

The LCF Connection

June 2021

Train Up A Child

by Becky Hostetler

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

What a joy to witness the parent/child dedication at LCF on Mother's Day, May 9. There were five precious babies dedicated as 10 loving parents and a committed congregation stood to pledge their support and encouragement in the spiritual growth of these little ones.

In past years, my husband, Phil, and I have participated in similar child dedications for each of our four children. I remember seeing our family, friends, and other fellow believers stand to commit themselves in helping us in our mission of raising our children in the Lord. To these people, I say thank you. For all of those times you served in the nursery, babysat for us, taught Sunday School, helped with V.B.S., led junior youth or youth group, or just reached out to my child with a question or encouraging comment....THANK YOU!



Dedicated to God on Mother's Day 2003: Emma, Matthew, Claire, and Wesley
18 years later...They are graduating! Find their updates on pages 2-3.

Dedicated to God on Mother's Day 2021:
Emma, Jack, Elana, Clara, and Ezra...Future Class of 2038!

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As we saw on Sunday, our job is not done. Praise God for a new generation of children and for the privilege we have as a congregation to water the spiritual seeds that these parents will plant in the lives of their children. May God, through our humble efforts together, produce a great harvest for His kingdom.

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor." 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (NIV) ■



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



Getting to Know...LCF's 2021 Graduates

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! We rejoice with each of you in reaching this milestone and will be praying for you as you transition into the next chapter of life. Thanks for sharing the following information to help us learn to know a bit more about you and what you will be doing next.

High School Graduates



Alyssa Hisey

I have attended Tolles Career Technical Center my junior and senior year. I am finishing a two-year pharmacy class that will get me certified as a Pharmacy Technician by the end of May. Along with graduating at Tolles, I am graduating from London High School. My plans after high school include working in a pharmacy, as well as attending Clark State College and majoring in Medical Assisting. I will be studying there for four years and going into the Healthcare setting afterwards.

Along with going to college, I will be moving near Clark State. I will be going to a new church. I am excited to see what God has planned for me!!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11



Emma Hostetler

I graduated this past May from West Jefferson High School as one of the Valedictorians. In the fall I plan on attending Ohio State University for either business or criminal justice and will be living on campus. I'm really excited and am thankful for everyone's prayers and support.

I have attended LCF with my family my entire life and have enjoyed being in the Christmas programs.

My favorite verse is *"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."* 1 Timothy 4:12



Claire Mast

Hi! I graduated on May 23rd from International Community School in Bangkok, Thailand. It's been a great four years, and I feel so lucky to have been able to go through high school with excellent teachers, and such an amazing and diverse group of friends.



I'm going to be really sad to leave my friends and my home here, but I'm also really excited about being able to live in the States again. I can't wait to connect with everyone at LCF, as well!

Next year I'm planning on attending Berea College. I'm really excited about the diversity they offer, and their work study program. I know it will be a tough transition, and one of my favorite verses to hold on to lately has been Exodus 14:14: *"The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still."* Praying for all of you who are also graduating this year!



Wesley Miller

After going to West Jefferson Schools for my whole life, I'll be graduating as a Salutatorian and going on to college. I plan on studying Software Engineering or Computer Science at Capital University, but I also plan on participating in the various music programs they offer. After college, I plan on going into a career for programming or I.T.

Throughout my life, I've had a lot of great experiences with LCF and its members! From a mission trip with the youth group to performing the musical Godspell at the church, I've had opportunities to do a lot through this church. I'm glad I got to meet and connect with so many different people through Christ.

Many of the people in our church have helped me get through school, church life, and just life in general. I'm glad I've been able to be a part of this community for this long, and I hope to be a part of it for many years to come!

Matthew Headings



I graduated from Ohio Virtual Academy in May. I am planning to work for my uncle in the stone mason business. I am so excited to be moving on to this new phase in my life, and I can't wait to see how it all plays out.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 5:8: *"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*



Ashton Wolford

I will be graduating on May 28th from London High School. After graduation, I plan to attend Hope College in Holland, Michigan to study Chemical Engineering. I am very thankful for all the opportunities I was given to be involved at London Christian Fellowship—from being in Christmas programs to playing on the Worship Team. I will keep LCF in my prayers, and I would appreciate your support in praying for me as I begin this new journey in life. Thank you.



Amber Wolford

I am graduating from London High School, and I plan to attend Ohio Northern University to study engineering next year. I am very thankful for all the support from LCF since I began going here when I was 2 years old. I feel like I have a good spiritual background that I will continue to grow as I meet new people and learn new things. Please continue to pray for me while I'm away.



We encourage you to connect and celebrate with these graduates as you have the opportunity.

Please remember to pray for them and their parents during this time of celebration and transition. ■

College Graduates

Aaron Gates

I graduated from The Ohio University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting on Sunday, May 2nd. I would like to get into doing some voice-over work, whether that be video games or animation.

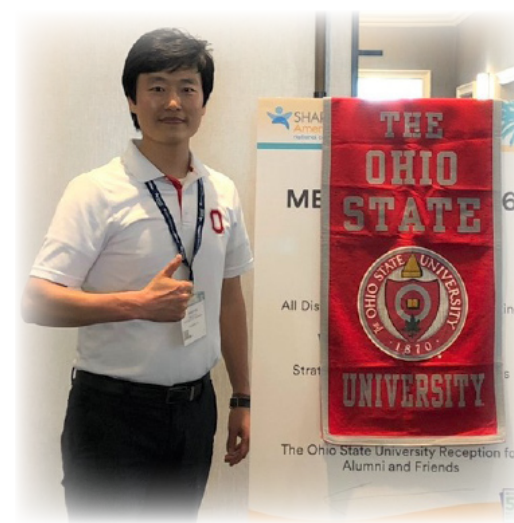
My current plans for after graduation are to stay at home and work, and take some mini trips to some cities that are big in acting right now (Atlanta, NYC, and Chicago).



Daekyun Oh

I will be graduating from the Ohio State University with a Ph.D. degree this summer (the commencement will be on August 8, 2021). After graduation, my family and I will move to Olean, New York, and I will be working at St. Bonaventure University as an assistant professor.

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to learn about Christ and grow spiritually while we have been a part of LCF over the past 5 years. Thanks so much to each of you in the LCF family. I am so grateful to have been with you all here. I hope I will be back in the future and rejoin the wonderful family!



Justin Scheffel

I'm planning to graduate from Southern Utah University towards the end of August. I'll graduate with an Associates Degree in Applied Sciences - Aviation Technology. I'm also planning to have my commercial helicopter license and be a fully-rated flight instructor.

At this point it's unclear what my first job will be after completing the program. The most common entry-level helicopter jobs are either sight-seeing tours or flight instruction. There's a good chance I could end up doing one of those things but only time will tell!





Losing Your First Love

A Message from the Pastor

by Reuben Sairs

When I became a Christian at age 14 and for at least a couple of years after that, I experienced my first love for Jesus Christ. My previous world would not have been described as wholesome or safe, and most observers would have thought I was headed for trouble if not just for a lot of pain. But Jesus got a hold of me. I was ignorant, I was inconsistent and hard to take as a new believer. I was a weird mixture of old and worldly for my age, but just as unformed and full of immaturity as any 14 year old. When Jesus came into my life, however, I had a strong sense of gratitude, of having been delivered, healed, and restored. I loved Jesus. Whatever else complicated the picture, I knew which direction to go, and knew that the closer I got to Jesus the closer I was to being whole.

I eventually learned more, but like a lot of Christians some of the passion cooled. I went through a few years that I'm not terribly proud of. I lumped along. My faith was there, but my zeal and faithfulness weren't. And eventually my sense of peace, joy and stability faded with them. Correction wasn't pleasant, and when a Christian friend quoted Hebrews 12 to me, I sensed immediately that it applied. It was prophetic.

And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

I think that losing your first love is a pretty common experience for believers. I can assure you Jesus won't let you go, even when you've loosened your own grip.

What if whole churches find their first love fading? Jesus spoke directly to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2. They had done many things well, but...

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Maybe such a church needs to go out of business. Here's some pure speculation, a suspicion. There's a little objective evidence but not much, and I would love to find out I'm wrong! When I sense that Christians are all about "the news"—all about some kind of passion that doesn't seem to involve Jesus or drawing near to him; when I sense that for many Christians Bible reading is hard and uninteresting; when prayer is more like muttering to heaven while we do other things; when our faces are glued to our phones, and whatever identity we establish with the world has become our passion in place of being in Christ; when we conform to a social or political identity in this world, and forget that we are not to be conformed to this world, or to be unequally yoked with it, then I wonder. Actually I ache.

If what I sense is true, a lot of the church finds itself there now, in a dry and depleted period. I'm referring to the church broadly—not necessarily LCF, but I don't think we're immune either. How do we get back? I don't think there is a formula. As always I say, beware of leaders and prophets with formulas who try to insert their own agendas at this point. The way back exists not in something new, but in something old, in remembering and returning. Jesus said: "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works..." ■

Elders Notes

by Jesse Diller

We met on Rob and Doris's patio on Tuesday, May 12. After an opening prayer, we shared updates about various things that are happening at LCF as well as in our lives and the lives of others, then spent time praying for the things that were shared.

The elders would like to thank Joe and Tasha Slaubaugh for their service on the Elder's team. They recently notified us that they need to step down from the Elder's team for personal reasons. We have been enriched by their service on the team and want to express our thanks for their service in that capacity.

Rob and Doris talked about their desire to continue to develop and give opportunity to young leaders. We have appreciated the good work the young men on the preaching team have been doing. We will have an RBC intern, Quinton Miller, beginning this fall and possibly one within LCF.



Rob has enjoyed meeting with some of the seniors a couple times to talk about "What's Next" for them after they graduate. We will recognize them soon during a Sunday morning service.

We closed our time by praying once again about the situations and issues that we discussed. ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

The council met via phone on Tuesday, May 18th.

The new church entry key and security alarm code re-issue has been going smoothly. Look for an updated instruction and contact sheet for the alarm entry pad by the main entry doors.

The audiovisual booth is complete. Nathaniel Smith did an awesome job from start to finish completing the audio visual booth expansion. The equipment is being moved and optimized.

EMM reduced our mortgage rate on our church building from 4.5% to 4.0%. Currently our remaining balance is \$110,722, with a projected church payoff in 3.5 years. ■

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, Kelli Dean, and Doris Swartz
If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us.