

Would You Believe?

August 2008

THANK YOU

As I write this, it is Monday morning, July 28, and Dianne and I are on a flight to Birmingham. Our heads are in the clouds for reasons other than being on Delta Airlines. We are overwhelmed at your repetitiously gracious expressions and generosity during the weekend! The remarks of the speakers on Saturday evening, the poem, the books of letters and pictures and memories, the bagpipes, the monetary gift for a trip to Scotland, the special music by special musicians, the wonderful reception, then on Sunday the breath taking idea that a song was written for the occasion and sung so beautifully by the choir in addition to one of the most worshipfully beautiful quartet pieces ever - - and then, I had the highest of privileges for approximately the six thousandth time (I just counted) to present God's Word to you as your pastor.

To say thank you is so feeble sounding, but we want, so much, for you to understand that as rich as your graciousness and generosity have been during the last few weeks, and especially during the last two days, we think of our relationships with you in the Lord for 37 years as indescribably fulfilling; a gift from the Lord which relatively few in ministry context ever experience.

We agree with the thought expressed by so many of you that we would not say good bye, but would say, in stead, "until we meet again."

And so,

"The LORD bless you, and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine on you, And be
gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance on you,
And give you peace."

Lynn and Dianne

LARRY'S COLUMN

ELIJAH'S MANTLE

We read in 2 Kings chapter 2 about the "assumption" of Elijah into heaven. He was swept up into God's presence by chariots of fire, removing him from the scene of his earthly ministry. His had been a ministry of enormous benefit to the people of Israel through many years of preaching.

Standing at his side was Elisha, who had been his companion in ministry, learning from his "mentor" during those challenging times. As Elijah disappeared from sight, he dropped his mantle, his cloak. Elisha picked it up as the one God had clearly called to succeed him.

Elisha knew this would happen that day. Before that fateful moment he prayed for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to rest on him, to equip him for a task that was beyond his ability to complete. That was clearly granted as God blessed this new prophet.

We haven't seen a chariot of fire swoop down to take Lynn from us to heaven! It's only a moving van headed to Birmingham, Alabama. But a mantle has been dropped. It is a mantle that every member of Lake Osborne needs to pick up.

The ministry that God has carried on among us needs to continue. And it will do so as every one of us recognizes that we are Elisha, we are the ones who have learned from Lynn and now need to carry on that ministry, using the spiritual gifts God has distributed among us.

EE RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

"Evangelism Explosion" will become a key part of our efforts to cultivate an outreach mentality here at LOPC this fall. The fall adult Sunday School term will join all adult classes together in the fellowship hall. We will all learn how to share the gospel, using the excellent training materials developed by Jim Kennedy and Evangelism Explosion. Whether you participate in a team to make visits or not, we want all adults to learn the content of the Gospel through these Sunday morning classes.

To begin our concentration on the Gospel, we will have Rev. Larry Piedt as our guest on Sunday morning, September 8. During the Sunday School hour, he will model a typical home visit in which the gospel is presented using the Evangelism Explosion outline. This role play drama will show all of us how we can be tools in the Lord's hands to tell anyone the good news. He will also be our guest preacher that morning in worship.

SERMONS IN AUGUST

To help us prepare for the Evangelism Explosion training in September, Pastor Roff will devote the five Sundays in August to preaching through the EE outline. On successive Sunday mornings through that month, we will look at Grace, Man, God, Christ, Faith. This will give all of us a head start on learning this simple, easy-to-remember and easy-to-use approach at sharing the gospel.

MEN'S NEWS

There will be no Monday night men's fellowship dinner this month, since many of the men will be participating in the joint officers' retreat August 15 and 16. Men's monthly fellowship cookouts will resume the second Monday night in September.

LABOR DAY OUTREACH PICNIC

On Monday, September 1st, we will host a major outreach event here at LOPC. In cooperation with the local neighborhood association ("Residents of Lake Osborne Heights" – ROLOH), we will have a Labor Day picnic. Bring a couple of covered dishes to contribute to the meal, along with your own meat to cook on the grill. We will have games for all ages, music, and a magic show from our own resident Christian magician, Carl Ashley. Our goal is to see many neighborhood residents attend, so be sure to come and make a special effort to befriend these new friends.

PULPIT COMMITTEE

Pray regularly for our pulpit committee as they proceed with their important work over the months ahead. They will meet on the fourth Monday night of each month. Members are Ron Backus (chairman), Jay Myers (vice chairman), Dick Miller (secretary), Carl Ashley, Joe Brown, Becky Forester, Carolyn Kullmar, Bob Lee, Debbye Tate.

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHTS

Our mid-week family night dinners and ministries will resume on the first Wednesday in September. We will have a new caterer with excellent menus and a reduced price. Children's ministries will inaugurate the AWANA Club program here at LOPC, with Lisa Lennon and Anne Mejeur recruiting leaders. John Panico will guide other adults in working with our teens. Adult choir rehearsals will be led by Carl Ashley. The women plan to continue their discipleship studies. Pastor Roff will lead the adult studies using the book of Genesis.

NEW STUDY BIBLE

An excellent Bible study tool is just about to be released by publishers. The ESV (English Standard Version) is rapidly becoming the translation of choice in evangelical and reformed circles. It is being used by many PCA churches as the pew Bible and will become the translation used in all our denominational Sunday School curricula. A study Bible edition will be available this fall. With study notes, articles, charts, diagrams, and many other aids, this will likely become one of the most useful tools available for personal Bible study. A 35% pre-publication discount is being offered until this Thursday, July 31. You can place an order at Crossway Books website: www.crossway.org/8SBPC Using this link will result in the publisher contributing 5% of the order to the PCA. If you miss that deadline, reduced prices will still be available at Amazon.com.

UKRAINE CHOIR

Recordings are available of the concerts sung in Ukraine during the recent choir mission trip. These can be ordered for \$5 per disc. There are two discs of concert one, which featured vocal and organ soloists. And there are two discs of concert two, which featured the choir singing anthems. These are available in video (DVD) or audio (CD). Use the order form in the church bulletin.

Larry Roff

HOW MUCH IS THE COST OF A SOUL?

Some years ago, I happened to be in Ethiopia, one of too many African countries devastated by years of war. Lost in the middle of nowhere was a Catholic church, or at least what remained of what had been a church building once upon a time. Surprisingly there was a priest living there, the last one who refused to abandon the flock of what remained of the surrounding villages, at the cost of

his life. On what took the place of a desk, there was a curious crucifix. The Christ on that crucifix had no head, no legs, and no arms. I thought the crucifix was damaged during the war, but he told me it had always been that way. Why then? Because Christ is saying that He has no head, no legs, and no arms and you are His head, His legs and His arms.

Thinking back to that priest I met many years ago, I was asking myself how much I would pay to save a soul. Would I give my house to gain a soul for Christ? Would I give my boat, or my car? Would I give one of my eyes, or a leg, or an arm? How much would I spend to gain a soul for Christ? Ten thousand, a hundred thousand, a million, a billion? How much is the cost of a soul?

The only thing I am sure of is that two thousands years ago Christ answered that question. He said my soul is priceless and He gave His life for it. All that He is asking me to do today is to be His head, His legs, and His arms and go tell the rest of the world that He has bought the soul of each and every one who belongs to Him. He just wants me to “pay” with my head, my legs, and my arms. He just wants me to invite a friend to a movie night. He just wants me to invite a friend to church. He just wants me to repeat the good news He has brought to my neighbor. He just wants me to reach out to the indebted souls out there, to the imprisoned souls, to the desperate souls, to the lost souls and let them know that He paid a ransom sufficient to purchase them all.

Now I can breathe a sigh of relief. If all He is asking for is just a small percentage of my time, the time He has given me, the time He can take back any time it pleases Him, how costly is that?

Pascal Amouzou

YOUTH PLUGGED IN

Dear Church Family,



Grace and peace to you. As I write this, we have just finished celebrating 37 years of the Downing’s ministry at LOPC.

As a seminary student, what a tremendous encouragement and blessing to see the steadfastness

of both Pastors Roff and Downing!

This month has consisted mostly of finishing up schoolwork from my June intensive courses at Columbia International University, and preparation for the upcoming season. Charlie Gauger has stepped up to the plate leading youth group through the Summer months and has particularly challenged our youth (and my family) to consider Galatians 5:22-23. We are currently

making the final preparation for our youth trip to Orlando this coming weekend. Please pray for journey mercies for our trip!

We have a lot in the works for this season, and will be having a time for the Youth leaders (Charlie, Chris, Rebecca, Tiffany and myself) to praise, pray, and plan on August 10th at the Panico house. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we pray for the Lord’s leading as we focus on life coaching. We’ll be excited to report what’s coming in our next letter. For now.... You’ve been Plugged In!

*Love in Christ,
John, Tiffany, and Hannah*

AWANA

This fall will see new beginnings. Our Wednesday night program for the children will also see new beginnings. We recognize that we as a church have a responsibility to the spiritual training of our children, and to be a light to the youth of our community.

We are excited to offer the Awana program this year which provides a strong foundation to the children we teach.

The Awana program, the acronym for “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed,” stresses the importance of Bible memorization through small group time, Bible teaching in the large group segment, and physical activity and competition through exciting game time.

We will have three groups: Cubbies for preschoolers, Sparks for K-2nd, and Truth and Training for 3rd – 6th.

We ask that you to join us for a season as an Awana leader to give affirmation and encouragement to the children that will attend the program on Wednesday nights. We need group leaders and game leaders. Be a part of the kingdom building here at LOPC!

We will join other adults in Awana Orientation Training on August 16, in Lake Worth. If you have questions, call us. We ask everyone to join us in prayer for this program, for volunteers and for the children that will attend this fall.

To God's glory,

Anne Mejeur 309-7677 Lisa Lennon 433-2540

CHILDREN'S NEWS:

VBS went very well and many seeds were planted in the children's hearts. Thank you to all who helped!!!

The children were very excited about bringing in money that they earned to help the children in India. They brought in almost \$300. This money will go to help the children that the Kennedys are involved in helping. We are also very happy to report some of the students from VBS have started to come to Summer Fun Club,

Praise the Lord.

We have been having a wonderful time as Summer Servants this summer on Monday mornings. We have learned a lot about helping others through Bible verses and through the Bible stories we have heard. Making snacks, cards, and crafts for the elderly in our church has been lots of fun. We know how much they have appreciated it. Game time is popular too.

Going through the alphabet on Wednesday nights has also been lots of fun. We are up to the letter W, almost through the whole alphabet. We should finish before we start up our wonderful, exciting new program called Awana.

The following are August helpers for Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:15:

August 6th - Ann Seay

August 13th - Kathy Livanec

August 20th - Christy Gauger

August 27th - Betty Roff

The following are our Junior Church helpers for August:

August 3rd - Jennifer Wade

August 10th - Mayetta Lee

August 17th - Chris L. and Chris G.

August 24th - Carol Brandt

August 31st - Melissa Myers

Please call if you would like to help with the children in any way. Call Lisa Lennon 433-2540.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In the summer of 2002, the **Bill McKee Jr. Scholarship Program** was formed, due in large part to the vision and efforts of Bill McKee Jr. and with the support of the LOPC Session. This scholarship program was created with some of the following goals in mind:

- To promote the gospel and encourage full-time Christian workers from our LOPC youth
- To assist godly families with the Christian education of their children
- To attract new families to LOPC
- To provide a means for members of the LOPC congregation who wish to fulfill their commitment to assist parents in the Christian nurture of their children through organized encouragement, prayer support and funding of the scholarship program

During the month of August, 2008 new applications will be accepted for the 2009-2010 school year.

Who should consider applying?

- Parents of Christian school students who will be in grades 1 through 12 during the 2009-2010 school year
- College students who will be enrolled in school, full-time, for the 2009-2010 academic year

What can I do?

I'm not in one of those two categories, but would like to be involved.

- **Pray** for our young people and their parents!
- **Volunteer** to participate on one of the program committees ... organize others to pray for our young people, or make care packages for our college students while they are away at school.
- **Give generously!** Without the financial support of individual donors, this program would not exist.

To obtain application forms or more information about how YOU can make a difference in the lives of LOPC families, please contact Jennifer Wade at davejenwade@comcast.net or (561) 301-4986.

WIC NEWS

Greetings from your WIC Ministry Team!

WIC stands for Women in the Church, and its membership includes every female member of Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church. The WIC Ministry Team (or WIC Council) is a group of elected and appointed women who have the privilege of praying for and serving the body of Christ at LOPC.

The goal of the WIC organization is that each woman knows Christ personally, that she develops rich and meaningful relationships with other believers, and that she discovers opportunities to serve others both in the body of Christ and in her community. This is accomplished through prayer, Bible study, discipleship, and mentoring. It includes the awareness of and use of spiritual gifts and to help women understand their unique God-given helper design.

Your WIC Ministry Team is prayerfully planning events and Bible studies to kick off our fall season of activities, and look forward to providing you with more details soon. Several positions on the team will be available in the coming months; if you feel the Lord is leading you to become a part of the WIC leadership team, please let Jennifer Wade or me know.

*Becky Forester
WIC Co-President*

ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIORS!! NEED MORE INCOME OR CASH? REVERSE MORTGAGES MAY BE THE ANSWER.

We have found many seniors needing extra income or cash who have a significant equity in their home.

The appeal of this type of mortgage is many fold. Here are some of the benefits:

This is an FHA program and is insured by FHA

No qualifying required for income, employment, or credit

No payments required as long as you live in your home

Receive income you cannot outlive.

Call John Morris at 433-1228 for information

MONICA'S GIFT BASKETS

Monica Bailes

Ph: 561-827-8859

Fax; 561-798-1622

monicasgiftbaskets@yahoo.com

NEED A PAINTER?

Jim Forester is available of exterior and interior painting. You may reach Jim by calling 385-2151 or 968-2806.

LADIES!

Would you like to receive beautiful FREE jewelry for yourself or as gifts for the special ladies in your life? For the month of August there is the potential for you to receive 50% in FREE jewelry. Call me; I would love to tell you how!!

Peggy Sprankle

One Diamond Designer

Independent Distributor

for Premier Designs

(561) 294-4991

email – psprankle@gmail.com

COMPUTERS NEEDED

Do you have an old computer running any level of WINDOWS that you are not using or plan to replace? Please consider donating it to the church. If you don't have one available, maybe a friend, relative or neighbor may.

The church has a software program which is used to teach non-English-speaking people, English. The church is working with the Guatemalan congregation to assist them in learning English.

This is done using computers and it is not necessary that the computers be the latest version. As long as they are able to run a version of WINDOWS that's all that is necessary. This is a great opportunity to make some of our recent immigrants more productive and help assimilate them into our culture.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

Bill Campbell	Editor and Administrator
Phil Elder	Maintenance
John Panico	Youth Ministry Intern
Larry Roff	Associate Pastor
Judy Smiley	Administrative Assistant
Peggy Sprankle	Church Secretary