

The LCF Connection

October 2018



Teaching and Tacos

by Jeff Gates

Digging their teeth into an introductory helping of LCF 101. On September 9, a handful of people gathered at the home of Rob and Doris Swartz for some food and fellowship.

The main reason behind the get-together was to participate in an introduction to London Christian Fellowship. LCF 101 chronicled church history as well as demonstrating how following, and developing a relationship with, Jesus is the cornerstone of the church.

Following a tasty Mexican-flavored luncheon buffet—and introductions—the attendees had an opportunity to show their knowledge of church history.

Rob then explained LCF's affiliation with the Conservative Mennonite Conference (CMC), which began in 1910 and now includes 100-plus churches which span from Ontario to Mexico, as well as 25 USA states in between.

Along with CMC, the special relationships with Rosedale Bible College (RBC) and Rosedale Mennonite Missions (RMM) were also explained.

Questions and healthy discussion ensued when the distinctives in Anabaptist/Mennonite teachings were explored.

Continued on page 2...



Inside this Issue	
Teaching and Tacos	1
Caught in the Act!	1
Pastor Appreciation 2018	2
Elders and Council Updates	2
What Kind of Meeting?	3
I Have Decided...	3
A Moving Experience	4
Farm Science Review	4



Caught in the Act!

by Rob Swartz

You may have noticed that our front projector has been out a couple of Sundays. What you probably have not noticed is that someone has been working behind the scenes to repair it. The culprit? Dan Frederick. 😊

Some of our equipment has been vulnerable to power surges or dips and so, sometimes, when a storm rolls through, a piece of equipment will be damaged. Dan has been working on a solution to the problem, and on a Saturday in early September, he implemented part of that solution. We won't bore you with terms like HDMI, VGA, or Ethernet, but suffice to say that because of Dan's work, we now have three ways to connect to the projector. If one link goes down, we have the option to use either of the other two. If you know Dan, you know that he always thinks things through well.

Thanks, Dan, for keeping our projectors and other techie hardware working well! ■



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.

We need your help!

We would love to make this a regular feature of the LCF Connection; so if you would like to recognize someone that you catch in the act of serving, please send a picture and short note of thanks to: secretary@lcfweb.org.



Pastor Appreciation 2018

A Message from an Elder by Bob Zachrich

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
Luke 19:9-14

I realize that this may be an odd verse to begin an article of appreciation for our pastoral team! What you need to understand is that I was a teen/young adult in the mid to late 1980s when all too many "leaders" in the Christian faith in America were being uncovered as more Pharisee than Tax Collector, at least in their view of themselves in relation to God. This was a time, too, and still exists to some extent today, when some churches were known by the name of the pastor. Some in the congregation even identified their church affiliation as attending "So-and-So's" church. This was not new to the Church of 1985 America. In 1 Corinthians Paul confronts this issue as some people were identifying themselves saying "I am of Paul" or "I am of Apollos." He puts this down pretty firmly asking if they had been baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not!

One of the risks of writing a piece like this is, that by publicly appreciating someone's humility, the writer may be stoking the flames of pride that the subject of the article is trying to suppress! That certainly is not my intent. However, I would like for those reading this to come alongside of me and reflect on the number of sermons that Rob and Reuben have preached, sharing with us their own failings, biases, struggles, and yes, even sins at times both past, present, and future. This is the same motivation Paul has in Philippians when he tells the readers that if anyone would have the right to stand before God in their own righteousness it would be him. But, he goes on to tell the reader that all his righteousness is rubbish and of no value in light of the life he has found in Christ.

Actions speak louder than words. This is evident in the pastoral leadership. It strikes me as odd to some degree but ultimately warms my heart that visitors to LCF would not be able to pick the pastor out by sight upon entering the building. One reason is that both Rob and Reuben present themselves as ordinary, everyday Christ followers. Nothing more, nothing less. The sermon time is simply Rob or Reuben sharing with the other Christ followers what God has laid on their heart that week. Again we see Paul's New Testament directive to "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" emulated in our pastoral team. They are truly reflecting Jesus in living the life of a servant leader, and sharing the burdens of those they lead rather than standing at a distance judging them. ■

Elders' Notes by Jesse Diller

We met after church in the LCF library. While we ate our lunches we noted discussions from our August meeting and updates on various situations.

We continue to work with our Sunday morning prayer time. We liked the broader prayer focus this morning. Doris will note a reminder in the weekly email with prayer requests, that people can text their prayer requests (for Sunday morning) to LCF's phone number anytime. We hope to get a meeting scheduled to talk with the moderators in the near future.

We discussed several of the teams here at LCF and how to help them run more smoothly; we discussed various situations, concerns that have been expressed, etc., and what our responses should be.

We are excited to be planning a baptism after church next Sunday, September 23. The LCF 101 class on September 9th went well, with good attendance and lots of good questions and discussions. Most of those who attended have expressed a desire to become members. The elders continue to pursue encouraging and empowering the youth group; we have some ideas to be suggested in the next month, so please be praying about this potential transition and for the youth meetings.

We discussed what is needed for someone to be able to be involved in helping out at LCF. We agreed that we are generous in allowing people to serve in any area they have interest in, except for roles that include teaching and preaching, for which greater spiritual maturity and accountability are expected.

We discussed our upcoming elders retreat, scheduled for the weekend of October 5-6. We will also begin seeking nominations soon for a new elder to replace Bob Zachrich, whose 2nd term ends this December. Bob consented to continue with scheduling the moderators and serving as a moderator, even after his elder term ends. Our congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 4th. We discussed some logistical and scheduling details for that meeting. We noted a report from the treasurer concerning our budget deficit; we will invite feedback from the congregation at the congregational meeting.

Jesse closed our time with prayer. Our next meeting will be our Elders' Retreat at the Procter Center, October 5 - 6. We would appreciate your prayers during that time as we meet together. ■

Teaching and Tacos continued...

The Statement of Faith and Purposes were presented, as well as opportunities to utilize that knowledge by being involved in, and serving, the church. Membership options were also discussed.

Those attending included: Clayton Carner, Harmony Devlin, Jeff Gates, Maggie Gates, Jodi Gingerich, Alice Jenkins, Nathan Jenkins, Daekyun Oh, Youngmi Oh (and Vivi), and Jeff Traverse. ■

Note: LCF 101 is held once or twice each year (based on interest); so if you are interested in learning more about LCF and how you can be involved, let Rob or Doris Swartz know so that you can sign up to participate the next time it is offered.



The Meeting Jim Said Wouldn't Work

Here at LCF, Sunday, **November 4th**
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

What Kind of Meeting?

by Rob & Doris Swartz

The Council and Elders would like to invite all of you, both members and regular attenders here at LCF, to join us at 6:00 on Sunday evening, November 4th, for "The Meeting Jim Said Wouldn't Work."

As you hear that invitation, you probably have lots of questions, including:

- "Who is Jim?"
- "Why did he say this meeting would not work?" and
- "If he said it won't work, then why are we having it?"

Those are all great questions, and we will do our best to answer them. ☺ Jim Jones serves as the chair of the LCF Council. He does an awesome job leading the council and keeping a handle on the business end of things here at LCF. The Elders and the Council have been discussing the need to have a congregational meeting to discuss LCF's current financial situation as we prepare to make the 2019 budget.

The council also has suggested that we move our membership renewal from the usual time in mid-January to sometime in the fall, so that they have the current membership numbers (used to determine the amount LCF gives annually to our conference and mission agency) when they are working on the new budget.

The Elders have been wanting to have a meeting to promote vision, give recognition for volunteers, provide time for input from the congregation, etc.; plus, our constitution requires a fall congregational meeting. ☺ So... we thought it would be good to combine all of this into one meeting. The question then became, "When should we have it?" With our fall schedule of Adult Discipleship Class following the morning service, we thought it would be asking too much (especially of families with young children) to have people stay another couple of hours for a potluck meal and a meeting after that; so the Elders proposed an evening meeting to the Council.

What was the response from Jim and the Council? "We don't think that will work." ☺ They have a good point! It's hard to get people back out to an evening meeting. They also said, "If you want to try it then, we will fully support you!" Will it work? Well, you all are the determining factor there! ☺ Jim said that he has high hopes that he is wrong. We hope you all will come!

Come hear the Elders' vision for ministry at LCF. Come and give input on the 2019 budget and other important LCF business. Come with your questions and input for the leadership of LCF. Come share a great dessert with your LCF church family. If you believe in the ministry of LCF, we ask you to take an hour of your time from 6:00 - 7:00 on November 4th and come. We value your time, and we believe it will be worth your time. ■

I Have Decided...

by Alyssa Hisey (baptized on September 23, 2018)

I've been a Christian for about 4 years. When I became a Christian, it was a big change in my life having the Lord God guide me through everything. While this change was going on, there were a lot of rough patches I was trying to get through, and I knew God was there for me, and that He will always be there. A verse in the Bible says, "My God turns my darkness into light." Psalm 18:28.

And through the years, I have experienced this. God has so much planned for us, and I know He has great things for me. Being baptized to me means giving yourself to God and following Him all the way. It means having my sins be washed away, coming back cleansed. For someone to be saved means someone decided to follow Jesus, and I was saved at Bethel Camp 4 years ago. When I was saved, it was one of the happiest moments, and I was not turning back. That song is a great reminder of faith. "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back." ■



Council Update

by David Perkins

Our LCF Council Chair, Jim Jones, is very diligent in keeping items on the church council moving and also does a lot of traveling. Sometimes we're unable to meet in person, but luckily we've been able to figure out how to do conference calls over the phone, which comes in handy in these situations. Our most recent meeting was done by conference call, and we touched base on a few open items that we have been working on.

The final draft of LCF's Child Protection Policy has been sent over to the Elders' Team for their review. We would like to thank those who have provided great input in constructing the policy.

Fall is in the air and, oddly enough, this is the peak timeframe for buyers interested in the old church building. The building now has a total of five interested parties who would like to utilize the building for various uses such as a remodeling business, banquet hall, funeral home, etc.

Lastly, the Council is touching base with several team leads whose terms will expire on December 31 of this year. We will be discussing how they are currently feeling in their positions and if they would like to continue or take a break for a while. So, look out for more information concerning the various teams and more on your next Council Update. ■



A Moving Experience

by Audrey Maust

Moving can be an overwhelming experience. Packing boxes, loading your boxes into a little Honda Civic, unloading your boxes, and then unpacking those boxes. Multiply this by 20 and you are still not done. How was I going to get my furniture, beds, and table to my new apartment? I hated to bother people, but I knew I could not do this alone! So I talked to Sheila Miller, and she said, “Audrey, don’t worry about it. LCF will help you. That’s what we do.”

The day came when the big move was going to take place, and it was a dreary day. I wondered if anybody would show up if it was raining. Sure enough, Kelvin was the first one to arrive with his van and trailer. Soon there were cars, trucks, and vans ready to move all my stuff. Rain did not keep anyone away. It only took about an hour to move everything. When we arrived at the new apartment, Sheila had made a delicious meal for all the movers. Before the meal was ready, ladies were wiping down my dusty furniture. Who does that?



I told one of my co-workers that I felt so blessed because of how my church family helped me out. She said, “Your church does church right.” I would have to agree! I am so grateful for how LCF stepped up when they saw a need. It moved me so much that I want to give back. I asked Rob to pray a blessing on my new home, and I want to be open to offering my home to whatever God wants to do there. Thanks to everyone who came out on a dreary day to help me move! ■

Upcoming Activities

- Oct. 5-6 Elders’ Retreat
- Oct. 27 Harvest Party at Dale & Sharon Headings
- Oct. 28 Communion during Sunday morning service
- Nov. 4 The Meeting Jim Said Wouldn’t Work, 6-7 p.m.

Farm Science Review

by Pam Shay

For three days in September every year, the masses gather at US 40 and OH 38 for the annual agriculture trade show at Farm Science Review—the largest event of its type in the Midwest. LCF is blessed with the opportunity to provide volunteers to work 4-hour shifts helping out at the Hilliard Kiwanis food barn to cook and serve the hungry visitors. The Kiwanis Club then donates money to LCF for the hours worked. The funds earned in the past have bought furniture and decorations for different areas of the church.

While it is tiring, it is always fun working beside the Kiwanis members, other church groups, and interacting with the many FFA students. It’s a great opportunity to spread God’s love, fellowship with and serve others—plus, be able to enjoy the unique and massive Farm Science Review for free! Come join us next year!! ■



We just received our check from Hilliard Kiwanis for the amount of \$415.65! It will be used for “special projects” at LCF that are not included in the budget. Thanks so much to those who volunteered this year:



- Clayton Carner
- Twyla Cook
- Marcus Freed
- Sandy Gregg
- Mandy Hochstetler
- Myron Hochstetler
- Levi Miller
- Pam Shay
- Tim Shay
- Doris Swarz
- Rob Swartz



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.