

# The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks  
Community Church

Volume 4, Issue 4

September 2007

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

## Beauty Is In The Eye Of The Beholder

*He has made everything beautiful in its time."  
(Ecclesiastes 3:11)*

A few weeks back I woke up suddenly in the wee hours of the morning staring at a photograph of three of my boys running in staggered formation down the basketball court at Buffalo Park. The cool snapshot was one of the many moments of time we shared a couple months ago when Live Oaks hosted a bring-your-own-lunch to enjoy together in the park after service.

As I stared at the photograph in the dimness, I felt God was trying to speak to me. I grabbed the photo, went into the front room, turned on the light and began to listen for the Lord. Just the day before, our church celebrated the success of this year's VBS with a pool party at Orchard Recreation Center. Chris Dillon and Elizabeth Massey brought a photo album of the many shots they took throughout the prior week of ministry. It was amazing how many great snapshots they took! Page after page of the album contained funny, beautiful and meaningful scenes captured on film.

Sitting in my living room, I realized that "beauty" really is in the eye of the beholder. I began to wonder, how many of these wonderful experiences and scenes did I or others miss in ministry, at a worship service, and as we gather in all-church events because our mind/hearts were focused on other things – the flaws, shortcomings, and unimportant details...? How much beauty have we missed in our families, and relationships because we took them for granted or squandered the opportunities to enjoy and nurture



them...? How many times do we miss the beauty in our present circumstances because we long for the fantasy "greener grass" beyond the rainbow...?

I sensed the Holy Spirit strongly urge me to see the good and focus on the beauty around me – beauty and riches I would miss if I focused on lesser things - beauty that would cease to affect my heart, and by default allow a critical spirit, discontent, and the burnout of hopelessness to stain my demeanor. I thank God for using Chris and Elizabeth to admonish me to keep my mind and focus set on the beauty that is present.

When you look at yourself...when you look at me...when you look at God, His word, and His will...when you look at our church and our ministries... do beautiful pictures fill the gallery of your mind? Moreover, do you celebrate the beauty that you see? If not, you must make the choice to change your focus now and ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the beauty God sees. Only in seeing the will and beauty of God in all the people and circumstances in your life can you be where God wants you to be and be the blessing to others He intends. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Is the beauty around you your focus?

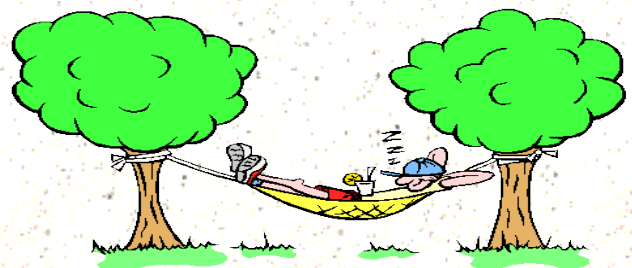
*"Do not repay evil for evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called that you may inherit a blessing."  
(1 Peter 3:9)*

Beholding Beauty,

P. Kelley

Wishing each of you a restful and Happy  
Labor Day

Monday, September 3rd



## Friday Fragments

By Dan Wolgemuth  
President, Youth For Christ

The verdict hasn't been completely established at this point, but it seems that some combination of weight and weakness proved lethal in downtown Minneapolis. The bridge over the Mississippi River fractured when a **point of failure and vulnerability** was exposed.

Undoubtedly it will take months to determine the exact cause, but each day more speculation exists that the combination of construction equipment weight, and growing weaknesses in the bridge collided. The result created a cascade of disaster that rippled through the entire river span. Even areas of strength crumbled when points of dependency failed in catastrophic proportion. Cars, buses and trucks were tossed from the bridge as those that trusted the infrastructure were impacted by the breach.



The scenario is all too familiar. **The lethal combination** is much too frequently repeated. Weight and weakness collide, an infrastructure collapses and lives, families, children, organizations, neighborhoods are tossed into chaos.

**A flaw is exposed** before it is dealt with... the pressure and opportunity of everyday life press into the crack and disaster is the result.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting! ~ Psalm 139:23-24*

God understands the need for inspection. He loves us enough to want full disclosure before we experience full disaster.

When weakness intersects with the weight of everyday living... innocent people are flung from the bridge. Unsuspecting individuals are caught in the chaos. Disaster.

Is it time to double check the spans in your life? The disastrous metaphor is much too poignant to miss. Yes, dear Lord, **"Search me," expose the points of weakness.** Relieve the stress points. Then lead me. I trust you. I need you.



**Sunday, Sept. 9th**

When God created grandparents  
the world was truly blessed  
with all the special joys  
that make a family happiest...

For grandparents know how to do  
the things that warm a heart,  
They touch our lives with loving care  
right from the very start...

They show that they believe in us  
and all we're dreaming of...

When God created grandparents,  
He blessed our lives with love.

~author unknown

### Exciting Changes happening in J-Kids!!

J-Kids has taken the place of Children's Church on Sunday mornings and the Children's Ministry team is excited to share with you all that they have planned. J-Kids will consist of grades 2nd through 5th, while those children in pre-k through 1st grade will now be known as J-Kids Jr.

Be watching the worship folder on Sunday morning's for more details regarding the kick off party coming soon. We are going to have a great year.

## 10 Questions with a Live Oaks Family



1. Q. *What are your names?*  
A. What are my "names"? Well, I answer Will, JoyBoy (my former radio name), "hey!" (ok, so that's not really a name, but I've answered to it before).
2. Q. *Do you have any children? If yes, what are their names and ages?*  
A. No children — if my answer to #3 changes, this answer might too!
3. Q. *How long have you been married?*  
A. Have to be married first....
4. Q. *How long have you attended Live Oaks Community Church?*  
A. Good question — I'm thinking about 6 years.
5. Q. *How long have you lived in Wichita?*  
A. In lived in Wichita my entire life — except for the year or so that I lived in Valley Center.
6. Q. *Where do each of you work?*  
A. Cox Communications.
7. Q. *What are each of your hobbies?*  
A. I watch far too many movies. I also enjoy drawing, writing (what will eventually be) song lyrics, and I'm starting to enjoy cooking — (keep in mind the word starting — I only have 2 or 4 actual dishes so far...and yet, I do use parentheses like it was a hobby).
8. Q. *Do you have any pets? If yes, what are they and what are their names?*  
A. No pets, but I do have a stuffed blue monkey that lives in my car.
9. Q. *What are each of your favorite sports?*  
A. NASCAR (or just about any form of motorsport), Football (Go Cowboys!), and Hockey.
10. Q. *Tell us something about yourself (each of you) that no one else in the Church may know about you.*  
A. The few different things that I wanted to be when I grew up: a policeman, fireman, rockstar (still working on that one), racecar driver, Michael Knight (from the series Knight Rider — because I wanted his car, K.I.T.T.) and Baryshnikov (no, I don't think that last one will happen for me).

## LABOR DAY WORD FIND

V	Y	P	D	M	D	P	H	T	L	Z	W	K	R	O	W	Q	M	G	C
G	A	B	A	N	M	O	I	O	J	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	U
A	D	C	M	R	L	I	O	R	E	L	A	X	W	B	M	F	Z	B	B
M	N	T	A	I	T	H	E	Y	T	C	U	B	K	F	A	M	R	Y	I
E	O	I	D	T	C	Y	E	K	H	E	C	I	F	F	O	E	U	F	C
S	M	A	A	S	I	L	U	A	W	F	O	M	I	O	A	N	A	S	A
Y	Y	M	X	U	X	O	V	I	E	D	L	B	V	K	B	P	B	G	L
Y	Q	C	Z	W	Z	Z	N	R	T	O	N	O	N	C	X	S	S	Q	N
M	U	M	V	F	W	N	A	V	P	Y	L	J	X	N	Z	B	D	W	D
F	A	H	L	Q	Z	D	B	S	I	S	A	B	T	A	K	G	H	O	S

BREAK  
HOLIDAY  
OFFICE  
SCHOOL  
TRIP

CUBICAL  
JOB  
PARTY  
SEPTEMBER  
VACATION

GAMES  
MONDAY  
RELAX  
SUMMER  
WORK



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

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9522

Wichita, KS 67277