

# TRANSMITTER

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

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

June, 2023

**W**e have been reading from the Apocrypha during our Tuesday Night and Wednesday Morning Bible studies. More specifically, we recently finished reading the Book of Tobit and have begun reading the Book of Judith.

The Apocrypha, also called the Deuterocanonical Books, consists of fifteen books or parts of books included in the Roman Catholic, Greek and Slavonic Bibles, but not in the Protestant Bible. The Oxford/Cambridge New English Bible introduces these books this way. "These works are outside the Palestinian canon; that is, they form no part of the Hebrew Scriptures, although the original language of some of them was Hebrew. They are found in the Greek version of the Old Testament (The Septuagint) made for Greek-speaking Jews in Egypt. As such they were accepted as biblical by the early Church and were quoted as Scripture by many early Christian writers, for their Bible was the Greek Bible."

I think it is helpful to have some familiarity with these books as they are something of a literary, cultural and historic bridge between the books of the Hebrew Bible and the books of the Christian Bible. Some of them were written in the century before the birth of Jesus and provide insight into his world. Also, it is entirely possible that Jesus would have been familiar with them and was maybe even influenced by them.

A work of historical fiction written early in the second century BCE (Yes, the ancients used fiction to effectively convey truth.), the Book of Tobit is set in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE and tells the story of two Jewish families. One family consists of Tobit, his wife, Anna, and their son Tobias. The other family is made up of Raguel, his wife, Edna and their daughter, Sarah. The CEB Study Bible notes,

## **Our Life Together...continued**

**H. James Hopkins**

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“The narrative tells how these two families found healing and happiness through the guidance of the angel Raphael and so became one through the marriage of Tobias and Sarah.”

Tobit is a captivating story of households keeping the faith while facing spiritual, political, economic and physical adversity. It lifts up the importance of prayer and suggests that God is always at work for the good of God’s people. It carries the promise that though we are tempted to give up on God, God does not give up on us.

Judith also is a historical fiction. It is was composed in the middle of the second century BCE and set in the time of King Nebuchadnezzar, the early sixth century BCE. It is a book full of irony with the central irony being that of a childless widow giving life to her people.

The central character in the story is the beautiful widow Judith who conspires to save her people from Holofernes, a merciless invading general who is seeking to subjugate them. Judith reminds us we all need to take inventory of our gifts and talents and then courageously put them to use for the good of our community and for the cause of freedom.

I invite you to join in one of the studies, Tuesday at 6:00 pm and Wednesday at 10:30 am, to enjoy some stories from another time and place, to learn something about the books that some of our Christian friends consider to be biblical and to be shaped by the truth the ancient storytellers were trying to convey.

Peace,  
Jim H.

I have returned from my travels to Palestine/Israel with a heavy heart. On my journey, I have borne witness to incredible suffering, injustice, violence and racism. I saw the remains of whole villages that had been destroyed and met with people fighting against future destruction and displacement. I saw the vast inequalities of Palestinians corralled into ghettos while settlements receive government funding to expand and prosper. I sat with a Bedouin community in southern Israel as F-16s flew over our heads to drop bombs on Gaza. I handed out sweets to Bedouin children who have had their school demolished as part of an attack on their community. I met with a 16-year-old who had been violently attacked by police on trumped up charges to punish his family. When he shared how police raided his family home in the middle of the night, yanked him out of bed, beat him up, placed their knee on his back and prevented him from breathing, our whole group was horrified by the eerie familiarity of his treatment.

My delegation traveled throughout Israel, the West Bank and Jerusalem, and we had Zoom conversations with people from Gaza. Everywhere we visited, we bore witness to apartheid – state sanctioned and legally enforced racism, segregation and domination that impacts every aspect of people’s lives. Because Palestinians live in places that the state desires to be only Jewish, they are attacked, surveilled, harassed, discriminated against and pushed out. This has been their reality for 75 years. Apartheid is a crime against humanity and people are crying out for their dignity, their basic human rights and their freedom to live. Everywhere we visited, we heard the fervent pleas, “I just want to be free.”

**The good news:** There are Palestinians, Israelis, Muslims, Christians, Jews and people of conscience actively at work challenging apartheid. As one East Jerusalemite shared, “apartheid is one step before genocide or peace.” May we join in the efforts for peace – true peace with justice that ensures the well-being of all who live in the land. There is an urgency in the work: people are daily dying, losing their homes, having their children imprisoned, enduring settler attacks, and watching the ever-encroaching control of the government shrink their opportunity to live and move freely. I hope you will join in our congregational education and discussion sessions about ways we can partner with all who are working for an end to Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism and occupation. Our first discussion will take place on Tuesday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Pastor Allison

## **T**ake and Give

*“You will make known to me the way of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” (Psalm 16:11, NASB)*

In May I had the privilege and joy of spending time with my son, William, and his wife, Krystie, in northern Alabama. We were there for William’s graduation from the University of Northern Alabama with a Master’s degree in Education. The commencement speaker was Alabama’s State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Eric Mackey. In his speech he posed a two-part question to the graduates: “What will you take and what will you give from this point in your life?”

With journal in hand, I wrote down his question, some of his comments, and began to think about the questions myself. This is the kind of scrutiny that would be valuable at many points in life. Doing the hard work and acquiring a degree is a place to ponder, “what comes next.” But it seems that this is something that might be considered at any time, many times along life’s journey.

The second part of the question, “what you will give” is sometimes easier to consider than the first part. It is the “giving” part we hold up as being a good disciple of Christ. In the song, “I Gave My Life for Thee,” we find this lyric repeated, “what hast thou given me.” How though can we give if we have not taken anything in?

These last few months have been at times quite difficult – including just getting out of bed. But there were things that needed doing, so eventually I moved into the day’s activities and tasks. Perhaps this is why the question to the graduates resonated so with me. This is a different point in my life. There have been and continue to be changes and the need to consider, what to give, but also what to take from this point, because life continues. I am finding it is important to spend intentional time in God’s presence and be reminded of the blessings of the day. When people asked, “what’s new,” my response would be “every day is brand new” based on the text from Lamentations 3:22-23: *“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

The giving part has been easier to contemplate than what to take from this point. What is there to take? In reality that which has always existed, the love and blessings of family and friends and holding on to the promise of the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

Growing Together in Christ,  
Pastor Carolyn

**June 2023 Preaching Schedule  
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church  
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

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|---------|--|
| June 4  | (Communion, Hunger Walk)<br>Pastor Hopkins, Preaching<br><b>"Oh, You're THAT Church!"</b><br>Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28<br>It is a good thing to be known as the church that walks around the lake. |
| June 11 | (Graduate Recognition)<br>The Reverend Dr. Joseph Evans,<br>J. Alfred Smith Professor of Theology in the Public Square, Berkeley School of Theology, will preach.                                    |
| June 18 | (Juneteenth, Father's Day)<br>Pastor Hopkins, Preaching<br><b>"When Promises Are Broken"</b><br>Exodus 19:2-8a<br>Most fathers know that there will be a broken promise or two in their lives.       |
| June 25 | Pastor Hopkins, Preaching<br><b>"It Is Never Easy"</b><br>Matthew 10:24-39<br>Being a disciple of Jesus is a joyful thing, not an easy thing.  |

## Church Calendar for June

### Department Meetings:

**Educational Ministry** June 4, 8:45 Zoom.

**Social Concerns** June 14, 6 Zoom.

**Worship and Congregational Care** June 27, 7:05 Zoom.

### Other Meetings and Events:

**LCC Advisory Board** June 28, 5:30 Zoom

[**Ceasefire Walk** June 9, 6:00 First Mount Sinai, 1970 86th Avenue]

[**Flick Flack** June 9, 6:30 Charlene and Jerry Wolf Residence, movie “*She Said*”.]

**Forum** - Conversation with The Reverend Dr. Joseph Evans, June 11, 11:45 Sanctuary

**Sanctuary Working Group** June 13, 7:05 Pastor Tanner’s Zoom

**Church Council** June 20, 7:05 Zoom

[**Ceasefire Walk** June 16, 6:00 At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.]

[**Ceasefire Walk** June 23, 6:00 St. Anthony’s Church - 1535 16th Avenue]

**LABC Reads** June 24, 9-10 Zoom.

[**Ceasefire Walk** June 30, 6:00 St. Benedict’s Church - 2245 82nd Avenue]

### Weekly Meetings

**Sunday at 11:45 a.m.** - Adult Bible Study, Church Library, Zoom

**Tuesday\* at 6:00 p.m.** – Bible Study, Zoom

**Wednesday\* at 10:30 a.m.** – Bible Study and Prayer (same as Tuesday), Zoom

**Thursday at 6:00 p.m.** – Together in Spirit Bible Study, Zoom

**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.** – Time for Prayer, Zoom

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

**Next Stewardship meeting** July 16, 2023 - 12:30 p.m. in Library and on Zoom.

**Note:** Evening meeting schedule will change during summer, June 27- Aug 15. Current schedule will resume Aug 22.

**Deadline for *Transmitter* input is June 12.** The *Transmitter* will be mailed June 22. The church office is closed on Fridays. Pastor Hopkins’ day off is Friday.

### Forever Young

Thank you for joining us for Forever Young for Winter and Spring 2023! We will break over the Summer and look forward to seeing you in October, 2023. - Minister Sandra



## Children and Youth Corner

June Greetings to You All:

For some of you school has already ended and for others the last days of school are within reach. As you are thinking about summer plans, we hope you will join us for these events of the summer.

**Graduation/Promotion Sunday:** This month, on **June 11**, we will be celebrating those of you who are graduating/being promoted. Join us in worship.

**Vacation Bible Camp:** This year's Vacation Bible Camp theme takes us to the outer reaches of the galaxy:



The dates and time are **July 10-14, 8:30 am - Noon**. We hope to see you then. This will be a great time to see people we know and to make new friends. There will be a new set of bible buddies, key verses, and bible points for the week to help us learn the ways in which we can learn to "Shine Jesus' Light" in the world. We hope that you will join us as a camper or crew leader.

**All Church Family Retreat:** The Church Retreat, **August 4-6**, gives us one more opportunity to play and learn together before the new school year begins.

We look forward to being together again in the next few weeks!

With Joy,  
Pastor Carolyn

## Upcoming Department of Education Events

### Graduation/Promotion Sunday, June 11

Sunday, June 11 is graduation/promotion Sunday. As we have in the past, we will be recognizing/honoring our graduates and those being promoted. Help us by sending us the names of those who are:

Entering Kindergarten  
Graduating Kindergarten  
Entering Middle School/Junior High  
Entering High School  
Graduating High School  
Completed post-secondary studies

When you contact us, please include the following information:

Person's name (first and last)

School leaving/School entering

If graduating high school, next steps if known

In case of post-secondary completion, next steps if known (further study or career path)

Please send the information to Pastor Carolyn at: [carolyn@labcoakland.org](mailto:carolyn@labcoakland.org).

***Please send us your information ASAP***

### Vacation Bible Camp, July 10-14



#### Vacation Bible Camp, July 10-14

**Theme: Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!**

#### **Bible Points:**

- **When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!**
- **When people do not get along, shine Jesus' light!**
- **When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!**
- **When people are sad, shine Jesus' light!**
- **When people need help, shine Jesus' light!**



### **Vacation Bible Camp**

**The dates are July 10-14, 8:30 am -12 noon.** The cost is \$25. There is also an all-day option which requires a separate registration and payment.

**Not too late to help with camp. We encourage our high school students to be crew leaders for the week. Here is the link to volunteer and/or to register children for camp: [vbspro.events/p/lakeshore2023](https://vbspro.events/p/lakeshore2023)**

Questions? Contact Pastor Carolyn: [carolyn@labcoakland.org](mailto:carolyn@labcoakland.org).

### **All Church Family Retreat, August 4-6**

The retreat is where we introduce the theme for the new church year which begins in September. This year's theme: "Be Kind to One Another" and the scripture text is Ephesians 4:32. In a world that seems to be more fractured each day, kindness is at the heart of bringing healing and wholeness to our lives, community, and the world.

The church retreat is scheduled for **August 4-6 at Redwood Glen.**

The leader for the adults will be our Evergreen Executive Minister, Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal. Sign up soon. Retreat sign up forms will be available each Sunday in the Narthex. Scholarships are available. Also, if you have been to and enjoyed the retreat and able to do so, consider contributing to the retreat scholarship fund so others might share in the experience.

### **Sunday Adult Bible Study**



In June we begin a new set of themes. From the Journeys lesson book: "...this quarter beckons us to live out our faith as disciples of Christ with consistency, while recognizing that life often knocks us off our feet.. Our faith walks are not perfect; nevertheless, we strive for perfection even as Christ is perfect.."

#### **June lessons:**

June 4 – **No Class** – Annual Hunger Task Force Hunger Walk

June 11 – **REPENTANCE:** Missing the Point (Hosea 5:15 – 6:6)

June 18 – **RELEASE:** The Compassion of a Savior (Matthew 9:35 – 10:8)

June 25 – **RENEW:** I Need to Reboot (Romans 6:1b – 11)

We encourage you to join us on Sunday at 11:45 am in the church library or via Zoom for lively and timely conversations and studies.



### **Lakeshore Celebrates Our 2023 Graduates**

On June 11 we will be celebrating and acknowledging the graduates of Lakeshore – those who grew up here as part of the fellowship and those who are associated with the members of Lakeshore. We reached out to a few and asked them to respond to the following questions: Who was the strongest influence on you? How did they help you accomplish what you have done so far? What has been the role of faith in achieving this milestone?

LABC is honored to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our graduates. We share with them their vision of success as they pursue their educational and life objectives. The following is a brief snapshot of these remarkable young people.

**George Wilson** is graduating from The College Preparatory School and attending Columbia University this Fall.


My parents are my strongest influence. My parents cultivated a coming of age environment where I was encouraged to read, explore my interests, and most importantly, have conversations with them about my ideas. My faith has provided me with a strong community of people that I know I can always go back to for support.

**Christian Dawkins** graduated in 2022 from Dartmouth with a BA in History (minor in Sociology). He will be attending Harvard Law School in the Fall of 2023.


My grandmother, Sandra Dunn, has had the strongest influence on me throughout my educational journey. Her pursuit of higher education has served as an inspiration for me to strive to achieve my goals, no matter how daunting they may seem, and I know I've made her proud as she continues to watch over me and provide a guiding light.

My faith has remained an integral part of achieving my milestone, as it always silenced any doubt in myself and instilled in me a strong belief that I could, and would, attain my goals. My prayers to God provided direction, and helped me remain patient and determined. I am eternally grateful for my upbringing in Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church that nurtured my faith, and for everything the Lord has done for me.


June Children and Youth Birthdays	
9	Ciqala Lee
12	Dayton Phillips
12	Adeline Angotti
24	Sydney Harris



Congratulations to John Claassen for receiving the “Rotary Hero” award for so many years of good works inside and outside of Rotary.... Free Bus passes for Oakland Youth; Corndogs for Corpus Christi, Lakeshore Baptist and Laney College as well as many others; COVID vaccines for seafarers; working on Homeless Housing and his core value belief that every person has gifts and talents and they are important!



**June Flick Flack**



June Flick Flack will be held on Friday, June 9 at the home of Charlene and Jerry Wolf, 25837 Clausen Ct., Hayward. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. (bring an appetizer to share). Viewing will begin at 7:00. The film chosen for June is *She Said* documenting how two *New York Times* reporters break one of the most important stories in a generation - a story that helped ignite a movement and shattered decades of silence around the subject of sexual assault in Hollywood. Those who prefer to participate via Zoom may view the film in their home, available through several sources, including streaming on Amazon Prime (\$5.99 rental fee). Discussion begins at 9:00. If you plan to attend in person, advise the Wolfs by June 7 ((kulmgirl@att.net or 510.537.1702). If you wish to watch at home and join the post movie discussion on Zoom, please let them know so they can send you the link.

## Hunger Task Force Corner

Join us for the 41st Anniversary Hunger Walk on Sunday, June 4, 2023! This year's theme is "Restore, Refresh, Renew." We will gather on the church steps immediately following church and walk together around Lake Merritt. We will leave church at about 11:15. After the walk, we will share a meal back at church.

Please join us to raise awareness and financial support for those in our community who are hungry, displaced and/or without shelter. Proceeds from this event support Alameda County Community Food Bank, Berkeley Food and Housing Project, City Team Ministry of Oakland, Family Support Services, Harbor House Ministries, Intertribal Friendship House, St. Mary's Center, LABC Fellowship Fund, and HTF's Thanksgiving and Christmas programs.

Sign up and get a sponsor form by emailing [labchungertaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:labchungertaskforce@gmail.com). Help us make this year a success by going big with your fundraising efforts. Do you have your own milestone birthday or anniversary this year? Take that opportunity to reach out to a large group of friends and family to sponsor your Hunger Walk. We can also help you with your fundraising email and/or Facebook fundraiser.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to all June birthday folk!

1	Johanna Wilkinson	18	Carol Leichter
4	Patrick Dawkins II	19	Julio Cash
6	Don Johnson Jr.	23	Christopher Sims
	Mary Osajindu	24	Sydney Harris
	Geetha Thaker		Gloria Meads
7	Lelia Sarratt		London Smith
8	Alodia Corpuz	25	Curtis Michael Brown III
	Jamie Reid	26	Evan Joachim
11	Gigi Gisomé		Jo Robinson
13	Jim Gibbs Jr.	28	George Randolph
15	Myrtis Anderson	29	Karen Okusu

LABC is very proud of our long history of striving to help others. The Hunger Walk is a most significant event in that regard. It is also true that we strive to honor the perspectives of all. Here is a perspective on the Hunger Walk that acknowledges the critical challenges that we are facing in today's communities and broadens the scope of our Hunger Walk objectives. We welcome the challenge and invite you to join us in the Hunger Walk and other efforts to address this community challenge.

### **Concerning the June 4 Hunger Walk**

*By Dale Edmondson*

One of the disturbing realities about the remarkable place we live in is the many people who do not have adequate food—an estimated 190,000-plus in Alameda County. This affects their wellbeing as well as their children's ability to function in the classroom. This should not be the case in the wealthiest nation on earth.

Forty-one years ago, Lakeshore agreed with this and began a Hunger Walk to raise money to provide food for people. It took the name of the person who envisioned it, Anne Anderson. As a result, food has been available at the church for those who come here seeking help. But beyond this, Lakeshore contributes significantly to numerous fine organizations who help feed hungry people. Last year, the walk raised \$19,000, and the goal for this year is \$20,000.

We secure contributions through our walking, but the walk requires sponsors. It may be helpful to make contacts beyond the church, because many members may be contacted a lot of times by other members. (Perhaps you'll want to review your Christmas card list, and maybe dedicate your walk in memory, or in honor, of someone.)

The official route will be to go around Lake Merritt on the first Sunday in June. Some may need to walk at a different time and place. I'm not free to walk then but plan to walk the week before and think I'll do that in Tilden Park.



## **Family News**

**P**rayers for the Beal-Urbe family as they mourn the death of their newborn baby, Savion Angel Beal-Urbe. A memorial service for Savion Angel Beal-Urbe was held on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 on the Church Lawn.

**P**rayers for Cathy Phoenix as she mourns her brother, Gilbert.

**P**rayers for Valentine Royal as she mourns her sister, Katherine.

**P**rayers for Jerry and Charlene Wolf as they mourn Jerry's nephew, Jeff

## **From the Mail**

To the Pastoral Staff, LABC Church members and friends,

The Taylor Family wishes to express their sincere gratitude and thanks for your participation in our brother Leon's Memorial service whether in person or by Live Stream. We are specially uplifted by your support, prayers, cards, phone calls flowers, donations, and financial donations to the Hunger Task Force in Leon's name. Thank you for all that you have done.

The Taylor Family,  
Sylvia, Beverly, Eskridge Rodney and Cynthia Taylor

## **From Berkeley School of Theology**

May 12, 2023

Dear Pastor Hopkins,

Your generosity warms our heart and fills us with joy! Thanks to you and your church for giving \$375.00 to Berkeley School of Theology on May 12, 2023.

You make the BST mission possible. Every May we are especially aware and grateful for our work of creating leaders for communities of Christian faith, hope, and justice. Our students are preparing for final exams and papers, and later this month we will confer degrees on fourteen graduates in six academic programs. Thanks be to God!

I look forward to sharing their stories with you in the coming weeks. Until then, thank you again for supporting BST!

With gratitude,

Angela Barker Jackson  
Associate VP of Development

## LABC Reads Schedule

May 27 - *The Personal Librarian*, Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murphy

June 24 - *Toby's Last Resort*, Pamela Carter Joern

July 30 - *A Long Petal of the Sea*, Isabelle Allende

August 27 - *Zoo*, James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge

### A Special Invitation:

June 23-25, 2023: You are invited to the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The event theme is "For Such a Time as This" inspired by the Hebrew Bible story of Esther. Registration and more information, including speakers and presentations, is available at [www.americanbaptists2023.com](http://www.americanbaptists2023.com).

**NOTE: 2023 Biennial Mission Summit ONLINE!** Registration fee: **\$49!** For Online Participant registration, visit [www.AmericanBaptists2023.com](http://www.AmericanBaptists2023.com). Click on the Register Now button and select Online Participant.

The following events may be accessed online as a virtual attendee:

#### Friday, June 23

- Welcome Session, 3:00PM ET/12:00PM PT
- Spotlight on Puerto Rico, 4:00PM ET/1:00PM PT
- Worshipful Work - International Ministries Report, 7:30PM ET/4:30PM PT
- Friday Evening Worship, 8:00PM ET/5:00PM PT

#### Saturday, June 24

- Worshipful Work - American Baptist Home Mission Societies Report, 7:30 PM ET/4:30PM PT
- Friday Evening Worship, 8:00PM ET/5:00PM PT

#### Sunday, June 25

- Sunday Morning Worship, 9:00AM ET/6:00AM PT
- Business Session, 2:30PM ET/11:30AM PT
- Worshipful Work - American Baptist Churches USA, 7:30PM ET/4:30PM PT
- Friday Evening Worship, 8:00PM ET/5:00PM PT

### Save the Dates:

The following are important upcoming events that we hope you will not miss:

#### June

- 4 Hunger Walk/Pentecost Sunday
- 11 Graduation/Promotion Sunday
- 27 Encountering Apartheid

#### July

- 10-14 Vacation Bible Camp
- 16 Ride for Palestine

#### August

- 4-6 All Church Family Retreat

# TRANSMITTER

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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  
Barbara Hunt, Staff Assistant

Church Office: 510.893.2484  
Church Website [www.labcoakland.org](http://www.labcoakland.org)  
[jim@labcoakland.org](mailto:jim@labcoakland.org)  
[kay@labcoakland.org](mailto:kay@labcoakland.org)  
[allison@labcoakland.org](mailto:allison@labcoakland.org)  
[carolyn@labcoakland.org](mailto:carolyn@labcoakland.org)  
[assistant@labcoakland.org](mailto:assistant@labcoakland.org)  
[lakeshorechildrenscenter@gmail.com](mailto:lakeshorechildrenscenter@gmail.com)