

The LCF Connection

September 2021

Celebrating the Best Decision Ever!

by Doris Swartz

"I have decided to follow Jesus...No turning back. No turning back." Baptisms are a wonderful time of celebration in the life of our church family! There is no better decision a person can make than to decide to follow Jesus! The consequences are life-changing—both now and for eternity!

On Sunday, August 22nd, we rejoiced with Reid Gates, Shepherd Ndungu, and Patrick Shenk, as they expressed their commitment to follow Christ and identified with him by being baptized. What a joy to hear them share their personal testimonies in front of friends and family. It was interesting to note how God spoke to all 3 of them during a time when they were attending a Christian summer camp. Pray that each of these young men would grow strong in their faith and impact many lives for Christ! ■



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Motion in Goshen

by Maggie Gates

What a summer we have had! Reid went to Bethel Camp where he really took a look at how he was living and whether he was putting God first. When he returned he had the opportunity to be a youth counselor at a day camp in Plain City. This experience deepened his desire to move closer to God.

Following the camp, he began talking about going to Goshen for the annual CMC conference so that he could attend the youth sessions. When we realized he was not able to go with other youth, "mom" stepped in and off we went.

Reid spent every minute he could with the other youth. The youth attendance was lower than in the past, but he and the 50 or so other kids made it work. They played, learned and worshipped together. I have heard the hosts for Multiply 2022 plan to develop a robust youth track. Our fingers are crossed!

While Reid did his thing, I did mine with the other adults. We worshipped, drank coffee (Hemisphere Coffee, of course), attended a variety of breakout sessions and deepened friendships. Not much can top the experience of worshipping with 500+ of your closest friends!

We encourage you to consider attending Multiply 2022 in Maryland. Our motion toward God was refocused in Goshen. ■



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What is a Church Altar?

by Pam Stanforth

The church altar in today's churches was, and in some cases still is, a tradition steeped in symbolism rather than functionality. It has been considered an object of reverence because of its use in the communion celebration.

In Genesis 13:4 when Abraham arrives in Moriah, God reappears to him, and Abraham builds an altar. So it is with our tradition. In the act of "building an altar," it means that we are offering everything we are and everything that we have to God. Everything that we value or love can be "placed on the altar" as we are reminded that everything we are and have comes from God. Our lives belong to God and our purpose is to serve him and not our possessions.



Many churches no longer have an actual "altar," but the space has given way to prayer rails, flower stands, tables, etc., strategically placed in front of the podium, often to hide wires and electronics.

Traditions, like history, are valuable to teach and remind us of important events and acts—things we want to remember, what we should reject or embrace. God's Word does not command that we place an altar in the house of worship, nor does he direct that we refrain. It is left to us to decide what we will do with such traditions.

LCF does not have an official altar, but the table at the front of our sanctuary is often decorated with things to help us reflect on Christ. An altar and/or symbolic items have no bearing on our salvation but simply serve as reminders of who God is, his love and sacrifice for us and our commitment to him. Some of the symbolisms attributed by various churches to items that we display include:

- Altar (table): Our lives and all we possess, belong to God for his purposes.
- Flowers: Man's life is fleeting—it withers and then is gone.
- Candles: Christ's Light draws all men to himself. We are to be his light on the earth.
- Bible: God's Word lasts forever! Not one word shall pass away until all is fulfilled!

Some additional symbolic items that are displayed this month (pictured above) are from Pastor Rob's message from August 1, 2021, "Do You Remember...?" If you missed it you can watch it on YouTube.

- Goblet: A special gift to Rob from our dear sister, Dorothy Jones, who passed away last year, reminds us of the ways we impact one another's lives, but more importantly, of the cup of suffering Christ took for us, and all that communion represents.
- Pottery Jar: A reminder of the alabaster jar in Matthew 26:7, when the woman poured upon the head of Jesus an expensive perfume commemorating his death to come. Jesus commended her sacrifice and said this story would always be remembered.
- Glass Stones: Rob found these blue "gems" buried in the mud as he was out on a walk during a difficult time. These stones became symbolic to him of God's faithfulness and his promise to bring beauty out of ashes.

May God help us to use whatever means we can to remember his faithfulness and focus our hearts and minds on him! ■

Editor's note: A big "Thank You!" to Pam Stanforth for the great job she does with decorating our front table/altar with items that encourage us to reflect on Christ and his goodness in such beautiful and creative ways!

Elders Notes

by Jesse Diller

During the first part of our meeting on August 10th, we shared updates, personal and church concerns, and then prayed together about those situations.

We spent most of the remaining time talking about church staffing and participation.

- We are adding several new people to the moderator team.
- Jenn Frederick is still looking for nursery volunteers to provide childcare on Sunday mornings, and we are in need of Sunday School teachers, as well.
- The council continues to look for a treasurer and asked for our suggestions.
- We discussed the possibility of adding a person with administrative skills to help coordinate our programs.
- We also discussed our need for an elder to join our team and reviewed the process for elder selection.

Reuben closed our time by praying about the various situations and issues that we discussed. We trust God to meet each need in his perfect way and time.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 28th. ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

The council met via phone on August 17th.

The council would like to remind our students who are considering college that Rosedale Bible College offers a Flagship Scholarship of \$7150.00 to any student in our conference attending their first year. In addition, being a member of LCF qualifies an individual for additional first-year aid.

Our mortgage outstanding principal balance for our church building is now down to \$105,101.87, which is about a three year payoff.

Next meeting: September 21st. ■

Getting to Know...Quinton Miller

Interviewed by Theresa Hennis

We welcome Quinton Miller to our LCF family! This month he will be serving as a pastoral intern here at LCF, through RBC's Bridge Program. Here is a little introduction to who he is. We thank God for his willingness to serve in this way and look forward to learning to know him better!



Where did you grow up, and how many siblings do you have?

I grew up in Hutchinson, Kansas. I have one younger brother, named Braxton.

What is an important life lesson you learned from growing up in your family?

One value I learned very early in my family is to value other people. My parents stressed the importance of valuing the lives of others and respecting differences. My mom works hard at learning to know others well and goes out of her way to make them feel special. My dad is very patient with people and is able to stay level-headed through good and bad times.

Are you married or single? Is there anything related to that, you'd like to share?

I am a single man, and the one thing that I would share with everyone, whether single or otherwise, is the importance of community. I think often we place so much value on the people who we interact with when we wake up in the mornings and go home in the evenings, that we forget how important the relationships we have at work, school, or in the church really are. This is not to diminish the relationships that family provides, but I think it's really easy to undervalue those other relationships.

Where have you attended college and why? What was an interesting experience you had there?

This year will be my third at Rosedale Bible College. I, like many others who end up attending RBC, had no plans to attend there. God planted the idea in my mind and it wouldn't leave. One week before I was to start at another college, I begged God to show me exactly what he wanted me to do. Within two hours of my helpless cry, all three of my would-be roommates told me that they were enrolling at different schools. I, too, withdrew my enrollment and quickly enrolled at RBC, just before it started. I think the most interesting experience I've had at Rosedale was testing positive for COVID-19 along with about twenty other students...right before Thanksgiving break. We all were locked down on campus, but we ended up having a great time watching movies, playing games, and even the occasional study break.

What is an example of God working in your life that you will never forget?

One of many examples is the peace and joy God has brought me through the past few years in ways I could've never imagined. My mother and several others in my extended family have had some significant health issues in recent years. Through it all I have felt the hand of God at work and keep hearing Him telling me to trust him.

What drew you to an internship at LCF?

I think the primary reason I began considering doing an internship was the amount of trusted friends and mentors whom God has used to speak into my life, who have suggested to me that I should consider doing an internship, I started thinking about what the right fit would be. With some help from RBC, I was able to connect with Rob. While it feels a bit overwhelming, I'm really excited to have this opportunity.

What do you hope to achieve through this internship?

My original intention for doing an internship was to gain some experience and discover what the life of a pastor is like as I try to discern if God may be calling me into that line of ministry. However, my primary objective is to contribute to the growth of the congregation, while being challenged to grow myself.

What do you think is the best way to study God's Word?

The best way I can think of to study the Word is by humbly and honestly attempting to interpret Scripture in the light of the larger picture of the salvation story as opposed to only thinking about the focus of a specific passage.

What hobbies/pastime activities do you enjoy?

Two of my favorite pastimes are golfing and mowing—which is very convenient for me as I work at a golf course in the summers. I find both golfing and mowing to be relaxing. I enjoy most activities that allow me to be active with people around me.

Have you been involved in any ministries that have had a special impact on you?

While in high school I was very involved with helping run our school's FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). We worked very hard to minimize the overall impact of the athletics portion of this ministry to make it more accessible to the entire student body and had some success with the program. In my first year at RBC I was able to tag along with some guys and do some prison ministry. This was such an impactful opportunity for me to hear a few of the inmates' testimonies and to get to share my own with them as well.

What do you look forward to most in serving at LCF, and how can we help you to achieve the goals you have?

I'm most excited about being able to plug into the body of believers that you have at LCF. I've heard and seen nothing but good things about this congregation, and I'm really excited to join you guys for the upcoming year. I really think that LCF can be very helpful to me by just remaining faithful to the Gospel and allowing me to join you in that mission.

Is there any special place in the world you'd like to visit?

I'm very much a home-body, and while I always have fun while traveling, the idea of traveling rarely gets me excited. I'd like to go to the Grand Canyon, Rome, or Israel, but I'd be less disappointed not getting there than many others would. ■

LCF Artist Spotlight: Molly Rosati

Remembrance

"But we hold this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7

I appreciated Rob's recent sermon about communion being a physical/visual remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. Rob shared some objects that he has in his office that remind him of God's faithfulness. It made me think of Patsy Clairmont's book, "God Uses Cracked Pots." So what comes to mind as you look at this image?



For me, this pot is a self-portrait. In fall 2019, I almost died from a blood infection. My husband, Jack, was my care-giver for many months. As I was recovering/regrouping my mind, body and emotions, the image of God's light shining through the cracks in a pot came to me.

How could I create this idea? What pot should I smash with a hammer and then glue back together? I looked through the stacked pots in the garage and searched the shelves at thrift stores. And then I thought about a pot I had made 30 years ago while working as an occupational therapist. Occasionally this pot has held a plant, but mostly, it has stayed on a secluded shelf, where I would admire it while doing laundry. I like its clean lines, whimsical details, and the mastery of the craft—similar to my pride in my life's accomplishments. Pride of life, hmmm, it felt right, even cathartic choosing this piece of significance to break and re-assemble as incomplete, different and fragile. My self portrait now.



Our brother, Richard Troyer, encouraged me not to hide, but to share the message in the mess of our lives. The message of God's redeeming love repurposing the broken pieces when we surrender to Him.

I am so grateful for the miracle of God's grace and healing! And yet, I struggle daily with critical thoughts and frustration with the residual physical and emotional limitations affecting my relationships and what I can accomplish in a day. Daily I am choosing to lay my brokenness at His feet and re-route my feelings and thoughts to praise and giving thanks.

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:27-30 ■

Molly lives on a farm in Midway with Jack, her husband of 37 years. They have 2 married daughters—Amy & Joe live in Columbus, Anna & John in South Korea. Molly enjoys spending time outside with her horses and with her adorable Corgi, Pegs. She has a heart for prayer and caring for others.



*Caught
in the
Act!*

Thanks to Sammy Waweru for all he does to help keep the worship instruments, computers, and sound equipment running smoothly! He was "caught" recently working on the drumset.

These individuals do not like to be the focus of attention but what they do behind-the-scenes at LCF is very valuable! Join us in thanking them!

Thanks to Dave and Karen Brown for their faithfulness in stopping by the church regularly to water the flowers and weed the flowerbeds! In case you have not noticed, the flowers look beautiful in spite of all the hot weather we've been having! ■



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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
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