

# The LCF Connection

June 2016



## Kids Ask Pastor Reuben

by Amie Smith

Kids are always full of questions. Recently we asked some of the kids here at LCF, "If you could ask Pastor Reuben one question, what would you ask? Following are their questions along with Reuben's answers.



### Derek Elfrink:

What do you like to do for fun?

*Play guitar, study languages, go to restaurants to eat ethnic food, and a little bit of gardening. I keep hoping I'll get back to fishing some day.*



### Evan Hostetler:

How many miles do you run?

*By the end of summer I usually hope to be up to the 12-15 mile mark, but during the winter I do shorter runs on a treadmill. I try to run 3 times a week.*



### Matthew Headings:

Do you like to ride four wheelers or dirt bikes?

*I've never been on a four wheeler or a dirt bike! I think I would like dirt bikes better.*



### Ethan Hostetler:

Where were you born?

*I was born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, just outside of Pittsburgh. Sewickley means Sweet Water, but it's on the banks of the Ohio River.*



### Kristen Schlabach:

What school did you go to?

*Hmmm. Moon Area Schools outside of Pittsburgh. Bon Meade Elementary school was very nice. Then I went to Penn State, the University of Mobile, and Kent State University. I've taken classes at other colleges, too. I like school!*



### Emily Miller:

Have you ever been out of the country? If so, where?

*I feel like this in one of God's nicest gifts to me in this life.*



*I've been in Mexico, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Bolivia, Peru, South Korea, and Kenya. I spent a night in Japan and about 3 hours in England and had a cup of tea in the airport.*



### Vernon Hochstetler:

Did you have a rough childhood?

*No, but there were some problems in my world and they affected me. My parents loved me and our neighborhood and schools were pretty good.*



### Emma Hostetler:

Where did you grow up?

*Mostly in Moon Township on Boggs Avenue—a suburb of Pittsburgh. I could go out our back door in the woods*  
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## A Father's Day Tribute

by Sarah Landis

From a young age, we are occasionally asked to describe a hero. As we get older, this question may be modified to describe a person who "greatly influences our life," or who we "greatly admire," or who we look up to, desire to emulate, etc. My answer, however the question is formulated, has nearly always been the same: my dad. My reasons for choosing him have changed over the years, as my relationship with him has grown and developed. As I have gotten older I have seen and experienced different attributes he has that I may not have recognized at a younger age.

I cannot begin to express how incredibly blessed I feel to have my dad as my dad, and I'm struggling to find the words to adequately explain how much he means to me. He is the greatest example to me of what a godly husband and father looks like, and we have grown to be extremely close. He had often told me growing up that

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# Great Marriages Don't Just Happen!



A Message  
from the Pastor  
by Rob Swartz

How is your marriage doing? If you were to give a ranking from one to ten, what would you give it? Would your answer be the same as your spouse's?

Over the past 28 years, Doris and I have discovered first-hand that marriage doesn't work very well on auto-pilot. It takes a good amount of investment and work. It is easy to slide into bad habits and let things coast. There have been times in our marriage where we needed a "check-up" and some suggestions about how to get things back on track. I don't think we are alone in this. In fact, the more we talk with couples, the more we realize that everyone has their challenges. We all need encouragement and help!

Over the years, God has given both of us a passion to help couples who are preparing to get married, as well as couples who are already married - especially those who are struggling in their marriage. We have been looking for ways to help us do that better, and a couple months ago we attended a training course called Prepare & Enrich. The basis of it is to have a couple complete a questionnaire (separately) and then see how their answers compare. Obviously, no questionnaire is going to fix a marriage, but we feel this is a great tool to help a couple understand where they are, and what underlying issues may need some work. Our hope is that this information will be a springboard for good discussion and commitment to working through any potential problem areas.

Our marriages can be great testimonies to our families and friends as to the power of God at work in our lives. Don't settle. Give God the opportunity to transform your marriage. Do the work. Get help. We all are selfish individuals, and so loving another selflessly (especially when you interact so closely) does not come naturally.

This coming fall the elders team is hoping to have another marriage retreat at LCF which will be another opportunity to strengthen your marriage. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities and continue to invest in your marriage and make it the very best that it can be!

If your marriage is struggling right now, I encourage you talk with someone. Doris and I would be glad to talk with you or help you find someone else to talk with. Don't wait. If you'd like to take the Prepare & Enrich survey and see where you can work on your marriage, just let us know. The cost is \$35, but if cost is an issue, there are scholarships available. May all of our marriages bring honor and glory to God!

# Elders' Notes

*It's all about youth!*  
by Vicki Sairs

We met on May 17th and approved the council's proposal that the budget surplus be divided in the following ways: \$10,000 for the building project; \$10,000 for special projects (electronic drums, streaming video to the lobby, landscaping, a basketball hoop, teen/prayer room furnishings, and blinds; and \$9,651 for general missions.

Reggie Cooper has indicated that he is ready to transition youth leadership to someone else when the time is right. It seemed like a good time to revisit and clarify our vision for the youth.

Things that we would like to make sure are included:

- Good, Bible-oriented teaching which is interesting, meaningful, and connects well to their lives.
- A missional approach that is service oriented, involved in the ministry of the church, and geared toward community outreach.
- Youth involvement, nurtured by taking them seriously, collaborating with them, and expecting them to take responsibility.
- Good community (which of course means fun!) and the option of staying in the group after graduation.

We see youth leadership as a significant role and think that we probably need a youth minister who would be supported at least part-time (not a volunteer). We aren't in a position to provide this currently, but will begin talking with the finance team and congregation to see if we can work that into our budget and then find someone to hire.

The elders would like to get first-hand input from the youth and parents during this time. Rob is willing to give interim leadership while we are looking for this new youth minister. He will work closely with the youth, lead the Bible study time, and mentor those who have interest in helping out with the various pieces.

Obviously, for Rob to take this one, he will have to offload some of his current responsibilities. We are committed to helping that happen and will be praying for God to provide someone with a passion and vision for youth who can take over permanently. Please pray with us!

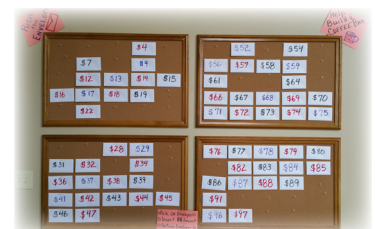
We are deeply appreciative of Reggie and grateful for all the hard work he has put into the youth over the past several years. Thank you so much, Reggie, for giving of your time, energy, and gifts!

# Council Update

by David Perkins

Summertime is here and the LCF Council is busy at work on a variety of things. We are beginning to process plans for building the new coffee bar. We would like to thank everyone who has donated funds towards the project through the Pushing The Envelope fundraiser.

We are currently putting together a temporary group that will be brainstorming ideas for the LCF Property & Master Plan for the future of the church. This group will be starting a conversation on items such as expanding the parking lot or starting a community garden. If anyone is interested in providing input or joining the group/conversation, we welcome you to contact any members on the Council.



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and see wildlife and even hunt, but I could go out our front door and head toward the city. I didn't appreciate it as I should have. It was really a wonderful situation.



**Amber Wolford:**

What is your favorite sport?

*Of the big sports—baseball. Pittsburgh Pirates!*



**Ashton Wolford:**

Where is your favorite place to pray?

*There are several. I like to pray with my eyes open looking out the window at the yard—plants, birds, sky. When we lived in Mobile, Alabama, I used to like praying on a breakwater—way out on the rocks with waves splashing at me—there were lots of pelicans, and, once in a while, fish jumping.*



**Avery Woods:**

Where do you live?

*I live in London, the part where there are sidewalks!*



**Jade Woods:**

How did you come to know Christ?

*Nice question! I think Jesus revealed himself to me. I experienced his presence and his healing even though I didn't fully understand it at the time. A*

*Christian came into my life a week or so later, and helped me to understand. I was fourteen.*

Thanks kids for helping us to learn more about our Assistant Pastor! As always, if you ever have a question for either of our pastors, Rob or Reuben, don't hesitate to ask.

"God is first, your mother second, and you are third." As a child I really hated being third on his list, but now I see that this is such a necessary order to be kept, and am more aware of how difficult it really is! Even in the midst of an incredibly busy schedule, I am high on my dad's priority list. He has taught me that being involved in ministry is not about maintaining a full schedule of meetings, sermons, and influence: it is about living a life of service to God. He refuses to neglect his morning time with God (no matter the amount of sleep he may have gotten the night before), and no matter how full his day might already be, if I need to talk to him, he somehow always makes time.

My dad loves Jesus more than anyone I know. He fears God, he desires to live for Him in absolutely every aspect of his life and ministry, and he is willing to experience extremely difficult things in order to do that. God has in turn asked our family, and him individually, to walk through some tough seasons, and some very lonely and painful times. As his daughter, I have seen firsthand and been inspired by the struggle and pushback that can come from a life fully devoted to God. However, I have also had the privilege of experiencing deep intimacy and joy that seems to flow hand-in-hand with the difficulty.

I am challenged by my dad: his example of steadfastness and determination to never compromise encourages me to continue pushing, to continue moving forward. He refuses to let me settle for second-best in my life, in my relationship with God, and with others. He knows me very well, and will gently correct me when I'm in the wrong, encourage me in areas I'm weak, and love me through all of it. I have always appreciated our ability to openly communicate with each other about anything: I never feel afraid of approaching a topic with him, and always appreciate his insight (even if I disagree). He finishes what he starts, even if it is hard and costs him dearly. Recently (at my bidding), he decided to finish what he began at Rosedale 30 years ago, and spent countless hours pouring over algebra problems so he could graduate with me. Looking back, I honestly don't know how he did it, especially considering his ministry load as a pastor during that time (and roles of father and husband) did not lessen by any means, but I am so proud of him for doing it anyway.

I feel it is entirely incomplete to tribute my dad without also acknowledging my mom, and I know my dad would agree. My mom has supported my dad in his ministry, even when it means sacrifice and a tougher lifestyle. When everyone else has turned against him, my mom remains there, next to her husband. My dad would be the first to tell you that his ministry has been nothing without my mother, and they would both be quick to add that whatever "success" they've had is really all thanks to God. It is this example of serving and following Jesus no matter the cost, being willing to change and be molded under the Potter's hands, and not being too proud to humble themselves before their children and ask for forgiveness if they need to, that has greatly influenced and inspired me. I am forever grateful for the parents God has blessed me with.



We are looking for a new leader for the Buildings & Grounds team. Please let us know if you have someone that you would like to suggest for this role. Until a team leader is found, the Council will be giving temporary leadership.

We have come up with a plan for designating the budget surplus into thirds. One third will go towards our mortgage, one third towards providing funding for additional needs for the church (such as electronic drums, parking lot lights, etc.) and one third towards missions (general missions, Operation Christmas Child, Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry, etc.).

We will do our best to keep you updated on all the things that we will be working on throughout the rest of the year. As always, we welcome you to speak with us on any of these items to give us your opinions and feedback. Keep an eye out for the next LCF Council Update.

# A Tasteful Reminder of Thailand

by Molly Rosati



Did you try some of the strange foods from Thailand set among the beautiful Mother's Day spread on May 8th? Tom Mast, who is ministering through Rosedale Mennonite Missions (RMM), brought snacks for us to try from Thailand. Many of the strange tastes got folks reminiscing about their travels to India and Asia.

It's surprising, almost a year has flown since the Mast family transitioned back to life in Thailand! Tom looked just the same on May 8th, and we might forget the struggle and isolation our church family experience on the other side of the world. His heartfelt sharing reminded us that he, Candice, Claire, Eliza, and Silas, along with Anna Rosati, are on the front lines of a spiritual fight. Will you commit some time to pray for them regularly? Their

prayer cards by the mailboxes in the lobby mention specific topics to bring before God's throne on behalf of these workers in His field.

Here are prayer ideas the Masts shared in RMM's 2016 Prayer Directory

- Pray their home will be filled with the light of Jesus
- Pray they meet seekers interested in studying the Bible
- Pray the children will be blessed in their friendships and studies
- Pray for Candice as she learns to read/write Thai and as she pursues ESL certification

Tom mentioned how personal contact (emails, cards, phone calls, etc.) helps the Masts feel less lonely. Let us not allow "out of sight, out of mind," to happen among us! Keep those emails, letters, and prayers flowing.



Pictured above: Tom with Danny Ndung, who serves as prayer coordinator for the Missionary Support Team.

For more details about the Mast Family and Anna Rosati, check out their newsletters with pictures and prayer updates on the bulletin board.



## Looking Ahead

June 12— Baby Shower for Andrea Biscup at 2 p.m.

June 19—Father's Day coffee and donuts, 9:30 a.m.

July 5 - 9—LCF Youth Mission Trip

July 13-15—Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus

July 25 - 29—LCF's Vacation Bible School

Dive in and discover truth below the surface!

LCF is having VBS next month!



## Vacation Bible School

at London Christian Fellowship

Monday - Friday, July 25 - 29, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

Hey kids! We are going to have Vacation Bible School at LCF this summer! We hope that you will invite your friends and join us for a fun adventure as we submerge ourselves deep into God's Word and discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. There will be worship, Bible lessons, games, crafts, and snacks each evening for ages 3 - 6th grade!

## The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship

What did you think? If any of the stories in this Connection sparked an idea or opinion you'd like to share, email us at [secretary@lcfweb.org](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org). Editors: Doris Swartz, Trish Eaton, Theresa Hennis, and Amie Smith  
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