



The LCF Connection

May 2019

LIFE Group Connections

by Tasha Slaubaugh

LIFE Groups exist so that the women at LCF can connect with each other for encouragement, fun, inviting new friends, and “checking-in” on each other—asking about each other’s lives, and spending time together with your church family. Coming back into this community, in 2014, my hope was to renew and make new friendships with women my age, but also to engage with women who are in further seasons of life, who could council and mentor me. I realize that we don’t all strike up conversations on a Sunday morning, so how do we get to know each other, and support the women in our church body?

One way to achieve those goals is through LIFE Groups. Any lady at LCF is welcome to participate! Here is how they work: I have a list of all who are participating (usually 20-30), and I break them into groups of 4-5 women. I send out the group lists 6 times a year—at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Each group has a designated leader who contacts the other members about setting a date, time, and plan that works for most of the group. Your group will meet ONE time in a two-month window, before I send a new list of groups. After two months, I scramble all the names, and you get to meet with a new group!

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Pictured above are ladies participating in various recent LIFE groups. The L-ove, I-nspiration, F-ellowship and E-ncouragement often take place around great food. You never know what you will learn! The three ladies pictured on the far right discovered that they were all born the same year.

Inside this Issue

LIFE Groups	1
In Appreciation of Mothers	1
The Only Thing that Matters	2
Council Update	2
Library Team Update	3
Coming Soon: VBS and XSI	3
Maundy Thursday and Easter	4

In Appreciation of Those Who Impact Many

by Theresa Hennis

The saying, “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world” is true in that mothers, both physical and spiritual, play a vital role in shaping society by raising children who have been well trained and loved. Not only do mothers have a great impact on their children, but they play a significant role as helpmates for their husbands. Mothers truly are “more precious than jewels.”

We asked several of our LCF husbands to share their thoughts about their wives. We received responses from these two that we think you’ll enjoy. As you read their words of appreciation, may you feel encouraged to express your own words of appreciation to those who are dear to you.

To Lucy...from Phil

Lucy as a wife...the first thing that comes to mind is her passion for Jesus. Lucy has a lot of passion for encouraging people. She is always thinking of herself last. She always makes sure that Derek and I are taken care of first. Numerous times when I was in the hospital, Lucy would plan how to see me and make sure Derek was taken care of. Proverbs 18:22 says, “He who finds a wife, finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.”



Lucy as a mother...I can’t help but think of the countless hours she spent staying up when Derek was young. Very rarely would she wake me up. This was taking care of both of us, as I mentioned earlier. As I am writing this note, I remember the many times Lucy has encouraged Derek and helped him grow in his faith in God. Proverbs 31:28 says, “Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.” ■

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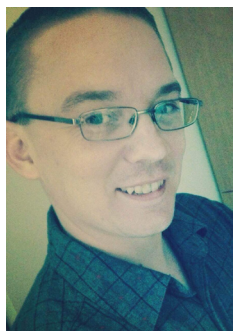


The Only Thing that Matters

by Jeremy Hisey

Lately I have been listening a lot to the song, "With Lifted Hands" by Ryan Stevenson. I love the lyrics and I feel like it summarizes my life well.

It says, "I have tasted all that this world has to offer. The here and gone that leaves you wanting more, but can't satisfy." Nothing satisfies us. Success leaves us hungry for more success. Alcohol, drugs, sex, money, recognition, possessions...none of it satisfies! The song continues, "Father, forgive me for taking so long to see that You're all I need. With every heartbeat in my chest, Lord, I surrender all that I have..." That's my desire!



I can identify with what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians in Philippians 3:8 when he said, "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." I believe in Jesus Christ, but I don't just believe in Him, I believe that He is Lord. To me, that makes all the difference!

My small group has been reading through the book of Job recently. I've been challenged to see how Job lost everything and yet chose to trust and praise God. There was a point in my life when I lost just about everything that I had. Thankfully, it opened my eyes to the only thing that really matters.

One day this life is going to come to an end and the only thing that will matter will be whether we know Christ personally and claim him as our Lord. Everything else is just lost. You can't take any of it with you.

I don't want to offend people but I believe what the Bible says about Jesus being the only way to eternal life, and I want others to know the truth. This life is so short in comparison to eternity. Once this life is over we can't change our eternal destiny. The Bible is clear, there is eternity in Heaven in the presence of God and there is hell—where there is eternal suffering and separation from God. The deciding factor is Jesus. He offered himself up for each of us as a sacrifice so that anyone who accepts what He has done and receives Him into their heart will be saved and have eternal life. That is the only thing that matters!

Tomorrow is not guaranteed. Do you know where you are going if today was your last? It's the most important question you can ask yourself. I pray that if you are reading this and you don't know, that you would take the time to think seriously about it. If you don't know where to start or just want someone to talk with, I would love to talk with you. ■

In case you are curious where the Elders Notes are this month... both our monthly elders meeting that was scheduled for April 2, and our elders retreat that was scheduled for April 26-27, had to be canceled due to sickness. We plan to meet next on May 14.

Council Update

by Jim Jones

Church Council met via a phone conference on April 16th. They unanimously agreed to donate LCF's 20 Grief Share books to London Correctional. Grief Share is Christian-based grief curriculum in which all are welcome to attend a 13-week course. Marcus Freed is a Grief Share Counselor and through him LCF is a Grief Share Support Church with all the necessary training materials. Marcus will be facilitating two Grief Share groups through the summer with the donated books from LCF. Since the response has been overwhelming from the inmates, Marcus is going to explore how future books could be purchased. Perhaps there is a possibility that members from LCF (and other local churches) could sponsor an inmate's cost for a book (approximately \$15 each).

Electronic giving is now fully functional and has been working well. Eight families used it the first week and twelve the second week. Currently we have 14 families using the service. Bank draft has been the preferred method by the members and is also the most economical regarding processing fees. Monthly giving for February and March have been on track as far as meeting the 2019 budget.

Bob Zachrich agreed to take on a new position (Welcome Team) which combines the three functions that are needed every Sunday (coffee, ushers, and greeters). This would encompass scheduling and what's needed for each duty.

Amie Smith has begun serving as the new Congregational Care Team Leader and has been doing a wonderful job. Both Amie and Bob's positions are for a three-year term. ■



Life Groups...continued

Each time you participate will be unique. You may have a lot in common with your group one time, and have much variety in your group members the next time. You might go out to eat, go thrift store shopping, or meet at a park. Sometimes everyone can make it, and other times it might only work for two or three of you. The point is not to make these get-togethers perfect, but rather to make an effort to be a part of each other's lives. To keep connecting. To rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn. To be women who are a family.

If you would like to be on our list for May-June, let me know! It is super flexible—you can add or remove your name whenever you need to, throughout the year. Blessings! ■

Ready to Go In the Wild?

by Katy Miller

Throw on your camera strap and buckle your seatbelt for Amazing Encounters with Jesus! London Christian Fellowship's VBS 2019 will take you on a wild adventure—with elephants and egrets, polar bears and penguins, cockatoos and crocodiles. As you seek out exotic animals, you'll also find snapshots of real-life encounters with Jesus in Scripture. Kids will go from bewildered to believing as they get "In the Wild" at this summer's VBS. Plan to invite your friends and join us June 10-14.

Theme Verse: *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* John 20:31 (CSB)

Motto: *Zoom in! Focus on Jesus!*

Volunteer Needs: Game Leaders and Group Leaders

Craft Needs:

- Small Water Bottles (mini bottles)
- Small Cans (i.e., mandarin oranges, mushrooms, tomato paste, sweetened condensed milk size)

Please clean these items and then put them in the tote in the foyer.

Prayer Needs:

- Pray for the volunteers for energy, enthusiasm and excitement!
- Pray that the children (and their parents) would have open hearts and minds as they hear the Word of God. ■



LCF Library Team Update

by Linda Schlabach

What do Layne Headings, Sophia Headings, Kristen Duncan, Janelle Schlabach, Theresa Hennis, and Lydia Slaubaugh have in common? Let's see...Age? Looks? Education? How about a love for reading which fostered their willing hearts and dedication of hours in the LCF Library?

After faithful commitment to the LCF Library, four stepped aside from the LCF Library Team. Layne and Sophia patiently waited for and assisted people as needed on numerous Sundays. Thank you so much, Layne and Sophia. Kristen's countless hours spent in processing stacks of books still brings blessing to those who read them. Kristen, we value all your time set aside for improving the Children's Collection. Janelle, we appreciate your dedication the last four years in streamlining the Junior Collection such as weeding, replacing, and acquiring new items. We pray and cheer for you— Layne, Sophia, Janelle, and Kristen—as you continue serving Christ in other capacities.

We welcome two new LCF Library Team members. Theresa Hennis serves as Assistant Librarian, a role which uniquely forms as to personal gifting and desired focus. In addition to other roles, Theresa now coordinates communications for the LCF Library such as in coordinating the writing of LCF Library bulletin announcements and LCF Library articles for our church newsletter. She brings to light creative and substantial ideas for our library. Within the last few months, a new LCF Library team member assists primarily in the Children's Collection. Lydia Slaubaugh, all of 5 1/2 years of age, enthusiastically serves as an official Jr. Assistant Librarian and Ambassador. We're excited to work with Lydia as she paves a new role in our LCF Library. Welcome aboard, Theresa and Lydia! ■



Xenos Summer Institute July 10-12

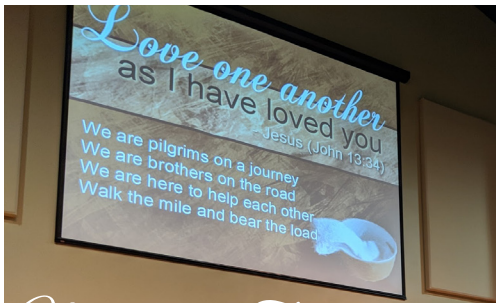
Each July Xenos Christian Fellowship (located just off I-270 in the north part of Columbus) hosts Xenos Summer Institute (XSI)—a great conference where several thousand individuals from various churches and places come together to learn and grow spiritually.

The conference begins at 7:00 on Wednesday evening and runs all day Thursday and Friday. It includes 7 plenary sessions and 6 breakout sessions of your choice (there are over 40 to choose from). This year's speakers include Dwight Smith, Nancy Pearcey, John M. Perkins, and many others.

Tickets cost \$60 for adults and only \$20 for students and can be purchased at xenos.org/xsi. If you plan to attend and would like to carpool with others from LCF, let Doris Swartz know. ■

Upcoming Events

- VBS, June 10-14
- Child Dedication, June 30
- Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus, July 10-12
- CMC's Multiply Conference at Jonathan Alder, July 26-28



Mauddy Thursday...



We were reminded at our Mauddy Thursday service of Christ's great love for us and of his command for us to love & serve one another.



Three days later, on Easter Sunday, our hearts were encouraged by the message, "All is not lost! Jesus has risen from the dead and he is here with us! Does your heart burn within you?" The children helped us to feel the excitement of the wonderful news, "He's Alive!" The ensemble led us in responding in song with: "Hallelujah!"



Easter Sunday!

Mother's Day Appreciation...continued



To Mandy...from Myron

I am so blessed to have a special companion and an amazing mother to our children all in one. Mandy's love for our family is demonstrated in so many ways: preparing the many meals, mediating between the different opinions we all have, washing many loads of laundry, and being chauffeur to the kids' extracurricular activities. She is so incredibly creative and makes each of our children's birthday parties special. She is always taking them to cool events and involving them in new and fun projects.

I also love how she documents all of our favorite memories with pictures and picture books. She never passes the chance for a good photo op. I love to see her doing something that she enjoys, and she definitely throws her whole heart into it.

I am so lucky to have her as my wife and as a mother to our children. Happy Mother's Day, Hon! I love you. ■



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.

