

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

A vibrant photograph of a field of orange poppies and blue forget-me-nots. The poppies are in the foreground, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. The forget-me-nots are smaller and scattered throughout the field. The overall scene is bright and colorful, representing summer.

Summer at LOPC

JUNE/JULY 2018

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See more at LOPC.org



One Community in Christ

by Jaime Polson, Family and Executive Ministry Leadership



For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28

In the early period of Christianity, the followers of Jesus were asking questions and experiencing struggles as they were learning, often by trial and error, what it meant to be a follower of Christ. They asked and argued about what the Law meant in this new context with Christ as the Messiah, their Lord and Savior. And they struggled with what this new world of faith would look like in practice. They faced issues of division and separation, and they witnessed miracles and abundance because of their faith.

Paul's words in Galatians are a new call to followers: "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Paul's answer to a divided people is that we have all been made into one family in Christ Jesus, we all belong and we are all welcome. We are called to bring ourselves and our gifts to serve God on our journey as we seek to become more and more Christ-like in our love for others and the world.

How do we really become one in Christ? How do we, as a church who desires to follow Christ, help everyone feel they belong to Jesus? These are questions I think about each day as a person of faith and as a pastor. They are hard questions. I think answering them takes work and struggle, prayer and obedience, grace and forgiveness. Being one in Christ is about welcoming everyone as they are into this Christian community and acknowledging their unique gifts, perspectives, and experiences in life that work together to help us live out God's mission for the church: to love and serve one another, ever deepening our relationship with God. As I think about the many other ministries of the church, I invite you to think about the ministries in which you serve at LOPC and in the community. How do we really become one community in Christ so that the world may know and experience the love of Christ through us?

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

MOUNT HERMON 2018

ALL - CHURCH RETREAT

Located in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains, surrounded by stunning redwood forests and meandering creeks, it is the ideal retreat location. 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. You are invited to join us!

The Relevant Bible

How to Read the Bible in a Way that Matters - Many modern Christians believe that they have to make impossible choices when they read the Bible. We will focus on how to approach the Bible as both divine speech that calls for our prayerful listening through spiritual practices, and at the same time, the speech of ancient humans—often wise but always limited by mortal finitude—that calls for rigorous study of history, science, and culture, in order to understand the worlds of thought and language that are very different from our own.

OCTOBER 5 – 7



Our Speaker:

Zach Flanagin, Ph.D., is Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Saint Mary's College, where he teaches courses in the development of Christian thought and in biblical studies. His teaching has earned him recognition by the student body as Faculty Member of the Year. Prof. Flanagin received his doctorate in the History of Christianity from the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. In addition to his academic duties, he lectures frequently at churches on topics in the Bible and theology.

Adult Mission Trip

From April 28 to May 4, 23 volunteers from the LOPC community travelled to Lake County as part of the Adult Mission Trip to help rebuild homes destroyed by the Valley Fire in 2015. More than 1,300 homes were destroyed.

Led by Rich Lewis, LOPC's team worked with Habitat for Humanity Lake County and included experienced builders, many of whom volunteer on the Thursday Work Team at the church every week, and not-so-experienced builders who brought their joy and enthusiasm.

"It was five days of hard work, climbing on ladders, cleaning paint brushes, mixing and pouring a concrete slab," and so much more, said Sally Roberts.

To start each day, Carl Grant led the group with devotionals. "They were a 'go ahead' for Christ for our day," said Gail Parker-Marshall, who has been on many adult mission trips, the first of which was working in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

After their morning prayer, they set out to their work sites. Gail worked on a home where the team painted both the exterior and interior of the house and built a deck. She painted side by side with Cindy Galli, who will live in the house with her husband Mike and daughter Aralyn. "We became close friends with her and were just a little teary eyed as we gave our last hugs."

Terry Gleason's team framed the house that Cecilia Nelson and her two children will live in, wrapped it in Tyvek, and installed windows and electrical boxes. The family lost everything in the 2015 Valley Fire, except for two dolls 10 year-old Zayann grabbed when they ran. The team also gave the Nelsons two quilts that Ann Loar made for fire victims.

Lily and Chewy Lopez and their three children will move into the third home the LOPC team worked on. The crew helped rehab the mobile home which had been plagued with dry rot. The family told the team that they were relieved to be moving out of the smaller apartment they had been living in.

The project fostered a spirit of community between the LOPC team working to restore homes and the homeowners extending hospitality to our workers by taking chili and pulled pork lunches to them.

"We all enjoy the camaraderie," Gail said, "the love of doing what God has called us to do."





Special Needs Ministry present

Respite Night

Special Needs Ministry presents
Respite Night
Friday, September
6 p.m. – 9 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. Several professionals and volunteers 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.

RSVP by August 31 to Susan at susan@lopc.org
We welcome you to connect with us before
Respite Night.

Thursday Fellowship

After a wonderful year, Thursday Fellowship is coming to a close on June 14! We have enjoyed engaging entertainment and creative crafts throughout the year. In May we celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a mariachi band. The children from Seedlings joined us and added a special spark to the celebration. The community our volunteers and guests have created is filled with love and care. We would like to thank the many individuals and church groups at LOPC, and the several assisted-living facilities that have generously provided us with cookies and salads to help make our Thursdays special.

Thursday Fellowship will resume on September 6. Look for more information in the August FOCUS.



Summer Giving Opportunities

Summer Food Box June 3 – June 17



This Summer help Monument Crisis Center by filling a Summer Food Box for families in need in Contra Costa County. We know that hunger does NOT take summer vacation and the Center provides food year-round. Many of MCC's clients are at-risk families who experience added food insecurity in the summer when children aren't in school and don't have access to free or discounted lunch programs.

How can you help?

Pick up an empty box with instructions and food list from the LOPC Ministry Center **June 3 – June 17**.

Fill the box with requested items.

Deliver completed box to Monument Crisis Center
by July 22. Drop off times will be listed in the instructions.

Backpack Drive 2018 July 1 – July 22



Every August Monument Crisis Center distributes over 1000 backpacks to low income children K-12 throughout Contra Costa County. We invite you to participate in our annual tradition of supporting MCC with their backpack drive. LOPC will begin collecting filled backpacks **July 1 – 22**.

Please visit

<https://www.lopc.org/ministry/mission/service-opportunities> for more details and a list of what supplies are requested. Upon completion, drop your filled backpack at the LOPC office. Questions?
Contact robin@lopc.org.

Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



This month we feature another 100 year-old: LOPC member George Jedenoff. George was born into Russian nobility on July 5, 1917. When the Bolsheviks seized power in St. Petersburg on November 7, 1917, which precipitated the Russian revolution, the family decided to move to a safer location. This took them to Siberia and Manchuria, where

George's father was Assistant Superintendent of the Chinese-Eastern Railroad. The Jedenoff family was captured by the Bolsheviks on several occasions and rescued each time by the Loyalist (White) forces.

George recalled:

My mother especially was religious, a great believer, and she taught me from an early age. We really needed our faith to get us out of Russia. I believe God carried us to safety. We belonged to the Russian Orthodox Church, and they sponsored us to come to America, which was our hope. Our family—mother, father, and older brother—arrived in Seattle in 1923.

Adjustment to life in the United States was difficult. The strain caused my parents to divorce, and I moved with my mother to San Leandro. My mother remarried. Her new husband was also a Russian immigrant and found it difficult to find employment, as it was during the depths of the depression. At one time they lived in a basement apartment in San Francisco, where only part of the floor was paved and the rest dirt.

George was a model citizen. He served as an altar boy in the Orthodox Church. He joined the Boy Scouts, eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. He was valedictorian for his high school class. Following graduation, he worked during the summer at a magnesite mine in Gustine—pick and shovel detail—for 50 cents an hour.

Though he'd worked hard, the \$250 he'd earned didn't cover Stanford's tuition fee of \$345. But George worked many jobs during college and received a scholarship his sophomore year to get him through. He was a star rugby player and graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, then went on to receive his MBA. He met Barbara while at Stanford, and they were married in the Stanford Chapel on February 27, 1943.

During World War II, George served in Hawaii and Guam before beginning his professional career in the steel industry. In 1974, Kaiser Steel tapped him to become president of the company, and the Jedenoffs settled in Orinda. "We always found a church home wherever we were," George said, "and we soon joined LOPC."

George's life changed when cancer struck. It required several operations. "I was depressed, but visits from Andy Kurth and Clayton Cobb really helped me," he said. "They reminded me of God and His power. Prayer, support from Barbara, and working toward a goal of getting back to skiing set me on the road to recovery."

George is still skiing. "People laud me for skiing at age 100 but I say, God is the hero, not me."

His 100th birthday in 2017 was a special one. Even though it was July, his favorite ski resort in Utah, Alta, made sure there was a place for him to take a few runs. He also skied there this spring with his son, Nick.

Reflecting on his faith journey, George said, "My faith doesn't seem like a journey, rather just something instilled in me from my earliest recollection. Faith has helped keep me positive and hopeful. The Almighty knows what I should do and will show me the best possible way."



2018 Speaker Series

June 1

Dr. Karen Mussalo
Refugees and Asylum
Seekers: Historical
Context and
Contemporary Issues in
the Trump Era



1:00 p.m. Refreshments - All are invited

1:30 p.m. Speaker - Free

A very popular series of outstanding speakers on
topics of current interest

“There are more than 65 million refugees and displaced persons in the world today—higher than at any point since the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees began tracking this group,” said Dr. Musalo, director of the UC Hastings Center for Gender and Refugee Studies (CGRS). “The United States has only accepted 11 Syrian refugees thus far in this fiscal year.”

CGRS, internationally recognized for its expertise, is engaged in high-level policy advocacy, impact litigation, and research on the issue of refugee protection for women, children, and LGBTQ individuals. It also plays a key role in training attorneys and providing expert consultation in this complex area of law.

“As the pressures on asylum seekers have increased, requests for assistance have skyrocketed,” Dr. Musalo reported.

Dr. Musalo is a professor of law at UC Hastings. Recognized for her innovative work on refugee issues, she was the first attorney to partner with psychologists in her representation of traumatized asylum seekers, a practice that has since become standard. She edited the first handbook for practitioners on cross-cultural issues and the impact of culture on credibility in the asylum context.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brooklyn College, Dr. Musalo received her law degree from UC Berkeley School of Law, formerly known as Boalt Hall School of Law. She has received numerous advocacy awards for her pioneering legal work, including the 2010 California Lawyer of the Year Award, the 2009 Daily Journal’s

recognition as one of the Top 100 lawyers in California, and the American Lawyer’s 1997 recognition as one of the forty-five outstanding young public interest lawyers. In 2012 she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Lehman College. The same year she received the UC Hastings William Rutler Award for Excellence in Teaching.

She is co-author of *Refugee Law and Policy: An International and Comparative Approach* and has contributed to the evolving jurisprudence of asylum law through her scholarship, as well as her litigation of landmark cases. In 2014, she was named the Bank of America Foundation Chair in International Law in recognition of her cutting-edge engaged scholarship and litigation, which has positively impacted many refugees from around the world. Dr. Musalo is a frequent speaker at conferences and law schools in the United States and has lectured extensively in Europe and Latin America.

“Dr. Musalo comes with outstanding credentials to address the important issues of our day surrounding refugees and asylum seekers,” said Caroline Giers, co-chair of the FFF team. “Plan to attend with your questions and bring friends to become informed about this hot button topic.”

All are invited to Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments. This is a free event.

This concludes the FFF lecture series for the year, but the FFF team has already lined up some excellent speakers for the next season, which begins January 2019.

Senior Blessing 6/3

This faith milestone offers our Church family an opportunity to recognize, honor and bless our High School grads as they move on to the next phase of their lives. Please take a moment to wish our Seniors well! Students who attend Youth Alive on June 3 will be brought to the Sanctuary partway through the worship service to observe this milestone.

Youth Mission Team Commissioning 6/10:

Our three youth mission teams will be commissioned during worship services on June 10. Choose either service or attend both! This is a great opportunity for our Church community to show their support for our youth as we head out to share God's love to the world. Please note the schedule below:

- 9:00 a.m.: Commissioning of Service Squad, San Francisco and Houston Mission teams
- 10:15 a.m.: San Francisco Mission Team & Parent Meeting
- 11:00 a.m.: Commissioning of Service Squad, San Francisco and Houston Mission Teams
- 12:15 p.m.: Houston Mission Team & Parent Meeting

High School Hangout – 6/20, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

A fun time of fellowship and fun together for high school youth! Incoming freshmen welcome! Contact Keris@LOPC.org for details.

5th – 8th Grade Hangout – 7/18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

A fun time of fellowship and fun together for 5th – 8th graders! Contact Keris@lopc.org for details.

Summer with Youth Alive

Our summer programming season runs from June 17 – September 2. There is no YOW, but there will be Youth Alive offered on Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. service ONLY. We encourage 11:00 a.m. families to take the opportunity to worship together! The program year will resume September 9.

High School Mission Trip 7/7-7/14: Tools Needed

The high school mission trip to Houston this year will require a fair amount of tools as the team repairs homes that were damaged in Hurricane Harvey. Please see the below list and contact Keris if you have anything to let us use on the trip! Donations accepted through July 1.

- Safety goggles
- Work gloves
- N-95 disposable mask
- Tool pouch, bag, or bucket
- Paintbrushes: variety of sizes
- Paint roller extension handle
- Utility knife and extra blades
- Chalk line and chalk
- Chisel
- Caulking gun
- Circular saw
- Level
- Pry bar
- Square
- Extension cord
- Ground fault interrupter
- Cordless drill 18 volt or better
- Extra drill battery with a charger
- Star Bits Type T-25
- Drill bit kits (including small bits for drilling pilot holes and a 3/8



Summer at Seedlings

by Bridgette Thomas and Molly Maduck, Seedlings
Communications Board Members



Summer is just around the corner, and we can feel the excitement growing in our children. They are anticipating more relaxed days where they can play outside for hours, slurp up a snow cone, splash in the sprinkler, and simply

spend more time exploring and having fun with their siblings and friends.

Many of our children at Seedlings will be able to do all of these things and much more right here at LOPC, with our “Summer at Seedlings” program, which will begin on June 18. This unique program is part summer school, as the children learn through play, and part camp, as each day is a new adventure.

Summer at Seedlings will run for six weeks, and is led by our fantastic Summer Director, Kathy LaPlante. She has worked with our talented staff to create exciting themes and activities for each week of the program. This year, the weekly themes are inspired by unique terrains of the world: the arctic, forest, grasslands, jungle, desert, and the ocean. Nearly all of our Seedlings staff members will teach in the summer, providing lessons that correspond with the fun, camp-like feeling of the program.

Teachers will guide our children in science experiments with dry ice, introduce our students to the wonders of camping and star gazing, and for ocean week they will play with our kids on a *giant* inflatable water feature! We have exciting activities to practice both fine and gross motor skills from painting and weaving to skating and obstacle course racing. Many special guests will join us at Seedlings as well. During forest week, the kids will be visited by the “Fur, Scales & Tails Animal Show” with host, Tracy; and in Jungle week, we are excited to have both the “Insect Song Show” with Sandi and Stevie, and the “Giraffes Can’t Dance Puppet Show.” We will make snow cones, practice our scouting, play music, do yoga, go on scavenger hunts, and even experience a reptile petting zoo!

When Kathy was asked about what our kids can expect, she said, “All children should come ready to have fun, explore, see good friends, and meet new ones. We’ll get wet, we might get dirty, and we will definitely laugh a lot. It’s going to be a wonderful summer!”

During the summer, it is refreshing to look through the eyes of our children. Through them, we see how it’s the simple things: moments of exploring outside—splashing in the water, snacking on a snow cone, and laughing with our friends—that inspire joy and fond memories.



About Miss Kathy, Seedlings’ Summer Director

My name is Kathy and this is my 4th year as Director at Summer at Seedlings. I love the summers as I have a chance to play and discover fun with all of the children, across every age group, who attend the program. It’s so much fun to have the opportunity to plan some extra special events and themed projects for the kids that we don’t always get to do during the regular school year! I have been at Seedlings for nine years, and I have more than 15 years of experience working with children that includes teaching as well as directing. Working with children and families is the only thing I will ever do. I love it! I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development from Chico State University. In my spare time this summer, I will enjoy some hiking, camping, and swimming with my three favorite people: my husband, Eric, and my children, Sierah and Sutter.



Vacation Bible Camp June 11 - 15, 2018

At Vacation Bible Camp 2018: Shipwrecked, we anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms through songs, stories, games, experiments, and more. Camp is where kids experience the love of God, grow in the virtues of kindness, justice, and mercy, and learn to change the world around them by being the hands, feet, and heart of God.

- Who: Kids 4 years old (by Sept 1, 2018) to completed 4th Graders (June 2018)
- Dates: Monday, June 11th – Friday, June 15th,
 - Times: Monday – Thursday 1-4 PM and Friday 2-5 PM
- Cost: April 1 – May 1, \$60 per child; after May 1, \$75 per child

Register now at LOPC.org



Sunday, July 29, 2018

Join us for our annual Aloha Sunday worship with the Na 'Okina Hawaiian Band and Dancers.

Lunch tickets available on the Plaza
July 8, 15, and 22 or online at lopc.org.

Adult (ages 18+): \$15
Youth (ages 13-17): \$10
Child (ages 4-12): \$5
Under three years old – Free!

Tickets also available online at LOPC.org
Doors open for lunch at noon.
Bring family and friends, and share the Aloha Spirit!

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



Summer Worship
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

FAITH AT THE MOVIES VI

<p>July 1: Communion Sunday "I Can Only Imagine" (Ephesians 3:14-21) Jaime Polson</p>	<p>August 5: Communion Sunday "Paul, the Apostle" (2 Timothy 1:3-14) Peter Whitelock</p>
<p>July 8 "Patriot's Day" (Romans 12:9-21) Peter Whitelock</p>	<p>August 12 "Chariots of Fire" (Psalm 16) Peter Whitelock</p>
<p>July 15 "Network" (James 1:19-27) Peter Whitelock</p>	<p>August 19 "Black Panther" (1 John 3:17-24) Peter Whitelock</p>
<p>July 22 "The Same Kind of Different as Me" (1 John 15:21-24) Lauren Gully</p>	<p>August 26: Youth Sunday No movie. Worship will be dedicated to Youth Mission.</p>
<p>July 29: Aloha Sunday "The Hundred Foot Journey" (Acts 11:19-30) Gerald Chinen</p>	<p>September 2: Communion Sunday "Goodbye Christopher Robin" (Luke 15:21-24) Lauren Gully</p>

Welcome Michael Morales! LOPC's New Worship and Music Assistant

I am pleased to be joining the excellent group of musicians and wonderful worship team at LOPC as the new Worship and Music Assistant. My musical career has oscillated between academia and worship, and I have been blessed that God has always given me opportunities to make music for the church. Before joining the team at LOPC, I taught music classes and prepared music for student body masses for two Catholic schools. In between college and graduate studies, I served as Music Minister with Eden United Church of Christ. And I trace my spiritual and professional musical roots all the way back to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore. Following an ecumenical worship music career has taught me to believe firmly that we are one church, and one community. We can all break bread together, and we can all make music together.

Music has played a strong role in my family; my father is a jazz and rock pianist (who some may have seen as a member of the Pleasanton based oldies band, Tommy and the 4-Speeds), my brother was drum major at Livermore High, as well as a member of the sports band at St. Mary's College, and we don't consider it a family gathering until we have debated the merits of The White Album over Abbey Road (or vice versa). I am the first in my family to make music a vocation, having ridden the path from musical theater to a degree in drama, and then on to a post-baccalaureate in voice and a Master's in Conducting. During my senior recital, I quipped that my career in drama had been marked by people saying 'no' and self-interest, while my career in music has instead seen people saying 'yes' and including everyone who wants to sing.

My most recent degree was completed at Eastern Illinois University. While I am forever grateful to the education received there—and forever indebted to the wife who said "yes" knowing it meant moving to the Midwest for two years—we were ecstatic to come back to the Bay Area last fall. My wife Katie is a professional baker, and most free days we have are spent trying new recipes, exploring new restaurants, and diving into our new love of home-brewing. Our brewery name, a play on our love of Tolkien, is Murkwood brewing. And we are always looking for the next unexpected adventure.



Staff Transitions: Update

As you may know, **Chuck Fry**, our beloved Church Administrator, will be retiring in October. The Personnel Team and Session have decided to disperse Chuck's duties to those already on staff, giving them the opportunity to step into and grow many of their own gifts and skills.

Jaime Polson has been promoted to Family and Executive Ministry Leadership. In addition to the family ministry she had already been doing, Jaime will also work closely with ministry planning, budgeting, and executive leadership.

Elizabeth Ball has been promoted to Administrative Manager and will take on human resources duties, in addition to continuing supporting Peter, Session, Stewardship, and CNC.

Dave Engelbrektson has been promoted to Campus Maintenance and Activities Manager. He will focus all of his time on overseeing facilities, campus maintenance, scheduling, and activities.

Chuck will continue on staff working on special projects and providing support during this transition.

Reflections on Death and Taxes

by Jerry Ducey, Foundation Trustee



“Giving from the heart” is one of the themes of the LOPC Foundation. If, as the trustees hope, you plan to give to the Foundation, it is our job to help make your giving more effective.

The new income tax law took effect January 1, 2018, and it will affect charitable gifts.

Among the major changes, the standard deduction increased to \$24,000 from \$12,700 for married couples filing jointly. Also, numerous itemized deductions were eliminated (though the charitable deduction remains unchanged). We live in a state with relatively high income and property taxes and many residents have a home mortgage. These are substantial items that could still force, or permit, a person to itemize tax return deductions, despite the new law’s higher standard deduction.

Here are some tax strategies to make lifetime gifts to the Foundation and increase tax benefits:

Give appreciated property, such as stocks. Even if you don’t itemize, you will be able to avoid capital-gains taxes.

Make gifts using a charitable IRA rollover. If you are age 70.5, you can make a direct transfer from a Roth IRA or a Traditional IRA of up to \$100,000. Such a transfer is not taxable and counts towards satisfying the required minimum distribution.

Increase the amount given to charities. If your total non-charitable deductions are close to equaling the new \$24,000 standard deduction, a larger charitable gift may lift your total deductions beyond that amount so that it would make sense to itemize.

Name the LOPC Foundation a beneficiary of the amount remaining in your retirement plan. Your IRA, 401(k), or other qualified plan may be subject to income tax when distributed to your heirs. This is an extremely tax-efficient way to make a gift that costs your heirs less than giving other kinds of assets.

As always, contact your accountant or tax adviser to determine exactly how the new tax law affects you. One of the Foundation’s goals is to allow you to protect your legacy, and a legacy gift is a joyful way to carry your values forward. A bequest to the Foundation assures that you continue to have complete control of your assets during your lifetime as well as giving you the satisfaction of knowing that ultimately they will reflect your faith and values.

For more information please contact me or any of the other LOPC Foundation Trustees: Dick James, president, Kristi Haigh, vice president, Phil Placier, treasurer, Dara Youngdale, secretary, Staci Johnston, Jim Beckemeyer, Jen Crocker, Mike Ross

Session Highlights – April 2018

by Jody Black, Clerk of Session

Session reviewed the ministry team goal planning process for July 2018 – June 2019. This year we are working toward aligning the goals of our teams with the four priorities of LOPC. We are asking every team to consider these priorities during this time of discernment in planning for the upcoming year. The four priorities, drawn from the LOPC Mission Statement, are:

- Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in our community, and training up committed Christ followers in our contemporary world.
- Expanding or developing ministry that leads people to active service in the world in service of others.
- Expanding or developing ministry in one or multiple ministry contexts.
- Broadening our ministry to draw in and serve younger people, and enhancing our community through representing the growing diversity of our area.
- Our hope is to draw synergies and bring focus to our activities across ministries and teams.

Session also reinstated a personnel policy for pastoral counseling. Our pastors are one of our most valuable resources and we want to provide all the support and care that the congregation can provide for their well-being. In response to this need, our pastors will now have an opportunity to seek counseling for a brief period of time should a need arise.

Scott & Laura Andron



The Androns have lived in Orinda for a year and Scott works in asset management while Laura works in finance. Both enjoy spending time swimming, running, Cal Bears football, and all outdoor sports. They heard about LOPC from family and are excited to join the community!

Brandon Drew & Blaire Morse



The Morse Drew Family moved from San Francisco this past November to Orinda. They've enjoyed get to know the community and while still spending much time in Tahoe where they enjoy skiing in the winter or relaxing in the summer. The Morse children are participating on the Meadow Swim Team and mom and dad continue swimming on the Oakwood Masters. Blaire's grandmother, Hilda McCorduck, was a member of LOPC and participated in the choir for years. Blaire attended LOPC when she was young. They are looking for a loving church community to raise their children in and have them be baptized.

Karen Gunn



Karen and her husband, Don, have lived in Orinda for 25 years and have 3 grown children. She works at a local consignment store and likes to sew and garden. She mentioned that she has always loved the warm, friendly feeling she receives when attending LOPC

services in the past. For the past 8 months she has been attending regularly and has been nudged by the Holy Spirit to reaffirm her faith by stepping out of her comfort zone to attend the Disciple Bible Study. By reading the Word, she has gained a greater peace within herself and a greater understanding and relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Chris Kelley



Chris, his wife Liane, and their two boys (Seth & Jack) moved back to the Bay Area from Sacramento in 2014 where they had lived for 10 years prior. They love being outdoors: hiking, biking, backpacking, and river trips. Recognizing that their boys are getting close to full-grown, Chris' favorite activity is any place and time he can hang out with them. What

attracted Chris to LOPC was the vibrant community that is actively directed outward, a strong youth program, and the wonderful staff.

Devon Knight



Devon Knight is married to John Knight (who is from Australia!) and is the full-time mom of their daughter, Amelia Rose. Devon's family has a long history with LOPC. Originally, her grandparents, Rose & Norman Hawkins Jr. moved to Lafayette in the 1940s and Devon's mother, Norma Flaskerud, joined the church in the 1960s and was married here.

Devon was baptized at LOPC and attended vacation bible school. She is a UCSB alumni and Sierra Nevada College Alumni for grad school where she received her teaching credentials and training in special education. Since the 1990's, she has been a swim instructor and currently coaches at WCSC. She also runs her own boutique selling clothing and jewelry from her home. Her passion is travel, community service, cooking, fitness/health, and family.

Jana Sonnikson



a few years back. She was raised Presbyterian and has enjoyed being at LOPC.

Jana has lived in Lafayette since 2004 with her husband and they have two granddaughters who are 4-years-old and almost 1-year-old. Jana is a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and enjoys walking her 2 dachshunds in her spare time. She says she has always noticed the steeple of LOPC from the freeway and was invited by a friend to attend

Jack & Jeannine Strunk



Jack is retired and currently has fun as a substitute middle school and high school teacher. Jeannine is a recently retired RN who worked in several neonatal ICUs with premature and critically ill newborns. She later transitioned to conference planning for continuing education for RNs and MDs. The Strunks enjoy traveling and being outdoors for hiking, repelling, ziplining and other fun activities. They have a new 3-month-old grandson who lives in Denver. They had been visiting churches over the past year and found LOPC to be a very welcoming, warm, open congregation. They like the blended style of worship and especially appreciate the diversity of backgrounds in the ministers. Something that attracted them to LOPC was the church's dedication to the special needs population.

Mark Trilevsky



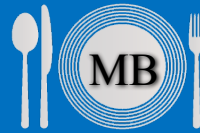
Mark is from Los Angeles and has lived in the Bay Area for 28 years! What attracted him to LOPC was the welcoming congregation and the outreach opportunities.

Diane Vollering



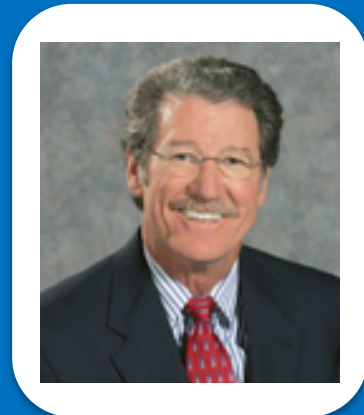
Diane grew up in Florida and has lived all over the East Coast and then jumped across the country 6 years ago from NYC to Los Angeles. While living in L.A., she met her husband who lived in the Bay Area and they dated long distance for a while until she moved to Berkeley 4 years ago.

Shortly after her move, they married and now have a twin daughter and son who are almost 1-year-old. Interestingly, Diane is a twin herself! She is a licensed architect and works on residential projects all over the Bay Area, and currently is working on a hotel in Calistoga. What attracted Diane to LOPC was Peter Whitelock's sermons, the mix of classical/modern music in worship, the breadth of programs, and the beautiful campus.



Men's Breakfast

Jim Barnett
TV Analyst for the
Golden State Warriors
"Warriors Basketball"



May 30 at 7:00 a.m.*

**\$5 donation at the door for
breakfast
RSVP to janet@LOPC.org or x223**

***Date subject to change**

Event Coordinator Needed!

Do you love organizing events? Is planning your forte? Presbyterian Women needs a person to plan our Christmas Tea and our Spring Potluck Salad luncheon. Please contact Gail Parker-Marshall at gparkermarshall@yahoo.com if you are excited about this busy but fun volunteer position.



IMPORTANT:
Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
Before 6/1/18
Thank you!

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PASTORAL STAFF

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Brett Strader, Director
Stewart Sarch, Organist

TREASURER

Char Casella

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chris Baldwin, Community Engagement
Keris Dahlkamp & Allison Kunz, Youth
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool
Ryan Timpte, Children

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Shaul, Digital & Print Admin
Chuck Fry / Dick James / Paul Cohune

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

Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

July 1 for the August issue.
Email items to communications@LOPC.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Every Monday by 5:00 p.m. for the following Sunday issue.
Email communications@LOPC.org.

June Sermon Series

Who, Me?

How God Develops Leaders

May 27: **Answering the Call**

June 3: **Sharing the Load**

June 10: **Deciding Whom to Trust**

June 17: **Letting Go of the Past**

June 24: **Staying True**

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family

Connect with us online!



Tag us in
your posts
using
#LOPC

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

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