

The LCF Connection

June 2018



A Father's Love

by Theresa Hennis

Mothers are the heart and soul of the home, and we can't imagine life without their steadfast love and the immeasurable ways in which they guide their children. Fathers are just as important to a happy home, and without their influence on their children, there is a void that cannot be filled.

We asked some of our LCF mothers what makes their husbands special as fathers. Their responses point to the importance of men allowing God to work through them to make a difference in their children's lives.

Amie Smith: I am very thankful for Nathaniel's devotion and surpassing love as a husband and a father. He continues to amaze me with his gentle approach to child rearing and encouragement when things get rough. He is such a hard worker and still has the energy to play and take time with Lizzie after a long day at work. I love watching our little girl laugh when he chases her around the house and tickles her until her eyes well up with tears of happiness. Or the many nights reading books to Lizzie while holding a dozen stuffed animals. But what I cherish most of all is seeing the love on his face at the first sight and embrace of our child. I look forward to making more memories with Nathaniel, watching his love grow as our new little son will be born soon.



Brenda Perkins: Freya was born on Father's Day last year. Her late arrival was the perfect gift! David has become an awesome father and partner in this crazy first year of parenthood! Not only does he do very hands-on things with Freya like giving her baths, which I cannot do since my knee surgery, but he does so many behind-the-scenes things like laundry and dishes after both Freya and I have gone to bed. He is my rock, my best friend, and the most caring, loving dad to Freya! We wouldn't survive without you, David.

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What is Zero Gravity?

by Katy Miller

Zero Gravity, often referred to as Junior Youth, is for grades 4 - 8 and meets at LCF on the first and third Sunday of each month from 6 - 8 p.m. The meetings usually consist of a Bible lesson, prayer time, snack time and games. I serve as the leader for Zero Gravity and am thankful to have assistance from Justin Scheffel and Bryce Swartz.

At the beginning of 2018, Zero Gravity took on a new study format. Each kid has his or her own prayer journal that they personalized, and each lesson is based on Scripture. Some of the topics that have been discussed are: God has a purpose for everyone, Forgiveness, Choices, Judging Others, Friendship, and most recently, the Romans Road to Salvation. After the topic is discussed in the group, each kid takes his or her own prayer journal and follows the S.O.A.P. format:

- S: Scripture; write out one verse that was meaningful to you
- O: Observation; what was interesting in this passage? What did you learn? What was God saying to you?
- A: Application; how can you apply this Scripture to your life? How will you let it change you?
- P: Prayer; respond to God in prayer, use the Scripture as a guide. Ask God to help you meditate and apply the Scripture to your life.

Following this template helps us stay on topic, because that can be a struggle sometimes. ☺

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

A New Chapter for Old Friends

by Theresa Hennis

God is a god of change. He moves in our hearts to change us, and sometimes he moves us physically, as well, to serve in different ways and in other locations.



Levi and Cora Miller have accepted God's new plan for their lives as they move to Springfield, Ohio, to Wooded Glen, a retirement community.

The Millers have been with LCF since its beginnings in 1984 as Shalom Community Church, which first met in a little brick house

beside a trailer court a few miles down the road, then moved to the former church location next door in 1988, and finally, in 2013, to our current building we now enjoy. Levi served on LCF's Expansion Task Force, which provided the main leadership to the new building project. As founding church members, they have provided much prayer and support, and have seen LCF grow into the family they love and serve to this day.

When asked what encouragement they leave for us, Levi spoke about a subject near and dear to his heart—tithing. Levi has served on the Financial Team and the Benevolence Team for many years. "Remain faithful to your church, support one another, and be generous in your financial giving to the church that has given you so much," he says. He stresses not only the monetary aspect of what tithing can do to help the church, but the spiritual blessing it holds, saying, "I'm convinced that by being generous givers, the Lord blesses us in so many ways." He emphasized that tithing not be done with the expectation of being blessed, but with the intent to bless our church and others. "I've seen evidence of blessings in my life and in others' lives," he says. "If every family gave a 10% tithe, the church would have no financial worries."

Cora, who has made many cinnamon rolls for LCF over the years, was excited to find that there is a game area in the retirement community, her favorite being Scrabble. If you like to play, give them a visit and she'd be glad to challenge you! Levi is looking forward to playing on the golf course right next door, so a round with old friends who visit would be welcomed.

Both Levi and Cora say, "We look forward to meeting new people, and we'll come back for visits to see our LCF friends. You mean a lot to us."

We thank you both, Levi and Cora, for investing in and being faithful to our church family for so many years. We pray for God's continued blessing on your lives, and we look forward to hearing about your new adventures! ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began with our usual time of prayer. Following that, we discussed the timing of our elder's retreat. Historically, it has been held in the fall but next year, we will look into possibly having it in the spring. This would enable us to be more effective with preparing for the new church calendar year (which begins in September) and also, hopefully, allow the new elder (who typically comes on the team in January) to attend.

We again discussed the ongoing need we have for another elder for our team. We already do not have a full team, and the team will be even slimmer at the beginning of next year since Bob Zachrich's 2nd three-year-term ends this December. We discussed various possibilities for managing the situation. We will keep praying and seeking God's direction and provision.

We talked through some financial situations we have here at LCF, including the deficit that we currently have, and several ministries to which we have currently designated missions money.

We discussed the importance of those who serve in leadership roles at LCF being at a healthy place in their personal walk with God. We want to clearly and consistently call our leaders to spiritual growth and maturity. We will continue to think and pray about what this looks like for us as elders. At a future meeting we want to talk about how we can strive for excellence in all we do in ministry.

We discussed the possibility of a men's meeting in the near future, which could lead to starting up a 180 Ministries group here at LCF if there is significant interest. (180 Ministries creates a safe community where men can find freedom from sexual brokenness and grow strong in their relationship with God.)

We shared updates and prayer requests for various people at LCF—guests among us, those who are experiencing significant difficulties, dealing with health issues, growing in Christ, etc. We will continue to be in prayer for each of these situations and look forward to seeing how God is going to continue to work.

Reuben closed our time with prayer, remembering the many situations we discussed. Our next meeting: Tuesday, June 19th. ■

Parent/Child Dedication

*"And He took the children his arms,
placed his hands on them and blessed them."
Mark 10:16*

On Sunday, May 6th, four precious children were dedicated to the Lord by their parents. Pray that they would grow up to love Jesus with all of their hearts! Pray, also, for the parents as they teach and train them.



The Blessing of Rosedale Bible College

by Bryce Swartz

Where do I even begin? Looking back as a recent Rosedale alumnus, I can already see just how much of an impact that Rosedale had on me. I first decided to go to Rosedale for one year to take classes that interested me and that would help me discover my beliefs on issues that may arise. Growing up, I felt like I adopted what my parents believe, which is not wrong, but I did not always know how to defend those views. At Rosedale, I took theologically-based classes and analyzed the different sides on certain issues for myself; then, I was able to choose the side that I agreed with, and learned how to defend that stance through scripture. It is not like my views have taken a drastic change, but they have shifted enough to the point where they are my views and I know how I got there. That is the biggest thing that I came out of Rosedale with.

I also came away from my time at Rosedale with multiple super-close relationships with people that hopefully will last for many years. With these friends, I have been able to have some of the most challenging conversations that I ever had. It was so encouraging to just sit down and talk to someone for an hour or two about life and what each of us was struggling with, knowing that the other person really cares and really wants to help me grow in my spiritual walk.

Those are just a couple of the many huge benefits that I received from my time at Rosedale. Other things that come to mind include: Akwachink (leadership training in the Canadian wilderness), singing in (and traveling with) the Rosedale Chorale, and participating in several dramas. I enjoyed learning to know the staff and faculty there and was challenged greatly by their commitment to God and his Word. Of course, things like all-night volleyball tournaments made lots of great memories, as well!

I am so thankful to LCF for helping to make my time at Rosedale possible, through the scholarship money you provided both years. I would encourage all of the youth at LCF

to seriously consider attending Rosedale Bible College and take advantage of LCF's scholarship, as well as RBC's new Multiply Scholarship (see information on the right). Attending Rosedale Bible College for two years was one of the best decisions I have made in my life! ■



Rosedale is offering the **MULTIPLY SCHOLARSHIP**

- \$9000 scholarship
- One per CMC church
- For first-time students
- 2018-19 academic year

Contact Hans Shenk at hshenk@rosedale.edu for details.

rosedale bible college | rosedale.edu

Exciting offer from Rosedale Bible College!

RBC is announcing the creation of the Multiply Scholarship. This scholarship offers one first-time student from each congregation in CMC the opportunity to attend RBC in the 2018-19 school year for the cost of room and board. That's a scholarship of up to \$9,000 for a full year of study. Congregations have the option of dividing the scholarship award between two or more students. If you're interested and think you may be eligible, check out the details at rosedale.edu.

Council Update

by David Perkins

It is a beautiful time of year as we transition into summer and the blessings of much warmer weather. We are approaching the halfway point of the year, and the LCF Council has been diving into several projects. Currently, we are working on tackling the revision of LCF's Child Protection Policy and discussing how to move forward with the old church building.

The LCF Child Protection Policy has been reviewed and discussed thoroughly amongst the Council. Input has been well-received and greatly appreciated from other members of the church that are in charge of our children's care, events, etc. Our new electronic background checks system is established, and we discussed how to phase in the background checks over the course of the next couple of years, to offset the necessary cost to provide them. All new volunteers will have the background check added to their screening process and one-third of the current volunteers will have a background check added by the end of this year. The rest of the background checks of current volunteers will be divided up over the next two years. The names of those who will be checked will be determined based on the time frame of completion. The revised LCF Child Protection Policy will be published after the remaining edits have been completed.

The old church building was discussed. It has been on the market for four years and is no longer being leased. It was decided that we should entertain all offers for a few months before listing it with a real estate agent.

These are the things in motion now. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with any of the Council members: Jim Jones, Tasha Slaubaugh, Becky Hostetler, and David Perkins. Be sure to keep an eye out for your next LCF Council Update. ■

Upcoming Activities

- June 4-8 - Vacation Bible School, 6:30 - 8:45
- June 24 - Men's Cookout & Meeting, 12-2 pm
- July 11-13 - [Xenos Summer Institute](#), in Cols.
- July 20-22 - [Multiply 2018](#) in Indiana

MULTIPLY X18

Catch God's Purpose



July 20-22, 2018
Montgomery, IN
Barr-Reeve Middle/
High School

You are all invited to the 108th annual gathering of Conservative Mennonite Conference.

Multiply 2018, will be held July 20-22, in Montgomery, Indiana (about 4 hours from here). Multiply Conference is the name that is being used for the next few years for what has traditionally been known as CMC's "Annual Conference." The theme this year is "Catch God's Purpose."

If you would like in-home lodging, please request it before July 1 when you register on-line.

For more information and to register, visit cmcroosedale.org.

Father's Day...continued

Mandy Hochstetler: Where do I start? Myron is so patient with our children. He makes it a priority to spend time with them and goes out of his way to make sure they know they're important to him and an important part of our family. He's a great spiritual leader and loves teaching the kids about Jesus and that it's important to have a personal relationship with him.

BEST DADDY EVER!



Tasha Slabaugh: One of our girls' favorite things about their daddy is when he makes breakfast. I (Tasha) tend to make eggs and toast every day. So they love it when daddy makes grits or pancakes with sausage gravy. One thing that makes my heart swell is when Joe includes the girls in the jobs he does around the house. They really enjoy riding on the mower or feeding the cows with him. The icing on the cake is when Joe pulls in the driveway. We have a long lane, and Joe's truck is pretty loud. When the girls hear that sound, they run and jump and scream, "Daddy's home!!!!"



Andrea Biscup: Matthias and Silas have an amazing daddy in Aaron! I love to listen to the riotous noises when Matthias and Daddy tickle-tussle—thuds, squeals, roars, and giggles. I love to watch the tender love and pride in Daddy's eyes when he gently cradles Baby Silas. And I especially love knowing that my boys have a daddy who is committed to playing with them, doing guy stuff with them, training them to be godly men, and loving them for the rest of their lives.

Harmony Devlin: Rob has shown Cameron and I dedication, patience, strength, consistency and so much love. When Cameron was a baby we struggled with nursing; we tried so hard. When I was frustrated and thought I had tried everything, Rob found other ways to make it work.

He didn't give up. There were nights of nothing but tears from me and Cameron, and Rob was and is our stronghold. I love seeing Rob and Cameron playing with each other. It's amazing to watch our son look up to his daddy. You can tell he wants to be just like him. I know with Rob's dedicated heart to serve and grow closer to God that he is the best example of a father Cameron could ever have. I'm thankful for my hubby. He gives his all to be a husband and father. I couldn't ask for anything more! ■



Zero Gravity...continued

Zero Gravity is also a "phone-free zone." Putting our phones in the basket helps us be present with the ones around us, as well as focus on the topic we are discussing.

Recently, I asked the kids several questions. Here are their replies:

What is your favorite thing about Zero Gravity?

- Conner: *We get to learn more about Jesus.*
- Derek: *We get to play fun games.*
- Kaleigh: *We learn about Jesus and have snacks.*
- Emily: *I like hanging out with kids my age.*
- Brennan: *I like to talk to my friends and learn about Jesus.*
- Evan: *I like playing the games!*

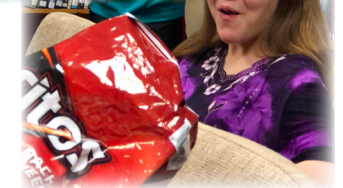
What is one thing you learned at Zero Gravity?

- Conner: *I learned the Romans Road to Salvation.*
- Derek: *I learned that Jesus died for my sins.*
- Kaleigh: *I learned about the Romans Road and that God has a perfect plan for me.*
- Emily: *I learned that God has a purpose for me.*
- Brennan: *I learned not to do something back to my friends when they do something mean to me.*
- Evan: *I learned not to retaliate.*

Recently, Rob preached about seeing children through the eyes of Jesus and looking for ways to minister to them. Here are several ways you can help out with junior youth if you'd like.



- **PRAY!** Pray for strength for the leaders, for patience and wisdom. Pray for the kids to be receptive and have open hearts. Pray for the group to grow, so that we can touch other young hearts.
- **Provide SNACKS!** There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board that has plenty of spaces! It is so helpful when others bring in snacks and drinks for us. Just bring it Sunday morning and put it in the kitchen for that evening!



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6) May God help each of us to invest well in the lives of the junior youth, youth, and children here at LCF! ■

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: Theresa Hennis, Amie Smith, Elisabeth Yoder, and Doris Swartz. If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us to let us know.