Spire

SEPTEMBER

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A Note from Pastor Ed

I had an identity crisis as a young person. As an identical twin, my parents gave me and my brother near identical names: Edwin and Erwin. As a boy, I remember wearing identical t-shirts with our names monogramed on the front. The kids in the neighborhood couldn't tell us apart so they called both of us Twin-Boy. We shared the same bedroom

through our childhood and teenage years. We were in the same school classes through junior high. My mother bought us identical clothes up through our high school graduation.

By the time my brother and I reached high school, we rebelled against our identity being cast as one person. The one who got to the closet first in the morning could choose what he was going to wear. The other had to choose something else. We chose different educational paths. My brother chose math and science. I chose literature and the arts. We chose different vocational directions. My brother prepared to become a physician. I prepared for the ministry.

Throughout my life I have struggled to define my identity apart from my family of origin. I chose to attend a state college, rather than the university my mother attended. I chose to attend a seminary different than the Bible school my dad attended. I chose a different denomination in which to serve, rather than the tradition in which I was raised. My life path has been about discovering a unique identity all my own.

I think churches go through a similar identity crisis from time to time. Very often, people identify with their pastor so much that they talk about being married in the church when Pastor X was the pastor, or joining the church when Pastor Y was the pastor. Sometimes, people refer to the church as Pastor Z's church. When writing the history of a church, often church historians will refer to the decade when Pastor A was the senior pastor, or the era when Pastor B was the associate pastor.

The truth is that the church does not belong to any pastor. The church belongs to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church. The interim season is a time when a congregation can examine its identity (continued on page 7)



Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church

Sunday Classic Worship 8:30 and 10:15 am Sanctuary

> Café Service 10:15 am Chapel

Rev. Ed Girod Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Karla Shaw Associate Pastor www.pointlomachurch.org



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LOOKING AHEAD

Sept	3	Preschool Open House
Sept	5	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
Sept	11	Jump into Joy Sunday
Sept	11	New Member Class-1
Sept	25	Election of Church Officers
Sept	25	New Member Class-2
Sept	26	PUM Golf Tournament
Sept	27	Deacons Meeting
Sept	28	Session Meeting
Sept	29	5 th Thurs. Men's Breakfast
Oct	4	Elder and Deacon Training
Oct	5	Senior Health Faire
0ct	9	Deacons' Pancake Breakfast



The Tree of Life

The Tree of Life in the Family Life Center provides an opportunity for an enduring record of persons and events in the life of our church, its families and friends. Since Beverly Smith's design and the crafting by John L. Spafford in 1990, the two trees of the display have sprouted hundreds of leaves documenting the rich history of our community. The Prayer Quilt Ministry honors three of its members:

Mildred Clack - For your service to the Prayer Quilt Ministry as an ambassador of prayer. August 2016
Laura Amick With gratitude for the mementos she created for the Prayer Quilt Ministry, August 2016
Susie Mueller - For your heart for the Prayer Quilt Ministry and those in need of prayer. August 2016

In Loving Memory of Nancy McCleary from Larry, Mike, Judy and Grandchildren 1939—2016

THE SESSION OF PLCPC

*Denotes Chair

Rev. Ed Girod, Interim Senior Pastor (619) 223-1633 x202 pastored@pointlomachurch.org

Rev. Karla Shaw, Associate Pastor (619) 223-1633 x204 karla@pointlomachurch.org

Paul Diller, Clerk (619) 373-0060; pdiller50@gmail.com

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Elder Class of 2016	Phone	E-Mail
Gresham Bayne	619-517-3000	greshb@gmail.com
Student Ministries* Debbie Fountain	619-871-0460	pfountain@cox.net
Personnel, Nominating		produced commen
Bob Giesick Media Ministry*	619-838-7689	thegiesicks@cox.net
Dianne Grafton Finance & Budget*	619-255-7076	degrafton@aol.com
Charlie Mac Vean Personnel*	619-508-4401	crmacvean@msn.com
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Alex Raugust Building & Grounds	619-261-3796	tinnitus007@cox.net
Sunny Richley Worship & Music	858-208-7705	srichley@yahoo.com
Elder Class of 2017	Phone	E-Mail
Larry Blenis Children's Ministries, Presbytery Rep.	619-223-5950	larryblenis@netscape.net
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Bob Simoneau Evangelism & Church Growth*	619-223-6248	grs55@cox.net
Ryan Spradling Men's Ministry	619-518-7580	ryan.spradling@cushwake.com
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Elder Class of 2018	Phone	E-Mail
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Sam Laub Mission Beyond, Endowment	408-313-4233	selaub@aol.com
John Morrison Student Ministries	619-972-3925	mail4jdm@gmail.com
Steve Smith Finance & Budget, Co-Chair Annual Stewardship	619-602-5950	ssmith@cwsl.edu
Barbett Wood Preschool	619-226-1644	makoakani@gmail.com

Church Ministry Program and Support Staff - (619) 223-1633

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9 am to 5 pm Friday– 9 am to 1 pm

The Rev. Ed Girod

Interim Senior Pastor—Ext. 202 pastored@pointlomachurch.org

The Rev. Karla Shaw, Associate Pastor karla@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 204

Ann Simoneau, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 203 ann@pointlomachurch.org

Donald L. Brenneman

Minister of Music/Business Administrator—Ext. 211 don@pointlomachurch.org

Evelyn Lambino, Financial Secretary—Ext. 206 evelyn@pointlomachurch.org

Heather Holliday, Communications Coordinator—Ext. 209 heather@pointlomachurch.org

Bob Giesick, Director of Media Ministry r.e.giesick@gmail.com

R. O. Smith, Director of Youth Ministry/Café Worship Leader ro@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 216

Elaine Burrell, Director of Senior Adult Ministry elaine@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 210

Nicole Hage, Preschool and TLC Director preschool@pointlomachurch.org (619) 223-3327

Joette Correia, Director of Toddler Learning Center joette@pointlomachurch.org—(619) 677-3762

Karen Connor, Director of Children's Ministry

karen@pointlomachurch.org—Ext. 215 **Cynthia Hernandez**, Child Care Coordinator/

Children's Ministry Assistant
cynthia@pointlomachurch.org

Sarah Butterfield, MOPS Coordinator—Ext. 212 sarahbutterfield@gmail.com

Bryan Verhoye, *Pianist/Music Associate* mravgguy@aol.com

Alicia McMillan, Organist and Director of Children's Choirs aliciaorganist@gmail.com

Church Office / Front Desk—Ext. 201

front desk@point loma church.org

Welcome R.O. Smith and Family



Born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma, "RO" is an enthusiastic college sports fan. After graduating from Texas A&M University and participating in the Corps of Cadets, he spent six and one-half years as a Program Director at Spring Hill Camps in Evart, Michigan. It was at camp that he met his wife, Mindy. Shortly after they were married, they moved to California to attend Fuller Theological Seminary where RO attained a Masters of Arts in Theology with an emphasis on Youth, Family & Culture.

RO served as Director of Youth Discipleship at Bel Air Church in Los Angeles for over 12 years. He has a passion for children, youth and families and deeply cares about issues of social justice. RO recently began trail running and will participate in a 50-mile race in November. RO and Mindy will be moving to San Diego with their 14-month -old daughter, Eleanor, and their little dog Scout.

We are excited to have RO as our new Café Worship Leader and Director of Student Ministry. Welcome!

Jump into Joy! Sunday, Sept. 11

Fall Kickoff takes place between services on the Plaza & Courtyards at 9:30 am, Sunday, Sept. 11.

Jump into a new ministry year at PLCPC by exploring all the ways God is working through our different programs. Tables for every ministry! Enter a variety of raffles, from discounts to the Women's Retreat, to a free semester of MOPS, to gifts of all shapes and sizes, just by visiting the tables! Food for all and bounce house for the kids.

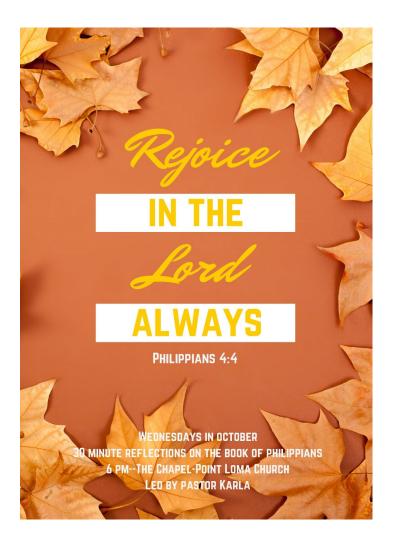
This is a perfect Sunday to invite neighbors and friends.
All are ALWAYS welcome!

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC has reviewed the first round of 84 applications, listened to sermons, and narrowed our search to several promising candidates, while continuing to accept and review new applications. We are thrilled to be taking the next step as we begin to interview several pastors.

To the Prayer Quilt Ministry—thank your for the beautiful quilt on Prayer Quilt Sunday that was tied with prayers for continued trust, strength, wisdom and discernment. We now have the quilt at our meetings, and PNC members will take turns taking the quilt home each week. We all feel blessed to have this reminder of your steadfast prayers and trust in us as we learn what the Holy Spirit is revealing to us in this process.

Carol Leimbach, PNC Chair (619) 222-2551



Children's Ministries

Karen Connor, Director (619) 223-1633 x215 karen@pointlomachurch.org



Sunday School at 8:30 and 10:15 am

Come and learn God's Word!
Ages 4 yrs-Kindergarten—Room 2
Grades 1-3—Room 8
Grade 3—Bible Memory Class in
Room 5 (8:30 only) Starting Sept. 18
Grade 4-6—Room 6
Childcare, ages 6 mo.-3 yrs—Nursery

Summer Sunday School Celebration Trusting and Serving God 1st-6th Grades

Aug. 28 - Points Store, Games & Food during regular Sunday School. Join the fun! 8:30am and 10:15am in Room 6. *Make up points store on 9/4.

Many thanks to our Summer School teachers and helpers: Judy McEntyre, Marti Baird, Stephanie Wylie, Carol Warnock, Elaine Burrell, Pat Girod, Rebecca Matsch and Lisa Raugust. Also thank you to our guest speakers: Marti Baird, Don Griffith, Catherine Rodriguez, Ben Adams, Fran Styles, Jan Thomas, Bob Lemke, Jill Curtiss. We appreciate you!



6th Grade Steps of Faith Summer School – Graduation

Congratulations to our graduating 6th graders who completed an 8-week pilot course and will receive their own Study Bible: Max Guhse, Natalie Windsor, Naomi Hernandez and Rachel Baumann.

We are so proud of you!

Bible Memory Course Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Calling all



3rd & 4th graders to a special Sunday School class for the 2016-2017 school year. Classes begin on **Sept. 18 at 8:30am in Classroom 5**. Sept-Dec will be a quick overview of the Bible. Jan-May kids will

memorize and learn how Bible verses pertain to their daily lives. Those completing the work will be awarded a personalized Bible on Mother's Day, May 14.



Route 56 on Mondays

5 to 7 pm*
Family Life Center.
*Dinner included (\$5 donation)
Friends are **always** welcome!

Sept. 19—Meeting Oct. 3—Meeting

Children's Choirs on Thursdays

September 15—Welcome back rehearsal.
All children are welcome.
4:00-4:50 4-year olds, K & grade 1
5:00-6:00 grades 2-6

During the fall/winter seasons, children prepare a Christmas musical for the Christmas Eve Family Service. Choirs also will sing during Sunday worship November 13, and

December 18. The older group will sing at the Christmas Concerts on December 4. For more information or to register, contact aliciaorganist@gmail.com



All students grades 7-high school welcome!
Meets selected Sundays 11:30-1:30 (w/snacks)
Performances: 11/20, 12/4, 12/17, 12/24.
September 25: Music preview and pizza.
RSVP to aliciaorganist@gmail.com



Meetings in the church library from 9:30 to 11:30 am

Sept 13: Kick-off and Welcome

Sept 27: Wendy Snyder "Sibling Rivalry"

Info: www.meetup.com/playgroup-754
Sarah Butterfield, Coordinator
sarahbutterfield@gmail.com



Kids Club—Thursdays

2nd—6th grade, 4-4:50 pm 4 yrs—1st grade, 5-6:00 pm Family Life Center

Sept. 15-Cupcake Liner Ice Cream Cones

Sept. 22-Foam Ball Octopus

Sept. 29-Popsicle Stick Cars



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

let's talk race

We live in a culturally diverse nation, and a church that is often divided on skin color. It's time to learn more.

Join us in the Chapel from 6:45—8:15 pm on the Wednesdays of October and spend some time learning about the history between black and white in our nation/church, our role in the R-word, and thoughtful solutions to embrace more fully our diverse world.

To sign up, or for more information, visit www.talkrace.org/signup

Senior Adult Ministry

Elaine Burrell, Director (619) 223-1633-x210 elaine@pointlomachurch.org

Red Brick Senior Center—SEPTEMBER—Family Life Center

10 to 11 am Senior Center opens for snacks and coffee 11 to 12 noon Musical Performance 12 to 1 pm Lunch

- **Sept 13** Welcome back with Peter Seltser. Lunch—Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, salad, rolls, and pumpkin pie.
- **Sept 20** Oscar Arias & Friends. Lunch—Lasagna, vegetables, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and tiramisu.
- **Sept 27** Rear View Mirror. Lunch—Enchilada casserole, rice, beans, salad, and flan.

Reservations are required by the previous Friday. Lunches are \$6.00. Contact: Elaine at (619) 223-1633 Ext. 210

LUNCH & LEARN

Safety at Home and in the Community

Wednesday, September 14 12:00-2:00 - Family Life Center

Learn how to convert your house into a senior-friendly home at this free class. Presented by Sharp Senior Resources. Attendees will receive a free home safety kit and may enter to win free enrollment in San Diego's MedicAlert program

Beverages and dessert provided.

RSVP to Elaine at (619) 223-1633 x210

SENIOR HEALTH AND INFORMATION FAIR

Wednesday, October 5 9:00 to 11:00 am Family Life Center

Red Brick Senior Ministry and Sharp Senior Resource Center invite you to attend this free event that will include health screenings for stroke, diabetes and hearing loss. Also available— Vials of Life, advance care planning tools, community resources, and more. Flu vaccinations obtainable for an optional \$2 donation for ages 60 and above who have a chronic illness. No reservation required.



Meet Elaine Burrell

Elaine Burrell, a member of PLCPC since 2012, is married to Jim Burrell and the mother of three boys, John (13), George (8) and James (8). Originally from Sonoma, CA, Elaine has always enjoyed being around older adults. She holds a Master's Degree in Social Work, specializing in Health & Aging. While raising her family, she has served as a volunteer at schools, church, and the community. Elaine's other endeavors include playing guitar and piano, crafting, and being a partner in her family's wine business. Elaine is thrilled to begin serving the seniors in our community as Director of Senior Adult Ministry at PLCPC. Welcome. Elaine!

Endowment

What is planned giving?

Planned giving is all about giving for the long term. Endowment funds are invested to help ensure that our church can continue its mission and ministry beyond our lifetimes. When we make a planned gift, we are giving to something that will continue in perpetuity. Part of the sense of satisfaction that comes from making a planned gift lies in the knowledge that we can make a lasting impact; we can leave a legacy for generations yet to come.

Planned gifts can be as varied as the interests of the donor. Besides cash, they can include such items as stocks and bonds or other appreciated securities, insurance policies, retirement plans, art or antique collections, real estate or other assets. The gifts may be made directly to the endowment fund or through such vehicles as trusts, charitable gift annuities, a donor advised fund or a bequest in a will.

Ray Lidstrom for the Endowment Committee - (619) 298-5663 rlidstrom@suzyszoo.com



\$3.00 per class
All ages and
fitness levels welcome
Contact: Fran Styles
(619) 223-8204

Adult Studies and Groups

Sunday Scripture Group—10 am, Parlor. Resuming on September 18, we'll view and discuss "Following Jesus in a Land of Conflict," a 4-part Day of Discovery program. What should followers of Christ think and do about the conflict in the Middle East and its impact on both Arab and Jewish communities? Contact: Bob Simoneau grs55@cox.net.

Moms' Bible Study—Mondays, 9:15-10:30 am, Parlor. Beginning September 12, all moms (with kids elementary age and younger) are invited to study *Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren Winner. This DVD curriculum helps us incorporate Jewish spiritual disciplines into our everyday life. Led by Pastor Karla. Contact Julia Roller (juliaroller@yahoo.com) for more information. For free childcare contact Cynthia Hernandez at cynthia@pointlomachurch.org.

Rachel Circle—3rd Mondays, 9:30 am, Library. Next meeting is September 19. Come and be inspired and empowered while learning the symptoms and risk factors of GYN cancers. Presenters are our own Jill Curtiss and her survivor sisters of the Ovarian Cancer Alliance of San Diego. All are welcome; bring a friend. Contact: Marge Grant at (619) 296-2720, or shootthbreeze@gmail.com.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study—9:00 am in the Parlor for women of all ages. We'll begin on September 13 with an intro class on Hermeneutics with the help of the book *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* followed by a study of the book of Acts. Class is led by Pastor Karla. For questions contact Clara Blenis (619) 223-5950.

Men@Work—Wednesdays at 8:30 am in the Library. We will resume Sept. 7, with Rev. Michael Mudgett at the helm. Contact: Don Griffith at don-pete@cox.net.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study—5:00 in the Parlor. Come join us starting September 7 as we begin a new study of the Gospel of Matthew guided by Bill Creasy. We will have an after-summer check-in, Creasy's stimulating introduction to Matthew, followed by discussion, sharing and prayer. Contact: Gerry Height at gheidt@ghhco.com or, better yet, just come.

Wednesday Refresh—7 to 8:30 pm on 1st and 3rd Weds. Home of Bob & Ginny Edwards, 2125 Locust St., 92106 (619) 222-4262. We are studying Romans. Singles, couples, all are welcome. Contact: jamesgrisolia@gmail.com.

Sermon Study Group—Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Home of Jane and Bryan Bennett. This group will resume in the fall. Contact Bryan Bennett at btb92107@gmail.com.

The Bridge will restart Friday, September 9, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Parlor with a Game Night. The Bridge, a casual study group for 20s-40s, meets every other Friday. Child care is available for a small fee. This fall we'll be reading *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact: Julia Roller at juliaroller@yahoo.com for more info, or to RSVP.



Please join us for a fun and faith-filled weekend with the men of our congregation. Give yourself the chance to relax and reflect on what it means to be a man of faith in this world filled with so many social pressures.

Great Location! Refurbished Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, a short 50 minutes away.

Cost: Final pricing TBD—est. \$160 for 2 nights lodging, food and your salvation (salvation not guaranteed).



Save the Date!
Deacons' Pancake
Breakfast—October 9





Sign up and Serve

Sunday, September 11...

... will be the first chance to sign up for the **November 5 SERVE** projects. Look for the white children's playhouse on the Plaza. There you will find representatives from the PLCPC **SERVE** Committee, Habitat for Humanity, and Thrivent Financial Services, the major sponsor for this year's **SERVE**, to answer your questions and help you sign-up for the projects.

There will be several types of projects:

- 1. The enhancement of 6 homes in Logan Heights—roofing, painting, landscaping, tree planting, and fence work. 20 volunteers ages 14 and up are needed. Also a community enhancement project in Logan Heights is to be identified for us by Habitat. 30 volunteers will be needed.
- 2. Food Prep and Snack Delivery. Again, Jon Conner has agreed to feed the masses. This group will prep, cook, and serve lunch at a Logan Heights church. They also will go around to the other project sights and deliver cold drinks and snacks in the morning and afternoon. 25 volunteers needed.
- 3. Possibly Construct and paint children's playhouses. This project will depend on the family needs of the houses selected. 7 to 8 volunteers per playhouse. Children under 14 may be included on this project.

Before the Kick-off on September 11, talk to your friends about joining together on one team. It promises to be a fun and rewarding day of loving our neighbors.

Ed Lynds, Projects Coordinator elynds@cox.net

September New Member Class

Find out what membership is all about and meet new friends!

Pastor Ed will lead the class, with Deacons Amy and Ben Adams and Jean Wirick coordinating.

Sundays, September 11 and 25 from 11:30 am to 1:15 pm in the Library. Light lunch and free child care provided.

Take the step and RSVP to ann@pointlomachurch.org (619) 223-1633 x203

NOTE (Continued from page 7)

and separate itself from some of its recent history. In fact, one of the developmental tasks of a church in transition **is** discovering a new identity.

This is what happened to the people of Israel in their exodus from Egypt. While slaves in Egypt, their primary identity was that they were the property of their masters. They could be beaten, raped, or killed at the master's whim. They did not belong to themselves. They were owned by others. But then Yahweh God-who was called "I AM WHO I AM"—intervened and the rest is history. A new people was born. A new identity was forged. In the document which became both their Declaration of Independence and their Constitution, the Ten Commandments opens with these words: "I AM THE LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (Exodus 20:2)

Our identity as the people of God always begins with the foundations of faith. We have been called out of our past into a new identity as God's covenant people. God reveals his name as the Eternal One, the great I AM, who leads us into the future. And Jesus picks up that theme when he speaks of himself saying:

- I AM the Bread of life.
- I AM the Good Shepherd.
- I AM the Light of the World.
- I AM the True Vine.
- I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- I AM the Resurrection and the Life.
- I AM the Alpha and the Omega.

Discovering a new identity is not easy. It takes thought, prayer, discernment, courage, and compassion. During this interim season of transition. let me suggest a few character traits we might try on (again) as our new identity as God's people:

- Christ centered
- Biblically grounded
- Kingdom oriented
- Mission focused
- Servant minded
- Warm hearted
- Welcoming and inclusive
- Healing and transforming

Yours for a New Identity,

Pastor Ed

PLCPC Fall Family Picnic — September 18

Join us at Smuggler's Cove on the Naval Sub Base for a picnic with old and new friends. This is a beautiful spot with shady areas, a playground, an open grassy space, and a great view of the bay. Just bring yourself, your family, as well as your food and beverages. Sign up on our PLCPC website (go to church calendar and click on Sept. 18), or sign up at the Fall Kick-off on September 11. *Please sign up even if you are a "maybe" so your name will be on the gate list. No name on list: no admittance.*

All generations are welcome. Thank you Charlie MacVean for arranging the privilege of enjoying this great spot on Ballast Point.

Directions: Drive south on Rosecrans to the Sub Base gate, then follow the guard's instructions. Questions? Email the Spradlings: missyspradling@gmail.com, or ryan.spradling@cushwake.com.

