

Would You Believe?

March 2008

NEWS IN THE PEWS



March comes in like a lion as we bring with it our Missions Conference--always a special eating and growing time. As those of you who are familiar with our conferences, there is a lot of eating with meals Mon.-Wed. evenings and lunches two days as well

as a men's breakfast on Tuesday morning. Yet the most important part of the conference is hearing from our missionaries and getting to know them. This year Bob Tanzie, one of the missionaries who we support will be the main speaker and he will preach through the book of Jonah so plan to attend all the events! You'll be glad you did!!!!

We are very happy to have welcomed six new members on Sunday, February 17. Betty Baliram, George and Carol Kirkwood, Woody and Kathy Robbins and Sharon Virkler have all become apart of our church family. We are so blessed to have each one of them here at LOPC and next month I will share with you more about them.

Some of the items made by the Knit Wits, our knitters and crocheters, have been displayed in the narthex. It is amazing how much has been accomplished by a few of the women of the church. This group began because one of our ladies, Martha Combs, who had given up knitting donated her yarn to the church. Four or five women who enjoy knitting and crocheting got together at the church and spent a delightful clicking the needles (and also their tongues) and have put out these items which will be donated to nursing homes, sent to the mission field and some prayer shawls given to some of our own members. This group meets the first and third Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 in the church parlor and welcomes any who would like to join!! It

is a good way to get to know one another and at the same time to create something for others.

Another way to get to know and enjoy one another is to start a Missions Prayer lunch or dinner group. Several couples decide to get together for dinner once a month rotating homes and hosts. They adopt one of our missionaries and commit to pray for them and each couple puts in a set amount, say \$10 per couple which is sent to MTW for support of the missionary. The host couple may also write or e-mail the missionary. Or a group of singles may get together for a lunch once a month and they also adopt a missionary and commit to pray for the missionary and each individual puts in a designated amount which is sent to MTW for the support of the missionary. The missionary gets prayer and financial support and the individuals participating enjoy fellowship while encouraging a missionary. At present, we have a lunch group of 6 who support Alice Hatch. This group will have lunch with Alice while she is here for the conference. From experience, I highly recommend this!!! Ken and I were a part of a couples group for many years and now I am enjoying the Alice lunch group. Try it--you might like it!!!!

As most of you are aware, The Anderson family served on the Mission field in Peru for years before they returned and Bob was the director of South American Mission here. Just recently, there was an exciting development in their family. Their youngest son, Randy and his wife, Susan as well as his wife's sister and her family have volunteered for mission service overseas and are talking to the folks at South American Mission. They are interested in Peru, which is where Randy was born and spent the first 3 years of his life.

Five years ago, 20 of the Anderson family took a trip to Peru and it may have been here that the interest began. But I personally feel that it started years ago from the prayers of Randy's grandmother. The thing I remember most about Mrs. Anderson was that she impressed me as being a woman of

prayer. Let's all pray for Randy and Susan and their three children as they make preparations to answer God's call.

Another exciting happening in the Anderson family. Their grandson, Michael, who often plays the piano in our worship service, was asked to write the background music for an art exhibit depicting the Creation. This exhibit will be going to churches across the U. S. The first engagement is at the Crystal Cathedral and Michael is to play there on March 15. Bob and Mary will go out ahead of him and spend some time with Mary's brother but they will be there when Michael plays. By the way, Michael's music is being put on a CD and will be on sale later in March.

Although I was told to make this primarily Missions related, we have to have a little news about our folks also. February is the birth month of famous people .

THE BIG NEWS IS THAT CALEB JAMES VEERMAN ARRIVED IN THIS WORLD ON FEB. 20 IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. NEEDLESS TO SAY GRANDPARENTS, LYNN AND DIANNE WERE ON HAND TO WELCOME HIM. We all rejoice with them and look forward to meeting Caleb in the new future.

The Marc Smith family has 6 members who have Feb. birthdays with ages ranging from 16 to 85 so on Feb. 23, Marc's birthday, the Smith family had quite a celebration !!! In addition to the Feb. birthdays, they also celebrated the birthday of Martha's sister, Ann Everet, whose birthday is in March. Since she won't be here in March, she is included in this birthday bash!!!! Ann, who is a trombone player, actually brought her trombone and played "Happy Birthday" at the birthday celebration of another of our "famous people", Betty McKee. How many people on their 88th birthday can have an 83 year old trombonist playing for them??? And in mentioning birthdays, I can't neglect to thank the Encouragement Group. They surprised me with a delightful lunch on my special day. I just want to take this opportunity to tell you what a wonderful group of women we have in the Encouragement Group. Most of these women are in their 70's and 80's and many have difficulties themselves and yet they faithfully come on Mondays and go out to encourage others. This is a special group of ladies but it is not a closed group and any of you ladies--

young or old---are more than welcome to become a part. Just show up in the parlor on Monday morning at 11:30. This group has been a real blessing to many of us. Although we go out to encourage, we come back having been encouraged ourselves.

We have surely been blessed with musical talent during the month of Feb. Katelyn Gocio often plays during our worship service but she really gave us a treat when she played the piece for which she had received a Superior rating in district competition. We are thankful for Katie sharing her talent with us and we do congratulate her on the Superior rating!!!! By the way, Inna Slusarenko did an excellent job in accompanying Katie. Another Sunday we had the privilege of hearing Sae Yoon Chon, the 12 year old musician from Korea who was visiting Dr. Kwang Yang. Such talent!!!! And of course, it was wonderful having Keith Tate back and playing for us one Sunday.

By the way, congratulations are in order for Keith. He made it safely back from his jaunt with the armed services and has "popped the question" so now is officially engaged to Tiffany Ellisor, the ballerina and love of his life from Pensacola. They will probably marry in the late summer or early fall. They are both believers so we rejoice with them and let's be faithful to uphold this young couple in prayer.

Also Valerie Tate, another talented musician, auditioned for and got two challenging solos in Belhaven's upcoming choir production, "Lord Nelson Mass.

We extend our love and best wishes along with our congratulations to Patricia Noller and Gary Timmerman on their marriage which took place on Feb. 7th in Boynton Beach.

Congratulations are also in order for Naila Nandial who just graduated from Medvance Institute with a degree in medical coding and billing. Now pray that she will find a job in her field.

Within the last month, Lou Langley has had visits from both of her sons. I also enjoyed a visit from my younger son, Russ. Carl Kalberkamp's daughter and son in law were here from PA. Sara Ashauer spent a few days with Charlotte McKee. Maria Osso spent some time with her daughter in New York and Mary Alice Baker braved the cold and visited her daughter and granddaughter in Wisconsin.

I just talked with Leilou and she says she can now put weight on her leg and that she is progressing. She appreciates the prayers, cards and encouragement from her church family so continue to uphold her in prayer and send her notes of encouragement until we get her back among us!!! It was wonderful to have Steve and Helen Petras in church. Do continue to pray for healing of Helen's leg. Wilma Herbert continues to make a remarkable recovery in her recent hip replacement and looks forward to being back in her own place on March 1st. Wilma is surely a remarkable 95year old and was busy witnessing to folks in the hospital and rehab center while there. We have 3 of our ladies under the care of HOSPICE so do pray for them. They are Aileen Barker, Martha Combs, and Ruth Hawk. I have visited each of them and they have been a strong encouragement to me. They are trusting the Lord with the circumstances of their lives. Do either send them a card or call or visit but most of all, be faithful to pray for them. Our missionaries, Jim and Mary Alice Patterson returned to the Philippines to aid in the clean up from the recent flooding there. They are to return to the US on March 9th so be in prayer for them. Also we got a recent e-mail from the Aschmanns that Rick's dad just died so uphold that family in prayer also

BE FAITHFUL TO TAKE IN ALL THE EVENTS OF THE MISSIONS CONFERENCE WHILE PRAYING FOR EVERY ASPECT OF THE CONFERENCE!!!

Carolyn Kullmar

FROM THE PASTOR



The missions support ministry of LOPC has been a consistent blessing to the individual givers and to the church as a whole since 1973. We have participated as givers, prayers and goers. The only other outreach ministry which has rivaled foreign missions has been

the ministry of church planting from the mid '70s into the late '80s during which God used LOPC to provide all or part of the prayer, money and logistics for at least 6 churches.

As wonderful as these blessings have been we still have an area of outreach which has been less than satisfying. It is local evangelistic outreach. Even though we have trained a respectable number of trainers and trainees in Evangelism Explosion, and even though this is training that equips for life, the problem in a present day local church is that the ability to schedule predictable E. E. visits has become increasingly hard. This is so even with visitors to a local congregation. Even though I am convinced that E. E. is the best training a person can receive, the realities just described make it necessary to look at other avenues for accomplishing local evangelistic faithfulness.

The next best avenue for evangelism, in my long held opinion, is Friendship Evangelism. It solves the problem of unavailable visits in two respects. First, friendships are prayerfully sought for the purpose of exposing the friend to Christ through the gospel, either personally or through a Bible study or some other kind of church meeting. Second, the depth of the friendship relationship provides for incomparably better discipleship follow-up.

Of course, the main problem with any evangelism ministry is personal motivation, i.e., willingness to participate. This seems to be the biggest hurdle for us here at LOPC. We generally think of ourselves as being a friendly group of church members or participants, and we actually are friendly. But, the truth be known, we are friendly to each other while being, historically, inattentive to visitors. We actually score very low in what is called *outreach mentality*. Such a mentality is not an option as far as Christ is concerned. He requires each person who belongs to Him to represent Him in a gospel clarifying way into the lives of others. This can be through E. E., but it can also be through meetings of groups as described above.

I believe the best way to overcome our lack of *outreach mentality* is to pray for ourselves as individuals and as a church to do so. If we are earnestly praying for this mentality, then God will turn the situation around. If we are not willing to pray in this way, then such disobedience speaks for itself, and God is listening to what it says.

As we continue in missions ministry through this year's missions conference, let us agree to pray as I have just suggested, and more importantly, since God requires it. Matt. 9:37-38, "Then He said to

His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’” How can we pray for harvesters without being willing to personally become such ourselves?

Lynn Downing

MISSIONS

Who-me?

“Go to the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind”!

from Missions Committee Chairman, Dick Miller

You have been off-planet if you didn’t expect a missions comment at this time.



LOPC is our place of business on this matter, and it comes to a head this time every year. This has been, and will again be, one of the highlights of our entire year here at Lake Osborne.

God commanded us, and did not hedge or imply this is a suggestion or option.

In His wisdom He made it clear we are each distinct parts within the body. Each member is essential and contributes something no one else can. This is true with missions, as we each have God-assigned roles to play in carrying out the Great Commission. Come to the conference we have prepared again this year to build your faith and understanding of how God works, and how you can respond to such a strong commandment.

Good, hard working people who have been “called” to some part of the world will be there to inform and educate all of us. We cannot fall back on “we didn’t know”, when He asks the big question - “What did you do about My last earthly commandment?” You may be surprised at what you learn from a few presentations. You will certainly enjoy all the great food at the dinners we share with our guests. Maybe you personally don’t have to give up your present life and go to another nation to participate in this great work. But you’ll be glad you met the people you “sent in your place!”

The schedule is now settled, and presenters committed. All we need is for everyone to commit to be here March 1 through 5 to make this the best conference ever. Let’s blow the top off the church,

and surprise everyone with record attendance ... and record pledges to our missions faith promise giving. Show them that Ol’ Downing taught us something over all these years! Put a smile on his face. Don’t brag after he is gone, or speak liturgies after he leaves this world. Let’s show him right here and now – this year at this conference – that when it comes to the message he’s taught us about missions - **“We Got It!”** Instead of mumbling “Amen” at the end of his sermon March 9th, we can all say out loud **“WE GOT IT!”**

You know how much that would mean to him, and don’t you know it would mean a lot more to God who cannot be fooled. Jonah could not get away from His commandment. Do we think we can? Come and hear our missionary to Spain, Rev. Bob Tanzie, tell us about Jonah and what happened to this “reluctant missionary.” Maybe we can learn something too.

Here’s the basic outline of the schedule.

Saturday, March 1	
Congregational Prayer in CE Building	6:00 pm
Sunday, March 2	
Combined Adult SS Class in Sanctuary	9:00 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Covered Dish Luncheon	12:15 pm
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Monday, March 3	
Catered Dinner	6:30 pm
Missions Program	7:30 pm
Youth Program	7:30 pm
Tuesday, March 4	
Men’s breakfast	6:30 am
Missions Luncheon	12:00 pm
Catered Dinner	6:30 pm
Mission Program	7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 5	
Ethnic Covered Dish Dinner	6:30 pm
Missions Program	7:30 pm
Children and Youth Programs	7:30 pm
Sunday, March 9	
Morning Worship Missions Faith Promise Service	10:30 am

LARRY'S COLUMN



MEET OUR MISSIONS CONFERENCE SPEAKER

On their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Bob and Joanne Tanzie went to Paris. Friends invited them to their home in Barcelona, Spain, and Bob and Joanne unexpectedly fell in love with the people and culture of Spain. Over the next five years, repeat visits impressed the deep spiritual lostness of the culture and the many needs of the church upon the Tanzies until God's call could no longer be set aside.

God has equipped the Tanzies through decades of ministry in multi-racial congregations in Philadelphia, New York and Boston. Joanne comes to the team with a degree in biblical studies and a master's in early childhood education with which she has taught special needs children. Bob is a graduate of Westminster Seminary, Philadelphia, where he focused on apologetics and also has undergraduate majors in European history and Bible.

Based in Madrid, Spain, the Tanzies will be working with Spanish nationals in church planting and evangelism. Pray for Bob and Joanne that the Lord of the Church will use them and the Madrid Team to bring the good news of Jesus' grace to the people of Spain.

Bob is one of the newest missionaries to be added to our list of overseas church planters that we support here at Lake Osborne. He will be speaking at each of the five sessions of our conference, next Sunday through Wednesday. His messages will come from the book of Jonah, the account of a "reluctant missionary" whose preaching was the instrument God used to bring about one of the most amazing revivals in history ... an entire city of 120,000 people converted in less than six weeks.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE DINNERS

Make sure you call ahead of time to reserve a meal at the Monday and Tuesday evening catered dinners. We MUST know ahead of time! There is no charge, but a donation box will be available. Wednesday's dinner will be our annual ethnic

covered dish dinner. Bring something unique to a culture other than our own. And don't forget to bring covered dishes on Sunday morning for the luncheon following the morning worship service. This will be a great time to meet our guest speaker and his wife, Bob and Joanne Tanzie.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Did you know that there is a scholarship fund here at LOPC to help students attending Christian schools, and those in Christian colleges and seminaries preparing for ministry? This fund comes from designated gifts. Since we have several recipients, it is in need of replenishment. You'll have an opportunity to do that on Palm Sunday, March 16th.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on Thursday night, March 20th. The 7:00 pm service will include a choir cantata with a "Tenebrae" ceremony, as candles are gradually darkened with each song, to recall the darkness of the hours leading up to Jesus arrest and crucifixion.

EASTER SUNDAY CANTATA

"Calvary's Love" is the theme of our Easter celebration, and is also the title of the choir cantata that will be sung that morning. Pray for Pastor Downing as he prepares his Easter sermon. And take advantage of this great opportunity to "cultivate an outreach mentality" here at LOPC. Invite friends. Many times people who come to know Christ say that they would have come to church sooner if someone had just invited them! And pray that those who do come will hear with hearts opened by the Holy Spirit. Pray also for the choir as they will present the cantata to residents at the Lakeside retirement community on Monday night, March 25.

FIFTH SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Bring a covered dish for the luncheon on Sunday, March 30th. We will again eat in groups according to "flocks," meeting with your elder and deacon undershepherds.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to move your clocks FORWARD one hour on Saturday evening, March 9. We don't want

you to be late for Sunday School and church the next day!

Larry Roff

MEN'S MINISTRY

Grace to us, grace through us...

The Men's Ministry of LOPC invites all men to come and participate on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

Our assignment from last month was to pray and think about ways to start or improve family worship in our homes. Don Whitney, our guest speaker at the Spiritual Life Conference, says there are three things to incorporate in our family worship: Read, Pray and Sing. Men, come out and share your ideas with us and enjoy a great meal and fellowship. With Missions and having an Outreach mentality in mind, remember that the Men's Ministry is not limited to LOPC members. Bring a friend! Looking forward to seeing you and hearing what God has revealed to you through prayer about family worship.

*In Him,
Bob Lee*

LIBRARY

"DOWN IN OUR CATACOMBS!"

We all know that we should be quiet when in a Library. But we should not be quiet any longer ABOUT the wonderful Library right here at LOPC.

Dean Barbieri has been responsible for the amazing wealth of books and all the work involved in processing them. Along with Sally Petersen, who catalogs them into the computer and our new trainee, Emily Wade, many hours are spent to make them available. More help is needed, so stop by to give Dean your name as a willing volunteer.

The library has a wonderful selection of children's books and videos as well as standard reference books on Biblical truth and Christian living. Also outstanding is the section of Christian novels.

So please stop by and take advantage of this hidden treasure downstairs in the "Catacombs." Library hours are from 10:00am until 10:25am on Sunday morning and 6:30pm until 7:00pm on Wednesday evening.

Dorothy Brindle

ATTENTION ALL

CHILDREN

Attention all children:

Come learn more about missionaries during missions week. There will be a class Monday, Tuesday and our regular Wednesday class from 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. We will have real missionaries come talk to us. We will also have a chance to ask questions that we will prepare ahead of time to ask. Beside hearing from a missionary, we will learn new games that they play in other countries and try some new foods from other countries too. We will also have videos so that we can see what it is like in other places and craft projects from other places. We will be learning a lot about other places. Come learn and have fun.

Attention all adults and teens:

I need a helper Monday, March 3rd and Tuesday, March 4th from 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Come have fun with us! Call Lisa Lennon 433-2540 if you can help.

*Thank you,
Lisa Lennon*

YOUTH PLUGGED IN

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you all. Since returning from Columbia, SC, we have had the opportunity to re-start Plugged In on Sunday nights from 6-7:15. We



have had strong turn outs and a rich time of fellowship, singing, and Bible study. How incredible it is to see God's Word at work in the life of our youth. And thanks for the delicious desserts

provided by the Ladies Encouragement group (my personal favorite was the Fruit Pizza introduced to me by Dianne Downing... Outstanding!).

As I write this, I am still incredibly blessed by our trip to Westgate recently. Some of our usual suspects were missing and we almost had to cancel the trip, but Jay Myers and Troy Bailes (and his son Dallas) stepped up to the plate and were a

tremendous blessing! By God's grace we were able to feed 75 people. There were not many kids there this time. From what we heard, the families we have dealt with regularly have gotten back on their feet. Please continue in prayer for this ministry. The property is for sale, and the future is uncertain.

As for the rest of this Season, here's what is planned:

PAINTBALL- THE REMATCH on March 22, 2008.

Switchfoot Concert

Rummage Sale

Return Trip to the Rainbow River.

Possibly More Westgate Trips (we will continue to pray and reassess the situation!)

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Thanks for your prayers, your love, and your support, and please keep praying for female leaders!!!!!!

*Love in Christ,
John, Tiffany, and Hannah
Matthew 5:16*

ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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