

Spire

March
2020
Vol. 29
No. 3

A note from Pastor Karla...



*At start of spring I open a trench
In the ground. I put into it
The winter's accumulation of paper,
Pages I do not want to read
Again, useless words, fragments,
errors. And I put into it
the contents of the outhouse:
light of the suns, growth of the ground,
Finished with one of their journeys.
To the sky, to the wind, then,*

*and to the faithful trees, I confess
my sins: that I have not been happy
enough, considering my good luck;
have listened to too much noise,
have been inattentive to wonders,
have lusted after praise.
And then upon the gathered refuse,
of mind and body, I close the trench
folding shut again the dark,
the deathless earth. Beneath that seal
the old escapes into the new.*

— Wendell Berry, New Collected Poems

Wendell Berry is one of my favorite authors. If you don't know who he is, I encourage you to google him. He is an educated farmer who cares deeply about being a steward of the earth, but he is also a thoughtful theologian

Continued on page 2

BEYOND THE RESURRECTION

Lenten Dinner Series
March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1
pointlomachurch.org/register

For more information on our Wednesday Lenten dinners, see page 6.

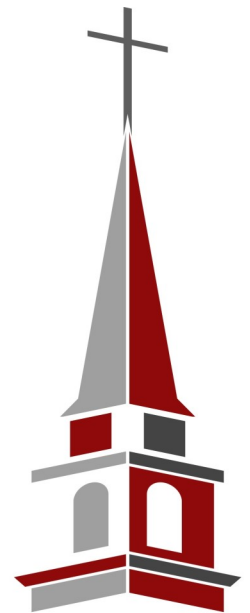
Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Sunday Classic Worship
8:30 and 10:45 am
Sanctuary

Café Service
9:45 am
Chapel

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor

www.pointlomachurch.org
2128 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107



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LOOKING AHEAD

March 4:	Lenten Dinner Series
March 8:	Daylight Saving Time
March 11:	Lenten Dinner Series
March 15:	Flower Design Demo
March 18:	Lenten Dinner Series
March 22:	VBS Rally
March 25:	Lenten Dinner Series
March 28:	Flower Design Demo
March 29—April 5:	Youth Build Mission Trip
April 5:	Palm Sunday
April 5:	Easter Fest

Our Vision: Loving Everyone to LIFE with Everything we Have.

Our Mission: Through authentic community, we seek to EXPERIENCE Jesus, JOURNEY into Deeper Faith, STRENGTHEN the Church, and TRANSFORM our World.

Values:

1. We are a good home.
2. We are intergenerational.
3. We inspire engagement.

Session Highlights - February 19, 2020

This month the Session completed the organization of church officers and boards by electing the members of the 2020 Endowment Committee. They are: Steve Smith, chair; John Pearson; Cara Thome; Dianne Grafton; John Leimbach and Douglas Buser, Session representative.

Capital Campaign Chair Pam Werner introduced Mark McNamara of the Steier Group, who is conducting a feasibility study for a proposed campaign. Pam noted that in addition to McNamara's interviews, letters requesting input have been sent to all members and friends of the church.

Long Range Planning Committee Chair Max Butterfield presented results of a survey of Session elders regarding their expectations and goals for their committees. He identified several areas where committees could assist each other in reaching their goals, and will continue to help the Session develop synergy, clarity and focus in their committee work.

The Session reviewed the annual statistical report required by General Assembly, and determined that we should develop a process by which we can better collect congregational demographics. The Long Range Planning Committee will organize this activity.

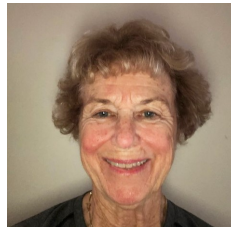
The Session adjourned the meeting with prayers for those afflicted in China, and for the Christians being persecuted in the Philippines.

John Spafford, Clerk

Deacon Highlights — December Meeting

On Sunday, February 16, several of our deacons worked to make the first WinterFest a success! March is a busy month in our church. The deacons will be working with the Lenten Food Drive and the Interfaith Shelter event. We will have our monthly meeting on March 23.

This month, we begin featuring new deacons so you can get to know us.



Treasa Skiles is a long-time member of the church and has worked with the community dinners in Ocean Beach, the Loaves and Fishes committee and you will see her greeting you at the church door or perhaps delivering flowers to you!



Suzanne Moss spends her time providing flower room supplies, and writing greeting cards that our members receive for a variety of reasons. She enjoys staying fit, and is a gourmet cook.



Philippe and Deanna Lazaro joined the deacons this year after the birth of their son, Rhys. Together they work with new church members helping them to feel connected and at home with our community and us. Philippe also works with Plant With Purpose, a long-time mission partner of PLCPC.

Pastor Karla's Column, continued from page 1

who describes himself as "a person who takes the Gospel seriously" and has been critical about the complacency of the Western Church and their love of self. When I was working in college ministry, we used to have Wendell Berry parties. I would gather with friends by candlelight, with food made from scratch (Berry is critical of modern technology) and read excerpts from his books. Berry is a prophetic voice in these times, and he is particularly profound in this season of Lent, because growing things is his vocational call.

Anyone that grows things knows that death is necessary for new life. Lent is all about death--putting bad habits away, burying rote ways, distinguishing selfishness. But the purpose of Lent is not to beat oneself up and remain there, the purpose is to open up space in our lives so new life can grow. What a pity to get to Easter without experiencing Lent! The new life that could be, is only possible with the work done through tilling the inner life now. So don't let this season go to waste! It only comes once a year. Create a new pattern in your life, gain a new perspective, clear out something old--make a way for God to work new life in you.

On this journey together,
Pastor Karla

ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday Scripture Group 9:45am, Parlor. We are continuing our 10-part series, *Jesus the Game Changer*.

Contact: Bob Simoneau: grs55@cox.net

Monday Morning Men—7:00-8:30 am, Peet’s Coffee (955 Catalina Blvd.) All men are invited to drop in and join us for coffee and fellowship. Contact: Evan Gratz, evan@pointlomachurch.org

Continuing The Conversation (CTC) has moved to the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is March 24 at 7pm in the Parlor. Contact: Gordy Lutes, gklutes@gmail.com.

Rachel Circle 3rd Monday, Library. We will next meet on March 16 at 9:30 am. Elaine Burrell is our speaker. She will discuss her book *Reading Between the Lampposts: The Literary Giants of Loma Portal*, which is about the authors for whom the streets of Loma Portal are named. We welcome all.

Contact: Marge Grant, 619-296-2720.

***Women’s Bible Study**—Tuesday, 9-10:30 am, Parlor.

Women of all ages and stages are welcome! We are currently studying the book of Ephesians.

Contact: Clara Blenis, clblenis@sdccd.edu

Men@Work—Wednesday, 8:30 am, Library. A time for

fellowship and brief Bible study followed by work projects around the church. All abilities are welcome.

Contact: Don Griffith, don.griffith69@gmail.com

Wednesday Men’s Bible Study 5pm, Parlor. Fellowship and study time. Currently studying the book of Isaiah.

Contact: Jerry Heidt at gheidt@ghhco.com

Wednesday Refresh—1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 pm at the home of Jim Grisolia and Carla Stayboldt.

Contact: Jim Grisolia, jamesgrisolia@gmail.com

Knitters—2nd Thursday, 10:00 am, Parlor. Next meeting, March 12. Contact: Judy White, gmajudy@san.rr.com

Centering Prayer—Thursday, 6:30 pm, Parlor.

Contact: Pastor Alex, alex@pointlomachurch.org

***MOPS Bible Study**—Bible Study for moms of young children on periodic Mondays from 9:30-10:45 am in the Parlor. Dates are as follows: Mar. 2, Mar. 16, Apr. 27, May 11. The study is on The Parables. Contact: Sarah Butterfield, sarah@pointlomachurch.org

Prayer Quilt Ministry— 1st Saturday, 9 am-3 pm, Family Life Center. Contact Karen Vandenberg ktvandenberg@aol.com

*Childcare available upon request: cynthia@pointlomachurch.org



**SENIOR
ADULT
MINISTRY
PROGRAMS**

Elaine Burrell, Director, MSW | elaine@pointlomachurch.org | 619-223-1633 x210



St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon with Fiddle Girl | Tuesday, March 10 in the Family Life Center

Doors Open at 10am, Entertainment at 11 am, Lunch at Noon (\$6) | Blood Pressure Check 9:30-11:00 am

Let’s be Irish for a day! Enjoy a feast of corned beef, cabbage, vegetables, and all the fixings for a festive St. Patrick’s Day celebration. Entertainment by “Fiddle Girl” Celia Lawley, a high-energy multi-instrumentalist. RSVP to ealaine@pointlomachurch.org.



Memory Friends | Tuesday, March 17, 10:30-11:30 am in the Family Life Center

A social gathering for people experiencing mild to moderate cognitive changes. Together we socialize, enjoy a stimulating activity, reminisce and support each other through the journey. Caregivers & family welcome. Light refreshments served. Hosted by Elaine Burrell & Pastor Alex Wirth.



Movie Day & Lunch – Ford v Ferrari | Wednesday, March 18 | 11:00 am | Family Life Center | Pizza & Salad (\$5)

Academy Award-winners Matt Damon and Christian Bale star in FORD v FERRARI, based on the remarkable true story of the visionary American car designer Carroll Shelby (Damon) and the fearless British-born driver Ken Miles (Bale), who together battled corporate interference, the laws of physics, and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary race car for Ford Motor Company and take on the dominating race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.



Outing To The Legacy International Center & Lunch | Tuesday, March 24

Depart church at 9:30 am, Return by 2:30 pm

Be among the first to visit the new Legacy International Center in Mission Valley. Experience the interactive globe, 4-D History Dome Theater, International Market, and Catacombs. Our visit will conclude with a no-host lunch at Fountains Restaurant on-site (bring \$20 for lunch). Event is currently full, but there is a waitlist. Contact Elaine to be placed on the waitlist.



FOREVER FIT GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS In Partnership with the Peninsula Family YMCA | Every Wednesday 9-9:50 am, Family Life Center | FREE

Confirmation Mentors Needed

Confirmation is the time in a student's life in which they claim the promises that were made on their behalf in baptism, and to make membership in the church their own. More importantly, it is an opportunity for students to make a public profession of faith and get baptized if they haven't already. This discipleship opportunity has three important facets: Sunday classes, a weekend retreat, and a mentor relationship.

We are looking for adults who love Jesus and would like to walk alongside a student in their discipleship journey during this two month season. Over the 8-week Confirmation experience, you would meet with the student 4 times. If you want to be part of a young person's story, please prayerfully consider being a Confirmation Mentor. To inquire or apply, please contact RO Smith at ro@pointlomachurch.org.

High School Small Group

All high school students are invited to join our high school small group as we look at the books in the Bible commonly referred to as the "Wisdom Literature" (Job, Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes). We gather on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 pm at different locations. Email ro@pointlomachurch.org for information.

BRICK MONDAYS

Junior High // Mondays 5-7 pm
High School // Mondays 7-9 pm
Youth Center

BRICK THURSDAYS

High School // 7-9 pm
Various locations
Email ro@pointlomachurch.org
for details

BRICK SUNDAYS

Junior High // Sundays 9:45 am
Start in Café service

Youth Build Invitation to Partner

As you know, we have established a long-standing partnership with Genesis Diez and their Christian camps south of Ensenada, Mexico. Our team, comprised of high school and junior high students and leaders, will participate in the process of building this new summer camp. Our team will spend 5 days (March 30-April 3) at the new Rancho Genesis property building structures, pouring concrete, and doing whatever is necessary to help prepare the camp to host some of the most underprivileged and disenfranchised members of Mexico – orphaned children. We are honored to be part of this endeavor and are looking forward to joining and learning from our partners in Mexico. We hope to return with a new understanding of our place in the global community and a renewed spirit in our roles of helping to love San Diego to life with everything we have.



Some of you may have been or will be personally invited to support members of our team. Our team needs to raise approximately \$2,500 for the trip. We invite you to join us in this venture through your support of prayer and financial resources. Your generous contribution will not only help pay for the logistics of the trip, like travel, meals and supplies, but your gift to this effort will help provide a space and opportunity for those who have been left behind and abandoned to be reminded that they are known and have a special purpose in this world. *More important than the donation you give is your commitment to pray for our team and the orphans of Mexico who will be impacted by the work of Genesis Diez.*

The members of our team are: Nicholas Burchett, Jordyn Duby, Kathryn Duby, Thomas Morrison, Alex Perrill, Allison Pritchett, and Sarah Pritchett. We are a "small but mighty" team, who is excited for this opportunity!! We appreciate your love and support!



Nicole Hage, Director | preschool@pointlomachurch.org
619-223-3327 | www.redbrickpreschool.org

This summer we are offering 8 weeks of summer camp for children ages 3 years through 5 years old. Each week will have a different theme. The children will have the opportunity to explore and play in a nurturing Christian environment. Space is limited, and we will take registration on a first come first served basis. Please note, there will be a **separate registration for the week of June 22 – 26 for Vacation Bible School**. We know that there are **not** a lot of options for summer camps for this age group and want to give you some fun, engaging activities for your child. The children will get to play, explore, do art and science projects. Each week will be full of exciting and action-packed activities. For more information please visit our website at www.redbrickpreschool.com.



Sunday Programs

8:30 am – Traditional Sunday School

Children attend the first part of worship with their caregivers in the sanctuary and are then escorted to Sunday School to participate in age-appropriate classes following a scripture based curriculum.

9:45 am – Kids Café Worship

Check-in your children at 9:40 am in the Family Life Center and pick up immediately following the Café service. Children meet as a group for songs, activities, a message, and an offering before breaking out into age-appropriate small groups.



Journey

Our group for 4th & 5th graders meets every Monday evening in the Youth Center from 4-5:30

pm for food, fellowship and fun. \$3 donation for pizza. Friends are always welcome!

Closet and Classroom Clean-up Day!

It's spring cleaning time in the Children's Ministry! Do you have a flair for organizing? Does purging making you smile? We need you! Volunteers are needed to help, clean, organize and purge the upstairs classrooms and closets. Join us on March 7 from 9 am - 2 pm. Lunch is provided, but registration is required. Register online or e-mail erin@pointlomachurch.org.



Robotics Club

Our FIRST LEGO League robotics team is seeking boys and girls to join us for the new season! Students build, test and program autonomous robots and take part in a scientific real-world challenge. They earn the chance to compete at Legoland.

Parent involvement required but no previous experience is necessary. Open to ages 9-14. For more information, contact karen@pointlomachurch.org.

Kids Club on Thursdays



Kids Club is a fun & relaxed midweek program that allows kids to connect with others through crafts, active games, Bible stories, snacks and music. It is not essential, but many families pair this program with Children's Choir. Meets in Room 8

Grades 2-6 meet from 4:00-4:50 pm
Age 4 -Grade 1 meet from 5:00-5:45 pm

Children and Youth Choirs

(Meets in Choir Room)

Cherub Choir

Age 4 - Grade 1
Thursdays 4:00-4:50 pm



Joyful Praise Choir

Grades 2 - 6
Thursdays 5:00-6:00 pm

Contact Alicia at alicia@pointlomachurch.org for more information.

MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers

www.meetup.com/playgroup-754
Contact: sarah@pointlomachurch.org



- March 2:** Bible study, 9:30 -10:45 am, Parlor
- March 9:** Music and Development, Tony Bianca from RMC, 9:30-11:30 am, FLC
- March 16:** Bible study, 9:30 -10:45 am, Parlor
- March 18:** Book Club, 7:30 pm, "Verity"
- March 23:** Craft day!, 9:30-11:30 am FLC
- March 28:** Mom's Night Out: GAME NIGHT! 7 PM

Communion Experience Part II

Attention parents of 4th and 5th grade students! We are again offering our engaging Communion Experience class this Lenten Season. Children who missed the first class are still invited to attend our second class on April 9 (Maundy Thursday) at 6:30 pm, in the church Library. Contact karen@pointlomchurch.org to register.

We Braved Winter and Survived!

Thank you for supporting our first ever WinterFest event. We had plenty of hot chocolate and warm snacks while enjoying BINGO! And several other activities including an epic indoor snowball fight.



Got Ideas for Outreach and Growth?

We are forming an Outreach and Growth plan for PLCPC. Our plan is to address current efforts, as well as new ideas and focused efforts that meet your individual needs and those of our community at large well into the future. As the world around us changes we need to thoughtfully address our communities' needs and desires. We are excited about the prospects! Please consider participating! It will be rewarding and fun! Contact Rocky Springstead, Rocky.springstead@yahoo.com or Rob Wood, Robwood1976@Hotmail.com for more information. You can also catch us after the 8:30 or 9:45 services. All ideas welcome!



BEYOND THE RESURRECTION: A Lenten Series

Join us on Wednesday nights in the Family Life Center at 6pm for dinner and teaching/small group time. The theme this year focuses on stories of Jesus' appearances over the 40 days following His resurrection and what that means for us.

Please register online at pointlomachurch.org/register so we have an accurate head count for dinner. \$5/person, \$20 max per family.

*Childcare provided during the teaching time

March 4 - Mary Magdalene—Speaker, Evan Gratz

March 11 - Doubting Thomas— Speaker, R.O. Smith

March 18 - The 2 Disciples on the Road to Emmaus— Speaker, Pastor Karla Shaw

March 25 - The 500—Speaker, Pastor Alex Wirth

April 1 - Saul— Speaker, Pastor Chris Lenocker

Flower Design Training

As we work to be more aware of the waste we produce, we are working on transitioning away from floral foam, a micro-plastic that pollutes our earth and waterways. Kristine Rysberg is bringing her expertise as a professional floral designer to two free training demonstrations: Sunday, March 15 at 10 am and Saturday, March 28 at 11 am in the Library. The classes will cover some floral design basics as well as two methods for designing without floral foam. For more information or to register, please contact Ellie Anderson at 619-224-6648 or 12eanderson@gmail.com.



Holy Week Happening!



We'll gather in the Chapel on April 7 for an interactive painting journey led by a professional artist. She will lead us step-by-step in creating our masterpieces. Cost is \$25. Space is limited. Register online at pointlomachurch.org/register.

MEN'S RETREAT -
Save The Date!



When: April 24-26
Where: Rancho Viva
Cost: \$40
Look for online registration soon!



Deacons' Lenten Food Drive February 26—April 12

Donate non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to support the following PLCPC partners: New Day Urban Ministries (formerly PUM), Loaves & Fishes, OB Community Dinners and Military Outreach Ministries. Drop off items in the collection boxes around campus. For more information, call 619-224-2177.

SESSION & STAFF

THE SESSION OF PLCPC *Denotes Chair

Rev. Karla Shaw, Senior Pastor 619-223-1633 Ext: 202

Rev. Alex Wirth, Associate Pastor 619-223-1633 Ext: 205

John Spafford, Clerk 619-985-4983, clerk@pointlomachurch.org

Kathy Wright, Assistant Clerk 619-275-0335, kwright6@outlook.com

Elder Class of 2020	Phone	E-mail
Gresham Bayne <i>Finance & Stewardship*</i>	619-223-3494	cgbaynemd@gmail.com
Douglas Buser <i>Audit, Endowment</i>	619-226-6332	valuedplanner@yahoo.com
Rebecca Cress <i>Worship & Arts*</i>	619-255-3220	cressteach@yahoo.com
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Buck Buchanan <i>Facilities*</i>	619-841-4080	pbuchanan98@yahoo.com
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Frank Polese <i>Finance & Stewardship</i>	619-843-1282	fpolese@oasismaterials.com
Rita Solberg <i>Mission Beyond*</i>	619-222-2841	ritasolberg@cox.net
Barbett Wood* <i>Children's Ministry/ Preschool*, Presbytery Commissioner</i>	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com
Elder Class of 2022	Phone	E-mail
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Chris Capen <i>Worship & Arts</i>	858-243-7515	chriscapen@mac.com
Rocky Springstead <i>Outreach*</i>	619-280-2067	Rocky.springstead@yahoo.com
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Church Ministry Program and Support Staff 619-223-1633

OFFICE HOURS

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Friday— 9 am to 1 pm

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Rev. Alex Wirth, Associate Pastor

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Rev. Dr. Chris Lenocker, Parish Associate

chris.lenocker@gmail.com—619-987-8433

Jolene Wade, Director of Operations & Church Life—Ext. 204

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Organist/Director of Children's Choirs

alicia@pointlomachurch.org

Bryan Verhoye, Music Associate & Pianist

mrvagguy@aol.com

Evan Gratz, Director of Community Life

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Save the Date!
Easter Fest is coming
April 5. Stay tuned for
more details!

thank
you!

The Deacons THANK YOU for your support at the recent Pancake Breakfast. More than \$2,000 was raised toward scholarships for Family Camp! You're the BEST!

Family Camp—Sept. 25-27 Camp Marston



Join your Church family for meaningful time together as we play, worship and engage in age-appropriate activities. Cost includes 5 meals, lodging, climbing tower, archery, Gaga, sport court, craft house, bonfires and much more.

Cost: \$145/person. Max \$580/family. Kids ages 4 and under are FREE! Online registration is now open! Pointlomachurch.org/register. Refundable deposit if requested by August 25.

Rancho Genesis Intergenerational Mission Trip July 12-18, 2020



Do you want to make a difference for some of the most destitute children of Mexico? Join us for our summer intergenerational mission trip to Rancho Genesis. The children who come to Rancho Genesis have been severely abused or are on the edge of survival due to poverty. We will continue to assist in building the new camp property and also spend time with the children. More information online at pointlomachurch.org/register.

CBS Celebrates 15 Years at PLCPC

On January 30, Community Bible Study (CBS) celebrated 15 years of studying God's word in Point Loma. This interdenominational study has grown from a group of 78 women and children in 2005 to 140 women and children today. We praise and thank God for the many lives that have been transformed through the Word of God as we continue to pursue our mission of making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring in-depth bible study, available to all. We extend a heartfelt thank you to PLCPC for your support in providing a welcoming place for the women and children in the community to come together as they fellowship around God's Word.



Community Bible Study meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 in the Chapel. Women enjoy small group discussion time, fellowship and teaching. We also have a children's program (6 months to 5 years old) and a Babes-in-Arms group for mothers-to-be and nursing moms. For more information, contact Gail Bennett at 858-268-3668 or gail_dean_bennett@sbcglobal.net.

Vacation Bible School is coming June 22-26, 2020! Camper Registration coming soon!



Volunteer Rally

All Aboard the Rocky Railway! We are looking for a crew of engineers, conductors and managers to make sure our children ride the rails safely at our Vacation Bible School. Join us for a **Volunteer Rally on Sunday, March 22 at noon** in the Family Life Center. We need volunteers to serve as crew leaders, assistants, station leaders, craft helpers and more.

Got Trains?

Vacation Bible School needs your model train! The scenic location for this year's VBS is *Rocky Railway, Jesus' power pulls us through!* The Scenic Team for our VBS would like to use actual model trains in the decor around campus, and feature an operating train in the decoration of the chancel. If you have a model train gathering dust in your attic or garage and are willing to lend it to VBS, please contact karen@pointlomachurch.org.

VBS Workday

In addition to the army of volunteers we need for the week of VBS, we also need a crew to assist with building props and transforming the PLCPC campus into a glorious train station for our Rocky Railway themed VBS. Join us on Saturday **June 13 from 9 am—2 pm**. We'll have a variety of jobs for all skill levels.

VBS Donations Welcome!

Did you know that our VBS typically serves 225+ children from all over the community? In an attempt to keep individual family costs low, we are seeking donations of specific items as well as monetary donations to assure an enriching and memorable week for all. To donate to VBS, please visit <http://pointlomachurch.org/vbsdonaions>.

For more information on VBS, e-mail us at vbs@pointlomachurch.org