

The LCF Connection

May 2015

Child Dedication

FLASHBACK



We typically have child dedications here at LCF on Mother's Day each year. Pictured below are the four children who were dedicated on Mother's Day in 2003. Can you name them?



Check out their current pictures on page four to see if you named them and their parents correctly.



Passing the Faith Along

by Phyllis Swartz

When I was a baby my parents didn't dedicate me during a church ceremony. But when our babies came, Steve and I dedicated them at church. We wanted a blessing from the church as new parents. We wanted to publicly commit ourselves to rearing our children God's way. We wanted the church to pray for us and help us as we parented. We wanted a prayer of blessing for our babies. And we hoped that later, when they understood how Christ died for them, they would choose to be baptized.

Actually, my parents wanted all these things, too. It's just that their church didn't offer baby dedication ceremonies at that time. So they dedicated us another way—by showing us how to live in the kingdom for the King. Once, my dad accepted a new pastorate. At this church, people invited the new pastor and his family for welcome meals. This sounds like a good idea, but would you want to take six lively kids, all under age nine, to a company meal with people you don't know?

Our first invitation for a welcome meal came from a family new to the church. Some people in the family were new Christians; others had not yet accepted Christ. Before that meal, my mother staged a rehearsal. She told us how hard the people were probably working to make our food—all the vegetables they could be chopping and the pots and pans they could be washing and the table they could be setting. "Who knows what kind of food they may be making!" my mom said. "This is Michigan, and they might have different food here!"

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Kids Ask the Pastor



The Connection asked kids, "If you could ask Pastor Rob one question, what would you ask?"

What's your favorite color? - Jayce, age 5

Blue, of course, like in maize & blue. 😊



What is your favorite kid's book? - Eliza, age 9

I loved the Chronicles of Narnia, and I still do. The stories remind me of Jesus and what it means to follow him.

How did you meet Doris?

- Bri, age 11

I met Doris at Rosedale Bible College, and I thought she had the most beautiful smile. I finally got the nerve to ask her out (over the phone), and she said, "I'm going out with someone else this weekend, but I can go out with you next weekend." 😊

Continued on page 2...



Matthew and Bri talking with Pastor Rob



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



Why do you read the Bible so much? - Derek, age 9

The Bible contains the very words of God, from which life comes. Who wouldn't? ☺



What's your favorite Bible verse? - Ashlen, age 14

That's a tough one because there are so many and it changes depending on what I'm going through. This scripture has been one I have thought about often the last few years...

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."



How much do you love Jesus? - Skotti, age 10 1/2

Wow! Umm...not as much as I should? He died so I might live, right? How could I ever love him enough for that?



When did you start going to church?

- Alyssa, age 12 -

Since I was a baby. My family always went to church every Sunday.



How did you become the pastor at LCF?

- Wesley, age 12

I used to work with computers. That's what I went to school for. But the church asked me to be their pastor so I changed my job from computers to pastoring. ☺



How is it like to be a pastor? - Silas, age 6

It's fun. It's hard. It's rewarding. It's scary. It's an adventure. It's the coolest thing I've ever done.



What kind of papers do you fill out at work?

- Ella, age 6

I don't like to fill out papers so I ask Doris to help me with those.



What's your favorite thing about pastoring?

- Claire, age 12

The people. I love talking with people and helping them find Jesus. I love seeing up close, God change the lives of people. I love being at least some small part of helping people discover true life in Christ and watching them help others do the same.

Elders' Notes

by Vicki Sairs

We opened our April 7th meeting with prayer and some updates: Roger Hazen has agreed to serve another three-year term as our overseer, and we are looking forward to having Rosedale Bible College student Benji Martin serve as a pastoral intern at LCF next year as part of RBC's Bridge program.

The congregation suggested several people as possible elders. We talked about this and Rob will speak to possible candidates soon. We plan to add one elder this year, and we hope to add two next year.

We are delighted that Sheila Miller and Theresa Hennis want to plan an event for the women at LCF (possibly a tea or a one-day retreat)! You'll hear more about this as the details are sorted.

In response to a request from the congregation, we talked about how best to respond to friends who are gay. We want LCF's approach to be life-giving and full of grace, maintaining confidence that "doing things God's way (the biblical way, as best as we can understand it) leads to life, health, sanity, peace and the flourishing of the individual."

Before we closed, we prayed for the things we talked about during our meeting.

"What if I didn't like the food?" my mom asked, climbing up on a chair for effect. "And I stomped my foot and I hollered, 'This is yucky food! I hate this food!'" "That would make the people feel bad!" my little brother said.

My mom climbed down from the chair. "You know, there is a Bible verse about this," she said. The Bible says to eat what is set before you for the sake of the Gospel. Then she told us a missionary story about people who ate fish eyes to make friends with people so those people might make friends with God. "I don't know what we will eat tonight," my mom said, "but do you think you could eat what is set before you for the sake of the Gospel?"

Then she gave us some hints. If something looked suspicious, we were to take only a little. If something tasted terrible, we were to take a drink after every bite. And the whole time we were to think of missionaries and God and what an important sacrifice we were making for the kingdom.

That evening, we ate what we had never eaten before—liver and onions. We took only a little. And we drank copious amounts of water. "Your children sure are thirsty," the hostess said. The whole meal we felt our parents' pleased eyes on us. And on the way home, my dad stopped for ice cream.

Dedicating a baby at church is important. Showing a child how to live a dedicated life is crucial.

Look Who's Celebrating 95 Years!

An interview with *Dorothy Jones*



What are some of the life lessons that you learned from growing up during the depression?

[This was the first 10 years of her life] My father was still employed in Kansas City, so I did not endure the hardships that others experienced. My best memory during that period was my parents would put me on the train all by myself to go visit my grandma in Indianapolis. The folks on the train took great care of me, and I enjoyed the sleeping area and meals, seeing the countryside and all the stops through the towns.

What are some of the major roles you had during your lifetime?

I worked with a doctor until he went away for World War II. I was a mother of five, army officer and pastor's wife, grandmother, great grandmother, and great great grandmother.

How do you feel about turning 95? Just another year....all part of life. ☺

To what do you attribute your longevity? God's grace!

What advice would you give the younger people of LCF? *"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good he must seek peace and pursue it."* 1 Peter 3:10-12

What is currently your favorite scripture?

"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." Psalm 37:25

How do you stay so cheerful and positive? What's the secret?

God has been so good to me...so many blessings!



In March of 2005 Vernon and Dorothy Jones sold their home in Groveport, Ohio and moved into a condominium off Keny Blvd. They began attending church here at LCF with their son Jim, and his wife, Annette. Vernon passed away three years later on April 29, 2008. Dorothy has been a faithful attender over the past 10 years and has hosted a ladies' Bible study in her home for many of those years.

Dorothy is one of those people who never complains. She loves and trusts God with all of her heart and is an inspiration to all who know her!

Thank you Dorothy for the blessing that you are to each of our lives! We hope you have a very special 95th Birthday (on May 8th) and a wonderful year ahead!

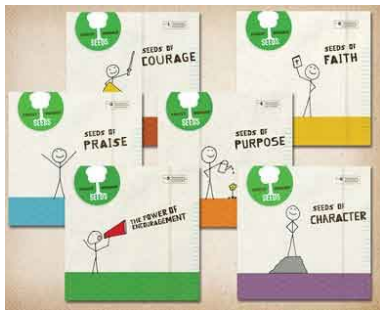
Upcoming Activities

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| May 9 | Men's breakfast at Phat Daddy's, 9 a.m. |
| May 9 | Ladies' Tea at LCF, 1 p.m. |
| May 10 | Mother's Day Continental Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. |
| May 10 | Child Dedication |
| June 14 | Commissioning for the Masts & Potluck meal |



Library Link

Scripture CDs reviewed by Candice Mast



SEEDS Family Worship CDs: Available Now!

Church family - I would love to recommend that you check out the SEEDS family worship CDs available today in

the church library. These CDs are a great resource for scripture memory!

We all know that memorizing scripture is a healthy and desirable practice in our spiritual lives, but it can be so hard to have the discipline to actually commit to learning God's word by heart. Our family has used these fun and catchy songs to help us, and the music makes it so much easier! We love to play the CD while we get ready for school, and it sets a great tone for our day. Often one of the songs sticks in our minds, and we sing it to ourselves throughout the day. During our family devotions a few times a week, we've been focusing on one song to learn and listen to it over and over until we can all sing and also say it without music. Once the song is memorized, God's truth is firmly in our hearts and easy to access anytime. It amazes me how much scripture we can remember if we learn it using music- and it's fun too! Even little kids can join in.

There are seven themed CDs in the library: Seeds of Courage, Seeds of Faith, Seeds of Praise, Seeds of Purpose, Power of Encouragement, Seeds of Character, The Character of God. Pick a theme and get started memorizing, having fun with music, and investing in learning that builds you up for life!

LCF PRAYER FOCUS

LCF's Worship Team



LCF is blessed to have many wonderful worship leaders, vocalists, and musicians who use their gifts and talents to lead us in worship each week.

Please pray...

- That our worship would be a fragrant offering to God.
- For the worship leaders as they select which songs to lead and scriptures to use each week.
- For those who are new on the worship team, that they would grow in their abilities and confidence.
- For wisdom for Andrea Biscup as she puts together the worship schedule based on each person's interest and availability.
- That our worship would truly be focused on God and be all about him, not ourselves.

Child Dedication FLASHBACK



Oh, the difference 12 years makes! ☺



- Above (from left):
- Emma Hostetter
 - Matthew Headings
 - Claire Mast
 - Wesley Miller

- Left (with parents):
- Matthew with Dale & Sharon Headings
 - Claire with Tom & Candice Mast
 - Wesley with Keith & Lisa Miller
 - Emma with Phil & Becky Hostetter

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 connection@lcfweb.org. Editors: Doris Swartz, Trish Eaton, Candice Mast, 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.