LABC
Worship, Witness and Work
...Striving to embody peace and wholeness in a broken world.

TRANSMITTER

OF THE LAKESHORE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

March 2023

Family,

As I prepared to write about some of the events of Women's History Month 2023 at LABC, a news alert popped up on my phone with the report that California's senior Senator, and the longest serving woman senator ever, Dianne Feinstein, will not be running for reelection in 2024. Her decision sets the stage for an intense competition to fill her seat. It also serves as a reminder that history is more than the remembrance of what once was, it is a living reality which unfolds before us.

On Tuesday evening, February 28 (6:00-7:15), Dr. Monica Eppinger, LABC's own Ukraine expert will present, via Zoom, an update on Ukraine one year after the Russian invasion began on February 24, 2022. One of the truths Monica will note is that, as is the case in all wars, women are impacted most directly, they bear the brunt, and carry the scars, of the carnage.

On Tuesday evening, March 14 (6:00-7:15) there will be a Baptist History and Heritage Society Webinar focusing on Charlotte Atlee White Rowe, America's first commissioned woman missionary. Reid Trulson, former Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries, will talk about his recent book on this pioneering woman and Sydney Webster will offer a response. There will be time for question and answer. This webinar is coordinated by Baylor University so we will all need to register in advance to get the link. I have been working since October of 2022 with Dr. Andrew Gardner, a fellow member of the Baptist Joint Committee Board, to make this event happen.

Our Life Together...continued H. James Hopkins

On Sunday, March 19, The Reverend Dr. LeAnn Snow Flesher, Vice President for Academics and Dean of the Faculty at Berkeley School of Theology, will be our preacher. LeAnn is a longtime member of LABC and brings a good word whenever she preaches for us. In the last few years, LeAnn has, through the Society for Biblical Literature, been working as part of the team producing a new version of 1989 *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible,* the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.*

On Sunday, March 26, we will recognize American Baptist Ministers Council Sunday. I don't quite know how it will all come together but I be inviting all LABC connected members of the Council to sign the recently revised ministerial Code of Ethics as part of the service. In that a good number of those participating will be women, I think it is appropriate to include it in Women's History Month. At the heart of the revised Code of Ethics are the words Centeredness, Competence and Collegiality. Accountability is one of the pressing issues that the Code addresses.

Not directly related to Woman's History Month, but of importance and running throughout the month, is a series of "Get Reacquainted" Wednesday night gatherings. Beginning on March 1, and continuing on each of the Wednesday evenings of March, a group of Lake/Hills area congregations will be gathering at a different church each week for an hour of worship, learning, conversing and snacking. The schedule is: March 1 – St. Paul Lutheran, March 8 – St. John's Episcopal, March 15 – Corpus Christi Catholic, March 22 – Park Boulevard and Montclair Presbyterian (place TBA), March 29- LABC. Please contact Pastor Jim for more info. We hope to have a good number of Lakeshore participants. The time is 7:00-8:00.

I look forward to all these events. History is unfolding. Thanks for joining in.

Peace,
Jim H.

Pastor of Public Witness — Allison J. Tanner

I love being Lakeshore's Pastor of Public Witness – sharing Lakeshore's prophetic witness in the community, bringing the work of the Spirit in the community into Lakeshore's worship, and empowering and equipping Lakeshorians to engage in public witness. As many of you are aware, this is a part-time position for me, and I'm excited to share that I have found another part-time position that I am equally excited about.

In February, I became the National Coordinator of the Apartheid Free Churches Initiative – an ecumenical coalition encouraging churches to pledge to resist racism and apartheid everywhere and withdraw all support from Israeli Apartheid. This coalition was brought together by the American Friends Service Committee and includes several mainline denominations, as well as national Christian organizations working for freedom, justice and equality for Palestinians and all people. I have been representing the Alliance of Baptists at this coalition, creating educational resources for the Alliance and the larger community, and now I look forward to doing this work at the national level. If you would like to talk with me more about this work, or learn more about Israeli Apartheid and the Apartheid Free Churches pledge, please let me know!

Public Witness Forum on March 5 will feature special guest Maria Legarda, Spiritual Activist in Residence at Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Maria is a Filipina immigrant seeking a pardon from Governor Newsom. She will share her story and how we can support her efforts to remain in the United States with her family and community.

Public Witness Bible Study on March 7 and 8 – in celebration of Women's History Month, we will explore Eve's story as a woman who has often been misunderstood and whose story has often been narrowly defined. Bring your questions, your imagination, and your willingness to explore Eve's story with new eyes!

Yuba Detention Center is closed! In February, Yuba County Jail officially ended its contract with ICE, thus closing down its Detention Center. This ends the last county contract with ICE in California and is a powerful step in the work of closing down all detention centers in our state. Lakeshore will send a delegation to participate in a **celebration of this closure on Sunday, March 19 from 1-3** outside the Yuba County Jail. Please let me know if you would like to join us!

Sergio is looking for housing – if you are aware of any possibilities, please share them with us!

Pastor of Christian Education — Carolyn Matthews

A Time to Reflect

"*The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God*," (Mark 1:1, NIV)

And so begins the Gospel of Mark, where the writer states in no uncertain terms that Jesus is the promised Messiah. If there was any question in the minds of people in the latter half of the first century about who Jesus is or was, the gospel of Mark would answer those questions. In the initial chapters, which move at a pretty fast pace, we see Jesus establishing His authority over illnesses, cultural traditions, unclean spirits, and even nature itself. Jesus confounds the religious leaders and the people with His knowledge and perspectives on scripture. There is no doubt in the mind of the writer of whom Jesus claimed Himself to be.

The Lenten season provides us with the opportunity to consider our own faith journey and walk as we move toward Easter. The scriptures tell us that in those last weeks of Jesus' life He was resolute in making the journey to the cross. All of our lives depended on it – this life and the one to come. Our relationship with God and one another was on the line as Jesus fulfilled His earthly ministry. Jesus prepared Himself by spending time in prayer and fasting in the wilderness before He began His public ministry. On the night he was arrested in the garden, He spent time in prayer, yielding His will to the will of God. His love for us was demonstrated in His resolute willingness to suffer on our behalf.

How will we spend our time in the "wilderness" of Lent? How are we being led to grow closer in our relationship with God? What is it that we need to do to prepare ourselves for the road ahead? How do we honor the sacrifice of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives? On Easter Sunday itself, how will we incorporate what we have learned during this season? May we each, in our personal spaces during this time, grow in our love and faith for Jesus and one another and may we continue to see ways to carry out His will for us in the days ahead.

Growing Together in Grace and Love,
Pastor Carolyn

March 2023 Preaching Schedule
Women's History Month
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

March 5 (Service of Communion, America For Christ Offering, Second Sunday in Lent) Pastor Hopkins, Preaching

"Learn It Alls"
John 3:1-17
We can learn from Nicodemus whom, it seems, was willing to learn.

March 12 (Third Sunday in Lent, Time Change Sunday) Pastor Hopkins, Preaching

"While We Were Yet Sinners"
Romans 5:1-11
Lent is a yearly reminder that human beings have a hard time figuring out what is best for us.

March 19 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

The Reverend Dr. LeAnn Flesher, Vice President of Academics and Dean of the Faculty, Berkeley School of Theology, will preach.

March 26 (Fifth Sunday in Lent, American Baptist Ministers Council Sunday) Pastor Hopkins, Preaching

"A Matter of Accountability"
Romans 8:6-11
We, ministers included, need to understand that there is a significant difference between self-care and self-service.

April 2 (Palm Sunday, Service of Communion) Pastor Tanner, Preaching

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Beginning the first week in April, we will need one volunteer weekly to assemble the bulletins and inserts on Thursday mornings. This should take no longer than 45 minutes. Also, we need one additional volunteer to assemble the *Transmitter* the last Thursday of each month. This usually takes approximately two hours. If you can help, please contact the Church Office.

Church Calendar for March

Department Meetings:

Educational Ministry March 5, 8:45 Zoom;
Social Concerns March 8, 6 Zoom;
Stewardship March 19,12:30 Zoom;
Worship and Congregational Care March 28, 7:05 Zoom.

Other Meetings and Events:

LCC Advisory Board March 1 and March 29, 5:30 Zoom.
[**Neighborhood Church Gatherings** March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, See Pastor Hopkins' article on Page 2].
Public Witness Forum March 5, Following Worship Sanctuary and Zoom.
[Flick Flack March 10, 6:30 Barbara Bowman Residence].
Forever Young March 11,1:30 Family Room.
Baptist History Webinar March 14, 6.
Sanctuary Working Group March 14, 7 Pastor Tanner's Zoom Account.
Church Council March 21, 7:05 Zoom.
LABC Reads March 25, 9-10 Zoom.
HTF Faire and Business Meeting March 26, 12:30 Family Room.

Weekly Meetings

Sunday at 11:45 AM - Adult Bible Study, Zoom and Church Library
Tuesday* at 6:00 PM – Bible Study, Zoom
Wednesday* at 10:30 AM – Bible Study and Prayer (same as Tuesday), Zoom
Thursday at 6:00 PM – Together in Spirit Bible Study, Zoom
Saturday at 10:00 AM – Time for Prayer, Zoom

First Tuesday and following Wednesday of each month, Public Witness Bible Study.

The church office is closed on Fridays. Pastor Hopkins' day off is Friday. ***Transmitter*** deadline is **March 20** (March 30 mailing).

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 12, 2 a.m. (Spring Forward)

Kids and Youth Corner

"In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

March Greetings to All:

We hope you all are doing well as we continue in the season of Lent. Lent is the time before Easter when people consider how to draw closer to God. Some people give up something; others try to start a new habit to help them grow closer to God; trying to find the best way to "let their light shine."

The day before Easter Sunday, there is the Easter Egg Dyeing and Hat Parade. It will take place on **April 8 (10:00 am – Noon)** at church, which is the day before Easter. There will be craft activities, Easter egg dyeing, and a chance to decorate a hat to wear in the hat parade.

We look forward to seeing you each Sunday and for the special activities.

This month we celebrate Women's History month. It is a time when we celebrate the accomplishments of women who have made a difference in our country and the world. Here is a little quiz for women's history month. Can you name these famous women?

With Joy,
Pastor Carolyn

March Children and Youth Birthdays	
14	George Wilson
17	Theo Martin

March 2023 Sunday Adult Bible Study

March marks the beginning of a new quarter of lessons. "We begin this quarter within the reflective mode to which the Lenten season beckons us." The lessons in March will be asking hard questions concerning the ways in which we live out our faith. As we move toward Easter, we will have an opportunity to reflect, consider, and discuss with one another how to live faithfully in all circumstances.

March lessons:
March 5 – Abiding: Can We Stay a Little Longer? (Matthew 17:1-9)
March 12 – Persecution Complex: "Is the Lord Among Us or Not?" (Exodus 17:1-7)
March 19 – Discernment: Knowing What is Pleasing to God (Ephesians 5:8-14)
March 26 – Power: Is There a God Like Unto Our God? (Psalm 130)

We encourage you to join us each Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in the church library or via Zoom. You are invited to join in our lively and timely conversations and studies.

Special Announcements

Vacation Bible Camp, July 10-14

This is a reminder that Vacation Bible Camp will be taking place, July 10-14. We will be working together with our sisters and brothers from the San Francisco Kachin Baptist Church. This year we have an outer space theme: *Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light*. Our bible memory buddies this year will be objects we find in outer space. If you would like to help with planning or help with the children during the week, please let Pastor Carolyn know. We will be meeting together soon.

All Church Family Retreat, August 4-6

Our all church family retreat will be held at Redwood Glen Conference Center. Our adult retreat leader will be our executive minister, Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal. We hope you will put these dates on your calendar. More information coming, but if you would like to help in the planning of the retreat, please let Pastor Carolyn know. This planning group will be meeting soon.

2023 LABC GRIEF AND LOSS DEVOTIONAL: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

This notice is a reminder that the 2023 Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church Grief and Loss Devotional editor is accepting manuscripts for Volume III. ***TESTIMONIES ON GRIEF AND LOSS*** will be dedicated to perspectives from members of the LABC congregation and community.

You are invited to write about your own health and wellbeing, caregiving for someone with an illness, the loss of a job or primary residence, personal safety and security, the death of a beloved family member, cherished friend, acquaintance, animal companion—or someone you never met. I encourage you to share what experiences such as these mean to you.

We are looking for your personal accounts: thoughts, understandings, insights, observations, or participation in events, in the form of essays, poems, photography, original art, or conversations with others. Multiple submissions will be accepted.

The submission period is open; publication will be in early autumn. If possible, submit your work in a Microsoft Word Document attachment to aleansaunderscoffey@gmail.com

You may also send paper submissions by postal mail to:
Dr. Alean Saunders-Coffey, 3871 Piedmont Avenue,
Oakland, CA 94611.

For questions or additional information, please leave a message at 510.435.5290.

America for Christ Offering - LABC's Outreach Offering for March

The theme for this year's Offering is "Grace upon Grace" based on John 1:16-17 - "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering which seeks to raise $1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The offering is distributed in three parts:
59% supports the ministries of ABHMS
12% supports the offering's promotional and deputation costs
29% supports regional ministries.

A few words from Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director ABHMS:

"American Baptist-buoyed by God's grace-are confronting a myriad of challenges they are finding in their local communities. Your generous financial support of AFC 2023 will empower American Baptist to continue extending grace upon grace to others in ways that exceed their limited capacity. With your help, we can bring God's healing touch to so many more, May we count on your generosity once again?"

Hunger Task Force Corner

Save the dates! The Hunger Task Force's Spring Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **March 26 at 12:30**. The Hunger Task Force Faire featuring the agencies we support will be held during Coffee Hour. HTF agencies will also participate in the Forum that day. The 41st Anniversary Hunger Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, June 4**.

CBSU Drive

March is the last month for the CBSU drive. You can continue to donate coats, blankets, sleeping bags, and **new** undergarments (boxers, underwear, and socks). We're supporting City Team, St. Mary's, and Berkeley Food and Housing.

If you have donations, please drop them at the church, and we will coordinate a pick-up.

March Flick Flack

We will gather for Flick Flack on Friday, March 10 at 6:30 at the home of Barbara Bowman, 1322 Crown Drive, Alameda. The film to be viewed and discussed is *The Banshees of Inisherin* which has been nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. On a remote island off the coast of Ireland in 1923, Pádraic is devastated when his buddy Colm suddenly puts an end to their lifelong friendship. With help from his sister and a troubled young islander, Pádraic sets out to repair the damaged relationship by any means necessary. Each person/couple is asked to bring an appetizer of their choosing. From 6:30 to 7:00 we will share appetizers and conversation. At 7:00 we will view the film and follow with a discussion. If you want to join by Zoom, please watch the film via a streaming platform (e.g. Amazon Prime) and join our discussion via Zoom at 9. Space is limited, so contact Barbara as soon as possible to let her know of your attendance (Bbow1@comcast.net; 510.769.0210). Also, let her know if you wish to participate via Zoom, so she can have the Zoom link provided to you.

Family News

Sympathies to the Taylor Family as they mourn the death of Dr. Leon Taylor.

Our sympathy to Charlotte Myers and family as they mourn the death of her brother-in-law, Bill Davis.

Prayers for Tess Benin as she grieves her friend Cristina Herrera

Our sympathies are extended to Barbara Bowman, her brother Richard and family as they mourn the death of Barbara's sister-in-law, Mary.

We grieve with Barbra MacNair and her brother Richard and family as they mourn the death of Richard's wife.

Congratulations to Pastor Allison Tanner who was named National Coordinator of the Apartheid Free Churches Initiative.

A Message from Stan Fong

Dear Lakeshore Family,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the outpouring of love in the Sunday, Jan. 22 service in recognition of my retirement. Your words, cards, gifts and tributes were overwhelming, to say the least. Thanks to all who worked on the great reception – the beautiful cake, the delicious food (which will ensure I have lunch and dinner for the week) – your wonderful comments during Coffee Hour – thank you so much.

In addition to Pastors Jim, Allison, and Carolyn as well as the LABC staff, (Tyrone, Charlene, Kay and Sandra) I also want to thank Mikki Boyd, our sensational Minister of Music for her sensitive anthem selections, her sensational choral arrangements, and her sunny personality, which made Thursday choir practice so enjoyable. Thank you, Mikki for your sense of humor and willingness to try different things. The different styles of music which you have introduced into the worship service really touches the congregation. Your jazz, gospel and spiritual arrangements, although often challenging for the choir, are nonetheless wonderful to hear and fun to perform. I will continue to support Lakeshore's music program any way I can, so please let me know how I can help.

To all the Lakeshore musicians with whom I have had the honor of making music (Mikki, Pastor Carolyn, Don Dresser, Hallie Randel-Schneider, Charlene Wolf, Julian Nesbitt, the Lakeshore Band and last but not least, Lenny Ott) thank you for your dedication and desire to enhance our worship.

It has been an honor and privilege – and an experience I will always hold close to my heart.

In His Love,
Stan Fong

From the Mail

Dear Lakeshore Family,
Thank you so much for the scholarship I received! It has been put to great use supporting my undergraduate education. I am truly grateful for your love and support always. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,
Bryce Dawson

I Will Always be Me

I will always be Me,
No matter how many suns rise since my birth
Or what day or month of the year it is
No matter how much rain water pelts my face
Or how thick the fog that surrounds me,
I am the Me who eats my daily oatmeal and milk.

I will always be Me,
No matter if I am home in easy comfort
Or on the road in a distant land
No matter what type of garment that covers my shoulders
Or what kind of shoes that cover my feet,
I am the Me who loves a good mystery novel.

I will always be Me,
No matter how many stars brighten the night
Or what phase is the Moon, fall or crescent
No matter what injuries strike my weary body
Or what illness envelopes my heart and soul
I am the Me who enjoys morning coffee and friends.

I will always be Me,
No matter how many ice sheets are melting in the Artic
Or how much ocean water is moving further inland
No matter the hot temperatures that dominate my summer
Or how much rain and snow descend from above.
I am the Me who follows current events.

I will always be Me,
No matter what new friendships I acquire and keep
Or what friend or family member whose loss I grieve
No matter what lessons flow from our Sunday pulpit
Whether from Genesis, Exodus, Matthew or Luke
I am the Me who seeks wisdom and hope at my church.

—Roderick Murray, January 2023

Easter Egg Dyeing and Hat Parade

Join us Saturday, April 8, 10:00 AM – Noon, for our big Spring event, the Easter Egg Dyeing and Hat Parade. There will be plenty of craft activities for the children, yummy snacks, and corndogs.

We need your help in making sure all who attend have a great time. Here is the request from Ms. Helen and the Education Department:

Please let me know if you will be able to help out during the festival. We need help with:

- Set up from 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.
- Help at craft tables and Easter egg dyeing 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (any time in here is great)
- Clean up 12:00 pm -1:00 p.m.

We need hard-boiled eggs!!
We need people to assist at the table.

Please let me know if you are able to help in any of these areas.

If it rains, the event will be held in Barnett Hall. Thanks in advance for any assistance. And thanks to those of you who have already told me you can help.

Blessings,
Department of Christian Education

YEAR-END STATEMENT ALERT - Please note the year-end statement you received this past month did not have the IRS required statement: “No goods or services were received in exchange for these gifts.” If you need this verbiage on your statement (e.g., audit purposes), please contact the church office and you will receive an amended statement.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all March birthday folk!

2 Mattie Scott
3 Brenda McCarthy
5 Sylvia Taylor-Smith
7 Joan Patten
Kelly Schelin
10 Aaveya O'Guinn
12 Jaison Smith
13 Mary Karne
Jeanne Robinson
17 Mary Alice Cirimele
21 Stan Fong
24 Steve Reimer
26 Mariel Paul
28 Floyd Ellison
Maxine O'Guinn
29 Monica Eppinger

Save the Dates:

The following are important upcoming events that we hope you won't miss:

April

2 Palm Sunday
6 Maundy Thursday
7 Good Friday
8 Easter Egg Dyeing and Hat Parade
9 Easter Sunday

June

4 Hunger Walk

July

10-14 Vacation Bible Camp

August

4-6 All Church Family Retreat

TRANSMITTER

OF THE LAKESHORE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
3534 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

CHURCH STAFF

H. James Hopkins, Senior Pastor
Kay Baxter, Business Manager
Mikki Boyd, Minister of Music
Sandra Lee, Ministry Associate
Tyrone Mack, Sexton
Carolyn Matthews, Pastor of Christian Education
Allison J. Tanner, Pastor of Public Witness
Rae Rita F. Thompson, Lakeshore Children's Center Director
Charlene Wolf, Staff Assistant

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