

Would You Believe?

May 2008

NEWS IN THE PEWS



Can you believe that it was just a year ago that we were celebrating the 50th anniversary of LOPC? Another year has passed and we will be having a picnic to celebrate the 51st anniversary. And the year ahead promises to be full of changes. How we hate to see the Downings leave and begin the search for a replacement. As much as I hate change, we must faithfully pray for the Lord's guidance and wisdom for the pulpit committee.

May is getting off to a busy start with the WIC brunch on May 3rd, which will honor Dianne for all that she has contributed to the life of LOPC in the last 37 years!!! Then the very next day, we will have the Anniversary Picnic. Make your plans now to enjoy this time with our church family.

The following week Megan Wade will be starring at the Lake Worth Christian spring play. I hope many of our folks will go and enjoy the production and at the same time show our support for Megan. By the way, didn't she do a good job with her solo at the concert?

We are really blessed with talented young folks. Katy Gocio went with the orchestra from Dreyfuss School of the Arts to New York City where they entered a competition of the Golden Heritage Festival in Lincoln Center. You enter this competition by invitation only. Not only did they enter but they won a FIRST PLACE!!!! They also played at The Riverside Cathedral. Katie has the distinction of playing a solo in Lincoln Center!!

Michael Anderson has finished a new CD which will be featured in the Masterpieces Christian Fine Arts Foundation Art Exhibit. The art exhibit will be touring the U. S. and France beginning this month. Michael was commissioned to create music to be played during the exhibit. This CD is a beautiful

eclectic blend of his classical, pop and romantic style. (If you are interested in obtaining one of these CD's I am serving as Michael's agent and have them for sale for \$15.) Who knows what they will be worth some day and they provide most enjoyable listening now!!!

Also Valerie Tate placed 3rd in the State Finals in her division as a vocal soloist in the annual National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in Mississippi.

She was also chosen by the music faculty for the third year in a row to participate in the "Best of Belhaven" annual concert, featuring outstanding musical performances by the students. Buddy went up on the bus to attend Val's Junior Concert. Won't it be wonderful when these young folks become famous that we can say "I knew them when--"

I just learned that Justin Forester is now teaching a college level course at the paramedic school. Caroline Tate and her dad, Buddy are planning an 80 mile bike ride together to Pahoehoe and back. As you know, Buddy has made long bike rides so is now thrilled that his daughter wants to accompany him.

I am happy to announce that Bryan and Melissa Backus are expecting their first child in December. They just celebrated their first wedding anniversary and now are anticipating another change in their life. As you are aware, Chris and Gemma Kibben are expecting their fourth and Bob and Deanna McCombs are also expecting an addition this summer.

Charlotte McKee is looking forward to a second grandchild. Bill and Julia are expecting an addition to their family. Dorothy Brindle is thrilled over the arrival of a great granddaughter, Briana born to her grandson, Matthew and his wife. Matt is in the Air Force and stationed in California. Also Richard and Jane Jennings are the proud grandparents of another grandson, Hylton Titus, the second son of Titus. As you remember the Jennings had 5 sons and one

daughter. Four of them are expecting sons this spring so that Richard and Jane will then have 7 grandsons and 1 granddaughter--no doubt that the Jennings name will continue for another generation!!!! Peggy Sprankle is expecting her 5th granddaughter (Jolie) in August which makes her the ecstatic gramma of 7!!!!

Mary Alice Baker enjoyed her granddaughter, Kaitlan over spring break. Also Kaitlin's mom, Laila joined them and was here for the wedding shower for Ahmed's fiancé. It was good to have Andrea Simmons and her father in law, Ron worship with us one Sunday in April. It was good to see Andrea but of course, Mason was the star attraction!!! Eleanor Jensen enjoyed a visit with her sister Millie and niece, Marcia. And wasn't it wonderful to see Corine Hiller with 2 of her children, Whitten Hall and Ashley Blood, as well as her grandchildren in church on April 20. Corine and her husband had come down from NC to celebrate Ashley's birthday.

Dianne spent a week with Amy and the children while Eric was away on business. Larry and Betty Roff spent a week with their children and grandchildren in Chattanooga. Nadine Wright and her daughter, Cathy are going to Arkansas for Mother's Day as well as to attend the graduation of Nadine's granddaughter, from the University of Arkansas.

Marie Osso had her husband are spending 2 weeks in Italy. And of course, the time of the year when the snow birds return north is fast approaching and we will miss the Olsens, Pat Zengerle , Sally Hubner, Georgia Bourdon, Earl Burgering, Carl Kalberkamp and others but will look forward to their return in the fall. By the way, Carl had his grandson with him in church on April 20. This young man is on his way to New Zealand and Australia. Sounds like an interesting adventure!!! Maria Price will be coming down the first of May to take Mary Ida back to NC for the summer. It is hard to consider the Eubanks "snow birds" but they too will be going to their Georgia home for the summer months. Peggy Sprankle, and Dorothy Wilson will be visiting Peggy's sister-in-law in Charlotte, NC for a few days the end of April. The first stop will be in Jacksonville to pick up Peggy's sister Diana. This should be fun time for the girls!!!!

My, how we hated to see Dick and Sally Peterson leave but they sincerely felt the Lord's calling for them to move to Ohio to be with Sally's parents. It was amazing to see how the Lord worked out ALL the details of the move. We will miss Dick's work with the sound system, his teaching and leading the Saturday morning prayer group. There were many other many ways he helped out. I know because he came to my rescue many times. He also faithfully taught the Bible study in my home for 15 plus years. Sally was responsible for the "goodies" between Sunday School and church. She also helped in the library. They were faithful prayers for LOPC. Their new address is 14174 Mangen Rd., Yorkshire, OH 45388. Their e-mail address is rspeter@live.com . Our love and prayers as well as our thanks go with Dick and Sally. Of course, they have a permanent place in our hearts.

Keith Tate and Tiffany Ellisor have set their wedding date as October 4. They sent an e-mail recently in which they said, "We've created a web page for our wedding! Come read about our wedding details and sign our guest book. <http://www.theknot.com/ourwedding/TiffanyEllisorandKeithTate>

So do keep up with their wedding plans and especially remember them in your prayers.

Betty Baliram writes, "Thanks for all your prayers, telephone calls, visits and your thoughts. I am feeling much better as our God has listened to my prayers, yours, also all my relatives." We all rejoice with Betty in this answered prayers and her recovery.

Chris and Peggy Ehlers and three of their four children were down recently for the funeral services of Peggy's mother. We extend our sympathy to the Ehlers and Wallace families.

Carolyn Kullmar

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear LOPC
Members and
Friends,

For the benefit of you who were not in church on April 20th and for further details for all LOPC related folks, here is information about the leading of the Lord for Dianne and me beyond July 31.

The word retirement has been used by others in connection with our departure. I, however, have not used that word and have not thought along those lines. I have remarked that this would be a lateral move in order to continue in some ministry as directed by The Lord. Last Sunday's announcement was that He has in fact directed, and the result is that I have accepted the call of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama to join their staff as Pastor of Church Revitalization. This means that I will work in the growing ministry of *Embers to A Flame* (ETF) and *Fanning the Flame* (FTF).

FTF is the application of the Biblical principles outlined in ETF for the increase of spiritual health in local churches. Both ETF and FTF grew out of the concern and experiences of Rev. Harry Reeder, Senior Pastor at Briarwood, in matters of church revitalization.

When he arrived in Miami, years ago, to begin ministry in his first church, he discovered that it was unhealthy and declining. This led him to prolonged prayerful study of the Bible to know how to respond to the church's deep needs. The results of his discoveries eventually became the contents of a book which he wrote, entitled *From Embers to a Flame, How God Can Revitalize Your Church*. It has become a rich blessing to all who have read it. I strongly urge you to read it. It is in our library, or if you want your own copy, tell me, and I'll help you get one.

Church revitalization is an increasingly recognized need across denominational lines, and there are growing numbers of requests for the ETF and FTF ministry in the PCA, but also in other denominations, as well as in other countries.

Use this link, <http://www.emberstoafame.org> to see the ETF website for further information.

Dianne and I will move to Birmingham sometime between July 31st and Sept. 1st. We certainly request that you pray for us to be faithful and fruitful in this next step in our lives.

Obviously we need to sell our condominium here and buy a house in B'ham. Please pray to that end, and thank you very much for doing so.

In the mean time we continue to thank God for each of you for what you have, do, and will continue to mean to us.

*In Christ,
Lynn and Dianne*

LARRY'S COLUMN

51st Anniversary Celebration

Last May, we celebrated our 50th anniversary over a glorious weekend. The banquet, the barbecue, and the visits from friends, along with a booklet summarizing our history combined to make a wonderful time of praise to God for His work here.

We plan to make the first Sunday in May an annual "homecoming" event. On Sunday, May 4th, we will celebrate our 51st anniversary. During the service, Pastor Downing will summarize what we have seen God accomplish in our midst over the last two years in our "Embers to a Flame" ministry.

This will be especially delightful as we prepare to send him and Dianne off at the end of July to help promote that same revitalization ministry in churches of many denominations, not just the PCA, across the nations.

Our 51st Anniversary Celebration will also include our annual Deacon-sponsored all-church picnic. It will be held immediately after the morning worship service at the main pavilion in John Prince Park. Maps will be available in the narthex. Meat and drinks will be provided. Bring covered dishes to go along with the hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be games for teens and children.

Pastors' Mission Trips

We praise God for the privilege we have at LOPC in being part of a church and a denomination that is solidly committed to the work of missions. Be sure to check out the missions map and mission displays in the narthex. Our pastors are doing their part to be personally involved in missions.

In the middle of May, Pastor Downing will return to Ecuador to minister to the MTW team laboring in that country. He has for a number of years served as "pastor" to those missionaries. Among the Ecuador team are missionary families we support here at Lake Osborne: the Aschmanns, the Araujos, and the McMahan's.

At the end of May, Pastor Roff will return to Ukraine to teach students in the newly organized (April 16th!) national seminary of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine. HE will teach an entire semester course on worship in two

concentrated weeks. While there, he will complete preparations for the choir mission trip in June.

Must-See Movies

“Expelled” is a humorous documentary about the way scientists who believe in creation or intelligent design are being “expelled” by the liberal social forces that hypocritically proclaim their own belief in tolerance. It is playing in theaters now, but may not be here much longer. Don’t delay!

“Prince Caspian” is the next installment in C. S. Lewis’ classic “Chronicles of Narnia.” Produced by the same film-makers who gave us “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” two years ago, this will be a wonderful source of instruction as well as entertainment. It opens in theaters nationally on May 16.

Ligonier Conference

Next Year’s Ligonier Conference will be the largest in R. C. Sproul’s ministry history. It will span three full days in March with an “all-star” line-up of Reformed teachers. A portion of the conference will be devoted to a celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. It will almost certainly sell out before summer. Registration materials are available at the “Welcome Center” table.

Youth Rummage Sale

This annual event will be held on Saturday, June 21st. We would love to receive your contributions to this sale to help our youth take a mission trip next summer! To make things easier for the crew that will be executing this sale please bring in only CLEAN, GOOD CONDITION, SALEABLE items.

This year we are going to try to sell clothing and linens. In order to do this in an efficient way please only donate CLEAN clothing, in excellent condition. Also we will be selling shoes. If possible please bind together each pair of shoes you donate with string or by some other means .

Linens should be clean and sets of sheets or curtains, etc. need to be folded and bound together with twine or masking tape and the size indicated on them. Anything with two or more items as a set need to be bound together and labeled (what they are) with size.

We appreciate your donations and cooperation in helping to organize what you bring in. Any one

needing to bring things to the church before the time of the sale can bring them to be stored at the church (please call first).

Men’s Fellowship

Our May cookout will begin at 6:00 pm on Monday evening, May 12th in the grassy south parking lot. Bring five bucks, a friend, an appetite, and a readiness to share and hear about God’s work in our lives.

Ladies Spring Brunch

You are cordially invited to the Women in the Church spring brunch on Saturday, May 3 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Please plan to join us as we show our appreciation to Dianne Downing for her years of faithful service to us all at LOPC.

Honoring the Downings

Reserve Saturday evening, July 26, for a celebration of the ministry of our beloved Pastor and his wife. We have invited members, former members and staff, along with friends from the Presbytery to be here for this festive occasion.

Don’t forget to send in your single-page memory book contributions, along with your gift (re-read the letter!) as soon as possible. And be sure to pass that letter along to others whose addresses we may not have had.

At its regular spring meeting, Gulfstream Presbytery adopted this Resolution of Appreciation for Lynn’s ministry here.

Sunday Evening Sermons

"Perseverance" is one of the most valuable virtues of godliness. Pastor Roff will bring a mini-series of three messages dealing with this practical dynamic of Christian living on the first three Sunday evenings in May. Who needs perseverance? Christian family members struggling with marital and parenting challenges, defeated Christians worn out from struggling with weaknesses and temptations. Persecuted Christians trying to hang on despite hardship from war, famine, and oppression, and yes, even ordinary Christians wondering if it's worth it to keep going when the Lord seems busy somewhere else in the universe and prayers bounce off the ceiling.

Larry Roff

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

for the ministry of Richard Lynn Downing

Whereas Richard Lynn Downing has served faithfully for 37 years as pastor of the Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church; and

Whereas Pastor Downing has during those years provided unswerving commitment to the propagation of the faith in his preaching, his counseling, and his personal and family life; and

Whereas Pastor Downing has led our Presbytery in the planting of numerous churches within our bounds; and

Whereas Pastor Downing has maintained a consistent testimony of loyalty to his Lord, his family, and his church, even through times of intense personal challenge; and

Whereas Pastor Downing has been a part of the Presbyterian Church in America since its founding in 1973, and

Whereas Pastor Downing has been an effective servant of the church at both Presbytery and General Assembly levels; and

Whereas Pastor Downing has been especially diligent in coupling a missions commitment at the Lake Osborne church with his own intense involvement in MTW's work in Ecuador;

Therefore be it resolved that Gulfstream Presbytery on this fifteenth day of April, 2008, at its regular stated meeting give thanks to God for Pastor Downing's exemplary modeling of godliness in ministry; and

Therefore be it further resolved that Gulfstream Presbytery publicly and warmly commend Pastor Downing for his leadership in the gospel work of the Presbyterian Church in America; and

Therefore be it further resolved that Gulfstream Presbytery join in prayer for God's blessing on Pastor Downing as he and his wife, Dianne, move to a new field of ministry in August; and

Therefore be it further resolved that Gulfstream Presbytery accept the invitation of the members of Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church to join in a

service of celebration of Pastor Downing's ministry at Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church on Saturday evening, July 26, 2008.

(signed)

Moderator

(signed)

Clerk of Presbytery

OUTREACH MOMENTS

From Your Outreach Team

Hi everyone. This is Jay. I'd like to take just a moment to identify for us all again who it is from our congregation that make up the *Outreach Team*. Our members are Pascal Amouzou, Bryan Backus, Dennis Clark, Henri Dietlin, Don Hair, Mayetta Lee, Ellen Pearl, Pastor Roff, and myself. We've met every month since January to discuss how our church can better reach out to the community that surrounds Lake Osborne Presbyterian. This is, after all, one of the things that the *Fanning the Flame Team* wanted to focus on this year.

We're currently developing some ideas while some others have already been implemented. We can't take complete credit for some of the changes you've begun to see around the church. So much of what happens is a collaborative effort. We have, though, been the spark that has started a couple of flames (e.g., the Welcome Table) and the fuel that has kept some others burning (e.g., the banner out front and fliers handed out in the neighborhood on special occasions).

We're going to be contacting the Mayor of Lake Worth to raise his awareness of our concern for this part of his town, we're hoping to develop an "image" that we can present at city festivals, and we're going to be contacting other area churches to learn how they do outreach.

Let me take this opportunity to invite every one of you to share any ideas you might have with any one of the people I've mentioned on the Outreach Team. They'll represent your idea at the following meeting. That falls on the fourth Tuesday evening of every month at 7:00pm here at the church.

You're certainly welcome to join us. The more of us that are actively involved in outreach the healthier we are. Besides, you're being there might benefit our understanding of your idea. We can't promise that every idea we consider will be used but every idea merits our prayerful consideration.

Thank you. Jay Myers

(Second in a series, from Pascal Amouzou)

Two men were in a hospital room. One was so sick that he cannot sit down. The other one cannot stand up, but he can sit down for a few minutes during the day. When the nurses will help him sit down he will look at the window and describe to his companion of misfortune, the flowers outside, the colorful birds and the reflection of the sun on the water of the river flowing nearby. And every single day he will find new words to describe the beautiful nature.

One morning when the nurses came in to help him sit down, they found him dead. A few days later, the one who cannot sit down was able to sit down, so he asked the nurses to let him take the bed of his friend so that he could be close to the window. So they did. When he sat down for the first time and looked outside, he was disappointed. There was a wall outside and you can't see anything. When the nurse came in, he asked her when that wall was built. He was told that wall has always been there since the hospital has been built. "That is impossible, my friend who died used to describe to me the beauty of the scene outside". "Your friend cannot describe anything to you even if there was no wall" said the nurse. "Why?" he asked. "Because your friend was blind" the nurse replied.

Even in the midst of suffering, that man only thought of how to reach to the other beside him. He doesn't think of himself. And it worked. When he was healed, he went to meet with his friend's family, discovered they were Christian and accepted Christ a few months later.

What would you have done if it were you? Now that you have the benediction to not be sick, take a look around you and see all those spiritually sick people begging you to describe to them the beauty of the kingdom of Christ.

FANNING THE FLAME

This month we are celebrating our 51st Anniversary! It's hard to believe that the 50th went by so quickly. I remember the many months of planning that went into the BIG event; the banquet at the hotel and the BBQ under the tent in the back parking lot. We all had so much fun celebrating the life of LOPC and had a great time listening to many stories, looking at pictures, scrapbooks and remembering the past.

Now we're celebrating another LOPC milestone. It has been just 2 years since we have begun the revitalization program at LOPC, which is called "Fanning the Flame" (FTF). I have been part of the FTF team since the beginning and recently I have been looking back at where we started and the progress we have made. Even though it has only been 2 years, at times it's hard to remember where we have come from and the progress that has been made. But, I want to take a moment to reflect back and share some of what has happened over these 2 short years.

My assignment the first year was to do an Environmental Analysis of churches in our area. I asked 4 couples to be a part of the Environmental team and by visiting several churches we were able to see how they conducted their worship services, outreach, missions, youth ministry, etc. We learned a lot and found that LOPC was extremely healthy in some areas and needed some changes in others. As a result of this analysis, we have changed the look of our bulletin on Sunday mornings, we are using the overhead for much of our music and have incorporated some contemporary music along with the traditional hymns, and most recently, we've added a Welcome Center in the Narthex. From a survey (which many of you took) that was conducted before FTF began, the FTF team began discussing our key objectives and goals. Prayer became our driving force. Now prayer clusters are cropping up all around us! We began assessing members to discover their Spiritual Gifts and many of those gifts are now being utilized. With Session approval, John Panico joined the staff as a Youth Ministry Intern and as a result of this addition our youth group is growing spiritually and in numbers. A Men's Ministry has begun and is thriving. There are numerous other things which I can mention, but I am sure if you look around and give it some

thought, you will see the many positive changes that are continuing to occur. There are more to come!

One thing that I would like to share with you that I remember very clearly. Our FTF Coach, Joe Weatherly, who was with us for our monthly meetings the first 14 months of the program, taught us a very important word at the first meeting. The word was “Kaizen”. It really didn’t mean much to me then, but it does now. Do you know what it means? It means to have a heart for continuous, unflagging commitment to incremental improvement. Just as God’s word consistently calls us to be faithful, constant and obedient; in other words, we are to “...run with endurance the race that lies before us.” Kaizen came to mean that this commitment to improvement would be slow and steady. Many of us don’t like abrupt change, but slow, steady change that is intentional, happens in a ways we don’t realize. We don’t notice the changes that are happening until we look back and see the progress and realize the Lord is blessing us with spiritual health and vitality.

Happy Anniversary to all!

Nancy Lee

CROSS STICHER’S CLUB

The Trinity Cross Sticher’s Club has a goal for 2008 to cross stitch 10 thousand colorful yarn crosses that will be sent oversees to orphanages and children living in the poorest and most trouble countries. The origination, LeSea Global Feed the Hungry, Dr. Lester Sumrall, founder, feeds 13,837 children daily on their “Every Child Every Day” feeding program.

Volunteers are so appreciated from churches, organizations and individuals.

A number of ladies here a LOPC have already stitched a great number of these crosses.

For information, supplies and instructions please contact Mary Alice Baker at 965-9428

Mary Alice Baker

FINANCIAL REPORT

January- March 2008

LOPC Ministries Fund

	Budget	Actual	2007
Receipts	\$123,136	\$104,141	\$122,275
Disbursements	\$125,950	\$130,777	\$126,477

Improvements and Emergency Fund

	Budget	Actual	2007
Receipts	\$14,142	\$4,907	\$4,957
Disbursements	\$3,738	\$0	\$35,507

Mission Fund

	Budget	Actual	2007
Receipts	\$24,383	\$23,239	\$25,587
Disbursements	\$28,411	\$24,033	\$22,300

Year to Date Receipts and Disbursements

	Budget	Actual	2007
Receipts	\$161,662	\$132,287	\$152,820
Disbursements	\$158,098	\$154,811	\$184,284

STAMPS

Every week some person will see someone else giving me a packet of cancelled stamps and remark that they didn't know we were still collecting stamps. Well, we have never stopped.

Thanks to everyone who faithfully saved their cancelled stamps for us last year. We sent about 13 pounds to the Rev. David Vila at The Spanish Evangelical Literature Fellowship in Grand Rapids, MI. He in turn, with his volunteer staff, sorts them and sells them to stamp dealers. TSELF in turn uses the money received to buy Christian Spanish Bibles and books for pastors and evangelists in Latin America.

We would very much like for all of you to save your cancelled stamps for us. Most of you are cutting correctly. You need not sort them. I do that. It is better to leave 1/4 to 1/2 inch margin around the stamp or stamps so the perforations are not damaged.

The only stamps we cannot use are the pre-canceled ones.

You may leave them in the office, or place them in the little box on the cabinet in the narthex near the south entrance, or give them to me personally. We appreciate any amount of stamps.

Helen McCreight for WIC

ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

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