

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Join us at our
All Church Homecoming
Fall Kickoff & Potluck

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church's Annual

Homecoming Fall Kickoff

ALL CHURCH COOKOUT & POTLUCK

Everyone's invited to the LOPC Fall Kickoff at 12:00 p.m. on the Fellowship Plaza.



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER**

10



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See more at LOPC.org



Hearing God's Call

by Lauren Gully, Pastor – Mission & Spiritual Formation

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*



One of the hardest things in ministry, the work that we do together as the body of Christ, is coming to the realization that it is time for a program or partnership to end. However, this still is the hard work that we are called to in order to do the most good that we can with the resources allotted to us. Over the past year, members of the Mission team have been carefully discerning our involvement with Mother of Peace (MOP), an orphanage in Zimbabwe where we have had a meaningful partnership over many years, and have discerned that it is time for us to transition out of our partnership with Mother of Peace.

In recent years providing support of any kind into Zimbabwe has become increasingly more difficult. About a year ago the government initiated an investigation of MOP's founders, Momma Jean and Momma Stella. During the investigation Marge Chigwanda, a woman known to the sisters and who managed the leper colony next to MOP, was asked to be the interim manager for MOP and eventually Momma Jean and Momma Stella were cleared of charges and no wrong doing was found. Mama Jean and Mama Stella have returned, and Mother of Peace continues to function under its new leadership under Marge Chigwanda. Momma Jean and Momma Stella will continue to live at MOP and will focus on the farm and in growing food for the children, the school, as well as loving the children.

During the past few years other MOP supporters from around the world had their own changes taking place. The Bay Area MOP consortium (of which LOPC was an active member) disbanded, loyal MOP friends passed away, and other funding sources dissipated. The number of youth housed at MOP has continued to decline, being half of what it was just four years ago.

Going forward MIS will be considering ways to ease into this decision, while minimizing disruption of assistance to the children still living there, and we will keep you informed of how we will work out these next steps. In the past year LOPC has provided food to MOP and this effort will continue in the short term.

It is now time to celebrate the years we have spent in ministry together, and to begin to prepare for what comes next.

We, in partnership with other local churches, have had a wonderful history with Mother of Peace. Mama Jean and Mama Stella established the orphanage in order to support children orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and to give them food, education and a home. Over ten years ago the late Dr. Robert C. Scott, an Oakland based HIV/AIDS physician, and member of Allen Temple Baptist Church invited LOPC to join his church's AIDS/HIV ministry at MOP in Zimbabwe. In the following years dozens of LOPC adults and youth traveled to MOP to provide medical screenings, distribute medications, do repair and upkeep at the sprawling facility, engage the children with our youth's enthusiasm and love, offer countless prayers and provide funds to help support the farm, school and overall orphanage management. We know them, have watched their children grow up and know their stories of loss and joy. Mama Jean and Mama Stella, all of those who work to support the children, and all of the children who have found a home at Mother of Peace will remain in our prayers.

For questions and comments, please contact Lauren Gully or Mission Elders, Steve Crocker or Peter Darbee.

Peter Whitelock, Pastor / Head of Staff | Gerald Chinen, Pastor, Care | Lauren Gully, Pastor, Mission & Formation | Jaime Polson, Pastor, Families

Homecoming Fall Kickoff

**Join us for Worship, Fun, Fellowship and Lunch
at 12:00 p.m. on the Fellowship Plaza.**

Please bring a dish to share!



Last names A–M

Bring a side dish, fruit or salad

Last names N–Z

Bring a dessert



FREE TICKET REQUIRED

**Please sign-up on the Patio beginning Aug 20th
or during the Week in the Ministry Center.**

LOPC WILL PROVIDE HOT DOGS, ICE TEA AND LEMONADE.

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Summer Worship

FAITH AT THE MOVIES V

This summer we continue to worship together at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. for our sermon series "Faith at the Movies V."

Here is a line-up of movie selections:

July 2: Communion Sunday

"Hacksaw Ridge" (Colossians 1:9-14) by Peter Whitelock

July 9

"Silence" (John 15:12-17) by Jane MacKenzie

July 16

"La La Land" (1 Corinthians 1:18-25) by Peter Whitelock

July 23

"Lion" (Galatians 4:1-7) by Peter Whitelock

July 30: Aloha Sunday

"Joy Luck Club" (Genesis 16:7-15) by Gerald Chinen

August 6: Communion Sunday

"Winston Churchill: Walking with Destiny" (TBD)
by Jaime Polson

August 13

"Collateral Beauty" (TBD) by Lauren Gully

August 20

"Hail, Caesar!" (Hebrews 11:1-3) by Peter Whitelock

August 27: Youth Sunday

September 3

"Interstellar" (John 15:1-12) by Peter Whitelock

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

Summer Choir Opportunity

We are offering an August Choir session:

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. Attendance is required at rehearsal and both Sundays.





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. **Accommodations are filling quickly. Register Today at LOPC.org.**

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



**Register
TODAY!**

**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.

New Members - May 2017

by Chris Baldwin, Director - Community Engagement



Jonathan & Christy Birdsong moved to Lafayette from Washington D.C., two years ago and previously worshipped at Presbyterian Church of Capitol Hill (Washington D.C.). They have three

children - Hanna (11), Bryce (9), and Claire (5). Jonathan is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing. Christy enjoys exercising and spending time outdoors with friends. They were drawn to LOPC by the children's and youth ministry programs. They also hope to serve in mission projects (potentially internationally) together as a family.



Trevor Kienzle has lived in the area for 14 years and previously worshipped at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda. Trevor is married to his wife, Mary Katherine, and they have three children, Matt (Freshman at Ohio State University), Emily (10), and Nate (7).



Troy & Jen Coggiola have lived in the area for 15 years and heard about LOPC from a friend and also Yelp reviews. They have a daughter named Caroline (5). The Coggiolas enjoy singing, swimming, and traveling.



Ed & Audrey Protiva currently live in Orinda and have lived in the area for 48 years. They previously worshipped at an Episcopal church. Ed is a retired business consultant and Audrey is an ESL teacher.



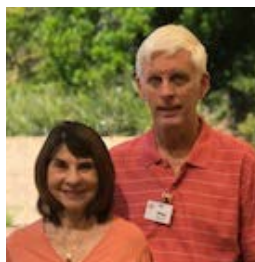
Jonathan & Lauren Burley have lived in Lafayette for 6 months and have previously lived in San Francisco, New York, London, and Vancouver. The Burleys heard about LOPC from a neighbor.

They have one child, Laughlin (15 months old). They enjoy going skiing together for fun!



Anjun "Jerry" Jin has lived in the area for 7 years and heard about LOPC by pastoral word of mouth. He has previously worshipped at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and Milpitas First

Presbyterian Church. Jerry is married to his wife, Jennifer, and they have a daughter named Karen who is a sophomore at Campolindo High School. Jerry is a scientist who enjoys skiing, skating, and swimming.



Mike & Ilene Mullery are avid travelers who own Alamo World Travel Agency. They have had many opportunities to visit foreign countries and are passionate about

mission projects. They have lived in the area for 40 years and have previously worshipped at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. They have three grown children, Ian, Dayna, and Stacey.



Betty Tsai lives in Rossmore and has lived in the area for 2 years. She previously worshipped at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek. She enjoys singing and dancing in her free time.



Paul & Trisha Renno are a beloved Seedlings Preschool family and have lived in the area for almost 2 years. They have previously lived in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, and even Spain. Paul is a management consultant

at Bain & Company and Trisha is a stay at home mom. They have three children - Trey (5), Tyler (3), and Reese (16 months). Paul previously worshipped at Lafayette United Methodist Church and this is Trisha's first time joining a church. Trisha and all three children will be baptized at LOPC on Sunday, October 22nd at the 11:00 a.m. service.



Bill & Penny Whiting have lived in Moraga for 26 years and previously worshipped at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Penny owns her own interior design company and Bill is an attorney.

They enjoy playing tennis and traveling.

New Members Class - 10/20 - 10/22



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 October 20-22. Childcare available by reservation. Questions? Contact chris@LOPC.org.



LOPC Book Clubs



- Fourth Mondays Book Club – For over 20 years, this group has been gathering monthly on fourth Mondays from 2:45 p.m. until about 4 p.m. Fiction and non-fiction discussed recently include *Elephant Company*, (2014) by Vicki Croke, *Oracle Bones*, (2006) by Peter Hessler, *The Flame Trees of Thika*, (1981) by Elspeth Huxley, and *The Underground Railroad*, (2016) by Colson Whitehead.

Visitors and new members are welcome.

For more information, contact Bob Hoots at (925) 944-0575.

- Fourth Fridays Book Club – New in 2017! Gatherings are held from 5:30 p.m. for an hour and a half or two hours. Fiction and non-fiction titles we have discussed recently include *Sense of An Ending*, (2014) by Julian Barnes, *Hillbilly Elegy*, (2016) by J.D. Vance, and *A Man Called Ove*, (2015) by Fredrik Bachman.

All are welcome. For additional information contact Catherine Coleman at (510) 928-9714.

Summer at Seedlings

by Molly Maduck, Seedlings Communications Board Member



Seedlings campers enjoying the Mad Science Show.



Campers taking the "Fire Safety Pledge."



Building a map with Pirate Max.



An artist creating splatter paint!



Little construction workers making tool belts.



Young scientists volunteering in a Mad Science experiment.



Gale Lana

Gale Lana came to LOPC because of a heartbreaking happening. "One Saturday morning while my husband, Ed, and I headed out for our Saturday morning walk he suffered his first, but fatal heart attack at age 63. I was left stunned and heartbroken by this sudden and totally unexpected loss." About six months

later a friend, who had also been recently widowed, invited Gale to attend the Grief Group at LOPC. "This began my healing journey and it also began my deeper spiritual journey."

While attending the nine-week course, several of the widows invited her to attend LOPC's worship service. She enjoyed the service, especially the music and the sermon. "I decided to attend the New Member Class and joined. We were given materials outlining all the programs and ministries offered. One stood out to me – Spiritual Formation. I was drawn to this because at this point in my life I felt the need for a deeper relationship with God. My husband of forty years was suddenly taken from me, my three children were grown and starting lives of their own. I felt totally alone and adrift. My life as I had known it was gone. In looking back, I can see how God can use these broken times to draw us into a new and deeper relationship and this is what was happening for me."

It was relatively easy for Gale to become involved in church activities. She says her faith journey began at age 5 when her family moved from Canada to Oregon and remembers going to Sunday School and church every Sunday, plus the family often invited the pastor and his wife for brunch. Soon they moved to Southern California where her father taught an adult Bible class and her mother was her Sunday School teacher. Perhaps you recall, as she does, the flannel board on which were placed figures illustrating Old Testament stories beginning with Adam and Eve, and New Testament stories which brought Jesus' teaching to life for her.

Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

"I can see how God can use these broken times to draw us into a new and deeper relationship."

Thankful for her childhood introduction to religion and spirituality, which developed a strong belief in God, she discovered her family's church, being a fundamental, evangelical church, was quite different from that of her friends. "Our church placed many restrictions on my life like no movies, not dancing and so forth. I questioned these beliefs, becoming hurt and angry that I couldn't join my friends at many activities. Finally, in my sophomore year of high school I worked out a compromise allowing me to attend a movie of which they approved and a few of the school dances.

It was while attending UCLA Gale discovered a Presbyterian Church nearby and felt this church was more inclusive and much closer to her evolving spiritual beliefs. UCLA was also where she met Ed. They were married right after graduation and moved to the Bay Area where he attended law school while she taught first and third grades. Ed was raised a Methodist and they attended a Methodist church first, but then became members of First Presbyterian Oakland, where John Turpin (now a member of LOPC) was senior pastor. For many years they belonged to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church as their children had become active in youth groups there.

Gale is now serving LOPC as a deacon. She concludes, "I am so grateful for the blessings I have received from the outstanding programs and ministries offered at LOPC. The past ten years here have enriched my life and allowed me to deepen my relationship with God."

Meaningful verses to her are Ephesians 3:16-17. "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

"A Perfect Example"

This year marks the 14th consecutive year in which LOPC has supported one of the classrooms at the Atfaluna School for Deaf Children (ASDC) in Gaza City. Our support continues to provide the essentials; uniforms, hearing aids and batteries, transportation, medical assistance and hot lunches for the students, teacher salaries and classroom supplies. In addition, the parents receive sign language training and job counseling.

Atfaluna, which is Arabic for "our children", was established in 1992 and was the first school focused on academic services for deaf children in Gaza. Since opening its doors, ASDC has transformed the lives of literally thousands of deaf children, adults and their families by providing a broad spectrum of services to the deaf community – education, audiology, speech therapy, vocational training and parental support programs. Prior to that time deaf children were rarely treated equally and their families did not know how to handle their deaf children and as a result ignored and in some cases neglected their children.

In Palestinian society, hearing loss is very prevalent due to factors including childhood illness, maternal illness and genetic factors. Poverty is also a contributing factor – poor nutrition and the lack of health-care services and medications have a negative impact on the children.

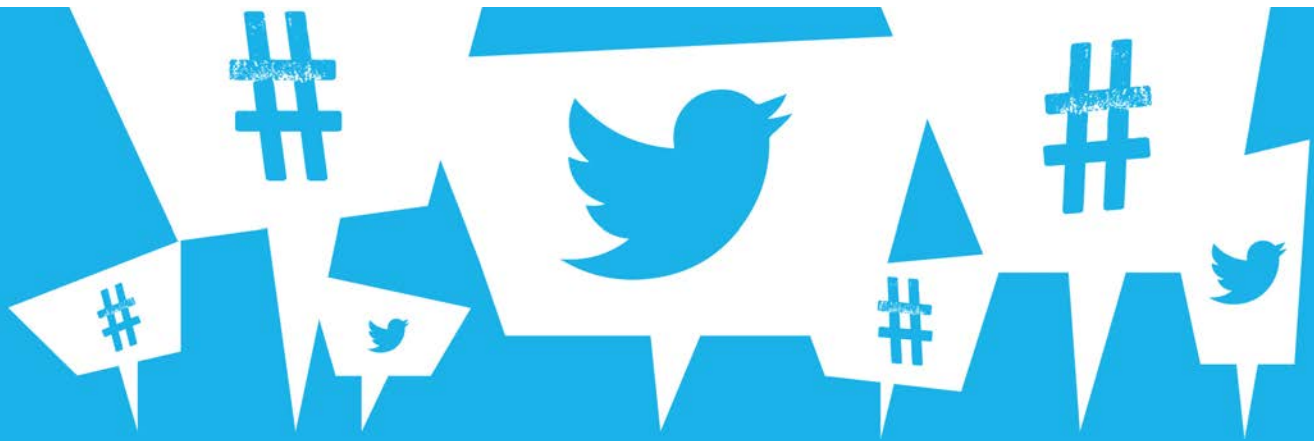
Unfortunately, conditions in the Gaza Strip continue to deteriorate and the financial health of the school has been greatly affected. A harsh economic situation, mass unemployment, loss of livelihood due to political turmoil, embargos and closed borders have impoverished the deaf families in Gaza. More than ever, our support has been critical to the school's ability to continue the education services to deaf children.

In response to the pressing financial need, Atfaluna recently launched a worldwide 'crowd funding' type of appeal. As part of that campaign, the school held up LOPC as "A Perfect Example" since we have "so generously supported one of the Atfaluna classrooms on an annual basis". The campaign material included "What we like to boast is that their continuing sponsorship of this classroom has had remarkable benefits for the students of whom some have already graduated from the class and have begun to work in the community". High praise and great achievement indeed!

On Sunday, September 17th, and for the following two weeks, we will kick-off our fund-raising efforts in support of the "LOPC" classroom at ASDC. Our goal to raise \$25,000. We ask that you take a moment and look deeply into your hearts and reflect on how much God has given you; then ask the question how much does he expect that I will give to this worthy cause and am I fully meeting these expectations.

Questions? Please contact Melinda Darbee at (925) 299-1663 or Robin Freeberg at robin@LOPC.org.





Coming this fall:

#WhatWouldJesusTweet?

Jesus gives us words to live by. In this sermon series, we will take a deeper look into inspirational words of Jesus that he gives to us in 140 characters or less.

9/10/17 - #TheBestPresent

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. - Matthew 6:34

9/17/17 - #IntheCompanyofSinners

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners. - Mark 2:17

9/24/17 - #SomethingWorthSharing

Follow me, and I will make you fish for people. - Matthew 4:19

10/1/17 - #TheChurch'sOneFoundation

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. - John 10:11

10/8/17 - #CaughtintheAct

Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. - John 8:7

10/15/17 - #BreakingtheCycleforGood

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. - Luke 6:27-28

10/22/17 - #ThisChangesEverything

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. - Luke 11:9

10/29/17 - #ThePerils of Prosperity

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. - Matthew 19:24

11/5/17 - #ProofPositive

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. - John 13:35

11/12/17 - #PeaceonEarth?

Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. - Matthew 10:34

11/19/17 - #WhenWeaknessMeansStrength

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. - 2 Corinthians 12:9

11/26/17 - #NoMoreFear

Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever. - Revelation 1:17-18

Sunday Worship Hours: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



familyministry & Special Needs Ministry present

Respite Night

Friday, September 15, 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, September 8, 2017. We welcome you to connect with us before the Respite Night.

Sunday School Buddies



LOPC offers a Sunday School Buddy Program for children and youth with special needs on Sunday mornings. Our Sunday School Buddies are trained to work with children and youth with all types of special needs.

Most of our Sunday School Buddies have been in the special education field for more than 15 years. The role of the buddy is to be in Sunday school with children or youth with special needs and provide a safe and loving partnership, giving her/him the opportunity to grow in faith alongside her/his peers. If a child needs to take a break from the classroom setting, play outside or use particular sensory toys – this is what the buddy will do.

To arrange a buddy for your child or youth on any Sunday, please email susan@LOPC.org. We provide buddies by assignment in order to make sure your child is paired with the buddy that fits best with their needs.

Buddies

If possible, please fill out an intake form ahead of your child's first visit. We invite families who are dropping off their children for the 9 am Sunday school programs to check in at the kiosk on the plaza (in front of the sanctuary). Our greeters will direct you to the check-in location where your child or youth will meet her/his buddy for Sunday School. Our staff and volunteers will read the intake form and ask you any questions they may have before your arrival for Sunday School. We appreciate anything you can share to help us prepare to welcome your child or youth in the best and most loving way possible. Questions? Please contact dave@LOPC.org.

After your child visits, we encourage you to reach out to Rev. Jaime Polson, Pastor for Family Ministry, or Susan Wentworth, Preschool Ministry Director and Special Needs Coordinator, and let us know how the morning went with our ministry team.



Healing hearts in Congo:

The church as instrument to mend children's wounds of trauma

Story and photographs by Christi Boyd

Last year, the LOPC congregation enthusiastically supported the training of 28 facilitators to deliver a trauma healing curriculum to children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

PC (USA), in the May 2017 issue of Presbyterian Outlook, featured an article written by Mission Co-worker Christi Boyd which emphasized the devastation the Congo has suffered and the impact the Healing Hearts program is making and the role LOPC is playing in its success. Please read excerpts from the article below. The article in its entirety is linked on LOPC's Congo page or at pres-outlook.org.

Spurred by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and subsequent mass migrations, five years of recurrent proxy wars have since proliferated into pockets of localized violence, predominantly inflicted by some 70 militia groups that continue to terrorize the population. Their motives range from political influence to ethnic contentions, land rights and access to mineral wealth. There currently are 2 million displaced persons, including 500,000 children under the age of 5. The estimated number of deaths from the war and its aftermath is now over 5 million.

The bloodshed in these Congolese communities is produced not by sophisticated war machinery, but by hand-wielded machetes and guns, and it goes accompanied by rape as a strategy to destroy the social fabric of communities. As a result, the pattern of sexual violence has shifted from men in uniform as perpetrators to civilian offenders, and from women and teens as their targets to young children and even infants. Family cohesion has disintegrated as divorce

Healing Hearts Renewing Lives in Congo - 8/27

rates rise. Children's rejection by stepparents has become the norm.

Without adequate help, children who witnessed atrocities or otherwise survived the aftereffects are at risk of developing troubled behavior themselves, thereby perpetuating the cyclical pattern of conflict and trauma in this already volatile region.

The ECC women's desire to launch Healing Hearts ministries in East Congo drew the interest of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) in California at a symposium the church organized around a visit by myself as one of PC(USA)'s mission co-workers. LOPC was already familiar with the East Congo context, but the PC(USA)'s ecumenical affiliation with the ECC constituted a new partnership framework for its Congo Mission Team. An ensuing campaign proved pivotal for the eventual launch of the ECC's Healing Hearts ministries in East Congo. Besides relationship-building and fundraising efforts, the team members also accompanied their Congolese counterparts spiritually through intentional prayer, and they continue to follow up with me to update the congregation. Altogether, LOPC's Healing Hearts campaign succeeded not only because it by far exceeded its initial goal, but also and particularly because it generated a broad-based support among the LOPC membership and affiliations as 200 people donated to the cause.

To learn more about how Healing Hearts is changing lives, please join Christi Boyd and her husband, Jeff, on Sunday, August 27 in the Oak Room at 10:15 am as they discuss the current state of the Congo and how Healing Hearts is making an impact.

Questions about Healing Hearts contact Sue Gibbons at clearspeech@suegibbons.com or Herb Long at herblong7@gmail.com.



What Makes Life Worth Living in the Face of Death? – 10/29

Featuring Dr. Lucy Kalanithi
Sunday, October 29, 2017



The Congregational Care team is pleased to present Dr. Lucy Kalanithi as our special speaker for our *Journey through Grief* series. Her topic will be “What Makes Life Worth Living

in the Face of Death.” She will be with us on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Please watch for details of the time and place in Connections and future Focus newsletters. Here is a brief biography of Dr. Kalanithi.

Dr. Lucy Kalanithi, MD, FACP, is the widow of the late Dr. Paul Kalanithi, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air*, for which she wrote the epilogue. An internal medicine physician and faculty member at the Stanford School of Medicine in Palo Alto, CA, she completed her medical degree at Yale, where she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha national medical honor society, her residency at the University of California-San Francisco, and a postdoctoral fellowship training in healthcare delivery innovation at Stanford’s Clinical Excellence Research Center. At the cross-section of her career as a medical professional and her personal experience standing alongside her husband during his life, diagnosis, treatment, and death, Dr. Kalanithi has special interests in healthcare value, meaning in medicine, patient-centered care and, end-of-life care. She has appeared on PBS NewsHour, NPR Morning Edition, and Yahoo News with Katie Couric, and been interviewed for People, NPR, and The New York Times. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her daughter, Elizabeth Acadia.

Questions? Contact ashlee@LOPC.org

Companions on the Journey – 9/25

An invitation to notice God at work in our lives



Might you be wondering how the Holy Spirit is at work in you? Would you like to explore how God’s scripture might be speaking in your life -- emphatically or subtly?

Do you wish to deepen your relationship with God as you make decisions, love others, live your daily life, recognize that you are not alone? Might you be yearning for more insight? If so, consider a nine-month adventure with *Companions on the Journey*, an exploration of God’s word in a confidential environment.

In the monthly gatherings of this exceptional community, we listen to God’s word through scripture, listen for God’s movement in our lives, listen to each other’s reflections on their journeys, and reflect back to others on what we noticed as we listened.

When we bring our “wonderings” to voice in our small Companion groups, we experience more dimensions and gain more clarity in our spiritual life. When we listen prayerfully, we can fully hear each other, and they can fully hear us. When we observe each other’s ponderings, we can glimpse God at work in the other and in ourselves. When we reflect through the Holy Spirit, we increase self-awareness and God-awareness. The gentle embracing of silence and reflection offers powerful results, both in our spiritual lives and in their extension into the rest of our lives too.

Jesus said, “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.” We do make a commitment to show up each month. This is our yoke. And we do make a commitment to hold one another in prayer. What a light burden indeed!

In *Companions*, we create a welcoming space for one another by honoring the image of God in each person. We offer grace and mercy to each other as an acknowledgment of God’s grace to each of us.

Please consider joining us this fall for a 9-month adventure in deepening your journey with God. We welcome you. God welcomes you. Your spirit welcomes your growth. To see for yourself, we invite you to an introductory meeting on Monday, September 25 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., or on Thursday, September 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We look forward to seeing you. Questions? Contact ashlee@LOPC.org.

Youth Corner

Youth Ministry Start Fall Kickoff

Come join us for a weekly time of snacks, games, worship, Bible based message and small group discussions.

Youth on Wednesday (YOW; 5th - 8th Grade)

Sept 6th, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in CLC 201, with optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.

By The Way (BTW; high school)

Sept 17th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in CLC 201.



LOPC launched a new Summer program this year with Service Squad, a service-learning daycamp for 5th & 6th graders! We learned about the needs in our local county, then headed out to put what we learned into practice by serving in teams of 10! Our Service Squad did an incredible job getting out into the community and sharing God's love out loud with words and actions! We hope this experience will inspire youth and families to continue to meet the needs of those they encounter.

Awesome in Austin

Our middle school mission team traveled to Austin, Texas. By the end of the week, our happy campers had served a total of 768 hours. Not only that, but we had discovered God's presence at work all over the city of Austin. We will always count it a treasured memory that we were able to play a part in sharing God's love and compassion in the city.



High School Houseboats Retreat - 9/8 - 9/10

All incoming high school students are welcome to join us on the delta for a weekend of fun in the sun and worship/reflection.

Registration opens August 1st! Sign up at LOPC.org, space is limited so do not delay!



Hats Galore

A roomful of ladies in lovely spring hats! A birthday offering for mission projects! The best salad bar east of the Golden Gate Bridge! Plus, the extraordinary story of a woman whose life shows God's love for all! If you attended the annual Presbyterian Women's Potluck Salad Luncheon on May 24, you would have experienced all this.

Our speaker, the Reverend Glenda Hope, now retired from leading the San Francisco Network Ministries, inspired everyone with the story of her life of service to those living in the Tenderloin area of San Francisco. Our annual birthday offering amounted to \$1,100 and will go to the following mission programs: the Navajo Water Project, Smith Lake Navajo Reservation, New Mexico; the Family Justice Center, South Carolina; and the First Hand Aid Rural Clinic in Cuba.

The salad bowls were empty and their contents were enjoyed by all. And the hats are back on the shelf for another day.

A big thank you to Chairman Charlotte Britton for all her hard work. Congratulations to Cathy Gallinger who was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women.

All women are invited to visit one of our P W circles which are small groups that meet monthly for Bible study and prayer. Call Diane Steuber, (925) 283-3871, or Helen Dygert, (925) 283-6010, for more information.



Charlotte Britton, chairman, surrounded by guests.

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea



Please save the date for the 2017
Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea.

More details to follow. Questions? Contact Catherine
Gallinger at catherinegallinger@comcast.net.

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.

Parent-Daughter Workshops with Girls Leadership

Beginning October 2, 2017



Girls Leadership offers a series of courses for girls and their parents to build emotional intelligence. In the upcoming workshops, parent-daughter pairs will learn about identifying healthy relationships, finding their voices, and communicating more effectively. Girls also develop resilient responses to conflict, challenges, and mistakes. The program is interactive, fun, and enlightening, and it's also a great opportunity to gain insight and spend time with your daughter in a new and different way.

Register online at girlsleadership.org. Questions? Please email jaime@LOPC.org.

Volunteer Opportunity: Capernaum Young Life

Capernaum, a Young Life ministry partnering with LOPC, leads a weekly youth program for adolescents and young adults with special needs.

Capernaum meets at LOPC every Monday evening from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., beginning their Fall program on September 11 and ending at the end of May.

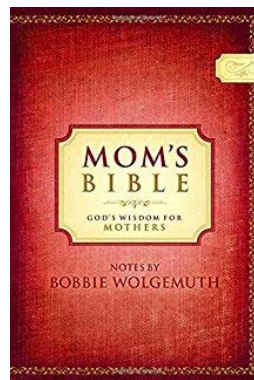
Would you be interested in volunteering to help with this exciting program as a teen or adult youth advisor? If so, please contact Jaime at jaime@LOPC.org

2017 LOPC Directory Update! ▼

▶ If you participated in the 2017 LOPC Directory project by having your photo taken, during the month of August you may pick up your copy of the directory in the Ministry Center office weekdays during normal business hours or on Sundays after both services ▶

Life Touch®

Moms Study



A group of moms with young children meet monthly, on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., with a Bible and book study and discussion led by Pastor Jaime Polson.

Beginning on September 6, a new study will begin. Past studies have included the books, "The Blessings of a Skinned Knee" by Wendy Mogel and "The Gifts of Imperfection" by Brené Brown.

All of our studies focus on incorporating faith into our daily lives, including how we parent. We invite all moms with young children to join us.

Childcare is provided by RSVP. Questions, or RSVP to dave@LOPC.org.



thursdayFellowship

Fellowship: the friendly and caring feeling of community that exists between people who join together and do something as a group!

thursdayFellowship is flourishing and looking to welcome new guests and volunteers for our growing program.

We meet every Thursday from September through June and provide our guests an opportunity to participate in exercise and creative activities followed by lunch and entertainment. As volunteers we listen and laugh, create and celebrate while we extend hospitality and love to our guests.

Come meet our volunteers and find out about thursdayFellowship on August 13th on the plaza! Our thursdayFellowship fall kick off is on Thursday, September 8, 2017.



Being a Friend

by Dara Youngdale, Foundation Trustee



Dara Youngdale

When our daughters were young, my husband and I created a Family Trust to provide for them. Writing it was one of the hardest things I have ever done emotionally, because we had to name those who would take care of them if we no longer could. Those of you who know me will not be surprised to hear that I cried each time I tried to complete that part of the document. What pulled

me through to the end was responding to the “exploding turkey scenario.” Suffice it to say, in the event of that scenario, we would need to leave our estate to a “friend.” After crying one more time, I actually laughed when I thought of my best friend, Catherine, moving into our house, enjoying the proceeds from our fledgling 401K plans, and wearing my Eileen Fisher clothing. (We are the same size.)

A lot has changed since then. Our beautiful daughters have grown up, graduated from college, are employed and do not need much looking after. And I, too, have grown in many ways. In 2007, I joined LOPC and have benefited from so much that LOPC has to offer. I have grown spiritually by worshipping together on Sundays, participating in spiritual formation classes, and being in a Small Group. I find joy both in “being and serving” in a faith community that supports one another and those beyond the hill, especially those organizations in our own Contra Costa County.

Last November, I became a Foundation Trustee and was more deeply exposed to the Foundation’s mission; how we actively support the LOPC community now – and how we will be able to support LOPC far into the future. I have seen the thoughtfulness that has been taken in the making of gifts that have been given, the great care in managing these gifts, and the discernment used in employing the proceeds from these gifts. Experiencing this, I am now a “Friend of the Foundation,” which means I have named the LOPC Foundation in our Family Trust. Have you experienced the goodness of Christ’s love at LOPC? Do you want LOPC to remain strong for future generations? If so, ask any of the Foundation trustees about how you can become a Friend of the LOPC Foundation: Dick James, president; Lynn Trowbridge, vice president; Phil Placier, treasurer; Kristi Haigh, Staci Johnston, Alan Kizor, Dara Youngdale.

PS – Our daughters will still be well-cared-for and Catherine will get my wardrobe.

Celebrating 15 Years of the Village - 9/25



To celebrate its 15th anniversary and the Village movement it inspired, Beacon Hill Village in Boston has invited Villages around the country to participate “virtually” in an event featuring Dr. Atul Gawande, MD, MPH, author of the seminal book *Being Mortal*. The conversation, entitled “Being Mortal’s Villages: The Value of Community and Choice as We Grow Older,” will feature a discussion on aging, living life with purpose, and how we can transform the possibilities for the later chapters of everyone’s lives.

Dr. Gawande is a renowned surgeon, public health researcher and writer, who will speak about the value of community and opportunities as we grow older. While Dr. Gawande’s book title alludes to death, the stories in it are about life. He describes people’s efforts to maintain autonomy as they age in the face of ingrained habits, cultural expectations and one-size-fits-all corporate offerings. He includes Beacon Hill Village and the Village model as an option for assisting older adults in their efforts, which has often meant providing services and extending community to people who want to remain in their own homes and enjoy the rich stew of activities, attributes, attitudes and ages that engage the community’s older adult population.

Choice and community are concepts honored throughout the Village movement. These concepts are behind the underlying principles that lead to the founding of Beacon Hill Village and subsequent 200+ Villages that impact the lives of older adults across the country. One of the great issues worldwide today is how to support and care for aging populations. By 2030, twenty percent (20%) of our nation’s population will be over 65, an estimated 83 million people. The Village concept and Dr. Gawande’s profound understanding of the importance of choice and community offer valuable insights and solutions for this challenging phenomenon.

WHEN: Monday, September 25, 2017; 2:00 p.m.
Doors open at 1:00 p.m.
WHERE: Fellowship Hall
Refreshments generously provided by the LOPC Foundation

RSVP Online
By phone: (925) 253-2300
By email: rsvp@LamorindaVillage.org





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AUGUST 2017

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FOCUS NEWSLETTER

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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.

Youth Sunday

JOURNEY of faith

Youth Sunday 8/27

Come Celebrate the Youth at LOPC!

Join us as participants from Children's and Youth Ministries share about the formative ministry of VB Camp, Service Squad, Middle School Mission and High School Mission as we all engage more deeply with our youth and children. The worship experience will be led primarily by children and youth. All families with children/youth who participated in these events are invited to Youth Sunday.

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family

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