

The LCF Connection

June 2019

Time Spent with Dad is Priceless!

Interviewed by Theresa Hennis

Fathers have a great influence on their children. They are an earthly representation of our Heavenly Father. The time they invest in their children helps guide them to become parents who will do the same for their future children. On Sunday, May 19th, we visited each of the Sunday School classes to ask kids at LCF what they love about their dads, and their responses revealed a common theme: it's not so much the things they get from their dads but the time their dads spend with them that leaves a lasting impression. (Pictured from left.)

- **Hannah Slaubaugh:** I like that my dad bought me gel pens. Dad lets us hear the horn honk on his semi when he comes home. (She shows us what she means by using the universal sign of raising her arm up and down to indicate that she wants her dad to honk.)
- **Luke Covington:** I like the noodles my dad cooks. I like when we go to Walmart together.
- **Lydia Slaubaugh:** I like that my dad reads bible stories to me. When he comes home he lets us hear the horn honk on his semi.
- **Jayce Hisey:** My dad is changing jobs so he can be with our family more. I like when he plays football with me at church.
- **Ella Hostetler:** I like when my dad plays Matches card game with me. He works hard outside and at work for our family.
- **Evan Hostetler:** I like going shopping with my dad when he's shopping for his work stuff. I like playing Matches with him, too.
- **Derek Elfrink:** I really enjoy that he takes me to so many different places with him. He's taken me to King's Island, and soon he'll be taking me to Cedar Point. I like hanging out with him.
- **Ethan Hostetler:** My dad grills really good food. I like playing memory card game with him. We call it Matches.
- **Matthew Headings:** In the summer we always go down and swim together in our creek, and that really makes me happy.
- **Bre Duncan:** My dad ran his own business for a while, and he did a good job. He inspires me to not always get new things but to use up the old things I have, first. He cooks most of the time, and he works long hours. A long time ago we made a helicopter together out of random parts, and I still have it. You can tell the parts he painted and the parts I painted, because I was only three! ■



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

Why to Attend Multiply 2019

by Phyllis Swartz

Every Sunday we meet here at LCF, a church family. We worship together as Jesse leads us in singing and as Vicki leads our prayers and as Rob preaches. During Sunday school we send our children to their various classes and then learn about the Bible with Reuben, often hearing words that are new to us—Greek or English or probably both. We meet at the



coffee bar before church and catch up with each other after church. And then we go home to begin a new week.

But we've got a bigger family out there—CMC, our conference of churches, over a hundred of them. We're linked with these churches as an extended spiritual family. And this

summer, that big family—hundreds of them, are coming to our place. Well, not really to our church building—but right down the road to Jonathan Alder High School.

And to be friendly to our relatives, we really ought to show up. You can get to know the cousins you haven't met—the maple sugar producers from upstate New York and the people from Phoenix who have backyards full of saguaro and live under buttes. If you go to Multiply 2019, you'll find young people who have been serving in Zambia and Thailand

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Living Water

A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

There are several water images in the Gospel of John. Here are two. Once, during a festival in Jerusalem and possibly in the middle of a religious ceremony involving the pouring of water, we see Jesus make this claim (John 7: 37-38):

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

The Gospel of John hints that the crowd who heard him cry out couldn't really understand what Jesus meant. Verse 39 says,

But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

To be complete in Christ, we need more than religious practice. We need an inner life that draws energy, inspiration, and power from a source outside of us. In short, we need the Holy Spirit in us. If the crowd didn't understand this fully, or couldn't take hold of it anyway, the next verse is also interesting:

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, "Truly this is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ."

The crowd could get a piece of it—they could grasp part of Jesus' identity. They heard him speak and said, "Ah, here is the prophet or here is the Messiah." But this was a kind of half-knowledge. How many self-identifying Christians might this half-knowledge still characterize? They know, and believe, and affirm things about Jesus, and some of those things may be correct or incorrect, but what they often share is that they are incomplete.

Our faith doesn't rest on statements about Jesus, or identification with the church, or, more limited yet, what we think is a Christian social agenda or lifestyle. Our faith rests on the power of God in our lives, and this happens through the Holy Spirit. He flows up and out of us. When he does, our faith isn't belief about Jesus so much as it is faith in Jesus. Our faith then is alive, fresh, authentic, and complete. If you thirst for God and sense that nothing else in the world can possibly slake that thirst, then you ask God for the Holy Spirit. The Church can't give you the Holy Spirit, nor can your parents, your spouse, your culture, or a political identity and agenda. God alone gives the Holy Spirit. Just 3 chapters earlier in the Gospel of John, Jesus told a woman:

"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

God alone can give you living water, and God wants to give you the Holy Spirit. Would you ask? ■

Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller

As is our usual custom, we began our meeting on May 14th by praying for each other and various needs that were shared, including travel plans and health concerns in our group as well as in the church.

We spent time discussing schedules and upcoming events.

- We looked at possible dates to reschedule our elders retreat, which we had to cancel last month.
- We discussed the CMC's Multiply Conference, which will be held at Jonathan Alder July 26-28. In order to encourage everyone from LCF to attend and participate, we will cancel our regular Sunday morning service at LCF on July 28th.
- We discussed the Fellowship Team's proposal to have a more simple, one-day church retreat this year, to be held on a Sunday later this summer;
- We all plan to join Everence for their Appreciation Celebration event at a Clipper's game on June 3rd.

LCF has had a lot of transition with people the past several years. We spent a large portion of our time discussing the considerable flow of people who have begun attending LCF and others who have stopped attending LCF, specifically over the past 5 years.

We continue to feel the void left by those who left LCF in order to help plant the new church in Columbus. We pray for them regularly and are thankful that things seem to be going well at Olentangy Mennonite Church. We are glad that LCF is a church that sends others out to ministry!

We have said many good-byes to other people who have moved due to jobs, school, etc. We recognize that this is a very normal part of our mobile society. We will continue to think and pray for those who come and go and trust that if there are any changes we should make, that God will make them clearly known to us. We are thankful for the new faces we have among us and look forward to what God is going to continue to do in and through people at LCF.

Reuben closed our time with prayer remembering the things we talked about. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18th. ■



Council Update

by Jim Jones

Among the items discussed at the Council's recent meeting on May 21st was scholarship details. The Council would like to encourage our youth to take advantage of RBC's "Multiply Scholarship." It is a generous offer available to all LCF students interested in attending Rosedale. This effort is to expand Rosedale Bible College's role in supporting CMC's newly-adopted vision to "mature and multiply churches locally and globally."

The Multiply Scholarship offers up to \$8,400 in support to first-time students from congregations in CMC for the 2019-20 school year. Now is a good time to apply and enter London Christian Fellowship as their church for eligibility. The normal cost of attending RBC is around \$14,000. The Multiply Scholarship reduces that to about \$5,000. If a student is eligible for federal or state financial aid, the cost could go still lower. Some students may be able to attend with no out-of-pocket expense. ■



Congratulations Class of 2019!

Our LCF graduates are getting ready to move on to exciting new adventures as they enter new schools, start new jobs, or take a break from all that learning! We asked them the following questions: where they're graduating from, what will be their next step, their memories of their time at LCF, what scriptures have inspired them on their journey, and how we can pray for them as they start a new chapter in their lives. Please keep them in your prayers as they celebrate this milestone and seek God's guidance for their future.

Leje Brashear

I am graduating from London High School, as well as with a certificate in Animal Management from Tolles Career & Technical Center. I love animals! ☺ I am planning to take a year off of school after graduating. Please pray that I would be able to find a good job that I enjoy.



Sophia Headings

I am graduating from Jonathan Alder High School. I am planning on attending Columbus State to complete my general education requirements. One of my favorite memories from youth group was racing go karts with the other youth.

A favorite verse of mine is Joshua 1:5, "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." I would appreciate if you would pray that I will be able to find God's path for my life, and that I would continue to put my trust in Him.

Meredith Hochsteller

I am graduating from London High School. I plan on furthering my education at Columbus State Community College for my Associate's Degree and then possibly transferring to Kent State University or the Ohio State University for my Bachelor's. I would like to study deaf education and American Sign Language (ASL) in hopes of one day becoming a teacher and working with hearing-impaired children.



One verse that I have begun to lean heavily on throughout this time of new transitions is Jeremiah 29:11. Please pray for me as I take this next step in my life and learn to balance any new challenges.

Shepherd Ndungu

I'm graduating from Columbus State Community College, and I plan on transferring to Ohio State University (OSU) in the fall. A memory that stands out to me is the summer of 2014 when the youth group took a trip to Flint, Michigan, to do some inner-city ministry. One night we decided to make spaghetti for supper, but ended up making so much that we ate some for breakfast and lunch the next day, with plenty still left to spare. I've been scarred ever since! ☺

A scripture that I like is Matthew 6:33: "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." I will be needing prayer for the upcoming year's worth of events: the youth group will be traveling to Phoenix in June, I am in the process of moving to a new apartment, and I will be starting school at OSU in the fall. Any and all prayers would be much appreciated.



Mandi Scheffel

I am graduating from Shekinah Christian School, and my plans for next year are that I am attending and playing varsity volleyball at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. I am going to take general studies my first year and then hopefully by the next year I will figure out what major I want to study.



One of my favorite memories from Sunday School was when Mrs. Hostetler would bring in her pumpkin bread for our birthdays, 'cause she makes the best pumpkin bread! Lol. My favorite scripture verses are Psalm 46:1-3: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea..." Pray that, over the course of this first year of college, I would find a career that I am truly passionate about and could pursue.

Janelle Schlabach

I am graduating from Home Education, and as for my future plans, God is still working out certain specifics at this time. My special memory about my time at LCF is when Phyllis Swartz asked me to be Mary in a Christmas play, but the most special part was riding on my Dad who wore donkey-like clothing.

A favorite verse of mine is, "But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God, I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever." Psalm 52:8 (ESV) You can pray for God's continuing guidance in my life. ■





Coming to LCF by Jeffrey Gates

On Thursday, July 11, 2019, LCF will be offering a production of the beloved rock opera 'Godspell,' based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew. All profits from the evening will go directly to the LCF Youth Group. The show features Wesley Miller in the cast, and Jeff Gates serves as the director.

This is the first venture for the Light and Life Theatre Company. The show focuses on the teachings of Jesus and His final days on earth, including dramatic presentations of familiar parables. The cast will present the story of Godspell in a way that honors a traditional Biblical interpretation of the book of Matthew, in musical theatre form.

With unforgettable songs such as 'Day By Day' and 'Prepare Ye,' the family-friendly evening promises to be thought-provoking, entertaining, and enlightening.

The show will begin at 7 p.m. on July 11. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children (high school age and younger). Additional shows will be presented on July 12 & 13 at 8 p.m. at Veritas Community Church Tri-City in Hilliard, to benefit the ongoing efforts of their congregation. ■



If you have questions, please see Jeff Gates, or email godspell2019@gmail.com.

A big **thank you** to each person who came and helped with VBS crafts on May 18th. Here are a few volunteers who were...



Caught in the Act!



Multiply...continued

and the Mediterranean region and families who moved to Flint, Michigan, on purpose. You'll see babies and toddlers and children and teens and middle-agers and old people. Everyone is welcome at Multiply 2019.

There will be plenty to do. You'll hear talks like The Gospel: Bigger Than You Imagine, More Intimate than You Know, and you'll have to choose between workshops with titles like Effective Story Telling, A Kingdom Perspective on Political Affiliation, and Evangelism with Internationals. Your children will have activities and so will the youth.

You'll drink coffee and eat at long tables. You might meet some old friends who have passed through your life. And, for sure, you'll meet new people. In fact, if you'd like, you could invite someone to stay in your home. Life-long friends have been made by hosting at church conferences. And, since we, along with other local churches, are the hosts this year, we'll have chances to help—to wipe tables and rock babies and teach lessons and park cars. We'll have the opportunity to do exactly what Paul wrote to the Galatians:

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (6:10)

After conference is over, everyone will go home to begin a new year. And next year, you can be the guest at Multiply 2020 in Grantsville, Maryland. ■

NOTE: If you plan to attend any of the sessions and meals at Multiply 2019, be sure to register at cmcrossdale.org.

Upcoming Activities

- VBS, June 10-14 (Register at LCF web.org)
- Child Dedication, June 30
- Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus, July 10-12
- Multiply 2019 at Jonathan Alder, July 26-28

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.

