers to help welcome visitors and new members to the church, and help organize and staff the Welcome Center. If you are interested in the various ministries of the church, enjoy meeting new people, and can serve monthly or bi-monthly, or just want to find out more, please contact matt@lopc.org or (925) 283-8722 x231. Thank you!

Traffic

- Traffic Directors needed - Training is provided and no experience is required!
- To help with the traffic flow, please use your turn signal when entering the parking lot.
- Any suggestions and ideas for traffic control are greatly appreciated and always welcome. Questions? Email traffic@LOPC.org.



Employment Opportunities



Executive Ministries Coordinator (Full-time) Coordinator provides high-level coordination and administrative support to the Head of Staff with regard to executive level ministries in the life of the church

Seedlings Preschool Teachers (2)

- M-F, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. working with our preschool aged children
- M-F, 8:45 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. working with our toddlers

Both positions begin on 8/22 for the 2016-2017 school year and require curriculum development and planning, interfacing with parents, working as a team with a co-teacher and good communication skills. We offer a competitive salary, incomparable work environment, benefits and many opportunities for growth. Come join our team!

For the full job descriptions, or to apply, please visit www.LOPC.org/emp_opp.asp or contact Chuck Fryat (925) 283-8722, x230.

LOPC: Where everyone is welcome, no one is perfect and anything is possible with God.

Session Highlights: May-June, 2016

by Bill DeWolf, Clerk of Session

Session has received regular updates on the Sanctuary renovation project. Considering the magnitude of the projects undertaken by LOPC in the last 15 years, Session has been appreciative of how well all of the work has stayed on time and on budget. The Sanctuary project is nearing its final phase with the completion of the choir annex. We also learned that we have new LED lighting for the steeple cross that will be more energy efficient and not need replacement as frequently as the old incandescent system. Session approved funding to hire a firm to provide options to optimize the Sanctuary video display. With the enhanced lighting on the Chancel, the existing display tends to appear washed out.

Session was pleased to approve the donation to the church in Weed, California, of a aluminum cross that has been stored in the back of our Sanctuary. Our adult mission team presented the cross when they travelled to Weed to support the rebuilding of facilities there destroyed by forest fires. The team's contribution was gratefully acknowledged in a thank-you letter from their Session to ours. Our Session participates actively in the business of our Presbytery. Time was set aside at the May meeting to explore the challenges facing our Presbytery. These include addressing the needs of a variety of congregations that are geographically dispersed and represent the broad diversity of our denomination financially and culturally. It was gratifying to hear reflected in the commitment of our leadership to participate in solutions to these challenges.

At our June meeting we welcomed Peter back from sabbatical. While away, he reviewed many years of records on LOPC's previous reflections on the mission, vision and goals. Distilling 27 pages of his notes, he documented Session's discussions from the past several months to discern where we as a congregation would like to direct our energies and resources during the next few years. Fortunately, with the completion of our building projects, major facility upgrades are behind us, and we can look forward to channeling the many intellectual and financial resources found in our church community towards new projects to address the spiritual, family and mission needs of our community. There will be more to come on this as we move closer to a final document. Stay tuned!

It was with pride and love that Session formally voted to recommend to Presbytery that our own Jane McKenzie be advanced from Inquirer to Candidate on her path towards ordination. Session will continue to follow with care and anticipation as Jane works to discern her calling.

Lamorinda Village Chair Yoga 8/8 & 8/24

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Oak Room



Lamorinda Village presents chair yoga—an opportunity to practice stretches and poses that bring flexibility, strength, and balance to our lives. Classes are led by Barbara Papini, an experienced instructor who loves working with older adults. Papini has taught Hatha yoga in the Bay Area for over 30 years. She encourages her students to go at their own pace, one step at a time, developing awareness. Everything is done either sitting in, or standing by your chair. We will begin and end with quiet breathing awareness. Please bring a bath size towel to use on the chair. A few blankets and other props will be available. Barbara will ensure that all poses are shown at a variety of levels to accommodate those who are new to the practice or have previously experienced yoga. Space is limited. Please RSVP to (925) 253-2300.

Special Thank You

Dear Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Congregation: The Hillcrest Church Lafayette Volunteers would like to thank you for your ongoing and generous support of the Layette program. Your recent "May Showers" event provided the program with so many beautiful new and gently used items, as well as lovely handmade quilts, stuffed toys, quilted diaper bags, and other items regularly supplied by Chicks with Sticks. We greatly appreciate the continued support your congregation has provided the program over the years. Without your assistance, we would not be able to offer the quality of layette, nor the quantity of items packed in each layette. On behalf of the mothers and newborns, who are recipients of your generosity, we extend our heart-felt gratitude and appreciation! Sincerely, The Hillcrest Layette Volunteers.



LOPC Foundation: Policy on Socially Responsible Investing

by Phil Placier, Foundation Trustee



Phil Placier

Foundation Trustees recognize that “socially responsible” investing appeals to some members of the LOPC community and that some advocate investing in socially responsible investments. From the Foundation’s inception in 1993, the Trustees have been sensitive to this view and have designated a portion of its assets for those types of investments.

The Trustees recognize, however, that characteristics of socially responsible investing can be difficult to define and manage. First, there is no singular definition as to what a socially responsible investment vehicle is or how it should be differentiated from other investment vehicles. Consequently, there are many different mandates and approaches to social investing, and that fact makes selection of a suitable investment vehicle challenging for the Trustees and their investment advisor.

Second, the process of screening the pool of available investments to identify securities that comply with a particular set of social criteria is necessarily costly, and these additional expenses make it difficult for the fund manager to equal the performance of investment vehicles that are not subject to social screening. Controlling investment expenses is one of the Trustees’ fiduciary responsibilities. Therefore, Trustees must take care that expenses related to the social screening of securities do not hurt the overall purchasing power of the investment portfolio.

In light of Trustees’ desire to be responsive to the objectives and preferences of the LOPC community while, at the same time, observe the requirements and responsibilities of serving as fiduciaries for the Foundation’s investment portfolio, they have determined that 4-6 percent of invested assets in the portfolio will be allocated to socially responsible mutual funds that are approved by Trustees. The choice of a particular socially responsible mutual fund is based on the recommendation of the investment advisor, who evaluates criteria such as a fund’s risk and performance. The advisor also investigates and reports on a fund’s specific approach to social investing so Trustees can determine if it is consistent with the Foundation’s objectives. Trustees periodically review the characteristics of any selected investment vehicle to make certain it continues to be a prudent component of the Foundation’s investment program.



Special Needs Ministry Training - 9/25

10:15 a.m. in the Oak Room



Please join the Special Needs Ministry and Stephen Ministry at LOPC for an informational seminar on how our church can support families who have special needs. The training will be led by clinical psychologist and congregation member, Dr. Jennifer Crossland and congregation member, Beth Coffin. Dr. Crossland and Ms. Coffin will discuss developmental disabilities, such as autism spectrum disorder, and how they can impact families in our community. They will also share how we can support families of children and youth with special needs in terms of how they may view themselves in the extended family, church and community at large.



LOPC
LAFAYETTE-ORINDA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

49 Knox Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

AUGUST 2016

IMPORTANT:
Dated Material
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Before 7/31/16
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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:

AUGUST 1 for the **SEPTEMBER** issue.
Email items to communications@LOPC.org.

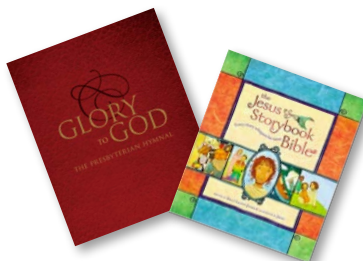
Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

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

Sunday Worship Service
9:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
Invite Friends & Family

New Presbyterian Hymnal “Glory to God” and Pew Bibles:

In 2013 The PC(USA) published a new hymnal “Glory to God” and we are excited to incorporate it into our regular worship services. Family Ministries has also identified an excellent new Children’s Bible, “The Jesus Storybook Bible.”



We invite the congregation to sponsor the dedication plates inside the front cover of each hymnal and Bible. You may sponsor as many as you wish to honor or remember your loved ones in a special way. You may also purchase your own set to take home with you. We are offering these dedications in two sets:

- A hymnal and pew Bible together for a donation of \$35.
- A hymnal, pew Bible, and Children’s Bible for a donation of \$45.

If you are interested in purchasing your own copies, email worship@LOPC.org.

Connect with us online!



Tag us in your posts using #LOPC