

Annual Parent Ed Gala: “Opa! A Night Out in Old Town Benefitting Parent Education”

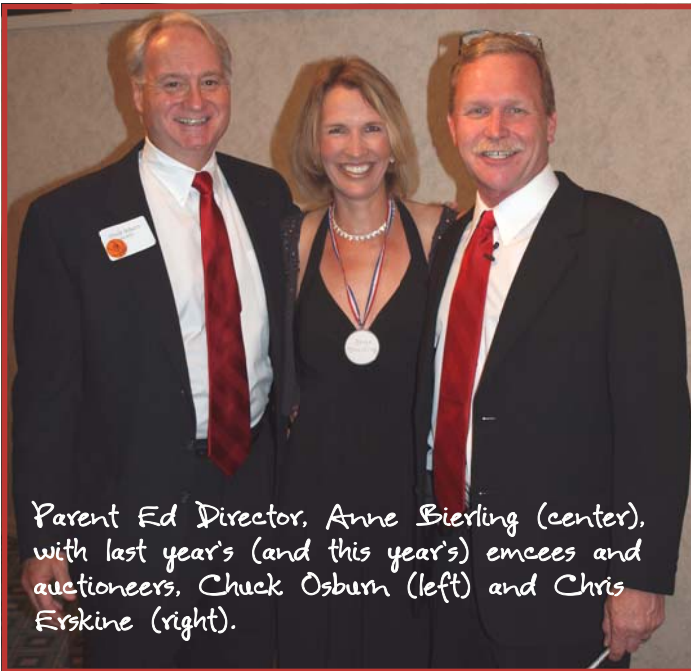
Friday, March 25, 6:00 PM

Rococo Room at Café Santorini in Old Town Pasadena

Parent Education is excited to announce its annual spring social and fundraiser! The evening will include a light Mediterranean feast, drinks, silent and live auctions, live music, and presentation of our first ever “Shining Star Award” to Mr. Dennis Carpenter.

To support our event through underwriting or donation of a live/silent auction item, please contact Sue Mercer at mercersue@att.net and to purchase tickets contact Kathy Baumann at kathybaumann@hotmail.com. Thanks for your continued support of our ministry!

Cost: Tickets for the gala are \$75 if purchased by March 11, and \$85 until March 18. ☪



Parent Ed Director, Anne Bierling (center), with last year's (and this year's) emcees and auctioneers, Chuck Osburn (left) and Chris Erskine (right).

All Church Camp “Enjoy the Vacation of a Lifetime!”

“It's the most wonderful week of the year.”

The best gift you can give to your family this year is a week in the Santa Cruz Mountains at LCPC All Church Camp (AUG 13-19).

INFO: Paige or Chris Dunbar, paigedunbar@mac.com ☪

Friday Forums Presents: “The Bankruptcy of Moral Relativism”

Friday, February 4, 7-9PM

Worship Arts Center

“Moral relativism—the idea that there are no absolutes when it comes to right and wrong—is deadly to our culture, and deadly to the Gospel.” — Greg Koukl

In this talk, Greg Koukl exposes the myth of moral neutrality and provides compelling arguments—including the seven fatal flaws of relativism—to show why neither individual preference nor cultural convention is adequate to make sense of ethics. He then suggests practical tactics you can use to show others they don't really believe morality is purely an individual matter.

Greg is the Founder and President of Stand to Reason, an organization aimed at building Christian thinkers for the public defense of the faith. He received his Masters in Philosophy of Religion and Ethics at Talbot School of Theology (graduating with high honors) and his Masters in Christian Apologetics from Simon Greenleaf University. He is an adjunct professor in Christian Apologetics at Biola University. He's hosted his own radio talk show for over 20 years advocating clear-thinking Christianity and defending the Christian worldview.

Greg has debated atheist Michael Shermer on Hugh Hewitt's national radio show, and did a one-hour national television debate with Deepak Chopra on Lee Strobel's "Faith Under Fire." Greg has been quoted in U.S. News & World Report and the L.A. Times. An award-winning writer, Greg is author of Tactics-A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions, Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air with Francis J. Beckwith, and Precious Unborn Human Persons. Greg has published more than 180 articles and has spoken on nearly 60 university and college campuses both in the U.S. and abroad.

Friday Forums is a monthly series (October-May) of contemporary issues and present Christian views and perspectives for discussion and dialogue. Come hear Christian speakers with related expertise on significant present-day concerns. Seek a better understanding and a deeper, more enlightened response of faith. Review, Reflect, Respond ☪



Guest speaker:
Greg Koukl



From Where I Sit . . .

Pastor Gary Dennis

If you receive the newsletter by email, be sure to come to the Ovarions Art Series offering this Sunday afternoon. It's dueling pianos, played by Jack Lantz and Kemp Smeal. It's going to be a great event, this Sunday afternoon, January 23, at 4PM in the sanctuary.

Now that all the numbers have been added and subtracted, both giving and expenses, we know what happened financially in our ministry last year. You gave 5% more to the operating budget in 2010 than you gave in 2009; the first year since 2005 that giving to operating has increased. That's really good news. Our expenses exceeded giving by \$17,888, which is pretty close on a two-million-plus operating budget. We so appreciate your generosity.

We have had a great response from both our children's and youth programs for winter camp at Forest Home. Both the children and junior high groups had to ask for more places at camp, which thankfully we were able to get. The senior high camp takes place in February. Karen and Heather in Children's Ministry, Jim and Lindsay in Junior High and Faith and Eric in High School are doing an amazing job in leading these ministries that are so important to our congregation. Why not take time this week to thank these staff people for the terrific job they are doing with your children and grandchildren?

I continue to enjoy being your pastor. Gary ☞

"Begin the Journey Here"

The "Next Step" On Your Journey at LCPC

This class is specifically designed to help you to identify where you are on the journey of following Jesus and discover a "next step" on your journey at LCPC. It describes the one requirement of being on the Christian journey and four spiritual practices to help you along the way. This class is also required to become a member at LCPC. Please email Barbara at barbara@lcanadapc.org to register or call (818) 790-6708, x215. Please be sure to request childcare also if it is needed for your children.

Meals and childcare are provided. Meet the pastors of the church and others who are relatively new to LCPC. Explore four spiritual practices that are central to following Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Upcoming 2011 class dates:

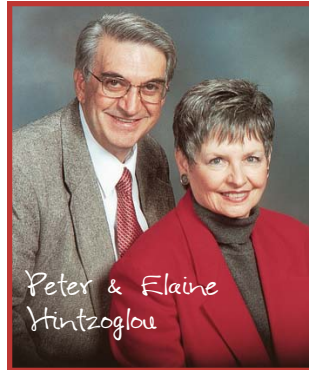
FRIDAY, February 11 (6:30-9PM) and
SUNDAY, February 13 (3-8PM)

OR

SUNDAYS, March 6, 13, 20, & 27
11AM-1PM

RSVP to Barbara Pettit at (818) 790-6708, X215 or
barbara@lcanadapc.org ☞

Rev. Dr. Peter Hintzoglou Retires



Peter & Elaine
Hintzoglou

Peter thanks "Pastor Gary, the Pastoral Team, and the Session for the privilege of serving in the area of visitation at La Cañada Presbyterian Church." And we thank him for his years of service to LCPC! Peter has worked in the area of Congregational Care with our faithful and dedicated Deacons and Stephen Ministers.

Peter has decided that the time has come to retire from this phase of ministry at the end of February 2011. It is his hope that with good

health he will continue to teach at Fuller Seminary where he has taught for the last 41 years. Peter and his wife, Elaine, will also now be allowed the freedom to spend some additional time with their children and grandchildren, something they have been hoping to do for quite a while.

SAVE THE DATE . . . WE WANT TO CELEBRATE!

To celebrate Peter's ministry with us, we are planning to have a catered lunch on Sunday, February 27, at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Look for more details in upcoming bulletins and emails. ☞

Endowment Fund Proves Valuable

Bob Craven

Did you know? Since its' establishment in 1993, LCPC has an Endowment Fund that has proved very valuable over its 17-year life. It fills needs for many of our church programs, especially in difficult economic times such as the past three years.

Through 2010 the Fund has provided \$1.4-plus million in financial support to various LCPC expenses. Major past contributions total \$521,000 to Missions; \$272,000 to organ and sanctuary refurbishment; \$190,000 to maintenance by Buildings and Grounds; \$353,000 to Rock 2.

In the past year, \$50,000 was given to Buildings and Grounds for increased maintenance costs of our new facilities, \$45,000 was provided for upgrading the air-conditioning system in the NartheX and \$2,550 was granted for necessary tuning of the new harpsichord, before its introduction to the congregation.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund have typically come from estates of members and friends of LCPC, who make such designations in their wills and trusts. These people are not wealthy. Several were widows who designated interests in their homes to LCPC. All had a love for LCPC and a firm commitment to its on-going missions.

The Endowment Fund currently has assets exceeding \$700,000. These are managed by an Endowment & Special Gifts Committee, headed by Peter Palermo. Funds are invested under the guidance of Bob Bender. Should you want to support the Endowment with a gift from your estate, contact Pete to discuss the process. To God be the glory! ☞

Congress recently extended the charitable donation provisions for individual retirement accounts (IRA) through 2011. These distributions are not taxable to the donor if processed directly from the IRA account to the charitable organization. They may allow for some in our congregation to provide much needed ministry support this year. For assistance in processing these distributions, please consult with your tax advisor or call our business office (818) 790-6708, X232.

Growing Families—FEB 13

ADHD: New Conceptions + New Directions = New Questions
(... AND Answers)

SUN, FEB 13, 9:30 AM, Fellowship Hall

*Is that MY kid, too? Or does one of their friends have it?
Is this just the latest psycho-babble for typical childhood activity?
What does the newest research reveal about real signs of ADHD?
What's the best treatment – with or without medications?
What do you mean "It's mostly genetic"? (ADHD in parents, too?)
Didn't GOD make me this way?*

Join us to hear a GF perennial favorite, DR. JEFF PRATER (remember his 2-part series on "Grades Gone Wild"?). Jeff is a clinical psychologist and elder at San Marino Community Presbyterian Church. He has specialized in childhood and adolescent issues for over 30 years.

Married with two children, Jeff started Psychology Resource Consultants – a group of Christian therapists with offices in South Pasadena.

Bring a friend and be better parents. We'll bring the Starbucks and goodies! ☞



Women's Retreat (APR 29-MAY 1)

Save the date for this annual tradition for women of the congregation, community and friends. This year's guest speaker will be Sharol Hayner. The retreat takes place on the beautiful grounds of the Casa de Maria Retreat Center in Santa Barbara. Registration will begin in February.

Sharol grew up in Pasadena, California, and attended Wellesley College where she majored in music and piano performance and clearly sensed God's call to ministry. She met her husband Steve at Park Street Church in Boston, where she served on staff with high school and college students.

Sharol disciplined college students and young moms alongside her husband at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle while also growing as a mom and a musician. When they moved to Madison, Wisconsin, Sharol discovered a new passion – worship. While leading worship at Christ Presbyterian Church, she relished inviting worshippers to not only enter into an encounter with the triune God, but also into a deeper understanding of worship. During those years, Sharol began seminary and received her Masters of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Sharol's passion for worship grew as she served as Pastor for Discipleship at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. At the end of 2009, Sharol left Peachtree to join Steve in ministry at Columbia Seminary, where she now offers hospitality to students, faculty, staff, and friends of Columbia while also mentoring and nurturing students on campus.

Sharon & Steve have three children and two grandchildren. ☞



Silent Retreat at St. Andrew's Abbey



It can be hard to hear what God is trying to tell us amidst all the noise and busyness of our lives. Set aside a couple of days to really be still and listen. Sign up now for the 2011 Silent Retreat.

Due to limited availability, reservations are being taken for double occupancy *only*. If registration is not full, limited single rooms may be available. Registration is open to all, but LCPC regular church attendees have priority through **Sunday, February 13**. Thereafter, registration will be confirmed for those on the waiting list.

Retreat begins with dinner on Friday at 6:30 PM and concludes on Sunday around noon, following a closing LCPC worship gathering. You are invited to stay through Sunday lunch.

Retreat Dates: March 4-6, 2011

Register online (www.lacanadapc.org)

COST: Double room - \$145.00 per person

Single room (only if available) - \$225.00

\$50 deposit, refundable up until February 18. We are sorry, but after February 20, we cannot refund your deposit. Balance due Sunday, February 27. Scholarships available: call Ann Anderson (818) 790-6169 or email GranieA@charter.net. ☞

Men's Retreat (APR 15-17)

Save the date! For more information, contact Rev. Chuck Osburn, (818) 790-6708, X229 or chuck@lacanadapc.org. ☞



Parent Education Thank Heaven There's Help in 2011!

"The Wise Family: Finding Balance in a Digital World"

January 25, 7-8:30 PM

FREE to community so arrive early!

Fellowship Hall in the Demarest Family Life Center

Childcare available (\$5/family) by reservation to (818) 790-6708, X205.

We are honored to present **DR. ROBERT REIHER** as he presents his insights on how families & children are being affected by a digitally-driven world.

Come receive information on how technology affects our minds and get **PRACTICAL ADVICE** on how to help your family manage technology successfully--even in a more frantic future.

Dr. Reiher is a renowned Educational Psychologist & international speaker who has consulted with over 50 companies.

He is also the author of What Kids Buy & Why and Kidnapped--How Irresponsible Marketers Are Stealing the Minds of Our Children.

Currently he is writing Future by Design--From Surviving to Thriving, a practical hands-on book utilizing the Inner I.Q.--a set of critical qualities that families need to become successful & resilient in a society that is changing at fast speeds. ☞



New Baby Class (for babies born between 8/1/10 and 12/31/10)



Every Thursday: February 10-June 2

11:30AM-1:30 PM

\$265/Semester

Register online at lacanadapc.org/parented or call (818) 790-6708, X205.

All classes will be held in Room 305 of the Demarest Family Life Center

This class is taught by highly regarded educator, Nanette Brown, experienced mom of six!

Nanette has taught Parent Education for 14 years and has a degree in child development. ☞

Evening Parenting Series Every Tuesday in February!

February 1, 8, 15 & 22, 7-8:30 PM

Only \$25/person or \$40/couple

Register online at lacanadapc.org/parented or call (818) 790-6708, X205.

All classes will be held in the new Children's Pavilion, Room 203. Childcare available (\$5/family) by reservation to (818) 790-6708, X205.

February 1: "How to Talk So Your Kids Will Listen"
by Christa Peitzman

February 8: "Creating Life-Long Family Traditions"
by Jan Roberts

February 15: "Organizing Your Life"
by Anne Bierling

February 22: "Boundaries for Every Age"
by Parent Ed Staff Panel:

Jan Roberts, Nanette Brown, Cary Horne, and Mary Van Amringe ☞

New Weekend Family Class for Parents & Children 0-5!

March 5, 12, 19 & 26, from 9-11AM

Only \$50 for 4 Saturday Classes!

Register online after February 1 at lacanadapc.org/parent or call (818) 790-6708, X205.

All classes will be held in the new Children's Pavilion with 2 separate playgrounds for younger/older children!

Parent Education instructor, Christa Peitzman, is excited to host this new class specially designed for parents who cannot attend on the weekdays. For many years we have had requests for weekend classes, and now we are thrilled to meet the demand.

This class will provide a rich atmosphere for parents and children to enjoy outside play, crafts, and circle time together.

It will also allow a 45-minute "parent only" teaching time where children are supervised by our teaching assistants and helping parents.

"I am looking forward to creating a fun and safe atmosphere where you feel comfortable addressing your parenting concerns and questions." — Christa Peitzman ☞



Children's Ministry

Volunteer Openings in All Age Groups!

We currently have volunteer openings in all age groups!

In Tiny Explorers (infants) we are looking for baby holders for the 1st & 4th Sundays.

In Story Seekers (3 years-K) we have two roles in the classroom, teachers and helpers. The teacher is responsible for guiding the class through their activities of the morning. Teachers receive the curriculum ahead of time and it requires simple preparation. Helpers have no advance preparation; they serve as the second adult in the room and assist the teacher in all the activities. All volunteers sign up to serve at least once a month, the same Sunday (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) each month.



We need:

Red Room (3 years) Helper & Teacher at 9:25

Yellow Room (4 years-pre-K) Helper at 9:25

Blue Room (K) Teacher at 9:25

Blue Room (3-K) Helper at 11:00 ☞

Craft Collection

Children's Ministry is collecting the following items for crafts, drama props and decorating:

- * Nature magazines
- * Cooking magazines
- * Small kitchen appliances & cookware
- * Kitchen tools & utensils
- * Oven mitts & dish towels
- * Clean empty plastic containers with lids (such as frosting containers, butter tubs, large yogurt containers)
- * Fabric scraps



Please contact Heather Henry (818) 790-6708, X252, or heather@lacanadapc.org, if you have any questions or can donate any of these items. Thank you. ☞

The Village and Adventure Mountain Summer Camps

Save the Date: July 24-29!

It's time once again to start thinking about a trip to Forest Home. The 55 kids that went to Winter Camp this January had a blast! Now we are getting ready to attend Indian Village and Adventure Mountain for summer camp.

The Village

(children entering 3rd, 4th & 5th grades)



trail and teepee talks.

Campers live in a teepee with six or seven other children and each teepee is part of a tribe in which children learn to live together in an environment of respect and caring for others. Activities include swimming, a nature center, wild games, hiking, council fires, and

Adventure Mountain

(children entering 5th & 6th grades)

This camp has an African jungle theme where campers live in "safari tents" that give them the opportunity to sleep inside or out on their private deck under the stars. Campers also learn about people who have been missionaries to remote areas of the world. They have the opportunity to sign up for activities like survival training, journalism, team sports, radio production, fine arts and nature discovery.



Cost to be determined. Registration begins at 9AM on Sunday, March 27th. Contact Heather Henry (heather@lacanadapc.org or (818) 790-6708, x252) for more information. A \$100 deposit will be required to secure a spot. ☞

"I ushered at the 4PM service on Christmas Eve and was most impressed with the many young families with small children who attended. It was an overflow crowd, with at least 40 people seated in the NartheX. The sight of these young families confirmed to me the great outreach LCPC is accomplishing in the new facilities that Rock 1 and 2 have provided."
Bob Craven, LCPC Usher

Ovations

A Valentine's Eve Treat

Sunday, February 13, 4PM, Sanctuary

Featuring The Jack Lantz Big Band

A great way to celebrate Valentine's Day one day early (and before the huge restaurant crowds slow down service on February 14), join us for a great concert of favorite love songs from the Great American Songbook (plus a few surprises) and then take your Valentine sweetheart out to dinner at your favorite restaurant before the restaurant crowds inundate the local scene.



The Jack Lantz Big Band consists of 16 great musicians plus an engaging singer who will sweep you off your feet with swinging big band arrangements of favorite love songs from many famous American songsmiths of the past century. Included will be music of Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, George & Ira Gershwin, Rodgers & Hammerstein, and many others. Among the favorites will be "When I Fall in Love," "Our Love Is Here to Stay," "A Prelude to a Kiss," "Time After Time," "Makin' Whoopee," "S Wonderful," "You're Nobody 'til Somebody Loves You," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "How Deep Is the Ocean," "Misty," "Come Rain or Come Shine," "My Funny Valentine" and many more.

This concert will have heart-warming familiar love music for everyone. Bring your Valentine for a date, enjoy the music and we might even have a special Valentine for everyone in the audience!

Tickets are \$15, available in advance by calling Lori MacDonald at (626) 794-1522, the church office at (818) 790-6708 and at the door. ☞

Great Hymns of the Church

Sunday, March 27, 4PM, Sanctuary

An Ovations Concert and Recording Event

Join us for a special event celebrating many great hymns of our faith in a concert session. Join us to become part of the congregation in a live recording session as everyone in attendance will sing along with the choir and orchestra such great hymns as "Amazing Grace," "Praise to the Lord," "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". The choir and orchestra will also present a variety of other great hymns in interesting and exciting settings. Included will be John Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth," Gilbert Martin's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Holy, Holy, Holy," "This Little Light of Mine," "Just a Closer Walk with



Thee, "When the Saints Go Marching In," "I Need Thee Every Hour" and many others.

This concert will be recorded and a CD made of the concert. Each paid ticket will entitle the holder to receive a free professionally packaged CD of the concert. Additional CDs of the concert will be available for purchase in time for Christmas present giving.

Please come and bring a friend for a special afternoon of great and fun music, plus a chance to make a recording that will be turned into a permanent record on CD.

Tickets are \$15, available in advance by calling Lori MacDonald at (626) 794-1522, the church office at (818) 790-6708 and at the door. ☞

Mozart Coronation Concert

Sunday, April 17, 4PM, Sanctuary

Featuring LCPC Chancel Choir & Orchestra

Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem – a quasi coronation setting. What better way to celebrate this remarkably historic event than with Mozart's "Coronation Mass" in C Major? This Ovations event is designed to help us celebrate Palm Sunday and Holy Week with the great music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

To prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week, our Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present a stimulating afternoon of music starting with Mozart's gorgeous motet for choir and orchestra "Ave Verum Corpus," his lushly beautiful "Laudate Dominum," from the "Solemn Vespers," featuring Lori Stinson with the choir and orchestra, the poignant "Kyrie in D Minor" – probably the most painful cry for mercy ever set to music, and culminating with his "Coronation Mass" in C Major. Rounding out the concert, the orchestra will present Mozart's masterpiece Symphony No. 41 in C Major – his last symphony and probably his greatest symphony.

All in all, a great concert for Holy Week, as well as Palm Sunday, and a great Ovations concert to invite friends to LCPC.

Tickets are \$15, available in advance by calling Lori MacDonald at (626) 794-1522, the church office at (818) 790-6708 and at the door. ☞



LCPC Drama Ministry Proudly Presents "The Last Five Years"

FEB 18 & 19, 8PM and FEB 20, 2PM, Worship Arts Center

"The Last Five Years" is a compelling musical about the relationship of a young novelist, Jamie (Andrew Pratt) and his wife Cathy (Tina Tong), an aspiring actress. During their courtship, the young couple journey from infatuation to dissolution amidst their personal struggles & successes. "The Last Five Years" captures all the emotional conflicts of sustaining a modern relationship, while highlighting the transforming power of love.

A discussion by LCPC Pastors and Staff on "Why Relationships Matter to God" will follow each performance. We invite you to attend and bring your friends to this knock-out Broadway musical, here at LCPC in the Worship Arts Center for one week-end ONLY! ☪

Bring Your Donations for the ACTS Thrift Store Truck

SUN, FEB 6, 8AM-1PM; LCPC parking lot
INFO: Susan Gentilucci, (818) 244-4630

Needs: clothing, housewares, toys, furniture. ACTS Thrift Store (1382 Locust St, Pasadena) is a non-profit organization. Your gifts support our mission partner, Lake Ave Community Foundation (STARS, Mentoring, and more). ☪



February/March/April 2011

OVATIONS 2010/2011 AT LA CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH A SEASON OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND ARTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

January 23, 2011 Sunday-- 4:00 pm	Three for Two Duo-Piano Concert Kemp Smeal & Jack Lantz 
February 13, 2011 Sunday-- 4:00 pm	Favorite Love Songs- A Valentine's Eve Treat Jack Lantz Big Band
February 18 & 19, 2011 Friday & Saturday-- 8:00 pm	Last Five Years - Musical Drama Ministry
February 20, 2011 Sunday -- 2:00 pm	
March 11, 2011 Friday-- 7:00 pm	 The Fifty States- A Musical Journey Children's Choir Musical
March 12, 2011 Saturday-- 4:00 pm	
March 27, 2011 Sunday-- 4:00 pm	Great Hymns of Our Faith Concert & Recording Chancel Choir & LCPC Orchestra (Includes "Sing it Yourself" portion)
April 17, 2011 Sunday-- 4:00 pm	Palm Sunday Coronation Concert "Music of Mozart" Chancel Choir & LCPC Orchestra 
April 22, 2011 Friday-- 7:30 pm	"Were You There"- A Drama of the Crucifixion Drama Ministry & Chancel Choir
May 13 & 14, 2011 Friday & Saturday-- 8:00 pm	The Screwtape Letters Drama Ministry
May 15, 2011 Sunday -- 2:00 pm	
June 10, 2011 Friday-- 8:00 pm	POPS 2011: Last Train to Musicville Chancel Choir, Dancers & JL Little Big Band 
June 11, 2011 Saturday-- 4:00 pm	
July 3, 2011 Sunday-- 7:30 pm	 "Americana" Concert LCPC Orchestra & Chancel Choir

February

- 4 Friday Forums
- 6 Communion Sunday
"The Welcome" Tour
Local Outreach ACTS Thrift Store Truck Collection
- 11 & 13 "Begin the Journey Here" class
Growing Families
- 18-20 Ovations: "Favorite Love Songs: A Valentine's Eve Treat"
Ovations: "Last Five Years" Drama Ministry Musical
Church offices closed for Presidents' Day
Session meeting
- 27 Peter Hintzoglou Celebration

March

- 4 Friday Forums
- 4-6 Silent Retreat
- 6 3rd Grade Bible Sunday
Annual meeting of the congregation
Communion Sunday
"The Welcome" Tour
- 6, 13, 20, 27 "Begin the Journey Here" class
- 9 Ash Wednesday (7PM worship service)
- 11-12 Ovations: "The Fifty States — A Musical Journey"
Session meeting
- 21 Parent Education Spring Gala
- 25 Ovations: "Great Hymns of Our Faith Concert & Recording"

Looking forward to April

- 8 Friday Forums
- 15-17 Men's Retreat
- 17 Palm Sunday
Ovations: "Music of Mozart" Palm Sunday Coronation Concert
- 21 Maundy Thursday worship service (7PM)
- 22 Good Friday service
Ovations: "Were You There?" Drama Ministry presentation
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 29-May 1 Women's Retreat

Outreach

Afghan Undercover

Corey Hegger

We read headlines about Afghanistan nearly every day. Some of us know military personnel who are serving and have even died there. But did you know that through Faith Missions you are contributing to God's work in that tumultuous region?

Your prayers and giving to Faith Missions support Bradford and Joanna Greer, who serve God in Afghanistan. Behind the scenes they train and mentor local believers, many of whom suffer considerable persecution. Presently, two local believers are in jail for their faith.

The Greers also support Western Christians working in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan, enabling them to be effective witnesses for Christ in a cross-cultural situation.

We cannot describe in detail the important work Bradford and Joanna do without endangering many lives, including their own. But through Faith Missions, you are a part of it.

Thank you, as always, for partnering prayerfully and financially with workers like the Greers to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet heard. It is one important aspect of our ministry here at La Cañada Presbyterian Church. ☞



Wounded Warriors & Squishy Pillows

Bill Cunningham

In 2001, Michele and Tom McCaslin's son, Mark Bishop, enlisted in the army two weeks before 9/11. Being concerned for our military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan (Mark would subsequently serve three tours of duty there), the McCaslins soon became affiliated with *Operation Gratitude* based in Los Angeles. This organization sends care packages to our troops (www.opgratitude.com).

In 2004 Gary Dennis preached a series of sermons based on Rick Warren's book, *"The Purpose Driven Life."* Michele had just finished the book and was pondering what God might have next in store for her when she watched a CNN news report that said that there was an overwhelming number of wounded military personnel being flown into Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. It appealed for people to help in their care. She knew what God was calling her to do. She contacted the Chaplain's office and was invited to come and work as a volunteer in the Medical Center's Clothes Closet whenever she could. An act of obedience for Michele became a ministry of grace and mercy for many.

Since 2004 Michele has now made 16 trips to Landstuhl staying in a hotel across from the hospital, usually staying for a few weeks at a time. She and Tom were there this last Christmas. What draws her to this ministry of care? She found that God is using her to be a "mom" to countless wounded warriors as well as at times a comforter of devastated family members dealing with profound loss.

Serving in the Clothes Closet, she saw the military personnel being drawn to Squishy Pillows, special soft pillows that they can take with them to their rooms or on their flights back for further medical care in the United States. She observed that most pillows were gone in a day after a new shipment arrived. So Michele began recruiting others to make them: her Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae members, her LCPC women's Bible Study Group ("Women of Simple Grace"), and last year the LCPC Voyager Club through Cari Hall.

Gary Dennis learned of this ministry when he received an email message recently from Jill Mulcahy, a volunteer at the hospital, whose in-laws, Alex and Eareyn Hurst, used to be members of our church. She said that the card on a Squishy Pillow gave her goose bumps when she saw that the pillow was made by women from our church. She wrote:

"Last week, I was visiting a young soldier that had been wounded and his leg was held together with a lot of hardware. He was excited to be going to the US the next day for further surgeries and treatments, but was somewhat apprehensive about the journey due to his injuries and recent surgery. The hospital doesn't like for the bed pillows to disappear and I went to get this young soldier some inflatable pillows for his transport and also a pillow for his head to provide some comfort for the long trip. The pillow was soft, had a football design and when I brought it to this brave young man, he was delighted and wanted to make sure that he didn't get it near his injuries, as it was 'so special' he did not want any blood on this gift. He thanked me over and over and I told him that I was just the deliverer of the pillow and we looked at the card together. This pillow was made by the ladies at your church and I want to let them know the impact of their mission. This pillow not only made this brave young man's journey more bearable, it brought a smile to his face and he knew that someone cared about him."

If you would like to participate in making these pillows, feel free to join the "Squishy Pillow-makers" at 3PM on Wednesdays in Room 304 of the Demarest Family Life Center or invite your own group to get involved in making them (no sewing required!). For information contact Michele McCaslin at (818) 790-8114 or Cari Hall at (626) 351-9277. ☞

SEE PHOTOS AT RIGHT >>>>>>

Life

at La Cañada Presbyterian Church



College/Graduate/Seminarian Sunday-DEC 26

These two photos courtesy of Mary Emily Myers



Michele McCaslin & Chaplain Major Eric Meyners Ed.D.

Soldier picking out a pillow



Cari Hall (left) with Voyager pillow makers



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, Spiritual Formation & Small Groups:
Rev. Dr. Chuck Osburn (x229)
Associate Pastor, Outreach & Equipping: Rev. Jim Milley (x217)
Associate Pastor, Family Ministry: Rev. Kristin Leucht (x201)
Parish Associate, Congregational Care: Rev. Dr. Peter Hintzoglou (x218)
Director, Parent Education: Anne Bierling (x214)
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, 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, 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

Deaths:

- *Don Anderson (former member)
- *Harry Fike (Elisa Coleman's father)
- *Hildy Geist (LCPC member and wife of Bill Geist)
- *William (Bill) Grubb (missionary)
- *Pat Hicks (LCPC member)
- *Eleanor Largent (LCPC member and wife of Willard Largent)
- *Virginia Keyes (LCPC member)
- *Rev. James Mohler (John & Mary Ellen Mohler's nephew)
- *Jim Stroot (Marian Christensen's brother)
- *Sharon Perkins (Melissa Rinker's best friend)
- *Ted Polich (Crista Murray's father)
- *Spiro Psaltis' father
- *Glenn Watson (Carol Kunert's father)

Births:

- *Alphonse Ravana, born November 25 to Christopher & Nicole Ravana. Proud grandparents are LCPC staff member Sandy Ravana and her husband, Ron.
- *Nicholas Nile Sanders, born November 18 to Nicole & Steve Sanders. Proud grandparents are members, Joan & Doug Sanders.

GO GREEN! Our newsletter is delivered via email to all friends and members of our congregation who have provided us with an email address. This helps us to save money on printing/ mailing costs which can then be used for other ministries. 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!*