

MESSENGER

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2020

CLASSES LED BY ANDY WILSON January through May

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 Room) on the second floor, south side of the Christian Education area. All will be available free to anyone high school age or older.

LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGING TIMES:

January 15, 22 and 29

Leadership can be learned, and every good leader can become better. A vast storehouse of wisdom is available to those who want to become effective servant leaders. Regardless of where God has called you to serve (including secular settings), what you learn in this seminar could make the difference between mediocrity and spectacular success. LCPC's new officers (Deacons and Elders) will attend, but anyone high school age or older is welcome.



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' 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

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CLASSES

Journey with Jesus with Andy Wilson

A lively, discussion-based seminar designed to help you "put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24). Each week is a discussion of a different aspect of the Christian life.

Genesis with Lee Cook Get back to the roots of faith with a study of the very first book of the Bible. Will see the very beginning of God's loving work with humans and learn from the examples (both good and bad) of our ancestors in the faith.

SMALL GROUPS

Each week these groups will meet together for discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

For Parents – Join us as we gather together to share, ask questions, pray for our kids, and support each other in a fun, encouraging environment. Shirley Carlson and Kerry Milbrodt lead this group aimed at those who are raising the next generation of world changers.

Share Your Faith – You want to share the love of Jesus with your friends and family, but you are not sure how to get the conversation started? Ed Carlson is leading this group that will help you have spiritual conversations naturally. He will be using the book "God Space".



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,
Unless you're new to LCPC you probably know that we've been concerned for some time now about the wonderful stained glass

windows in the Sanctuary. The two round stained glass windows on the north and south walls are in excellent condition — the steel structures in and around them are extremely sturdy. But the eight rectangular windows on the east and west walls need attention.

Below I'm going to tell you about the refurbishing work that is planned for the windows in early 2020. I'm also going to invite you to help us with that work. But first an interesting bit of history.

In the early 1950s, the LCPC Session commissioned John Harrison Wallis of Pasadena to design the eight east and west windows in conjunction with the construction of the Sanctuary. Unfortunately, financial considerations prevented the church from having them built and installed. When the Sanctuary was dedicated in 1953, all the panes in the eight windows were of clear glass.

In the mid-1980s, John Harrison Wallis contacted the church. "If you want to have those windows built," he explained, "you need to act soon because I'm in my 80s." Although the church didn't have the funds to complete the work, the Session took a big step of faith. The work was commissioned, a capital campaign was launched, the congregation responded generously, and in 1986 the windows were installed and paid for.

As you've probably noticed, the windows depict dozens of stories and scenes from the Bible. Look towards the dawn and you're peering into the Old Testament. Look towards the sunset and you're exposed to the light of New Testament. The windows inspire us as we worship and reflect on the Lord's mighty works. More than that, the 10 large LCPC windows are a cultural treasure trove. Admittedly I'm biased, but I regard them as the most beautiful works of art in the Crescenta Valley.

So then, what's wrong with the eight windows? What's our plan to refurbish and protect them?

The windows are not on the verge of collapsing in a heap, but the problems we're facing are significant. The putty that seals each pane into the steel window frames is cracking and falling out. Every week we collect chunks of putty that have fallen on the floor or the pews. In part because of this problem, the panes within the rigid steel frames are starting to buckle. You don't notice that problem from inside the Sanctuary, but from outside, up close, it's obvious that many of the panes are bowing inward or outward. All of these problems are exacerbated by the fact that when rain pelts



the windows water seeps into the window frames, weakening the putty.

The team charged with addressing these problems has done a great deal of research. After interviewing and seeking bids from three different companies that specialize in stained glass work, the Property Committee and Session decided in December to hire Judson Studios of Highland Park to refurbish the windows. Judson is the oldest and largest glass studio in the West. Their work will include removing old putty, resealing and waterproofing the windows, re-installing them with silicone, and installing unobtrusive, clear Lexan covers outside each window. (Lexan is a high tech plastic that doesn't yellow.) We don't yet know the full cost, but it will be less than \$100,000. The work will begin early this month and will take up to two months to complete.

I'm confident that this work will accomplish the main goal of refurbishing the windows and protecting them for many decades to come — certainly more than the three decades that have transpired since the windows were first installed.

How will we pay for the work?

In line with the plans established by the Session about a year ago in the Vision 2020 plan, we will be conducting a dollar-for-dollar matching gift campaign. How will it work? For every dollar that is donated towards the work, a dollar will be released from the estate money that has been received by LCPC. The campaign will be launched with a mailing to everyone this month. We hope to receive the funds needed (50% from the congregation and 50% from the estate fund) by the end of March and to finish up by the end of June of 2020.

We currently have more than enough money in estate funds to pay for the window work. It's reasonable to ask therefore: Why are we conducting this campaign? Really for two reasons. First and foremost, because there are several other big,

important, "pro-growth" Vision 2020 projects that we can move ahead on only if we use some of the estate money. Some of those projects will have to be cancelled if we don't have help with the window project. Second, we believe many in the church family will want to participate by adopting a window pane (or two or three!). You'll hear more about that later.

With the Lord's help, in the Spirit's strength, we're making good progress with our Vision 2020 goals. I'm excited to see the good work God is going to accomplish in us in the year ahead.

Love and good cheer,
Andy Wilson

CFC FAITH UPDATE

Happy New Year to all the CFC families! I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and that your New Year (new decade!) gets off to a great start. I always feel a little sad saying goodbye to all of our Christmas Chapelets and crafts when January rolls around because celebrating with your kids during December is so much fun.

For Christmas 2019, we learned about the legend of the candy cane, made ornaments for the residents of La Crescenta Healthcare Center, shared a new song at Craft Night, and talked a lot about why Jesus' birth is still important more than 2000 years later.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 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.

Dear Friends,
Happy New Year!
Here we go again
with a fresh opportunity to love and
serve our dear Lord
who loves us more
than we can know or
comprehend.

I'll start the New Year with some new and exciting news. Our Deacons, with the blessing of Session, have created two scholarship funds for our LCPC children going off to college, graduate, or technical school. One is for students attending Christian colleges or universities that offer matching funds, and the other is for students attending accredited schools of higher learning.

We all know what a drain on resources it can be to send a child to college. This is an opportunity for LCPC to show our students that they are loved by us as well as their Heavenly Father. It is a way to remind them that their church family has resources available to help them, even if the amount is not large.

Hilary Norton has been our passionate leader in this endeavor and is available for questions and we thank her for the hours and dedication that she and her team have put into this benefit for the beloved children of LCPC.

Here are some reminders of ways you can serve your church family in 2020. Sign up to pay



for the flowers in the Sanctuary on Sundays. The flowers are available for you to take home after the second service, or they may be delivered to church members who cannot make it to church. Sign-ups are on the flower chart in the Narthex or on our LCPC.net website.

Meal trains are a lovely way to help people in our congregation or neighborhood by providing meals for those experiencing temporary need. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Armineh Manookian at: amanookian@yahoo.com.

Did you know that Deacons provide hearing aids during church services? They amplify the sound that everyone in the sanctuary hears and work very well so you will not miss a single word of sermon or song.

As we have been hearing each Sunday, God gives us many ways to be His light in this world. Some ways are very obvious and visible, while others are unseen but so very profound in their impact. Please prayerfully consider how you may help in God's Kingdom.

Blessings and Love,
Kerry Milbrodt

LEE'S LATEST

A few times a year I get really homesick. I break out my Cajun cookbooks and whip up a gumbo, étouffée, or some cornbread and turnip greens. Sometimes you just got to get back to your roots. This January I'm teaching a class on the book of Genesis. We'll get back to our roots as we talk about Creation; Abraham and Sarah; Esau and Jacob; Isaac, Leah, and Rachel; and the stories of Joseph. We will learn lessons from their faith and struggles, and we will see how it sets the stage for the rest of the story of God's faithfulness. Join us every Wednesday night during PEAK.



▲ Our weekly tasty Tuesday often provides wonderful sunset backdrops to take pictures together!

◀ Students and mentor Kristin Jewell enjoy shake shack together.



▲ Our Jr. Highers also love to hang out at Tasty Tuesday!

◀ Freshmen ladies enjoying each other's company at Tasty Tuesday.

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

Happy New Year! The year 2020 sounds so futuristic. Could it really be 2020? In the year 2020, the movie Home Alone turns 30... yes, 30! In the year 2020, my oldest will start kindergarten... yes, kindergarten! It feels crazy to me and it doesn't matter how organized my Google calendar looks, I feel unprepared. I thought about sharing with you resolutions for the new decade but that felt way too overwhelming, so instead I would like to share some smaller, more bite size goals – specifically for



SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN THE GARDEN

Start the new decade on a high note by joining us for Conversations in January. We meet once or twice a month on Sunday afternoons at the home of Nancy C. to discuss the week's sermon, and enjoy some heartfelt fellowship that will carry us through the New Year. All are welcome!

This month we'll meet on **January 19**. Arrive at 4:30 PM, and we'll be finished by 6:00 PM. For more information, please call the church office at (818) 249-6137.

Children's Ministries in 2020 only. Here we go:

(3) My goal is to teach younger children more prayers as songs that can help them get into the habit of talking to God each day.

(2) My goal is for the nursery to be beautified and made into an even nicer space for both infants and parents.

(1) My goal is to invite more families who don't regularly attend church to come to our Wednesday night program or Sunday morning worship. I encourage the kids to invite friends, so I should be looking for opportunities to do that as well!

Of course, I covet my church family's prayers that these goals can be reached and I would love to hear from you about how I can be praying for you as the year gets started!

Love in Christ,
Ashley Pollock

children's Ministries January Plans

We are keeping things pretty quiet the first few weeks in January. On Sunday mornings we'll wrap up our Christmas series with learning about Simeon and Anna in the Temple and the visit of the Wise Men. Then we'll return to the Old Testament lesson series we were doing before the holidays and read about Elijah. PEAK will start back up on January 15 and I am excited to see those Lively Lambs, Fast Frogs, and SPARKS again on a weekly basis! PEAK will be adding some small groups for adults

this semester but it will not change our children's programming options. After that, Kristy and I will be bidding quiet adieu because it will be time for Winter Camp!

SPARKS Winter Camp (4th-6th grade only) runs from January 24-26 at Forest Home! It will be a weekend of worship, games, s'mores, and hopefully snow! If your child has never been to camp, this is a great introduction to what camp is like. We only spend two nights, but the weekend is jam packed with fun so homesickness happens less often at Winter Camp. The cost of camp is \$175 and scholarships are available.

Registration takes place entirely online. You can register your child at: bit.ly/lpcpwinter2020. If your child is interested in attending and you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at: Ashley.g.adamson@gmail.com. Our space is limited so don't wait too long!

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ashley: "So, would there still be Christmas even if Santa couldn't make it?"

4-Year-Old: "Yes! Of course."

Ashley: "That's right! There would still be Christmas because..."

4-Year-Old: "Because Mrs. Claus can deliver presents just as well."

Ashley: "Let's look at our nativity scene one more time!"

BISTRO 50+
FUN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP

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



CFC Christmas Craft Night



Happy New Year and here's to LCPC's **Vision 2020 Plan** continuing in full force! Have you made your New Year's Resolutions yet? Last month, **Lee** challenged everyone to find one place they could plug into for God's kingdom work. Maybe that could be a collective **New Year's Resolution** for all of us in 2020!

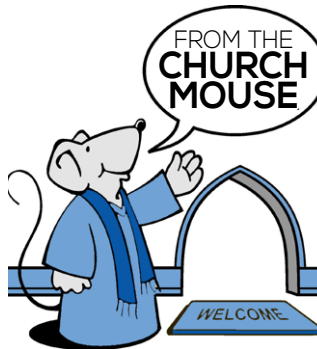
The Christmas season at LCPC was bustling with fun and festivities all throughout December. We had great turnouts at the Cruisers Christmas concert featuring **Monday@JoJo's**, the Children's Cookies and Cocoa party, CFC's Craft Night (pics on page 4), and the spectacular Christmas concert performed by our **Cathedral Choir** and a professional orchestra.

Most every ornament was chosen off our **World Vision Giving Tree!** Thanks to your generosity, many families were blessed with important necessities.

We had 18 families come to the **Kids Hope Christmas party** (photos below) for a time of games, gingerbread house decorating, and Christmas line dancing. The kids really enjoyed TPing

social and white elephant gift exchange. Rumor has it that **Lee Cook** and **Darren Pollock's** old Christmas videos will be played as added entertainment! You won't want to miss this fun night for all ages!

PEAK is starting back up on Wednesday January 15, and will have three new small group opportunities for adults from 6:30-7:30 PM. If you've been looking for a way to connect with others with similar interest, **PEAK** is the place for you! **Shirley Carlson** and **Kerry Milbrodt** will be leading a group tailored for parents which will focus on sharing, support, and prayer for the children in their lives. **Ed Carlson** will be leading a group based on the book "God Space" which will focus on how to share your faith. **Ann** and **Randall Wetzel** will be leading a group based on biblical principles for living, which will help you integrate the teachings of the Bible into everyday life.



new stairway in the breezeway leading to the courtyard, and an updated new look for our nursery and Bawl Room. Be sure to introduce yourself to Irina — she'd love to meet you!

Have you noticed the freshly cleaned carpets in the Sanctuary? Thank you, **Property Committee** - It looks fabulous! Let's avoid food and drinks in there to keep it looking pristine.

The **SPARKS** will be heading up to **Forest Home** for Winter Camp January 24-26. **Ashley** and **Kristy** would be tickled to have all 4th-6th graders join them for this special weekend in the mountains. There just might be some snow to play in too! Contact them to see if there are still openings.

Welcome to our newest members, **Christy** and **Tamas Dolinay** and **Sarah Rush**. We are thrilled to officially have you as part of the LCPC family!



their mentors and family members into snowmen! One of our favorite traditions, the **live nativity** at our Christmas Eve service, was enjoyed by a big crowd and **Cadie Carlson** and **Brock Cary** did a fine job portraying Mary and Joseph this year.

Thank you to our Advent Candle lighters — the **Hofmanns**, the **Bauers**, the **Holts**, **Nancy Coler**, **Pat Beggs**, **Mary Braswell**, the **Elmes**, the **Cooks**, the **Van Citters**, the **Milbrodts**, the **Givens** and the **Leschers**. They all did a fantastic job, especially those adorable kids who read their lines perfectly!

We have one more post-Christmas event coming up to finish out the season — **Epiphany Gift Night!** Epiphany is when the wise men presented their gifts to Baby Jesus. In honor of this, Fellowship is hosting a fun night on Sunday, January 5, from 6:30-8:30 PM in Koopmans with an ice cream

Andy will continue his **Journey with Jesus** discussion group and **Lee** will be leading a **Bible Study** on the life of **Abraham** from the book of **Genesis**. All the children's classes will be available, as well as **Abide Junior High** and the delicious dinner from 5:45 — 6:30 PM in Koopmans. There is certainly something for everyone on Wednesday evenings!

Have you met our Vision 2020 Project Manager **Irina Panasyuk** yet? Irina is a dynamic addition to our staff and working hard to get many of our proposed projects up and running. Some projects on the immediate horizon are refurbishment of our historical stained-glass windows, a safer,



The **Pray Big** group that meets between services to pray for individuals, our church as a whole, and the community is now meeting in Room 203 at 10:20 AM every Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join them to receive prayer or pray with the group. Powerful prayers are being answered!

Have you logged into the **ShelbyNext** database yet? It will change your life! Find the email in your inbox that was sent from the church back on November 3

and enter your username and password. It's quick and easy and will allow you to edit your contact information, access the church directory and master calendar, and check your kids in for Sunday School! If you didn't get an email, contact **Kristy** at: kristyh412@gmail.com.

And, it's not too late to turn in your **Estimate of Giving card** if you didn't have a chance to turn it in last year. The 2020 budget is still being fine-tuned and every pledge helps!

May 2020 be your best year yet! See you next month!



Director's Corner

The Center for Children's "year" runs June to May. That's our financial year, our staff contract year, and our calendar planning year. But as you all know, that planning has to take before the year gets here. It often seems like I am looking ahead, planning and anticipating what is to come. To tell you the truth, I kind of like it that way. I am a planner. Yes, my "kids" already know that in Spring 2021 their parents are going on a baseball tour of the East Coast and they are welcome to join us. My only problem is I have to wait until MLB puts out the 2021 baseball schedule, ugh!

This week I was planning the 2020/21 school calendar, picking dates for "Mommy and Me" day, Christmas Craft Night, and other special events. This calendar takes me through May 2021. That made me take a breath. I got to thinking about all the things that will happen between now and May 2021. Some things I already know will happen. I'll have a new granddaughter before then. I'll need a new car before then, and I'll be older by then.

But what about all the unknowns? Where will my children be living by then? How will the health be of the people I love? I wonder what our country and the world will be like, how our climate will be, what will be the new trends, and what technology will be taking over our lives. The problem with all this future casting is that we sometimes forget to live in the present.

Take time right now to appreciate where we are in life. I know as a young parent it is easy to

wonder if your 3-month-old will be walking by her first birthday, if your 3-year-old will be ready for kindergarten, or if your 12-year-old is college bound. Among all the planning and wondering, take time to be with your children and your significant others right now. Notice today how they warm your heart, what they need to grow, and even at the end of a long day, notice the smiles on their faces when they see you.

So today, mark their height on a door jam, take a picture and print it, take in the joy of the



day – this moment in time when they take your hand or give you a bump of the shoulder as they let you know you are the most important thing in their lives.

I know I have said this before, but my favorite descriptor of time is: "How can the days feel so long and the years so short." My New Year's hope for you is that you be in the present with your children this year and that you take time to be a family and not just get through the days, weeks, and months. Enjoy today, and do a little planning for tomorrow!

Happy New Year, may it be a wonderful year for you and your family!

Pat

School Age Reminders

The school year resumes on January 7. This means that after school activities will begin again so make sure that we know if late pick ups are needed. A reminder to call us if no pick up is needed. We don't want to be spending time looking for kids that aren't at school that day or went home sick.

Remember that children coming in the morning need to be signed in by parents in Room 202. Please do not have your children walk up to the room by themselves. Remind your children that they need to get to the vans as quickly as possible because many of our vans go to two or more schools so we need to keep them moving.

A Thank You

The CFC staff wishes to thank all the families for your kind wishes, goodies to eat, and gifts that you showered us with over the holidays. It means a lot to us that you would think of us at this busy time of year. We hope that you had a very Merry Christmas.

Epiphany Gift Night

On Sunday, January 5, join us for Epiphany Gift Night in Koopmans Hall from 6:30-8:30 PM. This is an "All In, All Ages" event featuring an ice cream social (no meal) and gift exchange. All participants should bring a "White Elephant" gift (something you want to re-gift or something you no longer need or want) to share during the fun-filled evening with games and contests. This will be a fun way to put a cap on your holiday season!

Holiday Closures

We will be closed Mondays, January 20 and February 17 for the Federal holidays.



Daddy & Me Day

Saturday, February 1, is the date of our "Daddy and Me" day. On this day children in our preschool classes come with their dads or other significant males in their lives to experience a morning of preschool. At 9:00 AM Ashley will lead everyone in a Chapel time where there will be singing, dancing, and a story. After that, the dads and kids will go to the classrooms for art time, circle time, play time, and snacks. Outside, the couples will enjoy three of our playgrounds including our blue blocks for lots of building fun. We begin our day at 9:00 AM and end at 11:30 AM. We hope you will make this a priority on your calendar!

CHURCH STAFF

Andy Wilson	Pastor andy@lcpc.net
Lee Cook	Director of Spiritual Formation lee@lcpc.net
Joshua Horton	Director of Student Ministries josh@lcpc.net
Ashley Pollock	Director of Children's Ministries ashley@lcpc.net
Gary Woodward Elzbieta Nawrocka	Choir Director Organist/Pianist
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
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



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

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

As 2020 begins, we are tempted to despair the state of the 21st Century. Millennials have left the church in unprecedented rates, our culture is growing increasingly secular, and across the nation church attendance is becoming more sporadic, even among committed believers. But in the midst of our current crisis, God is powerfully at work. In our new sermon

series, **Rebuilding: A Study of Nehemiah**, we will see how God used ordinary people to renew His people and restore their community of faith. Building on our Vision 2020 plan, we will join together and see God at work in our church, our community, and our world.

JANUARY 5 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook
"Rebuilding: Beginning with Prayer"
For personal study: Nehemiah 1

JANUARY 12
Message by Lee Cook
"Rebuilding: Just Generosity"
For personal study: Nehemiah 5
Congregational Meeting between services
to elect Elders and Deacons

JANUARY 19

Message by Lee Cook
"Rebuilding: Hearing the Word"
For personal study: Nehemiah 8

JANUARY 26 YOUTH SUNDAY

9:00 AM:
Youth Sunday. Our youth will lead worship and offer messages.
11:00 AM:
Our Cathedral Choir will lead worship and you will hear testimonies of God's faithfulness.

Begin the New Year by reaching out to those without a church home. Bring a friend to worship!

Happy New Year!