

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

## Have You Ever Wondered If Anyone Cared?

Have you ever wondered whether anyone notices if you are absent at Sunday morning service or at an all-church event? Have you ever asked yourself whether anyone prays for your needs or thinks about you during the week? If you have ever wondered whether anyone cared about you at Live Oaks, the answer is "YES!"

A couple months ago, our Ministry Director Team made their commitment to care for our congregation more concrete. The team enthusiastically agreed to divvy up the individuals and families of Live Oaks among our group. Each director or director couple was responsible, by choice, for the pastoral care of a small group of people from our church. Obviously, the MD's responsibility would not cancel out Jodi and my shepherding, but compliment and supplement our care.

The MD's made a three pronged commitment to the pastoral care of the folks in their group. **First**, they would **pray weekly** for the people on their list, interceding for their needs and asking for God's blessings. **Next**, they would **seek to make monthly contact** through conversations at church, phone calls or cards. Connecting and care go hand and hand. **Last**, they would **work to meet quarterly** either one on one over coffee or a meal, or as a group over a meal, party or event. This last commitment has more flexibility realizing that people's schedules are full and that connections need to be sensitive to the people involved.

Intentionality is an important part of care and developing fellowship. Yet, intentionality, may take time and effort to become a habit. As a leadership team, our MD's sincerely want this new commitment to pastoral care to become a natural part of our weekly, monthly and quarterly approach to serving you. However, we are depending on the grace and power of God as we walk this new path.

Therefore, if ever you wonder whether anyone cares about you at Live Oaks, you can answer with confidence – "someone is praying for me this week, someone is seeking me out this month, someone is working to connect with me in this season! I am not alone. My church family may not be perfect, but they are there and really do care for me!"

*"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be..." (1Peter 5:2a)*

In His Care and the Care of His Family,

P. Kelley

## Terrific Three's!!



Can you believe another year has gone by already? That's right, The Outer Leaf has turned three years old! In case you're not good at math or haven't been keeping track like we have, this issue marks number 37!! Wow!! That seems hard to believe for many reasons. Hard to believe Kelley has written that many articles, hard to believe we've been able to find that much clip art without really duplicating it from month to month (thanks Google!), hard to believe we've had enough "stuff" to put together 37 full newsletters (many thanks to everyone who has dedicated their time and written something), and hard to believe that it's been three years since we started doing the newsletter!

How can we make this next year the best year that we've had for the newsletter? Do you have any suggestions and/or ideas on what you would like to see added or changed? We would love to hear those if you do!

We would also like to challenge each member/family of Live Oaks, no matter your age. We would like to see each of you work to submit just one thing over the next year. That could be a story, a testimony, a poem, a song, a picture you've taken or drawn. Whatever. It doesn't matter. Just take a little time and prepare something to share. You have a year — starting....NOW!

Looking forward to receiving your submission!

Chris & Janette Dillon

PS — Three's, Three's, Who's got the Three's? As you read the newsletter, try to find 25 numerical 3's (the word three doesn't count!).



## Friday Fragments

By Dan Wolgemuth  
President of Youth For Christ

It was Tuesday that I took Mary to the airport for a 19-day journey to Europe. After an overnight flight, she connected with our daughter, Alli, at Heathrow Airport in London, at the conclusion of Alli's 12-week semester of college study in Tanzania.

Once I returned to our house, **I began my bachelor experience.** At 10:30 PM I pulled back the covers of our bed, there, taped to the sheet was a card from Mary. It was expertly crafted by hand, and expressed in tender terms the love and commitment that Mary has for me. It was **ointment** on a lonely heart.

The next morning it was time to make a smaller than usual pot of coffee, and as I reached for the filters inside a kitchen cabinet, I found a note, taped to the box. Once again, a reminder of Mary's love. Her own words... her own hands, confirming what I believed.

Over the past three days, it's been like an Easter egg hunt. Except I have not been hunting at all. Messages of love, commitment, support and care show up in the spots where I live. Taped to the bottom of a remote control. Perfectly placed in the center of the seat I typically occupy at the kitchen table. On top of the second pair of underwear in my closet. On the register page of the checkbook. On the shower door. On a plate of leftover calzones that we had originally shared last Sunday.

**Right where I lived... reminders, reflections and words of renewal.**

Mary could have typed all of the words, put them on a page or two and dropped them on the kitchen counter... but she knew that the words would impact me more directly, when I experienced them where I lived. And so I've left them... as close to where I found them as possible, because they come alive in context; and I bask in what they communicate... every time I see them.



The author of the book of Hebrews understood this. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit these words were written: "*The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piecing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*" Because the Word of God lives where we live. It applies to what we experience. It moves what we can't budge. It assures when and where we doubt. It embraces where we feel

alone. It convicts when we disobey. God's Word is where we are. His truth lives in our reality. **Inspired at its creation, applied in real-time by His Spirit.**

I'm loved and cared for... at every turn, in every way.

Do you suppose Mary taped a really special note to the vacuum or a dust rag? **Oh, the things to look forward to on day 18!**

## Who Is Jason Haag?

Interviewed by Chris Dillon

**I caught up with Jason on his break from his world tour. He agreed to sit down with me at a local restaurant and answer some questions. We sat in a secluded corner booth so that his fans wouldn't recognize him and interrupt our session.**

*Q: I want to start out with your musical history. How old were you when you started to learn the guitar?*

*A: I started playing guitar in high school (Junior or Senior year). I was in a discipleship group with one of the college kids and we were camping at Lake Afton. The leader had a friend who brought an acoustic guitar to play some praise choruses and when I heard the first chord, out there by the camp fire, I was smitten. Instead of listening to the devotional, I had spirited his guitar away, convinced the guy to teach me the fingering for the chord, "D" and played it over and over and over again. Kind of like a Tom Petty song. So I asked my parents to buy me a guitar for Christmas one year. Completely foreign to my retentive nature, I hadn't researched anything about guitars, knew nothing about them, the different types, styles, brands, construction, components, resulting tone qualities, overall structural integrity, etc. My dad went to C-Major guitars and asked them for a basic beginner's guitar. They gave him the plywood special for \$100 that looked like it was covered with Formica and played like it, too. Christmas arrived; I received my guitar, was wildly excited,*

Please see **JASON**, Pg. 3



**Happy Father's Day!!**

## June Nursery Schedule

June 3 - Dave & Lisa Sramek  
 June 10 - Kathy & Amanda Massey  
 June 17 - Jon & Kari Hicks  
 June 24 - Chris & Janette Dillon

Warm and wonderful summer wishes to all of our nursery volunteers!

The schedule is now on our website:  
[www.liveoaks.org](http://www.liveoaks.org)



## Teacher's Pet By Ashley Callstrom

Okay, I'll admit it. I've got a hard head, I'm stubborn. But now that I think of it, aren't all humans? Aren't we the ones that beat our heads against a wall before it occurs to us that this "wall" might, in fact, be a door God wants to open for us??? Lately God's theme for my life has been obedience. It's a reoccurring theme, one that I'm sure He will keep showing me I need. Naturally, we humans are neither compliant nor are we always open to what God is showing us. There are many times that we simply don't want to listen. It's a funny scenario when we compare ourselves to Charlie Brown and his friends when the teacher is trying to instruct them. But, all too often I think we treat God in the same way. We may hear His voice as a muffled instrument without coherent meaning, or we may hear a word from God and simply not apply it to our lives. It's funny for a kid in a cartoon to not listen to a teacher, but there's nothing funny about us not listening intently to every whisper or instruction from our loving God, our Savior and the Creator of the entire universe! If He has anything to say to me or in regards to how my life is going, shouldn't I be playing the part of "teacher's pet" trying to make sure I get EVERY syllable written down in my notes so I can go over it and over it until it is literally part of me? Yes!

So, I don't know what God has been speaking to you about lately. I don't know if He wants you to reach out to someone He's placed in your life, or pray for someone. Maybe He wants to speak to you like He never has before and show you how REAL and practical He is! It could be that He's taught you something and He wants you to put it into action, or memorize some verses! If you're young or old, or not quite sure about God or a long-time student of the Most-High, whatever it is that God has been trying to get into that thick head of yours, today, I'm praying that you're getting every little bit He has for you, and I hope you'll do the same for me!





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