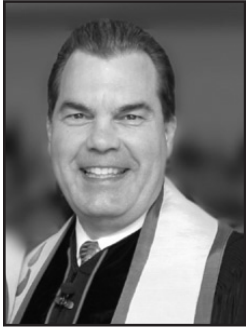


# LAGUNA NIGUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Perspectives*



*Dr. Randall Steele*

## A Message from Randy

Dear Church Family,

Did you see the excitement Saturday, December 15? Gard Hall was filled with joy, laughter, fun, and people! Our church teamed with the YMCA in sponsoring a FUN DAY for foster-care children and their families. More than 25 volunteers from LNPC joined with YMCA volunteers and staff to throw a Christmas party for 60 children. The celebration was complete with beautiful decorations (you should have seen Gard Hall!), games, food, presents, and “Santa’s Village” outside on the playground. As a result, there were a lot of happy smiles and Children leaving our facility that Saturday evening!

This was a significant event on many levels. Most importantly, it reminds these Children of how special they are and that there are others who care for and love them. Secondly, it reinforces the LNPC Refocus efforts to become

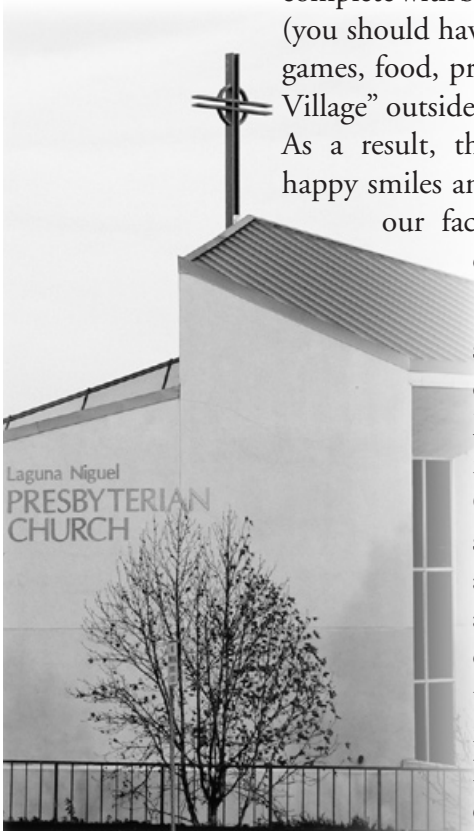
outwardly directed in our community ministry. According to Peter Platt, who engineered this outreach, “We were able to create that ‘Town Hall’ experience where people can come and feel like they belong. In addition, the YMCA Fun Day is a great prelude to our [church’s] After Schools Initiative program.” Thank you, Peter and all those who gave their time and energy Friday night and all day Saturday to show children and families of Orange County the love of Christ this Christmas season. Well done!

This Fall has been an exciting time for our church! We are making a difference in our community. Together we took concrete steps toward our goal of becoming missionally-minded and externally focused in our ministry to those who live around us. In October, LNPC sponsored two workshops. The first with Eric Swanson showed us how to become an “externally focused” church. The second with Paul Russell (director of Disaster Preparedness in Laguna Niguel) explained how we could team with our city and become leaders in our community’s drive to care for people should a disaster happen in

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## From Duncan's desk:



Rev. Duncan McColl

*<sup>25</sup> Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up.*

*Proverbs 12:25 (NRSV)*

Driving home to Orange County from San Diego through the Marine base reminded me of the wildfires that just a few months ago that closed the entire freeway to traffic. The charred remains of plants,

brush and small trees blanketed the hillsides. Curiously there were islands of plants not touched by the fire. Still intact, these scattered oases of green retained brush and small trees that would allow birds and animals to stay in the area. In blackened portions where rushing fire had flattened everything, the recent rains were already sprouting fresh grass. The new growth reminds me of the natural renewal cycle that takes place after radical activity, even after something as destructive as a wildfire.

The Church of Christ experiences similar cycles of busyness and change, and yes, even in our lives. We have seen pain and suffering,

but afterwards, God begins with our renewal and rebuilding. Sometimes the Holy Spirit leaves faithful enclaves (or people) that provide shelter and continuity. At other times the Spirit, like the rains, sprouts fresh with new seeds released by the flames. Always, the Lord calls us to serve one another, so that those who have been through the wildfire will have Christian brothers and sisters bringing sprinklings of living water to refresh the spirit. In this time of quiet after the holidays, the work of LNPC continues through you.

Blessings for a New Year! Thank you for your "good words" that cheer me and all those whom you encounter.

**Pastor Duncan**

## Message from Randy

— Continued

our area. Both of these workshops were well attended and inspiring for us as we reach out to others.

Also in October, we had the joy of supporting our firefighters by packing lunches to aid them in their efforts to protect us from the fires. You could feel the team spirit and emotion as so many in our church and community gathered around assembly lines stuffing food and drink into paper bags. It was a miracle at work to see old and young side-by-side, working together for a cause greater than themselves. And then, to have that all captured on NBC Nightly News, featuring the youth of our church and their efforts, it was truly a story to tell the

world. What joy that brought to our hearts!

Now that we look to 2008, let us continue to grow in our outwardly-focused ministry. There will be many opportunities for you to join with others in sharing the love of Christ with our community. In January, for example, our church will take an active role in our community's disaster preparedness efforts. This is an outgrowth from the workshop we sponsored in October.

Led by Lee Kraft, and a team from our church, we will begin by committing to prepare ourselves and our homes to be disaster-ready. "Ready LNPC" (taken from "Ready Laguna Niguel") is the theme for the

first phase of this outreach. Here is how it works:

1. Use the Disaster Preparedness Check List enclosed in this newsletter. Extras are available at the church.
2. Make your home "Disaster Ready" by following the easy steps on the list.
3. After preparing your home and family, take this helpful information to your neighbors and community.

There will be more information available to aid you in this community mission. We can do it! We can show our community that we care for and love them! Let us become a church that demonstrates the love of Christ in tangible and real ways!

I am looking forward to 2008!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy".

## Please remember in prayer:



Our prayers and sympathies are with the Resh family on the death of Tom's mom, Gladys.

Prayers of Sympathy for former members, Karl and Joanne Wojahn, who now live in Oregon, on the death of their son, Greg, from illness.

### **Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:**

#### **At Home**

Doris Black; Astrid & Michael Brescia ; Marjorie Crane; Maud DeKoning; Donna McCullen; Connie Peace; Ron Pearce; Marjorie Phillips; Jan Pierson; Bill Ruddiman; Jackie Settles; Irene Vorland; Jim Wilson; Brice Yoder

#### **In Health Care Facilities**

Gladys Brassel; Willie Brown; Dory Sargent

#### **Family/Friends**

Kathy Anderson and family (sister of Carole Clement); Clara (Fu) Balaan (Lani Colley's mother); Joey Barnhart (Caroline and Joe Ditto's grandson); Nancy Baumgart (friend of Claudia

Vitalich); Kathy Biewenga (friend of Debbie Perkins); Ruth Bothwell (friend of the Forshee's); Russell Bowden (grandson of Carol Durst-Winther); Connie Burns (friend of Claudia Vitalich); Jerry Christensen (Marie Kaufer's step-brother); Roger Dale (Linda Schmidt's brother); Joann Danner (Carol Durst-Winther's niece); Debbie Dixon (Wally Sargent's daughter); Ryan Dixon (Wally Sargent's grandson); Tara Dixon (Wally Sargent's granddaughter); Matt Epperly (friend of Nancy Lacy); Leonard Hurley (Valerie Weber's father); Sally Lee Howd (Mal and Doris Black's friend); Barbara Katz (friend of Audrey Hart); Carole Larson (friend of Marie Kaufer); Karyn Lawless (JoAn & Jim Merklin's daughter); John Logan (Andy Logan's son); Jon Luczycki (Carol Luczycki's son); Denise McColl (Duncan McColl's relative); Nancy McHale (Michael Kamariotakis' dentist); Mary Morton (friend of Carol Zink); Trella Moyer (Marvel Anderson's sister); Quinn James Paulson (Ann

Paulson's grandson); Lucille Pelletier (friend of Kathy Vangsnes); Dirk Poeschel (Kathy White's brother); David Riorden (Christine Clark's father); Stephen Roebuck (Kathleen Roebuck's son); Nancy Sargent (Wally Sargent's daughter-in-law); Spike Schultheis (former member); Grayson Smiley & Mother (friend of Pat Knirk); Kevin Wagner (Jean Shelton's cousin); Bob Ward (Judie Ward's brother-in-law); Donald Weber, Jr. (Donald Weber's father);

Bill Weldon (Ethel Janik's brother-in-law); Bob & Vickie Whale (friend of Kathy Vangsnes); Jim Williams (Robyn Williams' brother-in-law); Sandra Wright

#### **In Iraq**

PFC Michael Beach (Sue & Bob Kirkpatrick's nephew); Lt. Robby Crotty and Capt. Katie Crotty (Jeff Crotty's brother and sister-in-law); Maj. Wayne Lacey (Lani Colley's brother-in-law); Maj. Craig Wiggers

## Kids Find Christmas at LNPC

For most of us, preparing for Christmas includes a fair amount of stress over shopping, planning for travel or guests, juggling end-of-year commitments, and simply stopping to reflect and anticipate the joy of joys, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Sometimes, part of stopping and reflecting is accomplished by getting our attention off of ourselves and onto others.

On Saturday, December 15th, about 25 LNPC'ers came together to help some of God's most important treasures celebrate the Christmas holiday. In conjunction with the YMCA of Orange County, LNPC hosted the December "Fun Day" for some 60 foster children. Arriving with big eyes and excitement about the day and a possible visit from Santa Claus, the kids enjoyed a great afternoon! With a great lunch provided by Chick-Fil-A, an impromptu concert by teenage singers from Saddleback Church, and games and activities organized and led by volunteers from at least eight different organizations and businesses, the YMCA Fun Day was a great success.



LNPC's involvement in this event was the brainchild of Peter Platt.

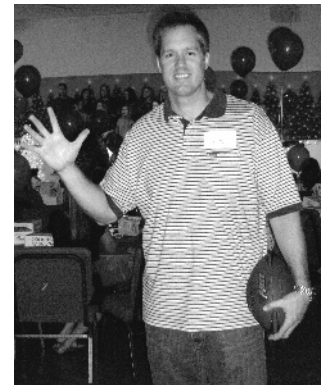
Earlier this year, Peter and Tara Platt participated in the ReVision workshops looking at shaping the future of our church. As the clear call of God for LNPC to be externally focused came into view, Peter knew that our church could make a real difference for the kids and teens in our community. As a first, trial step, getting LNPC involved with the Fun Day was a good first step.

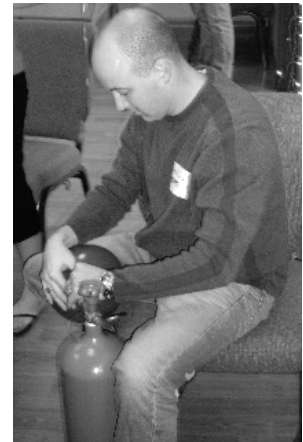
The YMCA organized the entire function, collecting donations, sponsors, and recruiting volunteers and mentors. LNPC helped out by offering Gard Hall free-of-charge and committing to providing two dozen volunteers to help make the day a success, all the way from Friday night set up to Saturday afternoon tear down.



Peter shared, "We learned a lot by being a part of what the YMCA did here today... we can partner more with them in the future, and, hopefully sooner than later, start doing more of these events ourselves for those around Laguna Niguel who could use a boost."

The new year is our opportunity to get more and more involved in the world around our church campus. If you find a place where the members of our church can help, spread the word and let's all be there to help out. Here's to being God's hands and feet out in the world!





# CHILDREN'S *Ministries*

## Nativity

More than 35 of our children beautifully retold the Nativity story on Christmas Eve at the 5pm service. It was a wonderful way to start the evening's celebration with our families.



## Pathfinders

Pathfinders will begin its winter session on Wednesday, February 6th.

Join us after school from 3:30 to 5:15pm for Bible stories, music, crafts and snacks. Call Janice or Stacy for more information.

## Connect 45

Attention all 4th & 5th graders we're going Bowling! Next Connect 45 is Friday, January 18th watch for details.

## Did you Know?

That we are honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday on January 21st. "It's quite easy for me to think of a God of love mainly, because I grew up in a family where love was central and where lovely relationships were ever present." Martin Luther King Jr.

## LNPC Christmas Concert CD's and DVD's

Recorded live on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, both CD's and DVD's are now available for nominal cost. Four video cameras were used for complete video coverage, and LNPC's recent audio upgrades make this an outstanding audio experience as well. The DVD will support both 16:9 (widescreen) and 4:3 (standard) TV formats. Look for copies on the patio on Sunday, or contact the church office at 249-1218.

Get your keepsake copy now!



*Photo by  
Mark  
Montgomery*

*Heather Nielsen sings a solo at the LNPC  
Christmas Concert*

# Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade

On Saturday, December 8, our Pathfinders children represented LNPC in the Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade. A group of eager LNPC elves rode and walked behind a wonderfully decorated float complete with a Christmas tree and hay bales! Winnona Gaviglio led our children in singing Christmas carols

and waving Christmas greetings to the excited on lookers. The theme for the LNPC float, "Gifts to our Community," was well represented by the beautifully wrapped packages displaying the names of many of our mission and outreach projects including: Adopt a Marine, World Vision, Katrina Relief, Lunches

for the Homeless, Lunches for the Firefighters, South County Outreach and Laguna Niguel Disaster Relief to name a few! Look for our smiling faces on Cox channel 3 throughout January.



## Gift of Life is Priceless

### Sign Up to Participate in the Blood Drive Sponsored by Health Ministries

LNPC health ministries is partnering with the American Red Cross to sponsor a blood drive on Sunday, January 27, 2008. It will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Gard Hall at the church.

Sign up online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) using the sponsor code: lnpc. Or, feel free to contact Ellen Pearce at (949) 496-2799 to set up your appointment.

This blood drive will be given locally to Mission Hospital, which is designated as one of the few trauma centers in Orange County. However, it is possible to designate your blood donation be given to a friend, relative or yourself.

The procedure takes approximately one hour from checking in to leaving. It is similar to having blood drawn for a lab test except that the

needle stays in a little longer. It does not matter what blood type you are as they will test you for it and inform you. To donate you must be age 17 or older and 110 pounds or more.



### Interesting facts about blood donations:

- The number one reason people don't donate is they were never asked.
- The most common blood type is O positive. Most anyone can receive O negative blood.
- This region needs to collect 700 units of O positive blood everyday. The Southern California Region needs to collect 1,500 units of blood each day. Just 3 percent of the population in Southern California donates. A liver transplant uses 30 to 50 units of blood products during the procedure and more the next month.
- After donation your body immediately goes to work restoring fluids and red blood cells.
- Fluid volume is replenished within 48 hours and the red cells are replaced within 6 weeks. You are eligible to give every 56 days or eight weeks.
- Many people donate blood regularly. They feel good for doing so, and although nothing is proven in the benefits or disadvantages they feel good having given their bone marrow a stimulation

Incidentally 40 percent of the blood needed to meet the needs of Southern California patients comes from out of state.

# Want to Know Who You're Helping?

## Nick

Nick's new heart started on October 24, at 2:15 am. Four days after the operation, he biked 4 ½ miles. And he is eager to add wins to his record as a coach of 27 years for the St. Anne Elementary school football team - 167 wins, 54 losses and 1 tie. "I care about my players and I want to coach their lives," says Nick. He also wants to thank donors: "They gave me another chance. Now I must continue to do as much as possible for others. I used to give blood, never thinking that donors might help me. I am grateful for donors."

## Eric

Just before his 16th birthday, Eric came down with what his family thought was the flu. A blood test at the hospital revealed that the situation was much more serious — Eric had leukemia. He commenced immediate chemotherapy and over the course of his treatment required 25 units of red cells and over 30 units of platelets. Eric made it to his 16th! In fact, he is now 19, in remission, and attends the University of Idaho. "Blood donors have given me so much," Eric says. "I wouldn't be here without them."

## Cody

Cody was only four when an infection in his mouth turned out to be the first sign of a disease that had already riddled his body with tumors and cancer cells. Cody had Burkitts Leukemia. His body could no longer produce blood cells, so chemotherapy and blood transfusions became a way

of life. Cody persevered and today, in remission, he is a rambunctious ten-year-old. His family is deeply grateful to the many blood donors who generously gave this gift of life.

## Rob

When Rob started helping with Red Cross blood drives as a senior in college, he never thought he would be a recipient. On his way back to school one day after winter break, Rob was in a serious car accident. More than 12 units of blood were used to save his life. Rob says giving blood is one of the greatest acts of charity because you are giving away a part of yourself to help someone you don't even know — or as he discovered — maybe someone you do.

## Malorie

Malorie was three years old when she developed a bad infection as a result of drinking tainted apple cider. "I was in intensive care and I almost died," she said. "I was lucky because so many nice people gave blood; people who didn't know me. People who give blood are heroes. Every day, they save lives. My motto is, 'The more you give; the more people will live.'"

## Madison

Madison came into the world early. Weighing in at barely one pound, she had scarcely enough blood in her tiny body to keep it going. But with seven blood transfusions and two platelet transfusions, she has beaten the odds. "Without the generous donations of perfect strangers, our child would not be alive today," says Julie, Madison's mom. "How do you say thank you for a gift like that?"



Give the Gift  
of Life

Sign up for you time at:

[www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)

## Gifted in Kitchen Support?

Looking for an opportunity to serve on a rotating basis with no meetings? The Building and Grounds Commission is seeking 20 people (men and women) to form two teams that would help in the maintenance of the LNPC kitchen for 2008.

The advantage of having a Team A and Team B is that members would serve for twice for a three-month commitment. This would be a one-year commitment, with Teams A and B rotating every three months. Each team member would be assigned to one area or task in the

kitchen that you could take care of at your convenience.

If you're interested, please contact Marvel Anderson at 499-5192.



MOPS is a dynamic program designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. If you, or someone you know are looking for:

- A 2 ½ hour break
- Inspiration from incredible guest speakers
- Heart to heart relationships with other moms
- Fun crafts and creative activities
- A delicious breakfast

- Meaningful conversations with adults
- An opportunity to grow closer to Jesus Christ

Then MOPS is for you! We meet from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at our Church. Childcare provided. Please call Christie Phillips at 429-7771 for registration information. Spring session begins Wednesday, January 16. Register now – space is limited.

# January 2008

## LAGUNA NIGUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>6</b> Communion 8:45am Drop-In Bible 8:50am Worship 10:30am Drop-In Bible 10:30am Worship	<b>7</b> 1:00pm Staff 4:00pm Bethel NT 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm ROCK 7:00pm Deacon's 7:30pm Worship Ensemble	<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:30am Presbyterian Womens Bible Study 10:00am Martha Circle
<b>13</b> Girls Retreat 8:45am Drop-In Bible 8:50am Worship 10:30am Drop-In Bible 10:30am Worship	<b>14</b> 1:00pm Staff 4:00pm Bethel NT 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Adult Ed 5:30pm ROCK 7:00pm Mission & Issues 7:00pm Connections Comm. 7:30pm Worship Ensemble	<b>8</b> 9:30am CE Children 9:30am Wee Little Ones 10:00am Disaster Preparedness 10:30am Bible Study Brunch 2:00pm Circle of Care 7:00pm AYSO 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship 9:00am MOPS 9:30am Bethel NT & OT 1:30pm Health 3:00pm Cong Care 7:00pm FISH 7:00pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm LN Women's Club	<b>11</b> Girls Retreat 9:00am Faithfully Fit 10:00am Bldg & Grounds 7:00pm Bridge	<b>12</b> Girls Retreat 8:30am Presbyterian Womens Bible Study 8:30am New Members Class
<b>20</b> 8:45am Drop-In Bible 8:50am Worship 10:00am Blood Pressure Screening 10:30am Drop-In Bible 10:30am Worship	<b>21</b> 1:00pm Staff 4:00pm Bethel NT 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm ROCK 7:30pm Worship Ensemble 7:30pm Finance & Ops	<b>15</b> 9:30am Wee Little Ones 10:30am Bible Study Brunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Worship & Music	<b>16</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship 9:00am MOPS 9:30am Bethel NT & OT 7:00pm FISH 7:00pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> 9:00am Faithfully Fit 6:00pm Connect 45	<b>19</b> 8:30am Presbyterian Womens Bible Study
<b>27</b> 7:30am Blood Drive 8:45am Drop-In Bible 8:50am Worship 10:30am Drop-In Bible 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Commission 4:00pm Session Budget	<b>28</b> 1:00pm Staff 4:00pm Bethel NT 4:00pm Confirmation Class 5:30pm ROCK 7:00pm Session 7:30pm Worship Ensemble	<b>22</b> 9:30am Wee Little Ones 10:30am Bible Study Brunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm AYSO	<b>23</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship 9:00am MOPS 9:30am Bethel NT & OT 7:00pm FISH 7:00pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>25</b> 9:00am Faithfully Fit	<b>26</b> 8:30am Presbyterian Womens Bible Study
		<b>29</b> 9:30am Wee Little Ones 10:30am Bible Study Brunch 12:00pm Hannah Circle 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 7:00am Men's Fellowship 9:00am MOPS 9:30am Bethel NT & OT 3:30pm Pathfinder's 5:30pm Deacon's Exec 7:00pm FISH 7:00pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>31</b> HS Ski Retreat 7:00pm Chancel Choir		

*Remember, God loves you!*

**Laguna Niguel  
Presbyterian Church**

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Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

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www.lnpc.org

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**LAGUNA NIGUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OUR DETERMINED FUTURE:**

- Laguna Niguel Presbyterian Church has one purpose: developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- Our emphasis on relational ministry, strong and nurturing youth and children's programs, and dynamic small groups provide the community with opportunities to worship and grow.
- Through moving worship, inspiring music, and spirit-based leadership, we are continually expanding our mission field. A church that is easy to visit with a Bible-centered faith at its core, we are a light shining in our community.