

The LCF Connection

September 2016

Riding a Bike to CMC's Annual Conference

by Danny Ndungu



78 + 61 + 101 + 115 + 46 = 401 miles...on a bicycle. My legs were sore for days, literally. I now have a whole appreciation for walking and bending without grunting. What a gift for real. Before the ride, I had only put in about 100 miles of riding--in comparison to some who, in 2016 alone, had ridden over 1,000 miles in training. Let's just say I finished. (Fun fact: we had a 16 year-old and a 79-year-old who were way better prepared than I was.)

This year, we had 54 riders and staff including Mark and Rhonda Montrose, Marcus Freed, and Levi Miller who joined the support team on the last day of riding. We were able to raise over 95,000 dollars and had a blast doing it. On day 5, we landed in Greenwood, DE, the location of our annual conference.

Out of the last 5 annual conferences I have attended, this one took a gold medal (a fitting Olympics reference). We talked a lot about discipleship, both how it played out in scripture and how we can apply it today. One of my favorite sessions was led by our own

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LCF's 2016 Camp-Out



We enjoyed our annual church camp-out along Big Darby Creek August 26 - 28. This year the weather was hot and humid, so we found creative ways to stay cool - such as slip and slide kickball, hanging out in the creek, etc. Here are some memories from the week-end...

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London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

Library Awesomeness

A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz



Yahoo! I'm excited about the LCF library! You might think that is an odd statement, but we are rolling out some brand new features for our library, which I believe will make it a very useful, user-friendly resource for those who attend LCF. What are the new features? I'm glad you asked. ☺ Coming soon, our LCF library information will all

be accessible online with easy ways to find and checkout resources!

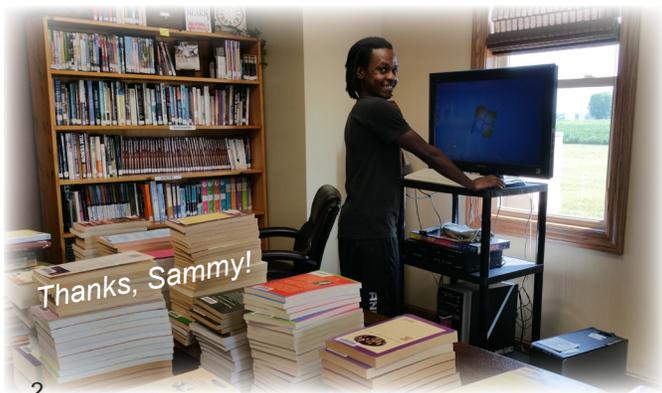
What does this mean for you? You will be able to browse our catalog of books from your computer, phone, or tablet, and see if a particular book or DVD is available to be checked out. If a resource is already checked out, you will be able to reserve it and be notified when it becomes available.

Have you ever wondered what other people in the church might think about a particular book? Now you can post your reviews of a particular book as well as read reviews that others have posted as a way to help each other decide which books to read. Checking out books will be as simple as entering your personal four-digit code and scanning the barcodes of the items you want to check out.

Thanks to Sammy Wawaru, the new system is ready for rollout! Sammy has invested countless hours the past six months moving our entire library online, and setting up the website and the equipment. Sammy, you're the best! Thanks for your persistent hard work!

Why are we investing in our library? We want you to use it! We hope it will be a valuable resource for each of us to learn and grow in our walk with God. We plan to continue to invest in good quality books that you may not be able to check out from your local library. Are there some particular books you would like us to consider? If so, talk with Linda Schlabach, who serves as our librarian. Thanks to Linda as well, for all she does on a regular basis for LCF's library.

Look for sign ups in the lobby sometime soon to get your personal library code, so that you can begin using the new system. Check it out and enjoy!



Elders' Notes

by Vicki Sairs and Doris Swartz

We spent our time together August 17th in prayer and discussion. The topics we covered included:

How **struggles with sin** affect a person's ability to serve or lead in the church. We are all sinners and struggle with sin in our lives; how can we think about this issue in a way that is biblical and grace-filled?

How we can help lighten Rob's load: Rob has taken on the additional responsibility of leading the youth group. This, coupled with a lot of marriage and relational counseling, has kept Rob and Doris very busy. Rob expressed appreciation to Reuben and Bob for the ways they support and help out, but it feels like some additional help is necessary. Please pray with us that God will provide good leadership for some of the areas that are adding to Rob's current overload: additional elders, a Buildings and Grounds Team leader, youth leaders, junior youth leaders, a small group coordinator, etc.

Adult Discipleship Class (ADC). Reuben will teach our Fall ADC at LCF on Sunday mornings from October 2–November 20. Stay tuned for an announcement in the bulletin on what he will be teaching.

Vacation Bible School: We're grateful that our first Vacation Bible School went so well!

Progress in the library: Sammy Wawaru is doing an awesome job getting LCF's library transferred over to a digital check-out system. It is almost complete!

Selling the old church building: We're excited to be selling the old church building. Unfortunately, the process is being slowed down because the State of Ohio did not update our non-profit status with our last payment. We have to wait to have that reinstated before we can proceed with selling the property.

Conservative Mennonite Conference Equipping Event: CMC will be holding an equipping event at Shiloh on November 4th: "Preparing God's People for Works of Service." It looks like a great selection of speakers and topics. We talked about ways we can encourage people to attend.

Council Update

by David Perkins

Greetings to all the awesome people of London Christian Fellowship! The LCF Council has just a few updates to inform you of at this time.

First, we would like to thank all who had participated in the voting on the sale of the old church property. More information on the sale will be provided as we move forward.

Thank you to all who participated in the first Facilities Master Plan Committee meeting last month. We got a lot of good feedback and generally, the idea of developing a plan for the future of the facility is positive. This committee will continue to evolve, and we will keep everyone posted about the next opportunity to attend a meeting.

The LCF Council is planning a Fall Fundraiser to take place in the coming months. We will keep you updated on this, as this is still in the early stages of development.

The Council will continue to keep you informed on the awesome things happening here at LCF. Be sure to keep an eye out for your next LCF Council update!

Art and Grandkids and a Grandma Who Still Needs to Grow Up

by Phyllis Swartz

A couple days after Cousin Week (when our grandkids come to our house without their parents), I drove home from my book club in Columbus. With other art docents, I had discussed Gompertz's *What Are You Looking At? The Surprising, Shocking, and Sometimes Strange Story of 150 Years of Modern Art*.



We had met in an immaculate living room decorated with the artifacts and art my hostess had gathered in her travels. No one spilled her drink, no one fought over the last pastry, and no one jumped over the back of the couch to find a seat.

I felt civilized once again. What a contrast, I thought, as I headed back to London on Route 70—until my brain started making connections.

“You would not believe the wild things in my head,” my seven-year-old grandson, Jesse, had said to me. “If you had those wild things in your head, you wouldn’t want to go to the basement alone either.”

In his book, Gompertz writes about the wild beasts, the Fauvists, who painted with color combinations and shapes that would jar their viewers, provide them with a visual shock.

Luke and Anna came to me separately one day. “I’m smaller, but I’m older,” Anna told me. A few minutes later, Luke said his version. “I’m younger, but I’m taller.”

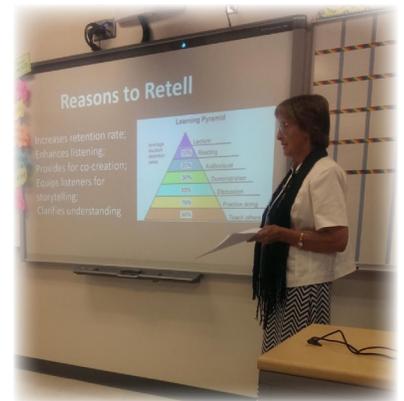
In his book, Gompertz writes about the art wars, artists attempting to gain or maintain stature in the world of culture. Through time and across the world, people are fundamentally the same, I thought.

And across a lifespan. How often during Cousin Week I worked with a child to think from a perspective outside himself (perhaps like the Cubists?), only to feel impatient, myself, when I finally sat down to my morning bagel and, two seconds later, a child called me from the upstairs bathroom.

I learned lots at my book club, but I learned even more during Cousin Week. The most important thing I learned is that Grandmas, too, have some growing up to do.

Conference Bike Ride...continued

Phyllis Swartz. She talked about the effectiveness of sharing stories with each other—ours, theirs, and God’s. Here is a snippet: A man once tried to connect with strangers at a Starbucks by leaving coupons on the tables saying, “Will buy you a cup of coffee if you let me tell you about God.” Though he had a few successes, this strategy did not work. He decided to change it to something like this: “Will buy you a cup of coffee if you tell me your experience with God.” It worked. He had flipped the roles on his coupons because he realized that people love to talk about themselves. In addition to this, he realized that he could learn from his free coffee beneficiaries as much as they could learn from him.



We can all learn from each other: pastor from a youth group kid, older sibling from a younger brother, parent from a child, a saint from a sinner. When I had my temporary driver’s license at 16, my 10-year-old brother deciphered what seemed to be a very enigmatic road sign to me: a “lane ends, merge left” sign. My point is that everyone has something to offer. The problem for me comes when I approach people with preconceived notions of what they are like, what they will say, or what they believe (or in my brother’s case, “Wow, I feel dumb that my 10-year-old brother could figure out what a road sign meant...real life ‘Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader’”).

Here is another example: I volunteer with an organization that works with high-schoolers to speak about Jesus. The first time I met these kids, I thought they knew nothing about the Bible. My interaction with them was one way, I would teach a lesson every once in awhile, and then we would hang out. But I have learned a lot over the last 1.5 years. I have learned to love by asking questions about Christianity, even the obvious stuff. I have also learned that fear of asking some of these questions may not be healthy. Things that I do not understand from a girl named Tajuana: she always asks hard questions that do not have easy answers, and I love that. Discipleship can begin here, a point of realization that we do not know it all. From there, we can begin to talk about honest accountability and help each other to live as Christians.

Discipleship resources: <http://cmcrossdale.org/resources-2/discipleship-resources/> (our church library might have some of these for free.)

Jenn's Baby Shower

by Tasha Slaubaugh

On August 7th, a small, fun group of ladies gathered at the church, to celebrate Dan and Jenn Frederick's soon-arriving baby!

Lisa Miller shared several scriptures and a letter from her mom, encouraging Jenn (and all of us) to ask God for wisdom in times of waiting, times of uncertainty, and difficult times of parenting. James 1:5 assures us that God will generously give us the wisdom we ask for.

Everyone enjoyed playing a round of "Baby Shower Price is Right," and each person had five minutes to create a baby out of Play-Doh. The favorite food was a coconut cream cake that new mom, Andrea, made.

Dan and Jenn, we rejoice with you in the birth of Rebekah Lynn and pray that you have a smooth adjustment to parenthood!



Ladies' Paint Party

by Rosanna Miller



On Monday, August 8th, a group of ladies from LCF got together for a "painting party." Art teacher, Boni Stewart, planned the evening and assisted anyone who needed a little help. It was fun getting to know each other a little better and seeing all the beautiful paintings. What's better than some awesome food, fun painting, and great conversations?



God's Rescue Plan

During Children's Church this summer, the kids learned that God sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place to save (rescue) us from our sin. This, as the letters state above, is **GOD'S RESCUE PLAN**. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

A big **THANK YOU** to Becky Hostetler for teaching the children each week in Children's Church during the sermon time over the summer months, and to Colleen Wolford for the great job she does serving as our Children's Ministries Coordinator!



A few more pictures from the camp-out. If you would like to see more, visit LCF's Facebook page.

Upcoming Activities
 Sept. 10—Shekinah Festival
 Sept. 16—Night of Worship 7 p.m.
 Sept. 20-22—Farm Science Review

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. Editors: Doris Swartz, Trish Eaton, Theresa Hennis, and Amie Smith
 If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us at connection@lcfweb.org.

