

# The LCF Connection

July 2016

## What Has Been Your Favorite Summer Vacation?

Our cruise to Alaska—truly the last frontier with God's beauty all around. - Pam & Tim Shay

Any vacation that includes a visit to a Presidential site. - Bob Zachrich

The one we just had—the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go to Greece! - Steve & Phyllis Swartz

The six-week trip we took as a family, out west in a motor home in 2002. - Rob & Doris Swartz

Every summer since I was four years old my family would vacation together in Florida. I enjoy now sharing this vacation with my husband and daughter. - Amie Smith

Vacation with our family and friends in Gatlinburg. - Jeremy Hisey

My favorite vacation was two years ago when God gave us the opportunity to go visit my folks back in Kenya. I was thrilled to reconnect with many of my family members that I had not seen for over 10 years.

To have my husband, Phil, and my son, Derek, go with me was a big plus! I wish we could go there every year! - Lucy Elfrink

When I was a teen, my family would rent a Winnebago every summer and go from Kansas to Colorado to see family. I loved the mountain ranges, camping, hiking, visiting places like the Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak, and my favorite thing of all—seeing chipmunks for the first time in my life. - Theresa Hennis

**We hope that all of you have a wonderful time this summer making vacation memories to treasure!**

Last year we spent a week at Ocean Isle, NC, at the beach. There were 52 family members present, and we ate our evening meals together all crowded at one house. Good family times! - Shannon Scheffel

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## Thoughts from a New Dad

by Rob Devlin

Through the years I've always thought being a dad would be easy. Harmony and I were so proud to be having the first grandson on both sides of our families. This should be super easy, right? The first night we took him home from the hospital I realized we were in for a crazy ride! That first night was pretty much non-stop crying. It was like he was broke and we couldn't fix him. It was nothing like we thought things would be.

I was so wrapped up in the idea of Cameron being older—helping him with things like his homework and his jump shot in basketball—that I forgot he needed to be a baby first. When I first saw Cameron I thought to myself, "basketball player," because of his big hands. This was one of the things Harmony and I anticipated.

Being a father is very special, and I wouldn't be able to do it without God's grace. God is very patient with me, and through that, I am able to show Cameron patience. Being a father to me means I need to do everything I can to make sure that Cameron succeeds in life. I need to set a good example of what a husband and follower of Christ looks like.

Our lives have changed quite a bit this past month. I see Harmony becoming more of a mother every day. She shows Cam and I incredible love, and she's a lot less forgetful, which is pretty nice too. ☺



255 US 42 NE London, OH 43140  
(740) 490-2121

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## Worship at LCF

### A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

How do we lead well in worship? This has been the topic of discussion at our last couple of worship team meetings. My guess is that you have some thoughts about that, as well. ☺ We, as a team, want to do well in leading the congregation in worshipping this great God whom we serve. We recognize that there are many different opinions of what this looks like in regards to worship in

song. Some love the old hymns. Some love the new choruses. Some love louder, upbeat music, while others prefer calm, reflective songs. While it is impossible to meet everyone's preferences, we do care about what people think and try to provide a variety of ways to worship. In fact, at our last meeting we decided to try some acoustic sets, occasionally, with less instruments. We may even try an acapella set sometime.

We would describe our worship as eclectic. It can vary widely from week to week; different songs, different styles, different leaders, and different teams. We have close to thirty different people involved at various times; men, women, and children. This reflects our desire to give everyone at LCF an opportunity to be involved in ministry and to develop in leadership. We feel blessed to have so many with musical ability!

This year, we are leading several Friday evening nights of worship to provide for a longer time of singing, prayer, and reflection. We invite you to join us for these informal gatherings!

Our theme scripture this year is Psalm 33:1-3, which talks about singing joyfully, shouting for joy, singing new songs, playing instruments skillfully, and how fitting it is for the upright to praise the Lord.

Our hope and prayer is that we, as a worship team, may in some way lead you into the presence of the Lord, that we would see Him for who he is, and that we might all enter into worshipping him together. He is truly worthy of all the praise and honor we could offer Him!

If you have any thoughts for the worship team, feel free to talk to any one of us. We would love to hear from you!



### Thoughts from a new dad...continued

A verse that helps me through some tough nights is Joshua 1:9: *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

It reminds me not to be discouraged and that God is with me. Becoming a parent has been pretty tough so far; but having super-supporting friends and family, a loving, beautiful, and smart wife, and an amazing, powerful God makes things a whole lot easier!



## Council Update

by David Perkins

To push the envelope means to innovate or extend the current limits of performance. That is what has been accomplished through the Push The Envelope Fundraiser, which has been raising funds to go towards the new LCF Coffee Bar project. The LCF Council would like to thank all those who participated in the fundraiser and made it successful. It was a fun event for us to plan and facilitate.

The Council is continually looking for leadership and people with specific skill sets for various opportunities here at LCF. We are currently looking for a leader for the Buildings and Grounds Team, as well as a Nursery Coordinator. If there is anybody interested in these positions or if you would like to nominate any individuals who may fit these roles, please speak to anyone in the Council. Also, the Council would like to invite any members in the congregation to join the new Building Master Plan Committee. This temporary team will begin a conversation on where we would like to see the property/building go in the next few years? Whether it is a parking lot extension or installing a patio in the back, we welcome you to join in on the conversation and bring your ideas to the table.

There are several things to look forward to in the last half of 2016. The Council is planning a Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser to take place in November. More information will be presented to the congregation as we draw closer to the event. Also, we have several people researching for the purchase of an electronic drum set, as well as cameras to feed video into the lobby to further improve the overall experience here at LCF. Another item we have taken into consideration is an LCF Texting Service for all the members of the church who would be interested. It will allow us to get important information to the congregation more quickly and efficiently.

The LCF Council will continue to keep you updated on all the things we are working on for the good of the church. Keep an eye out for the next Council Update.

*Every family has its favorite activities for summer, from taking vacations to making memories, like the Hostetler family does, right in their own backyard. We think you'll agree that making the most of summer means doing what your family loves--together!*

## Summertime at the Hostetler Home

*by Becky and Emma Hostetler*

The lazy days of summer.....what do the Hostetler kids do during the summer? Well, from each child's perspective, here's how the four Es fill their time during the months of June, July, and most of August...

"Summer is my favorite season because we can go swimming and sleep in," says Emma. "My neighbors have a granddaughter my age who lives with them during the summer, and we hang out all the time and go swimming in her grandparent's pool. We are also going to Choral Camp together."

"What I like doing during the summer," Ethan remarks, "is swimming. If it is a 90-degree day outside, that is all I would really want to do. When the weather is better, I like to play sports, especially shooting baskets outside with Evan. If I am not doing one of those things I am probably inside reading a book or playing on my sister's tablet. I also really love football, and practice is going to be starting over the summer, so that is something to look forward to for me."



And Evan has a long list of things he loves to do during the break. "Summer is my favorite season because I get to hang out with my friend a lot, and we can go swimming. My favorite thing to do with my friend is having Nerf gun wars with him. I play basketball a lot, and it is also my favorite sport. In the summer and fall I play football, and my position is a running back. When I go to my grandma's I like riding my dirt bike. I ride my dirt bike next to the fields, because my grandparents have farmland. And when I go to my other grandma's, I like playing basketball."

"What makes summer fun for me," says Ella, "is that my brothers and I will put the lawn sprinkler underneath the trampoline, so when we jump on it we will get wet! I also like playing soccer and basketball with my brothers, and one week they went to a basketball camp with their friends (who have a little brother my age who I am best friends with), so when they were gone at day camp I got to play with him the whole week of camp. I also really like watching the Magic School Bus videos. One of my favorite parts of summer is being able to sleep in every day!"

In addition to the usual cooking, cleaning, and laundry, Becky spends her spare time taking the kids to the library, having friends over, and sitting on the edge of a pool while the kids swim somewhere. She says, "We also enjoy the county fair, as the past few years one or more of the kids has been in 4-H. Teaching children's church is also a highlight of my summer."



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## Benevolence Team Update

*by Jennifer Cooper*

LCF's Benevolence Team currently consists of Jennifer Cooper, Clete Yoder, Levi Miller, Dave Stewart, Nicole Ayers, and Sandy Gregg. Over the last year, the team has assisted multiple individuals who contacted the church and were in need of assistance with gas or food. We use these opportunities to discuss the individual's circumstances, pray with them, and refer them to community organizations, such as Community Action, that may have more resources to further assist them.

We have also come alongside several LCF members during difficult times. We provided financial support and counseling to one LCF family that was behind on rent due to medical expenses. Dave Stewart has been a tremendous help and support to Kelly Ward over the last year, as Kelly has had to adjust to leaving the workforce due to health concerns. Most recently, the team provided the deposit for Andrea Biscup's friend in Indonesia, Wikosan, to get a badly needed surgical procedure that the family could not afford.

Clete Yoder, who is also LCF's Everence representative, facilitates LCF's partial reimbursement for some of the assistance we provide, and informs the congregation of opportunities for financial counseling and education. The Benevolence Team welcomes and appreciates the congregation's support and input, and encourages those who feel called to give to our work to do so.

# Showered with Love, Prayers, and Gifts

by Amie Smith

It was a nice gathering of family and friends on Sunday, June 12th, for the baby shower of soon-to-be mom Andrea Biscup. She was absolutely adorable and smiling from ear to ear.

Jenn Frederick provided us a fun selection of baby games that I have never played before at a shower. The first game was timed, and we had to write down boy names that begin with each letter of the alphabet. The second game, Jenn had a variety of wrapped gifts and would say a description of a person; you would then have to pass the present to someone fitting that description. If you were the last person holding that present then you were able to keep the gift.

The most special time of the shower was when several ladies prayed blessings over Andrea and baby Biscup. The shower brought so many wonderful presents and prayers that mom and baby will be well prepared. We, as a church family, are so happy for the Biscup's and cannot wait to see what God has planned for this little sweet blessing.



*'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'* Jeremiah 29:11



## Upcoming Activities

- July 5-9—Youth Trip
- July 10—Baptism
- July 15-15—Xenos Summer Institute
- July 25-29—Vacation Bible School
- August 5-7—CMC Conference in Delaware
- August 7—Baby Shower for Jenn Frederick at the church at 2 p.m.

**Vacation Bible School starts in just a few weeks!**

Have you invited a friend?

Have you registered online? If not, visit [www.LCFweb.org](http://www.LCFweb.org) to do so.

**DIVE DEEP**  
to Shine a Light on the Truth at Vacation Bible School

July 25-29 6:30 p.m.

**SUBMERGED**

106th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CONSERVATIVE MENNONITE CONFERENCE

**AUGUST 4-7, 2016**

Have you registered yet to attend CMC's annual conference that will be held in Delaware next month? Programs are available, by the mailboxes.

*Discipleship*

**FOLLOW ME AS I FOLLOW CHRIST**

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## 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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