

The LCF Connection

January 2019



Happy NEW Year!

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

It's a new day...a new month...a new year! God's mercies are new every single morning! We are excited about the new things God is going to do in our own lives, among our church body, and in our community in this coming year! Featured here are a few of the areas where new things are already beginning to take place. Take a few minutes to pray that God will do a new work in each of our lives and that he would open our eyes to the new things he wants to do in and through us in 2019.

Introducing our New Instant Church Directory!

by Doris Swartz

At the beginning of each year we always update and print out LCF's pictorial directory. Have you ever looked over it and realized that your phone number was wrong or your birth date was missing; or maybe you noticed that your family picture needs to be updated to include a recently added baby? Perhaps you started attending LCF soon after the directory was printed; thus, you had to wait almost a year before your information and picture could be added. Have you ever been out of town and needed to get in touch with someone from LCF but did not have their contact information—and your church directory was at home? Or maybe you were just wondering who is currently on the Building and Grounds Team or who is the leader of the Fellowship Team? Hopefully, we have found a solution to each of those situations!



We are happy to introduce LCF's new digital, Instant Church Directory! We hope that you will find it easy to access and use. You can view it on any web browser (at: members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and/or download the "Instant Church Directory" app onto your phone or tablet so that you can have it with you wherever you are!

For security reasons, whenever you view the directory (both online or on the app) you will need to log in with your email and password. The first time you use the app or visit the website, click on the "Create a login now" under the Sign In button. Enter your email address and set up a password, and you will be sent an email confirmation. Click on the link inside that email to confirm your email and then log in with the password you just created.

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New Faces at LCF

As people come and others go, we encourage you to welcome guests and get to know those who are new among us. Can you name each of these individuals who have begun attending LCF this past year? Do you know which couple (in the last 6 months) moved, which one got engaged, and which one had a baby? Which two guys share the same first name?



To see if you are correct, introduce yourself to them and learn to know them a little better. Of course, you can find their names and contact information anytime in LCF's new Instant Church Directory. 😊

255 US 42 NE
London, OH
43140



(740) 490-2121

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



The New You

A Message from the Pastor
by Rob Swartz

One of the most amazing things about believing in Jesus is that he makes us into new creations. *"The old has passed away. The new has come!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17 This is one constant for the believer. God is always changing us or is desiring

to change us into someone better. In his grace, he does not leave us where we are.

So...what is the new you that He's working on? Is it a character issue? Is it a spiritual discipline? Is it a ministry? It's always something...so what is it for you? Take some time and listen to what God is telling you and then work it out in the power of the Spirit.

I mentioned in my sermon a couple weeks ago that one thing God is calling me to is to get serious about joy. ☺ It is a pursuit of mine this coming year, and I intend to work hard at it. ☺ I am also experiencing a renewal of vision and what God has called me to in ministry. I feel a renewed calling to reach those who don't know Jesus and have been changing my daily life to provide for more opportunities to meet people. I'm excited about the church. We have a good mix of ages, races, life experiences and gifts, and my desire is to help each one find their place. The church is at its best when everyone is functioning in their place of calling.

What is the new you? I can't really say, but I know God has big plans for you. Listen to him. Trust him. Spend time with him in prayer, in his Word, and with his church. Be ready to respond. It will likely be a challenge. New things always are. Take a step of faith, believing that, in Christ, all things can become new! ■

Digital Directory...continued

This change in our LCF Directory accomplishes two purposes:

- First, it will help save money. We had been spending about \$150 yearly to print color directories for every family. Instant Church Directory only costs LCF \$80 a year and is FREE for all of LCF's current attenders (whose email address is listed in it).
- Second, it will enable us to keep all of the information and pictures current throughout the year. Just text or email me any new information, pictures, etc., whenever you would like to make a change. Once I make the change in the program, the website and everyone's apps will be automatically updated with the new information.

As we make this adjustment, I will print a few black and white copies of the new directory for those who want a hard copy. If you want one let me know, but realize they will get "outdated" very quickly.

We hope that you will find this new app practical and easy to use. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. ■

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text — right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



Elders' Notes

by Doris Swartz

On Tuesday, December 11th, the Elders Team took Bob and Bettyjo Zachrich out for supper at the restaurant of their choice in appreciation for the 6 years they have served on the Elders Team. We enjoyed a lovely evening and a delicious meal at Ann & Tony's in West Jefferson. Thanks so much, Bob, for the great job you have done! We will certainly miss working with you but are thankful that you can enjoy a well-deserved break. ☺

We are glad that our new elder, Joe Slaubaugh, was able to join us. We are continuing with the process of finding another new elder to replace Bob.

There were various updates and discussions throughout the evening. One that stood out was the news of an incredible offering the previous Sunday. It was a vivid reminder to us that God is with us and will continue to be faithful to guide us and provide for our needs in this coming year. ■



Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met via a phone conference on December 18th. Electronic giving was discussed in length. After extensive research by Dan Frederick, it has been narrowed down to two companies: Tithe.ly and Planning.Center. Advantages and disadvantages were both weighed and discussed. Collectively, the council liked the advantages of Planning.Center. Even though they have a monthly fee, council thought it would be more cost effective in regards to the transaction fees. Council liked the fact that it offered different methods of electronic giving but excluded the option of credit card.

Three different internet upgrade options were explored. Two faster wireless options were discussed along with having a cable provider. Jim is going to pursue the option of cable which council agreed would be the best, while Dan is looking into possible wireless upgrade options.

Clete has agreed to lead the Building and Grounds team, partnering with Merv Schlabach, since Clete often travels to aid in relief efforts. Clete will be implementing a continuity binder with all the pertinent information regarding building and grounds.

The 2019 proposed budget came to \$184,146, which is over the goal of having the budget at \$183,000 by \$1,146. Even though it is more than desired, it is a small amount that is manageable over the course of the year. It leaves plenty of room to adjust through increased giving or through reduced spending. The proposed budget will be sent out to the congregation by the end of the year, which will allow time for the council to address questions or concerns before the final congregational vote. ■



A New Adventure!

by Justin Scheffel

As a young adult, one of the biggest things I've struggled with can be summed up in one question: *What am I supposed to do with my life?* A big question, I know. The obvious answer is to honor and glorify God with how I live my life. That's always been clear to me. I've struggled more specifically with choosing a career.

When I was younger I believed that if you had a solid relationship with God

that He would guide and direct you in whatever decisions you needed to make or situations you might be in. I still believe that to be true. I've had to learn over the past several years, though, that God can still be guiding and directing you whilst everything (my future, in my case) can seem so unclear. You can imagine my frustration after graduating high school when I discovered that God doesn't just magically plop you into a career you love and enjoy. You have to figure it out on your own!?! Gasp!

Now don't get me wrong, I believe there are times God calls/directs people to a very specific career. There are also times (like for me) that God gives us more freedom to choose. This has its upsides and downsides. How exciting is it that I'm in a stage of my life that I can choose literally any career that I want! I mean, with a little hard work and perseverance I can make anything work! It's a blessing for sure. The amount of options out there, though, can be a little overwhelming. What if I choose the wrong career or a career I don't like; what happens then? Fear and worry can definitely start to creep in.

So for me, I decided since God wasn't making a career path clear for me I should just sort of stay put. Just wait. That's something Christians are supposed to do, right? Be patient? Wait on the Lord? Well, yes and no. I recall talking to Pastor Rob about this issue several years back and there's something he said that sort of stuck with me. He said, "You can't steer a ship if it's not moving." It's a metaphor, of course. What I took away from that, though, was this: God may not be willing to aggressively work in your life if you have the mindset that everything will get handed to you on a silver platter. Life is supposed to be an act of God working through us, not God working for us.

So, where am I currently in this decision-making process? Within the past several years I developed an interest in piloting. More specifically, helicopter piloting. I've been taking lessons here locally over the past several months and, recently, I've decided that I'd like to take some pretty serious steps to pursue that. Come the beginning of January I will be wrapping up life here in Ohio as I know it and will be moving to Florida to begin helicopter training a little more intensely. I'll be living in my grandparents' old house in Sarasota (Pinecraft more specifically for those of you who know where that is). I hope to get at least a part-time if not full-time job while there. It remains to be seen what my training schedule will be like so I haven't been able to nail anything down for sure yet when talking to employers. The helicopter program can be done in as little as four months if I so choose. It's a program that allows you to learn/fly at your own pace. So it's unknown at this point how long I'll be down there. I'm figuring at least half a year, if not more.

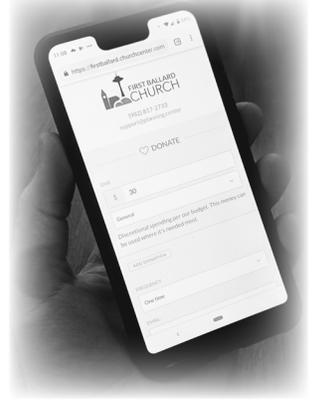
I have a lot of mixed emotions as I look forward to this new adventure. There are a lot of unknowns. Part of me is very excited. There are so many cool things that could happen and so many new ways for God to work in my life. But part of me is also very nervous. Dare I say even a little scared? I'm very aware that doing this is a bit of a risk. Helicopter training is extremely expensive. Along with that and the fact that I'm moving to a place where I don't really know anyone makes it seem like there's a lot of potential for things to be very difficult. I've learned, though, that God seems to work most in the situations where we're a little bit uncomfortable and where things seem very uncertain. It's forcing me to trust God with my future. Part of me is nervous that I'll get down there and discover that helicopter piloting isn't for me. That very well may turn out to be the case, but I can't let that fear keep me from trying. What may seem like a risk to us may be an opportunity for God to do His best work. ■

A New Way to Give

by Dan Frederick

As the beginning of another year is upon us, LCF is looking to see how it can stay current in an ever-changing, technology-driven world. Online giving opens up new options to give quickly and easily, yet securely, without needing to carry checks or cash. With your cell phone, you'll have the ability to text-to-give or give online via our LCF website, whether you're at church or on-the-go. You'll also have the option to give one-time or set up automatic debiting. More info on how this all works will be coming soon.

While this is a great set of options to have, I believe that the more important question is: *"How can this be used as a tool for worship and assist with our individual walks with Christ?"*



I feel that it doesn't matter as much the method that you give, rather the way that you decide to give. Whether giving with cash, check, texting, online, or any other form, each can be given intentionally, cheerfully, and spontaneously or planned as you feel led. I feel that having more options simply helps to break down the barrier of not having either the cash or check on you to give when you decide in your heart that you want to (See 2 Corinthians 9:7).

Everyone handles their finances differently, so automatic debiting (scheduled automatic withdrawals) may be a good fit for you. Maybe you've decided in your heart to give a set amount each month, but the logistics of giving don't work out, so you want a way to ensure that you give all of what you decided upon. Maybe you're wanting to pursue a way of giving of your "First Fruits", so you could schedule giving for immediately after a paycheck deposit (if you get checks on the same dates each week/month). So that you don't forget the automatic debiting is occurring, we'll send you email receipts each time. If you do decide to give automatically, I'd encourage you to spend a little time in prayer with God when you see the email receipt come in or during Sunday's offering time. Just because you may not be giving at that moment doesn't mean you can't still thank him for his provision and offer what you have given joyfully.

So please, if you're led to give, focus on the worship aspect of giving and give joyfully, with intention. Do what is the most meaningful for you, whether that includes these new options or not. ■

December 2018 Highlights



Special celebrations of our Savior's birth...



RBC Choir at LCF
Sunday morning, December 9th

Ladies' Christmas Party

Friday evening, December 7th



LCF's Christmas Program

"A Mouses's Tale"

Sunday evening, December 16th



Consider choosing a **New Bible Reading Plan for 2019**

Check out a One-Year Bible from LCF's library or visit LCFweb.org for suggestions (under the Teachings tab).



LCF Family Christmas

Sunday morning, December 23rd



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, 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.