

Transitions

Ephesians 3:1-8

It's August. Summer is coming to an end, back-to-school sales are in full bloom, and in a matter of weeks we'll be celebrating Rally Day here at LCC as we head into the 'normal' part of the year. August marks a time of transition from one season to another as people try to grab those last week ends away; those last trips to see friends and family; that last meal as a family as the students head off to college.

Transitions. They are not always fun, are they? LCC is going through a transitional period right now as we wrestle with Biblical truths and teachings, and how those are lovingly applied and lived out in the day-to-day lives of individuals as well as LCC as a Church body.

The problem is that rumors abound, and conversations take place with little or no understanding of all the facts. Sadly, gossip is starting to replace the facts.

Some have left LCC— there is no denying that. Some have joined LCC — there is no denying that, either.

There is also no denying what has already been said: when all else is stripped away the core issue is the application of the never-changing word of God to Communion, involvement in Ecumenical Worship services, and the changing ways of spreading His unchanging Word to a changing world.

Transitions. Can I let you in on a little secret? I'm a little scared and sad and excited all at the same time.

I'm scared because of the fiscal realities of less money in the offering plates to meet the cost of the ministry here.

I'm sad because some who have left are dear friends of ours. I freely confess there have been a few nights I've shut the door to my office, buried my head in my arms on my desk, and simply sobbed. Maybe some of you have, too.

I'm excited though, as odd as that may sound, because all transitions like this always lead to new and exciting futures. While I'm not enjoying the time of transition — and I know many of you are not either — what waits for us on the other side of this transitional period is a stronger church, united around Biblical truths, with a heart for reaching the lost right in our own backyards.

I can't promise you smooth sailing from here on out. I can't promise you things are going to turn around over night. I can't even promise you that I am the best person to help lead us through this time. But what I can promise you is what Jesus promised us — He will never leave us or forsake us; He is and will always be the only Lord of the Church, because no matter what we might want to think, it's HIS Church to begin with; and He loves us too much to leave us alone. If we never experienced any transition, it would mean as a church we have been left alone by Jesus, and that is a horrible thing to think about.

Pray for LCC during this time that the truth of God's word shines clearly, the cross is lifted high, and the name of Jesus is proclaimed as *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*.

Please continue to pray for me and my family. Many have told me they are praying for me every day, and I deeply appreciate it.

Peace of Christ to all of you, my dear, dear friends,

Pastor Michael

From the Consecrated Stewards Team

“August—who needs it??? Who wants it???”

Many people don't look forward to August and when it does come, they want it to pass quickly. August can be a long and boring month. Vacations for the most part are probably over. Farmers are in a waiting mode—not much work to do except watch the crops ripen. Baseball players refer to this month as the “dog days of August,” a time when they just have to “gut it out” before getting into the decisive month of September. Even children get bored even to the point of wanting to get back to school (that one usually wears off after the first couple of weeks of September). Church leaders are anxiously waiting for the start up of a new ministry year when things begin to happen anew. For these and other reasons August may well be the least liked month of the year.

Life comes with many August moments. We are in-between people, people who are waiting. We are there and yet we are not there. God has in Christ declared us to be His people, and yet we repeatedly fall short of His expectations. God has in Christ declared us to be saints and yet we are chronic sinners. We live in a tension of becoming what God has already declared us to be. The Apostle John in the third chapter of his first letter writes these beautiful words: ***“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He [Christ] appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:1-2 NIV)***

We are “August” people in a waiting mode. But that waiting is not a useless passing of time. It is a time when we exercise our faith as the children of God. With the power of His Holy Spirit we strive to be the best stewards we can be of our time, talents, treasure, relationships and all the other things that God has entrusted to us to manage for His purposes. It is an exciting time that provides us with many opportunities to say and do things that bring honor to the name of God and encouragement to those around us.

So the next time you have the opportunity to put your faith into action in your family, church, neighborhood or work place by giving some of your time, talents or money, whether it's in the month of August or some other time, do it with energy and joy because ***“God's redeemed stewards, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.”***

LCC HAPPENINGS

The calendar says that summer is coming to a close – one more month and then the school year routine begins again. While I feel like we are experiencing our first true week of summer this last week in July, and I really don't want to wish the summer away, I am looking forward to the excitement that fall will bring. The activities for July included...

- **Walter Seamon and Kyle McGivney coordinating** Mainspring on July 11th. Again, thanks to all the cooks who continue to support this ministry. We fed over 80 people, quite a large number for the summer!
- **VBS 2009 – July 20-24 –Many thanks to everyone who helped us have a great time at Discovery Canyon at our Vacation Bible School 2009!!**
Heather Ali, Emily Ali, Julia Ali, Kristin Blount, Lea Bouchard, Holly Brazel, Suzanne Bunker, Cory Burroughs, Shelly Chaston, Markus Donahoe, Tomi Donahoe, Kayla Doyle, Patrick Durgin, Jennifer Dwyer, Madison Dwyer, Michael Graden, Stacey Graden, Kirsten, Zachary Graden, Dottie Hayes, Kevin Hayes, Becky Hayes, Jimi Hayes, Sara Hendrickson, Jackie Johnson, Kirsten Johnson, Sandy Landstrom, Chuck Lemke, Judy Leonard, Lyndsay Levin, Danielle Levin, Kathy MacDougall, Matt MacDougall, Kayla McDermott, Bobby McDermott, Krystin McDermott, Andrew Nash, Heather Nash, Patty Owen, Stacey Stahl, Sandy Sweetser, Kaylee Violandi and Pastor Michael! And many thanks to everyone who contributed cookies or snacks or drinks! **Last but hardly least, thank you Cathy Hayes for once again coordinating and running this wonderful week!**
- **Soulfest, 2009!** Our youth group sponsored a trip to Soulfest again this year. Those who attended; Destiny Anderson, Madison Dwyer, and Bobby, Kayla and Krystin McDermott all had a marvelous time. Many thanks to **Jim and Claire Tracey** for opening their cabin to the group. And a special thanks and a big hug to **Kim, Dan and Ellie Prestridge** who flew up from Memphis just to take the youth group to this special event. We also loved having them join us for worship on Sunday, August 2nd!
- **Outdoor worship on Sunday, July 26th!** We had our first outdoor service on Sunday, July 26 and the weather almost cooperated. Quite a feat given our summer this year! We did have to move indoors for communion though – not bad. Many thanks to George Olson for being so flexible and setting up a keyboard outside for the service!

AUGUST AND BEYOND

Scrip Program for August – the order date will be Sunday, August 2nd, with the card pick-up date being August 9th. If you miss the order date, or decide mid-month that you need more gift cards, all is not lost! We now stock gift cards for the most popular venues; grocery stores and local restaurants to name a few, which can be purchased throughout the month based on availability.

Mainspring, on August 8th, is being coordinated by **the Chiarelli family**. The sign-up and recipe for the month (the Tater Tot casserole I believe) is posted on the bulletin board. We can still use more cooks!

Thursday evening summer services – the last month of the summer! Thursday evening services at 7:00 PM will be held now through Thursday, August 27th. Please note the time change this year – 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM!

Another outdoor service – August 30th! We want to try this again – and hope the weather will allow us to get through the entire service. Please plan to bring you lawn chair.

The flower chart needs some attention. Many thanks to all of you who took care of the summer months. However, about half of the Sundays for the rest of the year are open. Sign-up is on the bulletin board.

Rally Sunday, September is fast approaching. Mark your calendar for September 13th!! Sunday school will start, we will have the installation of the Sunday school staff as well as the church council for the year, adult Bible study will also begin that Sunday, and last, but hardly least, the annual cookout at the parsonage!

The women's Bible Study is scheduled to begin Monday, September 14th. The book being read and discussed is "*Having a Mary Spirit*" by Joanna Weaver. This book, plus the others planned for later in the year are available to be purchased.

Volunteer Opportunities

The strength of our church has always been largely due to the commitment of our members. It is important that we all continue to help and volunteer, which is even more important as we help support a new pastor. There are many ways each of us can choose to help. Below are just a few...

Hanover Habitat for Humanity – The Hanover Habitat for Humanity just started work on the house being built in Hanover. Each Hanover church is being asked to support this endeavor, both by supplying volunteers and food now that the project is underway.

- Stacey Stahl and Kyle McGivney have volunteered to coordinate food. We will be supplying food for the volunteers every sixth week. A sign-up is on the bulletin board for people to volunteer for food detail. Please sign-up and include phone number and email address so that they have the means to contact you when it is our turn.
- LCC Habitat Volunteer Coordinator needed: Please contact Nick Iovino (volunteer@sshhabitat.org or 781-843-9080 x18) if you would be willing to coordinate volunteer workers on behalf of our church. Also, please let our office know (781-826-5121) if you volunteer for this position so that we don't keep asking...

Mainspring – We supply meals to Mainspring on the 2nd Saturday of each month. A menu is usually posted around the first of the month and we can always use a few more cooks and bakers.

The last few months we have been feeding close to 100! There is a **sign-up for 2009 on the bulletin board** for volunteers to coordinate each month in 2009! We still need volunteers for September and November! This involves picking the menu, taking the meals to Mainspring and serving the meals.

Remember the Hanover Food Pantry, the shelves are bare right now! At this point, all things are needed; paper products, soaps, pasta, juices, snacks – you name it! **Please help out!!!**

Coffee Hours – This year we need people to supplement the confirmation families in hosting the weekly coffee hour after church. A sign-up is on the bulletin board for volunteers to help out! It has been a rather quiet summer, with most Sundays coffeeless... Hopefully there will be some sign-ups for the rest of August and for the fall. Thank you for all your help!!

Worship assistants – We are in desperate need of more worship assistants, particularly counters and for Altar Guild. There will be an instruction session planned in early September for those interested in Altar Guild, and for counters as well if need be. Please call Kathy in the office, 781-826-5121, if you would be willing to help with one of these groups.

Personal Mention

- **Happy Birthday wishes in August** are extended to **Laci Blount, Rob Clyde, Jill Coyman, Jacob Graden, Charles Lane, Sam McNulty, Davis Muller, Bella Orrall, Brayden Orrall, Ellie Prestridge, Heather Staples, Megan Peterson Swanberg, and Benjamin Willis.**
- **Happy Anniversary to Barbara and Jerry Gorichs, Cathy and Kevin Hayes, Jacqueline and Steven Obreza and Stacey and Pastor Michael Stahl!**
- **Congratulations to Lisa and Bill Orrall on the birth of their son on July 21st.**

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Rob Hendrickson, for continued health and healing
Carla Errichiello-Hill, for continued health and healing
Audrey Yeingst, undergoing treatment for cancer of the liver and bile duct
Edith McNeil, recovering from knee surgery
Jean Adams, recovering from eye surgery
Jodi Gries, Jerry and Barbara Gorichs' daughter, recovering from cancer surgery
Kevin MacDougall, recovering from elbow surgery on July 31st
Barbara Chaston, Shelly Chaston's mother, recovering from a heart procedure
Harrison Collett, 6 yr. old brother of one of our Nursery School students, diagnosed with bone cancer

Harriet Williamson, for health and healing
Bill Williamson, for health and healing
Lloyd Prestridge, Dan Prestridge's father, living with cancer
Bella and Brayden Orrall, for continued health and growth.
Anna Fitzgerald, Agnes Abrahamson's granddaughter, dealing with epilepsy and autism
Ethan Darcy, for continued healing related to his congenital heart defect
Joyce Linde, for health and healing
Marie Bain, for good health
Eva Churchill, the Hendricksons' friend, for healing from multiple health issues
Jerry Haley, friend of the Sweetsers, diagnosed with a brain tumor

Ministry to the Persecuted Church:

On July 11, two bombs targeted churches in the cities of Baghdad and Mosul and killed at least four people and injured 30 others. The two bombs ripped through the St. Joseph church in western Baghdad at approximately 10 p.m. The next afternoon, three bombs exploded within 15 minutes of each other outside three different church buildings in Baghdad. That evening, a car bomb detonated outside a church building in the eastern region of the city and another bomb exploded outside a church building in Baghdad's Dora district. Also, on July 13, a car bomb detonated near Our Lady of Fatima Church in the city of Mosul. Pray for those who have lost loved ones. Ask God to guard the hearts of Iraqi Christians against fear and enable them to continue serving Him with boldness. Pray that those responsible for these bombings will repent and come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

ADOPT AN EXPENSE PROGRAM
(January – December 2009)

We are starting fresh to get the "Adopt-an-Expense" program to coincide with the church's fiscal year. So... below is the list of "Adopt-An-Expense" program items for 2009, so far. As mentioned at the January congregational meeting, the **goal is to get \$1,600 of adopted expenses by the end of the year. We are half way to our goal by the end of May!** Does this mean we can beat the goal??? Many thanks to Cory and Don Burroughs, Gudrun Davis, Jackie Johnson, Patty Owen and the 4th-6th grade Sunday School, and Audrey and Ray Yeingst for their contributions. Please remember that you can adopt a portion of any expense. Every little bit helps!!!

<u>Item</u>	<u>Approx. cost</u>	<u>Remain. Amt</u>	<u>Adopted(this year)</u>
2009 Expenses			
Sunday School Supplies			
Fall material	380.00	240.00	140.00
Winter material	380.00	380.00	
Spring material	380.00	380.00	
VBS Supplies	1000.00	1000.00	
Offering envelopes	500.00	500.00	
Disposable Communion Cups	110.00	0.00	110.00

Portals of Prayer	160.00	160.00	
Confirmation Scarves	40.00	40.00	
Certificates (Baptism, 1 st communion...)	60.00	60.00	
Altar Candles	500.00	500.00	
Eternal Candles	125.00	125.00	
Calendars	30.00	30.00	
Communion cruet	94.00	0.00	94.00
Holy Week bulletin covers	90.00	90.00	
Pastors' wives conference	90.00	0.00	90.00
Puppet Ministry			
Deluxe Puppet Pack	116.00	0.00	116.00
6 Inbetweens	144.00	39.00	105.00
6 Full/Half Body Puppets	240.00	40.00	200.00
Stage Materials/Props	300.00	300.00	

TOTAL ADOPTED: **\$855.00**



10 Tips for Raising G-Rated Kids in an X-Rated World

By Doug Fields and Jim Burns

Raising kids in today's culture is not easy. There's no question that the way we parent is influenced by the world we live in. And what a world it is! We need to help our children deal with drugs, sexuality, movies, television, video games, the Internet, terrorism and war. It's our goal as parents to raise our kids in this X-rated culture to become G-rated people. It can feel overwhelming trying to give our teenagers the tools they need to make godly decisions in an ungodly world. Recently, I had the privilege of talking with youth ministry expert Doug Fields for a two-part broadcast on *HomeWord with Jim Burns*. Doug shared insights into 10 action steps that parents can take to raise healthy kids in today's culture.

1. Instill belief in them.

The beliefs and values your children will carry into adulthood are very dependent on the examples they see parents setting at home. It's critical to understand and believe that as a parent, your actions, values and beliefs will have the greatest influence in the life of your maturing child. Parental influence is a high calling. It's part of your destiny and your enduring legacy, for better or for worse.

2. Be present in your kids' lives.

Presence in a kid's life is spelled T-I-M-E. One of the major contributing factors for healthy kids points back to parents who were present in those kids' lives. Some parents subscribe to the theory that quality time beats quantity time. These parents are simply wrong. Parents must

prioritize and reorganize their schedules to be present for their kids. When they get older, your kids won't care that you worked more so they could ride in nicer cars or live in a bigger home. They will care about how much time you spent with them!

3. Make memories with them.

Our lives are a museum of memories that contribute to who we are today. That's why it's key to strive to create good memories for our kids. Good kids have good memories. This isn't to say that our kids' lives won't have their share of bad memories. But, on balance, good memories trump bad ones. So, build great family traditions at holidays, birthday celebrations and summer vacations, just to name a few. Make memories for your family by creating new adventures for them. Solidify these memories by being sure to capture them through pictures, video, and in writing through journals or letters.

4. Give them encouragement.

Encouragement is food for our souls and we all long for it. Our kids need encouragement, too. Words are powerful. Words can either build confidence or they can destroy. A parent's words have lasting effect. Learn to be an encourager. Catch your kids in the act of doing something right, and then take the opportunity to mention it! In addition, be sure to go beyond encouraging for just a job well done. Kids mess up and fail all the time. Find ways to encourage your kids, despite their failures. Encouraging beyond performance means conveying that you love and value your kids even when they mess up.

5. Be positive and caring role models.

You are your children's role model for living life. Be assured that they are watching you. They know what you say and how you say it. They know how you treat people. They know how you respond to conflict. Kids need you to set a positive and caring standard for living life. They need your integrity and they need you to set the pace when it comes to faith. Your kids know that you aren't perfect, so there's no pressure to try to act like it. What your kids need are parents who demonstrate what it means to be a lover and follower of God, despite their shortcomings.

6. Give them discipline and boundaries.

Providing your kids with consistent boundaries and discipline is all about guidance, not punishment. Boundaries and discipline are the result of love. Giving kids too much freedom and not holding them accountable for their actions does not demonstrate love. When disciplining, be delicate. Don't discipline in anger.

7. Give them affection.

Emotionally healthy kids have been given lots of proper affection. Kids who don't get adequate affection from their parents often turn to inappropriate sources of affection. And, there's plenty of inappropriate affection to be found in today's X-rated culture. Unfortunately, kids who have their needs for affection met in inappropriate ways, often become emotionally distant, not emotionally healthy. If you aren't an affectionate parent, get over it! Learn to become one. It's that important to the health of your child!

8. Develop responsibility in them.

Parents want their kids to grow up into responsible, functioning adults. Unfortunately, we often unintentionally teach irresponsibility, instead. We allow kids to become apathetic by too quickly solving their problems for them. We allow kids to pass the buck by blaming others. And, we are slow to force our kids to carry their own weight. The solution comes in not rescuing our kids from their problems. Sure, there are times that we need to lend a hand and help out, but these times are, in reality, few and far between. We must let kids wrestle with consequences. Whenever we jump in to bail our kids out, they never learn to take responsibility for themselves and they don't have to experience consequences. Learning from mistakes is a great path to responsibility and wisdom.

9. Be fun.

In the book of Ecclesiastes it says this: One of the necessary rhythms of life is laughter and dance. If you want to fully understand life, if you want to fully live abundantly, meaningfully, joyfully you need to have some laughing and dance in your life. It's one of the necessary rhythms of life. This generation of kids is totally stressed out. So, when kids see their parents injecting fun and laughter into life, it helps relieve some of the anxieties they feel. So, lighten up the mood in your home. Have some fun with the life and family God has given to you.

10. Give them a peaceful home.

Your kids don't need a perfect home, but to thrive, they need a peaceful one. Kids are at battle all day long. They're battling an X-rated culture and language and values. They're battling bullies and peer pressure and body image and conforming. In your teen's world, there are battles going on all the time. They need to come home to a place where they can retreat and drop their battle gear at the door and be in a shelter where they can just be themselves. Your home ought to be the one place your kids feel truly safe; where they can be loved and known and cared for.

