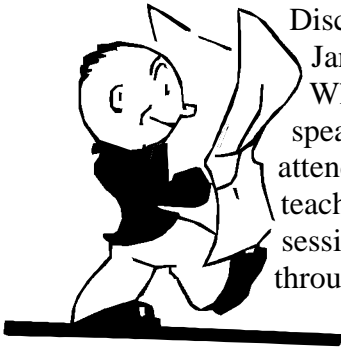


Would You Believe?

February 2008

News in the Pews

One of the highlights of January was the Spiritual Disciplines Conference held Jan. 18-20th. Dr. Donald Whitney was the keynote speaker. Those of us who attended benefited from his teaching and at least to me, the session on prayer--praying through a scripture was extremely helpful and will change my prayer life immensely. Those of you who were unable to attend can benefit from going to his website which is <http://www.biblicalspirituality.org/index.html>.



Now we can look forward to our Missions Conference to be held March 1-5.

The South Florida Fair is now underway. For the first time in many years, Dennis Clark is not in the Child Evangelism Tent because they were not allowed to have the space this year so you might pray that in another year this will be changed. This has been a very effective ministry in the past.

A positive report from the fair... Evan Myers was awarded a South Florida Fair Scholarship which will be presented on January 29th. Evan entered tomato plants and came in fourth place there. He also entered a poster on Bio-technology for agriculture for which he received a blue ribbon. . Melissa Myers entered a child development exhibit which sounds quite interesting to me. It is first aid in a can--so ask Melissa to tell you more about that. She received a blue ribbon on it.

Melissa Myers, among her other activities is an assistant coach for an Upward Basketball. Emily Wade is playing on one of the basketball teams in this league. Michaela Grimmig is another active young teen-ager. She is the editor of not only the school newspaper but also of the yearbook at Palm Springs Middle School. She was also the co-captain

of the volleyball team and is now playing volleyball with the Palm Beach Juniors. We have some outstanding young folks and we must be praying for them and encouraging them.

Some of the comings and goings of our folks include a cruise to Mexico and Belize by Mary Alice Baker and a friend. Pat Clayton enjoyed a busy and interesting time with her nephew in St. Augustine. Helen Lukasiak enjoyed a visit from one of her nieces in mid January. They too kept a very busy schedule. I'm looking forward to getting together with one of my nieces who I have not seen in about 40 years. She will be in the area for a convention and we are hoping to get together in some of her free time. Walter and Helen Gutheil enjoyed a visit with Walter's daughter and her husband. Marc and Martha Smith visited with some friends who were down from the north who were spending some time in Kissimmee. Ann Seay met one of her sisters in St. Simons Island, GA and attending a conference together. Kathie and Richard Eubanks made a trip to Panama City and Nashville, TN--attending to business and also having time with relatives. Nancy and Bob Lee went to Charlotte and spent some time with Jeff and Jenny... and these native Floridians were thrilled that it snowed while they were there. Don and Takako Hair enjoyed a visit with their daughter, Donna and her family. My, how those children have grown!!! It's hard to believe that their oldest is now driving and they live in the Atlanta area!!! I can't imagine going to Wisconsin at this time of the year but Mary Alice Baker is going to spend almost 3 weeks there with her daughter and granddaughter. She is already planning to build a snowman with her granddaughter. Charlotte McKee is anticipating a visit from Billy and his family the last weekend of January.

And isn't it wonderful to have Joe and Kathy Kemper back for a visit. They plan to be living on their boat and plan to be here until some time in

March. They look wonderful and report that things are going well for them in West Virginia.

I am sorry to report that Ruth Harvey is going into a retirement home near her daughter in Vero Beach. Ruth is one of our outstanding "over 90 Crowd" who stays busy playing golf and bridge. Some of us younger ones would have a hard time keeping up with Ruth!!! Her new address is 950 Regency Square, Apt. 201, Vero Beach, FL 32967. Her phone number is 772-567-5871.

.Dick Peterson is retiring from FPL and Sallie is about to retire. They are planning to go to Ohio and take care of Sallie's parents. My, how we will miss them and all they do at LOPC. As much as I hate to see them leave, I have to admit, that it is exciting how the Lord is working out the details--ask them to share with you all the exciting details!!!

Of course, we were saddened with the death of David Brady but once again when we look at how the Lord worked out all the details and when we realize that David is now in the presence of the Lord, we also have to rejoice. We will miss David and continue to pray for Leilou in her adjustment to life without her partner and also in her recovery. Last month, I gave an address for Leilou which was a Health Care Center. She is now back at her daughter's and getting therapy there. That address is c/o Peggy Brady, 3011 Brandemeer, Tallahassee, FL 32317. Do continue to send cards of encouragement.

We also extend our sympathy to Suzanne Rivell in the death of her mother on Jan. 11. I think it is really neat that Suzanne and her sisters have "adopted her mother's best friend as well as her caretaker and once a week they get together for dinner and a movie---What an excellent way to honor and remember their mom. Our sympathy also goes to Judy Lehtinen in the death of her sister.

I know Larry has already told a little about the last group of new members but since the emphasis at the church is now on outreach, I would just like to add a little about how folks came to the church because of the influence of some of our members. Jean Archer started coming to LOPC because of the impact on her life by Jeff Rathgeb. Lynda Kupiec was introduced to the church because of neighbors of her sister. Those neighbors were Tom and Margaret Doyle and Bryan and Melissa Backus. Judy Lehtinen knew about LOPC because of Dennis

Clark's witnessing to her son years ago. We often don't stop to think what an influence we might be having on our neighbors and friends. Let's pray that the Lord will use each of us in the lives of others as we emphasize Outreach this year.

Carolyn Kullmar

From the Pastor

After having attended the Spiritual Life Conference on biblical disciplines, and after having learned valuable techniques for praying through God's word with unhurried meditation, it is important to use these techniques with the conscious intention of accomplishing the **purpose** for which they are intended. Therefore, use your newly discovered techniques in actively humble pursuit of increased intimacy with God on the basis of an increase in true wisdom. This wisdom comes only from God, and only to those who belong to God by faith in Christ with repentance from sin. This wisdom includes: 1. Increasing knowledge of God according to His word, 2. Increasing understanding of God according to His word, 3. Increasing discernment in all things in Him according to His word, 4. Increasing discretion in the functions of our lives, internally and externally, so that, 5. Christ Himself will be recognized and magnified in the demonstration of His righteousness for the lifting up of His own Name/Nature in us individually and collectively.



After considering this thoroughly, and putting it into practice, contact me and tell me how you are progressing in the **purpose**.

ATTEND OR NOT TO ATTEND (Church, that is)

I was very interested in an article I read in the Wednesday, January 9, edition of *USA Today*. They published a study by LifeWay Research, the research arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, on the habits and beliefs of the unchurched (people who had not attended a religious service, synagogue or mosque at any time in the past six months). One of the most revealing facts shared in the article was that one in five (22%) Americans say they **never** go to church. That number is the highest ever recorded.

My personal feeling is that number probably should be higher than the survey revealed.

Other interesting findings show just **52%** agree on the essential Christian belief that "Jesus died and came back to life," and **61%** of the unchurched say "the God of the Bible is no different from the gods or spiritual beings depicted by other world religions." Yet, the report shows that **78%** of those surveyed would be willing to listen to someone "tell what he or she believed about Christianity." Personal evangelism — when was the last time you heard that phrase?

The point of my article is one that I have labored over for some time. Why do people go to church in the first place? To worship? To fellowship? To be discipled? To serve? To be restored and revived? To engage in meaningful dialogue? To train up their children? To find a value system of belief and practice? To learn to engage the culture more intelligently? The list is endless.

If that be the case, why does the number of adherents continue to decrease? I saw a figure the other day from a Barna study that showed the average adult attendance per church to be in the 80s. I can remember when it was in the high 90s and lower 100s. (Perhaps we have more churches.) What has happened?

I think I know some of the answers. We, as a body, have failed to change our methods. The emphasis on revival and salvation of the lost has ebbed. So much of what we do in the church is therapeutic, not restorative. The pastor has been forced to serve as an executive rather than a shepherd. Many of those who do attend are biblically illiterate and can't defend the faith adequately. The TV and electronic church has eroded physical attendance. And we have reduced the cost of serving Christ from an act of sacrifice to a place of entertainment and fellowship. Not to mention laymen resistant to change. (Reprinted from *The Pastor's Weekly Briefing*)

Now for some smiles:

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have. I have character lines.

Lynn Downing

NEWS FROM LARRY

SPIRITUAL LIFE CONFERENCE was a wonderful success. Nearly 90 people attended the sessions taught by Don Whitney on "Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Life." He has graciously permitted us to make the audio of these messages available on our LOPC web site. If you were here, you'll benefit by listening again to make sure this material gets woven into the fibers of your soul. If you weren't here, this is an opportunity for you to discover the riches the rest of us enjoyed over that weekend. His message on "Family Worship" will not be on the web, because it is copyrighted in pamphlet and audio CD form. If you did not purchase these on the book table at the conference, you can order them by visiting Don Whitney's website at www.BiblicalSpirituality.org. Or you can place your order for these inexpensive items by calling (800) 405-3788.

A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER has been set for the first Tuesday of each month (February 5th this month) by the session and by our “Fanning the Flame” Outreach Committee. This is for the purpose of praying that God would cultivate an outreach mentality among us all, so that a prominent characteristic of the personality of this church would be this passion about outreach, and particularly outreach right here to our own neighbors and community. Please go back on-line and listen to Don Whitney’s address on fasting to see what a valuable discipline this is, and how God blesses His people when they humble themselves before Him in this way.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMESTER is about to begin. Pastor Downing’s class will continue (Bible Survey with R. C. Sproul videos), as will John Brandt’s class (the book of Romans). The other three electives are ending, and it is time to select one of the two new classes that will be offered. Buddy Tate will be teaching a class on “Favorite Verses of the Bible,” looking at a different verse each week. This class will begin on Feb. 3rd. Pastor Roff and Dick Peterson will be team-teaching a class, using Don Whitney’s book, “Spiritual Disciplines within the Church.” This is a follow-up to Whitney’s first book which was taught here two years ago. This class will begin on February 10th.

KEITH TATE will be home on leave over the weekend of February 3rd. We look forward to hearing a testimony from him during morning worship that day about what he has been learning in his walk with the Lord while on duty in the Persian Gulf with the US Navy. We also look forward to his music that morning, and in several piano/organ duets with Pastor Roff at the evening service.

INQUIRERS’ CLASS will be offered on Sunday afternoon, February 3rd, for those interested in membership at LOPC. Lunch will be served immediately after the morning worship service, and the class will conclude by 4:00 pm. It will cover basic Christian beliefs, essentials of the Reformed faith, and an overview of the history, ministries, and goals of Lake Osborne Church. Please RSVP on the blue card or by calling the church office.

VALENTINE DINNER will be held on Saturday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come for a delightful Italian dinner and hear Jamie

Porter, the comedian, who provided us with such great belly laughs last year! Tickets will be available for sale in the Narthex on Sunday. Cost is \$10.00 for singles and \$20.00 per couple. There will be no nursery available that evening. Transportation will be provided by your Shepherd if needed. Call Becky Forester for more information at 968-2806.

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE has been postponed to a later month, due to availability of critical workers in the “pricing and set-up” of the items. Please continue to think about what you can contribute. A spring date will be announced later.

DANCE LESSONS will again be offered by Dorothy Brindle. These will take place at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall on three Friday evenings in February: the 8th, 22nd, and 29th. Please contact Dorothy at 586-6797 to let her know that you intend to come.

2008 MISSIONS CONFERENCE is coming next month, so be sure to mark your calendar and save the dates. It begins with a prayer meeting on Saturday evening, March 1st, and then continues through Wednesday evening, March 5th. Primary speaker will be Rev. Bob Tanzie, MTW missionary to Spain whom we support here at LOPC. There will also be other guests sharing with us the nature and progress of their work here and overseas. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings will include dinner at church. The theme of this year’s conference is “Grace To Us; Grace Though Us,” based on Ps 67:1-2, *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.*

MEN’S COOKOUT FELLOWSHIP for February will be on the second Monday, the 11th, at 6:00 pm. We have had wonderful turnouts and wonderful fellowship at these meetings. This month, we hope to share experiences as men begin to lead family worship. This was a major theme at the Spiritual Life Conference. The pamphlet and audio CD by Don Whitney are available from the church office, or can be ordered at (800) 405-3788. We look forward to hearing from men who are trying to do this in their homes. Bring a friend and a few bucks and join us on the grassy parking lot.

Larry Roff

Financial Report

January-December 2007

LOPC Ministries Fund

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$504,998	\$502,408	\$485,597
Disbursements	\$507,221	\$501,548	\$487,158

Improvements and Emergency Fund

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$ 58,000	\$ 24,962	\$ 33,639
Disbursements	\$ 65,975	\$ 62,345	\$112,362

Mission Fund

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$100,000	\$106,133	\$ 99,686
Disbursements	\$101,377	\$ 92,500	\$104,011

Year to Date Receipts and Disbursements

	Budget	Actual	2006
Receipts	\$662,998	\$633,503	\$618,922
Disbursements	\$674,573	\$656,392	\$703,531

Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church ended 2007, in fair financial condition, although it didn't look so until December. Throughout the year it looked like the cash balance in the Ministries Fund would be in-the-red for the first time since 1989. In November it had a \$41,450 deficit.. Then there was a surge of giving in December, which set a record for a month. It erased the deficit, and raised the Ministries Fund cash balance to \$17,848. In addition to this we have donated stock, which will be sold at an appropriate time. Total Ministries Fund income was \$502,408; the best in history. Disbursements were \$501,548; 1% below the \$507,221, budget.

Giving to the Improvements and Emergency Fund remains a concern, since by necessity we are self insured for property damage, and the fund balance is \$216,000. Giving to this fund was only \$24,962 in 2007.

Mission Fund giving was \$106,133, an increase of \$6,447 over 2006.

Total giving was \$633,508, \$14,600 above 2006.

Total expenses were \$656,392, \$18,181, or 2.7% below budget.

The 2008 budget forecasts a significant decrease in expense, since several major projects have been completed.

A copy of the 2008 budget is available on request. Please note that LOPC maintains an open policy for members and contributors regarding financial information. You may request the same financial information given to the church officers. If you would like an explanation of the reports I will be glad to review them with you.

Bill Campbell

Missions

*God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us.
That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations." (Ps. 67:1-2)*

Simply put: "Grace to us, Grace through us." Which will be our theme for this year's conference.



Our first committee meeting of the year will be the last Monday of the month, Jan 28, 2008. Our task is to provide a Missions conference every bit as good as the ones in the past. Our goal is to serve the Lord by serving those who propagate His Grace throughout the world. We will need a lot of volunteers to do so.

Hopefully, we will begin a year as successful as last year—or better. All of you will be the deciding factor in that service. We will see how much Grace we feel, by the Grace we support in evangelizing others.

Our committee members cannot do all the work, and should not. Here is some idea of the chores that must be covered. Now you can think about them; then when a committee member asks you for help, you can not only say "Yes, gladly," but you can also say what you would like to do most.

We will need help in each of these areas:

1. A team to work on **Planning Programs**
Agendas for meetings, plans for children and youth
2. A team to work on **Hospitality**
Organizing plans for accommodations for speakers
3. A team to work on **Prayer**

*Planning Saturday evening prayer service,
praying for conference*

4. A team to work on **Transportation**

Helping guests get to and from meetings

5. A team to work on **Meals**

*Organizing and assisting with dinners:
preparing, serving, cleaning*

6. A team to work on **Set-up**

*Getting rooms ready for meetings, including
missionaries' displays*

7. A team to work on **Audio-Visuals**

Preparing sound and projection equipment

Best of the Web

(Part 2 in an occasional series)

I love Martin Luther's brief definition of *sanctification*. He says it means "getting used to being forgiven".

There are some great websites that can help us get used to being forgiven. Check these out:

www.stevebrownetc.com Yes, that Steve Brown. Don't expect a lot of hyper-extended piety here, though. Steve has recently redesigned the entire site. There is so much to investigate that one could easily spend half a day just clicking on the links! Steve's blog is great, although I don't always agree with him. (He says Tony Campolo is his favorite lib!) The design of the entire site is flashy, cool and professional. Steve has a way of communicating with the unconverted and the converted that is fresh and appealing, yet rooted in the Reformed faith. There are free podcasts of Steve's teaching, in addition to some great comedy bits. I love this guy!

www.paultrippministries.blogspot.com Here's another contemporary giant of the Reformed faith. I'm a major fan of Pastor Tripp's. His books, A Quest for More and Lost in the Middle, have literally changed my thinking. The same can be said for his blog. He has a penetrating writing style and is currently teaching Psalm 27 online. There's always plenty of food for thought from Pastor Tripp. His blog is updated every couple of days.

www.biblicalspirituality.org For those of you who had the great privilege of attending the Spiritual Growth Conference with Dr. Don Whitney in January, here is his website! There are great articles to consider by clicking on the link so

designated. What a wealth of information is contained in his articles and his books. If you missed out on the chance to buy one of his books at the conference, you can follow the link on this site to purchase them. He makes me want to tackle the writings of Jonathan Edwards.

www.americanthinker.com This has to be one of my favorite stops on the web. While these guys are not all believers, they are conservative thinkers who take the time to study an issue or event related to politics, Islamofacism, education, culture, religion. They then write about it succinctly and usually brilliantly. No hysteria or polemics here, just plenty of great food for thought. They have helped me craft informed opinions on several burning issues of the day. Highly recommended.

More to come in future issues.

Debbye Tate

A Message from Leilou

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When I look back on the last days of David's life, the visitations, funeral and graveside services, and the general gathering together; I see sadness and grief but most of all I see beautiful memories. The outpouring of compassion and love I will cherish in my heart along with my David's (beloved in Hebrew) going home to our Lord. The outpouring of blessings, prayers and love to my family and me from you along with God Himself surrounding us in his everlasting arms. What a witness to the world, hospitals, and my dear family and me is the love outpouring from God through His people. My family and I thank God for all of you.. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless us all with His love, strength, grace, and mercy.

Always with love,

Leilou Brady