

MESSENGER

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discipleship today

This brief reflection is part of a longer message offered by LCPC high school senior, Katie Perkins, on Youth Sunday. Thanks Katie!
—Andy Wilson

The word “disciple” is one of those words you grow up hearing so frequently that it eventually loses its meaning. I mean we all know about the twelve Apostles and how they devoted their lives to following Jesus... but when we are told to “be a disciple of Jesus” what does that really mean for us today? Being a follower of Christ means you are living to show God’s love and to help others.

I have learned a lot throughout my high school career, definitely more than I thought I would. I learned that people change, that karma definitely isn’t real, that good friends really are forever, that your family is your biggest advocate, even if they aren’t perfect, and most importantly I learned that showing kindness and being selfless is what matters.

There comes a point in everyone’s life when the days blur together and time moves forward so slowly that it might as well not be moving at all. A time when tasks that used to be enjoyed become just... chores squeezed into a busy life and nothing seems to matter. For me, my entire junior year was like this. I would go from school to practice to home and parties every

weekend without thinking twice about anything other than myself. I had a rough year and I was going through a lot, but that doesn’t excuse the fact that I wasn’t acknowledging the needs of those around me... I was so unhappy and I felt so alone, but what I failed to recognize... is that I put myself there. It was no one’s fault but my own. People often believe that shutting down when things get hard makes them strong. It doesn’t. It makes them selfish. I was neglecting those around me by focusing on only my own troubles and I was refusing to let myself be happy...

Over the summer I changed, I did a full 180

and it was then that I decided the way I am going to be a disciple of Jesus is by making sure no one has to go through what I went through alone. It’s not complicated. It’s being kind, being aware, and being selfless...

We all know how hard life can be, and the hardest pill to swallow is that sometimes you will feel like no one is there for you and nothing will go right. Everyone struggles like this and the least we can do is be there for each other during difficult seasons. As simple as it sounds, showing Jesus’ kindness to people is what being a disciple is all about.

Did you ever wonder how each month the *Messenger* mysteriously appears in your mailbox or on the LCPC Website every month? It takes a dedicated

THE MESSENGER TEAM WANTS



YOU

team and that team is looking for more volunteers, especially in the crucial folding, stuffing, sealing, labeling, and mailing phase.

Every month, 500 hard copies are printed – 300 for LCPC members and friends and 200 for LCPC’s outreach to the parents of CFC children, tailored so that the CFC page is actually the cover!

By the 15th of the month, draft articles are sent to the *Messenger’s* Art Director and Editor Shawn Kelly who, with her team, then edits the articles for consistent style, format, and content. Once the articles are edited, Shawn begins work on the first draft including photos and the monthly calendar.

When the draft is finished, it’s sent to the team’s proof readers who look for any mistakes that might have been missed in the first edit and suggest any minor format changes. Shawn then prepares both the on-line, full-color and the hard copy, B/W printed final versions. The B/W version is printed in-house saving literally thousands of dollars every year.

That entire process takes about 10 days and then Publisher Lois Brown and her team do their final phase magic so that the *Messenger* arrives by the first of the month.

As you all know, Lois and Alton Brown have “retired” to Westminster Gardens and, needless to say, the commute from Duarte to La Crescenta on the 210 is a challenge regardless of the time of day. Members of Lois’ team commit to just one morning a month. If that’s something you might like to do, please contact Shawn at: shawndraws@gmail.com or Lois at: loisibrown@earthlink.net.

You WILL be blessed!

INSIDE

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



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,
Have you noticed? The pace of life is speeding up and it's becoming harder and harder for us to seize control. There are still only 24 hours in a day, yet we're cramming more into each one than ever before.

Digital devices offer unending distractions that steal our time and give little in return. Many of us experience a similar phenomenon at school, at work and at the organizations we associate with. We spend countless hours answering texts and emails and completing dreary assignments. We're expected to juggle multiple high-priority projects that, collectively, don't seem to make much of a difference. Our responsibilities proliferate and our capacity for focused, productive work diminishes. All of that creates anxiety and stress. One remedy, we know, is to use our precious free time to slow down and chill out. But instead, we buzz like bees from flower to flower. We gorge ourselves on the endlessly multiplying amusements of La La Land.

In short, many of us are doing too much. We're filling our days with things that appear to be good, but that leave us feeling conflicted, ineffectual and worn out.

How do we establish sanity and balance? For starters, we need to identify the things in our lives that cost a lot but don't bring us personal fulfillment. Some people are slavishly committed to building their status and wealth. They've sacrificed everything for the sake of their career and their personal fortune. Some people indulge in hobbies that eat up huge portions of their day and inhibit their intellectual or spiritual growth. Many of us spend 3 – 6 – even 9 hours a day watching TV, web surfing, tweeting, scrolling through Facebook or gaming – time we should be spending with our friends, our families and our God.

I recently read an interview with one of the original founders of Southwest Airlines. At the time of the interview most of the airlines were losing money hand over fist. Southwest, by contrast, had reported many consecutive quarters of profits. The interviewer asked the logical question: "How do you stay in the black when everybody else is swimming in red ink?"

The executive answered: "It's because of what we *don't* do. We don't do food. We don't do assigned seats. We don't do interline baggage. Our motto is, 'Low Fares'. *That's* what we do."

What's the one thing *you* do? What's the central vision, the over-arching goal that organizes your life? If you can't say what it is in one sentence, and you don't get excited when you talk about it, you probably need to perform a heart check. That means examining yourself to determine where you stand with God. It means asking whether the life you're living is being directed and guided by him, by you, or by some other influence that has gotten hold of you.

Paul's advice is sound: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2). When our life is centered on Christ it becomes easier for us to weather any storm. We're able to hang in there when we lose a job, knowing that our job doesn't define who we are. We're able to relax when our retirement portfolio is shrinking, knowing that our inheritance is secure in heaven. We're able to get back up when someone knocks us down knowing that God still loves and accepts us.

Just as important, when we're centered on Christ it's also easier to establish priorities that make sense for us. When opportunities come along, we don't embrace them just because they seem attractive. We evaluate them according to our long-term goals. We invest ourselves only in activities that serve God's purposes for our life as we understand them. *We make absolutely sure that the good things in our life remain subordinate to the very best thing.*

Have you noticed? Many people are moving a hundred miles an hour, but they don't really know where they're headed. If that describes you, maybe you need to hit the brakes and pull over to the side of the road so you can think and pray. Maybe you need to decide – or to remind yourself – what's most important – what's worth living and dying for – and then reorganize our life around *that*.

Love and good cheer,
Andy Wilson

Bunco



GAME NIGHT

All adults 21 and older are invited to play Bunco on Friday, March 29, from 7:00 - 10:00 PM at the Wolflick's home. RSVP to Rachel Wolflick at: rmwolf@earthlink.net or (818) 957-1032 since space is limited to 36 people. The Wolflicks will provide beverages, but feel free to bring a dessert or snack to share.

BISTRO 50+ FUN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP



Tuesday,
March 26
12 Noon
in Koopmans
Join us for lunch. Only \$5!

CFC FAITH UPDATE

Throughout March, we'll be wrapping up our Chapel series on ways we can grow closer to Christ. In February we talked about how prayer and reading the Bible help us grow. Now, we will look at how serving others and celebrating God (through praise and worship) can also help us to grow. I am particularly excited to spend time with the children of CFC working to serve the community, through making cards for nursing home residents and even packing lunches for the homeless.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
FRIDAY, MARCH 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.



LEE'S LATEST



Journeys require directions. It's a wonderful thing to get in your car and go explore without thinking about where you're going to end up, but when you actually need to arrive at a destination, you're going to need directions.

During Lent we have a destination – to be shaped and molded into the image of Jesus. Too often, unfortunately, many Christians set out on their faith journey with only the vaguest notion of what the destination looks like and, as a result, merely wander down country roads and blind alleys.

This year, I am offering a brief, six-week Bible study on the Book of James. In it we'll discover a faithful guide to lead us into undiscovered country. James will teach us how to deal with adversity, seek wisdom, put our faith into action, and so much more.

If you feel like you're lost in the woods on your journey of faith, come join us starting March 13 for a look at the Book of James.

Blessings,
Kerry Milbrodt

Love in Him,
Lee

Dear Friends,
I hope you've all fared well during the rains of February and are looking forward to the beauties of Spring! It is such a joy to me to walk in our neighborhood and take in the gorgeous views of our local mountains, hear the birds singing, and meet neighbors and their dogs during this season of refreshment. I am so grateful to able to do so and savor that time nearly every morning. It's also a time to give thanks to God for His bounty and beauty and to spend time alone with Him.

Over the past year I've learned to savor that time with our Lord and to lean on Him. Things are much more peaceful in my heart when I continue to do so. I pray that you will be able to take time with the Father. He loves us so much and strengthens and comforts us. Trials come and go but God is always there.

As many of you know, the Deacons offer a Meal Train for church and community members and we are always looking to increase our contact list for those eager to cook or buy a meal for those

in need. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Armineh Minookian at: ami-nookian@gmail.com. Remember, it does not have to be a home-cooked meal. A trip to the grocery store or Trader Joe's is often the perfect solution. Restaurant gift cards are also welcome.

We also have ongoing opportunities for service at PEAK meals. We've had elementary school students, Boy Scouts, and senior citizens smiling from behind the counter. High school students can earn service hours and it's just fun to see everyone. The same goes for greeters on Sunday mornings, or ushering, or helping the Cornerstone Crew on Saturdays. Opportunities abound! Contact Nancy Thomas in the office for who to contact.

Please look outside yourself to see those whom Jesus loves. Be His hands, His face, and His feet for those who need Him. That is our command and privilege.



ABIDE STUDENT MINISTRIES

Here's all the stuff we have going on in Abide the next couple months!

MARCH

March 1-3: The Abide Ride, where Josh and Duane and Ashley Fernandez are riding our bikes

from LCPC to the Mexican Border and back in a single weekend to raise money for camp and mission scholarships!

March 9: The Rummage Sale, required for all students attending CASA.

March 16-21: CASA Spring Break Mission Trip

APRIL

April 13: Abide Lockout, all students invited!

April 21: Easter



children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

March is a busy month in my family. Between March 8 and March 25, we celebrate my mom's birthday, my sister-in-law's birthday, my husband's birthday, and my daughter's birthday. I see a lot of cake and candles in my future. I've always enjoyed birthdays but now that I have children, I get beyond excited for the chance to celebrate their births. I love the planning and preparing process, from picking a theme with my daughter to baking a cake.

With each step of the preparation process, I know I'm moving closer to the anniversary of a miracle. Because that's what Charlotte and Carter's birthdays will always be for me – the day a miracle happened. They are dates when God revealed His love and generosity to me in a way that blew my mind and burst my heart. But as I'm preparing for Charlie's birthday this year, I will also be preparing for something else. March is the month when we will begin the season of Lent – a season of preparation for the greatest miracle of all time – the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

more should I prepare to celebrate her eternal life?

That's what I get to celebrate on Easter – that thanks to the saving work of Jesus Christ, Charlie can have eternal life. Darren can have eternal life. I can have eternal life. You can have eternal life. I have not always used the season of Lent to prepare as much as I should have – as much as the celebration of Easter deserves. But I am hopeful that this year will be different. And I hope that the process of getting ready includes times of worship, prayer and discussion with all of you.

In Christ,
Ashley Pollock



ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY

On Saturday, April 6, in plenty of time for Easter, please plan to help spiff up LCPC at the next All-Church Work Day. Come and leave any time from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. What ever time you can invest will pay big dividends. Bring the whole family! There will be windows to wash, pews to polish, plants to prune – you get the idea. Snacks and coffee will be provided throughout the morning. Look for signups for your favorite job during coffee hour the two Sundays prior to April 6. For more information or to suggest additional tasks, contact Judy Trumbo at: jktrumbo@gmail.com.

Kids Say The Darndest Things

3-Year-Old: "Valentine's Day is about love and caring."

Age 3-Year-Old: (*to a Child With a Bag of Candy*) "Did you know Valentine's Day is all about sharing?"



COME CELEBRATE PI DAY ON 3.14



SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN THE GARDEN

Conversations is currently on hiatus, but will resume in June. Watch this space for the exact date.

Do you like pie – Banana Cream, Chocolate Silk, Apple, or Berry? Well, you're in luck! On Thursday, March 14 (3.14), the Fellowship Committee is hosting a "Pi (pie) Night" gathering in honor of every mathematician's favorite constant and every pie lover's favorite dessert!

Come join us from 5:30-7:30 PM in Koopmans Hall. We will be serving hot pizza pie – no need to make dinner! After dinner, we will provide a fun "create your own" mini pie station for our awesome youth (and those who are young at heart!)

Now here is where you come in – you are encouraged to bring your all-time favorite home-made or store-bought pie to share! Though we

won't have any official judging of your scrumptious pies, you will still enjoy bragging rights when we are all drooling over your masterpiece. To top off the evening, we are going to have a pie throwing opportunity for anyone who has ever wanted to toss a pie at a pastor!

RSVP to Darrel Fernandez at: Darrell.g.fernandez@gmail.com so we can make sure we don't run out of pizza or pies! While this event is free, donations will be accepted.

So get your stretchy pants ready and join us for a night of fellowship, food, and fun with a cherry on top.



March is here, and so is the **Lenten season**. **Ash Wednesday** falls on March 6 this year so we won't be offering PEAK classes or dinner that night, but instead an Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. We hope you will join us!

Hopefully you didn't give up pie for Lent, because we have a scrumptious **Pi (pie) Night** event planned for March 14 (3.14). Join us in Koopmans Hall from 5:30-7:30 PM to celebrate America's favorite math term and dessert. We will be serving pizza for dinner, and you are invited to bring a homemade or store-bought pie to share. There will be a "create you own" mini pie station, and a pie throwing opportunity! The event is free, but donations welcomed. RSVP to: Darrell.g.fernandez@gmail.com.



Student Ministries is hosting their **annual rummage sale** Saturday, March 9, from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Koopmans Hall. All proceeds support the students' Casa Mission trip to Rosarito, Mexico. Only small to medium size items will be accepted. Drop off donations to Koopmans Thursday, March 7, from 4:00 – 8:00 PM or Friday, March 8, from 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Questions? Call Josh at (909) 362-2685.

We had a good turnout last month at the first **Town Hall Meeting** to discuss details of the strategic plan, "All Eyes on God: Vision 2020." There was open dialogue and lots of great viewpoints expressed. The next Town Hall Meeting will be Sunday, March 10, at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary and will focus on mission work.

Josh, Austin, Andy and some leaders from Glendale Presbyterian Church are excited about

the upcoming youth **Casa Spring Break Mission trip** for students from both congregations. The trip will be March 16-21 and the cost is \$250. They will be continuing work on the foundation of the orphanage and will be staying at a secure retreat facility in Rosarito. They will surely find time to sample the local cuisine and work in plenty of fun! Contact Josh to sign up.

Ashley, Kristy and Josh have started a **Bible study for 5th and 6th graders** each Monday from 4:00-5:00 PM that will go through the end of March. It's a great introduction into studying the Bible a bit deeper. Ashley can give you the scoop if you're interested.

Take a break from your tax prep for a night of **Bunco**, Friday, March 29, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the **Wolflicks' Home**. Anyone age 21 and older is invited. The Wolflicks will provide beverages, and you are free to bring a dessert or snack to share. RSVP to **Rachel** at: rmwolf@earthlink.net or (818) 957-1032. Space is limited to 36 people.



The SPARKS and Abide groups both had epic **winter camp** experiences last month at **Forest Home**. There were primo snowball fight and snow angel conditions and plenty of flurries throughout the weekends. It was the perfect wonderland backdrop for growing closer to Jesus and each other.

The men of the church enjoyed a delicious and successful **Men's Breakfast** last month prepared by **Jim Granier, Jim Larson, John Holmquist** and **Doug Given**. In addition to the great meal, they brought in a pile of tools and a basket of cash that will be donated to the **Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage** construction site.

If you missed the LCPC group trip to **Children's Hunger Fund's Poverty Encounter**, the exhibit is open four days a week. You can sign up on their website, Povertyencounter.org, and tour it anytime that works with your schedule. It's a powerful way to get a close-up look at poverty around the world and learn how you can help those in need.

Great news – the amazing **Mary Wilson** was able to negotiate better airfare rates for the June **Dominican Republic mission trip**, so the cost has been reduced by \$300. The cost is now \$1,190 for the 10-day trip. Check with Andy or Mary to see if there is still space left for this life-changing service opportunity.

Are you into the **KonMari** decluttering method Lee talked about a few weeks ago? If the following items don't spark joy for you, then **CFC** could use them – measuring cups and spoons, plastic tongs, ice cream scoops, ice cube trays, or potato mashers – really any kitchen utensil without sharp points.

CFC will be offering their awesome **day camp** during GUSD's spring break in March for ages Kindergarten – 6th grade. Spread the word to your friends because kids love it! And summer day camp is just around the corner.

Those **CFC kids** are spreading joy! For **Kindness Week**, they wrote letters to people

they appreciate. One Kindergartener wrote to her teacher, "You are the beast teacher!" Inventive spelling is always fun! The CFC cook got, "**Robert** is a good cooker man!" **Baldo** and **Javier** got, "Clean rooms are better than dirty ones!" Out of the mouths of babes!

Elaine and **Noel Collins** have been bird sitting **Geoff** and **Martha Bryan's** parrots. Noel has taught one of them to whistle three measures of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. It sounds just like Noel's whistle! Contact Noel if you have any pets you want musically trained!

Are you holding this **Messenger** in your hands right now? It takes a village to get it printed, folded, sealed and mailed and the team is in need of volunteers one day a month. If you're able to help, Contact our editor **Shawn Kelly** at: shawn-draws@gmail.com.

May your Lenten journeys bring you closer to the One who gave it all for us. Talk to you next month!



Director's Corner

March is said to come in like a lion and out like a lamb. We had a lot of weather in February that felt like a lion. Now I'm looking forward to some lamb time. March starts our Spring season. Trees begin to show new growth and flowers begin to bloom. While in California we don't see the dramatic changes of the season, if you look closely you'll notice them.

Spring also brings about a change in our classrooms and in your children. They seem to mature right before our eyes. The 2-year-olds who are getting closer to being 3-year-olds show independence and have opinions of their own on many subjects. Pre-K students show us that they are getting ready for Kindergarten, not only academically, but socially as well. Our 6th graders are feeling their position as big "men" on campus and really want to be in charge of their time and space.

Sometimes these changes can be hard on parents as we want them to stay young, our babies

forever. But time does march on and we need to prepare them for the next stage of their lives. I often say in my parenting classes or at a staff meeting that every time we do something for a child that they can do for themselves, we rob them of the opportunity to be successful. When we put on their shoes for them, when we take their dishes to the sink, make their bed, do their homework or project, or when we step in to solve a social situation, we aren't allowing them to feel successful. Many times we do this in the name of time management or to make life easier for them.

These small experiences of success and responsibility at a young age send the message, "I believe in you. You have got this life thing in hand." This doesn't mean we don't help along the road or give advice when invited to do so, but it does mean we need to think about what we want our high school graduates to think of themselves and their capabilities as they leave the house for their path into adulthood. The joy on a child's face when they learn a new skill is priceless. I want to see that as often as possible.

Pat

Enrollment

Thank you to all of you who turned in your enrollment paper work on time. We have begun to contact families on our waitlist to fill spots that have not yet been claimed. So if you are still holding your registration application, please know that we cannot guarantee a place in our program until you turn in your registration. The registration fee is now \$150. Remember, refer a friend and get a \$100 tuition credit.

GUSD Spring Break

Spring Break runs from March 18-25, a week and a day! During this time, the CFC will be open full days and we have really fun plans for our school-age children. We will be having field trips and activities on campus. Please remember that your tuition is due whether your child attends or not, but there is no extra fee for the full-day schedule. If you need extra days or if know of someone that needs care that week, let us know.

Parent Lunch Day

On Tuesday, March 12, we invite our parents to join us for lunch. Infants through Kindergarten classes will be hosting this special event. A lunch date with your child is always special. Check with your child's classroom to see what time they serve lunch. Please think about how your child will react when you leave after lunch in making your decision to attend or not to attend. We promise to have a yummy lunch. Coming soon on April 11 we will be having a Grandparents morning – breakfast, classroom time and Chapel.



Our Parking Lot

We have noticed people leaving their cars running while dropping off or picking up children. Please turn your cars off. There is NO place, even the LCPC parking lot, that is immune to car theft! We want our parking lot to be as safe as possible. Driving slowly and looking for children and parents walking is always important. The parking places that face the office are reserved for our vans so that when we bring children back from school they are not walking in the parking lot. Please park around the corner for drop offs and pick ups. Also please do not leave unsupervised children or infants in the car.



Items From Your Kitchen!

We are looking to add items to our play and sensory table. Do you have any of the following items you can donate to our cause?

- Serving spoons (slotted and non-slotted)
- Ladles
- Sieves
- Spatulas
- Non-electric hand-held mixers
- Silicone cupcake liners
- Whisks
- Basters
- Melon ballers



Find us on Facebook

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

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

As we begin our Lenten journey we'll continue to follow Jesus as He announces the Kingdom of God. We'll listen as He shares the parables of the Kingdom and tells us what true purity is. We'll have to give an answer when He asks, "Who do you say I am?" And we'll join the disciples as they wrestle with what it means to be "great" in the Kingdom of God.

You won't want to miss a Sunday as we walk the dusty roads with Jesus in The Book of Matthew.

The whole church family is encouraged to gather at 7:00 PM on March 6 for Ash Wednesday worship.

MARCH 3 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: Kingdom Stories"
For personal study: Matthew 13

MARCH 17 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: Who do You Say I Am?"
For personal study: Matthew 16:13-20

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

This beautiful, family-friendly service focuses on repentance. It features a contemplative piece by the Cathedral Choir and the "imposition of ashes" on the forehead for those who come forward for personal prayers. Josh Horton offers a brief reflection on the meaning of our 6-week journey with Jesus.
(No PEAK dinner or gatherings this night.)

MARCH 24 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: Who's the Greatest?"
For personal study: Matthew 18:1-9

MARCH 10 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: Unwashed Hands and Pure Hearts"
For personal study: Matthew 15:1-20

MARCH 31 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Message by Lee Cook
"Matthew: Fair Trade"
For personal study: Matthew 20:1-16

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!