

The LCF Connection

August 2018

Choral Camp Highlights

by Mandy Hochstetler

Choral Camp is a music camp for children in grades 2 to 8 and is held for 2 separate weeks each July at Rosedale Bible College. This year I enjoyed the opportunity to attend and get to see what it's all about. I had fun taking pictures for the camp while getting to watch my kids thoroughly enjoy themselves and make new friends. The kids pictured on the right attended the first week and Derek Elfrink attended the 2nd week.

Kaleigh Duncan said, "This year was my first year to play with the band. I was a little nervous, but once we started to play I was ok. I also enjoyed the super games. I liked the bounce house the best. It was good to see my counselors from last year. I can't wait for next year to see what Choral Camp is going to be like!"



Maddie Hochstetler and Kristen Schlabach's favorite part was the shaving cream fight, and Ella loved "The Great Show"—where all the counselors did skits.

Vaughn Hochstetler said, "I liked playing scatter ball in the big gym. I made two new friends, Aiden and Curtis. My favorite song that we learned was Old Dan Tucker."

Derek Elfrink summed up his Choral Camp experience by saying, "I enjoyed the music as well as learning about music in other cultures and in different time periods, and learning about beats and rhythm, and having campfires. The food was great, and the counselors and shaving cream fight were awesome!" ■



No Small Groups for Us

by Tim & Pam Shay

What's the point to small groups? We were used to Sunday School for adults before church service on Sunday mornings, and we do our personal Bible study during the week, so no need to get together with others. We heard the announcements and invitations, but we came up with lots of excuses to not attend small groups: too busy; unpredictable weekly schedule. While we read the Bible, we didn't feel like experts, so we were uncomfortable and afraid to be put "on the spot" during discussion; we didn't know a lot of the people in the groups, so our shyness seemed to take control. We were very good at coming up with excuses.



This past year, we made commitments to dive deeper in our relationships with God, to focus more on Him instead of ourselves. We challenged ourselves to participate in LCF's Small Groups. We participated with several other couples who regularly met at the home of Rob and Doris Swartz. Wow, our viewpoint of Small Groups has drastically changed

over these past several months! We enjoy the diversity of our group—backgrounds, understanding of the Bible, age, experiences, culture, walks in faith. What an enriching experience to study a section (sometimes a chapter, sometimes a verse) each evening and

Continued on page 4...

Inside this Issue

Choral Camp Highlights	1
No Small Groups for Us	1
How Do We Pray?	2
Elders Notes	2
Riding for a Cause	3
Council Update	3
Youth Weekend Trip	4



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

LCFweb.org

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

How Do We Pray?

A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

The opportunity that we have as believers to come before the throne of God with our petitions, thoughts, and requests is nothing short of amazing. Why would the sovereign God of the universe want to hear from us? And yet...he does! He tells us to ask, to seek, and to knock, and he will respond. He tells us to persist in prayer and not to give up. And so...we pray!



But how do we pray? This is probably as varied as we are people. The truth is that prayer is a multi-splendored thing, and we hope to grow in it together as a body of believers at LCF.

It is to this purpose that the elders have made some changes to our Sunday morning prayer time following the message. We want to expand our understanding and practice of prayer, moving beyond personal prayer requests to explore a broader range of prayer topics and ways to pray about them.

If we look at the Bible we see lots of variety. Jesus encouraged people to pray in their closets. ☺ Jesus often withdrew to pray in lonely, desolate places. We see the early church gathered together (in Acts 4) praying with one voice. When Peter is in prison, we see a prayer meeting at someone's house where the church is gathered in prayer. The disciples ask Jesus how to pray, and he gives them some instruction in what we now call "The Lord's Prayer." Paul often mentions in his letters how he prays continually for the believers in these various churches. In Ephesians 6:18, Paul tells us to "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

What should we pray for? Jesus tells us to pray for more workers for the harvest. In Acts 4 the early church prayed for boldness to share the gospel. What does Paul pray for the believers? That they may have spiritual wisdom and revelation, and grow in the knowledge of Christ. That they may be strengthened with power through His Spirit, filled up with the fullness of God, sincere and blameless for the day of Christ, and filled with the fruit of righteousness. That they may comprehend the depth of Christ's love, live worthily of the Lord, abound in love, display all patience and steadfastness, and joyfully give thanks. As we recently studied, James tells us to ask for wisdom. If we look at Jesus' model of prayer, we see: awe and reverence for God; a desire for God's kingdom to come and his will to be done; a request to provide for our needs; confession; asking for forgiveness while forgiving others; and a request to keep us from temptation and evil. In John 17, Jesus prayed for unity for us, the church. In Matthew 5 he tells us to pray for our enemies. In 1 Timothy 2, Paul tells us to pray for the leaders of our countries and for all people. Now that's a lot of people! ☺

I could go on, but do you see the depths of prayer that often remain largely unexplored? Our desire as an Elders Team is to explore those further during our prayer time on Sunday mornings. We realize it still needs a good bit of work, and we ask that you join in helping us discern what might work best. Thanks for those of you who have offered input already.

We know that change is always unsettling and that you may be missing the opportunity to share verbally. We will continue to adjust things to allow for people to give their requests and be prayed for personally. Any of the elders would always be glad to pray with you after the service, and I'm sure that many of you in the congregation would be willing to, as well. We are glad to see this happening and encourage it. Also, we encourage participation in small groups, discipleship groups, and the pre-service prayer time—which all give great opportunity for individual prayer to happen.

Pray for wisdom for the Elders Team as we try to provide leadership in this and many other areas of the church. We know we need it, and we desire the Lord to lead us. ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

We began our evening on July 17th (pictured here) by sharing things that we are thankful for; we spent time thanking God for those things and praying about the church, people who were on our hearts, and asking God's guidance for our meeting.

We discussed LCF's upcoming schedule, noting CMC's annual Conference in Indiana and the youth group's upcoming summer trip. We prayed for meaningful experiences and good connections at both. We will host RMM international affiliates on July 29 and have communion and an appreciation potluck for Levi & Cora Miller on August 5. The annual LCF Camp-out will be August 25 & 26, with a baptism on the 26th. Rob is working on details for fall semester Small Groups. Reuben will teach our fall Adult Discipleship Class September 30 to November 18. Our Elders Retreat will be held October 5 & 6.

We discussed communication, both how we as elders communicate with each other, and how we communicate with the congregation. We want to be as open as possible, yet also be mindful of giving privacy in difficult situations.

We want to continue to prioritize discipleship and mentoring at LCF. We discussed a number of discipleship and mentoring opportunities and programs that we currently see going on, and others that may be coming up.

We began the discussion of "How are we doing at LCF?" We want to do things well and for God's glory, but also allow anyone who wants to be able to serve. We like that LCF does not feel like a tightly run performance, but also see areas where we could work at doing a better job. We talked about various areas where we could improve, and how we might do that. We will think and pray about how we are doing in these areas—and will continue this discussion again later. We also want to encourage feedback from the congregation. To that end, Doris is going to put together a short survey for the congregation to give us their feedback concerning how we're doing with communication.

We discussed the possibility of having a fall congregational meeting so that we can share our vision, invite the congregation's thoughts and questions, get feedback about finances and the budget, etc.

Bob closed our time with prayer remembering the situations we discussed. Our next meeting will be August 14th. ■



Riding for a Cause

by Theresa Hennis

Preparation is half the battle, and to prepare for the five-day, 375-mile Ride for Missions 2018, Marcus Freed logged 1030 miles on his bike to ensure that he was ready for the journey from Memphis, TN to Montgomery, IN.

Each evening, the 35 riders took the time to pray for the foreign missionaries and the work they do, as well as prayed for them during the day as they rode. Clayton Carner accompanied the group as the SAG (Snacks and Gear) person, and he says, "When we ate dinner, we got to know the riders and heard their stories about how they became Christians."

Marcus says, "This was my 13th ride, and on the first 12 rides we raised over a million dollars for the missions. As of now, over \$94,000 was raised in this year's ride."

One thing in particular that stood out on the ride, to Clayton, happened at a gas station where they stopped for water. "There was an older gentleman who wanted to donate to the ride. He gave us \$100. From what I understood, he is a millionaire who looks for ways to help good causes, and he collects \$5 bills to give away. He gave us our donation in \$5 bills."

A new thing this year was the opportunity to win an RMM Champion Jersey for whoever had the most donor commitments. Marcus won the jersey with donations from 40 sponsors from 7 different states. His goal was to raise \$2018 for the missions, and he well exceeded that goal.

Next year's Ride for Missions will end in Plain City, OH.

Thanks, Marcus and Clayton, for your dedication and hard work. Marcus chose the following scripture for his fundraising letter, and all the glory does, indeed, go to God for the great things that were accomplished on the ride. ■

"I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever." Psalm 86:12



Council Update

by David Perkins

During our Council meeting on July 24th, the LCF's Child Protection Policy was further discussed. More input was received from members of the congregation, and we took the points to analyze their validity. It is very important that the content in the policy meets the standards expected from our church, and we welcome any additional input from members of the congregation. Outside perspective is very insightful and can only help strengthen the policy.

Jim has an interested person currently looking at the old building for his contracting business. Our feelers are out there for potential buyers. We will continue to update you with information on the sale of the old building.

Jim is gathering more information regarding the concrete entryway. The solution is going to be a little more involved than initially expected. The asphalt is higher than the pad so water seeks out the low spot. During a hard winter, the water freezes underneath causing the pad to heave up. The pad would need to be sloped away but can't exceed ADA limits.

We had also discussed the logistics of LCF's membership renewal timing. It is Council's recommendation that memberships be renewed in September or October, which will make the 2019 budget process more accurate, especially determining the 2019 RMM donation budget.

It is time to seek nominations from the congregation for a LCF Council position that will be opening the first of the year. In addition, the Elders Team will be seeking nominations. A coordinated effort will be made from both teams. If you are interested or if you have a nomination in mind, please feel free to contact a Council or Elders Team Member.

Taking input and suggestions from the congregation collectively for the Elders Team and Council was discussed. The Council unanimously agreed that it was a good idea to look for new avenues to expand the communication process and accessibility to both teams. We talked about an annual congregational meeting but didn't know if we could get a good turnout for it. We had discussed that perhaps an email (survey/question box), text options, or the LCF Connection could be utilized for answering questions that members of the congregation might have.

That's all the Council has for now. We will continue to do our best to keep you informed with all the "goings-on" at LCF. ■

Youth Weekend Trip

by Emma Hostetler

On Friday, July 20th, the youth group departed from LCF in a rental van and drove to Bellville, Ohio. We ate dinner at Steak and Shake, which was right by the La Quinta motel, where we spent the night. After we arrived at the motel we hung out for the evening and swam in the pool and sat in the hot tub.

We were planning to leave on Saturday morning to go tubing at Mohican Adventures State Park, but since it was raining, we decided to go to “Acres of Fun” instead. It had a variety of activities such as roller skating, laser-tag, go-kart racing, an arcade, and golfing, among other things.



In the afternoon, we stopped at a bakery owned by Grace’s sister and got some ice cream. It was delicious! That evening, we saw Paul Green’s “Trumpet in the Land,” a historical reenactment of Ohio’s first settlement, Schoenbrunn. It depicts the struggle of the missionaries trying to maintain peace during war. The costumes were amazing and looked so authentic! The show ended around 11:30 p.m. We didn’t have time to eat dinner beforehand so we searched for food afterward, only to discover that there were no nearby restaurants open that late. We ended up going through a Taco Bell drive-through and got back to the hotel very late.



Sunday morning we had breakfast at the hotel and left around 9:30 (after the boys went swimming). We got back to the church at around 11:30.

When asked what their favorite parts of the trip were, the following youth replied:

- **Alyssa Hisey:** “My favorite part was bonding with the whole youth group and laser tag!!”
- **Sophie Headings:** “It was probably going laser tagging and go karting and just being able to hang out with everyone over the weekend.”
- **Ashlen Hisey:** “The bonding and the Trumpet in the Land. I had a great time laughing and spending time with everyone.”
- **Meredith Hochstetler:** “One of my favorite parts of the summer youth trip was going to Berlin, OH where Grace treated us youth with ice cream from her sister’s bakery, “Der Bake Oven.” Along the way, it was fun to see the horse and buggies, and just God’s beauty through the countryside. I also thoroughly enjoyed laser tag and go-karting with the girls!”



A big thank you to our youth leaders, Ray and Grace Raber and David and Brenda Perkins, for the great job they did! ■

Small Groups...continued

to hear and learn from everyone’s perspectives. It was such an open and loving environment to ask the questions that we always wanted to ask but sometimes felt nervous about asking. As we got to know our small group members, they really became prayer partners and accountability partners—nice to have people that you could always reach out to for prayer and support. All of the previous excuses were no longer relevant—it is amazing how God helped us see that we could always make time to study His Word with others.

So as the summer ends and it’s time to sign up for LCF fall semester Small Groups, don’t let the excuses keep you from participating! Take it from us—you will get so much out of regular participation in a Small Group. Your lives will be greatly enriched as you study God’s Word with others, pray with and for each other, and grow in your love and understanding of God. If you are willing, God will help you clear the excuses out of the way so you can grow stronger in His Word and deeper in fellowship with others. Give LCF Small Groups a try—it is a great experience! ■

Upcoming Activities

August 4

Workday at Tammy & Willow’s trailer in Plain City, 9 a.m.

August 5

Communion; Appreciation Potluck for Levi & Cora Miller

August 25-26

Annual LCF Camp-Out, including a baptism on Sunday morning

September 1

Fall semester Small Groups begin; details will be coming soon



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.