

MESSENGER

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THE LATEST FROM MARIE AND DANIEL

STUDENT SHARES HER FAITH AT CONVOCAATION SPEECH

Robyn is a standout first year master's student studying trombone performance, and the New England Conservatory (NEC) invited her to be the student speaker during their convocation service! In her speech, **Robyn** shared about her time in InterVarsity during her four years as an undergrad at NEC:

"I bumped into Marie Adams and Dan Raney passing out cookies in the dorms. I was greeted with this bright face and a huge smile telling me about the campus Bible study. I lit up because I never expected to share my spirituality with others while being away from home. I didn't speak of religion until this day, but I was overjoyed and extremely comfortable. Marie and I met every week and she became a spiritual mentor to me."

"The Bible study consisted of Christians, non-Christians, Jews, Muslims, and even atheists. We all were curious and voiced our opinions and personal situations despite our different beliefs. The environment was simply open and loving. I met some of my closest friends in the NEC Christian Fellowship."

What a bold testimony to the entire student body at NEC!

"I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN...YET"

When **JW** lived in China, she never considered herself religious. But she had a strange experience where she thought God gave her a sign that she would get to fulfill her dream of studying music in the US. Hours later, she received her acceptance into Boston Conservatory at Berklee. We met **JW** during the student involvement fair, and she signed up to learn more about Jesus and join a Bible study! The next day, her aunt, who lives in Boston and is a Christian, brought her to a Christian worship service. The day after that, **JW** came to our ice cream social. She played us clips of the worship songs from the night before, and described herself saying, "I'm not a Christian...yet."

NEW DEGREES, NEW JOBS, AND (ALMOST!) NEW BABY

Daniel completed his Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Biblical Languages. Marie graduated with her Master of Arts in Theology.

Daniel just began a new job at our church as the Pastoral Resident for Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry. His role is to develop mature leadership among the congregation by encouraging, training and empowering them to grow in their faith and use their gifts to serve the body. Daniel works part-time allowing him to enjoy plenty of time at home when the baby arrives!

Marie is now serving as Area Director for a quarter of the college campuses in Boston. She



Daniel and Marie graduate from Gordon Conwell!

will continue to work alongside students at Berklee and New England Conservatory, and supervise three InterVarsity staff who serve at Curry College, Northeastern University, and U. Mass Boston. The new role and learning curve feel both daunting and exhilarating.



Our baby boy's "guess date" is September 27. Marie has enjoyed being active ever since morning sickness ended, enjoys her YMCA boot camp class, running five or six miles each weekend, and attempting to keep up with her pull-ups! Depending on when our baby arrives, Marie will end maternity leave right around Christmas and return to work in January.

Your friendship, prayers, and financial support is a wonderful gift to us, and to the students on college campuses around Boston. We are truly blessed!

Marie and Daniel

It's not too late to register for the All-Church retreat! Join us as we connect with each other, deepen relationships, and build our faith together in beautiful Big Bear.

For more information and to register, contact Ed Carlson at: edgart902@hotmail.com or (419) 307-5536. Or you can register online at: www.lpcretreat.com.

INSIDE

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

PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends,
For many years around this time of year I taught a seminar for college-bound students and their parents. I called it "Finding and Funding

the College That's Right for You." I started in the 90s when I was a youth pastor. So many of the students I knew and loved were having trouble thinking through their college decisions. They were struggling to separate fact and fiction. They were drowning in information and receiving lots of bad advice. That's what motivated me.

I kept at it over the years because I could see that the landscape was changing. Colleges and universities were losing sight of their mission. Few of the high prestige schools were delivering on their promises. The whole educational establishment, it seemed, had lost its bearings. Moreover, as the cost of college soared, so did the cost of making a mistake. For all those reasons I continued my research and kept offering my seminar long after I left youth ministry.

The college scene reveals a lot to us about our wider culture. The kinds of disruptions we see there are taking place on a gargantuan scale all around us. Certainly we see that in the realm of politics. Polls show that the level of trust in politicians, especially those at the national level, has been dropping for years. The same is true with regard to journalists, newspapers, broadcast and cable news, and nearly everyone connected with the world of



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

This month we'll meet on **October 6 and 27**. Arrive at 4:30 PM, and we'll be finished by 6:00 PM. For more information, please call Nancy Coler at (626) 755-1880.

punditry. The landscape of cyberspace, too, looks increasingly sinister. Internet gorillas like Google and Facebook keep chipping away at our privacy. Hackers from the other side of the planet steal our identity and our money. With just a few clicks we have instant access to an ocean of pornography. Meanwhile, there's less romance, less interest in books and poetry, less face-to-face conversation. And of course the church in America has been affected – or infected – as people disassociate from institutions and choose instead to cocoon with their cell phones and boutique coffee. These changes leave many people feeling frustrated . . . confused . . . scared . . . even demoralized.

How do we make sense of our lives in the face of these changes? How can we be wise, live well and retain our joy with all these things going on?

When it comes to choosing and paying for the right college, the important thing is to stay grounded in some basic principles. For example: Decide from the start whether you want *training* (for a particular job) or an *education* (which will empower you to do lots of different jobs). Or: Realize that many high prestige schools have built their reputations on their graduate school programs, and that their undergraduate programs are not a priority for them. The tendency today is to think "all the rules have changed," and of course for a high school junior or senior that only contributes to the sense of being lost at sea. It's not true. Most of the 'old rules' are really enduring principles that any wise person will grab hold of. They're core concepts that enable serious people to make smart decisions.

Here's the main point I want to make, and it's a simple one. What is true in the realm of finding and funding a college is also true in the wider arena of our daily lives. Many leading lights in our culture tell us that, when it comes to making sense of life, "all the rules have changed." Certainly millions of people are living as though that were true. But it isn't true. The vast cultural, economic, technological and political changes that we experience now from year-to-year have not changed human nature. They haven't somehow removed our fundamental need for the Lord. They haven't undermined our basic purpose, which is to love and serve God. They haven't taken away the source of our joy and strength as Jesus followers.

What all of that tells us is that it still makes sense to direct, regulate, discipline and center your life on God's Word. Wise people still find their joy and freedom in walking with God. If we want to live lives that are satisfying, purposeful and productive, we need to . . .

- Connect with Christ's body, the Church.
- Worship, pray, learn God's word and teach our kids to do the same.

- Regulate our personal lives with the attitude that we're temples for God's Spirit.
- Dedicate all that we have – our time, money, families, jobs, influence – to God, realizing that he gave it to us so we would bless others and grow His kingdom.
- Reach out to the people around us, most especially those who are poor, lonely, sick or marginalized.
- Practice charity with everyone, realizing that everyone carries burdens that are hidden from sight.
- Share our light by telling others about how the Lord has blessed us.

What a world we would make if we all lived like that! We can at least start within our own families, and within our beautiful LCPC family. May it be so!

Love and good cheer,
Andy Wilson

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MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15
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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.

CFC FAITH UPDATE

This month we continue our “Jesus is...” series. Every two weeks or so, the kids are learning a new way to describe who Jesus is. So far, we have covered that Jesus is the Son of God and Jesus is the best leader. This month, we are going to look at how Jesus is a redeemer and a friend. I am excited to share a bit of the music and activities we have been doing at chapel at this month’s “Mommy and Me” Day on Saturday, October 5!

LEE'S LATEST



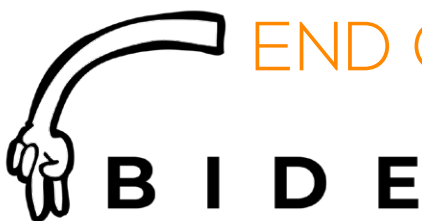
For most of us, life seems pretty ordinary. We wake up, make lunches for our kids, go to work, sleep, and repeat. Every now and again we'll do something interesting like cut our hair short or move to a new state. But for the most part, life seems ordinary. To spice things up I've decided to start solving mysteries in my spare time – like one of those crime-solving vicars on BBC.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he tells us that we wrestle with the “powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Wow! Was that when I was making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? Paul wants us to know that we are part of a cosmic struggle between good and evil – between the power of life and the

forces of darkness. Each day we wake up to trench warfare where the enemy seeks to do us real harm. Your life doesn't sound so boring now, does it?

Here's the good news: the enemy is already vanquished. Because of Jesus we are “more than conquerors.” In Ephesians, Paul helps us to fight the good fight by putting on the full armor of God.

I hope you'll join us as we continue our discussion based study of Ephesians every night of PEAK. Join us with an open Bible and an open heart.



END OF SUMMER REVIEW AND MORE!

There are some incredibly exciting things happening in Abide Student Ministry right now! Our



summer was filled with the Lord doing wonderful things in the lives of the students of LCPC, and we're so excited for this upcoming school year.

Over the summer we took almost a dozen students to the Dominican Republic who had never been before where we helped build a house for a family in need in La Romana. We had 13 new Jr. Highers come with us to Summer Camp on Catalina Island where students worshiped and learned about Jesus, went kayaking, paddle boarding, snorkeling, hiking, fishing, inner-tubing, and more! 25 high schoolers then attended Mount Hermon with us, our high school camp, where they heard the Gospel, played laser tag, came in first place in the week's team competitions, made friendships, memories, and friendship bracelets. At Mount Hermon, we had seven students make first-time commitments to follow Jesus.

There was also so much going on in Abide at home over the summer, from weekly Bible Studies at Tickle Tree café to pool parties at the Granier home every Wednesday night where Jim Granier prepared the best meal of the week for just about



Tuesday (a weekly after-school coffee and hang out time) attendance has reached upward of forty students on some Tuesdays, much to the peril of CFC teacher's ear drums. Our Abide High School and Jr. High programs have dozens of kids in attendance, and we have about 10 high schoolers actively volunteering in our Jr. High group as Disciple-

everyone in attendance. We had our annual Christmas in July party where we (finally) retired the old Christmas tree that we'd kept in the student center since December's “No Boys Allowed Christmas Extravaganza” event.

That brought us directly into the school year where our Tasty

**BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE ABIDE
IN HIM AND HE IN US, BECAUSE
HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT
1 JOHN 4.13**



ship Group leaders. We're so grateful to God for the grace and mercy He's poured out on our ministry over the last several months, and to you all for your prayers for our teens. They are so close to Jesus' heart!

The pictures are from the newly-renovated student center. Feel free to come and visit and see what's going on downstairs any time!

Josh

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

Pumpkin scones! Pumpkin bread! Mary Wilson's pumpkin chocolate chip cookies! Finally, October is here and with it, all the joy that pumpkin brings. Even better, you can share in the carbohydrate bliss on Wednesday, October 2, at PEAK. Children's Ministries will be holding its fourth bake sale to support our sponsorship of a little boy named Luis Caton through Compassion international. Even if you are trying to be healthy, please still visit the bake sale table in Koopmans Hall that night to see some of the letters from Luis and his very impressive drawings!

Even more thrilling than all things pumpkin is that fact that the month of our All Church Retreat is finally here! LCPC is taking it on the road, up to Big Bear, for a weekend long retreat from October 11-13 that will be filled with fellow-

ship, worship, and time to reflect on scripture and our church's vision for the future. Kristy and I are planning lots of activities for kids – including a scavenger hunt, family craft, a particularly goofy skit, and a special worship time that kids will be able to share and lead with the adults. Please join me in praying that this weekend will be one where our church grows closer to each other and especially to Christ.

One of my prayers for the children of LCPC is that they will grow in friendships where their faith will be encouraged and their thoughts and questions taken seriously. Sunday mornings and PEAK evenings are a great place for that to happen. So I hope that you will join us this month at either (or both) Wednesday night PEAK and Sunday morning programming at 9:00 and 11:00 AM. On Wednes-

days, our 4th-6th graders are talking about friendship and how we can learn from the example of Christ. Our preschool through 3rd graders are engaging in weekly treasure hunts as they learn about Jesus' many travels and miracles during his time on earth.

Sunday mornings are now focused on the life of David – think giants and harps and sheep! If you have any questions about our programming, please never hesitate to contact me at: ashley@lcpc.net or (818) 249-6137. May we all get together for worship and pumpkin treats soon!

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Ashley: *(Walking out the door of a two-year-old classroom)* "Bye my friends!"

2-Year-Old: "Bye Jesus!"

Ashley: *(Runs back inside to clarify some things)*



ALL CHURCH WORK DAY COMING

OCTOBER 19



Dear Friends,

Happy fall! It's exciting to feel the changing of the seasons and fall is my favorite time of year. I love the cool nights and that freshness in the air that speaks of cozy nights, warm drinks, and settling in.

I hope you've been enjoying the delicious meals and great opportunities to grow in your faith at PEAK on Wednesday evenings as well as the Sunday morning worship services.

Speaking of PEAK dinners, volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up. It's fun to help out and see friends and new comers alike. Students can earn community service hours and everyone can just enjoy doing their small part for our generous God. We serve Him when we care for others in His name. Contact Elaine Ross-Collins to sign up to help at PEAK.

For those who find it difficult to get to church due to the lack of a car, inability to drive at night, or any other reason, please give Janie Roach a call

and she will get her group of volunteers to help you. This applies to trips to the doctor, shopping, and other errands, too. Don't be shy! It's a pleasure to be of assistance. It's part of our Deacon mission. Janie's phone number is (818) 326-1609.

One significant area where we need help is for Sunday flowers in the Sanctuary. There is a flower chart in the Narthex, or as Lee says, the "lobby," where you can add your name to the list to provide flowers on Sunday. You're welcome to take the flowers home after the second service, or the Deacons will deliver them to someone in our church family who cannot come to church. We know those folks appreciate a short visit and the beauty of nature and love what the flowers represent.

Remember, we are here by the grace of God and He gives us the privilege of caring for His kingdom.

Blessings to you all,
Kerry

Please plan to help spiff up LCPC on Saturday, October 19, the next All Church Work Day. Come and leave 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 will be provided throughout the morning. Look for signups for your favorite task during coffee hour between Sunday services on the 6th and the 13th. For more information and to suggest tasks, contact Judy Trumbo at: jktrumbo@gmail.com.



It must be October. There are pumpkin products everywhere I look! Pumpkin coffee drinks, breakfast foods, snacks, and even dog treats. Who knew that dogs needed more pumpkin in their diets?

There's still room left for the **all-church retreat, "All In,"** at Pine Summit Christian Camp in Big Bear, October 11-13. We'd love to have you join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and inspiring speakers. The retreat will focus on ways we can be sharing our faith, growing God's kingdom, and deepening relationships within our church family. Add to that a smores around a campfire, a wild paintball game, outdoor activities during free time, worship, and an epic **Decades Dance Party!** You don't want to miss out on all this, do you?

If you are already signed up for the retreat, make sure to send a **retro photo** from your favorite decade, in your best attire, to the Fellowship Committee. You can scan the photo and email it to: fern7@sbcglobal.net, or take a picture of the photo with your cell phone and text it to: (818) 620-2375. We will be having some fun with these photos at the Decades party.

Are you enjoying the new **fall PEAK** schedule? The 7:30 PM end time is great for families with young kids who have early bedtimes, enabling some new families to participate. It's also a nice change for anyone who is an early to bed, early to rise type person! Andy's **Journey With Jesus** group and Lee's **Ephesians class** meet every Wednesday, but the **Creative Bible Journaling** class will only meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Don't miss the next one on October 2.

Look for the **Children's Ministries bake sale** during the PEAK dinner in Koopmans, October 2, to raise money for Luis, the child they sponsor through Compassion International. There will be an assortment of goodies to purchase and Ashley will have a photo of Luis so you can learn a bit about him.

We had a great turn out at the **Pizza in the Park Picnic** last month! We were excited to have so many CFC families join

us! One 3-year-old asked **Pat**, "What are you doing out of your office?" We do let Pat out to get some fresh air once in while! Everyone enjoyed **Christine Marks'** fabulous games, but the "Donut on the String" contest was a favorite. Younger guests enjoyed the donut piñata. **Micah Farrell** got so much candy that his eyes got wide and he yelled, "I have enough candy to last until Halloween!"

That same week, we had a spectacular **Kick-Off Sunday** service with the whole church family worshipping together in a single service. We were thrilled to meet the newest members of LCPC – **Rose Woo, Corine Nutting, Maria Fischer, Jeannine Marvin, Ann Scoggins, Cheryl Ecker, Amanda** and **Jim Granier**, and **Armineh** and **Carlo Manookian**. Some are old friends and some are new, and it's wonderful to officially welcome them all to the family. After the service, we had a delicious breakfast whipped up by the Fellowship Ministry. Thank you to chefs **Y Wyroski, Todd** and **Christine Marks, Linda Winfield, Jon Weingarten, Darrell Fernandez** and **Jim Larson**.



Gary Woodward, the Cathedral Choir, and the community group **The Early Rodders** also treated us to a fun pancake breakfast and classic car show last month to support the LCPC Choir Concert Fund. Everyone enjoyed the yummy food and the wide variety of cool hot rods!

CFC will be hosting a conference on our

campus October 17 for the CFC staff and about 350 preschool teachers. We will be bursting with visitors that day and there is no better place for them to gather than at the home of the famous **Center for Children!**

Have you seen the extreme makeover down in the **Student Center?** **Josh, Austin** and some **YAM** volunteers gave it a fresh paint job with bold lettering and graphics. They've been having over 30 kids each week for **Tasty Tuesdays** and wanted to surprise the kids with a new look for a new school year. Go check it out!

Doug and **Diana Given** are excited about grandbaby #4 arriving in February! **Wyatt, Jamie** and big sister **Kacie** will be welcoming another baby girl into their family and couldn't be happier.

If you visit the church any Saturday morning, you will find **Elaine Ross-Collins** working hard all over the church campus pulling weeds and cleaning out the planters. She is the lone ranger of the **Cornerstone Crew** – a volunteer group that keeps the grounds of our church looking pristine. She could sure use some help! If

you love our church and you have an even mildly green thumb, please contact Nancy in the office.

We are also looking for someone who can change out the beautiful homemade **quilted banners** in the Narthex for the different liturgical seasons throughout the year. Please contact Nancy if you are able

to help with this.

Save the date for the **Second Annual Lego Night**, November 14, from 6:00-8:00 PM in Koopmans. This event is for all ages! Dinner will be served and then teams will create Bible scenes out of Legos. The masterpieces from last year were magnificent and I can't wait to see what adults

and kids working together will engineer this year.

There is a little girl at CFC that says, "Bye Jesus" whenever **Ashley** leaves her classroom. Ashley assures her that she is not Jesus, but that Jesus hears her. Clearly Ashley has the Holy Spirit with her wherever she goes, and kids can tell! May we all have that same effect on people in our lives. Talk to you next month!





CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner

“As soon as...” This phrase can become a parent’s best friend. So many times we hear our children asking for something, or to do something, and we respond with a quick “No” because we can think of all the other things the child should be doing like cleaning their room, doing their homework, feeding the dog, etc.

“Mom/Dad can I...?” “No! You haven’t finished your homework yet. You always wait until the last minute!” Next time try saying it like this. “Sure, as soon as your homework is done.” The difference can be astounding. There may just be fewer quarrels and power struggles with your children and more responsibilities being taken care of.

This isn’t something that should be used every time, but it will be helpful when you want to enforce the concept that your children get to have things they want WHEN their responsibilities have been handled. There is something compelling about identifying what we can control. It is also a great chance to teach children cause and effect. Understanding cause and effect is a valuable skill at any age.

Learning that we get to do the things we want or get the things we want after our responsibilities are done helps to develop a good work ethic. I know that when my work is done I get paid or get to have fun. That is a pretty logical outcome to me. I encourage you to try this simple phrase, “As soon as...”

Pat

GUSD Elementary Schools Closed

All GUSD elementary schools will be closed October 25, but the Center for Children will be open full day for those in our after school program. Children may attend at no additional cost if Friday is a regular day for them. If you need to add Friday, the cost is \$75. All children in 1st-6th grade will need to bring a lunch that day.

Planning Ahead

- November 11:** Closed for Veterans Day
- November 21:** Thanksgiving Feast
- November 25-27:** Open all day for school age children
- November 28-29:** Closed for Thanksgiving Break

After School Activities

If your child is in our school age program and they wish to participate in after school activities, don’t forget that we pick up children until 4:00 PM from the elementary schools we normally serve. There is a form to fill out. This service is provided at no additional charge. Forms are available in the office or online at: www.Center4Children.com.



Halloween at the CFC

We love to celebrate lots of things here at the CFC, but we take a quiet approach to Halloween. We enjoy bats, cats, pumpkins, and even the skeletons that God gave us, but we don’t talk about witches, ghosts, or monsters. We will be having costumes out on the yard all week for the children to have fun with and to get them ready to see people in costumes.

At 4:00 PM on Thursday, October 31, we will have an on-campus Halloween parade for children ages 2 years –school age. We will march around the playground and invite parents to join us in the Courtyard. Children may bring their costumes with them and the staff will help them to change after nap or school. However, we will not help them change back to street clothes. If you don’t want your child to bring their costume, the teachers will have other things for them to wear during the parade.



Staff Development Day/Teacher Workshop

On Thursday, October 17, the CFC will be closed for a staff development day and teacher workshop. There will be no transportation to or from schools and no classes on campus. Please remember to plan ahead. Our instructor, Sharron Krull, will lead a teacher workshop for our staff and many other preschool teachers on our campus. Sharron will be talking about STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Throughout the day she will share new ideas to implement into our classroom curriculum. There will be about 350 preschool teachers and directors here on campus.



Mommy & Me Day

One of our favorite traditions around the Center for Children is our annual “Mommy and Me Day.” On October 5, Moms (or other female stand-ins 12 and older) spend the morning in their child’s classroom. Moms get to meet each other, get to know the staff better, and have a chance to have a lot of fun with their child. We will dance and sing, make things and build things, and play indoors and outside. So come ready at 9:00 AM for Chapel time with Ashley and then into the classrooms for a very full morning. We will wrap up our morning at 11:30 AM. This is for all children in Rooms 101-105 and 108. Please do not bring any children not currently enrolled in the preschool program.



CHURCH STAFF

Andy Wilson	Pastor andy@lcpc.net
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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
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Helen Tuma Teri Reid	Assistant Director Office Administrator



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

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

This October we'll continue to be ALL IN for God's kingdom work in our church, our community, and our world. We've been studying the Acts of the Apostles and learning to live out our faith in the strength God gives us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This month we'll talk about how to share our stories of faith, how we can step outside our comfort zones, and how to deal with conflict. We hope you'll be praying for yourselves and our whole congregation so that we would be ready to be His witnesses.

OCTOBER 6

Message by Lee Cook
"All In: Learning to Share"
For Personal Study: Acts 8

OCTOBER 20

Message by Lee Cook
"All In: Saul and Paul"
For Personal Study: Acts 9

OCTOBER 13

"ALL IN": ALL CHURCH RETREAT

One service only at LCPC, 10:00 AM

OCTOBER 27

Message by Lee Cook
"All In: Spreading the Net"
For Personal Study: Acts 10-11

*Let your friends know how God is changing lives.
Invite those without a church home to worship with you!*

