

MESSENGER

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 2

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PROJECT DOMINICANA 2020: JUNE 15-24

Don't miss out! We're now recruiting high schoolers and adults especially, medical personnel, for this year's outreach to Haitian cane cutters and their families living in the DR. We'll be doing mobile health care clinics and health education in the rural villages surrounding La Romana. Partnering with a local church, we will also be doing a construction project.

This trip has been transformational for many participants who experience God's presence in their lives in a fresh way. Learn powerful lessons about the relevance of the Gospel for rich and poor and the fulfillment found in giving. Brochures are available in the Church office and on the welcome table. Registration forms and a \$400 deposit are due now. For more information, please contact Mary Wilson at (818) 370-1617 or mhw1@sbcglobal.net.

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CFC FAITH UPDATE

This month, I just want to share one of the many reasons I love interacting with the children of CFC: When I visit a preschool classroom at CFC, I generally begin our time together with a couple of songs. There is a goofy song to start about an elephant and then we always sing our "Bible song" before reading the Bible. It goes like this: "The B-I-B-L-E/ It's made for you and me/ It is God's Word/ That we have heard/ The B-I-B-L-E." It has become so much a part of the routine that this past week, when I asked a class of three-year olds how we can learn more about Jesus, instead of saying the word "Bible," they spelled out "B-I-B-L-E!"

BISTRO 50+ FUN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday,
February 25
12 Noon
in Koopmans
Join us for lunch. Only \$5!





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,
About 13 months ago, the LCPC Session established the Vision 2020 strategic plan and boldly set a goal of implementing it within two years. This is a good time for

us to give thanks for the many things the Spirit has enabled us to accomplish. I'll start by listing what I think are our most important achievements – and there are lots of them.

This is also a good time to look ahead. What Vision 2020 projects and ministries remain for us? In the light of changes or new challenges, do we need to make any changes to our plan? I'll end by addressing those questions.

Here's my list of the **Top 20 Vision 2020 Accomplishments through January**. I've not included all Vision 2020 programs and ministries (nor have I included perennial highlights like Vacation Bible School, our mission trips, PEAK events, Kids Hope, or the Christmas Concert).

1. **Created new Outreach Ministry with four sub-committees.**
2. **Hired Kristy Hicks to help us maximize LCPC's use of ShelbyNext functions (contact information database, real time calendar, online giving, and more).**
3. **Hired Irina Panasyuk as a full time manager to focus on both communications and property-related projects (2-year contract).**
4. **Increased outreach to our Center for Children families.**
5. **Upgraded all LCPC computer work stations.**
6. **Conducted five 90-minute town hall meetings relating to different aspects of the strategic plan.**
7. **Organized two weekend mission trips for adults and high school students to continue construction of the Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage in Rosarito, Mexico.**
8. **Built a 17' x 54' concrete storage bunker and a 34' x 54' parking pad with concrete stairway at the Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage.**
9. **Completed electrical and plumbing plans for Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage.**
10. **Finished first phase of the LCPC website renovation.**
11. **Conducted a fun, inspiring all-church retreat in Big Bear focusing on sharing Jesus with others.**

12. **Organized nine "mobilization meetings" where about 100 participants learned how they can help to implement Vision 2020.**
13. **Launched a revitalized prayer ministry, including opportunities to pray between Sunday worship services.**
14. **Finished first phase of plan to re-route the Breezeway stairs and fill in/cover over the existing stairway.**
15. **Welcomed 12 new members.**
16. **Launched new Sunday Morning Greeters ministry.**
17. **Began refurbishing the LCPC nursery.**
18. **Launched the Outreach Challenge Grant Committee.**
19. **Welcomed 390 people at Christmas Eve (about 600 including the December 23 Christmas concert).**
20. **Made substantial progress toward refurbishing our eight rectangular stained glass windows and launching the windows dollar-for-dollar matching campaign.**

Praise God! We give all the glory for these achievements to his Spirit at work in us.

Our focus now is on a number of unfinished Vision 2020 projects. Here are 15 that I'm hoping we'll tackle by year's end:

21. **Complete the re-do of the LCPC website (with a newer, simpler look and more interactive features).**
22. **Boost our presence and influence on social media (especially Instagram).**
23. **Add 3-6 new small groups for adults (mostly meeting during Wednesday PEAK).**
24. **Offer a PEAK discussion group for people who are new to faith or interested in Jesus.**
25. **Refurbish the eight stained glass windows and raise \$50,000 to match \$50,000 to come from estate gifts.**
26. **Update our Sanctuary sound and lighting systems.**
27. **Paint and possibly re-carpet inside the Sanctuary.**
28. **Add a simple camera and recording system that will allow us to post worship services online.**
29. **Add user-friendly sound and lighting technology in Koopmans Hall,**

- the Fireside Room, and the Chapel.
30. **Renovate the former Bell Choir Room so it can be used for prayer, adult classes, and small groups and ministry meetings (e.g. Session and Deacons).**
31. **Finish the concrete and steel 'podium' that will be the foundation for the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage and finish the wood framing for the second floor.**
32. **Gain nonprofit status for a US-based CDLA Orphanage Foundation.**
33. **Add at least two new congregations to the network of partner churches building the orphanage.**
34. **Expand our Dominican Republic outreach participants to include more students in medical professions.**
35. **Expand the network of Abide small groups to include groups for every grade level, 7th-12th.**

Finally, what changes or adjustments need to be made to our Vision 2020 plan? A group of 25 key leaders will be meeting at the end of January to talk and pray about that question. I want to offer three personal observations.

Postponing Street Side Renovations

Since 2007 we've been talking about how we might make better use of: (1) the Breezeway, (2) the area in front of the Breezeway and CE building that is now covered in sloped concrete, and (3) the concrete 'porch' directly in front of the Sanctuary.

(continued on page 3)

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
FRIDAY, 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.

PASTOR'S LETTER

(continued from page 2)

The Vision 2020 plans relating to those areas are bold and exciting but, regrettably, it has become apparent that much of work we envisioned will be out of reach for us. It will cost more than we will have to spend within the next year or so. So a lot of the work will probably be postponed.

There is one important part of the street side work that we are following through on. The Session has already adopted a basic plan and budget for re-routing the Breezeway stairs. By filling in and covering over the old stairway, we will gain a much more spacious and usable fellowship area. Also, and just as important, the new stairs will be safer. That's why re-routing the stairs emerged as a top priority.

One day (maybe several years from now) I hope we'll be in the position to do the rest of the work. We'll add an attractive overhead trellis that will expand our usable fellowship space and connect the CE and sanctuary buildings to the street. We'll reconfigure the CE offices (without having to add a new building!) in ways that will benefit all three CE ministries – children, youth, and adults. We'll create a prayer room and add a simple kitchen to serve the large new fellowship area. We can't do very much of that work now, but let's keep the dream alive!

Name Change?

I continue to be strongly in favor of changing the name of the church. The main reason is so that we can share God's love with people who – for whatever reason – are either confused or put off by denominational labels. I'd like to see us adopt a name that isn't trendy or weird, and that communi-

cates something important about our relationship with the Lord and his purposes. I wrote extensively to you on that subject early last year.

The reactions to our name change forum one year ago were mixed. Even among the many who favored a change, the responses were cautious and subdued. My hope is that more leaders at LCPC will recognize that a name change is directly in line with our main goal for Vision 2020 – that of growing God's kingdom. If enthusiasm for a name change gains traction and momentum, I'm sure we will revisit the issue. In the absence of that kind of excitement, I don't see us making a change.

All In?

Many members of our wonderful church family are hard at work. We could never have come this far over the past 13 months if that were not true. But even more workers are needed for the harvest that God has for us in 2020. If you're looking for a place to plug in, talk to the people overseeing the ministry area that interests you. Most of the volunteer positions that are open have already been carefully defined and outlined. Many of them can be accomplished without attending meetings or making a long-term commitment.

We're more than halfway through this wonderful journey. The main thing for us now is to stay focused on the main thing. Our Vision 2020 goal is to continue Jesus's work of growing the kingdom. We're trying to leverage every resource and every opportunity we have to share Christ's love and bring people into his church.

May the Lord renew our faith and strength and use us to fulfill his beautiful dream for his church.

Gratefully,
Andy Wilson

LEE'S LATEST

'The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)



My college mentor, Danny Hays, always said, "If you're gonna divide the Bible in half, don't divide it between Malachi and Matthew (Old Testament and New Testament), divide it between Genesis 11 and Genesis 12." In Genesis 1-11, God creates the universe as a temple in which he is enthroned and from which he rules the cosmos. Humans are made to serve as priests in His cosmic temple, but ultimately they reject His rule. After that everything goes downhill. Genesis 4-11 contains one disaster after another. How will God's creation be redeemed? Enter Abraham.

Abraham and his descendants (Israel) are the blessing people. God would bless them so that they may, in turn, bless the whole world. Abraham is not perfect, but he strives to live as faithfully as he can, and blessings follow him wherever he goes. God keeps His promise, ultimately blessing the whole world through his descendant, Jesus.

Come join us as we follow Abraham's ups and downs. We'll be drawn into his story – a story where God is actually the main character. Each Wednesday night of PEAK we'll be working through this story of redemption. Find your place in God's story.

THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING!

LCPC WILDLIFE TOUR, JULY 26-29, 2020

by Andy Wilson

LCPC's 18th annual Wildlife Tour is your ticket to low cost, high-energy summer adventure. Once again, we'll be exploring the pristine wilderness on the east side of the legendary Sierra Nevada Mountains. This year's trip will be one day shorter than previous trips, making it less expensive, less tiring



and more accessible for full-time workers.

The Wildlife Tour is not a backpacking trip; it's an opportunity to take three different day hikes in three different wilderness zones. We'll explore the wilderness by day and eat pizza and ice cream and sleep in comfortable, air conditioned hotel rooms by night (two per room). We'll also take time each day to worship, sing, pray and seek the Spirit's blessing.

Each day, hikers will be able to choose among 3-4 routes of varying degrees of difficulty, from moderate (4-7 miles) to strenuous (8-14 miles). Besides hiking, we'll offer a couple of road trips to fascinating sites near the highway. Our goal will be to enjoy God's creation in one of the grandest wilderness regions in North America.

The trip is open to anyone going into ninth grade or older, including college students and adults. Families may sign up together. Youth in late elementary school or junior high may participate if they are accompanied by a guardian. Sierra trails can be rugged and east side routes are at high elevations so participants need to be in reasonably good condition. Josh Horton will be part of our team of experienced wilderness leaders.

The fee for Wildlife Tour 2020 will be approximately \$280. It's "first come, first served" and we can only take about 28 people. The registration deadline is Monday, July 6. Watch for registration materials in the Church Office or the Student Center.

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

One of my favorite sights is that of my daughter, Charlie, and my son, Carter, playing together. Being a big sister can be hard and one of the things I appreciate about Charlie is that she not only loves her little brother – she also loves playing with him. Sure, he can't do the things she likes most. He can't play hide and seek yet or the Memory Game. He is not big into dress up and Polly Pockets are a choking hazard. So to play with him, Charlie does one of two things – she either gets down onto his foam play mat, or she actually climbs into his Pack & Play (play pen). She puts herself on his level. Usually, Darren and I find it adorable and amusing, but today I found it poignant.

One of the tough concepts about Jesus is that He is both human and God – 100% human and 100% God. With the kids we say that only in Jesus math can a person be 200%. And that means that He chose to put Himself on our level. He climbed

into our Pack & Play so to speak. And He left something even better than Polly Pockets to do so. He left heaven!

I am beyond grateful that my daughter loves my son. And I am humbled by the fact that the way she shows her love reminds me of an even greater love – the love of a Messiah willing to leave perfect peace in order to meet me where I am at – a broken person in a broken world.

children's Ministries Calendar

Wednesday, February 19: All children are invited to a special PEAK. The program starts at the usual 6:30 PM time but we will be taking a break from our usual plans to answer the question: What is Lent?



Elizabeth House

WHERE LOVE EMBRACES LIFE

Wednesday, February 26: Our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM will also mark the beginning of our Lenten Service Project. Children's Ministries will be collecting items for Elizabeth House between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

The whole church family is encouraged to participate and give as they are able. Lists of items needed will be available in the narthex, church office, and on the website. All donations can be turned into the church office.

Friday, February 28: Dr. Seuss Night from



5:30-7:30 PM in Koopmans Hall! Celebrate the great rhyme master (only three days before his actual birthday) with a wacky, Seussical dinner, costume contest, and games. This event is free and open to everyone but children must be accompanied by an adult. We hope to see you there!

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ashley: (teaching on Luke 2:41-52) "So what was 12-year-old Jesus doing while Mary and Joseph searched for him?"

11-Year-Old: "Daddy and Me Day!"

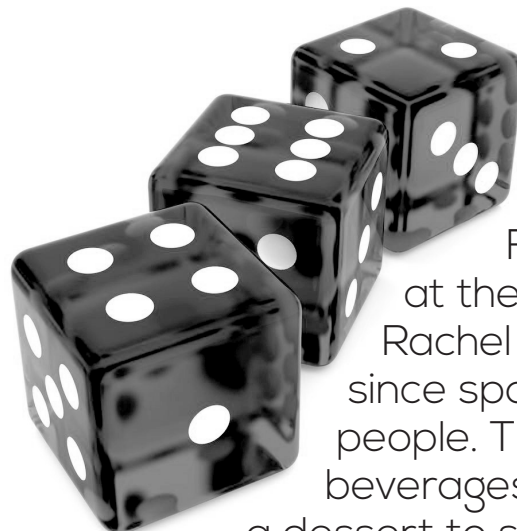
(An accurate answer since Jesus was in the temple teaching about His Father, God.)



SUNDAY AFTERNOONS 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. Both services are represented and new friendships are being formed. All are welcome!

This month we'll meet on **February 9 and 23**. Arrive at 4:30 PM, and we'll be finished by 6:00 PM. For more information, please call Nancy at (626) 755-1880.



BUNCO NIGHT

All adults 21 and older are invited to play Bunco on Friday,

February 21 at 7:00 pm at the Wolflick home. RSVP to Rachel at rmwolf@earthlink.net since space is limited to 36 people. The Wolflicks will provide beverages, but feel free to bring a dessert to share.



February just might be the month that has something for everyone - football, Hollywood glamour, Lent, Bunco, musical theater, prayer and love!

The Carys are hosting their annual **YAM and FAM Super Bowl Party** on Sunday, February 2, at 3:30 PM. All YAM attendees and their families are invited to watch some serious football and commercials together. Contact Mandy Cary if you'd like to bring something to share with the group.

Enjoy watching the Oscars? Well, this year one of our own is nominated for the most prestigious award in Hollywood! **Christian Minkler**, part of our fabulous sound crew, was nominated along with his father Michael for Sound Mixing on the movie "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood". We'll all be cheering for that gold statue to be in your hands, Christian! Tune in on February 9!

Lift Up La Crescenta will be holding their **24-hour community prayer gathering** from 6:00 AM Thursday, February 6, to 6:00 AM Friday, February 7, at Christian Life Church on the corner of Ramsdell and Montrose Avenue. The theme this year is Transformation and Revival for the Crescenta Valley. To sign up for this powerful event, email: liftuplacrescenta@gmail.com and let them know what time slot you prefer.

The Junior Highers will be heading up to **Angles Crest Christian Camp** Friday, February 7-9, for a weekend of wintry fun. If you missed sign ups, call Josh right now to see if there are still spots left!

Bunco

GAME NIGHT

Bunco Night at the **Wolflicks'** is back, Friday, February 21, at 7:00 PM. There is only space for 36 adults, so get your RSVP in ASAP to Rachel

at: rmwolf@earthlink.net and she'll give you their address. You're welcome to bring a dessert to share with this rowdy dice rolling bunch.



Brock Cary will be starring as Matt in CV High School's musical production of **The Fantasticks**. The show will run in MacDonald Auditorium the evenings of February 21, 22, 28 and 29. There is an afternoon matinee Sunday, February 23, with a discounted price if you mention you attend a local church! CV's musicals are top notch productions so you won't want to miss it!

Ash Wednesday is on February 26, so there won't be **PEAK classes** that night. There will be a worship service at 6:30 PM with an opportunity to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead. You've got all month to prayerfully consider how you can make the season of **Lent** a meaningful one for you.

Epiphany Gift Night was a new event this year, and those who attended loved it! In honor of the gifts Jesus received from the Magi, there were many unique White Elephant gifts ranging from a giant llama head mask to Nerf guns. Everyone enjoyed checking their piece of Kings Cake to see if they had a tiny Baby Jesus tucked inside. The highlight of evening was by far the quintuple feature of **Darren** and **Lee's** past Christmas videos. The crowd roared with laughter and even shed a tear or two. Look for this event again in 2021!

The **Dominican Republic Mission trip** will be June 13-22, but the deadline to sign up was January 31. If you want to experience this amazing trip, contact Pastor Andy to see if there is space left! The cost is \$1,290 and a \$400 deposit is required. The team will be improving and repairing the homes of several families, as well as offering remedial healthcare in villages and a prison.

The **Sunday Flower Chart** for 2020 is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost to provide flowers for one of our worship services is \$50 and Nancy will take care of ordering from a local florist. It's a great way to commemorate a special person or meaningful day.

We're looking for volunteers to serve on the **PEAK dinner team**. Servers are needed on Wednesday nights from 5:40-6:25 PM or to clean up after PEAK dinner at 6:30 PM. Contact **Elaine** at: elainemrcollins@verizon.net. Kids can earn community service hours!

Thank you to our newest LCPC leaders! The new slate of **Elders** are **Victor Bustillos, Craig Carlson, Greg Cary, Darrell Fernandez, Jim Granier, Jana Larsen, Carlo Manookian, and Frances Mencia**. The slate of **Deacons** are **Isabel Adams, Mary Braswell, Lana Emerson, Bryan Lescher, Ann Scoggins, and Rose Woo**, and. Our new **Clerk of Session**, who is very experienced in this role, will be **Sheri Gray**. We are so grateful for your service in these important positions.

Don't forget to pick up your box of **Offering Envelopes** for 2020! If you don't see yours on the table in the Narthex, check with Nancy to see if she has them in the office.

Have you checked out the **new color brochures** in the pew racks? **Josh** and **Irina** created those for newcomers, but feel free to take one if you have a friend you think might be interested in learning more about LCPC. They are loaded with information and fun pictures!



Congratulations to **Jeff DeSurra** who was an intern here a while back. He and his wife **Cathy** just welcomed a new baby girl, **Lily** (above), a few weeks ago. Their little boy **Sam** is 2 years old now and very excited to be a big brother.

Ashley got a wonderful "verbal Valentine" from one CFC 3-year-old this month. He told Ashley that after she prayed with his class, he felt like Jesus was right next to him when he closed his eyes. Her heart swelled. May we all feel that same closeness with Jesus. Talk to you next month.



Are you looking for a way to grow deeper in your faith? Do you have questions about Christianity or about LCPC, but don't know how or where to ask them? Do you feel like it's time for you to take a step forward, but are unsure how to do that? Good news! We have an exciting option for you! We'd like to officially invite you to be a part of our 2020 Confirmation Class at LCPC.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is a program where teenagers in the church study church traditions, beliefs, and foundations with the goal of becoming members of the church. Through this process, they are given the opportunity to ask questions, see multiple perspectives, think and grow with the goal of affirm their belief in Jesus, and confirm their baptism.

WHO IS CONFIRMATION FOR?

Confirmation is for any student in high school who is interested in learning more about what faith is all about, who Jesus really is, the role of faith in our everyday life, or even for students who have been wondering about life's big questions, such as "what's my purpose?" "What am I here for?" "How can I know if God is real?" If you want to grow, learn, or are even just curi-

ous, please join us! Note: whether you have been baptized or not, all teens are welcome to join the Confirmation Class!

WHAT WILL WE STUDY?

Over the course of nine weeks, we will cover the following topics:

- Creation
- God the Father and the Trinity
- The Old Testament and God's people
- Jesus and the Atonement
- The Holy Spirit
- Prayer and Baptism
- The Church and God's Mission in the World
- Heaven and the Return of Christ
- Apologetics

WHEN IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is every Sunday from February 16 - April 19, pausing on April 12 for Easter Sunday. We meet from 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM in the Student Center. There will also be a celebration banquet on Sunday, April 26, to honor the students who have completed the class.

Please consider taking this exciting step forward in your faith!

Josh



Dear Friends,
Happy February! The New Year is well underway and I hope you've taken the opportunity to explore some of the classes and small groups available on PEAK nights and Sundays. There are also the usual options of helping serve PEAK dinners, pulling weeds around the LCPC campus, perhaps taking on a new adventure with our wonderful children in Sunday School or Sparks, even the Junior High or High School groups.

I have found that when I step in to help, I feel

so much more connected and engaged with my community, whether it be here at church, at work or the neighborhood. God did not mean for us to live separated from each other. He does not want us to live apart from Him!

Let's stay connected, worship together and be thankful for the great gifts our Lord lavishes upon us and share them liberally. It is so fulfilling and the way we were meant to live — in community.

Blessings,
Kerry Milbrodt



PEAK CLASSES LED BY ANDY WILSON February through May, 2020

Throughout the Winter-Spring semester at PEAK ("Praise and Education for Adults and Kids"), Andy Wilson will lead a variety of classes and discussion groups. These gatherings will take place on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM in Room 203 (formerly the Bell Choir Room) on the second floor, south side of the Christian Education area. All will be available free to anyone high school age or older.

NEW MEMBERS AND INQUIRERS CLASS:

Option #1 – March 4

Option #2 – March 11

Would you like to explore becoming a voting member at LCPC? Are you curious about LCPC's beliefs, vision, mission partnerships, organizational structure, leadership opportunities and membership advantages? This lively, informative class led by Andy Wilson and other church leaders gives you an insider's look at our 134-year-old church family. Participants will not be pressured to make a commitment!

QUESTIONS OF LIFE:

A Discussion Group for People Who Are New to Faith or Curious About Jesus

Session 1 – March 25: Jesus and the Jews

Session 2 – April 1: Jesus's Death and Resurrection

Session 3 – April 15: Walking With Jesus

Session 4 – April 22: What About the Church?

Session 5 – April 29: Doubts and Temptations

FINDING AND FUNDING THE COLLEGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

The challenge of selecting, applying to and paying for college can be frustrating and bewildering. How do you wade through all that information? How do you know if a particular school is right for you? This free seminar for high school students and parents will equip you to make good decisions about college and even enjoy the process of applying and getting in. Andy has been researching and teaching on this subject since the mid-1990s. Participants will receive packets stuffed with useful information.

Session 1 – May 6: College Myths

Session 2 – May 15: Creating Your Short List

Session 3 – May 22: Application and Funding Strategies

OUTREACH CHALLENGE GRANTS AVAILABLE!

What dreams do you have for LCPC serving our local community, and sending LCPC folks out into the community to share the good news of the gospel? If you are committed to providing leadership for a new ministry/program to help meet needs of people, including their need to hear Christ's good news, you can receive financial support from the LCPC Outreach Challenge Grants Program. We are defining "our local community" as including Pasadena, Glendale, La Canada, La Crescenta, Montrose, Tujunga and Sunland.

As part of our 2020 Vision effort to grow God's Kingdom, \$50,000 has been allocated to support new outreach ministries/programs between now and the end of 2021 (it is intended that all funds will be distributed by that time). All the proposed new ministries/programs that receive funding and are implemented, will be evaluated and one or more will be selected to be expanded with the help of additional funding. Proposals that demonstrate they likely can involve significant numbers of our

congregation in reaching out into our community and have a significant impact on our local community will have the best chance to be approved for additional funding for expansion of the ministry/program.

The Outreach Challenge Grants Committee includes the following members: Ed Carlson (moderator), Scott Carpenter, Aubrie Cary, Mitch Clem, Carlo Manookian, Cindy Guenther-Williams and Andy Wilson (ex-officio). They are available to answer your questions and provide direction for putting together your proposal for a new ministry/program.

We encourage potential applicants to talk informally with one or more of the committee members to bounce off your idea prior to submitting an application. The application form and a document that addresses the purpose of the Challenge Grants Program and the key criteria to be used to evaluate proposals, are available in the Church office and on-line.

The committee will review completed application forms in batches. Those forms submitted in a calendar quarter will be reviewed the first month of the following quarter (e.g. proposals submitted in January - March will be reviewed in April). Those applications submitted earlier in the quarter will get some feedback prior to formal review, including suggested changes that could increase the likelihood of the ministry/project receiving funding. We want to provide funding for as many new ministries/programs for our local community as we can.

So, let your creative juices flow, follow your passion, and start your conversation with a committee member. We have already had some informal conversations with a few people, and we are excited about the ideas being generated and look forward to seeing their ideas developed into a proposal.

Ed Carlson
Co-Moderator, Outreach Ministries



Koramtola Hospital Nurses

UPDATE FROM BANGLADESH

At this time of year, I cannot help but give thanks for the short, fall-like winter we have here in Bangladesh. This cool weather brings so much joy to all of us tired from the heat all year round.

Looking back over the past year, I can only give thanks to the Lord for allowing me to come this far, and we also look forward into the next year and await the things that the Lord has prepared for us.

Joy Hostel

The children at Joy Hostel are all doing well.

Coming from different backgrounds and with different personalities, we see a harmony in our differences. Sometimes, some children leave due to religious issues which bring us much sorrow. However, new children with stories of their own fill their spaces and we move along with joy.

Koramtola Hospital

Since earlier this year I have been working in cooperation with Koramtola hospital, and my visa has been provided by them. There are more

than 100 staff members working at this hospital including medical missionaries, local doctors and nurses. I have been in charge of taking care of the inpatients and the overall welfare of the hospital.

My three sons, Ju Seon, Eui Seon, and Han Seon are all doing well in their own places.

At every end of the year, I am grateful for the time to look back and see what happened over the past year. I want to thank you all for your prayers and always being with us over this past year

Jane from Bangladesh



Infant vaccination clinic



Bible teaching



Director's Corner

Each year I attend the Global Leadership Conference in August. Because of that conference, I have come to know Brené Brown. She is a wonderful speaker and inspires me as a leader, a woman, and as a Christian. I follow her on both Instagram and Facebook Here is one of her posts that she invited her followers to share.

When you read it, substitute Center for Children for home. The time you spend saying good bye to your children at CFC and when you first arrive to pick up your children from CFC are important times. Drop off and pick ups should be cell phone free – just leave it in the car. At drop off let them understand that you are expecting them to have a great day. When you pick up your children, take a moment to get a feel for their day and what they did that day while they were away from you. Here is Brené Brown's post.

"When you get home to your spouse/

kids/dog etc... before you open the door; put a smile on your face! It doesn't matter how your day went. Or what you're doing next. Or if you're starving For 30 seconds, at least pretend that you're elated to see them. Make them feel like you were looking forward to getting back home. After all, they're your favorite people in the whole world. I hope.

Now, I know what you're thinking: "That seems like a cheesy, tiny thing, man. Hardly an earth-shattering revelation." But your attitude the tone for the rest of the evening within 15 seconds of walking in the door. So really, it's not tiny at all. It's a huge deal. Because you come home every day. And the things you do every day grind on you.

Jordan Peterson says if you can fix 25 little things like "coming home," you will have an extraordinary life. Taking your family to Disneyland is insignificant. Your kid's expensive birthday party will be forgotten within weeks. Coming home? That's your whole life. Fix it.

Start today!"

Wishing you joy,
Pat

Spring Break

This year GUSD Spring Break is March 16-23. 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. Infant/Toddler, and preschool classes remain the same. Remember, tuition is due regardless of attendance.

Tax Information

If you need information for tax purposes, Teri and Kristin can print out your payments from January to May, after that you can go into your Curacubby account to print June – December.

Next Year!

The time to start thinking about your childcare needs for summer and fall is now you have received information about the new year which starts June 15. We need to place all in-house students before we go to our waiting list and offer spots to new families. The registration paperwork has been put in your parents folder. Please fill it out and return it quickly. Returning children's spots are only held until February 10. After February 10 registration fees go from \$100 per child to \$150 per child. 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.



PEAK Classes

The church has begun its regular PEAK classes for children ages 3 and above to middle school. This season there is a new parent support group that meets after dinner from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Parenting can be a frustrating and sometimes lonely road. Here we invite mothers, fathers, grandparents raising grandchildren, foster parents, etc. to a safe place to ask questions, develop friendships, and share stories about the journey we are all on. This class is being lead by two of my favorite people, Shirley Carlson and Kerry Milbrodt, so I know you will enjoy the class. Ashley provides a wonderful program for children during this time and dinner is a bargain. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.



We enjoy celebrating Valentine's Day at the Center for Children. On February 14, we are asking the kids to wear Valentines colors to school – red, pink, purple, or blue. You will see lots of hearts, and red, pink, purple, paint as you walk around. We'll also 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's better to bring Valentines without names on the outside. Remember, as parents the best valentines present you can give to your children is to love and respect each other.

Holidays

On Monday, February 10, the GUSD will be closed but we will be open all day for our K-6 graders. On Presidents Day, February 17, the entire CFC will be closed.



CHURCH STAFF

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

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

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This month we'll continue (and finish) our "Rebuilding" sermon series on Nehemiah. We'll discover how God used ordinary people to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and renew the people of God. We'll find out what it means to live generously, overcome obstacles, live with the Scriptures, and finally to commit ourselves to God's purposes. Lent is almost

upon us. We'll close out the month of February with Ash Wednesday. There are so many wonderful things happening this month, we hope you'll join God's family each week so that we may be "built together into a dwelling place where God lives by His Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22)

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FEBRUARY 2 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook:
"Rebuilding: Overcoming Obstacles"
For personal study: Nehemiah 4

FEBRUARY 9
Message by Lee Cook:
"Rebuilding: Just Generosity"
For personal study: Nehemiah 5

FEBRUARY 16
Message by Lee Cook:
"Rebuilding: Renewing Our Minds"
For personal study: Nehemiah 8

FEBRUARY 23

Message by Lee Cook
"Rebuilding: Signing On"
For personal study: Nehemiah 9



FEBRUARY 26 ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 7:00 PM

This powerful worship service will be led by the Cathedral Choir and Josh Horton will give the message as we begin Lent. Stay afterward to receive the Imposition of Ashes and a blessing.

