

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Larry G. Mininger,
Senior Pastor
Rev. James T. Lim,
Associate Pastor

Elders

David Bower, Matt Butler,
Steve Chong, John Hearn,
Rich Ribbe (emeritus),
Dan Stowe

Deacons

Drew Coulter, Bill Justice,
Joel King (Chairman), Tim
Phillips, Carson Ryan,
John Zeher

Youth Group

John & Marcy Hearn,
Nora King, Carson Ryan

Sunday School

Toddlers:

Taylor Lim

Preschool:

Linda Roebke

Grades 1 & 2:

Jean McFadden

Grades 3-5:

Drew Coulter

Middle School:

Nancy Treible

High School:

Matt & Deanna Butler

Adults:

Rev. James Lim
David Moore

Leadership Training:

Rev. Larry Mininger

Superintendent:

Rev. James Lim

Secretary:

Natalie Flick

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Sunday School

Convocation Address Fall 2007

By Rev. James Lim,
Associate Pastor/Sunday
School Superintendent

²⁰ You, however, did not
come to know Christ that way.
²¹ Surely you heard of him and
were taught in him in
accordance with the truth that
is in Jesus." **Ephesians 4:20-
21**

After exhorting the
Ephesians not to live in
open rebellion as spiritual
gentiles, Paul reminds them
that they "did not come to
know Christ that way". Paul
literally says, "You were not
schooled in Christ that
way". And then he goes
on to tell them that they
were taught the truth that is
in Jesus. The picture that
Paul is painting here is that
there is a school of Christ
where we learn Christ,
know Christ, and live in
Christ. This is the picture
that I would like for us to
see as we learn Christ
together here at Lake
Sherwood OPC. My hope
and prayer is that our
Christian Education ministry
would be a comprehensive
"School of Christ" to learn
Christ in all his glory so that
you can fulfill your chief
end: "To glorify God and
enjoy Him forever". My
great desire as your Sunday

school superintendent
and as your pastor is to
see that this school is just
as, if not more important,
than the schooling you
receive in your academic
education. Parents, you
are not exempt from this
school, either. Being
disciples of Christ is not
something that we
graduate from and then
never think about again.
It's not like Calculus,
where once you finish the
class, you don't need it
unless you go onto study
physics or engineering.
We are all disciples
following our teacher,
learning at His feet, and
living in His presence. We
are disciples for life,
young and old, and even
in between.

To this end, I want to lay
out a humble set of goals
for our Sunday School
instruction. I am
indebted to my professor,
Dennis Johnson, Cornelius
Van Til, and Jim Wilhoit for
this outline of six goals¹.

**First, to strengthen your
biblical literacy.** If we are
to live according to
God's word, we need to
know what it says. We

must be "people of the
book" in our knowledge of
Scripture. This just means
that we know the Bible in
all the ways we need know
them as we grow together
as the family of God.

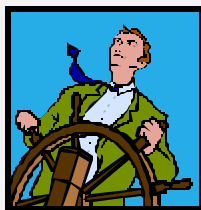
Second, to cultivate and nurture a delight in reading and studying Scripture.

There is no better
motivation to study God's
word than to delight in
them. My hope is that we
would instill in you a
passionate love for God's
word. That you would find
God's word to be "more
precious than gold" and
"sweeter than honey" (Ps.
119:10).

Third, to foster a covenantal understanding of the Bible's authority.

This means that
we study it, learn it, and live
it as the "only rule of faith
and practice". As God's
covenant people, we live
by the covenant words of
God in Scripture. It is the
charter of the kingdom of
God. As citizens of heaven,
the Bible is the word of our
great King. So as we study
and learn God's word, we
submit to it and live by it.
This means that we reflect

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“... to help our men develop in their spiritual abilities for leadership roles both in their homes and in the church.”

Adult Sunday School

Please join us for a special study on the Gospel of John. The series is entitled, “The Great I AM: the ‘I am’ sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John” (co-taught by David Moore and James Lim).

Leadership Training Course

"ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE"
by Senior Pastor Larry G. Mininger

ESV **2 Timothy 2:2** "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

One of my most important tasks as Senior Pastor of Lake Sherwood is to help our men develop in their spiritual abilities for leadership roles both in their homes and in the church.

This Fall Quarter I have begun the most thorough training program I have ever undertaken in my 36 years here. In the course of this class, I hope to cover the Westminster Confession of Faith, a book on Presbyterian the Confession in this quarter; however,

due government, a brief biography of the founder of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, J. Gresham Machen, and, perhaps, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray.

Seventeen men have committed with me to this learning process. That is a surprising and very encouraging number! We meet during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall at 9 AM sharp. They sign in, report on their reading assignment, turn in their "take home" test from the previous week, take a seat with the new day's lesson before them, and investigate the theology of the Bible as summarized in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. After a full 45 mins of serious study, they take another "take home" exam with them.

At first, my goal was to cover to the wide interest in this class coupled with the wide span of knowledge of the students, the Session has instructed me to slow the pace so that more men can digest more of the material.

I hope that you will pray for this ministry. Please pray that the Lord Jesus, who is the Head of the church, will bless me as a teacher and these men as learners of His Word. Also pray that through this process (in addition to the service these men render in their homes and in the church life) God will develop all the spiritual gifts that He has given these men. Pray that God will develop our current leaders and more spiritual leaders for the future.

College and Career Small Group

The College & Career small group typically meets twice a month on Sunday evenings at the King's home. The group is geared to give both opportunities for studies and discussion as well as time for fellowship with each other. We have been conducting a series of lessons through R.B. Kuiper's book *The Glorious Body of Christ*, though we have taken a break from this study over the summer

months. During the school year, we range from 6-10 in the group, while we swell to as many as 18-20 during the summer and other break times. We expect to continue our lessons in the book during the coming months and look forward to adding even more to our group after the new year, when current high school seniors are welcome to join.



by Joel King



Scripture Memory 2008

You are invited to memorize God's Word with the encouragement of fellow Christians this January through April, 2008!

Weekly Scripture Memory recitations begin Sunday January 13 on the front lawn at 8:40 a.m. Students and adults are invited to memorize 100 verses of Scripture, the Books of the Bible, and twelve Catechism questions. This year's topics include the Beatitudes, Ten Commandments, Salvation, Resurrection, Hope, Peace, Alms/Prayer/Fasting. (An alternative track comprises the entire book of I Peter.) For a headstart, take a purple list from the foyer now.

Upon completion of Recitation and Review, a \$200 Christian bookstore certificate will be awarded to 4th graders, \$200 camp scholarships to 5th through 12th

graders, and a Certificate of Merit to all ages, including adults. Alternative rewards fund approved Mission Trips or Christian College tuition. Half completion results in similar \$100 rewards. But even if you learn only a few verses, you will reap spiritual benefits.

Participants who complete the recently upgraded nine-year curriculum will know over 900 verses of Scripture, Books of the Bible, Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, and the entire Westminster Shorter Catechism! See Gail Minerger to volunteer as a Listener as we enter our twenty-eighth year of Scripture Memory. What a blessing to hear young and old reciting God's Word weekly. "All Scripture is God-breathed...." !



Bower Small Group

The small group led by Elder Dave Bower consists mainly of Lake Sherwood members who live in and near Ocoee. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. The main focus of the group is the study of the Bible, book by book. They are currently studying the book of First Corinthians. Another purpose is to provide a small group setting for fellowship and in the past year the group has gone through some changes. For several years Natalie Flick hosted the group in her home, but the meeting location was changed to the home of

Dwight and Shirley Scroggins so that Dwight could continue to participate. Then after Dave was diagnosed with cancer, John Zeher stepped in to provide leadership for the group. Now John and Evelyn Zeher have their house up for sale and are planning to move to Quarryville, Pennsylvania, in a few months.

The group members plan to finish the study of First Corinthians and then determine their next course of action. If Dave is able to resume leadership when the Zehers leave, the group will decide on their next study and continue meeting. If Dave is not yet able, then they will probably take a break until he is able. Please keep this group in your prayers.



ESV BIBLE

Adoption of the English Standard Version at LSOPC

At the September meeting, the session voted unanimously to adopt the English Standard Version as LSOPC's primary translation for ministry, teaching, and worship, effective January 2008.

The Session recognizes that an "essentially literal" translation best matches our high view of Scripture and our commitment to redemptive-historical expository preaching.

Some members may have questions about this transition to the ESV. There will be a Church-wide combined Sunday School class addressing the history, theology, philosophy, and implementation of the ESV into the entire ministry and worship of Lake Sherwood OPC. This class will take

place on December 2, 2008 in the Sunday School hour (9am) and a follow-up Question and Answer session in the evening during the LSOPC Town Hall meeting (after evening worship) in the main sanctuary.

This decision was made after many months of careful study and discernment. We pray that the Lord will remind us how important His Word is to us and to our church family.



"We are all disciples following our teacher, learning at His feet, and living in His Presence. We are disciples for life, young and old, and even in between."

Children's Sunday School Subjects

Toddlers: "God's Family" – Beginning the line of promise-Adam through Joseph.

Preschool: "God Created All things" – Discovering the Creator through His creation.

Grades 1 & 2: "Living Together" – God and His people; stories from Genesis.

Grades 3-5: "Worshiping God" – The joys and duties of worship.

Middle School: *Bible Doctrine* (Year 2) – A study based on Westminster Shorter Catechism Qs. 39-107

High School: various topics

Sunday School Convocation Address Fall 2007

(continued from page one)

on what God says to us and how we respond to His Word in our everyday lives. James says that we must not deceive ourselves. We must not only be hearers, but also doers of the word (James 1:22).

Fourth, to rightly interpret the Bible. This is so important that I cannot stress this enough. We can read the Bible, but if we can't interpret it, then it is a foreign book to us. This is at the heart of what it means to study the Bible: we must understand what we read. This means depending on the illumination of the Holy Spirit, but it also means knowing that the full meaning of any passage of Scripture is found in Christ. Jesus said that all of Scripture testify and point to Him: *27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself (Luke 24:27).*

39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me (John 5:39)

Fifth, to instill in you a Biblical and Christian worldview. John Calvin likened the Bible to a pair of glasses that give you a clear view of the world that God has made². God's word reveals to us the way

in which we must see our existence and all of reality through the lens of His word - through the doctrines and story of redemption. This means that we must have a Biblical perspective by which to see all of life. Through Scripture, we must "think God's thoughts after Him".

Sixth, to teach you how to use Scripture. Timothy wrote, *"16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16,17)."* God intended us to use Scripture to equip you ("the man of God") for every good work in the Christian life. This means that an essential part of our school is to train you in the Spiritual use of Scripture for every aspect of your life. This is why Paul describes the Bible as a sword of the Spirit and a sharp double-edged sword. We must teach you to fight the good fight using this sword in the great battle against sin and Satan. It is not enough to know about the Bible, but we must learn to use the Bible as the Lord intended it for our lives and for ministering to others.

My prayer is that these would be simple goals for our Sunday School. They are not easy goals, but they are important ones.

As we begin this new school year, let us strive toward these six goals. Teachers, parents, students, we are enrolled in the school of Christ to learn Christ in order to live in Christ. Let us live wholeheartedly as His disciples, sit at his feet and learn from Him.

Footnotes:

¹ Dennis E. Johnson, unpublished class syllabus for "Ministry of Discipleship", Westminster Seminary California, 1999. Louis Berkhof and Cornelius Van Till, *Foundations of Christian Education: Addresses to Christian Teachers (Christian Perspectives)*, ed. Dennis E. Johnson (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing), 1990. Jim Wilhoit, *Christian Education and the Search for Meaning*, (MI: Baker Publishing Group), 2nd Ed., 1986.

² John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1.6.1. Calvin writes, "For as the aged, or those whose sight is defective, when any books however fair, is set before them, though they perceive that there is something written are scarcely able to make out two consecutive words, but, when aided by glasses, begin to read distinctly, so Scripture, gathering together the impressions of Deity, which, till then, lay confused in our minds, dissipates the darkness, and shows us the true God clearly."