

MESSENGER

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 3

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SESSION REPORT

I've returned as your Clerk of Session after a two-year sabbatical of sorts and am happy and privileged to be serving LCPC in this capacity once again.

The Session of La Crescenta Presbyterian Church held its first Stated Meeting of the year on January 27 and welcomed new Elders Victor Bustillos, Greg Cary, Jim Granier, Jana Larsen, Carlo Manookian, and Frances Mencia. Darrell Fernandez will continue for another 3-year term and Craig Carlson will continue on a 2-year uncompleted term.

At the meeting the following items were also discussed and/or approved:

- Received the 2019 Financial Statement and approved the 2020 Budget. These items will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held on March 8.
- Approved Children's Ministries proposal to conduct "The Elizabeth House Wish List Drive" during Lent.
- Approved Student Ministries proposal for the Abide Ride 2020.

In Christ,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session



BELL CHOIR COMEBACK!

Would you love to help lead worship, but preaching isn't your thing, you haven't taken organ lessons, and singing with the choir isn't in the cards? Then here is the perfect opportunity for you! The LCPC Cathedral Bells are making a comeback, and we need more ringers. LCPC is incredibly blessed to have a full set of beautifully sonorous handbells, thanks to generous estate gifts from a few of our members. They need to be rung in worship once again.

Ask any former bell choir member, and they will tell you how fun, fulfilling and, yes, challenging, making beautiful sacred music with handbells is, and what close fellowship bonds are formed among the ringers. Even if you've never touched a bell before, but know a bit about reading music, we can teach you how. If you or anyone you know would like to find out more about this musical opportunity, contact Noel Collins at noeljazzcollins@verizon.net.

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BISTRO 50+
FUN FOOD, FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, March 24
12 Noon in Koopmans
Join us for lunch. Only \$5!



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,
Have you been thinking about going to the Dominican Republic with LCPC from June 13-22 to engage in mission

work, or sending your child or grandchild? If so, please read these testimonies by two DR veterans. Even if you personally don't feel called to overseas outreach, I hope you'll read them and see how the Holy Spirit is moving at LCPC.

Last January, Judy Trumbo told us in worship that the eight (or so) trips she has been a part of have been "a revelation."

"If I can go on our annual mission trip to the Dominican Republic so can you. I wasn't the most likely candidate when I started out... a mom of teens and preteens – didn't speak Spanish – still don't; rather anxiety prone; not a doctor; hardly ever hammered a nail.

You begin meeting the people, and you visit your first batey – a small, very poor village out in the midst of the cane fields. People live there without running water, or indoor plumbing, often with swept hard-packed dirt for floors. Our youth begin playing with the kids of the batey, jumping rope, throwing a ball.

You go to church, the church that we – LCPC – helped build! And there you witness a depth of feeling and faith that for me was a new experience. These people – you feel it in your bones – depend on that faith to get them through every day. I go back time and again, not so much for what I can offer, but for what the people there teach me about trust and faith.

Virtually everyone – including my own kids – comes back blown away by what they have experienced – seeing these people who have so little, yet are living out their lives without bitterness, trusting in God. The young folks will primarily be building a house for a family in the barrio we work in, but each one has the opportunity to help the medical team in the bateys for a day.

If you are a doctor, nurse, or dentist and you go, you just may inspire a teen to pursue medicine – to say nothing of what it means for the patients that will be treated by you. Every year we especially pray for medical professionals to join the tour. [This year] some physical therapy students from Azusa Pacific will join us.

Consider coming to see what God may have in store for you. You too may find yourself going back again and again."

Here's part of the testimony offered by high school senior Katie Hayhurst at the Youth Sunday service in January.

"As a part of this church, I've always heard of Project Dominicana as my brother Andrew went in 2010 and my sister Emily went in 2014. For the longest time, I felt that going to the DR was more of something I had to do because my siblings had done it.

As soon as my junior year rolled around, my mom reminded me that that summer would be my best chance to go on the trip. But leading up to the actual trip, I was so busy with marching band rehearsals, practicing for violin recordings, my first AP classes, the SATs, and figuring out what colleges I wanted to apply to that I never made time to pray about the trip or think about it outside of the mandatory meetings. I had failed to get myself in the right mindset. In fact, by the time I was on the plane to the DR, I realized that I hardly had a relationship with God.

Although I was surrounded by sentimental prayers and worship sessions, the connection to God just wasn't there. I was still happy to be a part of the construction team and to help change a family's life. However, I felt distant from the reason everyone else on the team was there: to show God's love.

Thankfully, my perspective of God's personal role with me completely changed as soon as I did my first bit of construction. You must understand that I had absolutely no construction experience let alone physical endurance going into the mission trip. You see, I got my high school PE credit from playing an instrument in a marching band that doesn't march. So you could say it's kinda unbelievable that I was able to swing a hammer, standing on tall ladders, in hot and humid weather, for three to four hours straight without passing out!

Despite that sounding less than enthralling, those hours of nailing wooden planks were the highlight of the trip for me. Looking around at the intense teamwork of our construction team was astonishing. With our mini teams each with their own separate goals, I realized just how important God was in bringing all of us together. There was no way we could have been as productive as we were without the grace of God. I have never felt more needed by God. From the top of that wobbly

ladder, it would have been impossible to ignore God's presence.

I was completely lost as I had had my priorities all over the place before the mission trip. I had let my junior year stress cover up what was truly important – my relationship with God. It wasn't until I was hammering from a wobbly ladder that I had the realization that God's role for me is bigger than standardized



tests or my GPA. Just as the prodigal son's father held his arms open in celebration for his son's return, God's presence made me feel worthwhile and welcomed back as his child."

You can register for DR 2020 online at: www.LCPC.net). The brochure and registration materials are in the LCPC Narthex and church office. But please act now so you don't get left behind!

Love and good cheer,
Andy Wilson

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, 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

"Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6)



This is one of the most important verses in the Bible. It sets the stage for Israel's journey with God. Paul and James both quote this verse in their letters. It was the rallying cry for Martin Luther and John Calvin during the Protestant Reformation. But what does it mean?

The word for believed is the word from which we get our word "Amen." Its core meaning is to be firm, secure, or steadfast. Ultimately, Abram reckoned God to be reliable and God reckoned Abram to be righteous. Faith is not just believing something unbelievable. Faith is the obedience that comes from believing God is reliable. When we are obedient to God, we show that we believe God is who He says He is: trustworthy, reliable, faithful, and above all, good.

Abram wasn't perfect. He didn't always do the right thing. But Abram lived his life, as best as he could, in the belief that God was good and trustworthy, and because of this, God reckoned him righteous.

Love,
Kerry Milbrodt

Dear Beloved LCPC Family,
Spring is here! I see the beautiful buds on the trees and flowers blooming. What a lovely creation we are privileged to enjoy! We have lots of great things to celebrate in the life of our church.

Our Deacons scholarships are being funded for the school year and you are welcome to donate to either or both of the funds. One is for Christian colleges that offer matching grants and the other is for general colleges. They may be accredited universities, colleges, or trade schools and the applications are available right now. The applicant must be a member of LCPC, which means our students who have gone through the Confirmation class are full members.

All applications must be completed and all who qualify will be approved, so the more donations, the more scholarship funds we can give to our students. This is a wonderful ministry showing how much we value our children, whether we

know them or not, they are all our children as the body of Christ, going into the world to live a Christian witness.

There are some New Member classes coming up, so keep an eye out for the dates and times.

Those of you who enjoy Wednesday night PEAK meals and the many classes and small groups available are welcome to help serve the PEAK dinner. It is such a fun way to see everyone and meet new people while sharing in service. You get a free meal too! Just talk to Elaine Collins on Wednesday night and sign up. How fun for a family or small group to do this together!

Remember, we are not meant to be Christians all alone. We are here to help each other, lift each other up in prayer, and do what we can to walk together in Christ. Seek to be a blessing to others in the name of our Lord and Savior.

CFC FAITH UPDATE

During the month of February, I really enjoyed getting to talk to the children of CFC about the Bible's definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13. This month, we will look more at love in action by reading about Jesus' interactions with his disciples. Also, as we get ready for Easter, all children at CFC are invited and encouraged to participate in our Easter Art Gallery. As we learn about Christ's death and resurrection, children can create art connected to the true meaning of Easter and turn it in to Ashley Pollock.

That art will be displayed on Easter Sunday in the Narthex and then returned to the artists the following week. Last year, children from CFC contributed some beautiful paintings, flower pots, sketches, and more. I'm looking forward to seeing this year's creations and incorporating them into our celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death.

ALL-CHURCH WORK DAY



Please plan to help spiff up LCPC on Saturday, March 28 – the next All Church Work Day. Come and help any time between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Even brief efforts can make big impacts. Bring the whole family!

There will be windows to wash, pews to polish, plants to prune – you get the idea. Snacks and coffee provided throughout the morning. Look for signups for your favorite task during coffee hour on Sundays March 15 and 22. For more information and to suggest tasks needing attention around the campus, contact Judy Trumbo at: jktrumbo@gmail.com



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 March 22 and 29. Arrive at 4:30 PM, and we'll be finished by 6:00 PM. For more information, please call Nancy at (626) 755-1880.

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock



As a child, I didn't know anything about Lent and even as a teenager, my understanding was very limited. Lent seemed like a time when people gave up stuff like ice cream and soda. I would like our kids to have a better understanding of this season in the Christian calendar, but I also think it is important to keep it simple. So when talking to children about Lent, I like to describe it as a time of getting ready

When we're taking a big trip, we take time to get ready – to research, save, pack – so that we can best enjoy the experience. During Lent, we get our hearts and minds ready so that we can best understand and celebrate the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. And one way to do that is to focus on the two F's: "Fast and Follow." (Now for little ones, it is important to explain that "fast" doesn't mean "be speedy" – which they already are!)

People in the Bible fasted from food and focused on being filled with God instead of bread and meat and fruits and veggies. When we fast, we can give up a meal or a kind of food or we can give up something that takes up our time and/or focus – like TV or Facebook or Youtube or FortNite.

Jesus gave up everything for us, so when we give up something, we get the slightest taste of loving sacrifice. That fasting can lead to following – meaning we replace what we have given up with something that helps us grow closer to our Savior.

For example, I knew a family who every year gave up certain TV programs each week and during that time they would pray together, read the Bible, or even listen to worship music while playing board games. Fasting and Following will look different for each person who tries it. That said, there is something beautiful and unifying about the family of Christ simultaneously striving to better understand the work of Christ and show Him our love and gratitude.

Following our "What is Lent?" PEAK event in February, Children's Ministries will continue talking about the idea of fasting and following throughout the month of March and begin reading about Jesus' last days before the crucifixion. Lastly, we will also be collecting art throughout the season of Lent for our Second Annual Easter Art Gallery.

Last year, children ages 2 through 12 used vi-

sual arts as a way to share what they were learning or how they felt about the true meaning of Easter. As a result, the Narthex was full of construction paper crosses, water color sunrises, real flowers, collage butterflies, and more. Children's Ministries aims to teach children that worship comes in many forms.

The act of creating can be worshipful just like we can be moved to worship when we appreciate the art of others. Children who want to participate in the Easter Art Gallery simply need to submit their piece of art to Ashley Pollock or Kristy Hicks any time before Good Friday on April 10.

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ashley: (to a room of 3-year-olds) "What do you think Valentine's Day is about?"

3-Year-Old: "Jesus!"

Other 3-Year-Old: "Showing love to the people you care about."

First 3-Year-Old: "And Jesus!"



CASA SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP!

What: CASA is our annual Spring Break mission trip to Rosarito, Mexico to assist with construction on the Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage that LCPC has been building for the last few years. Students help with construction and every year make a genuine impact.

Who: Jr. High and High Schoolers are both welcome to come on the trip. It's incredibly safe, and we have many leaders from LCPC including our Senior Pastor, Andy Wilson, who attend.

Parents: If you are you a bit leery about your student going without you, then come with us! We could always use more hands.

When: This year's dates for CASA are Sunday, March 15 - Thursday, March 19.

How Much: The trip is \$250 which covers where we stay, travel, and food for the week.

How to Sign Up and More Info: On our



website, we have a full frequently asked questions section, pictures from past year's trips, and more.

Sign ups are also officially open, and for the first time ever we have... drum roll please...

ONLINE PAYMENT! For registration and info, head to: abidestudentmin.com/casa

RUMMAGE SALE

What: The Rummage Sale is our annual fundraiser for our Spring Break mission trip. It's like an all-church yard sale inside Koopmans

Hall.

When: This year's Rummage Sale is Saturday, March 7, from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

If You Want To Donate An Item: We will begin accepting items Thursday, March 5, in the afternoon, most of the day Friday, March 6.

If your student is planning on attending CASA, they MUST sign up to help for a shift at the Rummage Sale.

This gives students the opportunity to begin buying into the trip and investing in it. It is mandatory. The four shift options are:

Thursday afternoon, March 5, 3:00-7:00 PM
Friday afternoon, March 6, 3:00-7:00 PM
Saturday morning, March 7, 7:30-11:00 AM
Saturday afternoon, March 7, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

Please keep our students and the Rummage Sale in your prayers

Josh



The **Lenten season** is upon us, and we all have different ways of reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice during these 40 days. Service is one way we can honor Jesus. This month, Children's Ministries is hosting a **Lenten service project** for the whole church to collect items for **Elizabeth House**, a nonprofit for pregnant and parenting homeless women. Look for collection boxes around our campus with a full wish list of items such as diapers, baby wipes, paper towels, and gift cards. The list can also be found at: elizabethhouse.net/wishlist. Ashley and Kristy would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



You can also serve by donating treasures you no longer need to the **LCPC Rummage Sale** which will be held Saturday, March 7, from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Koopmans. All proceeds go to the Spring Break mission trip fund for work on the **Casa de Los Angeles Orphanage** being built in Rosarito, Mexico. Donations of items will be accepted Thursday, March 5, from 3:00 -7:00 PM and Friday, March 6, from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM down in Koopmans Hall.

The **CASA Spring Break Mission Trip** will be Sunday, March 15 - Thursday, March 19. Students 7th grade and older and all adults are invited to join and help with the construction of the 2nd and 3rd floors of the orphanage. To sign up, go to: Abidestudentmin.com/casa or contact Josh Horton. The fee is \$250 and you will need a passport. It's another great way to serve during Lent!

How about adopting a pane of one of our beautiful stained-glass windows? The rectangular windows will be receiving a much needed



refurbishment to preserve them for years to come. The cost of the project is estimated at \$84,000! We are hoping to raise money through a **stained-glass window campaign**, and LCPC will match every donation dollar for dollar. Pick up one of the beautiful color brochures around church, describing each window's scene in great detail – so interesting!

Some great photos of our **church's 135-year history** in the Crescenta Valley were recently found, and will be displayed down in Koopmans this month. Check them out when you're down there for the fellowship party between services or PEAK dinner.

Pastor Andy is offering a **New Member and Inquirers Class** this month on March 4 and again March 11, 6:30 – 7:30 PM in Room 203. This class is for anyone interested in learning more about LCPC's beliefs, vision, history, or how to become a voting member of the church. Student Ministries has started their **Confirmation Class** for all high schoolers who are interested in learning the same information. This class will run each Sunday through April 19, 10:45 AM -12:15 PM in the Student Center. Students need to attend 7 of the 10 classes, so they can still jump on board if they can make all the rest of them! Contact Josh to sign up.

Our youth did a spectacular job on **Youth Sunday**, leading worship and inspiring us with heartfelt testimonies from **Tyler Carlson, Samantha Bouzikian, Abby Pawlowski, Katie Hayhurst, Zach Roh, Mila Bryan, and Adrianna Ismale**. Every student who participated in the service was amazing – it's truly one of the best Sundays of the year!

If you like pie, then we have the event for you this month! We're hosting our **2nd Annual**



Pie Night on Thursday, March 12, at 5:30 PM in Koopmans, or Pre-Pi Night as we like to call it. We're serving pizza pie for dinner. If you like to bake, bring your favorite homemade pie to share for dessert. There will be a pie making station for kids and back by popular demand, pie throwing in the courtyard! This event is free but donations appreciated! Even though it's 2 two days early, **Darren Pollock** might even recite 100 digits of Pi, just to prove he can still do it!

As always, **Bunco Night** at the Wolflicks' was a big hit last month. You've never heard Presbyterians get so loud just from rolling a few dice! Thank you, **Greg** and **Rachel**, for hosting this rambunctious event!

Looking for something fun for your elementary-aged kids to do during Spring Break, while you still have to bring home the bacon? **CFC** is open all **Spring Break** and has lots of fun activities planned on and off campus! Call them today to reserve your spot!

Congratulations to **Jamie** and **Wyatt Given** on the birth of their baby girl, **Lindsey Madison**, who was born February 10. Big sister **Kacie** can't wait to show off her new baby sister, and proud grandparents **Doug** and **Diana** now have an even score on the grandchildren count –two boys and two girls!

Fellowship Ministry is planning their **Progressive Dinner** this year for Saturday, May 30. Would you like to host a group at your home? We are looking for dinner and appetizer hosts for about 25 guests or a dessert home that can host about 50 people. If you're interested, contact **Darrell Fernandez** at: darrell.g.fernandez@gmail.com.

If you see any kids wearing Dr. Seuss hats around the campus the first week in March, it's because it's **Dr. Seuss Week at CFC!** You might even see **Pat** in the hat who's not a cat eating green eggs and ham!

Did you know that **Tom** and **Darlene Irwin** and **Jean Vernon** became members of LCPC in 1960 and still attend second service every Sunday? That is 60 years of being faithful members, and we are so grateful for their service and love all these years! See you next month!



Director's Corner

Lent has started in the Christian calendar. Many people think of the Roman Catholic Church when Lent is spoken of, but it is not just a Catholic tradition. On February 26, LCPC held an Ash Wednesday service that included putting ashes on our foreheads, again something most people only think of as a Catholic tradition. During Lent, people often give up something are meat, candy, soda, TV, social media, etc.

One time a clever boy on a week-long junior high trip told the advisers he had given up eating anything green – he was avoiding vegetables. Other people take on something during Lent as a way to show Christ's vision of servanthood. I have seen people commit to polishing the church pews, serving the homeless, picking up trash, etc. At one church I worked at there were no business meetings during Lent. Committees met to pray not conduct business. This caused me to be very disciplined in making sure anything I needed approved

or discussed was done before Lent.

As a child in this church we participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing. This was a program not just for the Presbyterian Church, but for many protestant churches where money was raised for international causes. I can still remember doing extra chores at my house and my grandparents' house to earn money for this special offering.

While these are some of the things that people do during Lent, what does Lent represent? It is a time of reflection preparing us for Easter. The 40 days of Lent remind us Jesus time in the desert and His sacrifice. Regardless of your families religious affiliation or traditions, take this month to talk to your kids about giving back and service. It's not just a Christmas thing! We would love to hear your stories of giving and service.

Pat

Registration and Curacubby

Many of you went ahead and paid your registration online and that has been great. Helen still needs your paperwork telling us what days you want for summer and next year. Please be sure to return that information to us as soon as possible. Don't forget that your tax information from Curacubby can be printed out at home.

Parents Lunch

Our preschool and Kindergarten classes will be hosting a Parents Lunch on March 11. We hope you can take your lunch hour to come have lunch with your child. Most classes eat at Noon, but check with your child's classroom for a specific time. Sign up so we know how many extra chairs to put around the tables. Grandparents Lunch will be April 9.

Spring Break

GUSD Spring break is March 16-23. This is a week and a day of fun here at the CFC. Our school age classrooms will be open for a full day with lots of activities planned for the children both on and off campus. Candice has been promoted to our School Age Coordinator and has planned a great week for all the school age children. Look for more information about specific activities in your parent folder or posted in the classroom. No extra fee is charged for full days during the school year. If you need to purchase an extra day that will be at the full day price.



Our Parking Lot

We have seen a few parents driving too fast in our parking lot. While we all try to keep track of our kids, we know how quickly they can get away from us. We don't want anyone to get hurt or anyone to feel bad about hurting someone. Take those few extra seconds to be careful in our parking lots. And remember that the parking spots in front of the office are reserved all day for our vans to come in and out. We don't want to have children walking through the parking lot as they go and come back from school. Please leave those spots open.



Find us on Facebook



The first week of March is our **Dr. Seuss Week**. The Church is starting us off with a Dr. Seuss family night on Friday, February 28. Here at the CFC we will be sharing lots of Dr. Seuss books with the children. We will be having special days such as color days, wacky Wednesday sock day and special

food to go along with the books we are reading. Look for information in your child's classroom or on our Facebook page. If you have any Dr. Seuss books you would like to share with us that would be great. Just let the teacher know if it is a loan or a donation!

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
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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

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Victory! What does a victorious life really look like? Is it fame, fortune, or success? Is it about relationships or family? In the book of Revelation, Jesus sends seven letters to seven churches in the ancient

world to help them live victorious lives. In some letters he comforts, and in others he confronts. During Lent, we will examine each of these letters to discover how we, too, can live victoriously.



MARCH 1 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook
"Victorious: Love"
For personal study: Revelation 2:1-7

MARCH 8

Message by Lee Cook
"Victorious: Endurance"
For personal study: Revelation 2:8-11

MARCH 15

Message by Lee Cook
"Victorious: Purity"
For personal study: Revelation 2:12-28

MARCH 22

Message by Lee Cook
"Victorious: Revival"
For personal study: Revelation 3:1-6

MARCH 29

Message by Lee Cook
"Victorious: Faith"
For personal study: Revelation 3:7-13

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!