

The LCF Connection

November 2022

Running with the Pastors at Prairie Oaks: A Blow-by-Blow Account

by Vicki Sairs

Everything about Sunday, October 9th seems made to order for a race with the pastors in the park: blue skies, fall leaves, good cheer, and an extremely cute and well-behaved little dog. We even have a third pastor, in addition to Rob and Reuben: Preston Yoder from Shiloh Mennonite Church.

Things start out calmly enough. Runners and walkers stretch and hydrate, pose for a picture, and take bets (ha, ha, no, just kidding) on who will win. Experts favor Ella, but the outcome isn't clear. Rob is a good runner, Gid looks super professional, and Shepherd is always a force to be reckoned with.

The race begins, the runners take off, and when the dust settles, the walkers have the course to themselves. Which is fine. We planned it that way.



What we didn't plan: snakes! Vicki spots the first one, coiled up like a tiny brown toy snake in the middle of the path. She plants her feet on either side of it, to guard it while the others walk by. "Snake on the path!" she says, knowing how excited everyone will be. "I'm protecting it."

Molly steps up. "Why don't I just move it off the path?" and she stoops down and scoops up our little friend and places him on some rocks by the trail.

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Behind the Scenes

by Doris Swartz

Have you ever wondered who works behind the scenes to place the beautiful floral arrangements, candles, etc., in the foyer, sanctuary, and throughout the church? For the past 9 years, the main person doing so has been Pam Stanforth. We are very grateful for the wonderful job she has done to help our church look so welcoming. Thank you, Pam, for giving of your time and abilities to help "set the stage" for the changing seasons, holidays, times of communion, etc. We have been blessed by the beauty of your creativity! Recently, Pam has asked to be



relieved of this responsibility, noting that "it's time for younger people to do this." When you see her, please take a minute to thank her for her faithfulness and creative touch over the years!

Recognizing that this is quite a job for one person and that there are broader areas such as furniture, window coverings, the stage and livestream background, etc., that are in need of some consideration and possible changes, we decided to form a Decor Team. Becky Hostetler, Shannon Scheffel, Audrey Maust, and myself (Doris) have agreed to serve on the team.

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

Elders' Notes

by Doris Swartz

The elders and their wives met on October 26th. As usual, we began with a time of sharing updates and prayer requests, and then praying together. We continue to discuss our role as shepherds in caring for the congregation and how we are doing in that.

We welcomed Trevor and Morgan Schrock, who joined us as part of the informal pastoral mentorship they are doing with LCF while they are students at Rosedale Bible College this year.

The recommendation from the elders to have Keith Scheffel serve an additional year as elder (to get us back on track so that we have one elder's term expiring each year) passed unanimously on Sunday, October 16th.

We spent time together processing the names that were submitted to be considered for our next elder. Please continue to be praying for God's guidance in this discernment process as we seek to discover whom it is that God is calling to serve in this way.

We discussed LCF's current budget, noting questions and suggestions for the council to consider as they put together the new 2023 budget.

Since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we will have our annual LCF Family Christmas as a Christmas Eve service on Saturday evening, in place of our Sunday morning service.

Keith led us in our closing time of prayer, and then we finished by practicing the song we will sing on Gratitude Sunday. We are thankful to God for LCF and the work He is doing among us! ■

Running with the Pastors... continued



Later in our walk, Becky, Naomi, and Lucy come flying up the path, giggling nervously. "Snake!" they say. Or squeak. Hard to say. So—two snakes!

Meanwhile, the mighty Pegs, a noble dog, makes sure we keep pace with Molly and Doris. Molly has filled us in on horse etiquette: Talk and make a little noise (not loud) if you're coming up behind a horse on the trail. Let them know someone is coming so they won't be startled and think you're a predator.

We are not predators; we don't even place in the race. But we do finish and head to the pavilion, where all the younger people are celebrating Ella's glorious win. "She knew!" says one of the guys. "She knew she was going to beat Rob!"



Go, Ella! And thank you, Phil and Richard, for making this race happen. Shout out as well to the snakes, our friends (they eat pests). Also: Pegs, you rock. ■

Council Update

by Jim Jones

The Council met via phone on October 18th.

Planning Center, the online giving program that we use, recently made a system upgrade. The upgrade is a new bank verification system. To cover that cost, on October 31, 2022, the processing fee for each ACH donation will go from \$0.25 to \$0.30 per transaction. The new system will offer faster, more secure, and a less intrusive bank verification system. There is still no % cost per transaction. Planning Center does not make any money from processing fees. This fee increase is going directly toward Stripe Financial Connections, something they believe is worth the increase.

The Council has recommended a revision to our Premise Use Policy. Specifically, regarding the use of our audio and visual equipment. LCF audio visual equipment, if required, will be operated only by members of our LCF audio visual team. Technician support is based on availability. In addition, a cost will be determined to cover the technician's mileage and time.

Checkr, the background check website that we use for individuals going through our Child Protection Screening process, has increased their rates from \$25 to \$40 per background check. In response, we have switched back to our previous background check service, backgroundchecks.com, since their rate is \$19.95 per background check.

The program that Doris uses for graphic design (to make announcement slides, the monthly LCF Connection newsletter, and other church publications) is very outdated. No updates have been available for years, and it can only be accommodated by an older computer system. It needs to be replaced, and a new program will be budgeted for 2023.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15th. ■



We are thankful to Dan Frederick, Sarah Eichorn, Russ Hauge, and Jim Jones for serving on LCF's Council. Since Jim, who serves as Chair, lives in Florida, they meet each month via phone conference.

Join Us to...Give Thanks!

November 6 - Gratitude Sunday

November 20 - Thanksgiving Potluck after church

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1



Getting to Know...Lance Beachy

by Elisabeth Yoder



"This is a fun picture from Warsaw during my trip to Europe earlier this year. A guy was letting people hold trained doves for \$5, so I did."

We are always thankful for the new people God brings to our LCF family! If you have not yet met Lance, we hope this interview will get the introduction started!

Tell us a bit about yourself! We would love to have a brief background of your life thus far, and a bit about your life now.

Howdy! I'm Lance. I grew up around Plain City and went to Canaan Fellowship for most of my life. Recently, I moved to Hilliard, and I've been coming to LCF since the end of last year.

I taught high school at Plainview Christian School for 3 years and am now a web developer at Nationwide Insurance. I just started working on my bachelor's degree in psychology because I'm kinda bored with life at the moment, and college is fun.

What are three words that describe the person you aspire to be?

Empathetic, Authentic, Caring.

What is a biblical truth you wish people paid more attention to? Why do you feel it is especially important for us now?

God values our emotions and meets us where we're at, and the Bible honors our suffering and our questions that don't have answers. It's been important in my own life in dealing with depression, anxiety, burnout, and general existential crises, and I think the past couple years have brought a lot of things to the surface that are difficult to know how to handle well.

If you were charged with giving every human the same superpower, what would you choose? Would the world be a better place with our newfound ability or would everything go horribly wrong?

Best option is probably immunity to disease? Should be a better world, but there could be some unintended consequences here. Though I really want to fly, so that would be cool, too.

How do you enjoy spending your free time?

Video games, music, reading, cooking, drawing, fitness, sword fighting, and friends.

If money were a non-issue, what is a hobby you would love to try?

Full-time student. I know it's probably not a "real" hobby, but being a full-time student is my dream job, and I love learning.

What is, in your opinion, the most interesting thing about yourself?

I have taken longsword and military sabre classes and will be picking those up again once a leg strain fully recovers.

What are some things you're passionate about? How do you engage with those passions?

Psychology and the interaction between our emotions/mental health and the spiritual realm. I am working on a psychology degree. Along with that, as someone who was recently diagnosed autistic and ADHD, neurodivergent people (a.k.a. people whose brains aren't wired quite the same as the average (such as autism, ADHD, OCD, BPD, etc.) are a particular interest of mine because I am neurodivergent. Overall, I tend to just go in phases where I'm intensely interested in something for a week or three and then drop it for 6 months, so it's hard to say what is actually a passion that I'm doing a lot with—for more than a couple of weeks.

What are some long-term goals you're working toward or hope to accomplish in the future?

Bachelor's degree in psychology, perhaps becoming a therapist for neurodivergent folks at some point? Maybe win a sword-fighting tournament at some point?

Is there a biblical character you particularly relate to? What is it about their story that speaks to you?

Job. I love his logical approach to things, how he complains (seriously, chapter 3 is so gloriously dark), his obsession with his own justice, and his problems with sowing and reaping as the ultimate reason why good or bad things happen, and how his questions are so straightforward, directly to God. Then, his understanding that he may not actually get answers, and learning to trust God once he sees Him.

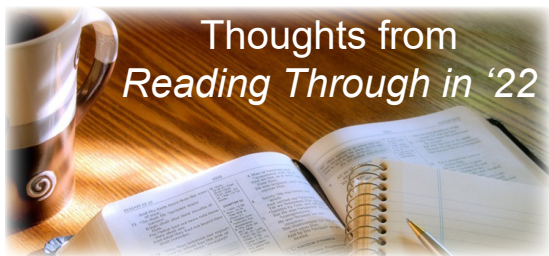
What is your ultimate bucket list item?

Write a (good) epic fantasy book.

And finally, if you could choose a personal theme song to play when you enter a room, what would it be?

Thomas the Tank Engine theme.

Thanks, Lance, for helping us learn to know a bit more about you. We're glad God brought you to LCF! ■



Thoughts from Reading Through in '22

by *Becky Hostetler*



I have been "Reading Through in '22." At the time of this writing, so far, I've made it to November!

This is the first time in my life I have come this far in this endeavor. Many times I have made New Year's resolutions to do this, but it never came to fruition. One year I even made it to June, but then realized I was too focused on the task and not the meditation. That was my concern this time around. To be honest, it has been an ongoing struggle to meditate on that quantity of scripture daily. There is often so much to absorb within three chapters that a lot gets sifted out. On the other hand, there have been nuggets of truth that have stuck with me that I will always associate with this reading experience. There have also been times when a particular scripture was what I needed for that moment. I would like to share one of those times.

We live in a culture that is quickly becoming more and more evil. Things that go against the truth of God's Word are celebrated. Life is not valued. Morality is relative. One evening this past summer, after watching the national news, I felt spiritually depleted and defeated. Later that night, I read from 1 Corinthians 4. It was God's encouragement, given to me (and all believers) for such a time as this. Here are some verses that spoke to me from that passage.

- *Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.* 2 Corinthians 4:1
- *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.* 2 Corinthians 4:4-5
- *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.* 2 Corinthians 4:7-9
- *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

In this world where Satan seems to be gaining more and more of a foothold, it is easy to lose heart and want to give up; but we are never without hope. May we each find encouragement from the truth of God's Word, from the power of the Holy Spirit, and from the community of God's faithful believers. ■

Thankful for LCF

by *Delaney Yutzy*

On Sunday afternoon, October 16, Rob and Doris hosted another session of LCF 101 in their home. Gathered around the dining room table, I (along with Rich and Linda Pratt) learned more about LCF's history, doctrine, and ministries. We also discussed the distinctive qualities of Anabaptists, which was very interesting.

I especially liked how Rob emphasized the importance of personal application. LCF preaches the Word of God, but the pastors try not to dictate how to apply it. Instead, they encourage a personal relationship with Jesus, letting the Holy Spirit guide and direct as He sees fit.

I'm thankful for a church that gives the Word of God the utmost respect and authority. If you're new to LCF or have questions about the church, I'd encourage you to check out the next LCF 101. You just might get to see Doris' lovely photo albums in the process! ■



Note: Delaney Yutzy works in the CMC office and began attending LCF this summer. She graduated from Cedarville University with a degree in professional writing, and we are thankful for her willingness to help out with the LCF Connection!

Watch for an interview with her in an upcoming issue and, in the meantime, introduce yourself to her if you have not yet met her.

Behind the Scenes...continued

Perhaps you have already noticed some of the changes that have been taking place. ☺ We look forward to working together and want to do our best to make sure that our church facility continues to be honoring to God and inviting to all who come.

We will be communicating closely with the Building and Grounds Team and other ministry team leaders. We welcome your feedback. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to talk with any of us. ■

The LCF Connection

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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. *Editors: Theresa Hennis, Elisabeth Yoder, Delaney Yutzy, and Doris Swartz*
If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us.