

Our Practical Plan for Personal & Congregational Growth in 2011



“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
(Romans 12:2)

D.A.R.E.



Discernment · Adoption
Renewal · Engagement
2011

the
Laurel Canyon church of Christ
409 McNaughten Road
Columbus, OH 43213

614.868.1375
www.LCCOC.net

D.A.R.E. • Laurel Canyon • 2011

Where there is no vision, people lose their way...

- Proverbs 11:14

D.A.R.E. to be transformed

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

- Romans 12:1-2

So many of us are willing and eager to grow, mature, and make a difference in the world around us. We want to do more and be more in 2011 than we did and were in 2010. **But we don't know how, or where even to start.**

The premise of this little booklet (and our general theme as a congregation for the year) is that real transformation is possible. You can lead a Romans 12 kind of life, for your lasting joy and for God's eternal glory. You can be everything God created you to be, if you put **D.A.R.E.** into wholehearted practice:

- ⇒ **Discernment** — what is God's will for my life?
- ⇒ **Adoption** — making my faith my own.
- ⇒ **Renewal** — out with the old, in with the new.
- ⇒ **Engagement** — living for Christ, every day, everywhere.

We aim to use this booklet as a practical **D.A.R.E.** guide for the year. We encourage you to keep it with you and study it. Make note on your calendar of the opportunities that have been planned for the year. Most of all, use this booklet as an instrument to seek and follow God more wholeheartedly than you ever have.

May the everlasting God be gracious to us and daring in his use of us as we grow in our efforts “to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Romans 8:29). To him be the glory.

Discernment.



What is God's will for my life?

Discern (*verb*) — to perceive by the sight or some other sense; to recognize or apprehend; to distinguish mentally; to recognize the true value of a thing or opportunity.

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

(Ephesians 5:15-17)

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities for us to study and grow in our understanding of God's will for our lives. We encourage you to take full advantage of the scheduled opportunities listed to the right.

- ⇒ **Assemblies of worship** on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **Bible classes** for people of all ages on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ **Daily Bible Reading Calendars** that will progressively cover *Romans* through *Revelation* in the New Testament, and *Psalms* and *Proverbs* in the Old Testament.
- ⇒ **February 5 (Saturday): Singles Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **Sundays in March — Special Series of Sermons** *Extreme Home Makeover* (presented by Jason Hardin)
- ⇒ **March 12 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **April 24-27 (Sunday-Wednesday): Spring Gospel Meeting** *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*, presented by Ricky Shanks
- ⇒ **May 14 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **June 25 (Saturday): Singles Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **July 10-15 (Sunday-Friday): Vacation Bible School** *Wow! Did Jesus Really Do That?* (lessons from the miracles) sermons for adults presented by Jonathan Brown
- ⇒ **August 5-7 (Friday-Sunday): Youth Lectureship** with lessons presented by Jason Hardin & Devin Roush
- ⇒ **September 17 (Saturday): Women's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Shirley VanDyke
- ⇒ **Sundays in October — Special Series of Sermons** *Me, My Money and My Master* (presented by Jason Hardin)
- ⇒ **October 8 (Saturday): Men's Day-in-the-Word** with discussion led by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ **November 6-9 (Sunday-Wednesday): Fall Gospel Meeting** *If Jesus Were to Write Us a Letter* lessons from Revelation 2-3, presented by Jim Jonas

Adoption.



Making my faith my own.

Adopt (*verb*) — to choose or take as one's own; to make one's own by selection or assent; to choose and follow; to take on; to assume for oneself; to accept and put into effect.

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

(Colossians 3:1-3)

It's one thing to discover God's will for my life. The next step is to adopt God's way of thinking as my own. In 2011, there are a variety of tools available to help me do just that.

Adult Bible Class Schedule

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m:

January - March:

Getting to Know Your Bible (J. Hardin)

April - June:

1 Corinthians: Saints Under Construction (J. Hardin)

Bible Basics: An Introduction to the Bible (D. Pike)

July - September:

2 Corinthians: Triumph in Christ (J. Hardin)

Bible Basics: A Survey of the Bible (G. Price)

October - December:

Philippians & Colossians: Living in the Joy of Christ (J. Hardin)

Bible Basics: The Life of Jesus (E. Moore)

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m:

January - March:

Genesis (D. Pike)

Frequently Asked Questions (J. Hardin & E. Tustin)

April - June:

Exodus (E. Moore)

Building Authentic Relationships (J. Hardin & J. Budd)

July - September:

Heart Diseases & Their Cure (Budd, Ferry, Rupp, Tustin)

The Building Blocks of a Godly Life (J. Hardin & D. Lord)

October - December:

Joshua (D. Roush)

The Essence of Godly Transformation (J. Hardin & C. Rupp)

Renewal.



Out with the old, in with the new.

Renew (*verb*) — to begin or take up again; to restore to a former state; to replenish, revive or reestablish; to make new.

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.”

(Titus 3:4-6)

By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, I have been given a fresh start. My perspective has been changed. The old self is put off. A new self is put on.

“That is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to **be renewed in the spirit of your minds**, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:20-24)

“You have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is **being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**” (Colossians 3:9-10)

In the interest of growth and maturity, take some honest inventory.

- ⇒ What old-self-practices am I continuing to selfishly gratify?
- ⇒ What aspects of discipleship have I been leaving undone?
- ⇒ Where am I slipping into unholy conformity with the world?
- ⇒ Where are the battle fronts of spiritual warfare in my own life?
- ⇒ What areas of my daily life need specific attention in 2011?

•

•

•

•

•

Engagement.



Living for Christ, every day, everywhere.

Engage (*verb*) — to involve oneself in or commit to something; to pledge oneself; to assume an obligation or responsibility; to enter into conflict.

“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”

(Romans 12:1-2)

Christ has commissioned us to “let our lights shine before others” so that they may see our good works and give glory to our heavenly Father (Matthew 5:14-16). Romans 12 provides a practical plan for Christ-like engagement.

- ⇒ Let love be genuine (12:9).
- ⇒ Abhor what is evil (12:9).
- ⇒ Hold fast to what is good (12:9).
- ⇒ Love one another with brotherly affection (12:10).
- ⇒ Outdo one another in showing honor (12:10).
- ⇒ Do not be slothful in zeal (12:11).
- ⇒ Be fervent in spirit (12:11).
- ⇒ Serve the Lord (12:11).
- ⇒ Rejoice in hope (12:12).
- ⇒ Be patient in tribulation (12:12).
- ⇒ Be constant in prayer (12:12).
- ⇒ Contribute to the needs of the saints (12:13).
- ⇒ Seek to show hospitality (12:13).
- ⇒ Bless those who persecute you (12:14).
- ⇒ Rejoice with those who rejoice (12:15).
- ⇒ Weep with those who weep (12:15).
- ⇒ Live in harmony with one another (12:16).
- ⇒ Do not be haughty (12:16).
- ⇒ Associate with the lowly (12:16).
- ⇒ Never be wise in your own sight (12:16).
- ⇒ Repay no one evil for evil (12:17).
- ⇒ Give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all (12:17).
- ⇒ So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all (12:18).
- ⇒ Never avenge yourselves (12:19).
- ⇒ If your enemy is in need, provide for them (12:20).
- ⇒ Do not be overcome by evil; overcome evil with good (12:21).

Engaging as an Experienced Disciple

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).

What can you add, as an experienced follower of Jesus, to this family of believers so that we can grow together to God’s glory?

- ⇒ “Set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).
- ⇒ Cultivate eyes to see and ears to hear what is going on in the lives of the weak and ailing around you (Hebrews 12:12-14).
- ⇒ In humility count the needs and interests of others as more significant than your own (Philippians 2:3-4; Ephesians 2:10).
 - * the infants in Christ among us (Romans 15:1-2).
 - * visitors to our assemblies (James 2:1-13).
 - * elderly Christians who could use help (1 Thess 5:14).
 - * those who are sick and shut-in (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
 - * those who are grieving (Romans 12:15).
- ⇒ Use your home as a center of hospitality (1 Pet 4:8-9).
- ⇒ Be a prayer warrior (James 5:13-18).
- ⇒ Be a “son” or “daughter of encouragement” to:
 - * our overseers (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12-13).
 - * our deacons (1 Corinthians 16:17-18).
 - * those who preach the gospel (1 Thess 5:25).
 - * those who lead in our assemblies (1 Thess 5:11).
 - * our Bible class teachers (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 - * those who are unfaithful to God (James 5:19-20).
- ⇒ Joyfully contribute, as you may prosper, to the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Engaging as a New Disciple

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

What can you add, as a relatively new follower of Jesus, to this family of believers so that we can grow together to God’s glory?

- ⇒ Remember the will of God, your sanctification (1 Thes 4:3-12).
- ⇒ Appreciate the fact that you are in a critical period of your walk with God and that the Adversary of your soul is out to devour you (1 Peter 5:8).
- ⇒ 2 Peter 1:5-11 — Make every effort to supplement:
 - * your **faith** with **virtue**
 - * your **virtue** with **knowledge**
 - * your **knowledge** with **self-control**
 - * your **self-control** with **steadfastness**
 - * your **steadfastness** with **godliness**
 - * your **godliness** with **brotherly affection**
 - * your **brotherly affection** with **love**
- ⇒ Do what you can to learn the names of your brothers and sisters in Christ (3 John 13-15).
- ⇒ Don’t be afraid to ask questions, ask for help, or ask for advice from your spiritual family (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).
- ⇒ When (**not if**) you experience a period of discouragement or doubt, seek help from your brethren (1 Corinthians 10:12-13).
- ⇒ Appreciate the fact that you are a representative of Christ and that people will be watching and listening (2 Corinthians 3:2).
- ⇒ Joyfully contribute, as you may prosper, to the work of the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Engaging with the Good News

“In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor. 5:19-20)

There is a **process to gospel growth**. Each person must...

- ⇒ **Discern** God’s will for his or her life (Eph 5:15-17).
- ⇒ **Adopt** God’s way of thinking as their own (Col 3:1-3).
- ⇒ Be **renewed** in the spirit of their minds, experiencing the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-7).
- ⇒ **Engage** themselves, as living sacrifices, for Christ and his glory (Romans 12:1-2).

How can you contribute, as a disciple of Jesus, to the growth of his kingdom and thereby glorify your Father in heaven?

- ⇒ Consistently remind yourself that every person you ever come in contact with has a soul (Ecclesiastes 12:7).
- ⇒ Never forget that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34-35).
- ⇒ Appreciate that all will stand in judgment (Romans 14:12).
- ⇒ Encourage others to “Come and see” (John 1:46).
- ⇒ Recommend specific reasons to visit (John 4:28-30).
- ⇒ Continue to feed yourself with the Word of God so that you can grow in your ability to talk with others (2 Tim 2:15).
- ⇒ Pray for opportunities, wisdom and boldness (Acts 4:29-30).

Engaging through Prayer

“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved... Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” (Romans 10:1; 12:12).

You know dozens of people in desperate need of responding to the gospel. Your heart grieves as you think of brothers and sisters who have turned away from God in unfaithfulness. **But have you prayed for them?** What could happen if you did? Remember, it is prayer that plugs us into the awesome God of the universe. With that truth in mind, throughout 2011, pick a different person each month and pray for them every single day. Pray for receptive hearts, for opportunities, for wisdom, and boldness. Pray that God might use you to help save them.

January: _____

February: _____

March: _____

April: _____

May: _____

June: _____

July: _____

August: _____

September: _____

October: _____

November: _____

December: _____

In an effort to serve others through hospitality, why not invite someone each month into your home or out for a meal?

January: _____
February: _____
March: _____
April: _____
May: _____
June: _____
July: _____
August: _____
September: _____
October: _____
November: _____
December: _____

As you look around, are there opportunities to serve? Where can you make a difference? Can you host a singing or small-group Bible study? Can you help an elderly brother or sister around their house? Can you visit someone who is shut-in? Which member could use an extra dose of encouragement? Who can you engage by serving in...

January: _____
February: _____
March: _____
April: _____
May: _____
June: _____
July: _____
August: _____
September: _____
October: _____
November: _____
December: _____

Engaging at Home

As a spouse, what can you do to cultivate a daily atmosphere of progressive transformation for the good of your marriage and the glory of God?

- ⇒ Resolve to spend at least 30 minutes of uninterrupted, untelevised, unplugged, quality time with your spouse each day (Ephesians 6:33).
- ⇒ Humbly evaluate your God-given role, seek his wisdom and strength, then dedicate yourself to serving as the spouse God would have you to be (Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:1-8).
- ⇒ Pray **with** your spouse every day (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- ⇒ Pray **for** your spouse every day (1 Peter 3:7).
- ⇒ Periodically ask if your spouse's needs and expectations are being met and what you can do to love them in more God-glorifying ways (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).

As a parent, what can you do to cultivate a daily atmosphere of progressive transformation for the good of your children and the glory of God?

- ⇒ Recognize and joyfully accept the challenging responsibility that comes with being the parent of a God-given child (Ephesians 6:1-4).
- ⇒ Pray **with** your children every day (Romans 12:12).
- ⇒ Pray **for** your children every day (James 5:16).
- ⇒ Take advantage of daily opportunities to point the minds of your children in God's direction (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
- ⇒ Correct your children, with the ultimate goal of saving their souls (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15).
- ⇒ Help them prepare and hold them accountable for their Sunday and Wednesday Bible class opportunities (Prov 22:6).

Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2011.

January

- 2nd To Bear the Curse of Sin for Us (Gal 3:10-14)
- 9th To Fulfill the Will of His Father (Isa 53:10)
- 16th To Learn Obedience and Be Made Perfect (Heb 5:7-10)
- 23rd To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners (Rom 5:6-8)
- 30th To Show His Own Love for Us (Eph 5:1-2)

February

- 6th To Cancel the Record of Debt Against Us (Col 2:13-15)
- 13th To Become a Ransom for Sinners (1 Tim 2:5-6)
- 20th For the Forgiveness of Our Sins (Eph 1:7-10)
- 27th To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (Rom 5:9-11)

March

- 6th So That We Might Be Made Righteous (Rom 5:18-19)
- 13th So That There Might Be No Condemnation For Those Who Are In Him (Rom 8:1,34)
- 20th To Make Us Holy, Blameless, Above Reproach (Col 1:21-23)
- 27th To Purify our Consciences (Heb 9:13-14)

April

- 3rd To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good (Rom 8:31-32)
- 10th To Bear Our Grievs and Carry Our Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-4)
- 17th That By His Wounds We Might Be Healed (Isaiah 53:5)
- 24th That We Might Not Perish But Have Eternal Life (John 3:16)

May

- 1st To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (Galatians 1:3-5)
- 8th To Reconcile Us to God (2 Cor 5:17-20)
- 15th To Bring Us to God (1 Pet 3:18)
- 22nd So That We Might Belong to Him (Rom 7:4)
- 29th To Give Us Access to the Holy Places (Heb 10:19-22)

June

- 5th To Become the Place Where We Meet God (John 2:18-21)
- 12th To Replace the Old Testament Priesthood (Heb 9:15-24)
- 19th To Become the Eternal High Priest (Heb 7:23-27)
- 26th To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (Heb 4:14-16)

July

- 3rd To Free Us From Our Futile Ways (1 Pet 1:17-19)
- 10th To Free Us from the Slavery of Our Sins (Rev 1:4-6)
- 17th That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness (1 Pet 2:24)
- 24th To Enable Us to Live for Jesus and Not Ourselves (2 Cor 5:14-15)
- 31st To Make His Cross the Ground of Our Boasting (Gal 6:14)

“Do this in
remembrance
of me.”



Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (*Acts 20:7*). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (*1 Peter 1:20*) and what our Lord accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-two reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2011.

August

- 7th To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (Gal 2:20)
- 14th To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (Tit 2:11-14)
- 21st To Call Us to Follow His Example of Humility (Phil 2:5-8)
- 28th To Create a Band of Crucified Followers (Luke 9:23-25)

September

- 4th To Free Us From the Fear of Death (Heb 2:14-15)
- 11th So That We Would Be with Him After Death (1 Thes 5:9-11)
- 18th To Secure Our Resurrection From the Dead (Rom 8:9-11)
- 25th To Destroy the Works of the Devil (1 John 3:7-8)

“This is my body,
which is given
for you.”



October

- 2nd To Unleash the Power of the Gospel (1 Cor 1:18)
- 9th To Gain His Joy and Ours (Heb 12:1-2)
- 16th So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor (Heb 2:9)
- 23rd To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good (Acts 4:23-28)
- 30th To Serve as a Fragrant Offering to God (Eph 5:1-2)

November

- 6th To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy (1 Pet 1:10-12)
- 13th To Serve as our Passover Lamb (John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:6-8)
- 20th To Fulfill the Charge of His Heavenly Father (John 10:17-18)
- 27th To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (Eph 5:25-32)

December

- 4th To Create in Himself One New Man in Place of Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:11-22)
- 11th To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation (Rev 5:9-10)
- 18th To Rescue Us from the Fear of Judgment (Heb 9:27-28)
- 25th That We Might Regularly Examine Ourselves and Remember Him (1 Cor 11:23-32)



“This is my
blood of the
covenant.”

D. A. R. E.

to be transformed in 2011

Discernment

Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

(Ephesians 5:15-17)

Adoption

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:1-3)

Renewal

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ.

(Titus 3:4-6)

Engagement

Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

(Romans 12:1-2)

