

# FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Alive!  
In Christ... in the World



SUMMER  
at LOPC

## June/July 2019

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### Summertime

By Peter Whitelock, Head of Staff



My dad used to love singing a song every year around this time from Porgy & Bess – “Summertime, and the livin’ is easy...” As I recall, that was the only line he knew, but he always delivered it with genuine gusto. Of course the irony was that in our family, with six kids and all the accompanying activities and travel plans, summertime was anything but easy!

It’s the same for your staff and leadership here at LOPC, because summer is that season for us to plan and prioritize activities for the coming year...and that takes real thought and discernment. This year, the Session has established five priorities for all of us to work towards:

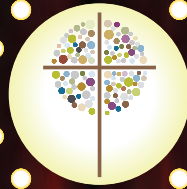
- Diversity – How can we break down barriers to become a more intentionally inclusive community?
- Worship – How can we nurture and deepen Christian faith through weekly worship as a community of faith?
- Discipleship – How can we actually build up Christ followers for the world we live in?
- Mission – How can we engage more people in service through direct involvement as well as financial giving?
- Onsite, Offsite, and Online – How can we engage people here on campus, out in our community, and using digital media to help them grow and thrive?

To support each of these priorities we are developing programs, ministries, and initiatives for the members and friends of our community. Know that your gifts of time, talent, and treasure are what make it possible for us to continue the good that we are already doing, while at the same time developing better ways of being the church!



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





9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

# FAITH AT THE MOVIES

**JULY 7**

*RBG*

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

**JULY 21**

*A Beautiful Mind*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

**AUGUST 4**

*Green Book*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

**AUGUST 18**

*If Beale Street Could Talk*

AMOS 5:24

7TH ANNUAL  
**SUMMER  
SERMON  
SERIES**

**JULY 14**

*Beautiful Boy*

ISAIAH 43: 1-3

ALOHA OHANA SUNDAY

**JULY 28**

*Crazy Rich Asians*

JAMES 2:1-10

**AUGUST 11**

*Up in the Air*

EPHESIANS 4:25-5:1

**SEPTEMBER 1**

*Won't You Be My Neighbor*

MATTHEW 25:31-46

# mission **love** does

love protects, love hopes, love never fails

## LOPC Responds to Homelessness

### Trinity Center

The recent **love does** project, led by Jim Olufson, consisted of an appeal to the congregation for clothing and food donations as well as the opportunity to serve on-site at the Trinity Center in Walnut Creek. The collection yielded over 50 bags of clothing and 20 grocery bags of food. Volunteers, ranging from middle schoolers up to seniors transported all the donations to the center and were welcomed by Carol Lombard, director of Trinity Center.

Carol led a tour of the facility. The Center, she explained, provides outreach and respite for people experiencing homelessness. It is a safe place where those with similar challenges can share a meal, get a shower, and launder their clothes. In addition, clients are guided through the many benefits for which they are eligible, such as Medicaid, TANF, SSI/SSDI, Covered CA Health Care, and Cal Fresh (Food Stamps). Carol said the center serves the homeless, but a large majority of those served are the “working poor,” people who have minimum-wage jobs but don’t earn enough to afford a home, food and clothing and must rely on the center’s supplemental help.

After gaining a better understanding of the Center’s work, the volunteers helped sorting donated clothing by gender and size, and reorganizing the clothing closet as well as the food pantry. The group appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the need that exists. Says Carol: “There is a big need, though many don’t see it, living in such an affluent community.”

If you are interested in learning more, go to [trinitycenterwc.org](http://trinitycenterwc.org).

### Operation Dignity

A group of 14 people signed up to participate in a **love does** service day at a Tuff Shed community in Oakland run by Operation Dignity. Currently, the Tuff Shed community contains room for 40 residents with all units occupied.



LOPC participants started the day at the church assembling 50 sack lunches and toiletry kits to hand out to the residents. In addition, each resident received a polar fleece blanket to call their own. The LOPC group, led by Lois Boyd, was greeted by Katie Derrig, Community Development Coordinator of Operation Dignity. Katie works to meet the immediate and long-term needs of homeless and at-risk veterans by providing transitional and permanent housing as well support services. One resident spoke to the group about how, although he has a job, he does not get paid anywhere near enough to make a rent payment. As a result, he was living on the streets. Today, he is living in the Tuff Shed community, working daily, and committed to living a sober life.

To learn more, go to [operationdignity.org](http://operationdignity.org)



## Meet Primera Pres - Again!

By Don & Mary Kay Atherton



In mid-1990, the Presbytery determined that a church was needed in the Fruitvale-International Boulevard district of Oakland, specifically to serve the Hispanic community, and with that desire, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana was planted.

Primera Pres, as it's called it for short, is located on High Street at Foothill Blvd. Presbyterian Pastor Pablo Morataya was called to lead this congregation. Irma Hernandez serves as resource and facilities director.

LOPC felt called to assist Primera Pres whenever they needed help. As a result, over the years, LOPC has assisted in food, clothing and blanket drives, has painted all the class and meeting rooms, and has installed new carpet and furniture in the toddler room. In addition, LOPC has donated hundreds of diapers, redone the landscaping, and provided file cabinets, desks, and modern lighting to update the environment. Recently, LOPC has provided 50-pound bags of beans and rice to be distributed to those short of food.

Regardless of denomination, the Hispanic churches have been at the center of the immigration issue. If you asked Primera Pres about their philosophy, they would probably sum it up with Hebrews 13:2, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitably to angels without knowing it." When a stranger appears at their door they are not sent away. Instead they provide a cup of coffee, water, or a conversation to determine what is needed. If it is late, the person will be taken to a motel for a safe night of rest and money for a meal. Next, a Primera member or friend will meet and help the person get acclimated, take them home, and provide a stable (if not crowded) safe place to sleep. Primera will send dried beans and rice to the host family to supplement their stretched budget. Depending on their entry point, when possible, a member of Primera will accompany them to their court hearings and guide them with compliance issues.

Each time we meet with Primera Pres we ask, "what do

you need? How can we help?" Each year, the needs are varied. A few years ago, we were asked if we could set up an activity for women. Nancy Henderson, an LOPC member, responded by conducting sewing classes twice a month. So far we have seven sewing machines, many tangled bobbins, piles of broken needles, and 10-12 women who are trained to operate the "Maquina!" For an event last year, we sold dresses, infinity scarves, and accent pillows, all made on the machinas. The "pop-up" boutique allowed the women to sell, and the proceeds went to the sewing classes. Nancy led a workshop to decorate and fill Easter baskets. At a feverish pace, 75 baskets were finished in time for the Easter egg hunt!

For the past five years, LOPC's Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study has sponsored a cosmetic "pop-up" for the Primera Pres women. Each year, hundreds of new lipsticks, mascaras, eyeliner, and nail polish are delivered in time for Mother's Day. This allows the ladies to select their own color pallets.

Since 2014, our friendship with Primera Pres has been one of lots of hugs, smiles, and miscommunication (since most of the volunteers do not speak Spanish). Yet, somehow, with spilled paints, boards cut too short, ladders that do not work, gardening repairs that get rained out, furniture that gets stuck in the hall, and blown fuses, the volunteers get it done!

We have learned that measurable outcomes are hard to quantify when you are a volunteer! ESL (English-as-a-second-language) teachers are always needed. No experience needed.

When asked what is Primera Pres, we respond saying it is a young, vibrant, welcoming community of faith. The members and friends would describe themselves and their experiences in a rich variety of ways. And they recognize that all are brothers and sisters in Christ.

**If you have time to volunteer or would like to know more about Primera Pres, LOPC members Don and Mary Kay Atherton would love to talk to you! Email [athertonco@comcast.net](mailto:athertonco@comcast.net) or call 510-410-8419.**



# mission

## The Multi-Faith Action Coalition Moves Forward

The Multi-faith Action Coalition is among many community organizations LOPC supports. MFAC started five years ago with over 50 congregations across all faiths. Their goal was simple: eliminate poverty in Contra Costa County.



*We are Advocates and Communities  
Taking Initiative for Our Neighbors*

Achieving this ambitious goal began simply with meetings to educate, by sharing the disturbing statistics of poverty in Contra Costa County: 6.9% of county families live below the federal poverty level of \$25,750 for a family of four; 4,000 individuals are homeless on any given night; 55% of eligible families in the county are enrolled in SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), which means the remaining 45% are blocked in some way from enrolling.

Currently, resources exist for those in need that provide clothing, food, and shelter. But MFAC sought to address the causes of poverty, hoping to help prevent it. To do so, MFAC created task forces that studied systems, policies, and structures of components essential for basic living: housing, food security, jobs, health, and education. Living in poverty means you are unable to attain these basic needs.

With "ACTION" in its name, MFAC began working to overcome obstacles, becoming an advocate for solutions, speaking at public meetings, supporting bills

and new programs, and co-sponsoring events. Perhaps you participated in the Poverty Simulation event at LOPC a couple years ago to show what poverty feels like. Even when services are available, it can be tough to get them.

Or maybe you were among the more than 2,000 petitioners who pushed the governor to raise the minimum wage to a living-wage standard. More recently, the County Board of Supervisors

created Contra Costa Cares, a program to provide insurance for uninsured county residents. MFAC voices also were heard at many forums, helping pass affordable-housing propositions in 2018.

As MFAC better understood the issues underlying poverty, it recognized how racial injustice also contributes to poverty. So it formed a Racial Justice group to help block the enactment of unjust laws and policies that deprive the poor and the oppressed of their rights.

When MFAC set a goal of eliminating poverty it knew it was an ambitious one. But in five short years the organization has grown from merely a good idea into a dynamic, responsive, faith-based coalition that adds value and makes its voice heard.

**To learn more about MFAC, or how to get involved, please contact Robin Freeberg at LOPC or go to its website, [multifaithactioncoalition.org](http://multifaithactioncoalition.org).**





# Summertime Mission Opportunities!

## Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

Interested in helping to run a summer day camp at one of LOPC's mission partners, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, for one week? CCIH is currently putting together summer programs for kids (toddler through middle school), and they need your help. Many of these kids from CCIH are formerly homeless or very low-income. In the past, volunteers (teens and adults) have organized small groups to host different "camps." These activities take place at our housing sites in Pittsburg and Concord for a couple hours per day for 3-5 days during the week. Some examples have been:



hosting a day dance-camp; art camp; putting on a science camp; hosting a music camp; theater/improv; Tai Chi camp. Feel free to call and discuss ideas, sponsorship, or just offer general help to an already formed camp week. All camps are supervised by on-site CCIH staff.

Email Gloria Bertolozzi, Volunteer Outreach Manager, at [gloria@ccinterfaithhousing.org](mailto:gloria@ccinterfaithhousing.org) for more information.

## Summer Backpack Drive

Every August, Monument Crisis Center (MCC) distributes over 1,000 backpacks to low-income children throughout Contra Costa County. We invite you to participate in our annual tradition of supporting MCC with their backpack drive from June 16 through July 14. The backpack supply list can be found at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) under "The Latest." Backpacks can be returned to the office until July 14.

Contact [robin@lopc.org](mailto:robin@lopc.org) for more information.



## Summer Food Box Drive 2019

Monument Crisis Center will be collecting Summer Food Boxes once again this year. This will offer clients an additional food box to bridge the gap, much like the holiday food-box program LOPC participates in during Christmas. This program is designed to bring attention to the issue of food insecurity and help encourage donations during the summer when food avenues are scarcer. Pick up a box at the LOPC office beginning May 12, and purchase the desired items. Please see the flier for important drop-off information by clicking on "The Latest" on the [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) homepage.

**Completed boxes should be taken directly to the Monument Crisis Center (1900 Market Street, Concord) during June and July.**

## MCC Shopping List [Suggested number of items]

*Please adhere to list and no glass, candy, toys or perishable items. All items should be placed in a Small Moving Box (16x12x12).*

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| [1] Box Cereal        | [4] Canned Fruits      |
| [2] Spaghetti         | [2] lbs Bagged Beans   |
| [2] Other Pasta Items | [2] lbs Bagged Rice    |
| [2] Peanut Butter     | [3] Mac n Cheese       |
| [3] Dry Soups         | [2] lbs Bagged Oatmeal |
| [3] Tuna              | [3] Beef Ravioli       |
| [1] Canned Beans      | [4] Tomato Sauce       |
| [3] Soups             | [3] Canned Veggies     |

Contact Robin at [robin@lopc.org](mailto:robin@lopc.org) for more information.

# community

First Friday Forum: June 7, 1:30 p.m.

## The Supreme Court & Politics

Refreshments, Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. • Speaker, Sanctuary at 1:30 p.m.

The Supreme Court and Politics will be the subject of the First Friday Forum (FFF) presented by St. Mary's College Professor, Stephen Woolpert, on June 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Prof. Woolpert specializes in the U.S. Constitution, civil rights, the Supreme Court, and California politics. About his lecture he says, "It [Supreme Court] is inspired by a famous quote from the 1830's by Alexis de Tocqueville: 'Scarcely any political question arises in the United States that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question.' The controversy over the recent appointment of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Court underscores its political importance. I hope to explore, with the audience, the nature of the Court's role in our system of government."

Holding a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University, Prof. Woolpert was dean of liberal arts at St. Mary's College from 2005 to 2015. He has served as an expert source on issues surrounding civil rights, the Supreme Court, and California politics, and has written op-ed pieces on a variety of topics.



Stephen Woolpert

Asked about his interest in these subjects, he says, "I grew up in our nation's capital where my father worked in the surgeon general's office, so my involvement in politics has deep roots. As a doctoral student at Stanford in the early 1970's I began studying our criminal justice system, largely in response to a series of prison riots that swept the country. This led to studying the U.S. Constitution and the Supreme Court."

Further afield, he also has done research in the field of environmental politics and law, covering issues such as pollution and waste, climate change, public lands, and biodiversity and endangered species.

"I believe it will be most enlightening to hear about the correlation between the Supreme Court and politics from Prof. Woolpert," says Nancy Holtzapple, FFF chair. "To learn more about the workings of our nation's highest court, join me on June 7." Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.

"This will be the last of our 2019 series," she says, "but the 2020 season, which runs from January through June, is already scheduled. We hope to see you then."



We are offering two summer choir sessions this June/July and July/August.

**Sign up at worship @lopc.org for one or both sessions.**

*NOTE: Attendance is required at rehearsal and both Sundays for each session.*

### Session I - Led by Michael Morales

Rehearsal: Wednesday, June 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 30 between services.

Worship: Sundays, June 30 & July 7, at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

### Session II - Led by Brett Strader

Rehearsal: Wednesday, July 31, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 4 between services.

Worship: Sundays, August 4 & 11, at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.



## thursdayFellowship

*A program of Senior Care Ministries.*

Every Thursday  
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

May was a month of celebration! It started off with a Cinco de Mayo party complete with Mariachi Band. It was a true fiesta from the food to the music to the colorful tables.

Next, we had a magician who delighted the Seniors and the Seedlings children alike. It was hard to tell who had more fun.

May birthdays were celebrated, and Mike Kistner, who has performed for us for 12 years, entertained us with his singing and guitar.

We hosted coffee on the plaza and passed out special treats after both services on May 19. All of this led up to our grand 40th anniversary party on May 23. We had a full house for the party as we honored past coordinators and dedicated volunteers who have contributed to the longevity and success of our program. We dearly missed Harry Jayasingha, our "Senior Center" coordinator for 15 years, who passed recently. He and his team worked so diligently to make the program financially secure. Thursday Fellowship has truly blessed and been a blessing to all who have participated over the last 40 years!

Before our summer hiatus, we will meet June 6 and 13. We will resume in September; look for the date in the August issue of *Focus*.

**Come and join us for our last two meetings!**

**June 6** - Gillian Roebuck and Jim Pearson entertain us with a little musical history and some of our favorite songs.

**June 13** - Hawaiian Celebration.

Questions? Contact Coordinators:  
Julie Peterson - [julie@lopc.org](mailto:julie@lopc.org)  
Clarita Wooldridge - [clarita@lopc.org](mailto:clarita@lopc.org)  
Both can be reached at 925-283-8722 x281

## Respite Night

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 by age, with age-appropriate movies. Sensory and quiet rooms are provided. Several professionals who work with children and youth with special needs will be onsite the entire evening. We will provide a staffing ratio to match your child's needs.

**Friday, August 23**  
**6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**



Please register by Monday August 12  
to Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).  
Space is limited. We welcome you to connect  
with us before the Respite Night.

**Presented by Special Needs Ministry**

## community

### Marion Gard Celebrates 100 Years!

Long-time LOPC member, Marion Gard, has turned 100. Congratulations and Happy Birthday wishes to her!

Marion remembers the smell of popcorn in the Lafayette Park Theater when the congregation met there on Sunday mornings. Then came the move to the top of the hill where worship services were first held in Fellowship Hall. LOPC's first pastor, Carl Thomas, drew her to the church, and Ruth Mitchell's Bible class was an important part of her life then.



Living in Lafayette, Marion and her husband, Brant, raised two sons. A devastating fall into an abandoned mine shaft left one son paralyzed, and Marion became a devoted caregiver. Marion has served on various committees, was especially fond of Presbyterian Women events, and was a deacon. She played tennis and then golf for many years. She also worked in real estate well into her 70s. Now she calls the Waterford in Rossmoor her home. Recently a fall necessitated a move to an assisted-living facility, at least for the present.

Marion says LOPC has enriched her life tremendously, and she knows she can turn to the church any time she has a need. As to living to be 100 her advice is, "Keep moving," and she continues doing that every day!

*On the occasion of a 100th birthday, if See's Candy is alerted, they send the Centenarian a 3 pound box of chocolates!*



### First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame All-Church Retreat



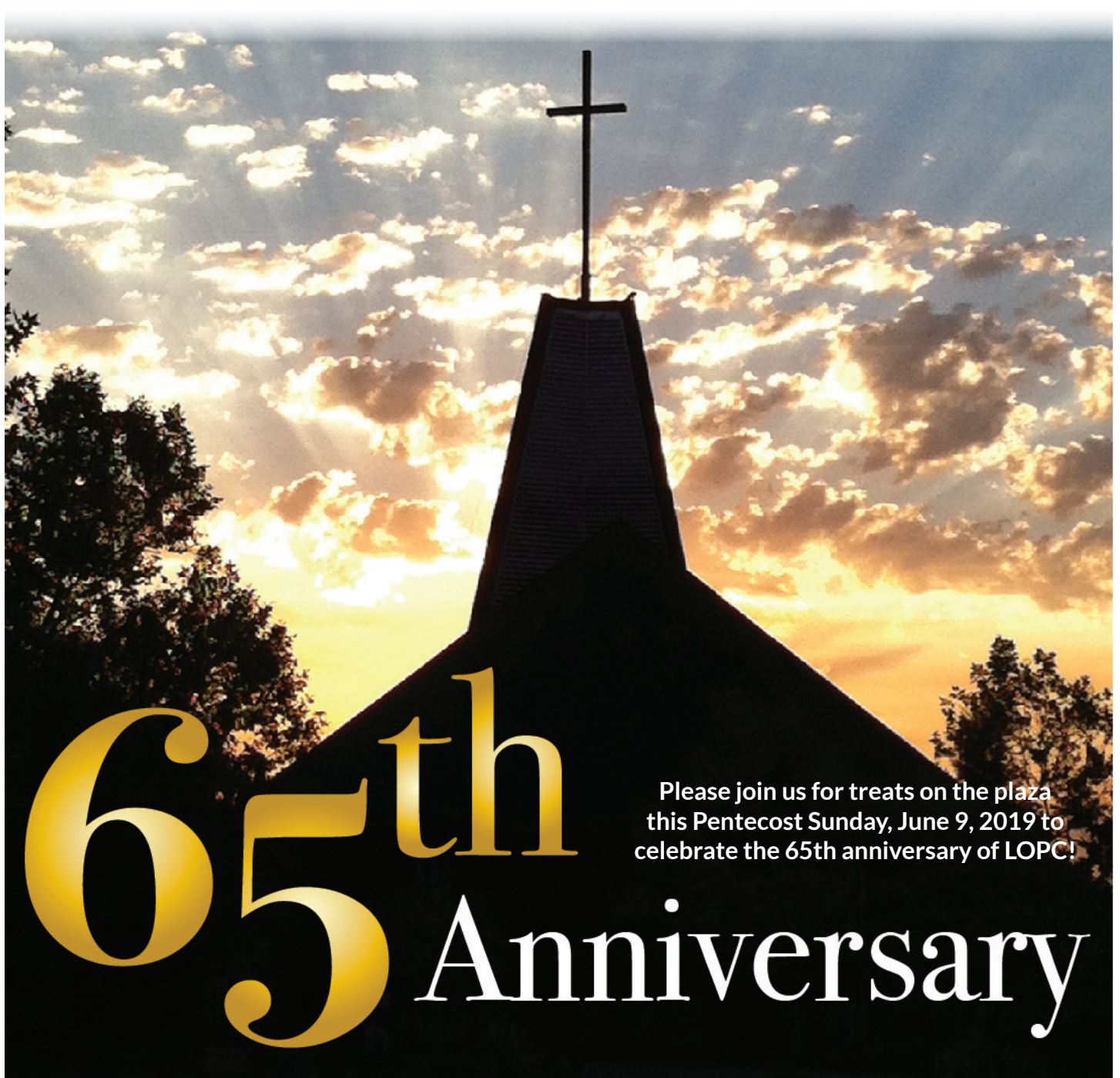
LOPC members are invited to attend the All-Church Retreat led by First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame at Mount Hermon on October 18-20, 2019. One of our LOPC pastors will be in attendance as a part of this retreat. The speaker is the Reverend Donald Baird.

Registration opens in August – more information about the registration process and speaker topic will follow. If you are interested in attending this retreat, please email [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org). We would like to track how many people are planning to attend this retreat in our off-year.

Accommodation pricing is per person and determined by the room category that you select:

- Deluxe: \$350/adult, \$150/child
- Standard: \$300/adult, \$150/child
- Economy: \$250/adult, \$150/child





# 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Please join us for treats on the plaza  
this Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019 to  
celebrate the 65th anniversary of LOPC!

On June 6, 1954 the 133 founding members signed the charter making their group an official Presbyterian church. Since then, LOPC has grown to what it is today – a church that is truly Alive! In Christ...in the World!



# LOPC MID-YEAR *Check-In*

## *Did You Know?*

You can pledge at any time of the year!

Visit: [lopc.org/give-back](http://lopc.org/give-back)

## *Why Pledge?*

As we develop programming at LOPC it is helpful to know the budget we have to work with. *Your pledging helps us plan effective ministry* and it helps you prioritize your giving as part of your spiritual growth.

Many thanks to the 517 households that together have pledged \$2,229,840 for 2019! We also want to thank the 203 households who are not pledging but regularly give who have already contributed \$116,000 so far in 2019!

Thanks to this wonderful giving we are pleased to present some midyear highlights from 2019:

## CARE



- Stephen Ministry and Congregational Care hosted a workshop on Family Estrangement with Clyde Wayne of the Berkeley Christian Counseling Center, offering practical steps toward healing ourselves when there is estrangement in our family
- The Deacons have continued to provide our community with caring support as they assist at memorial receptions. There have been 14 receptions so far this year

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



- 21 fourth-graders are preparing to move on to Youth Ministry
- Children's Choirs participated in worship three times over the season
- Vacation Bible Camp has 161 kids and 51 volunteers

## CONNECTING

- The Volunteerism Task Force, led by Jody Black, was recently formed

## FAMILY

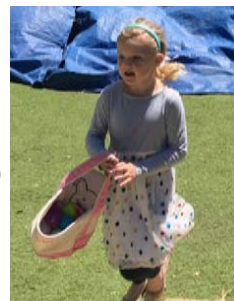
### GIRLS LEADERSHIP

*All kinds of powerful.*

- Girls Leadership workshops for young girls and their role models (parent, grandparent, etc.) on how to create and foster healthy relationships
- Mom's Retreat with sports journalist and author Ann Killion
- Raising an Emotionally Healthy Community workshop with Lynn Lyons
- Respite Nights for parents of children/young adults who have special needs
- Parents' Night Out, an evening out at a local restaurant, and time to enjoy fellowship together, while childcare was provided at LOPC

## FELLOWSHIP

- LOPC has 29 fellowship groups
- In April, we hosted more than 200 people for the LOPC Palm Sunday Brunch Potluck & Egg Hunt





## MEMBERSHIP

- We welcomed 35 new members in 2019



## MISSION IN SOCIETY

- The new **love does** program started in February! The event included 17 projects both on and off campus working with 13 different agencies throughout Contra Costa County



- The **love does** special offering to benefit Shelter Inc. yielded \$7,860.71 and the Easter special offering for Monument Crisis Center yielded \$21,930
- In March, Fotokids founder, Nancy McGirr, visited LOPC

## OPERATIONS

- A new sail shade was installed on the Fellowship Hall patio

## SENIORS

- Thursday Fellowship continues to offer a caring social network for elderly people. One particular highlight in 2019 was celebrating 40 years of service to Seniors in the Lamorinda community



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- The new 10:10 program on Sundays has become quite popular
- Live Worth Living, a program providing insight into spiritual practice from many faith traditions

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

- The Festival choir work-shopped and premiered a original Passion oratorio for Good Friday

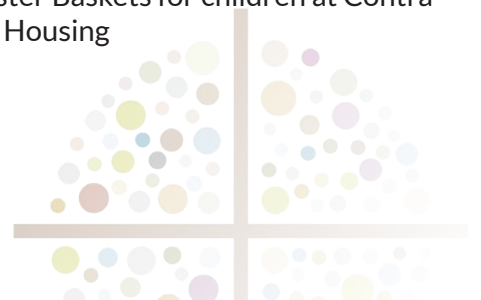


## YOUTH

- Youth participated in several service-learning opportunities together. Each activity had a learning component



- Made jewelry boxes for ARTogether
- Packed boxes of baby clothes for Loved Twice
- Assembled Easter Baskets for children at Contra Costa Interfaith Housing



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Jim Nagle, Finance Chair

As LOPC approaches the year's half-way mark, it is a great time to reflect on where we stand financially. First, thank you for all you have done to support this great ministry. The congregation's time, talents, and treasures have gone a long way to support the church's mission. LOPC has a thriving Children and Family ministry, a newly formed **Love Does** mission ministry, Seniors and Youth ministries, all because of your contributions. Expenses are in great shape. The staff continues to maintain a tight budget, lowering costs from 2018 by \$129,000 through staff restructuring and other efficiencies. They have been great stewards of the budget as they deliver programs in all of the above ministry areas. We are truly blessed to have such a devoted group to support our ministry. Of course, if we were to have more funding, there are many places where we could expand or enhance programs.

On the income side of the budget, we are off to a slightly slower pace than in previous years. As of this writing, pledge commitments are only covering 96.8% of our \$2.3 million budget, which means we are \$74,000 short. We need help from everyone to help close this gap. Comparing April year-to-date results to a year earlier, giving has come in slower and we have received \$103,340 less in congregational giving (not including Mission & Other Special Gifts). With the congregation's generosity, I am sure that we can close this gap.

If you'd like more details, please keep reading. Otherwise, skip to the last paragraph. Income year-to-date April is \$944,700, or \$22,486 better than budget. Mission & Other Special Gifts is \$24,586 better than budget due to additional deployment of special gifts. Other congregational giving is consistent with budget because non-pledge giving is higher than expected. Expenses through April are \$1,106,087, \$6,678 higher than budget, mainly due to the additional mission spending mentioned above. Personnel costs were slightly lower, and all other ministries, in total, were in line with the budget.

Please take a look at your 2019 giving and consider how you can support LOPC in closing the \$74,000 pledge gap so we can continue to do Christ's work in the world. If you have not pledged yet, please consider pledging, and if you have already pledged, please consider an increase. As in prior years, the 2019 budget includes a Faith Component. This represents giving beyond pledge commitments and historical non-pledge trends needed to cover the expense budget. This year's Faith Component is \$200,000. Traditionally we have focused on giving to this in the final quarter of the year. However, it is never too early to give to the Faith Component, if you are able. All contributions you make to the church in time, talent, and treasure are appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has given so much to help support all of the great ministries at LOPC.

## FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY - APRIL YTD 2019

Congregational Giving:	Actual	Budget	April YTD 2018
Pledge Income	\$ 779,443	\$ 793,000	\$ 920,589
Non-Pledge, Loose Offerings, & Other Giving	\$ 106,833	\$ 94,700	\$ 69,167
Mission & Other Special Gifts	\$ 55,500	\$ 30,914	\$ 79,206
Faith Component	\$ 1,140	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Congregational Giving</b>	<b>\$ 942,916</b>	<b>\$ 919,114</b>	<b>\$ 1,069,962</b>
Other Sources:			
Session Emerging Needs			\$ 51,000
User Fees	\$ 1,784	\$ 3,100	\$ 703
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 944,700</b>	<b>\$ 922,214</b>	<b>\$ 1,121,665</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (1,106,087)</b>	<b>\$ (1,099,409)</b>	<b>\$ (1,161,754)</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (161,387)</b>	<b>\$ (177,195)</b>	<b>\$ (40,089)</b>



# lopc foundation

## Working at Giving and Receiving

By Staci Johnston, Trustee



A close friend has been a member of our church for nearly 40 years. From the beginning, she was actively involved in LOPC Bible studies and served as a teacher for children's church ministries. Later, she drove seniors to Thursday Fellowship and attended weekly as their companion. Now, she is over 90 and no longer driving. Co-director Julie Peterson's gentle persuasion encouraged my friend to attend Thursday Fellowship, but this time -- as a guest.

Thursday Fellowship has now become the highlight of her week! An enthusiastic volunteer arrives to drive her to and from the two-and-half-hour weekly program. Each meeting is wonderfully thought out and includes varied programming such as speakers, entertainers, crafts, exercises, and visits from Seedlings nursery school. All are stimulating and appeal to a broad audience. I always love to hear about what happened at Thursday's gathering! The program runs for 10 months, with 30 dedicated volunteers cheerfully supporting approximately 35 seniors.

I have noted that my friend has turned her Thursday Fellowship attendance as a guest into a mini-service project of her own. She actively reaches out to fellow

guests who are quieter or might need help with a craft and makes a point of sitting next to them and engaging with them. This is just one of the many examples of fellowship occurring each Thursday. Says Co-Director Clarita Wooldridge, "As we give, we receive, and as we receive we give. There is no better circle of love in action than Thursday Fellowship."

The program is celebrating its 40th year supporting seniors at LOPC! It is an ecumenical, free program where everyone is welcome. For more information about how to volunteer your time or attend Thursday Fellowship contact Julie Peterson ([julie@lopc.org](mailto:julie@lopc.org)) or Clarita Wooldridge ([clarita@lopc.org](mailto:clarita@lopc.org)).

Thursday Fellowship is one of the impactful programs which are made possible by the legacy giving of the Friends of the LOPC Foundation and is an example of "where the past meets the present to create the future." To find out how to leave your legacy gift by becoming a Friend of the LOPC Foundation and help "create the future," please contact one of the Foundation Trustees: Jim Beckemeyer, Jen Crocker, Jerry Ducey, Dick James, Staci Johnston, Kristi Haigh, Phil Placier, Mike Ross, Dara Youngdale.

## session

### April Highlights

Session reviewed the ministry team goal planning process for July 2019 – June 2020. This year we are working toward aligning the goals of our teams with the five priorities of LOPC. Every team is considering these priorities during this time of discernment in planning for the upcoming year. The five priorities are:

- Sharing the good news of the gospel and making disciple (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Breaking down barriers of separation to be an inclusive community (Galatians 3:28)
- Expanding or developing ministry that leads people

to active service in the world in service of others (mission).

- Expand or develop ministry in the area of worship.
- Provide ministry onsite, offsite, and online.

The Church Nominating Committee (CNC), chaired by David MacKenzie, is finalizing candidates for 2020 leadership positions, including Deacons, Elders, Foundation trustees, and the next Church Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees will be presented to the congregation late August, and the Congregational meeting to vote on nominees will be Sunday, September 15.

# children

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP



At Vacation Bible Camp, we anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms by using 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.



We would love to open camp to as many families as possible, but we are dependent on our volunteer capacity. Not only are volunteers essential to our program, but the relationships built during this week last a lifetime. Please consider volunteering your time this year at Vacation Bible Camp!

**Who:** Kids 4 years old (by Sept. 1, 2019) to completed fourth-graders (June 2019).

**Dates:** Monday, June 10 – Friday, June 14, 2019.

**Times:** Monday – Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., and Friday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$75 per child

Registration for participants and volunteers is available on the LOPC website: [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations)

## Summer at Seedlings

By Tina Clendenin, Seedlings Communications Board Member

Summer is here and it is time for Summer at Seedlings! Summer at Seedlings is a fun summer camp experience for preschoolers that not only attend Seedlings but also the greater Lamorinda community. This year "campers" can choose between two sessions: Session 1, from June 17 – July 11, (with no camp the week of July 4) or Session 2, from July 15- August 1. Camp will be held from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., with an option to stay longer at tree house.



Each week there will be a new, interesting theme for campers. A sneak peek to this summer's themes are: "Bugs are awesome!," "Germs are ICK! They make me sick!," "Let's get to work!," "Our earth," "Reach for the sky," and "Celebrate good times! Come on!" In addition, there will be special guests to entertain the campers, like music with James Henry, the Fur, Scales and Tales Animal Show, and the Amazing Magic Show. Each day will be jam-packed full of play and activities. Whether campers are dressing up like superheroes, building rockets, dancing at a disco party, or enjoying the water slide and snow cones, you know the kiddos will be having a blast!

Kathy LaPlante is the Summer at Seedlings Camp Director. She has run the summer program for the past several years, and prides herself in providing a safe, fun, and engaging summer experience for all campers.

**If you have any questions about the program or want to learn more, please contact Kathy at [kathylaplante@lopc.org](mailto:kathylaplante@lopc.org).**

**Happy summer!**



# youth

## June Events:

### Pray for Service Squad: June 10-14

Be in prayer for the fifth and sixth-graders as they do God's work in the community with Service Squad June 10-14! They will serve for a couple hours each day with a local (East Bay) mission partner, then return to debrief and reflect on their experiences. Youth will become acquainted with the many ways in which we can share God's love within our own community. Our dream is that this week will inspire youth for a life of serving and loving others. Service may include sorting and packing food, yard-work, visiting the elderly and home-bound, running programs for children living in a shelter, and more!

### Pray for Los Angeles Team: June 23-28

Be in prayer for the seventh and eighth-graders on the Middle School Service-Learning Trip as they share the love of God with the people of Los Angeles, June 23-28. Service may include participating in food-justice programs, spending time with the elderly and infirm, serving food to homeless people, providing care for children in need, and more!

### High School Hangout: June 17, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.!

Youth are invited to spend time with friends and BTW advisors at Sideboard in Lafayette! We'll catch up on how the summer is going, share upcoming opportunities, and just enjoy each other's company! Bring some spending money for food (optional).

## SAVE *the* DATE

High School Hangout: August 18, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. in CLC 201

5th – 8th Grade Hangout: August 21, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in CLC 201

BTW Kickoff: September 15, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

YOW Kickoff: September 18, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

High School Houseboat Retreat: September 6-8  
(Registrations open July 21, incoming ninth-graders welcome!)

## July Events:

### Pray for Salinas Team: July 14-20

Be in prayer for the high-school students as they head to Salinas, CA, for the High School Service-Learning Trip, July 14-20! They will serve and get to know our sisters and brothers in a place that is incredibly vital to our own sustainability. In God's name, they will assist organizations that provide ongoing and critical support to the people and families of the Salinas Valley and beyond. They will serve alongside not-for-profit, justice-focused organizations such as schools, churches, food distribution centers, farming and environmental programs. There will be a mix of relational and physical service, with spiritual formation and worship experiences throughout the week.



### Fifth - Eighth-Grade Hangout: July 22, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.!

Join us for a fun-in-the-sun pool party with delicious food! Details to come via email to the families.

## Tools Needed for Salinas Mission Trip!

### Tools We Need:

- Long-handled shears
- Long-handled hoe
- Large pruners
- Shovels
- Work gloves



Our High Schoolers are in need of some tools for their upcoming mission trip. While donations are appreciated, if you need us to return the tools for any reason, please label them with your full name printed on the tool.

Donations must be received no later than July 7.  
Questions? Contact Keris at [keris@lopc.org](mailto:keris@lopc.org).

# spiritual formation

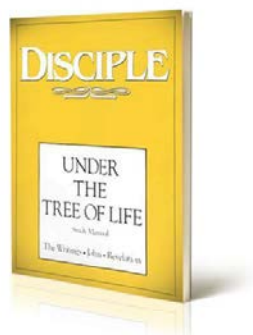
## Disciple IV Bible Study: Under the Tree of Life

In the Fall, Pastor Jaime Polson will lead a Bible study using the Disciple IV study manual, *Under the Tree of Life*. The study concentrates on John and Revelation – and the theme of living toward completion, toward the climax of the message and the promise, extravagantly pictured in Revelation.

This study aims at transformation, not just information – and is an opportunity to greatly enrich your life through inspiring Bible study in a small group setting. We will use the Bible and the study manual to complete daily reading assignments, generally about 30 minutes of reading per day, and meet weekly for discussion, video, and prayers.

This group will meet once a week for eight weeks for 90 minutes in the morning (day/time TBD). There is a \$20 fee for the study manual.

If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org). Stay tuned for additional information about this study group in the next issue of *Focus*.



## Mom's Bible Study Coming

This Fall, Pastor Jaime Polson will lead a book study and discussion centered on Brené Brown's *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*. Based on 12 years of pioneering research, Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW, dispels the cultural myth that vulnerability is weakness and argues that it is, in truth, our most accurate measure of courage.

This group will meet monthly for 90 minutes in the morning (day/time TBD).

If you are interested in participating, please contact Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org). Space is limited to 12 – and you must sign up in advance to participate (no drop-ins). Stay tuned for additional information about this group in our next issue of *Focus*.

**10:10**  
grow empowered to live in faith

Every Sunday after the 9 a.m. service, grab a cup of coffee and head over to the Oak Room, or come early for the 11 a.m. service. We'll finish by 10:50 a.m. so you'll make it to church on time. Childcare is always available. We look forward to seeing you there!

### June 2:

#### Addiction/Living with an Alcoholic Family Member

Mapping the perils in an alcoholic family system. Bob Finertie will help us navigate these troubled waters.

### June 9:

#### What is Pentecost and Why Does It Matter?

Have you ever wondered what that oddly named Christian holiday is after Easter? Pentecost is the day we celebrate the beginning of the church and celebrate the Holy Spirit! Lauren Gully will lead a discussion about how the church is still guided by the Spirit and how the story of the birth of the church is encouraging during the decline of many churches today.



### Save-the-Date

## LOPC Men's Retreat

Featuring Speaker Ray Campton, MFT  
Date: Oct. 4-6 at Mt. Hermon

Price and topic to be determined.  
Check back in future editions of *Focus* for more details!



## Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

"Being a Christian has affected every part of my life," says Cheryl Tibbals, "including the profession I chose. As an elementary school teacher in California for nine years, I taught in a lower socio-economic area where teachers can really make a difference. I always believed that through teaching, with God's help I was doing His work." Later, Cheryl went into education leadership at the district, state, and national levels, working with teachers, parents and administrators "to provide a good education for all students."

It has been a leap of faith for her, after an unexpected divorce. Living in Kentucky, she was asked to be part of a team to design and implement the state's -- and nation's -- largest education reform. "I will never forget my trips deep into Appalachia going into the 'hollers' where I was told no state department people had ever gone. I prayed often for God's help, and today I thank Him that I got to be a part of the state's reform efforts."

Cheryl says she doesn't remember a time when she didn't believe in God. "My parents believed, but were not regular churchgoers. My maternal grandparents, devout Lutherans, were a great influence on me. Some of the best times in my childhood were when I stayed with them where Sunday was special."

Being a child of God has been important to her. At age nine, she remembers, a friend whose father was a Navy ship captain—and an atheist. "I thought my friend was missing something by not knowing God, so I invited her to attend church, although I worried her dad might object and hurt our friendship. To his credit, he did not. She started going with me regularly. Later, after they had moved to another state, she wrote and told me she had joined a church."

Cheryl has always felt guided by her faith. "When I have had to deal with difficult family or friend issues, or help them with problems, I pray for guidance to say the



Cheryl Tibbals & Townsend Tibbals, her grandson.

right thing, to listen better, to provide comfort and love. I know better than to think I can do it alone."

During difficult times in her life, she has especially felt God's presence, such as an eye operation at age 10. "Knowing I was scared, my aunt sent me a bracelet with a picture of Christ. I carried it into the operating room and knew Christ was with me." Three years ago, during cancer surgery, she experienced "a strange sense of peace" that she attributes to her LOPC friends and clergy "who prayed for me. And, again, I carried that bracelet with Christ's picture."

As an LOPC member, Cheryl has served as an elder and now a deacon. The church's extensive adult education classes, she says, have enriched her understanding of the Bible and her faith. "For years I wanted to read the entire Bible but always gave up for lack of understanding. Participating in the Disciple Study group last year was a fulfillment of a dream. I love the opportunities LOPC offers to delve deeper in an understanding of our faith. The ministerial and lay leadership of our church are dynamic, and continually enriching my life as a Christian."

Choosing a favorite Bible verse brings several to her mind. As a little girl, she memorized the 23rd Psalm and often recites it. "I also love Matthew 6:25-27 —'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?'"

"I have this saved on my computer and read it often. I always feel important and wonderful thinking that, if God would do so much for all the creatures on the earth, think how much he would do for us?"



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JUNE/JULY 2019

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Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool  
Ryan Timpte, Children

#### FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Jon Corry, Communications  
Dick James & Lexi Morrissey, Editing

Thank you to all who contribute to each issue.

#### Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

July 1 for the August issue.

Email items to [communications@lopc.org](mailto:communications@lopc.org).

#### Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Every Monday by 5 p.m. for the following  
Sunday's issue.

Submit items at:

[lopc.org/submission-for-connections](http://lopc.org/submission-for-connections)

Join us for our annual Aloha Sunday worship with the Na 'Okina Hawaiian Band and Dancers. Lunch tickets will be available on the Plaza on July 8, 15, and 22 or online at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org).

**Adult (18+): \$15 • Youth (13-17): \$10**  
**Child (4-12): \$5 • Children under four are FREE!**

Doors open for lunch at noon. Bring family and friends and share in the Aloha spirit!

Interested in volunteering? Contact Christ at [chris@lopc.org](mailto:chris@lopc.org).

Sunday Worship Services  
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family!

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