

# The LCF Connection

July 2018

## Cave Quest VBS

by Sheila Miller, VBS Coordinator

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School was Cave Quest—learning about Jesus being the Light of the World. The kids learned that Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, love, and power.

Lonnie Combs was our greeter and welcomed parents and kids upon arrival. Each evening began with everyone in the auditorium for an energetic time of worship and skits by Lyndon Miller and Dave Stewart that introduced the evening's lesson.



Lucy Elfrink, Jenn Frederick, Zach Freer, and Katy Miller, along with their great helpers, led the classes through five different stations.

In **Imagination Station**, Lyndon Miller told Bible stories to the kids and led them in activities that illustrated the lessons. One night they sat in a "boat" to hear the story of Jesus walking on the water (and heard the storm around them), then, they were able to get out of the boat and walk on water!



Kristen Duncan was in charge of the **Craft Time**. The kids had fun making a craft project that illustrated the story for the evening. It gave them a physical reminder of what they learned about, to take home with them.

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## Worship Survey Results

by Jesse Diller

Earlier this year, the worship leadership team (Jesse Diller, Andrea Biscup, and Sammy Waweru) put together and sent out a survey regarding the "Worship in Music" part of our services, via LCF's email newsletter. As we meet, we are trying to figure out how to make this part of our Sunday services better and better. It became apparent, though, that since "better" is a somewhat relative term, we needed to understand where the congregation is before we could effectively make things better; so we created the survey.

The survey contained a number of basic questions about the congregation's perceptions of our worship time. Questions about volume, hymns and new songs, familiarity vs variety, problem areas, etc. We got nearly 40 responses over a few weeks. As I looked over the responses, I saw a wide variety of responses. Generally, it seems that most people are happy with our current



setup; and those who saw things differently were mostly balanced as well. For example, for every person who felt we needed more new songs, there was a person who felt we needed less. While a

few people thought the music volume was too high, others felt it was a little low. We asked about song selection; there were requests for more hymns, for more new songs—and requests for less of both, and people who said they loved the current mix.

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## Time for a Reset?

A Message from the Pastor  
by Reuben Sairs

*Try reading this as a devotional by looking up the passages and approaching this prayerfully.*

We claim God has given us a new life and shown us how to live it, but we easily get that life off track. We get things out of order, and go off on tangents. Small things become large; the less important becomes the more important; the trivial becomes the major; issues that should be first are put last, and those that should be last are put first (and that is not at all what Jesus meant when he said the “first shall be last”). The Bible gives us reset buttons that help us put our lives back in the proper order. For instance, we know what the greatest commandment is—to love God. And we know the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. See Matthew 22:36-40. We know that Jesus gave us the new commandment, “that we love one another as I have loved you.” Read John 13:24. These simple lessons are the foundation of the Christian life and can’t be taken for granted or assumed to be too general. In fact, working these basics out is our daily, if not hourly, life as Christians. When these first truths are pushed out of order by other concerns, we have a spiritual cancer.

There are other reset buttons. Without disparaging her care or hard work, Jesus told Martha that it was simply a better thing to spend time with him than to worry and work on an orderly process. You can read about it in Luke 10:38-42. Jesus told the Pharisees that in spite of their energetic, intense attempt to be righteous, they had put things out of order. The “I desire mercy not sacrifice” passage in Matthew 9:10-13 will give us all a chance to see if we’ve severed our righteousness from its only authentic root. In a much more humorous statement, Jesus would accuse the over-achieving, uber-righteous Pharisees of “straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!” Matthew 23:24.

A passage I need to keep in mind as a teacher is in 1st Timothy chapter 1. This passage states the goal—the call, “The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” 1st Timothy 1:3-7 elaborates on this charge to Timothy, and the whole paragraph is worthy of our attention. There are many things to consider or work out in our lives as we apply our faith to every part. You might call these many things the details. When our lives are in Biblical order, and we remember what the goal is, the details become wonderful, fascinating and don’t weigh us down. If we lose the proper order, the details of Christian life become painful, frustrating and even scary, then the details make us neurotic. The details make us divisive in personal relationships as we measure one another by secondary matters. The details tie up our time and energy, rob us of joy, cause us worry. The details make us destructive—how many Christian groups, churches, congregations have formed and continue to define themselves over some secondary matter? We’re the Christians that \_\_\_\_\_. How different would the church landscape of the London area be if all Christians said, “we’re the Christians who try to love with a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith?” How would your day change today, if you pushed a reset button? ■

## Elders' Notes

by Doris Swartz

We began and ended our Elders meeting on June 26th with prayer. Prayer helps us to keep our eyes focused on Christ and reminds us that we can trust him to guide and provide, and to transform lives. Sandwiched in between those prayer times we discussed various church updates, how we see God working among us, our upcoming schedules, things we want to plan for at LCF, and more. We talked about things that concern us and things that encourage us.

One of the things that we continue to seek God about is our need for a 3rd elder. We have been searching for a new elder for over half a year. We have asked many qualified individuals to serve, but each has declined for various reasons. We see a Biblical pattern for having elders and feel the need for them, and we believe our church benefits greatly from a complete team. Bob Zachrich's term ends in December and then we will be in need of 2 elders. We continue to work at discipling leaders and pray that God will meet this need. If you as a congregation have any thoughts or feedback for us to consider, we encourage you to talk with us.

As we often do, we ran out of time before we got to the end of our agenda. We will look into possibly using an online forum for some additional discussion. ■

## Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met on June 26th and a big part of our discussion was LCF's current financial situation. Due to lower attendance, offerings have decreased. The budget has not corrected from its downward vector. Currently we have a deficit of \$20,880.04. Our working capital is \$47,562, with \$29,833 of that designated for specific line items such as youth, wheelchair ramps, etc., leaving us with a working balance of \$17,679 (about half of what we had at the end of last year).

The Council continues to look for ways to save money. LCF will adjust its contributions to Rosedale Mennonite Missions based on what is customary for our membership size. In the past RMM received more than the customary amount which was based on our annual budget without a mortgage.

Other steps have been taken to save funds which includes taking our own EPA water samples and reducing our testing requirements from \$1,326.00 to \$82.00 per year. We have combined and updated our security system and fire monitoring from landline to wireless. The wireless is more reliable and has provided a savings of approximately \$1,000 per year by dropping our AT&T landline.

If you have questions or feedback feel free to talk with anyone on the council: Becky Hostetler, Tasha Slaubaugh, David Perkins, or Jim Jones. ■

### *Worship...continued*

LCF is increasingly a very diverse body of believers; in age, ethnicity, cultural background, church background, and in other ways as well. This is a good thing, and matches Paul's vision of the Body of Christ as a collection of differing, diverse parts that work together to form a coherent whole. We understand that because of this, the congregation is by definition going to have a diversity of ideas about musical worship. It seems, from the responses we received from the survey, that we are not far from an elusive goal. Not the ideal where everyone is perfectly satisfied, of course—I doubt that is possible in a diverse body—but the middle ground where we can all come together and worship God. We will continue to pray, and listen, and work, to improve our worship music experience, as we seek to worship God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. ■

# An interview with Justin Scheffel

Interviewed by Elisabeth Yoder

## How long have you attended LCF?

I've attended as long as I've existed. My parents attended here when I was born and so it's not like I had much of a choice back then. Here is a picture from a summer potluck in 1997. Can you name the two friends I am playing with?



## What is one of your favorite memories at the church?

I think my favorite memories of church would be from when I was younger. The patch of woods behind the old church used to have a giant tire swing and tree house, and I have a lot of fun memories of playing with friends back there.

## What do you do for work? Do you enjoy what you do?

I'm an electrician. The company I work for does both commercial and residential. I get into a little bit of everything—new builds, remodels, service calls, you name it. People ask me that question a lot. "Do you enjoy it?" I'm never sure how to answer. I think that for the stage I'm at in life it's a really good job for me. I've learned a lot of useful things that are invaluable; although it's not something I envision myself doing long term.

## If you could be anything, what would you be?

Ahhh, good question. If I could be a person, place, or thing, I think I'd be a bird. Birds are cool.

## What are three items on your bucket list?

Skydiving for sure. Other than that I'm not real sure. Maybe riding a mechanical bull and cliff diving.

## Who is a person that inspires you? What do you admire about them?

There's not really anyone that comes to mind. I'd say the people who have been most inspiring to me are the people I've seen personally overcome tragedy, sin, or a bad situation and have turned it into something that glorifies God in some shape or form.



## What is one of your favorite worship songs? Why?

"Give Me Faith." I like it because I always find that no matter what I'm going through it's always super relatable.

## What are three words you would use to describe yourself?

I don't know that I can do three words, but maybe three phrases: laid-back, fun-loving and perfectionist.

## What hobby would you love to get into if time and money were not an issue?

I'd love to get a paramotor. If you don't know what that is you should look it up.

## What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their life?

Go skinny dipping. Enough said.

## If you could make one rule that everyone had to follow, what rule would you make?

No more broccoli. That stuff is the worst!



## What gets you excited about life?

I can't really think of a better answer than simply doing things that I enjoy and that I'm passionate about. The above pictures were taken on our family's recent trip out west—which was a lot of fun!

## What roles do you play in the church and what do you enjoy about them?

I lead worship. I've always enjoyed music and being on the worship team is a great outlet for that. I also co-lead a young adults group called Crossroads. I enjoy studying the Bible with people who are at the same or a similar stage in life. I also enjoy the social aspect of the group.

## If you could spend one day in someone else's shoes, past or present, who would it be and why?

It might be a little cliché, but probably one of Jesus's disciples. I feel like there's so much you could learn.

## What fictional place would you love to go to?

Any place in a Dr. Seuss book. That would be really funky.

## What is one of your favorite Bible passages?

Probably one of my favorites as of late has been Proverbs 3:5-6:  
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." ■

## Upcoming Activities

July 8 Potluck meal with the Mast Family  
July 11-13 Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus  
July 20-22 Multiply 2018 in Indiana  
Aug. 25-26 LCF Annual Camp-Out

# What Makes Bethel Camp Special?

Each year, youth and junior youth from LCF look forward to attending Bethel Camp (located about five hours away in Clayhole, KY) where they not only have lots of fun, make great friends, and get to find out what it's like to be away from home, but also experience God in ways they might never have done before.

Five junior youth (right) attended Bethel Camp June 11 - 16, along with 3 volunteers, 7 youth (below) attended June 25 - 30, and a few others will attend and/or volunteer with camps that will be held in July.

A big thank you to Mandy Hochstetler for coordinating all of the transportation details to get the kids to and from camp, to those who helped out with driving, and others who contributed financially to LCF's camp fund. When you think of Bethel Camp, pray for the many campers, as well as the staff and volunteers. ■



We asked a few of the junior youth what their experience was like, and here are their thoughts on what made Bethel Camp so special for them.

**Derek Elfrink:** This is my 2nd year of Bethel Camp. I love going there, and what I love about camp is the chapel meetings we have every morning and evening. In chapel, we sang songs and heard messages from the pastors, and at that moment I gave my life to God. Our theme was Handcrafted in Jesus. It's good to remember that we are handcrafted in God's image. Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." I also enjoyed the team games, campfires, and fun activities. I had fun at Bethel Camp! I hope the others had fun, too. God bless you all.

**Conner Hamms:** This was my first year at Bethel Camp, and it was amazing! My favorite activity was Capture the Flag. The food was really good, and the counselors were very nice. I can't wait to go back next summer!

VBS...continued

**Snack Time** was a highlight for everyone—including the adults! Mandy Hochstetler and Sharon Headings, assisted by Dalesa Combs, and Mandy's sister, Rosy Miller, did a great job of providing delicious snacks.

Jeff & Elisabeth Yoder led the **Game Time**. The games were a lot of fun, but also provided an outlet for energetic kids and taught them lessons such as the value of working together.



One new addition this year was the **Bat Cave** where Jeremy and Mandy Hisey showed short videos to the kids and led them in a time of discussion. One of the videos was about a "Bible Memory Buddy" who helped the kids understand cave creatures better, and how Jesus helps us in so many ways.

Another video was about a child who was faced with a circumstance in which they chose to be an example of how to follow Jesus.



Another addition this year was **VBS Spotlight**—a short video that was shown during the closing worship session each evening, spotlighting pictures of the kids. Doris Swartz took specific pictures of the kids early in the evening, and then Sammy Waweru put them into the media presentation that included music and/or a Bible story. The kids enjoyed seeing themselves on the screen!

The registration team, headed by Becky Hostetler, made registration run smoothly. They kept track of attendance, as well as



where everyone was located, which made it easy if kids needed to be picked up early.

This was our largest VBS yet, with 32 kids registered and 34+ volunteers! Our smallest evening was 27. A little over half of those in attendance were from the community. The kids had a great time and many seeds were sown. Pray that these seeds would grow and expand the Kingdom of God. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this week possible, and helped make things run so smoothly! May God bless you all! ■

*Editor's note: A huge thank you to Sheila Miller for the great job she did with planning this year's VBS and coordinating the many volunteers and details!!*



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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: 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.