



# The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks  
Community Church

Volume 4, Issue 7

December 2007

*“Leading edge news and views of the ministries of Live Oaks Community Church”*

## Joy To The World!

At the writing of this article, Thanksgiving is two weeks away and Christmas only a month and a half! Thanksgiving is a wash amidst the push for Christmas – though this special day has not arrived. Dillons, Wal-Mart, and the home improvement stores are all decorated and wishing patrons a “Merry Christmas!” I am even hearing Christmas songs on the radio! The marketing machine is running full tilt in hopes of collecting our “merry making” and “gift giving” dollar.

Gifts are cool and giving them in love, appreciation, and as an extension of the greatest Gift ever given is wonderful. However, maybe, our gift giving traditions need to change to include the apostle Paul’s guide for gift giving found in Philippians 2:1-4...

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

Paul lists three gifts our family, church, and others in our life need to receive from us this Christmas...

**Unity** – the gift that makes God and other believers’ joy complete. It brings joy to a father’s heart when his children are united, extending a common love to one another, and working together in one spirit and purpose.

According to Paul there are at least two ways you give this gift to others. **First**, by showing to them the same encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tenderness, and compassion as you have received in Christ. **Second**,

this gift is given by expressing unity to those around you in practical actions. Proverbs 3:27 explains, “Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act.” When your kids ask to play a board game or attend one of their events and you have the availability and power to respond, then act and express the gift of unity. When your spouse needs you to listen or join in an activity and you can fulfill their wishes if you choose too, then become united with them by meeting that need or joining them. When the church is gathering or pursuing a goal, express the gift of unity by being present and partnering with your church family to reach that goal. Participation is an expression of the gift of unity.



**Humility** – this attitude makes it possible for us to give good gifts. Often our gift giving can become about us. Either we do not want to take the time to find the right gift for a person or we work too hard and spend too much money trying to look good or impress with our gift. The key here is to give a gift with the goal of blessing another instead of you. Them first – you second.

**Spending yourself in the interests of others.** The life and teachings of Jesus declared that the “good life,” the “happy life, and the “beautiful things” in life are not found in looking out for your own interests, but in spending yourself in the interests of others!

Be creative this Christmas season as you look for ways to include these timeless gifts in your gift giving. People will not necessarily see Jesus in the beautiful wrapping you use or the lavishness of your present. However, He will become visible as you express unity with them, humility for them, and spend yourself in their interests. Who knows – you may start a new Christmas tradition and change your or another’s life for the better.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Kelley & Jodi, Lacey, Lance, Reece, Grant, Brett, Brady, and Trent

## Letter To The Missing

By: Anonymous Author

Hello!

Hey there! It's **you!** How are you? I haven't seen you too much lately--I'd like to tell you that I noticed you were gone, but I don't want you to think that I'm keeping tabs on you. I know you're very busy, and I know you were out of town one of those weeks. I'd like to ask you what's new, but I don't know how you'll take it. Will you shut me out and just say "fine," or will you realize I really want to know more about you? I want to know what's going on so I can pray for you when God reminds me of your smile. Or, when I'm at the store and I see a car or purse or shoes or a shirt just like yours, I will be reminded to pray for your current needs and not just note the similarities. I may not be the best at showing you I care, but I do.



I want to tell you that you matter and that it is a big deal when you're not at church; not because perfect attendance is the ultimate goal, but because maybe you've missed out on something. Maybe not everyone has noticed that you weren't here. Maybe the worship song we sang wouldn't have touched your heart, but God used it to speak to mine. Maybe the sermon wasn't just for you, but I sure felt like it was for me. And I don't feel like I can tell you, "Hey, you really missed an awesome church service: God had something for everyone (and for you, too)" because I don't want you to feel uncomfortable. But I should tell you because it's true.

Christmas is just around the corner: you're going to get busier than you intend, but please don't think that getting up on Sunday morning is too much to add to your schedule. Please know that I only want you here because I want you to take advantage of every opportunity you have to experience Jesus. I want to know that you're serious about growing closer to God. Why? Because we weren't meant to do this alone, and because next month--I might need **you** to ask me where I was and tell me that you missed me.

Hope to see you soon!

Love,  
Your friend in Christ

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## Live Oaks Community Church

# An Old Fashioned Holiday Dinner

Date: Sunday, Dec. 2nd Time: 5:00pm - 7:30pm

Fellowship Hall, Cross Road Fellowship Bible Church

7315 W. 13th Street - Wichita, KS

Good food...great friends...unforgettable fun...

## 10 Questions with a Live Oaks Family



(Actual picture not available)

1. Q. *What are your names?*  
A. Mark and Teria Faber
2. Q. *Do you have any children? If yes, what are their names and ages?*  
A. Nycole Inskeep—26; Amanda Kipperberger—23; Eric Kovisto—16; Kevin Faber—9; Justin Faber—6
3. Q. *How long have you been married?*  
A. 10 years 11 months.
4. Q. *How long have you attended Live Oaks Community Church?*  
A. About 5 months.
5. Q. *How long have you lived in Wichita?*  
A. Mark—his whole life; Teria—12 years.
6. Q. *Where do each of you work?*  
A. Mark—aircraft; Teria—homemaker.
7. Q. *What are each of your hobbies?*  
A. Mark likes to make things; Teria likes doing crafts/ sewing.
8. Q. *Do you have any pets? If yes, what are they and what are their names?*  
A. Golden Retriever named Destiny; 1/2 Husky 1/2 German Shepherd named Sugar; 2 Beagles named Gracie and Emma; Parakeet named Sunny; About 10 cats and an un-named tarantula.
9. Q. *What are each of your favorite sports?*  
A. Mark—baseball & soccer; Teria likes to play baseball.
10. Q. *Tell us something about yourself (each of you) that no one else in the Church may know about you.*  
A. Mark played in a band in his teen years and early 20's; Teria had a sister that passed away in 1998 from ovarian cancer. About a year before she died she told me about a dream she had that she said was from God. She dreamed all three of her sister's would be pregnant and then she would know it was time for her to die. I became pregnant a few months later, then my sister became pregnant a few months after I did and my youngest sister became pregnant a few months after that. My sister passed away in Aug. of 1998. My son was born in Oct. 1998, my nephew was born in Dec. 1998, and my niece was born in Feb. 1999. God is Good! God is Faithful!



[www.liveoaks.org](http://www.liveoaks.org)

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