

Lycoming Alive

Lycoming Christian Church

APRIL 2012

**"THE BEST
AND WORST
OF TIMES"**

A TALE OF
TWO CITIES
CHARLES
DICKENS

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us." (Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities)

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . . " Every writer is looking for a "grabber" for their first sentence; words that immediately grab your attention and make you want to read more. That's how Charles Dickens opens his famous book, "Tale of Two Cities" "Best of times/worst of times" can pretty much describe this last month at LCC.

"It was the worst of times . . . "

As no doubt most of you have heard, Susan Ulmer, our loyal secretary, has stepped down to take another position. AND, Sharon Sullivan, our hard working, do anything to help, so clean you can eat off the floor custodian, has stepped down as well.

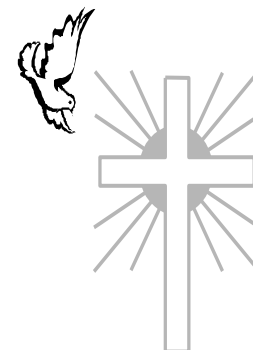
"It was the best of times . . . "

Both Sharon and Susan are moving on to bigger and better things. They both prayerfully considered their decisions and are confident that God is at work as they move forward to new endeavors and opportunities. We pray all the best for both Susan and Sharon and the blessing they will be to their new employers. But we can look forward expectantly to what new gifts and talents will be brought to LCC by those yet unknowns who will fill their shoes.

"It was the best of times . . . "

The new church website is up and running! (www.lycomingchristianchurch.org) Our new IT ministry team has done an outstanding job in getting this long-desired and vital link in place. Check out all the links to Sylvan Hills Camp, Celebration, Matthew's Park, and other Bible-based resources such as Minister's Blog, LCC events calendar, weekly messages aired world-wide, and much more! Although it is still under construction, it promises to be a great tool for members and for those who will one day be members!

(continued on page 4)



*"To glorify Christ by
serving Him together
in love and unity"*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 AM

WORSHIP

10:15 AM



MINISTER

DONALD DENNIS

ELDERS

FRED BRYANS
DAVID GEPHART
JOHN GETGEN
DAVID LOMISON
JOHN WILLIAMS

SECRETARY

SUSAN ULMER

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New Research by the Barna Group suggests that as many as 7 out of 10 young adults will drift away from the Church during college. How do we save this next generation of believers from “checking out” before they graduate? The best answer to this question is nothing new: discipleship.

On campus, **new** opportunities await us. Weekly Fellowship meetings will no doubt focus on a **renewed** commitment to God. **New** friendships will be established with students on campus for the first time. **New** challenging experiences to serve God through ministry outreach and spring break will be available. Even **new** dating/engaged couples will have the privilege to learn of the importance of a Christ-centered relationship.

Within CSFPA, we are looking forward to the changes God will make in our lives this year. What lays ahead only the Lord knows, but through obedience and His faithfulness, we will be able to share with you throughout the **new** year.

Thanks for your faithfulness to this ministry. Your petitions on our behalf are bringing about the changes God desires. Continue to pray with us for more **new** experiences.



Ronald and Elsie Chio, and Grandson, Joey Hibbs, placed their membership at LCC on Sunday, March 4

Did you know ?

38% of Americans are eligible to donate blood, **only 8%** do.

Every 2 seconds someone in the United States **needs blood.**

More than 38,000 new blood donations are **needed every day.**

Help save a life. **Donate blood.**



PLEASE SUPPORT THE BLOOD DRIVE ON APRIL 10

Some of my fondest childhood memories are the times my parents hosted a meal for friends or family. Company was an event in our house. Cleaning, planning, cooking—and often, my mother would bring out her very best special dishes. (We loved those dishes—they were too special for us to wash!)

Sometimes, our guests were almost unknown to us—newcomers we welcomed into our life with open arms and a pan of shepherd's pie. Jesus loved a good meal, too. Being friends with so many fishermen, he probably had the fish fry down to an art. He attended weddings, dinner parties and picnics. He regularly invited himself over to someone's house for a meal.

There is a lot of emphasis in the Bible on food and the role it plays in our lives, especially the act of sitting around the table in a communal setting. The earliest form of 'communion', as we now call it, was actually Sunday dinner, shared by the congregations of the early church as a part of their worship service.

In truth, a meal involves sacrifice, and while our chicken and potatoes are the fuel of our everyday physical life, Jesus' sacrifice has to do with providing us with the means to attain life for eternity. In Luke's account of what we call The Last Supper, he remembers Jesus telling the disciples how much He longs for the special bonding of sharing a meal together: When it was time, Jesus sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, *"You've no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It's the last one I'll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God."* Luke 22:14-20

Jesus explains to those He's eating with, and us, that when our life is the roughest, the best we can do is share a meal with other like-minded friends.

Are you facing a challenge in your life?

Maybe it's time to throw a dinner party!



"COME TO THE TABLE"

Want to read more of Rosalyn's devotions?

Visit her website at:

www.rosalynpriceenglish.com



by Rosalyn Price English

Our Deepest Gratitude . . . On behalf of the Ministry Board, I would like

to offer our deepest and sincere gratitude to our secretary, Susan Ulmer, for her years of service to the congregation. She became our secretary in January 2006 and has served us faithfully for the past six years. She is leaving our office on April 13, 2012 for her new position as Office Manager at Big Woods Bible Church. Please take time to offer a note or word of thanks for the dedicated service she has given our church family.

The Ministry Board would also like to thank Sharon Sullivan for her past 2 3/4 years of service to the church as custodian. We have a huge facility that has to be cleaned on a weekly basis, including additional cleaning when special events such as Celebration are held at the church. This is the type of service that often goes unnoticed just due to the expectation that each week we will find the facility clean. Sharon has gone above and beyond in her service in not only keeping our facility clean but also fulfilling

Robert L. Williams,
*Chairman of
Ministry Board*

“THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES”

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It was the best of times . . . “

The new church website is up and running! That means more work to do for the LCC Ministry Teams! In order for the website to be an effective evangelistic tool, it is key that it is updated on a regular basis with current and relevant information given to our webmaster/editors, Kathy Dennis and Rosalyn Price English. That being said, I'm sure all the Ministry Teams would welcome you to become involved in the work and mission of Christ's church. We can always use more hands.

It was the best of times . . . “

Carolyn Myers, a real prayer warrior if there ever was one, has humbly stepped up to lead the Prayer Ministry Team. There is perhaps no more important ministry in the body of Christ than that of prayer—better yet—prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for serving Him. So let us all join up with Carolyn and her team to pray for each other, our church, and the world. See Carolyn for details.

Charles Dickens' opening paragraph reveals a tension that we all live in but perhaps give little thought: the reality that the best of times and the worst of times co-exist. Good and bad, hate and love, stability and change, all do little to gain our attention, thoughts, and attitudes. Whichever time we find ourselves, it is good to remember God is in control and that *“in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose;”* (Romans 8:28)

There is a positive found in everything and every time. It takes a lot of courage to be a Christian, and one of the most courageous things a church family can do is go through the best of times, the worst of times, together . . . focused on one thing . . . the best thing . . . Jesus Christ.



Denny

I believe that the booth Matthew's Park had at the Builder's Show at Lycoming College in Williamsport March 16, 17, 18 was a great success.

In our society, we measure success by numbers. How many people attended from the surrounding community (2,500+). How many people participated from Matthew's Park and the church (30). How many peanut butter Easter eggs were sold (70 lbs). How many Sheetz coupons (50) and T-shirts (12) were sold. How much money and donations were taken in (\$1,500+). And how many hits or inquiries Matthew's Park had on the church's new website address www.lycomingchristianchurch.org in just 3 days (200+). And how many of the people we talked to responded to our invitations? (God knows)



But, I believe God views success in a different way. In the way people's lives, like the ones we talked to, were affected by the passion and excitement of those who manned the booth. And I want you to realize that more important than numbers was what was in the hearts of those who helped. That they were willing to share about Matthew's Park, the church here at Lycoming, and to share their testimony of Christ by their words or by the fact that they stood together representing the church of Jesus Christ to those who passed by. And in that God blessed us all. Seeds were sown, God's word was given out. And He will give the increase and accomplish what He desires. For God has said that His word will not return to Him void. Isaiah 55:11

Why is Matthew's Park an important mission of Lycoming? Because it involves children, and God loves children. And here at Lycoming we love and care about your children, too. And what these children learn at an early age will stay with them and influence them throughout their lives. And the relationships that they develop playing at the Park with their parents, with other children and with God guiding them builds a foundation for their eternal future.

Thanks to all of you who have helped make this event a success.

*“Follow me”, Matthew 9:9
Larry Brooks,
Matthew's Park Chairman*



Spring Project List

- ◆ Planting and Landscaping
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Spring Cleaning
- ◆ Brush/Tree Removal
- ◆ Cutting/Splitting Wood
- ◆ Ropes Course Maintenance
- ◆ Maintenance Bldg. Construction
- ◆ Organizing Supplies
- ◆ Yard Work
- ◆ Plumbing Repairs

Camp Service Days

APRIL 7 — MAY 12 — MAY 19

All service days begin at 8:00 AM

Morning coffee, tea and snacks are provided, as well as lunch. If planning to attend a service day, please contact Chris Miller so food arrangements can be made.

Phone: (814)355-5652

Email: millerchris86@gmail.com

May 12 is "Camp Pride Day." Come join us as we show our enthusiasm for our camp through acts of service! This is a special day set aside to make final preparations of the buildings and grounds for our exciting summer camp season.

Central PA Christian Men's Night Out at Sylvan Hills Christian Service Camp

Friday—May 18, 2012

Speaker Allan Scott

Theme "The Power of Christ"

Registration 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Dinner 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM