

A Christmas Musical Feast and Christmas Village

**Sunday, December 18,
2:30PM AND 5:00PM**

On December 18, we have a chance to see, taste, feel and celebrate Christmas with music and events for the whole family. Our Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present a concert of well-known holiday favorites – both sacred and secular. The program includes familiar carols including: “Joy to the World,” “The First Noel,” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” and “O Come All Ye Faithful.” The orchestra combines “Jingle Bells” and Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever” in a pastiche appropriately titled “Jingle Bells Forever.” The choir and orchestra take us on a “Musicological Tour Through the Twelve Days of Christmas” presenting each day in a different style of music ranging from classical to pop to contemporary accompanied by photos and videos. The music of “White Christmas” brings snow and snowballs to La Cañada in December. We take a video “Sleigh Ride.” And there are many others.

The concert is a multimedia event with movie excerpts, videos and pictures of favorite Christmas images and festivities sprinkled throughout. Our Drama Ministry will tie the concert music together with inspirational narration and skits, as well as performing skits in and around the Christmas Village.

In the interval between concerts, everyone can enjoy our Christmas Village in the NartheX and on the patio. There will be things to see and do for all ages – from Nativity ornaments, presents, trains and cookies to pictures with “the real” Santa Claus, hot chocolate and games and fun for all.

Every musical selection will be familiar to all. Every village event will be fun for all. This event presents an ideal opportunity for congregation members to introduce friends, neighbors and new people (of all ages) to our church. Each visitor will experience a high-quality, inspirational concert of familiar music and enjoy the festive Christmas Village on our campus. Due to the expected high demand, we are presenting two performances at 2:30PM and 5:00PM with the Christmas Village running from 3:30 to 5PM in the interval between concerts

Reserved seat tickets are \$20; regular admission tickets are \$15, tickets for children 12 and under are \$10 - available in advance by calling Lori MacDonald at (626) 794-1522, via the church office at (818) 790-6708, in the NartheX after worship during December and at the door. ☪

Advent Sundays

November 27, December 4, 11, 18
Throughout the season our services will feature a variety of music ensembles, choir, soloists and instrumentalists as well as Advent candle lighting.

Christmas Market

Sundays, December 4 & 11
Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by giving life-giving gifts to people who *really* need them.

Advent Day Apart

Saturday, December 10, 4-6:30PM

Family Advent Activity

Sunday, December 11, 4-6:30PM

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24
4:00 & 5:30PM

Led by the Children’s Choirs and designed for families with children of all ages, and grandparents too!

7:30PM

Praise Band and Candle Lighting

10:00PM

Worship with us as the Jack Lantz Little Big Band plays Christmas jazz; plus a pre-service concert commencing at 9:30 PM.

Christmas & New Year’s Days

Sundays, December 25, & January 1
One service only at 10AM

New Year’s Eve Healing & Wholeness Communion Service

Saturday, December 31, 7:00PM
Start your New Year celebration off right with our annual Communion Service which includes a special time for individual prayers, led by Rev. Dr. Chuck Osburn. Held in the Cook Prayer Chapel this year. ☪



Advent Preaching Series Begins November 27

The God who comes is a radical idea in world religion. God is the transcendent, the wholly other, the reality beyond all reality. God is distant, separate from us. The religious life then becomes a means of making ourselves acceptable to God. If we do well, then we might pursue the gods.

Christianity has a radically different paradigm. Rather than our pursuit of God, it is God who is pursuing us – a God who comes. You hear this truth over and over again in the Bible. With Adam and Eve, they heard the sound of the Lord in the Garden. The LORD came to Abraham to tell him, “Leave your country.” That same God also “put Abraham to the test.” God pursued Moses, “Moses! Moses!” Jacob heard God say to him, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” Prophets of the Old Testament spoke of the “Messiah that will come.” Jesus “heard a voice and saw the Spirit of God descending.” It’s a radical idea. The living God, whom we know in Jesus Christ, is pursuing us.

In this Advent preaching series, we will look at that pursuit, as it is seen in God’s creation of the heavens and earth, in God wrestling all night with Jacob in a riverbed in the middle of nowhere, in God’s call to Samuel in the middle of the night, in God’s ultimate coming in the womb of a young girl in Israel. This same divine pursuit continues to this very moment. To all who would be slow enough to be caught, a great adventure awaits. Gary Dennis ☞

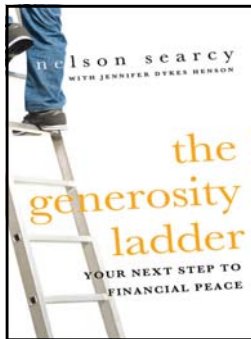
Tax Break Scheduled to Expire for Seniors

For some seniors, one appealing method of tax exempt giving is scheduled to expire at the end of 2011. Current tax law allows for persons over the age of 70 ½ to give donations to charity direct from their IRA account free of any income tax. These gifts must flow direct from the IRA to the charity (called a “direct transfer” or “charitable rollover”); rather than be processed through the donor. Up to \$100,000 can be given in this manner until December 31, 2011. The church business office will acknowledge confirmation of such gifts with a letter to the donor for income tax purposes. Consult with your accountant or tax advisor for additional information as to whether this option might be suitable for you or your family. ☞

Giving Via Text Message

In addition to the traditional means of contributing to LCPC (offering envelopes, credit cards, stock transfers, etc.), individuals wishing to support the ministry budget (central source of funding for all ministries and staff costs at LCPC) can now do so via text message. For more information, simply click the “Giving” tab at our website (www.lacanadapc.org) to check out our new online giving features. After a simple registration process (with password protection), each user can securely track their own online giving, as charged directly to their bank account, credit card, or debit card. In addition, donors using online giving can generate reports on that activity at their convenience... 24/7. Please contact our business office if we can assist you in learning more about these new features. ☞

Giving as You Always Hoped it Could Be!



Imagine having no financial worries, being able to help people in need and giving freely to causes much bigger than your own concerns. Sound impossible? It isn't. This is how God wants us to live. And these things

are attainable. *The Generosity Ladder* is a must-read for anyone who desires to handle money with excellence. This insightful guidebook clarifies what the Bible really says about honoring God with our finances and offers a step-by-step plan to save, spend, and invest in a responsible, godly way. We encourage you to purchase a copy at your favorite bookstore, or simply contact Dave Mason, LCPC's Business Administrator (dave@lacanadapc.org) to receive a complimentary copy. ☞

LCPC Gets a Percentage of Purchases at Amazon.com

As you may have heard, California Governor Jerry Brown has signed legislation repealing the law that had forced Amazon.com to terminate our California Associates membership.

We are pleased to tell you that LCPC has now re-activated its account, and we are once again receiving a percentage of your purchases at Amazon.com. Just in time for your Christmas shopping!

Go to the bottom, right-hand side of the home page of our website (www.lacanadapc.org) to log into Amazon.com and make your purchases. ☞

Shop at Ralphs?

A percentage of what you spend will be donated to LCPC if you designate LCPC as a recipient. This must be done annually on or after Sept 1 and can be done by logging in at www.ralphs.com or by picking up a letter at the business office that can be scanned with your Ralphs reward card at the cash register. ☞

Small Groups are Forming and Expanding Now!

Following Jesus is so much easier when you are on the journey with others. It makes a difference. There are many opportunities at LCPC to connect and be Christ's person in the world (and to each other!) through the Christian community of Small Groups.

The Small Group Ministry is exploring/gathering curriculum and training leaders of new small groups this fall. If you are in a small group and would like more options for studies and group content or are looking for additional participants, let us help you. INFO: Laurie Foes, laurie@lacanadapc.org. ☞

Adult Class Offerings

womengathering Bible Study

[Thursdays, 6:05-7:05AM, LCPC Library
INFO: acrock143@gmail.com]
All women are invited to join us!

Sunday Morning Faith Awareness Classes

9:15 AM class with Betsy Merchant & Roberta Woodberry
11:00 AM class with Wes Beverlin & John Frederick

Women in the Word

[MONDAYS, 9:30-11AM, LCPC Library
INFO: Martha Brumfield (818) 952-1374; Janet Eddy (818) 244-9027; Lee Johnson (818) 790-6972; or Shirley Myers (818) 790-1528]

Join us as we follow the current preaching series using the study guides (\$5).

Pastor's Bible Study

[WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-7:30 AM, Fellowship Hall; INFO: gloria@lacanadapc.org]

Join Pastor Gary Dennis for this in-depth, multi-media look at the following Sunday's sermon. ☞

Parent Education



Come join the 33-year legacy of LCPC Parent Education by joining 1 of our 13 classes! If you have a child 0-18 years of age, we have a class for you! Our reputable staff includes: a marriage & family therapist, parent coach, pediatrician, literacy coach, bilingual instructor, mom of six, and many former pre-school, elementary and high school instructors--all of whom are REAL PARENTS with REAL KIDS!

“Why We Love LCPC Parent Education!” Participants Share Impact the Program Has Made on Their Lives

Coming to Parent Ed is a wonderful boost each week! My son loves it, and I love the warm and supportive community of parents sharing with each other and the tips and tools on becoming a more effective, and more connected parent.

Bridie Mac Donald, Los Angeles

LCPC Parent Ed. has provided not just a place for our children to grow, but a place for me to grow as a mother and a woman.

Kim Murphy, Pasadena

I feel that this program and the beautiful people in it have touched my life and have moved me closer to the person I have always wanted to be.

Carmen Del Castillo, La Cañada

Parent Education Class offers me the opportunity to learn from experienced educators and share parenting techniques and challenges with other parents, in order to achieve a healthy and balanced relationship with my child.

Jack Huang, Pasadena

The solutions to the never ending parenting challenges we face have been a lifesaver. Both the teacher and my fellow students in what I call, "Mommy School" have helped our family address sibling rivalry, tantrums, chores and more. And the class has helped me focus on putting fun back into our days and to enjoy this treasured time of life.

Wendy L. Moore, Porter Ranch

I am in my 10th year of involvement with the Parent Ed. program. Eight of those years were parent/child classes with my 3 kids. My children loved their time in the program, especially the art projects. I learn so much as a mom and as a Christian being surrounded by wonderful parents that are going through

the same struggles that I am. I have dear friends today that I met in the program and plan on continuing for many years to come.

Dr. Katrina Harbers, La Crescenta

If parenting had a handbook, LCPC Parent Education would be it! From the support and fellowship to guidance and nurturing, the parent education experience has made me a better parent.

Jennifer Stanton, Altadena

Parent Education is my once-a-week pick-me-up! It has provided emotional support, spiritual support, and endless amounts of useful child-rearing information.

Teresa Dilbeck, Altadena

Thank Heavens for LCPC Parent Education! The classes have been invaluable! The staff is amazing, the teachers are incredible and the camaraderie with the other moms is priceless! I feel much less alone as I try to make my way through this ever-changing, frustrating, blessed, and delight-filled thing called motherhood!

Kricket Anthony, Burbank

Sometimes raising teenagers is like wandering in the desert! Parent Ed. is like finding an oasis.

The wonderful support has truly been a Godsend for me.

Kim Bracken, Granada Hills, CA

For 33 years we have provided quality parenting education, rich resources, and an atmosphere of loving respect that fosters friendships which last a lifetime. Additionally our reputable staff is committed to supporting each of you on your unique parenting journey.

Our Volunteer Board is comprised of 13 devoted women who are also participants in our Parent Education Program. These women and their families have dedicated their time and talents to the program. This year the Board will be working on several events.

Save the date **March 2, 2012** which is our annual **Spring Gala Auction!** The Spring Auction is not only a great night out, but it directly supports our program expenses. Your participation in this event is truly appreciated.

All “Parent/Child” classes are held in our Children’s Pavilion or our newly renovated Room 404. Also our “Parent Only” Classes will continue in the beautiful Family Life Center—where we have been the past four years.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or suggestions. Our Director (Anne Bierling) and Administrative Assistant (Sandy Ravana) are located in the Ministry Hub at the bottom of the campus.

Important upcoming dates to note:

Nov 9/10 No Tween or Teen Classes
Nov 11 Veterans Day Holiday - (Program closed)
Nov 21-25 Thanksgiving Holiday - (Program closed)
Dec 12 - Jan 9 Christmas Break for Parent Only Classes
Dec 19 - Jan 8 Christmas Break for Parent/Child Classes
Jan 10 All Classes resume
Jan 16 2nd Semester Tuition Due (MLK Day) ☺

Parent Ed Impacts Families Globally

For 33 years, LCPC Parent Education has been committed to impacting families both locally (through our parent education classes) and globally (through the 10% of our total fundraising we donate to selected outreaches around the world). In 2011, we were able to make significant contributions to: *Mending Kids*, *Generosity Water and Wild Hope*.

Our \$1000 donation to *Mending Kids International* allowed their organization to provide four surgeries for children in Africa who otherwise would have gone without needed medical attention. All four children had their club feet corrected – which means all the difference in the world for their personal futures.



Our \$1000 donation to *Wild Hope* enabled missionaries in Tanzania to continue the important work of empowering African women. These women are trained to establish skills & trades by making beaded jewelry & ornaments--so they can flee lives of poverty and prostitution to suitably provide for their children.



Our support of *Generosity Water* resulted in the digging of a new well that was built last February in Tinkong, Ghana (see the placard on the photo below). This well will provide clean, fresh water for a village of 750 for the next 20 years...which is especially important since we know statistically a child dies every 15 seconds throughout the world due to contaminated water.



To all of you who so faithfully supported our Generosity Water Bottles sales and our Spring Gala—THANK YOU! Your faithfulness to us has allowed us to bless 400 local parents and children and approximately 800 international parents & children in 2011! This joint effort allowed us to be true to our 2011 theme: “To Shine Like Stars in the Universe...as We Hold Out the Precious Word of Life (Phil 2).” There’s nothing more dazzling than that! ☺

Children's Ministry



Family Advent Activity: Sunday, December 11

All families are invited to join us for a special Children's Ministry Advent Event (4-6:30PM). We will start the evening with the Children's Choir Christmas Concert at 4 PM. Then we will move to the Fellowship Hall for a meaningful craft and devotional. Lastly, we will share dinner together and your family will have the opportunity to take their annual "Nativity" photo. The cost is \$10/adult, \$5/child (children 2 and under free), and space is limited, so sign up early. RSVP to Heather (x252 or heather@lcanadapc.org)

by December 5 and contact Karen (x202 or karen@lcanadapc.org) for more information.

Birthday Party for Jesus: Sunday, December 18

Children in the red, yellow and blue rooms (3 years-K) will be dropped off and picked up in their regular classrooms, but will come together for a large group music and story time. We will also celebrate Jesus' birth with an exciting craft, singing Happy Birthday to Jesus and having cupcakes. Preschoolers will have the wonderful opportunity to help children in need by bringing a gift for a baby. Gifts will be given to Olive View Hospital for families in need with newborns. Help your preschooler pick out a new, unopened baby item from the list below to bring to the party. Wrapping the gifts is not necessary. Suggested gift ideas are: Undershirts, Hats, Socks/booties, Bibs, Bottles, Receiving Blankets, Baby nail clippers, Sleepers, Pacifiers, Disposable Diaper packages and Baby wipes. Please do not bring toys. Contact Heather (x252 or heather@lcanadapc.org) for more information.



Fall Family Feast: Thursday, November 10, 4:30-6:00PM

All families with Story Seekers (3-K) are invited to come join us for an old-fashioned family potluck! There will be fun for kids and adults. RSVP to Heather (heather@lcanadapc.org).

Youth Ministry

Faith Field, Sr. High Director

It is so inspiring to observe people that choose to be generous with the gifts that God has given them. Over the last few years our Youth Worship Team has expressed a strong desire to use a "real" drum set on Sunday morning rather than the electric ones provided. The students who play the drums aren't used to the feel and sound of the electric drums and the other musicians seemed to share their opinions.

This was a difficult request due to the cost of drums along with the shield we needed to keep the noise level down. Even so, we explored prices and brought our request to our Youth Ministry Support team to get their opinion on the matter. To make a long story short it seemed that spending money on drums was going to be an unwise investment, and we all decided that the money could be put to better use.

Although, everyone understood and agreed on the decision made, our students were still a little disappointed. I'm happy to say that the story didn't end there. Much to our surprise, a young couple in the church got word of our desire and decided to provide EVERYTHING we had hoped for. Several hundreds of dollars later we had our drums with all the accessories set up and ready to use Sunday morning.

Continued at top of next column

Youth Ministry

Our students are thrilled and I was personally impacted by the couple's generosity.

I believe that their act of generosity reflects the heart of God. I was compelled to think about my own life and ask the question "how generous am I with the gifts God has given me"? It also made me think about the Church and how important it is to give to one another and lastly it was a sweet reminder of how God generously extends to us his grace, mercy and love.

LCPC Youth Ministry is thankful to be a part of a generous Church that participates in worshiping a generous God. ☞

Jim Staniels, Jr. High Director

Teens have a reputation of not being able to think about others. Many TV shows display an alarming self-centeredness. I would like to tell you why I look forward to our CSM mission trip in December every year.

As Christmas rolls around and most students are writing long lists of what they want for Christmas, our church has tried to encourage them to think of others with projects like Christmas Market. Along those lines is our yearly trip to the inner city. Students give up a whole weekend and go to South Central. They take a tour and eat different ethnic foods, spending their days working in soup kitchens and spending time at convalescent homes.

Last year we had a great group that spent their Saturday afternoon at a convalescent home. We played a few games with the residents, including Bingo. This Bingo game became a real adventure when we realized that their only Bingo set had missing pieces and ones that were impossible to read. The confusion and struggle that the students went through to still make it work was amazing in itself, but their reaction afterwards was even more so. They all chipped in and even skipped some of their In & Out on the way home to give money to buy a new Bingo set for a bunch of people they would probably never see again in their lives.

These are moments where I love my job, and see how La Canada Presbyterian Church's attitude of giving and caring for others is catching on even with our teens. Praise God for little things like this that show God is changing lives through this church! ☞

Inviting Newcomers to Community-wide LCPC Events

This year, LCPC set out to put on three community-wide events in order to invite newcomers. Through these events, we strive to meet one of LCPC's primary goals: reaching out to the 60-80% of people who aren't part of a worshipping community.

First: Suit Yourself Day

The first event, "Suit Yourself Day," was held on Sunday, May 15 and was a big success with over 2000 articles of clothing and 500 suits. At times, there were cars lined up in the parking lot with people waiting to drive through and donate their suits, including over 80 first time visitors to LCPC's campus.

Second: KidUnique Workshop

More than a hundred parents came to LCPC on Friday, September 23, for the second event, a *KidUnique* Workshop presented by author and speaker, Dan Webster. Drawing upon his own funny and



touching life-stories to illustrate lessons about parenting, Webster charged parents to seek out five adult mentors with whom their kids could have meaningful relationships.

Next!: Christmas Concert & Village

December 18, led by Jack Lantz and LCPC Ovations. Let's invite our friends and neighbors and make it our best event ever! ☞

Christmas Market: Giving Gifts that Make a Difference

LCPC's annual Christmas Market is coming again this December! Partnering with over 20 of our ministry partners, LCPC will offer "alternative" Christmas gifts. On December 4 and 11, through an order form in the mail, or through the church website (lancanadapc.org/market), choose from dozens of gifts that make a difference: backpacks for school kids, build supplies for new homes, medical supplies for the sick.

Christmas Market is a great way to introduce your friends and neighbors to LCPC and issues of faith. "What are these 'alternative' Christmas gifts all about?" neighbors, teachers, or friends may ask if they receive one. One possible answer to those who don't go to church? "One of our goals as a church is to make a difference in the world by loving and serving those in need. It's that same deep desire people have—to make a difference—when they volunteer, give to charities, or do community service. For those who follow Jesus, we try to be like him, which means caring for people in need— those who are poor, marginalized, or sick." ☞

OUTREACH 2011 Calendar

★ Go Journeys! ★

MON
21
NOV

Oasis of Hollywood 11:00AM-4PM Put together Thanksgiving baskets at Oasis of Hollywood.

TUE
22
NOV

WED
23
NOV

Oasis of Hollywood 2:00-6:00PM Distribute Thanksgiving baskets to Oasis of Hollywood families and their kids.

SAT
10
DEC

Door of Hope Time TBD Buy a parent's wish list for their kids; then join parents and kids for Christmas cookies and crafts.

★ Christmas Market ★

SAT
4
DEC

SAT
11
DEC

9:00AM-12:30PM Choose from dozens of gifts that make a difference: backpacks for school kids, build supplies for new homes, medical supplies for the sick. Our outreach partners, who benefit from these gifts, will be there to answer

Gone! Elizabeth House Go Journey

In mid-October, a group of women visited Naomi, mom-to-be of twins and resident of Elizabeth House, a home for pregnant women in crisis. They brought a cake and bought gifts from her registry at Target, celebrating the new life inside her, and the new life she had received through Elizabeth House. Naomi and the other residents in the house led the way in making food and punch, playing games, and giving out prizes.

Two of the women who attended the shower from LCPC had either given birth to twins or had twin grandchildren. They took a special interest and it was GREAT conversation for Naomi to hear their experiences!

Since that evening, Naomi gave birth to a boy and girl: Vincent and Lea – both weighed around 5 pounds! Vincent still having a little trouble breathing and is in NICU, so please keep him and Naomi in your prayers. Elizabeth House is one of LCPC's local outreach partners, supported by your generous donations through Faith Missions. ☞



Adult Formation: Women's Ministry

Megan Katerjian

Join a Women's Small Group

Looking to go deeper with friends and faith? We are calling all women at LCPC to prayerfully consider joining a small group. Find out the gifts Christ offers when we are transparent and authentic with each other, study God's word together, pray for one another, and make new friends!!



Each small group will be shaped by its members: Want to meet once a week or every other week? Commit to 8 weeks, 6 months, or longer? Study scripture from Sunday's sermon or a book of the Bible? Share what's *really* going in your lives? Serve together at one of LCPC's outreach partners?

You decide. Together.

To jumpstart each group, Megan Katerjian, Director of Outreach and Adult Formation, will meet with the group for 6-8 weeks. During that time, the group will form its vision, share testimonies, rotate leadership each week, and continue to meet for or as long as you choose after that time.

To find out more, visit the Small Groups table in the Narthex, come Tea-cation on November 5th, or contact megan@lacadapc.org or (818) 790-6708, X628. ☞

Women's Bible Studies

Women in the Word

Mondays at 9:30-11:30AM

Join this group of women studying Scripture from the pastor's preaching series.

womengathering Bible Study

Thursday 6:05-7:05 AM

Join this group of women (*morning people, generally in their 40s and 50s*) studying Scripture from the pastor's preaching series. ☞

Tea-cation



A time for
women to
retreat
renew
rejoice

Saturday
November 5
2:00-4:00 pm

Fellowship Hall
Demarest Family Life Center

\$10 for tea
\$5 for childcare
(reserve by **October 30**)

Music by
Janet and Judy

Questions? Contact Megan
megan@lacadapc.org

A Life that Counts

Chris Welch is going to share a discipline that has changed the shape of her life in 2011: to gratefully count God's presence in her everyday life, moment by moment.



Chris Welch

CHRIS WELCH loves teaching Scripture and watching it take root in people's lives. A mother, pastor's wife and former junior high teacher, Chris brings a wealth of normal everyday experiences to illustrate her Biblical teaching.



Everyday Sacred

Spiritual Practices for Ordinary Life



Do you long to hear God's voice in your day-to-day life?

Do you desire to notice God's activity, even in the most ordinary circumstances?

This 6-week series is designed to help you deepen your sense of intimacy with God while exploring different ways of praying.

Register Today!

Note: New begin date!

Classes Begin Sunday, October 30

9:15-10:30 AM

Cook Prayer Chapel

Each week you will have an opportunity to learn about and then experience a classic Christian practice.

Discover something you would like to continue individually or with your small group!

Everyday Sacred: Spiritual Practices for Ordinary Life

Spiritual disciplines are a way of choosing to be open to God before hard circumstances may press us in this direction - Alan Fadling

Do you long to hear God's voice in your everyday life? Do you desire to notice God's activity, even in the most ordinary circumstances? Would you like to know that purpose can be found in even the most seemingly mundane of activities and tasks? This six-week series is for you!

God longs to make himself more known to each one of us. Most of us know this, but we still struggle with ways to internalize that reality. How do we open ourselves to transformation by God? How can we become aware of the new thing God wants to do in us as individuals and what God wants to do in the world? Spiritual practices (or disciplines) invite us to discover a deepened sense of intimacy with God. Another way of saying it is that we learn the difference between *knowing about* God and *experiencing relationship with* God.

Each week one practice of prayer will be introduced and presented in a way that makes it approachable and accessible, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. Teachers Shelley Irvine, Al VanDeventer, Christy Brink, Rob Tribken and Chris Murphy will provide an overview to explain the practice and its use in the history of Christian tradition. Class participants will be guided through an experience of the practice in a way that will support listening for, recognizing and responding to the ways God is inviting you into ministry in your sphere(s) of influence. Come away from this series more equipped to be Christ's Person in the world and with ideas for one or more of the spiritual practices that you'd like to make a part of your everyday life or practice with your small group. This next step can help you grow in confidence and cooperation with God's purpose for you!

This class begins on Sunday, October 30, and meets through December 14 on Sundays from 9:15 - 10:30AM in the Cook Prayer Chapel. (We won't meet on Sunday, November 27 due to the Thanksgiving weekend.) Register by email at shelley@lacadapc.org or at ext. (818) 790-6708, X216. ☪

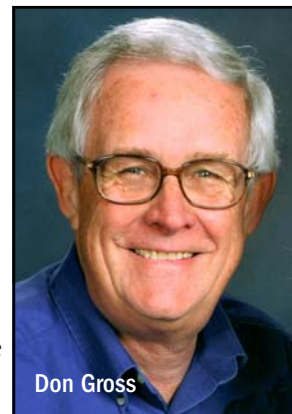
Become aware of God's presence that has been there all along!

Can You Hear Me Now? *Don Gross*

Remember the classic Verizon Wireless ad? When I first saw it, the thought hit me, "Isn't that what God is saying to His people all the time?" God is calling us - but do we have our cell phones turned on? Are we listening?

In our unbelievably busy world, hearing God speak to us is an almost impossible task. But if we really want to hear God, *Lectio Divina in Community* is a marvelous way to begin. When I retired 13 years ago and went back to Glendale Community College to study music formally, during the first week of music history, we explored the role of Gregorian chant in the liturgical cycles of the Roman Catholic Church. We learned that there are two main types of religious services - the Office and the Mass. While most of us were familiar with the Mass, the Office was new, at least for me. First codified in 520 AD, the Office, or Canonical Hours, is a series of eight prayer services celebrated at various times during the day. The most important ones are Matins (sung before daybreak), Lauds (at sunrise), and Vespers (at sunset) immediately followed by Compline. *Continued on next page*

[Don and his wife, Gwen, are LCPC members. Don is an ordained Elder in the PCUSA and currently plays bass clarinet with the LCPC Orchestra. His much earlier claim to fame was teaching Jr. High Sunday School for eight years during Chuck Osburn's Jr. High ministry days.]



Don Gross

Adult Formation: Spiritual Guidance Ministries Shelley Irvine

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If carving out eight times a day to listen to God might be a bit ambitious, how about once a day, or once a week, or even once a month? *Lectio Divina in Community* is just that – a time to turn off the world, and simply listen for what God is saying to you. For more than a year now, I never cease to be amazed at what I “hear” during *Lectio Divina in Community*. Focusing on just one Scripture passage, read aloud several times from both traditional and contemporary translations, opens you not only to what is written, but also to what God wants you to hear.

Unlike the Monks in the monastery, in *Lectio Divina in Community* the words “in Community” take on a whole new meaning. Our infinite God has a different message for each person in the group. Sharing those personal messages with the group is one of the most special aspects of our time together.

Lectio Divina in Community has “sensitized” me to be more aware of listening for God’s voice whether I’m working in my garden, or driving the freeway, or wherever I might be. Now when I read and study the Bible, I slow down and don’t focus on how much I can read, but on what is God trying to say to me, and am I listening. If we truly want to be “Christ’s person in the world,” we need to listen not only to what God is saying to us, but also to what God’s people who haven’t heard the “good news” are saying to us. *Lectio Divina in Community* is a wonderful place to start. ☪

Lectio Divina in Community **Listening for the Holy with the** **“Ear of our Heart”**

We are called to be Christ’s People in the World, but sometimes we’re aren’t sure how God may be asking us to do that. If you are yearning for a way to hear the “still small voice of God”, if you are looking for a way to engage the question of “what’s next?” then *Lectio Divina* is one place to begin.

Lectio Divina, or sacred reading, is an ancient Christian art form. It is a slow, contemplative way of reading and praying the scriptures. With a selected passage, each practitioner is invited to listen to, reflect on, respond to, and then rest in the Word of God. In this practice we attend “with the ear

of our hearts” to the “still small voice of God”. This once-a-month gathering is open to men and women at any age or stage. If you consider yourself a “novice” with the Bible, but know that there is something there for you, this is a great place to start. If you already have a deep knowledge and love of the scriptures, this is a life-giving way to encounter God’s word in a way that may be new to you.

Join us on Thursday, November 16, and Thursday, December 15, from 9:00 to 10:00AM in the Cook Prayer Chapel. This is an open group and no previous experience is required. For more information, contact Shelley Irvine at shelley@lacadapc.org or 818.790.6758 ext. 216. ☪

Dreams: God’s Forgotten **Language**



Could God be speaking through your dreams? Dr. Sara Dennis is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Certified Jungian Analyst who has taught and led groups on dreams and ways to look for the Divine in the human soul. Dr. Dennis will lead you in exploring dreams from the Bible, the early church, historical figures, and her own counseling experience. Those who are interested have the option to form a dream group at the end of this three-part lecture series.

This group begins on Monday, January 16, for 3 weeks and will meet from 10:00 - 11:30 AM in Cook Prayer Chapel. Registration will begin in December. For more information, contact Sara Dennis at lucyisn@charter.net. ☪

An Advent Day Apart



It's not too soon to begin thinking about how you'd like to experience celebrating Jesus' birth this year! Too often we find ourselves overwhelmed and frustrated with the busy-ness and demands of the holiday season. We promise ourselves that we're going to do it different "next time," but somehow it all gets away from us. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, December 10, and make room at "the inn of your heart".

This one-day retreat from 9AM - 3PM will be held at the beautiful campus of Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy (pictured above) and is designed to support and encourage you in the practices of silence and stillness before God.

Whether you are a long-time practitioner or new to the idea, this day will provide you with the tools and resources to consider how God might be making himself known to you.

Come celebrate the season of Advent: that period of time that invites us to make room for Jesus, watch for His coming, and say "yes" to the extraordinary.

To register, go to (www.lacadapc.org). For more information, contact Shelley Irvine at shelley@lacadapc.org or (818) 790-6708, X216. ☪

Growing Families: Raising a KidUnique through Service

Over the last few months, Growing Families has explored how parents can raise a "KidUnique" - a child mentored and supported by adults to discover their unique gifts and identity.

On **Sunday, November 20 at 9:30AM**, we invite you to join us for the last forum in this series: "Raising a KidUnique through Service." Whether you've joined us each month or are hearing about Growing Families for the first time, this forum will expand the way you think about raising your children. Learn from the experience of families, youth leaders, and community leaders who volunteer as a family or support their child's service projects. Hear how young people develop leadership skills, generosity, and different perspectives on life through service.

This series has been based on the work of Dan Webster, the first speaker in this series and author of the book KidUnique.

For more information about Growing Families, contact Megan Katerjian: megan@lcanadapc.org or (818) 790-6708, X628.



RED CROSS

Blood Drive ^{AT} LCPC

SUN, NOV 6, 8AM-2PM

Fellowship Hall

INFO: (818) 790-6708

LCPC Calendar of Events

November 2011

4-5	Synod Assembly on LCPC campus
5	"Tea-cation"
6	Election of new Elders/Deacons "The Welcome" Tour Communion Sunday Red Cross Blood Drive
13	"Begin the Journey Here" one-day class
15	Companions
17	Lectio Divina in Community
20	Growing Families
21	Session meeting
24-25	Church offices closed for Thanksgiving
27	1st Sunday in Advent
29	Presbytery meeting

December 2011

4	2nd Sunday in Advent Christmas Market "The Welcome" Tour
10	Advent Day Apart
11	3rd Sunday in Advent/Communion Sunday Christmas Market Family Advent Activity
13	Companions
15	Lectio Divina in Community
18	4th Sunday in Advent A Christmas Musical Feast & Christmas Village
19	Session meeting
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day
31	New Year's Eve Healing & Wholeness Communion Service

at La Cañada Presbyterian Church

Life



Janet Boggs, Judy Brock, Andrew Pratt & friends treated the congregation to bluegrass-country music in the worship services on Sunday, October 9.



Youth Ministry staff, students, and others took a trip to Kenya this summer!

If you would like to sign up for our final "Begin the Journey Here" class (Sunday, November 13, 2:00-5:30PM) for 2011, please contact Barbara Pettit, (818) 790-6708, X215 or Barbara@lacanadapc.org. This class (a requirement for LCPC membership) is specifically designed to help you identify where you are on the journey of following Jesus and discovering a "next step." As you can see from the photos below, classes are casual in nature and you get to know the pastors up-close-and-personal.



La Cañada Press

La Cañada Presbyterian Church
626 Foothill Blvd.
La Cañada, CA 91011

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Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the **PURPOSE** of the La Cañada Presbyterian Church is to invite people to follow Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, engage them in Christian community, and equip them to worship and serve God in the church and in the world.

La Cañada Presbyterian Church

626 Foothill Blvd., La Cañada, CA 91011
(818) 790-6708 (office); (818) 790-9264 (fax)
www.lacnadapc.org

Email addresses: (person's first name@lacnadapc.org)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gary Dennis (x221)
Business Administrator: Dave Mason (x232)
Associate Pastor: Rev. Dr. Chuck Osburn (x229)
Associate Pastor: Rev. Jim Milley (x217)
Associate Pastor: Rev. Kristin Leucht (x201)
Director, Parent Education: Anne Bierling (x214)
Director, Outreach & Adult Formation: Megan Katerjian (x628)
Director, Music & Worship Arts: Jack Lantz (x223)
Assistant Director, Music & Worship Arts: Andrew Pratt (x241)
Director, Children's Music Ministry: Judy Brock (x222)
Director, Handbell Choir: Kemp Smeal (x251)
Director, Drama Ministry: Justin Fisher (x304)
Director, Jr. High Ministry: James Staniels (x206)
Director, High School Ministry: Faith Field (x228)
Director, Children's Ministry: Karen Roddy (x202)
Director, Infant Care Center: Diana Urteaga (x225)
Director, Spiritual Guidance Ministries: Shelley Irvine (x216)
Director, Communications: Camille Tucker (x621)
Wedding Coordinator: Mary Emily Myers (818) 952-1373
Clerk of Session: Marian Hiller, thehillier2@sbcglobal.net
Lay Counseling Referral Line: X430

Milestones

Births:

Cassidy Allen Landrum and Jake Griffin Landrum, born August 15 to Janet & Kevin Landrum. Proud grandparents are LCPC members, Diane & John Landrum.

Thor Nicholas Palko, born July 30, to LCPC members, Carl & Linda Palko, and sisters, Molly, Sasha and Ruby.

Weddings:

Monica Anne Young & Mark William Skeeahan (9/24/11)

Deaths:

Margaret Hastings, longtime LCPC member, wife of Lew Hastings, Sr. & mother of Lew Hastings, Jr.

Holly MacDonald, Nancy Myers' cousin.

GO GREEN! Every single newsletter distributed digitally (online/email), rather than printed and mailed through the postal services saves approximately \$1. We print approximately 900, 12-page newsletters for distribution every two months. If you would like to help us in these difficult economic times by switching to receiving an email version of this newsletter, please contact Gloria Hill at (818) 790-6708, x220 or Gloria@lacnadapc.org. Thank you. *Every little bit helps!*