

# The LCF Connection

July 2019



by Becky Hostetler

LCF's vacation Bible school, held June 10-14, was a great experience for all involved. The following are a few "fun facts" from the week:

- Forty-one different students attended. An average of 36 students attended each night.
- Of those 41, 16 were from LCF and 25 were not from LCF.
- There were approximately 36 helpers each night (including youth volunteers).
- One new addition this year was an offering. A total of \$630 was collected to purchase audio Bibles for people in Mozambique. Praise the Lord! We were in awe of the generosity of our students, families, and helpers. The money raised is enough to purchase 21 audio Bibles in Portuguese.

In closing, there are several people to thank. Thank you to everyone who provided food and drinks. (A large portion of the food was donated, even more than usual.) Thank you to Sheila and Katy for investing so much time and energy into the week, and thank you to everyone who helped out in so many ways to make such a great VBS! ■



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## Child Dedication Reflections

by Jenn Frederick

God calls us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and might and to write his words on our hearts. He calls us to teach his words to our children and to be examples of him and his love, grace, and mercy. He desires that our children grow up knowing that there is a God who loves them unconditionally. This is why I believe in dedicating my children to God, teaching and showing them that he is a loving and gracious Father, even while I'm still learning to be like him.

Some days it is rough. At the end of the day, after the kids are in bed, I feel like I barely survived. Then I think back to how loving and sweet Rebekah is and how Josiah is developing such a wonderful personality, and I think, and hope, that we are raising them up in the Lord.

I know that I can not do this all alone. I need my husband's help, my family's help, the congregation's help, and especially God's help to raise my children to know Him.



On Sunday, June 30th, Joel & Laua Swain, Nathaniel & Amie Smith, and Dan & Jenn Frederick dedicated their children (Mira, Abraham, and Josiah) to the Lord. Continue to keep these young parents in your prayers and do everything that you can to help them as they raise their little ones.



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## What Do We Need? A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

*“They lifted their voices together to God...”*

This is the response of the early church when they faced opposition to the gospel. I’m fascinated with this passage because it shows the church coming together in one voice,

calling out in complete dependence on God to help them carry out the mission God had given them.

On June 9th, in my message “Be Filled With the Holy Spirit,” I asked you as a congregation to do a similar thing—“to come together in one voice” in a daily prayer of surrender, asking to be filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit! (Listen to my message to understand what I mean by that.) I asked if you would join me in praying this every day this summer.

- We need a revival!
- We need a new desire to read and know the word of God—a people who devour God’s Word every day—memorizing it, dwelling on it, speaking about it.
- We need a new boldness to share this amazing gospel.
- We need a dramatic shifting of priorities from trying to “do” everything and “have” everything in this world to truly surrendering our lives to God to allow him to “do” whatever he wants with us.
- We need to know how to stand for truth in a shifting world in a way that is not judgmental but strives to show the love of Christ to all people.
- We need to show the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, and self-control.
- We need to be a people of prayer, where we believe with all our hearts that God is able to act and to move in any situation we face.
- And these are just a few of the things we need. We need a revival!

These things are not going to happen on their own. They will not happen by our own will, or even desire. There isn’t a program we can implement, a business model we can adopt, or a new leader we can hire, that will bring these about. These will only happen by the power of God, through his Holy Spirit in us. We see this clearly in the book of Acts, when on the day of Pentecost, the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit: they began to preach and teach with boldness; the church grew by leaps and bounds; they met together all the time; they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to prayer, and to the fellowship of believers. We, too, need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to be empowered and led by him.

And so...this article is simply to remind those of you who agreed to pray, and to invite others of you to pray, as well. Would you pray every day, during the months of June, July, and August, that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit; that we would surrender completely to him; that we would be empowered and led by him?

I love reminders, and I have a visual one for each of you who are committed to pray. It’s a small silver dove which symbolizes the Holy Spirit. Each time I see it, I remember to pray with you and for us. I’d love to give one to you if it’s helpful. Let me know if you’d like one. ☺



After the early church “lifted their voices together to God” scripture tells us that “*the place in which they were gathered was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.*” I don’t know what will happen at LCF as a result of our prayers, but I believe we will, in some way, be shaken, and we will be filled with the Holy Spirit! ■

## Council Update

by Jim Jones

At our meeting on June 18th, the council discussed our copier which was purchased in August 2010. It will soon be obsolete but it is still in good shape with relatively light use for the type of office copier it is. Parts and supplies are covered under our service agreement, but we pay for each copy, which has increased over the years. The council is looking into the option of keeping the copier and ways to save money going forward.

Financial donations were requested from local area CMC congregations for the Multiply Conference that will be held at Jonathan Alder in July. The council unanimously approved a \$500 contribution in addition to supplying bulletins for the children during the evening sessions.

There has been continued interest in the old church building; a low cash offer was countered in April and declined. Currently a prospective buyer is checking with Madison County about adding an additional structure before he makes an offer. Additional interested parties continue to inquire about the property.

Ray and Grace continue to manage the expenditures and budget as they plan the youth group’s mission trip to Arizona in June. Airline tickets have been purchased and the youth group continues to look for additional resources through fundraisers and donations. ■

### Upcoming Activities

- Xenos Summer Institute in Columbus, July 10-12
- Godspell at LCF, July 11th at 7:00 p.m.
- Communion during our Sunday morning service, July 21
- Multiply 2019 at Jonathan Alder, July 26-28



When the chairs were taken up in the auditorium after church on June 9, in preparation for VBS, there was spotty evidence of many coffee spills. Amie Smith—a busy mom of two little ones—was caught in the act of bringing her carpet shampooer and working at trying to clean the spots out of the carpet. Thanks, Amie, and each person who helped out “behind-the-scenes” with VBS! ■





## Elders' Notes

by Jesse Diller



On Monday, June 3, the elders team enjoyed a wonderful evening together, along with other area pastors and leaders, at a Columbus Clippers game (even though the Clippers did not win). The game, along with a picnic buffet, were compliments of Everence. We are grateful for all that Everence does to promote stewardship in the body of Christ.

Last month, Rob had asked us, "What are the top 5 things that are on your heart for LCF (that you think LCF should be about)?" When we met for our monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 18th, each of us took a turn sharing one of the things that is on our heart for LCF.

The things on our heart, that we shared and discussed together, included:

- Cultivating relationships where discipleship, accountability, and support happens
- Being a family, able to give and take Godly council; teaching God's Word, and following it
- Be a church where people are connected, involved, and aligned with the vision of the church
- Focus on God's Word / Discipleship; have healthy community among us, where we care well for one another
- Continue our commitment to faithfully preach and teach the Word of God
- To not allow LCF to drift toward a depleted, mainstream Evangelicalism, but insist that a new life in Christ is more and deeper than life as usual
- Peacemaking - to be able to talk about touchy subjects that we may not agree on, with humility and grace, bringing light, peace, and health to these conversations

It was interesting to see the thread of connection that ran through all of the things that were shared and discussed throughout the evening. We are thankful for one another and the unity God gives us as we seek him and his purposes for LCF.

Rob opened our meeting with prayer, and Reuben closed our time with prayer. Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, July 9th. As always, we welcome your feedback and would love for you to share with us what is on your heart for LCF! ■

## Church Plant Update

by Andrew Sauder

Olentangy Mennonite Church (OMC) is enjoying our second year of meeting together—inviting Jesus to change our lives and transform our communities. In the last year we have changed buildings, gained a few members, and welcomed many visitors into our worship spaces and homes.

As a church, we are currently studying the book of Ephesians. The letter starts by outlining our spiritual blessings in Christ. We are learning to be receptive of those blessings and to pray boldly for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in our knowledge of God. Ephesians has much to say about how God initiates, and then how we should respond. We are praying that as we study this book together, the immeasurable greatness of God's power would be realized in our lives and the lives of those around us.

A few months ago a Muslim woman came to our Sunday service. She had dreams about Jesus in the month of December, and reached out to a few members of the church who she has become especially close to. Just recently, she decided she wanted to come to church. She sat in the back and received translation from one of our members who speaks Arabic. Right now, her interest in our church and in Jesus is mostly curiosity, but we are excited to be able to talk about these things with her.

More recently another Muslim friend has expressed interested in learning more about Jesus and invited one of our members to their house to talk about it. Please pray for both of these friends as God is leading them towards Jesus.

When you think about us, please pray that we would grow in unity with one another and know how to best serve those around us. Pray that we would share the love of Christ in intentional ways with our neighbors, friends, coworkers, classmates, and families. Pray that our meetings would be led by God, and that they would bring him glory. ■





## Update from Anna

Anna Rosati shared the following update at LCF on June 23. Continue to keep Anna and the other Thailand missionaries in your prayers.

I am continuing my position as a covenant worker for RMM on Tom & Candice Mast's team (pictured below). We meet monthly and support each other in ministry and prayer. I'm entering my 7th year as an elementary ESL teacher at International Community School of Bangkok. In addition to teaching, I also help write scripts for skits and puppet shows which are done in the weekly chapel.



I am continuing my work with Construction of Hope/LifeSong Cambodia, a nonprofit which works with children of migrant workers and slums in Thailand and Cambodia. I oversee and teach in the Saturday English program. Other new developments with the ministry include a weekly soccer program and a sustainable business of selling coloring books made during a collaboration between ICS and Construction of Hope students.

On a personal note, I am one year into my 2-year graduate degree in reading instruction. I hope to finish next March. I also continue to enjoy spending time with my Thailand "family" (friends who are like family).

I have continued to attend a local Thai church. I have enjoyed helping to teach their English Sunday School class and help with their community outreach. They have been a wonderful church home for me over the past 5 years.

However, after prayerful consideration, I have decided to leave my Thai church and begin attending a new church plant among university students. John and I are partnering with a Korean missionary couple to build a soccer and English program and support the church. We were also able to facilitate a visit of a short-term missions team to Construction of Hope. ■



## Baby Shower for Nicole & Baby Thomas



Sunday, June 2, was a fun afternoon of celebration as friends and family of Nicole showered her with adorable gifts and lots of little books for Baby Thomas. Notes of encouragement were written on popsicle sticks and newborn diapers, and guesses were made as to whether the baby will be a boy or a girl and when he/she will arrive. Thanks to each person who helped to provide the food for the shower. ■



109th Annual Gathering of CMC  
July 26-28, 2019 | Plain City, OH  
Jonathan Alder High School

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This is the month when CMC's **Multiply Conference** will be held at Jonathan Alder High School (July 26-28). LCF is one of the local CMC churches that will be helping to host the conference this year so we encourage you to attend and find ways to help out however you are able.

If you are planning to eat any meals or participate in any of the sessions—either as a guest or as a volunteer, please register online at [cmcrosedale.org/cmc-events/annual-conference/](http://cmcrosedale.org/cmc-events/annual-conference/). ■

## 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](mailto: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.