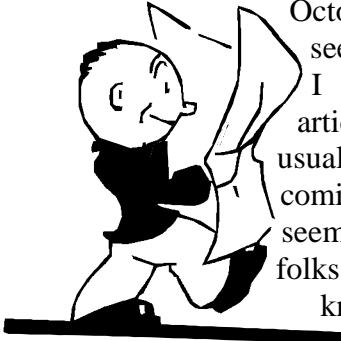


# Would You Believe?

October 2007

## NEWS IN THE PEWS

It just doesn't seem possible that it is almost October. My, how time flies. It seems like only yesterday that I was writing last month's article and here I am again. As usual, we have had lots of comings and goings and I don't seem to be keeping up with folks but will share what I know.



I begin by apologizing that last month when I listed the teachers, Rob Mejeur's name was omitted. Rob is a teacher at Lake Worth High so please add him to your prayer list. Also on the list of college students, I neglected to list Erica Goderwis, who is attending PBCC in the medical assistant program. If at any time, some one is omitted, please let me know and I will try to make amends the following month.

Many of our folks are heading north to enjoy the beauty of the fall as well as the cooler weather. Walter and Joan Johnson are spending some time in their NC home. Sallie and Blair LittleJohn will spend the month of October as volunteers in Doughton Park. This is located on the Virginia-North Carolina border. Phil and Joyce Elder are on a month long trip to the Northeast, not only to enjoy the fall but for some special family times with relatives in that area. Bob and Beth Williams are on a trip into Canada. Ann Seay will join her sister and they are going to Illinois to her sister's class reunion. Charlotte McKee is visiting friends in the southeastern part of the country and will also be attending a class reunion. Bob and Mary Anderson, as usual, have been many places, visiting family and friends in NC, VA and W. VA. Among their visits was one to the Kempers in W VA where they attended a family reunion and assumed the Kemper name!!!! And all of the Kempers felt the Andersons were Kempers! They also attended a family

gathering of the South American Mission workers. Larry and Betty Roff went to a wedding in NC. Bryan and Melissa Backus visited family in Michigan.

Peggy and Shannon Bates will be visiting his family in W. VA and also spending a few days at the Pipestem Resort in the Blue Ridge area. Ted and Shirley Stewart are going on a trip with their son and his family to North Carolina. They are looking forward to spending lots of time with their grandson!!!! Marc and Martha Smith along with Bob and Mary Anderson are going to the first week of Keen Agers Conference at Ridge Haven. Mary Alice Baker, Jane Burhans, and I will attend the second week. Herb and Jayne Burchette will also be there the second week. I hope next year many of you will plan to attend one of these conferences. I understand they are also planning a springtime conference in April so you might also consider that. Be assured you will hear more about Ridge Haven when we return! In case you haven't already guessed, RIDGE HAVEN is high on my list of favorite places to go!

From October 4 - 14 Dennis Clark will be at the Georgia State Fair and will be presenting the Gospel to folks there. Do pray for him. Dennis is bold in presenting the gospel but we need to uphold him in prayer.

Neil and Barbie Erickson are on a trip to points of interest in England and a couple other countries in Europe.

Judy Morgan traveled with her daughter and granddaughter to Wisconsin this summer. She was home here for a few days before going back to Ohio for a couple of weeks. We look forward to her being here to stay SOON! Mary Alice Baker spent the summer with her daughter and granddaughter in Wisconsin but isn't it good to have her back among us? Pearl and Roy Saunders spent most of the summer in Saint Louis but it is good to have them

back with us. Both their sons have been here for a visit.

John and Carol Brandt are staying busy with their 14 month old grandson for a couple weeks while their daughter and her husband are busy moving to Clewiston, FL. Having just graduated from seminary, they will be on the staff at the Baptist Church in Clewiston.

Dianne Downing spent some time with Amy and her family in Atlanta and they drove back to Florida together. In case you haven't heard, Amy is expecting her 4<sup>th</sup> child in February. Those of you who remember the Jennings family, Richard and Jane are expecting 3 new grandchildren in February and March. Matt, Ty, and Seth are going to be fathers--Matt and Ty for the second time and it will be the first for Seth.

And speaking of grandchildren, Bob and Mary Anderson now have their 25<sup>th</sup> grandchild. Their son, Ron and his family made a trip to China where they adopted a 14 month girl. Her American name is Sophia but her Chinese name is Yuang Li which means beautiful flower. Wouldn't you just love to see Mary when she sees Sophia for the first time?

As you discover your spiritual gifts, I hope you will find ways to use them to glorify the Lord. If there is not an opportunity presently at the church, maybe you could start a new ministry. Our gifts were given to us by the Lord to be used and not hidden "under a bushel".

There will be a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall at noon on Monday Oct. 8 to celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Wilma Herbert so any of you who are available, please come and help Wilma celebrate this milestone in her life.

*Carolyn Kullmar*

## FROM THE PASTOR



In the recent statement of my intention to resign as Senior Pastor of LOPC, effective next

July, I mentioned that the reason for announcing a year early was to use this year to try to minimize problems which are somewhat predictable in transitions from long pastorates to new pastoral relationships.

An opportunity to address one of those potential problems has presented itself as a part of our Wednesday evening study of 1 Corinthians. In 1:10-13 we read, "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, 'I am of Paul,' and 'I of Apollos,' and 'I of Cephas,' and 'I of Christ.' 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

The Lord is instructing believers to avoid divisions in local churches by not preferring one leader more than another for selfish reasons. When we disobey this instruction we actually decentralize Christ by rejecting the leader He provides in favor of one who suits our personal preference. The fact is, however, that our appetite for a certain person or personality, or style must never dictate our acceptance or rejection of the individual called and placed by Christ. Our allegiance is to Christ, first and always. There will always be personal "reasons" to prefer our favorite individual over someone else, but this tendency must be rejected for the following reasons. First, we must never project onto the local leader the importance which belongs only to Christ. Second, we must never overemphasize the importance of satisfying our personal preference instead of emphasizing Christ and Christ's message and Christ's goal for the Church. Third, we must never divide the church with fractious divisions by insisting that our personal choice should have precedence over that of others. Fourth, we must avoid the counterproductive practice of comparing the new pastor with the old one. Instead, we simply must humbly acknowledge our personal and corporate need for deeper maturity in Christ. When we honestly do that, then we will find that we have a full time job in looking to Him for his cleansing and maturing work in our relationship with Him. Christ is the only one Who was crucified for us. We were baptized in His Name. Our job, then, is to trust and follow Him under the leadership of whatever leader He sends.

*Lynn Downing*

## Larry's Column

### WE ARE GATHERED HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I write these words from the beautiful Outer Banks of North Carolina (just north of Kitty Hawk). Betty and I are here for me to officiate at the wedding of my sister's youngest daughter. I began the wedding service with the familiar words, "Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here in the presence of God ..."

That realization ought to thrill us every Sunday morning. When we gather for worship at LOPC, "we are gathered here in the presence of God!" It's easy for us to miss the awesome significance of that fact. We don't see Him, or hear Him, or feel Him. But our spiritual senses need to be awakened to respond to that glorious reality.

One way for us to do that is through the "words" we use in our worship service. Our bulletin is not merely a road map of where we go next in the service. It is a tool to alert us to the heavenly realities with which we are dealing. Take time to engage your mind with the text of the choir anthem, with the prayer of confession, with the call to worship. Don't let the familiar tune to the hymn keep you from engaging with the eloquent truths expressed in the stanzas we sing.

Many theologians have recognized that worship is a conversation between us and God. He takes the initiative by speaking to us ("revelation"). And we answer by speaking back to Him ("response"). Can you recognize who is speaking to whom at each point in the service? In the Call to Worship? In the Anthem? In the Pastoral Prayer? In the Scripture and Sermon?

For too many of us we view worship as a horizontal arrow ... us speaking to one another. We need to refocus our attention to perceive it as a vertical arrow ... God and us engaged in conversation. Whose voice will you be most attuned to next Sunday morning? When we next meet for worship, will you be able to say, "We are gathered here in the presence of God?"

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER?**

#### ***World Communion Sunday***

The first Sunday in October is always observed as a day on which believers from around the world all celebrate the Lord's Supper. It's a wonderful way

of remembering that despite our many differences, all who are trusting in Christ alone for salvation are members of one family. When we receive the bread and the cup, countless millions of our brothers and sisters in Christ will also be doing so at the same time, some in places of severe persecution and hardship.

It is also an opportunity to look forward to the day when saints of all ages (and all denominations!) will gather together to celebrate "the wedding supper of the Lamb," when we will see Jesus not "through a glass darkly," but "face to face." Come with your heart prepared to participate in this joyous sacrament on October 7.

#### ***Meet New Missionary***

LOPC has recently added Clay and Darlene Quarterman to the list of missionaries we support. They will make their first visit to Lake Osborne on Sunday, October 14. This will be the first opportunity for all of us to meet them and to learn about the nature of their work. They will describe that to us in a joint adult Sunday School class in the sanctuary at 9:00 am. Then Dr. Quarterman will preach during the morning worship service that follows.

The Quartermans have been MTW missionaries with the PCA for nearly 30 years. They spent 15 years as part of the church-planting team in Portugal. Since 1994 they have been in Odessa, Ukraine where Clay serves as President of the Reformed Theological Seminary of the national Presbyterian denomination in that nation. In that capacity, he oversees the training of all the national pastors and local church leaders for Ukraine.

#### ***"Embers to a Flame"***

Here at LOPC, we have been engaged in this concept for the last year and a half. This national church revitalization ministry is patterned after Jesus' words to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7. He called on that church to (1) REALIZE they had forsaken their first love, (2) REMEMBER from where they had fallen, (3) REPENT of the sins that had led to this decline, and (4) RETURN to doing the things they had done at first.

"Embers to a Flame" was developed by Rev. Harry Reeder, pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church.

Each January, hundreds of pastors and elders from across the country gather in Birmingham for a conference to learn these principles. For the first time, this conference is being presented in a “satellite” location, with Lake Osborne serving as the host. On October 19-20, pastors and elders from a number of churches in our area will gather here at LOPC to listen to Harry describe this Biblical model of revitalization.

Some of our own officers and “Fan the Flame Team” members will be among those attending. Please pray that all who attend will gain insights into the ways God has ordained that His church experience the improved spiritual health that is the key to church growth. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Downing or Pastor Roff.

### ***Reformation Sunday***

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This spark lit the fuse of Reformation in the medieval church as Luther called the church back to its Biblical origins of justification by grace through faith in what Christ has done, not through works that we have done.

On Sunday evening, October 28, Lake Osborne will host the Presbytery Reformation Festival Service at 6:00 pm. Members of other PCA churches will join us, along with members of their choirs. Wellington PCA will bring its brass ensemble to join with the organ, as well as its praise band. Guest Preacher will be Dr. Warren Gage (minister/professor at Coral Ridge and Knox Seminary).

### ***Fall Festival***

This year our October 31<sup>st</sup> Fall Festival will be on a Wednesday. We plan to incorporate this into our regular Wednesday evening activities. Lisa Lennon will have games planned for children, and Carl Ashley will be preparing a Christian magic show to entertain us all. We want children, teens, and adults to come in costumes that evening, dressing up like some figure from Bible history. One of the games will be a contest to guess what figure or Biblical event each costume represents. We also plan to have our trunk-or-treat, and so need you to bring in wrapped candy on the Sundays prior to that. Make sure you spread the word to friends and neighbors who don't have a church home. We want them to

come for the fun and games, and for dinner, and then to hear the gospel before leaving for home.

*Larry Roff*

## **WIC**

Our PresWIC was privileged to have Tara Barthel as our speaker on Sept. 7 and 8 and LOPC was honored to host the conference. Tara shared many, many insights. In case you were not able to attend (and even if you were) I'd like to share with you some of her wisdom that I'm trying to process.

Tara began by reminding us of the gospel and our need for it every day. This is something I know, but constantly forget. I'm prone to live like I'm performing for God, hoping for His approval and trying to avoid His disapproval.

Here's a quote from our retreat notebook: “Generally, we give grace to others to the extent we experience it ourselves. If we are living in a “works” mentality towards God, we are probably living in a “works” mentality towards others and ourselves. (Matthew 18:23-35) Ouch! Yet, the good news is the gospel, and the gospel has real power (the same power that raised Christ from the dead!) to change me.

Tara also reminded us of the gap that exists between what we claim to believe (our confessional theology) and how we really live. What do I really believe? How I really live shows it.

She reminded us of Titus 3:3-8

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and

profitable for people.

He saved me, not based on my performance, but because He is a loving, merciful God! Tara also passed along a suggestion from Susan Hunt to read Ephesians 1 through 3 everyday for 30 days. I think I'll do that this month because I need to steep in God's rich love and mercy. I need to breathe it in so I can breathe out grace.

Tara's definition of faith is "doing what doesn't come naturally." She also reminded us that conflict is actually "a stewardship opportunity" because it's a "porthole into our hearts." Through conflict, God shows us the sin and idols of our hearts. It sounds crazy, but conflict is actually a gift. And when we're miserable in our sin, that's evidence of God's love and care for us!

Here's another quote that I wrote down: "How you live shows what you love." Ponder that.

Her teaching on idolatry is excellent and I'm so glad that we are now studying her book, "Peacemaking Women" on Wed. nights so we can go through those chapters together and study it more in depth. She says we should be able to name the top 4 or 5 idols of our hearts so we can actively speak truth to ourselves. And we need to realize that we'll always have idols. They may change, but our hearts are always seeking to worship something. Don't know your idols? She reminded us that our kids could tell us! And our husbands and best friends.

When Tara taught about relationships, she reminded us that "the kind of love that covers over a multitude of sins is pure grace." She encouraged us to ask ourselves how we're growing. How do I treat my enemies? How do I treat unpleasant people? And she held out hope for those of us who don't find love for others (or certain others) in our hearts: "Run to Christ! Remember how much God loves me!"

I'm so thankful Tara came to minister to us. Hard as these truths were to hear...they are God's truths speaking to our hearts. See you on Wed. night at the study!

With love from your sister in Christ,

Nancy Lee



## YOUTH PLUGGED IN

Dear Church family,

Grace and peace to you all from Jesus Christ Our Lord, who continues to bless Lake Oz Youth Power & Light. There is so much going on, it is hard to know where to begin.

- *Wednesday Night Power & Light* has started off with a bang as we have enjoyed great turn outs to come play on our new outside volleyball/ basketball courts, fellowship, and hear God's Word. We have started a teaching series based on Robert McGee's *Search for Significance* covering passages such as Galatians 2, Luke 19, and John 8. Please pray that they hear, understand, and are able to apply God's truth as they face the challenges of the coming year.
- *Sudden Praise*, our new youth praise band (named by Pastor Lynn ☺) has started off with 3 pianists, 2 guitars, 2 trumpets, violin, saxophone and 3-4 singers. We are having a blast playing and praising together on Wednesday nights from 6-6:30.
- *Youth Plugged In*- We have had a committed group of our youth coming out on Sunday nights learning the Youth EE presentation. Please be praying for those that will hear the truth of our Savior from the hearts of our youth.
- *Westgate*- On September 22, 2007 we took a group of 17 youth out to Westgate to feed the homeless, teach a children's lesson, and play games. Thank you Vicki Backus for making the chili. The residents of Westgate were so blessed by your offering!
- *Sunday School*- Our Sunday school turn out for the youth has improved tremendously for the new season. Please continue to pray for Charlie as he engages our youth with a strong mixture of good doctrine and application.

Thank you for your prayerful support. Please continue to pray for this ministry and its leaders. We have been so blessed to have Chris, Charlie, Melissa, and Bryan working on this team. More to come.....

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

## SAY WHAT?

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

1. Thou shalt not speak from another room.

2. Thou shalt not speak with your back toward the person with a hearing loss ( or their back toward you).
3. Thou shalt not start speaking and walk away.
4. Thou shalt not start speaking and turn away from the person who is hard of hearing.
5. Thou shalt not speak in competition with something else (turn off the water, or turn down the radio, etc).
6. Thou shalt get the attention of the person who is hard of hearing (do not start speaking while she/he is reading or concentrating on TV, etc).
7. Thou shalt try to remove obstructions while speaking. (move your hand from your face, the cigarette from your mouth, etc.)
8. Thou shalt try to speak face to face at all times.
9. Thou shalt try to speak distinctly.
10. Thou shalt try to be patient.

Roughly 1 out of 10 (28 million) people experience hearing loss. Even if you are not one of the 28 million, you are not necessarily out of the woods. In fact, hearing loss happens gradually, and the initial signs may be so subtle that you may not notice a problem for up to 7 years. With today's loud world, it's even more important than before to protect your ears from extended loud noises or close contact with sound (ear buds). Take care of your hearing with regular exams.

*Lou Langley*

## Missions

Time flies. With October coming up, it will be time for the Mission's Committee to meet again. I am not speechless, I just don't know what to say, except Praise God.



Everyone knows how hard it is to get into doing those extra things, especially when no one cares. LOPC CARES! The mission's giving has been outstanding this year. What a joy to work on

the Mission's committee—something the congregation has a passion for. There are so many exciting people out there doing God's work in the field, it is hard not to say yes to every one of them. At least now we can give with a more reasonable amount than we were in the past. We hear from those who want to go, and those who are there, but their promised contributions occasionally "dry up" and then they need help. When they are working in the field, and the flow of money stops or sags, it is scary, and they can't do much about it from where they work. Things change at supporting churches, and giving people, who go to a place where treasures are of a different kind, are not in a position to sustain promised giving. Praise God when we can step in and throw a missionary a life-saver. We don't want to be like that poor fellow who did not invest his master's gift. Even LOPC can have fat years and lean years. However, if we keep our "eye on the ball" we can be a big help when times are good. Let's show our staff, LOPC does not take a vacation from responsibility—we feed, cloth, and house our missionaries 12 months of the year—then we save the Christmas season as a bonus for better things.

I will commit to report to you how and where your money is spent in the future. With a few questions to MTW we have received tons of material about how enthusiastic itinerant missionaries find out what they must do before they can take God's word to all nations. Rather than take up the whole newsletter, I will break it down and summarize the criteria, with encouragement for you to ask for the whole nine yards, if you like.

Mission's work ain't for wimps.

*Dick Miller*

## ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **SENIORS!! NEED MORE INCOME OR CASH?**

#### **REVERSE MORTGAGES MAY BE THE ANSWER.**

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

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

- This is an FHA program and is insured by FHA
- No qualifying required for income, employment, or credit
- No payments required as long as you live in your home
- Receive income you cannot outlive.

Call John Morris at 433-1228 for information

**PERK UP YOUR PARTY OR ADD EXCITEMENT TO YOUR EVENT** with face or glitter tattoos! Full face or cheek art face painting to match your theme, using only professional, child safe face paints. NO acrylics.

Glitter tattoos are waterproof and last 3-5 days. Great for Florida weather! See [www.hennybulten.com](http://www.hennybulten.com) for examples. Call for information at 561-422-6161



### **Would You Believe?**

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Bill Campbell	Editor and Administrator
Lynn Downing	Senior Pastor
Shannon Bates	Maintenance Manager
Phil Elder	Maintenance
John Panico	Youth Ministry Intern
Larry Roff	Associate Pastor
Judy Smiley	Administrative Assistant