

MESSENGER

VOLUME 66, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2017



NEWS FROM JANE

Last year was a year that seemed really busy, but quickly come to an end. The season has suddenly changed and it allows us to have the best weather out the whole year. It is cool in the morning and evenings and the market is filled with fresh grains and vegetables and just looking at it makes our hearts full.

Thank you for your prayers and support in your own places and I wish to share some of the things that went on over the past year.

INSIDE

- 2 PASTOR'S LETTER
- 3 LEE'S LATEST
- 4 CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
DEACON'S BEACON
- 5 CALENDAR
- 6 CHURCH MOUSE
- 7 CFC HEARTBEAT
- 8 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JOY HOSTEL

There are 23 girls between the age of five and 15 and including the three staff members that we have there are 26 women living in our hostel. They are from families that cannot educate them or take care of them at all because their father got married to another woman and left the family, or their guardians all have to work for a living. They are living and receiving an education in the hostel. We also have worship services every week and we are learning about what the Bible is, the state of human nature, and the grace and love of God poured down on the hopeless beings that we are.

Since last September the landlord asked us to divide the children or reduce the number of girls. We have tried to come up with a solution but it is not easy. We cannot send any of our kids away and it is also difficult to divide them into two houses. So we have asked the landlord to give us more time and meanwhile we are living happily. And we plan to look for a new place to go to in the near future..

MOTHER & CHILD CARE

We have been providing nutritional care for malnourished children and children with parents who have to go out to work. This work has been shut down for a while due to interruption in the area that we were in, but we plan to open up again soon.

KOREAN SCHOOL

Twice a week I am teaching Korean and I have been receiving my visa through this. When I meet them, we talk a lot about our lives and this is something that I really enjoy.

My oldest son Jason is currently working at an international school and is preparing to go to graduate school. My second son Eui Seon is back in school after his military duty and is continuing his studies. My youngest son Han Seon is currently doing his military duty.

The following are some prayer requests.

- For the eyes and ears of the children to open up when I share the gospel.
- For safety, especially because our children are all girls.
- For wisdom when meeting the parents of the girls.
- For grace when looking at my weaknesses and the Lord fill me with His grace.

With deep thanks from Bangladesh,
Jane

P.S. CHRISTMAS JOY!

For a short time our girls were home for winter break. We cooked some good food and had a good time looking back at the year. We also took some pictures all dressed up (pictured above).

PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends,

For several years now we have been working to build the Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage in Rosarito, Mexico.

I want to update you on the project. And I want to invite you to join us the team that will be working on the ground floor of the orphanage the weekend of February 24-26.

By November, 2016, we had spent most of the money that had been donated for the project by LCPC and by private individuals. But praise God! Over the Christmas season we received gifts totaling about \$24,000 that will be committed to a number of important construction projects in 2017.

We will also be working to add more churches to the network that is working together to launch the orphanage. In 2016, La Jolla Presbyterian



Church and New Life Community Church in Clovis jumped in to help and are now full partners with us. New Life will send a team of 50 or 60 people to engage in construction work during their spring break in March.

We have full architectural plans and the site



has been excavated so we are ready to begin the first floor. Our immediate need is to set pipes and electrical lines in place and pour the base slab.



With oversight from our highly competent construction supervisor, Ron Struska (a missionary in Rosarito), we expect to make rapid progress.

We have begun the process of recruiting board members and fine-tuning our vision for the orphanage. Challenges include:

- Working with the Mexican government to identify needy girls and boys that might join the CDLA family
- Recruiting leaders (probably a married couple) to oversee the orphanage long-term
- Establishing policies and guidelines to ensure the orphanage is managed with excellence and is meeting the goal of raising disciples of Jesus
- Recruiting multiple teams to continue construction
- Widening the network of support



This year is already looking to me like a turning point for Casa de Los Angeles. Thanks for your prayers and support for this exciting ministry. Once again, please consider working with the LCPC mission team February 24-26. Anyone high school age or older is invited. The food and accommodations will be excellent and you will have the deep satisfaction of helping to provide a home for some of the poorest kids in North America.

In Christ's love,
Andy Wilson

BISTRO 50+ FUN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday,
February 28
12 Noon
in Koopmans
Join us for lunch. Only \$5!

CFC FAITH UPDATE

This month, we will continue to look at the life of Peter, an ordinary fisherman turned disciple of Jesus turned leader of the early church. As we learn about his attempt to walk on water (something we will try in our own kiddie pool), his denial of Jesus and even the miracles Jesus gave him the strength to perform, I hope the kids find that he is relatable. He did great things and made big mistakes. He had big doubts, but Jesus helped him to have bigger faith. And I think Jesus is willing to do that for us as well!

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
shawndraws@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

Lois Brown

**MESSENGER DEADLINE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:00 AM SHARP!**

Messenger articles and corrections should be emailed to shawndraws@gmail.com. Please put the word "Messenger" in the subject line.

They can also be placed in the Messenger folder. Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.

Reaching Every Corner
of Every Campus with the Gospel



UPDATE FROM DANIEL & MARIE ADAMS

THE BEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO ALAN

“InterVarsity has paved the way for my relationship with God to flourish. Just a little over a year ago, although I would have called myself a Christian, I don’t believe I could have said that I was following God. Because of the great people at InterVarsity, and the amount of space and time I’ve

thing that’s ever happened to me.”

DANIEL’S SEMINARY UPDATE

Daniel finished his exams in December and thoroughly enjoyed his Christmas break! Having learned basic Greek over the summer, he used it to translate and interpret Mark 1:39-45 for his exegesis paper about Jesus and the Leper. It is a



Student leaders and apprentices are refreshed after their half-day retreat of silence! Alan is second from the left.

had with Jesus Christ largely due to InterVarsity, I can now say I am living my life with God.

“I hold hands with God wherever I go, and always do my best to put him first. Before every gig, recital, performance, or exam I take a few minutes to pray and thank the Lord for what he’s given me, and for him to grant me strength. I have miraculously now become a leader at Berklee InterVarsity, and have my own apprentice who a few months ago made her own decision to come to Christ and now is excited to soon be leading her own Bible study. A year ago on December 7, I made my adult decision to follow God, and it’s the best

A SEASON OF GROWTH!

- 7 students leading Bible studies
- 5 apprentices
- 30 students involved

story that shows Jesus’ scandalous compassion and his messianic power. Only two people had healed leprosy before him – Moses and Elisha (Numbers 12 and 2 Kings 5).

In January Daniel started a class, “Christ in the Old Testament,” with Prof. Gordon Hugenberger, pastor of Park Street Church in Boston.

THANK YOU!

Your prayers and faithful support mean so much to us, and allows students like Alan to begin and flourish in their relationship with God. Thank you!

God Bless,
Daniel & Marie

LEE’S LATEST

We’re still studying the Gospel of Mark and hope you’ll join us every Wednesday night during PEAK.

Jesus announced the Kingdom of God. What does that mean? How can we be faithful to God in our hectic, stress-filled world?

Ultimately, the Gospel of Mark asks us a very important question: “Who do you say that I am?” That question is the very heart of Mark’s Gospel and it is still the most important question.



CONVERSATIONS IN THE GARDEN

Join the Conversations! We meet once or twice a month on Sunday afternoons at the home of Nancy Coler to discuss the week’s sermon in a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere. Our group is small but mighty. Both services are represented and new friendships are being formed. All are welcome!

This month we’ll meet on **February 5 and 19**. Arrive at 4:30 PM, and we’ll be finished by 6:00 PM. For more information, please call Nancy Coler at (626) 755-1880.

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock



Confession Time: When I first arrived at LCPC in 2008, one aspect of the job that downright frightened me was chaperoning camp trips. I had only been to one “sleep away” camp in my whole life – a 6th grade camp trip that everyone seemed to look forward to throughout all of elementary school. I, on the other hand, dreaded camp week. I cried the entire bus ride up the mountain to the campsite. I wrote my mother tear stained letters every day and I lay awake in my bunk each night counting down the hours until I could go home. Needless to say, camp was not a great experience for me.

So when my first Winter Camp with the LCPC Sparks came up, I was beyond nervous. What if I became a homesick mess even as an adult? What if the camp food made me sick? What if I got dirty? I packed a big suitcase (for a two-night trip, mind you) with soaps, antibacterial gel, antibacterial wipes, antibacterial spray and a bunch of kid-friendly snacks in case the campers started disliking me. Then I met an eager group of 4th-6th graders in the church parking lot and headed up the mountain to Forest Home.

Not only did I survive the weekend, I actually ended up appreciating it more than I ever thought possible! The kids were fantastic. The food was

actually pretty tasty. Throwing snowballs at my co-counselor, Stacie Roach (now Nevlin) was fun. Cheering the kids on as they climbed the rock wall was exciting. And watching them worship surrounded by children from other churches was almost as moving and wonderful as joining them in that worship each evening.

Now, as I get ready to head to my seventh winter camp (I missed one when pregnant with Charlie), I still plan to bring a ridiculous amount of hygiene supplies because, let's face it, there is a lot of dirt outdoors. But I know now that ending the day with muddy shoes and leaves in my hair is well worth the experience of getting away from the day to day with kids. It is well worth the opportunity to both encourage them and join them in focusing not on video games or a school paper or an upcoming soccer match – but on God's creation, on strengthening friendships and on better understanding who it is we worship.

This month we are taking more than 20 people to SPARKS Winter Camp at Forest Home. We leave at 3:30 PM on Friday, February 10, and will be back in the LCPC parking lot around 1:00 PM that Sunday. It is a quick trip, but one in which a lot can happen. Will you, church family, please join me in praying that this weekend will be a fun, safe, healthy, and worship-

ful one for each and every counselor and camper that attends? Please pray for God's Spirit to be powerfully at work and please pray for the Spirit's good work to not fade from mind or heart when we travel back down the mountain to enter the normal routine again.

Thank you for your prayers!

Mark Your Calendars

February 10-12: Winter Camp with SPARKS (4th-6th grade)

March 1: Ash Wednesday Service in place of PEAK

March 8: The Meaning of Lent – Lessons for PEAK

March 22: Spring Break Volunteer Opportunity at Children's Hunger Fund, 8:30-11:30 AM, open to everyone



Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ashley: “If you had been one of the wise men, what gift would you have brought baby Jesus?”

4-Year-Old: “Something from Target.”

Not long ago, my husband and I were attending a large party. There were people attending that we have known for years and also people that we had never met. The mood was happy; people were laughing and having fun. One man told a joke. “I like to listen to people discussing their religion. It's like two people arguing as to who has the best imaginary friend.” In rather poor taste, I thought, but people laughed politely.

Just a few days later, my husband and I were watching a movie and we both noticed that there was a lot of poking fun at religion. The people from church were depicted as rather dull witted. A few days after that, we saw a comedy movie that made fun of religion.

These “three in a few days” attacks or jokes made us ask the question, why? The obvious answer is that it gets laughs and sells tickets to a movie. But many of these, like the joke told at the party, are not really jokes at all, but attacks on religious beliefs. Are church going people so out of favor or out of the main stream of America that out



WHY IS IT POPULAR TO ATTACK RELIGION?

and out ridicule or attacks disguised as jokes are now popular?

On the other hand, we see growing numbers of verbal attacks, jokes, and jabs at a large number of beliefs, groups, and organizations. Some are true attempts to be funny; others are people attempting to make a point using their version of humor. Looking at the big picture, maybe religion is not fading from public acceptance; maybe it is just the

evolution of public taste in humor. Recall the fad of the Polish jokes a few decades ago. Note also some of the things that pass for humor on television. We seem to live in an era where anything and everything is fair game for insult. I guess we are no different.

Some have asked how we fight this. I believe that we don't need to fight it. I don't believe it is anything more than a changing attitude of what is and what is not off limits for jokes. My husband and I were invited to attend a Christmas church service in a large church in a nearby city. We could not believe the crowd. The main auditorium was full. A second auditorium where people had to watch on closed circuit television was also full. There were several hundred people in attendance. We also attended our Christmas Eve service with quite a respectable number of people attending this also. Is religion dead or dying? Don't you believe it. How do we get more people to attend our church? Just invite them. They will come.

Kathy Hill



February – the month of Valentines, heart-shaped boxes of candy, and love! Did you know **John 3:16** is our Valentine from God? “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Best Valentine ever!

It's great to be back into our **PEAK** routine!



There are so many groups to choose from on Wednesday nights that some of us wish we could be in two places at once! **Lee Cook** is digging into the **Gospel of Mark** with his popular Bible study class in Koopmans. **Pastor Andy** is in the Chapel leading couples through a program called **Deep Love** that will help build strong and healthy marriages. **Michelle Bouse** is inspiring her enthusiastic group of **Creative Bible Journalers** in the Narthex. **Ed Carlson** is leading an intergenerational class based on the book **Growing Young** in the John Estelle Room. They will explore attracting youth to the church and strengthening their connection with the church and Jesus. Of course we have classes for kids nursery aged through Jr High and our delicious dinner on top of all of that!

Have you been receiving the new daily e-mail “**Praying Boldly LCPC**”? It's a simple way to



remind us to pray for a specific ministry of LCPC each day, because some of these ministries are behind the scenes and we tend to forget they too need our prayers and attention! If you'd rather not receive these e-mails, just click the “unsubscribe”

link at the bottom of the email.

Mission trip season is starting up, and the first opportunity will be **Rosarito Mexico**



this month, February 24-26. A team will be going down to continue the work on the **Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage**. Anyone high school aged and older is invited and the fee is \$90. Contact Nancy in the church office to sign up. Next month the **Mission Arizona** team will be going to work on the Vah Ki Presbyterian Church. This trip is a great introduction to mission work for junior high aged kids, but high schoolers are welcome as student leaders and adults are needed too! Contact **Jerry White** for more information. While the **Dominican Republic trip** is not until June 10-19, but now is the time to sign up so airline tickets can be booked. The team will be doing healthcare in the sugar cane villages and repairing homes in Kilometer 6. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Winter camp season has also arrived – the Jr highers had a cold weekend of outdoor fun at **Forest Home**. They loved the zip lines, giant swings and ropes courses! **Austin Granier** and **Emma Minkler** went along to help **Josh** and **Kim**. The SPARKS will be going up there later this month. Contact **Ashley** to see if there are any spots still available. The high school group will be heading to **Thousand Pines** in Crestline mid-month and are hoping to enjoy some wintry fun of their own that weekend. Contact **Josh** or **Kim** to see if space is still available.

Our youth presented another spectacular and inspiring **Youth Sunday** service last month. The youth praise band is always a treat to worship with, and **Brock Cary** and **Molly Wolflick** did a wonderful job speaking about the difference between calling yourself a Christian and actually being one. You make us proud, kids!



The **LUAU ladies** had a great time enjoying salads, dessert, and Bunco last month at their first

event of the year. Thank you to **Diana Given** for organizing this fun evening.

Anyone make a New Year's Resolution to de-clutter? The **Rummage Sale** is coming up next month on Saturday, March 4, so now is the time to dig into those closets and cupboards to see what you have to donate. All proceeds will go toward the **MAZ mission trip**.

If you come across an extra iron while you're cleaning out, **CFC is looking for irons** to use for some of their art projects. Contact **Pat Chambers** if you have one to donate.

I'm thrilled to report that we have two new LCPC babies for 2017 already! **Maggie Elizabeth Nevlin** was born January 6 to delighted parents **Chris** and **Stacie**, proud big sister **Lucy**, and overjoyed grandparents **Janie** and **Jim Roach**. Auntie **Molly Roach** was in town from the Dominican Republic and was able to be here for her arrival too! **Clayton Scott Gillespie** was born a few days later on January 10 to **Kayla (Hornor)** and **Grady Gillespie**. Grandma **Laurie Hornor** is bursting with joy, and this is the first great grandchild for **Len** and **Mary Kuhn**, so you can imagine how excited they are! Congratulations to these growing families!

Two of our talented LCPC youth, **Molly Wolflick** and **Hannah Weingarten**, will be in the cast of the upcoming **Phantom of the Opera** performance at Crescenta Valley High School. (Not to be confused with our bi-annual Phantom of the Auction!) Show dates are February 24-26, and March 3-4. Tickets will be on sale at the door – you won't want to miss it!



We are desperately in need of someone to **run the overhead slides** during the 11:00 AM service. Minimal computer skills are needed! Please contact **Paul Hofmann** if you are able to undertake this important part of our worship service.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, especially the **much needed** rain we've been receiving. Good thing we got the church painted before the rain started! It's so wonderful to see our hills and lawns green again!

Enjoy your Valentine's Day, and remember – We love because **He first loved us!** See you next month!



Director's Corner

This Director's Corner is a little selfish. My mind is full with thoughts of my daughter Riley, now 21 years old, who is off for a semester in Jamaica. This will be her last semester in college and boy has it gone fast. You might think that a



semester in Jamaica – oh boy, wouldn't that be nice. Wish I could spend four months there. While I certainly imagine there will be time spent on the beach, most of her time will be spent being a social work intern. She will be living in a youth hostel and working at an all-girls high school in Kingston which was recently listed as one of the 10 most dangerous cities in the world; just what every mom wants to know as she sends her daughter there. It is an improvement since her last study abroad semester in Honduras which at the time was the murder capital of the world.

So why do I tell you all of this, because right now you are preparing your children for the life they will lead both near and far from you. It would be hard to imagine thinking of your 4-year-old as

a 21-year-old 3,000 miles away from home and yet it can happen in a blink. I have not always been the perfect parent, or known just what to do in every situation. Riley and I have had our struggles in figuring out this mother/daughter relationship. I will say that letting her make lots of decisions, both good and bad, while growing up makes me feel good about her ability to take care of herself now. Putting a priority on church and faith while she was young also gives me strength to know that she is not alone in her pursuits. While that faith doesn't guarantee her safety, it does give me peace of mind that we/she can handle what is to come. Her faith has called her to do justice and it would not be right to keep her from that calling.

Where is your child going? They do not have to be far away to on their own. Soon enough that child that you always knew what they are doing will make friends you don't know and have thoughts and opinions you didn't give them. How dare they be right? But isn't that just what we should want – for our kids to be responsible and independent children who become adults that want us around, but don't need us to be around. We should want adults who can handle the duty of adulthood and still enjoy life. Learning to trust your kids starts with letting them prove to you they are trust worthy. Giving them some room and space to prove themselves without harming themselves is a good start.

Thanks for letting a mom process some of her thoughts! And yes, I will be glad to get a text on May 5, "Mom I've landed in Atlanta."

Pat

Spring Break

With the school year starting so early this year, Spring Break is March 20-27. That's a week and a day this year, so plan ahead. We will be open the entire week with a full day camp planned for school age children.

Holidays

On Monday, February 13, GUSD will be closed but we will be open all day. For our 1st – 6th graders we will be here all day. On President's Day, February 20, the entire CFC will be closed.

Next Year!

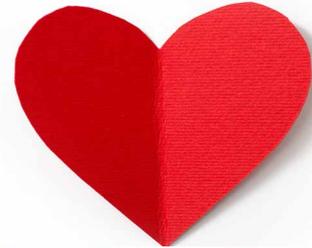
The time to start thinking about your child-care needs for summer and fall is now. You will soon be receiving information about the new year which starts June 6. We need to place all current students before we go to our waiting list and offer spots to new families. When you receive your paperwork, please fill it out and return it quickly. Returning children's spots will only be held until February 15. Registration fees go up in March. Don't forget we give a \$100 finder's fee when a recommendation you make results in a student enrolling at CFC, so spread the word.

Our Webpage



So what can you find on our webpage at: www.Center4Children.com

- Yearly Calendar
- Tuition fees
- Menu
- Newsletter
- Late pick up forms (school age)
- Medicine Forms
- Policies and Procedures
- Summer Day Camp Schedules



Valentine's Day

We enjoy celebrating Valentine's Day at the Center for Children. On February 14 we are asking the kids to wear Valentine's colors to school – red, pink, purple, or blue. You will see lots of hearts, and red, pink and purple paint as you walk around. We will have a menu filled with love and the color red! Please check with your child's classroom to see how and when they will be celebrating. For most classrooms, it is better to bring Valentines without names on the outside. Remember, as parents the best Valentine's present you can give to your children is to love and respect each other.

 Find us on Facebook

CHURCH STAFF

Andy Wilson	Pastor andy@lcpc.net
Lee Cook	Director of Spiritual Formation lee@lcpc.net
Kim Cox	Co-Director of Student Ministries kimmy@lcpc.net
Josh Horton	Co-Director of Student Ministries josh@lcpc.net
Ashley Pollock	Director of Children's Ministries ashley@lcpc.net
Gary Woodward	Choir Director
Lindsay Aldana	Organist
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
Chuck Andrew	Director of Finance chuck@lcpc.net
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lcpc.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lcpc.net
Helen Tuma Teri Reid	Assistant Director Office Administrator



LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2902 MONTROSE AVENUE
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214-3896
WWW.LCPC.NET
(818) 249-6137

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLENDALE, CA
PERMIT NO. 1701

**DATED
MATERIAL**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

NEW SONG WORSHIP (CONTEMPORARY), SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM
SERVICE OF PRAISE (CLASSIC), SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

Genesis is a book of stories, all astonishing and all true, and maybe that's why it never gets old. We see in the stories the same conflicts, decisions, blunders, fixations and changes that shape the drama of our 21st century lives. We also see God prodding, speaking, sending, comforting, warning, chastising, and defending his chosen ones in ways that reveal his timeless character.

Throughout February, Sunday messages focus on Israel's Patriarchs and Matriarchs and their families. We'll see how God partners with ordinary people, and how change and growth in them unleashes God's blessings. We'll think about the ways we can partner with God and fulfill his dreams for our lives.

FEBRUARY 5 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook
Stories from Genesis: Esau and Jacob
For personal study: Genesis 25: 19-34, 27: 1-45

FEBRUARY 12
Message by Andy Wilson
Stories from Genesis: Wrestling With God
For personal study: Genesis 32: 22-32

FEBRUARY 19
Message by Lee Cook
Stories from Genesis: Coping With Envy
For personal study: Genesis 27

FEBRUARY 26

Message by Josh Horton
Stories from Genesis: The Power of Forgiveness
For personal study: Genesis 42-47

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

This beautiful, family-friendly service prepares us for the journey to the cross and the empty tomb. Featured are a contemplative piece by the Cathedral Choir, a brief message, and the "imposition of ashes" on the forehead for those who come forward for personal prayers.
(No PEAK dinner or gatherings this night.)

Think of people you know who don't have a church home, but are hungry for God's truth. Don't just invite them – bring them!

