

The LCF Connection

September 2015

Favorite Moments at LCF's 2015 Camp-Out

LCF's annual Camp-Out was held at our usual location along Big Darby creek on August 21-23. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and the time spent with friends and enjoying the beauty of God's creation was very refreshing. We asked several LCFers what some of their favorite Camp-Out moments were. Here are some of the highlights.



Harmony Troyer: *I always enjoy playing Ultimate Frisbee on Saturday afternoon. There is plenty of healthy competition, but everyone keeps a good attitude and has a lot of fun! :) I also like having our worship service outside on Sunday morning.*



Vaughn Hochstetler:
I liked playing in the creek and catching fish!



Audrey Maust: *I was tired and didn't really feel like going to the Camp-Out initially, but I am so glad I did! The hot air balloon ride on Saturday evening was a delightful surprise (even though it was tethered), the message and baptism on Sunday morning were so encouraging, and the time spent outdoors and with friends was exactly what I needed!*

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GriefShare at LCF

by Marcus Freed

GriefShare is a support group that provides help and encouragement to someone who has lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend. LCF will be hosting a GriefShare group for the London area on Thursday evenings, beginning September 17. It will be led by Marcus Freed. Marcus shares how God has prepared him to lead and minister in this way.

"Facilitating bereavement groups as a guidance counselor for 20 years and experiencing the deaths of both parents, two siblings, and my spouse gave me experience and skills in grief counseling. Immediately in the weeks after Brenda's departure I began attending a GriefShare support group. Upon completion of the third cycle of 13 weeks I felt called (and supported by the leadership of London Christian Fellowship) to offer the community of London this service. I look forward to and covet your prayers as I plan and prepare. Pray also for a co-facilitator to join me and for the Holy Spirit to bring the persons most needing this Christian curriculum."

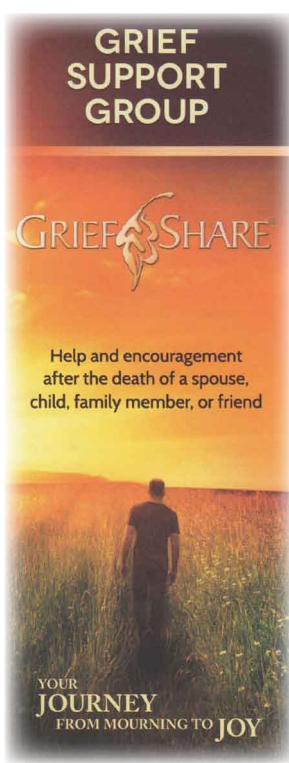
Brochures with details are available by the church mailboxes or on the LCF website. Feel free to share the information with someone you know who has lost a loved one.



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

www.LCFweb.org

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





Developing Leaders

A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

The Elders Team is excited about the many young potential leaders in our church fellowship. God has brought us many young people and young couples who we hope and pray will be the leaders in the church today and carry it on into

the future. We want to do our very best to invest in those young people; teaching and training them, helping them discern God's calling, and giving them every opportunity to use their gifts.

One way we are exploring this is by partnering with Rosedale Bible College in a program called Bridge where students participate in an internship with a Christian ministry or church as well as take classes at RBC. Benji Martin, who attended LCF last year while attending RBC, will be interning with us for the upcoming school year. Benji will be helping in many different areas of the church this coming year; preaching, discipling, helping lead a small group, visiting, attending elders/council meetings, etc. We are excited about this opportunity to help develop Benji and also for the help he will provide for the ministry at LCF.

We look at this as a chance to develop a regular pastoral internship program at LCF and hope to include other young men from LCF. As a pastor, my vision is to continually raise up leadership from within the church to continue to carry on the work of the kingdom of God. I would love to see our next pastor be developed from within our church. We have already had several young men express interest in participating, so I'm excited about the future ministry of LCF.

This pastoral internship/training is just a small part of leadership development that the elders are planning to put in place at LCF. There are several other LCFers who are participating in the Bridge program in other areas. Grace Ndungu will be interning at Agora Ministries in Columbus. She will be working with children in an after-school program, and other such things. Jesse Graber (an RBC student from Canada who attends here at LCF) will be interning at Rosedale Bible College and Rosedale Mennonite Missions in graphic design. Whatever it is that God has gifted you in, called you to, or given you a passion for, we want to help provide a way for you to discern it, develop it, and do it!

So when you see these young interns at LCF, I encourage you to learn to know them and find out how God is working in their lives and developing them as leaders. If you are interested in the pastoral internship/training, more details about the Bridge program, or leadership development in other areas, I would love to talk with you!

Keep your eyes open for more details about leadership training and opportunities coming your way. I ask that you would continue to pray for the Elders Team as we disciple and develop people for the work of the kingdom of God!

Elders' Notes

by Vicki Sairs

We met in Rob and Doris's lovely back yard for our August 18 meeting (until the ee-vil mosquitoes drove us indoors). Topics of discussion included: moderator training, adult discipleship class, leadership training, and the proposed Council structure.

Being a moderator for LCF is a big responsibility. Moderators set the tone for the service, welcoming everyone warmly and helping us turn our hearts and minds toward worship. They also navigate the sometimes tricky territory of prayer time, having to think on their feet, remember people's names, and maintain an atmosphere that helps the congregation pray together freely. So it only makes sense to have some training for our moderators. We discussed what should be included in our August 30 training session. Spoiler alert: there will be role play!

Although running a Sunday morning adult discipleship class brings its challenges (child care, tight schedules, etc.), we are committed to studying the Bible together. Rob calls it "going deep," and we all agreed that we want to offer the opportunity to do that whenever we can. Reuben will teach a Sunday morning class from September 27 through November 22. Once this ends, we are thinking about continuing it as a midweek class during the winter months. More on that later!

Benji Martin will start his internship at LCF in September. We talked about ways to help him experience a broad range of ministry roles in his time with us.

Last but definitely not least, we reviewed the Council's impressive proposed Organizational Structure Design. The Council has been active and effective in taking on administrative responsibilities so the elders can focus on the pastoral, spiritual care of the church. We look forward to meeting with them on September 20 to share with them our vision and purpose for LCF.

Council Update

by David Perkins

We are closing in on a very sad time of year: the end of summer. Although the warm temperatures will slowly fade away, there are still things to look forward to like all the great holidays, pumpkin flavored everything, and seeing all the projects the LCF Council has planned for the rest of the year.

Over the summer, the Council members have been working diligently to switch much of the administrative and operational oversight off the shoulders of the Elders so they can focus on the spiritual wellness of the church. The Council has been in extensive review of current teams/committees, employees, and the functions of the church. These processes and reviews will help improve the overall communications and efficiencies of the church.

A lot of projects are in the works and coming to fruition. We are nearing completion of some of the review processes and learning so much about the people that make LCF tick. We are also learning what things we can do to make things better in our growing LCF family. As the new church year is gearing up in September, the Council is proposing that its structure moving forward include five members representing diversity in gender, age, experiences, etc., and one representative from the Pastors/Elders. The Council will continue to collaborate with the Elders to set up for the future visions of LCF. Thanks for reading these monthly Council Updates!

Getting to Know LCF's Intern, *Benji Martin*

Interviewed by Theresa Hennis

Benji Martin is our newest Pastoral Intern, and we'd like to help you get to know him better and welcome him to our church. We asked him some questions about himself, and here is what he had to say:

What kind of internship will you have at LCF?

Good question. It's titled a Pastoral Internship. Really, I am an intern at the church doing multiple different things under the direct leadership/mentorship of Rob Swartz. We will find out what that actually means as the year continues.

What would you say is your ministry/gift?

I don't know that I have a specific answer, but I love people. Young and old, tall and small, I enjoy interacting with, getting to know, and caring for people.

Do you have a favorite life verse/scripture?

Definitely Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Where are you from, originally?

I did all of my growing up in Lebanon, PA. Lebanon itself is not known for much except that we have Amish and are pretty close to the famous home of HERSHEY'S chocolate.

Did you attend a particular school/college?

I am a student at Rosedale Bible College. – Highly recommended.

Where do you work/where have you worked?

Through high school I worked at a Mennonite-owned, Dutch-style restaurant/grocery store, and one summer I worked at Hershey Park. This past summer I delivered furniture for JJE Hauling.

What is your favorite hobby? sport? food? music?

- I always say my #1 hobby is laughing. I love simply being together with friends, playing board games, Frisbee, Spikeball, Volleyball, hiking, playing piano, and singing all the time. I also enjoy watching football.
- Favorite Foods: Steak, Mangoes, Ice Cream.
- Music: Mainstream Christian radio or Twenty One Pilots. I prefer to make music rather than listen to it.

Are you single/married? How many are there in your family, and do you have brothers/sisters?

I am single. I am the youngest of 5 siblings, Timmy (24, married to Krista), Michael and Matthew (twins, 22), Alisha (21), and then me. My parents are Don and Yvonne Martin. Fittingly, my dad has also been a pastor for all of my life, at Lebanon Christian Fellowship, so I've really gone to LCF all of my life! ☺

What is the funniest question you get asked as a Christian?

Most of the funny questions I hear have to do with being home-schooled. Like, "Did you actually do school?" "Did you do school in your pajamas?" "Did you have any friends?" The answer to all of which is an obvious YES!

Who has or did influence you the most in your life?

My oldest brother Timmy has always been a huge influence in everything that I do.

What advice would you give young people who want to make a difference?

You are NOT too young. Since I'm still a "student" I sometimes think that my time is still coming. That's a lie. The time is now. You influence a lot more people than you think you do, I guarantee it. If you live your life for Christ and talk about Jesus with your friends, you will make a difference and you will shine bright. It won't be easy or always fun, but don't feel alone. Talk to your Christian friends about it and encourage and challenge each other.

Upcoming Activities

September 12	The Shekinah Festival
September 20	Child Dedication
Sept. 22-24	Farm Science Review
September 27	Potluck
September 26	LCF's Fall Adult Discipleship Class begins (taught by Reuben Sairs)
October 18	Communion



Favorite Camp-Out Moments continued...

Danny Ndungu: A big thank you to the Headings and everyone else who helped in preparing food—the food was on point! Also thanks to Amy & Nathaniel for planning the fun games—but they had way too many peanuts for us to chew in the eating competition ;). I had a crazy amount of fun hanging out with little kids, not baby goats, but little 5-year-olds and under—something that I do not get to do very often. One of the biggest highlights of the weekend was playing "What Do I Have in My Hand?" with Maddie, a member of the Hochstetler clan. However, the ultimate camp experience was spending the night on a lawn chair with Sammy right by the fire. Why? Just to say that we did. We had to wake up every few hours to add firewood, hence having numerous interruptions to the sleep cycle. Would I do it again? Kabisa (a resounding yes in Swahili)! Um...and did I say that the food was on point?



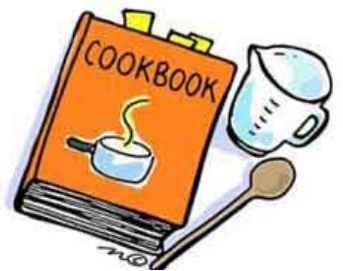
You can see more pictures from the Camp-Out on LCF's Facebook page.



Wanted: Your Favorite Recipes!

Do you ever feel like you are making the same dishes over and over again? Have you ever tasted a dish at an LCF potluck and wished that you had that recipe?

Several people have mentioned recently that they would like for LCF to put together a recipe book with some of our favorite recipes. The only way we can do it is with your help! So we are asking you to share some of your favorite recipes. We will compile them and put them together in a little booklet (similar to our church directory).



Our next potluck is planned for Sunday, September 27. When you bring food to share that day, we encourage you to bring dishes using recipes that you are submitting to the LCF cookbook.

Please email your recipes to dswartz@lcfweb.org, or give a hard copy of your recipe to Theresa Hennis. Thanks in advance for your help! We look forward to a lot of good food ahead!

LCF PRAYER FOCUS

LCF's Teachers & Students

Continue to pray for safety and a good year for each student and teacher from LCF who is starting this new school year, in various roles, and at various places.

Pray for the teachers among us as they begin another brand new school year: Renee Cocanour, Kristen Duncan, Trish Eaton, Zach Freer, Audrey Maust, Naomi Ndungu, Anna Rosati (in Thailand), Reuben Sairs, Vicki Sairs, Shannon Scheffel, and Boni Stewart. Pray that they would have wisdom, creativity, and patience as they teach and impact the lives of many students.

Pray for each of the students, from kindergarten to college, as they settle into their school routines. Pray that they would apply themselves well and be good students; that they would make wise choices, and be effective salt and light, as God's love shines out through their lives.

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, 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.