

# The LCF Connection

November 2021

## Counting Our Blessings!

by Elisabeth Yoder



The month of October has been packed full of opportunities for both prayer and gratitude in our church family. We have had a lot of difficult situations to pray about, as well as many reasons to thank God, as we saw his answers to our prayers! The sustaining hand of God was evident in several big ways—particularly in the lives of two of our brothers.



We are thankful that despite falling 17 feet from a ladder, Dale miraculously survived with only minor injuries and is doing well. His recovery has been nothing short of a miracle! God's hand has also been very evident in Joe's life as he spent several weeks in the hospital fighting Covid-19. We are thankful for the healing that Joe has already experienced, and are praying for him and his family as he continues to recover and regain his strength.



Perhaps the proximity of trials like these casts the joy of blessings in a new, more



profound light for all of us. As we collectively come together to intercede for each other in prayer, we are also able to come together as a community to share and appreciate the many good things in life. It was wonderful to enjoy a potluck meal together on October 3rd. While we were disappointed that rainy weather prevented us from being able to have our service outdoors by the creek, as we had planned, we were united by the nerves of a high-stakes super-sized Jenga game. I was particularly impressed by 9-year-old Jaxson's steady hand as he took on the tall tower.

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## Greetings from Marysville

by Bob Zachrich

Hello, LCF Church Family! I thought with the advent of fall, that this would be a good time to update you on this new phase of life for Bettyjo and me.

As most of you know, this past April we purchased a house in Marysville with our daughter Emily and her husband Joe and their two little girls, Ellora (3) and Gwen (19 months).

We have been settling into the home, moving things in and around as we have time. We are really, just now, getting around to hanging a few things on the wall.

A week after we closed on the house we went with my parents on vacation to Colonial Williamsburg/Jamestown.



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# The Blind Spot

## A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

Do you know your blind spot? You know, that place that you can't see because somehow it is blocked from your vision. We all have blind spots, and it's important for us to recognize this and minimize them as much as possible.

It's interesting to see the number of miracles that Jesus performed and yet, still many refused to believe. In one case where a blind man is healed in John 9, the Pharisees question the blind man as to whether he was really blind to begin with and then question his parents that this was really their son! Despite overwhelming evidence, they refused to believe that Jesus was from God and could perform these kinds of miracles. It seems ridiculous, and Jesus concludes that the Pharisees are the ones who are really blind. This story is a picture of humanity. We all have blind spots. What can we do to minimize those blind spots?

### Don't be dogmatic.

Sometimes we will hold a position so strongly, we will never consider an alternative. I once had a coworker ask me if I would abandon my belief in God if I discovered he wasn't real. It's a tough question, and it has taken me until now to say with confidence that I would. If I discovered irrefutable evidence that God was a figment of my imagination, I would stop believing. Why? Because I believe my faith is based on good evidence: historical, scientific, logical, and experiential. I welcome debate. I need to be able to give a good reason for the hope that I have, not present a dogma. It makes sense to me, and I need to be able to give good reasons for others to believe.

### Know your biases.

We all have biases. Biases create blind spots. A good way to combat those blind spots is to know our biases and intentionally work at minimizing them. Listen to a different newscast or news stream every day. I know a pastor who does this. Listen, not to be angry or to find who agrees with you, but with an open mind to find balance. Have diverse friends of different races, cultures, political views, doctrinal views, etc. Unfortunately, we like to create silos and stay in them. This only reinforces bias. Know your biases and be intentional about minimizing them.

### Be teachable.

Listen well to others. Learn from them. You do not know everything. Humble yourself and be teachable. Proverbs tells us there is value in "a multitude of counselors." Place yourself under those who are following Jesus and then listen and watch well. Invite them to speak into your life and don't get defensive. Even learn to listen to unsolicited criticism for things that you need to hear and change.

Blind spots are dangerous in driving and even more dangerous in our hearts and minds. Vehicles are advancing significantly in reducing these blind spots and giving warning. We need to be just as diligent in reducing our own blind spots and heeding the warning signs. ■

# Elders Notes

by Doris Swartz

Since we had a meeting so late in September and had a hard time lining up our schedules to meet in October, we have communicated this month via email and WhatsApp discussions.

We are processing the nominations that the congregation submitted on October 17th to be considered for our new elder. We would appreciate your prayers for God's guidance in the process.

Our next elders meeting will be on Tuesday, November 9th. ■

# Council Update

by Jim Jones

The council met via phone conference on Tuesday, October 19th. We are happy to announce that Sarah Eichorn will be our new treasurer and council member. Thank you for your strong support of the recommendation and thanks to Sarah for being willing to serve in this way. Please keep Sarah and Tasha in your prayers during this time of transition from now to the end of the year.

In case you may have wondered what the black device is that is sitting on top of the mailboxes and has various cords connected to it... It is a 5G Gateway device that we are using to test out the possibility of a new internet provider for the church.

Next council meeting: November 16th. ■

### Marysville...continued

If you are at all interested in the founding of our country, a visit to that area is highly recommended.

So far, our biggest challenge has been with COVID-19. Joe and Emily are both working from home and will likely be hybrid whenever their companies open their offices again. I am continuing to work full-time from home, just as I was before COVID, and Bettyjo does not work outside of the home. So...it is a good thing that the house has a full basement (which is our living quarters) and that it has a little more than 3000 square feet. We make good use of all of the space. We've done a few construction projects that needed completed—as is typical with any home that is 20 years old. We put up a fence to keep our new puppy contained and happy.

Bettyjo and I have been attending Marysville Grace Brethren Church, but we intend to visit a few other churches before settling on a home church.

Our 2nd "home" that we enjoy greatly is our camper. We have had a summer filled with lots of camping trips, mostly visiting state parks here in Ohio. Our Ohio DNR State Park system is top notch and has some of the nicest campgrounds I have been in. Since I can work from anyplace that has an internet connection we are hoping to be able to travel a bit more in 2022. ■



# Getting to Know...

## Dave & Karen Brown

Interviewed by Theresa Hennis

We noted in the September LCF Connection that we are thankful for Dave and Karen Brown, who keep the flowerbeds here at LCF looking so nice. We thought it would be good to help you get to know them a bit more.

### How did you two meet and how many years have you been married?

We met at a restaurant where Karen was working as a waitress. We have been married for 43 years. We both became Christians in 1978. Dave became a Christian in January, and then Karen in April. We got married in May and began attending church together. We believe God set that specific order of events for us—to give our lives to Him first, and then commit ourselves to each other. We believe that our commitment to Christ first is what has made our marriage such a good one.



### What is something unique/memorable about your engagement or wedding?

We were married in Jellico, Tennessee, by a Justice of the Peace who also owned a grocery store. We were married in the middle of his grocery store in an open-type office. Yes, it was during business hours! We had a group of happy customers as witnesses! ☺



### How many kids and grands do you have?

We have two sons (one lives in the house beside us and the other lives in Dayton), three grandsons, and one granddaughter, ranging in age from 7-22.

### Where do you live?

We live in a big, old farmhouse along Rt. 187, north of Somerford. It was built in the 1800's and has been in Dave's family for many years.

### What hobbies do you enjoy?

We both enjoy reading, antiques of all kinds, and motorcycles. We used to travel on motorcycle quite a bit. Dave still has a few old ones that he rides occasionally.

### Where do you work?

Dave: I stay busy working here on the farm and also helping my son with his cabinet business.

Karen: I still work part time for a 91-year-old attorney in Columbus. My employer continues to come in to the office several times a week. I always say that I'll quit when he does. LOL

### We have prayed for you—with Karen's cancer and Dave's heart surgery 2 years ago. How are you both doing?

We thank God that we are both doing pretty well, right now. We continue to take our medications and have occasional doctor appointments. Karen had a pretty good doctor's visit recently. The higher dosage of chemo pills seem to be working, and her body has finally adjusted to the increase. Thanks so much for your prayers!

### What drew you to LCF?

We had been going to church in Springfield, but wanted to find a smaller church, closer to our home. We decided to try LCF. We enjoy the worship and the Biblical teaching each week.

### What do you find most important as you walk your faith journey?

We live our lives daily for Christ. We read our bibles and pray every day. We can't imagine living our lives without Jesus.

### Is there anyone who especially had influenced your life? In what ways?

Dave: My aunt had a big influence on my life.

Karen: My grandmother was one of the people who had a big influence on me. I remember that she always had her bible on her coffee table. Another person was a co-worker of mine. I was working at a restaurant (a different one from where Dave and I met) and another girl who worked there became a good friend of mine. She told me about Jesus and that she was praying for Dave and I to become Christians. She was so excited when we became Christians! She and her husband played a big part in leading us to Christ.

### What has sustained you through your trials and tribulations, and how?

When I found out I had blood cancer in 2017, of course, I was a little upset and scared, but God has been with me every step of the way. Although the medication makes me sick sometimes, I still know that God is with me and is in control. Every day, I say, "This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it." It's a choice we make to rejoice.

We thank God for bringing Dave and Karen to be a part of our LCF family. We encourage you to continue to learn to know them better. They have lots of interesting stories to share. ☺ ■

## “Raining” Champ

by Jeff Gates

A great time—in any weather.

Despite some rain, an enthusiastic crowd showed up for the first annual “Running with the Pastors 5K.” The run/walk was held at Prairie Oaks Metro Park on Sunday, October 24th, after our Sunday service.

David Stukey was the “run-away” winner as he dodged the raindrops (rumor is he even got lost and ran an extra mile). Shepherd Ndungu finished second, while Phil Elfrink came in third; however, all who put forth the effort to participate and braved the rain, mud, and cooler temps were champs!

The walkers had a great time, as well, strolling along in the rain. Thank you to Phil Elfrink and Richard Troyer for organizing the event. ■



### Blessings...continued

The best days and experiences also call for redoubled efforts in prayer and thankfulness. Peyton and Audrey celebrated their wedding day on October 9th, and as we celebrate with them, let's remember to lift them up in prayer as they embark on this new road together.



We were also thrilled to celebrate the new life that Katie and Corin are preparing to welcome into the world (in about a month) with a baby shower at the church on October 2nd. With the celebration, however, there is the magnitude of caring for this new life and the challenge of becoming parents. I encourage us, as a church family, to pray for them also as they adjust to these changes.

Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Individually, and as a church family, we have so many situations to pray for—and even more to be thankful for! The Lord has given, sustained, and blessed us in countless ways. As we approach this Thanksgiving season, let's focus on all that God has done for us, but also, purpose in our hearts to be faithful in prayer and to find the things we have to be thankful for every day—not just around Thanksgiving. God is constantly at work in our lives, through both the hard and good times. In every season and situation we find ourselves in, there is always something to be thankful for! ■



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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.