

# The LCF Connection

July 2021



## The Blessing of a Simple Potluck Meal

by Pam Shay

We had a potluck meal after our church service on Sunday, June 13th. It was such a wonderful time of fellowship with our church family! It felt extra-special since it was the first potluck we have had at LCF in about a year-and-a-half due to COVID restrictions.

Tears came to my eyes when I paused for a minute and savored what I saw:

- Everyone talking and sharing together
- Plenty of delicious food to enjoy
- Lots of hands helping with the work
- Small children running around laughing
- Old friendships being rekindled
- New friends being discovered

God's love was shining brightly! It was a special "normal" Sunday. Thank you, Lord, for all the many blessings you provide! Help us never to take them for granted! ■

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## Sharing Salads and Plants

by Rosy Shenk

Plants are such an exciting part of spring and summer. It is so satisfying to see new plants sprout up in the garden as established plants shake off their winter drabness and put out new leaves. Shannon Scheffel invited the women of LCF to celebrate springtime with a salad supper and plant swap at her home on Friday, June 11. The evening was an enjoyable



time of sharing yummy salads and fun stories. Plant lore was passed on by the plant whisperers to those whose thumbs are more brown than green.

We played some games where we discovered in a word jumble that "Spring time" can also become "Spring item" and "Charm" is an anagram for "March." The next game challenged our memories and logic skills as we attempted to remember if the March 21st equinox was the Spring Equinox or the Vernal Equinox.

After the games came the plant swap. There were many more plants than people, so we all took home several plants.

The evening ended with us sitting on the porch, chatting, and getting to know each other better as we watched the stormy sky and then the sunset as it faded in the west. ■



Doris, Pam, Karen, Becky, Lisa, Shannon, Kerry, and Rosy



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# A Text Your Pastors May Want To Avoid



## A Message from the Pastor

by Roger Hazen (LCF's Overseer)

I've never read Sinclair Lewis's novel, "Elmer Gantry." I understand that when it first came out in 1927 it was banned in many cities across the U.S., as well as being denounced from many pulpits. One pastor even suggested that Lewis should be imprisoned five years for writing the book (sigh). Elmer Gantry has become a byword describing

hypocritical pastors. To say, "That pastor is a real Elmer Gantry," is not a compliment, but a putdown. Rev. Gantry was shown in the novel to be the epitome of hypocrisy, ambition, and loveless Christianity. I think I've known a few Elmer Gantrys in my life. But I've known many, many more pastors who are sincere, humble, and willing to lay down their lives for the faith and their flock.

I'm not going to try to convince you that the pastors you have at LCF, as well as the other leaders, are absolutely not Elmer Gantrys. You have to decide that as you interact with them on a regular basis. What I do want to do is point out to you a passage of Scripture your pastors would be hesitant to preach about. I know, because as a pastor it's not one I enjoy preaching. The text is Hebrews 13:17: *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."*

The reason I don't like preaching this passage is that it seems self-serving on my part. "Hey, you have to obey me and submit to me because I'm your pastor." That's just not a message I'm comfortable with preaching. And yet, there it is. For any believer who takes Scripture seriously, this passage has to be faced. Like many other texts, such as those on husband/wife relationships and blessing those who curse us, we may not like to hear what God is saying. But we must. As the people who are LCF, you have to decide—am I going to hear God and do what He tells me, or am I going to do the interpretational gymnastics it's going to take to dismiss this text? Hebrews 13:17 should be integrated into your life as a believer as much as John 3:16.

The other uncomfortable part of this passage for me as a pastor is the "giving account" part. Pastors (or elders, or overseers, or other ministry leaders) are going to be held accountable for how they do their tasks as shepherds. Does it sound too weird to say they must answer for the eternal souls of their people? No matter how it sounds, every faithful pastor knows the burden of this text. It drives us to our knees on a regular basis, and would in fact be unbearable but for the grace of God.

But there is great joy in the work of ministry, or at least there should be. When leaders lead as they should and disciples respond to that leadership as they should, it brings great "profit" to the congregation. Not material profit, but spiritual. In a church where this is happening there is in everyone joy and spiritual growth.

If your pastors and other leaders are working humbly for the glory of God and your spiritual benefit (and I think they are), you as church folk, responding according to this text, should make sure they do it "with joy and not with grief." ■

## Elders Notes

by Jesse Diller

As always, we opened our meeting with prayer.

We spent some time talking about current and upcoming events at LCF, like the return of coffee and fellowship meals, upcoming special services with the Masts, Larissa and IFI, baptisms, conferences, adding new members, fall small groups, and our elders retreat.

Rob has asked Jesse and Keith if they would see our Constitution revisions through to their completion, and they have agreed to do so. Our current one is a little out of date since we have reorganized our leadership structure a bit in the last few years.

We talked about several families who are currently in crisis situations and discussed what our role should be in helping them. We spent time right then, interceding for these individuals and asking God to transform lives and work miracles of healing and restoration.

We are thankful for the guys who have been a part of the preaching class and have enjoyed hearing from them. Rob is also looking forward to having a new pastoral intern at LCF this next year (through RBC's Bridge Program).

Reuben closed our time by praying about the various situations and issues that we discussed.

As always, we invite you to contact any of us on the elders team anytime you have questions or concerns.

Our next scheduled meeting will be July 13th. ■



LCF is a place where everyone—even the children among us—can find a place to serve.

On Father's Day Sandy Hauge was thankful for some help with cleaning up the coffee bar from this adorable volunteer.

Many of you have been helping people move, paint, do carpentry work, water the flowers here at the church, etc.

Thanks so much for all the ways you serve! ■



# Introducing...

## LCF's "Artist Spotlight"

by Elisabeth Yoder

LCF is blessed to be a community full of talented people, and we seek to use all of our talents for the glory of God. In future issues of "The LCF Connection," we would like to spotlight the artistic giftings of many of you in our fellowship.

To get us started, I drew the first feature, but then it will be your turn! If you would like to take part in this feature, please contact me for more information and to choose your month. You can talk with me at church, call me, or send me a text or email. This is not restricted to any particular medium or style. In whatever way you love to create, we would love to feature you and your talent.



We also want to get to know those we feature a bit better, so I'll set the precedent by telling you a bit about myself. My go-to fun facts about myself are that I am the sixth out of nine children and my first language was Pennsylvania Dutch, a German dialect primarily spoken by the Amish and their descendants. I live in Plain City with Jeff, my super cool husband, and love spending time creating, writing, baking, and reading as well as traveling and spending time in nature with my loved ones. I have always loved art, and I enjoy trying out new mediums and techniques. If you're interested in seeing more of my art, it's on Instagram at @yibbscreates."

While I was considering what I wanted to create for this first feature, I did a little research into religious symbols. In my search, I found passion flowers. When Roman Catholic missionaries in South America discovered the flower in the 1500s, they named it the passion flower after the passion of Christ.

The following elements are some of the symbolic parallels they drew:

- The flowers have five petals and five sepals which they decided symbolize the ten disciples who stayed faithful to Christ throughout the crucifixion ordeal.
- The ring of spiky filaments that grows above the petals and sepals is symbolic of the crown of thorns.
- The three round stigmas in the center of the flower symbolize the three nails that held Christ to the cross
- The five anthers under the stigmas are symbolic of the five wounds Christ suffered on the Cross.

To be sure, it's a crazy looking flower, and I enjoyed the mental image of priests in the late middle ages finding it and thinking, "Hm m m m m, ya know what..." Perhaps, though, we can learn from their attitude in looking for the truth and beauty of Christ throughout our lives, even in places it isn't immediately obvious.

**And now it's your turn!** We look forward to learning about you and your artistic abilities and seeing something that you have created. Remember, we are a church family here, not art critics, so push yourself past your qualms. I'm excited to hear from you! ■

## Another Graduate to Celebrate!



We apologize to Aaron Biscup that we missed including him in the list of LCF college graduates in last month's LCF Connection. Congratulations, Aaron, for your hard work and perseverance to not just graduating from college, but for doing so while working several other jobs and while being a husband and busy father of three preschoolers!! What an accomplishment!!

Aaron graduated from the Ohio State University in December 2020 with a degree in Forestry and Wildlife. Since then, he's been working for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, first doing boundary marking and maintenance in state forests (including Mohican, Hocking, Zaleski, and Shawnee), and, more recently, doing forest inventory and timber sale preparations (mostly in Tar Hollow). He loves getting to work in the woods and finally getting real forestry experience! His current position is only temporary, though, so please pray for guidance as he searches for a permanent forestry job.

Congratulations, Aaron (and Andrea too)! We will be praying for you in your job search. ■

# Time to Be Together Again!

by Doris Swartz

Over this past year-and-a-half we have experienced a lot of time apart from friends and family. We have been disappointed as many events and get-togethers were cancelled or postponed. It is exciting to see things change and open back up. The time apart has certainly given us a new appreciation for being together again. On the front page you read about the potluck and ladies activity that took place in June. Following are some **UPCOMING EVENTS** that we are looking forward to. We encourage you to join us for these times of connection!



## Sunday, July 4

Tom and Candice, Claire, Eliza, and Silas Mast, have been serving as missionaries in Thailand for the past 15 years. (Before going to Thailand, Tom served as associate pastor here at LCF for 3 1/2 years.) **THE MAST FAMILY** has been here in the US for the past month spending time with their family in Delaware and Virginia. We look forward to having them be here at LCF with us on Sunday, July 4th. We invite you to come reconnect with (or learn to know) the Masts and hear how God is at work in their lives and in Thailand.



## Saturday, July 10

**LADIES**, bring a friend and join us for a hike and picnic lunch at Prairie Oaks Metro Park on Saturday, July 10th. Meet at Darby Bend Lakes at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own packed lunch. If you have questions contact Andrea Biscup.

## Sunday, July 11

London Christian Fellowship serves as the "sending church" for Larissa Swartz as she works with international students in Dayton, Ohio, through **IFI** (International Friendships, Inc.). As a way to stay connected with Larissa, we have invited her to bring some students and lead in worship on Sunday, July 11th. Come learn more about IFI and how you can help to share God's love with the nations!



## Friday through Sunday, August 6-8

Each year (around the end of July or the beginning of August) our church conference, CMC, has an annual summer gathering called Multiply. It is a family-friendly event with activities for children of all

ages and is held at a different location each year. CMC, Rosedale International, and Rosedale Bible College work together to help plan the conference and promote the common goal of maturing and multiplying churches locally and globally.

**MULTIPLY 2021** will be held August 6-8, 2021 at Clinton Christian School in Goshen, Indiana. The 2020 Multiply conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 so this year's conference, with the theme of "Together," is sure to be a meaningful one. We encourage you to consider making the 4-hour drive to spend the weekend worshipping, learning, and fellowshiping, with brothers and sisters in our church conference.

Check-in begins at 3 p.m. on Friday with a meal being served at 5:00 and the opening session beginning at 6:30. The last session will end around 11:30 on Sunday morning. For more info and to register visit: <https://cmcroseale.org/cmc-events/annual-conference/>



We hope that you will join us for these upcoming times of getting together for worship, nurture, and fellowship! ■

## 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, 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.