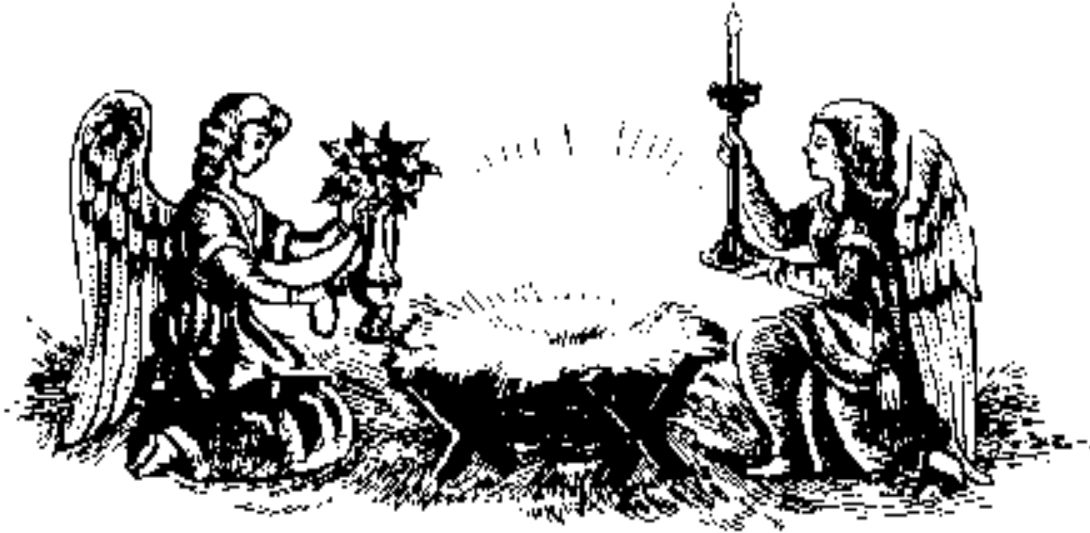




UNDER THE STEEPLE

December, 2008

Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church (*PCA)
Lake Worth, Florida



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here's what you'll find inside ...

- Special Christmas Services and Programs at Lake Osborne including Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Preview of January's "Spiritual Life Conference" with Don Whitney
- Carolyn Kullmar's "News From the Pews"
- Summer mission trips to Ecuador and to Washington (state)
- New organizational structure among officers
- Report from Outreach Team's follow-up to Fall Fest
- Fanning the Flame focus on "Personal and Family Spiritual Formation"
- Don't forget "Boxing of the Greens" on Sunday, January 4

The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) is an evangelical denomination, organized in 1973, with a strong commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture, to the historic doctrines of the Reformed faith, to the task of world evangelization, and to the teaching of a consistently Biblical world-and-life view

CHRISTMAS AT LAKE OSBORNE

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1; 14



Sunday, Nov. 30 – Hanging of the Greens (4:30 pm)

Join us in the sanctuary for a fun family time as we bring out the garlands, the wreaths, the poinsettias, the Chrismons, and the lights. There will be work for everyone. We'll finish up with a Carol Singspiration and then Christmas goodies in the narthex.

Sunday, Dec. 7 – Caroling to Shut-Ins (5:00 pm)

Christmas is all about giving, and this is the night we'll give Christmas joy to many of our elderly members by going to sing carols at their homes and deliver a tray of homemade Christmas cookies. This is an important way to teach our children that Christmas is not about what we **get**, but what we **give**. Jesus said when we've done it to one the least of these, we've done it to Him.



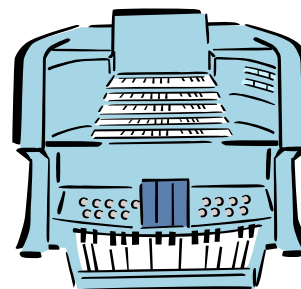
Sunday, Dec. 14 – Dinner and Cantata (5:00 pm)



In cooperation with our neighborhood association, we will again host this annual Christmas covered dish dinner. We hope many nearby residents will be here. It's important that you find one of these households to sit with at dinner to make them feel welcome. Afterward we'll recess to the sanctuary for the choir's Christmas cantata presentation, "The Gift of Christmas" (including participation by the children's choir).

Sunday, Dec. 21 – Christmas concert (6:00 pm)

Pastor Roff (at the organ) will be joined by trumpeter David Hammaker in a concert of Christmas music. This will be the same program he will play two weeks later in Ukraine at the church in Belgorod-Dnestrovsky where he will be installing a new organ as a Christmas gift to that congregation. Members of our choir sang in their new building for its dedication last June.



Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight (7:00 pm)

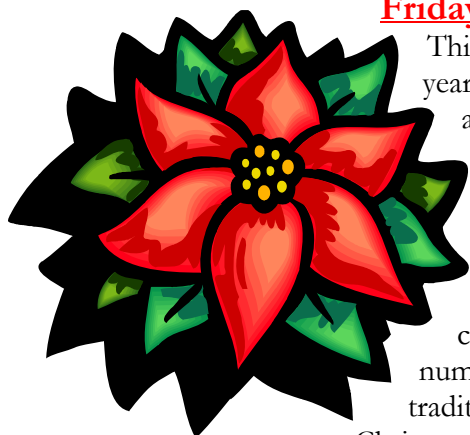
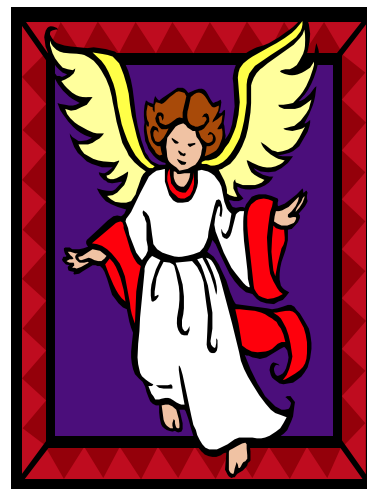
This beautiful traditional "Lessons and Carols" service begins with a half-hour miniconcert. At 7:30 the service officially begins and proceeds through a series a Scriptures that tell the Christmas story. Interwoven through the readings will be anthems, solos, and carols, all concluding with the beautiful candlelighting ceremony, representing the coming of Christ, "the Light of the World." Make a special effort to invite family, friends, and neighbors to this service, and pray that the eyes and ears of their hearts will be opened to the Gospel.



December Advent and Christmas Sermons

Pastor Roff will complete the current series from the book of Jonah on December 7th. Remember that you can listen to the audio of these sermons or read the manuscripts on the church web site. Beginning December 14th and continuing through December 28th (including Christmas Eve), Pastor Roff will bring a four part series on “The Songs of Christmas” from the Gospel of Luke.

- Dec. 14 - **“MARY’S SONG:**
My soul magnifies the Lord” (Lk. 1:46-55)
- Dec. 21 - **“ZECHARIAH’S SONG:**
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel” (Lk. 1:68-79)
- Dec. 24 - **“THE ANGELS’ SONG:**
Glory to God in the highest” (Lk. 2:14)
- Dec. 28 - **“SIMEON’S SONG:**
Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace” (Lk. 2:29-32)



Friday, Dec. 5 – Women’s Christmas Glow (6:30 pm)

This annual WIC (Women in the Church) event is a highlight of the year. With the Fellowship Hall beautifully decked out for Christmas, and with the ladies (and daughters) decked out in their Christmas colors, it is always a delightful occasion. This year’s theme is “An Old Fashioned Traditional Christmas.” Our gourmet chef will prepare an excellent dinner of Cornish game hen with apple cranberry stuffing, twice baked sweet potatoes, maple glazed green beans with butternut squash, dinner rolls, and apple cobbler for dessert. The program will include a devotional and a number of our ladies and teens sharing their favorite Christmas traditions. And of course, as always here at LOPC, there will be lovely Christmas music. Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased on Sunday in the narthex or from the church office. Don’t forget that this is another excellent outreach opportunity. Invite friends who don’t have a church home.

Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Youth Gift Wrap (7:00 pm)

You can help the youth group at the same time they help you. Bring packages to the Wednesday night dinner on Dec. 17th and allow the youth to gift wrap them for you. Your contributions for this service will help them as they raise funds for their summer mission trip to an American Indian reservation in Washington state.



Saturday, Dec. 20 – Teen Christmas Party (6:00 pm)

The youth group will meet at the Gauger’s for their annual Christmas party. A highlight of the evening will be a “Purple Elephant” gift exchange. And of course, there will be food and games and food and a devotional and food and fellowship and food and singing and food! This is also another outreach event, so be sure to invite friends.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Carolyn Kullmar

It just struck me as I sat down to work on this article that this is for the last issue of 2008. It's hard to believe that this year is almost over. As we look back over the year, we realize that there have been happy times and other times when it was not so happy, but the Lord has been faithful through it all. Our church as well as our country is in a state of transition and we must each be faithful to pray and trust the Lord.

There was no "News from the Pews" last month because I had just gotten back from a trip to Ridge Haven. Those of you who know me realize that Ridge Haven has a special spot in my heart. This year **Mary Alice Baker, Dianne Downing** as well as **Bob and Mary Anderson** and I attended one of the Keen Agers Conferences and it was fantastic. Jerry Bridges was the main speaker and he did an excellent job. The meetings were very meaningful, the fellowship was wonderful, the food exceptionally delicious, and the leaves were at their peak. What more could you ask??? Yet Dianne, Mary Alice and I also had added benefits. We spent the weekend on the way up with my son, **Russ** in Folly Beach and stopped to see **Rod and Jane Block**. We also got over to THE BIG CITY. Afterward, we visited with the **Burchettes**, and enjoyed time with the Cavender family as well. Needless to say, the triplets stole the show!!!!

I strongly encourage those of you who qualify for Keen Agers to begin praying now about attending one of the Keen Ager weeks next year. Rev. Charles Dunahoo (head of the PCA's Christian Education and Publications Committee) will be the speaker one week, and Rev. Tom Cheely, Missions Pastor at Briarwood Church (where Lynn and Dianne are) will be the speaker the other week. Either one would be excellent.--so don't miss out!!!

The first weekend in October the **Tate family** were all in Pensacola for the wedding of Keith and Tiffany. They report that the wedding was perfect. **Keith and Tiffany** went to Disney World for their honeymoon and really enjoyed their time there. By the way did you know that newly weds get to go to the front of the line at Disney???? Then they moved to Norfolk where much sooner than they anticipated, Keith had to go out to sea. Needless to say, Tiffany, in a new, unfamiliar place with her new husband away is quite lonesome so please pray for both Keith and Tiffany. I feel sure this is not the way they wanted to start their life together.

The first two weeks of October **Phil and Joyce Elder** went to Indiana and spent time with their daughter and her family and also enjoyed the beauty of the fall. While they were there a great grandchild was born in Florida--their 2nd in four months. A week after they returned, they went on a camping trip to Highland Hammock State Park in Sebring with Phil's "Bluegrass Blend" buddies. They spent time around a campfire playing and singing which attracted an audience of the other campers. Don't you know that was a special treat????

Many of our folks have been traveling. **Judy Lehtinen** spent two weeks with her son and his wife in Barbados, where her son is working in the American Embassy as Military Liaison. While there they enjoyed scuba diving with Loggerheads. Ann Seay and her two sisters enjoyed time together in New Bern, NC. **Charlotte McKee** flew to Texas and spent some time with her daughter, **Kathleen** and as I write this is now visiting family and friends in the Carolinas. While there, she hopes to welcome a new grandchild.

Judy Morgan is almost impossible to keep up with. She had been gone for a LONG time and popped in for a few weeks and almost before you knew it, she was gone again. With both her daughters living in other places, she stays busy keeping up, but we are glad to see her whenever she gets here. **Babe Ruth** celebrated his 80th birthday and a few days later he took off for California and the wedding of a grandson. **Doris and Bill Skeen** enjoyed some time at their timeshare and aren't we thankful that Bill is doing so well (but don't stop praying for him).

Missions Committee Chairman **Dick Miller** went with an MTW team to Ecuador on a Vision Trip and we enjoyed hearing his Sunday night report on his trip. **Peggy Sprankle and Dorothy Wilson** enjoyed a trip to NC and especially enjoyed the beauty of the fall. **Maria Osso and her husband** also enjoyed the beauty of fall at their place in TN. **Tom and Margaret Doyle** enjoyed a trip to visit relatives in Virginia and Tennessee. Although it was beautiful and they thoroughly enjoyed it, their daughter said if they had stayed another week, the leaves would have been at their peak.

Marlene Roese joined her daughter, **June** in Orlando and they attended Nikken meetings there. Then June returned and spent some time with Marlene. June left one day and former LOPC member, **Debby Arnold** came to Marlene's for a few days. I'm sure many of you enjoyed seeing Debby. **Betty Figari** went back to New Jersey with her daughter and son in law who had been here for a month. I enjoyed a visit from my son, **Doug** and his family from Tennessee over their fall break from school. What a delight it was to have them here.

Becky Robertson's daughter from NC came down to help her mom celebrate her birthday. Also **Wilma Herbert's** daughter came to help Wilma celebrate her 96th birthday!!! Isn't Wilma remarkable? She's an inspiration to all of us. Also **Persis Tomkins'** daughter from Washington, D. C. as well as a friend from Vancouver were here to celebrate Persis' 90th birthday. Persis, too is an amazing woman and if you haven't gotten to know her, you need to. **Sally Hubner**, one of our first "snow birds" to return, celebrated her 90th birthday while she was with her family over the summer. (I used to think 90 was old, but when I look at our 90 year old members, my opinion is changing) How thankful we are for each one and what a blessing it is to know them.

Isn't it good to welcome back John and **Pat Olson** as well as **Richard and Kathie Eubanks** and the **Johnsons**? We are still anticipating the arrival of some of our others who went north for the summer. **Pat Zengerle** is due here on Dec. 8. I also talked with **Georgia Bourdon** and she plans to return the second week of Dec. also. Keep on the lookout for them so you can welcome them back. Several folks are going away for Thanksgiving. **Bob and Nancy Lee** plan to spend Thanksgiving with **Jeff and Jenny** in Charlotte, NC. The **Glennys** are also going to be with family in the Ocala area. **Charlie and Helen McCreight** are going to their niece's in Chattanooga. **Susanne Rivell** will be with her sister and family in Palm Coast, FL. The **Browns** are going to Louisiana and the **Myers** to Orlando to celebrate with family. We all have much to be thankful for wherever we celebrate the holiday. The **Roffs** will be in NC for Thanksgiving and for Larry's mother's 91st birthday.

We are thankful that **Kathryne Dumitriu and JoAnn Purdy** are back in their own apartments after being in the hospital and a rehab centers. Do continue to pray for and encourage these ladies. The **Elders** have a new great grandchild and **Eleanor Rose's** first grandchild has arrived: **Ava Rose**, a 10 and a half pound girl. Eleanor's daughter **Jo Ann** has gone up to welcome the new addition. Congratulations!!! Right here at home we are delighted to welcome the arrival of little **Elizabeth Grace**, born on Nov. 20 to **Bryan and Melissa Backus**. And of course, we are all looking forward to the arrival of the **Olga and Henry Dietlin's** baby in the very near future.

Last month's newsletter told of the accomplishments of **Bill and Doris Campbell**. Recently, their daughter **Susan** has been declared the outstanding teacher for the gifted students in the state of Florida. Congratulations, Susan. Congratulations are also in order for **Michael Goderwis** as he graduates in Dec. from the University of Central Florida with a degree in Business Administration. I have reported in past issues of the accomplishments of **Lou Langley's** daughter-in-law, **Suzanne Cleary** with her poetry. Just last month, Suzanne gave a public reading of her works at Converse College. She states that she loves playing with words and ideas and that she has been in love with language since she discovered riddle books at the age of 7. And she says writing a poem is a form of thinking for her. What a talent she has!!!

For those of you who are interested in our former ministers, **Rev. Steve Jones** has accepted a call to a church in Carthage, Mississippi and will begin work there on Jan. 1, 2009. **Rev. Chris and Peggy Ehlers** are now living in the Chattanooga area. Of course, be faithful to pray for the **Van Roekels** as Steve has found it necessary to resign from his church in SD and does not yet have a call to another ministry.

And it is indeed a pleasure to tell you a little about our new members who joined LOPC on Nov. 8. **Paul and Mary Ann Hegerle** are natives of Pittsburgh, PA.. They are "newly weds" having been married in March of this year. Mary Ann has lived in this area previously and worked with the Water Management of the county. Paul has spent his life in Pittsburgh, working 25 years as a service manager for an office equipment firm. When that business folded, he became a paramedic and worked 18 years in that profession. He has recently retired. Paul has 4 children and 11 grandchildren. Both Paul and Mary Ann grew up in the Roman Catholic Church but Paul has been a member of the PCA church for 25 years. When they were planning to move to Florida, Paul checked the PCA churches in this area and after checking LOPC, he found that his pastor knew both Lynn and Larry. And we are glad that they found us!!!! Do make an effort to get to know them.

Vince and Michele Diller both grew up in Florida--Michelle in St. Petersburg and Vince in Merritt Island. They've been married 12 years. Vince has worked in Christian colleges first in Sterling, Kansas, and now has been at Palm Beach Atlantic for 5 years. He is the director of the medical center and Michele is the resident director. They enjoy remodeling homes and have recently bought one near South Olive School which they are remodeling and hopefully they will soon be moving out of the dorm at Palm Beach Atlantic. They both enjoy the outdoors and sports and Michele is a runner. Do become acquainted with Vince and Michele and welcome them into our church family.

If you haven't gotten your pages with these new folks for your directory, be sure to do so. They contain their address, phone number and birthdays. Also, remove **Nell Greydanus** from your directory. And in case you would like to keep in touch, **Lynn and Dianne's** address is P. O. Box 43448, Birmingham, AL 35243. **Leilou Brady** is at her daughter **Peggy's** for a couple of months. Her address there is listed in your directory. Before she left, she donated her beautiful 19th century reed organ to the church for the fellowship hall. (Be faithful to keep your directories up to date!!!)

We are saddened at the death of **Donna Farley** as well as that of **Jean Archer's husband, Dick**. We all loved Donna and she is really missed. Although most of us did not know Jean's husband, we extend our sympathy to Jean. She is in NJ but we hope will be returning soon. Be faithful to pray for both John and Jean in the loss of their spouses.

Since I am writing this before Thanksgiving, I will say Happy Thanksgiving as well as Christmas Blessings!!!!



Dr. Donald S. Whitney

ANNUAL SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE

Friday thru Sunday, January 16 - 18, 2009

Save this weekend for our annual conference.

Last year's speaker, Dr. Donald Whitney
(*Professor of Biblical Spirituality at Louisville's Southern Baptist Seminary*)
will return. His theme this year will be

“DIAGNOSING YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH.”

1. Do You Thirst for God?
2. Are You Governed Increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are You More Loving?
4. Are You More Sensitive to God's Presence?
5. Do You Have a Growing Concern for the Spiritual and Temporal Needs of Others?
6. Do You Delight in the Bride of Christ?
7. Are the Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life Increasingly Important to You?
8. Do You Still Grieve Over Sin?
9. Are You a Quicker Forgiver?
10. Do You Yearn for Heaven and to Be With Jesus?

Children's Ministry News

from Lisa Lennon

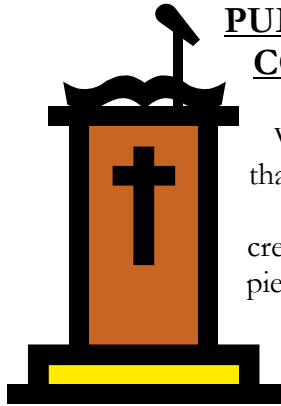
The Awana program is going great on Wednesday nights. Praise God! The students are having fun and learning a lot too. If you have children in our Awana program, don't forget to help them learn the verses in their book. In the month of December, we will be learning about the life of Jesus in our large group time. Thank you, Awana helpers! We can always use more helpers. If you would like to be a part and work with a child one-on-one, come to the education building 6:40 P.M. Wednesday nights until 7:00 P.M. We also would love to have more students. Remember to pick up a little green book in the narthex that tells about Awana to give to a child you know (pre-K through the 6th grade).



In Children's Church, we will be learning:
12/7 - We can welcome Jesus into our lives.
12/14 - Jesus lives in us.
12/21 - Jesus birth is something to celebrate.
12/28 - We can praise God for Jesus.

Children's Church helpers:
Chris Lennon and Chris Gocio
Carol Brandt
Melissa Myers
Caroline Tate

The children are also having a great time practicing for the Christmas Cantata each Sunday morning before Children's Church. Be sure to come to the Cantata Sunday evening, Dec. 14 to hear them.



PULPIT COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that the pulpit committee has successfully created an information piece that has been placed on the PCA web site as well as that of LOPC. We know that it is

being seen.

We are busy working on acquiring a Senior Pastor. We continue to meet regularly. It is our intention to deliberate until we find the man God designed to lead us. Please be patient and pray for us and that pastor, that we come together to serve our Lord.

Ron Backus, chairman

Here is a suggested prayer schedule to guide you each week as you pray for the committee. Pray each day for these people ...

- Sunday – the Pastor God has chosen**
(He knows who he is, even though we don't)
- Monday – Ron Backus (chairman)**
- Tuesday – Jay Myers & Debbye Tate**
- Wednesday – Becky Forester & Dick Miller**
- Thursday – Carolyn Kullmar & Bob Lee**
- Friday – Joe Brown & Carl Ashley**



Have you visited our web site recently? It's Pictures of the Fall Fest, sermon audio & manuscripts, Pastor's Blog, mission reports, monthly newsletters, youth news, and much, much more is there. Check it out at www.LOPCA.org

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Have you ever wondered what Women's Ministry is really all about? What exactly is WIC? Why does the church have a Women's Ministry? What are its purposes and goals, and what are our roles as Women in the Church?



In January, we will be offering a new Sunday School class for women who are interested in finding out the answer to these questions. Whether you are called to serve or lead, you are a vital part of our women's ministry and we invite you to join us! We will be using the book, *Women's Ministry in the Local Church* by Susan Hunt, former Director of Women's Ministries for the PCA and Ligon Duncan, Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS.

This book is for women who love the church of Jesus Christ and long to see God more fully glorified in the lives of her women. We'll learn how to reach the maximum potential of our divine calling and God-given abilities. *Women's Ministry in the Local Church* is a sensible, practical, encouraging guide to what we can and should be doing in our churches and communities. We will learn together how to be equipped to serve God's Bride and to mentor rising generations in the joy and call of our design as Women in the Church.



FALL FESTIVAL 08

We had a record number of people attend our Fall Festival. Our thanks to Jay Myers and his Outreach Team, and especially to John Panico, who took the lead in organizing this event. Evangelism Explosion teams are in the process of making visits to the homes of neighborhood families who signed up to receive a free pie. Pray that God would open their hearts to the gospel as widely as their eyes opened to the pies we brought!

MISSION TRIPS

Join us as we send a mission team from LOPC to Quito, Ecuador this summer. We continue to be heavily invested in MTW's work there through the missionaries we support and the teams we send. Dick Miller has just returned with a glowing report of the progress of our church planting teams working to help plant and build churches there among the Ecuadorian and Quechua populations.



We want to send a team to help with a project this summer. We don't know yet what that work will be, but it will be custom designed to suit the interests and abilities of those who go. The cost will be approximately \$1200. We need to know soon who plans to participate. If you cannot go, perhaps you could help pay for someone else who would like to do this, but cannot afford it.

Our youth group is planning a mission trip with MTW to an Indian reservation in Washington state this summer. This will be an important way they learn what it means to be a "World hristian." Several fund-raising events are planned for the next few months to help them raise the money needed to make this trip.



LOCAL MISSIONS OUTREACH

Terry and Betty Kennedy are making great progress in establishing an ESL (English as a Second Language) program upstairs in a computer lab in the office building. This will assist some of our Hispanic neighbors to learn English through computers and workbooks that use the Bible for their exercises. A number of our members are already volunteering to assist (Maria Osso, Eddie Benmuvhar, Dean Barbieri, Ann Seay, and Kwang Yang).

Parents in the Guatemalan congregation that meets in our buildings are sending their children and teenagers to our Sunday School classes on alternate Sunday mornings on a trial basis. So far, everyone loves this arrangement.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES IN JANUARY



GROW YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE! The current Evangelism Explosion Class (in the Fellowship Hall) and the Sproul video class (in the Christian Education building) will conclude in December. A new adult Sunday School will begin in January with these opportunities for growing your soul. Here are the books that will be used in each class. Select the class that will be most helpful to you. We will announce the teachers and locations in next month's newsletter.

<i>Ministry</i>	“Women’s Ministry in the Local Church” (by J. Ligon Duncan)
<i>Christian Living</i>	“Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate” (by Jerry Bridges)
<i>Doctrine</i>	“18 Words; the Most Important Words You’ll Ever Know” (by J. I Packer)
<i>Bible Book</i>	“The Sermon on the Mount: the Character of a Disciple” (by Dan Doriani)

The new year is always an excellent time for fresh starts. Make this a major goal for yourself, and for your family. We’re anxious to see all of our covenant children and teens participating in this invaluable educational ministry.

CHURCH FINANCES

It seems that each year at this time, we find ourselves seriously behind, especially in the Ministries Fund. That’s true again this year. But there are several additional factors contributing to this need. First, whenever a pastor leaves, it seems that attendance and giving inevitably decline for a time. It shouldn’t happen, but it does. Second, the economy has produced severe hardships for some of our members, including reduced income and even home foreclosures. It’s hard to maintain the same level of giving. Third, we have had a number of members move from the area, who are now supporting churches in their new hometowns.



While this is a challenge for us now, God’s solution is very simple. When every household is faithfully tithing, God provides all the resources necessary to do His work in a local church. We are counting on each individual and family at LOPC to give with joyful hearts in the manner that God has prescribed, and not just during this last month in the year, but throughout the year ahead.

The elders and deacons are working very hard in this transition time to establish new accounting practices that will guarantee that the money God places in our hands is used wisely. A new bookkeeping system is being introduced in the office. Pascal Amouzou has been elected as Treasurer by the deacons (as prescribed in our PCA Book of Church Order). You can trust these godly men to seek God’s counsel in the collection and distribution of funds. Pray for the Administrative Oversight Committee (John Brandt, David Livanec, Charlie Gauger, Pascal Amouze, and Ron Backus) as they prepare the 2009 church budget.



DANGEROUS SCRIPTURES

by Pascal Amoukou

Sunday November 16, 2008, we remembered the persecuted church in the world. Officially, there are 38 countries where the church is persecuted. That is the official number, but there may be many more where the persecution is hidden.

We know about the killings, the burning of churches, the imprisonments, and other threats on Christians. But there are also countries where anything a pastor preaches is an offense to the President or the Prime Minister or another member of the Government or one of their family members.

If he preaches about adultery, he offends the President because he has a harem of concubines. If it is about embezzlement, he offends the President because he has bank accounts in offshore fiscal paradises with a balance equivalent to the country's national debt. If it is about murder, he still offends the President because his hands are red with the blood of the people he has killed. No matter what he preaches on, he will always offend somebody in the political regime. One day, the preacher disappears in the middle of the night. We have a saying for that in Togo: "the night swallowed him."

It should not come as a surprise that the gospel is regarded as the most dangerous threat to political powers in third world countries. Sharing the gospel with your neighbor is the shortest way to commit suicide. There are many hindrances to hold back the gospel to reach people in so many countries in the world. I would not be surprised the next time a judge finds that showing a movie on Jesus Christ at a Christian fair would offend people. (This actually happened!) After all, maybe people who attend Christian fairs are Moslems.

Sometimes the persecution is so subtle that you barely notice it. It is the case of so many people who are thirsty and tired because they are persecuted but what they have inside of them is Jesus called evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

And those people are within reach in our neighborhood, our workplace, our recreation ground. We are not at risk to lose our life by doing so because we do not need to go to one of those 38 countries to share the gospel with them.

Remember that you can download the power point presentation shown at church on Sunday morning, Nov. 16. Simply email Pastor Roff at church to ask him to email it to you. Once you have it in your computer, use a different slide each day to inform your praying about the suffering of people in each of those countries, in succession, throughout the month ... and throughout the year. As you do so, remember Jesus words, "When you have done it unto one of the least of these My brothers, you have done it to Me."



FAN THE FLAME TEAM REPORT

Under the leadership of David Livanec (and with two new members: Sharon Virkler and Margaret Doyle), the team has set a new major ministry focus for the year ahead. It is ...

“PERSONAL AND FAMILY SPIRITUAL FORMATION”

Margaret Doyle will be assembling a team to work on this goal. “Spiritual Formation” is a relatively new term for us in our church vocabulary. But it is an excellent way of thinking about and working toward maturity in our spiritual lives. We each have a soul which we are responsible to develop to its fullest capabilities of service to God and conformity to Christ. Our Spiritual Life Conference in January with Don Whitney will be the first way we pursue this new goal for LOPC.

In addition, the team is talking with several church members who we hope will be interested in developing a ministry to college age young people, and a couple of other members interested in seeing the development of a career singles (all ages) ministry.

MERRY CHRISTMAS ... NOT HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

In response to the deliberate omission of the word “Christmas” in much of our culture, the American Family Association has produced these little pins to wear. We have a box of them in the narthex. Take one and wear it throughout the season. *(If you could drop a dollar in the box, it would help with the cost of the pins. Thanks!)*



MICHAEL HAYKIN'S MESSAGES

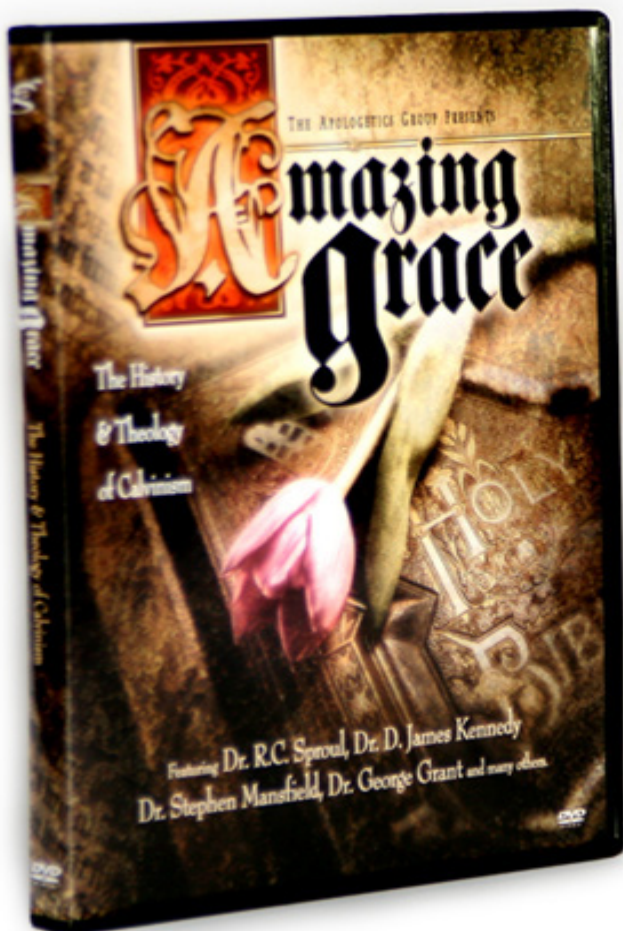
In case you missed them, they were excellent. Dr. Haykin was our guest speaker for this year's Reformation observances. All three of his messages (audio only) are available on the church website, including his splendid Sunday School hour message on “The Life and Legacy of John Calvin.”



FROM JAY MYERS (Outreach Team) ...

"Hello everyone" from your Outreach Team! It's been long year; hasn't it? I believe we can all agree, though, that it has also been a profitable year for many of us individually as well as for our church. We're growing in Christ and, speaking of "growing", some of you may be feeling the impress of the Holy Spirit to become more involved in outreach. Well, come January, the Outreach Team is welcoming new members. While the Team's current membership certainly deserves our unreserved gratitude, service opportunities to our Lord are not something to be coveted but shared, passed on. For those of you who'd like to continue on the Outreach Team - GREAT! To you who have already said you'd like to serve - GREATER! To you who are thinking of "raising your hand" - JUST DO IT!

WINTER TERM ... ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Beginning Sunday, December 7th, all the adults will meet together in the Christian Education building for an eight-week winter term Sunday School class. It is a combination video and group discussion that Pastor Roff will lead. The title, “Amazing Grace: The History and Theology of the Reformed Faith,” is timed to coincide with the beginning of the year that we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the great French/Swiss reformer, John Calvin. The series will be an excellent overview of the way in which Calvinism has presented a God-centered world-and-life view. If you’ve gotten out of the habit of attending Sunday School, this is a great time to reintroduce this practice. After this course finishes in January, we will again offer a group of electives for adults to choose from in the SS hour (see page 10).

CLOTHES NEEDED

John and Jean Van Hemert serve as chaplain/missionaries to the sailors that come through the Port of Palm Beach. They bring gospel messages as well as material items to assist them. During the winter months, many of these sailors are inadequately prepared for the cold air at sea. If you have winter clothing you no longer use, bring it to the church and the Van Hemerts will take it to some of these “shivering seamen.”



COMMUNION

We will celebrate the Lord’s Supper during our morning worship on December 14. Come prepared to meet with the Lord in this sacrament with the rich nourishment it provides for our souls.

PASTOR ROFF IN UKRAINE

On New Year's day, Pastor Roff will be installing this organ in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Belgorod-Dnestrovsky. He has been working for four years to raise the funds for this gift. Members of Lake Osborne have generously contributed to this project. Members of our choir sang in this church last June on the day they formally dedicated their new building. Pastor Sergey Betin and his wife, Lyuda, visited us here at LOPC two years ago.



Christmas in Eastern Orthodox countries occurs on January 7 each year, so Pastor Roff will play the organ for them for their Christmas Eve candlelight service. He will spend several days teaching their pianist how to use the instrument. (She has never seen an organ, much less played one!) As the only organ in this Ukrainian city of 40,000, it is our prayer that many will be attracted to hear it, and to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is faithfully preached there.



Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Belgorod-Dnestrovsky, Ukraine (50 miles south of Odessa)



Pastor Sergey Betin, along with his wife, Lyuda,
their son Vlad; and Pastor Roff