

The LCF Connection

March 2023

The Continued Blessing of Our “New Building”

by Doris Swartz

Do you remember when the children had to put their coats on to go to their Sunday school classes—which were held outside in two modular buildings? Or maybe you remember how challenging it was to try to navigate through a tiny “foyer” before or after the service. Perhaps you remember when we ate potlucks in the sanctuary and did not even have a stove in our makeshift “kitchen.” If so, that means that you have probably been here at LCF for longer than 10 years!

March 17th will mark 10 years since we had our first service in this “new building!” It seems like a good opportunity to pause and reflect on the blessings we continue to enjoy (which we did not have for so many years) and to thank God once again for His faithfulness and blessings. In case you have joined us in the past 10 years or may just need a reminder, following is a brief overview of how God guided and provided.

In the early 1990s, we were meeting in the small church across the field, just to the south of where we are now. Space was tight, and accommodations were limiting. Thus began many long discussions about whether to expand that facility or build a new



building. After a 15-year process of several expansion committees, putting into place some “temporary fixes,” having fund raisers, etc., in 2005, the decision was made to build a new building on the north end of the property.

We formed an Expansion Task Force (pictured above) in April 2006 to manage the expansion project and ensure that it would be consistent with the vision expressed by the elders and deacons. Richard Troyer led the team, which included: Levi Miller, Bob Zachrich, Kevin Duncan, and Phyllis Swartz.

In 2008, the ETF presented the proposed plans to the trustees and followed up with significant revisions. Pictured on the left is the Elders’ Team looking over and discussing the proposed plans.

Continued on page 2...



What is Daily Needs Assistance (DNA)?

by Shepherd Ndungu

Here’s a business idea for you: start a breakfast restaurant with a small grocery store inside. While you’re at it, have clothing options for kids, resources for single mothers, and teach English to foreigners. And bonus points if you can do this at no cost to customers. That is what Daily Needs Assistance or DNA Community Center in Plain City does. It exists to address the daily needs of families in poverty through resources, programs, and building community.

Our Weekly Community Breakfast and Kids Klostet are avenues of beginning and building relationships by sharing a meal and providing free clothing to families in need. The Food Pantry and Personal Needs Pantry are also available for immediate resources, and include food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items. We also provide help with gas, utilities, and housing. Beyond resources, DNA provides various programs for families affected by poverty, addiction, and/or challenges brought on by immigration. We provide ESL classes for immigrant families, giving adults an opportunity to learn English while their kids receive academic help. LIFT Learning and Mentoring connects kids in the Plain City area with mentors from the community or student mentors from Rosedale Bible College. Many of the kids we serve are directly affected



Pictured above is Chris Conte with some of the kids. Chris and the Bible study group he leads are regular volunteers at DNA.

Continued on page 4...

Inside this Issue

The Continued Blessing of Our “New Building”	1
What is DNA?	1
C4 Connections	2
Getting to Know Audrey Miller	3
Reflections: Like Arrows in the Hands of a Warrior	4



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Our "New Building"...continued

In February 2012, Weaver Construction presented LCF with the finished plans for the new building at an estimated cost of \$1,157,000. We had about \$542,000 in our building fund. The congregation was asked to prayerfully make a 2-year Faith Commitment for whatever amount they could, above their normal giving. After those were received, we took out the loan for \$615,000.

After our Sunday morning service on June 10, 2012 we walked across the field to the site for the new building and had the ground breaking ceremony.



Dirt-moving began the following month. It was fun to watch the progress of the building project from week to week. There is a scrapbook of the building process (which is kept in the library) that will be on display in the foyer this month for you to take a look at if you'd like. To help keep the costs down, we did a lot of the work ourselves—from doing carpentry work, electrical work, decorating, etc. to lots of painting and the "all-hands-on deck" cleaning and moving days!



On March 17, 2013, we had our first service in the new building. It felt wonderful to have extra seats available in the sanctuary, Sunday school classes in the same building, storage space, a library, a fully equipped kitchen, a Fellowship Hall for our potlucks, which was also a gym for sports and games, and much more! What a wonderful blessing to us then—and now!

About a month later, on April 14, we invited others in our community to join us for a special Dedication Service and Open House.

We rented the old church out for several years, and then it sat empty for a while. In October 2019 (just before Covid hit), we were very thankful that God provided KLC Services to purchase the building and 4 acres of land. Jim Jones was very instrumental in helping that whole process to happen. The net proceeds of \$178,410 were applied directly to our loan amount.

Thanks to that and your continued generous giving, we currently owe \$48,186 yet and are on track to have that paid in full by July 2024—if not before. We look forward to seeing how God will continue to use this building and the church who meets here to impact many lives and help people to grow in their relationship with God and love for others! May we be faithful stewards of all He gives us! ■



C4 Connections

by Mike & Karen Baker

LCF family, what a privilege to call this place home; thank you for the warm embrace you have shown our family.

We wanted to start a place to communicate with you about what is happening in C4 and ways you can join and pray. Many of you have asked what C4 means. It is simply what it sounds like, C4 the explosive, and I know, not very Anabaptist of us. The meaning behind the name is our hope that our church's youth are ignited and explode for God. Each of them is fearfully and wonderfully made, and according to Ephesians 2:10, given good works in advance that they may walk in them. We want these students to know they are masterpieces and have gifts, and as they enter the world, be walking in these gifts, wherever God may send them.

Since starting in August, we have grown to a group of 11–12 students, with several inviting their friends to join us. We have enjoyed Bible study together, game nights/afternoons, and attending Winter Jam. For several students, it was their first Christian concert. One student said, "I didn't know there was good Christian music!" In the next few months, we will participate in the 30-Hour Famine, attend a TobyMac concert, and head down to Bethel Camp for the high school spring retreat.

We look forward to using this space to share stories, have teens share testimonies, and partner with our church family. This is a growing experience for many of us, involving new adventures. We would covet your prayers as we explore and grow as C4. Karen and I would appreciate your prayers for the following:

- As we grow, and kids from the community come, that it will be a safe place, and they will want to follow Jesus
- An additional couple to join our team and help grow C4
- One of our helpers, Austin, got a job at a local camp April–August, and we are sad/excited to see him go. This could become a full-time ministry job for him, and we pray God's will is done in that situation.

We hope to have a logo and t-shirts made for C4 and look forward to what this year will bring us. The vision statement of C4 is to:

**"Embrace and Pursue Christ
in every season of life."**

We pray that you will join us in that vision. ■

Getting to Know...Audrey (& Peyton) Miller

by Elisabeth Yoder

In the May 2021 issue of the LCF Connection, we interviewed Peyton Miller. Later that year, he married Audrey (Newman). Following is an interview with Audrey to help us learn to know her better. We are glad to have them as part of our church family and encourage you to connect with them as you have the opportunity.

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.

I grew up in Dublin and was homeschooled along with my 7 siblings. After high school, my family moved to Ostrander and started a mini hobby farm. I attended college at Marion Tech, and I'm currently working as an ultrasound technician at Mary Rutan Hospital. My husband, Peyton, and I got married in October 2021, and we live in Unionville Center.

As an ultrasound technician, what part of the body or condition do you find the most interesting to scan?

My favorite specialty to scan so far has been OB. It has been the most interesting specialty to me, and I love getting to show new parents their baby. I would also love to go into pediatrics in the future.

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

Picking just three is hard, but I would say I aspire to be someone who is kind, helpful, and joyful.

What hobby would you love to pursue if time and money were a nonissue?

One of my dreams is to have a personal flower garden/farm and a backyard pottery studio.

What countries are at the top of your travel wish list?

New Zealand, Switzerland, and Italy are the top 3 right now!

What is a skill, accomplishment, or trait that you're proud of?

Making it through college and working in my field. It's been fulfilling to get to help a lot of people and I'm proud of myself for the patience and perseverance it took to accomplish.

Is there a passage or character from the Bible that is particularly meaningful to you and if so, why?

Currently, my favorite passage is in Matthew chapter 6. It talks about not being anxious, and it's a reminder to put all my faith and trust in God. Verses 33 and 34 are my favorite to recite when I feel overwhelmed, and they bring me so much peace and comfort. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for today is its own trouble."*

We love a good love story! Can we have the CliffsNotes version of yours?

We met through mutual friends and quickly realized we loved spending time together. We were good friends for eight months before we started dating and were married one year later!

What is a long-term goal you are working toward together?

We would love to live in the country with a small farm and large garden. We're working toward owning land and getting a couple of Bernese Mountain dogs.

What have you learned about yourselves in marriage?

We're both too lazy to cook and spend too much money on takeout.

What have you learned about each other?

I think we've both learned that we're very patient people. Marriage has shown us how to truly be sacrificial and to put the other person before ourselves—happily and willingly.

What are three things on your shared bucket list?

Lots of traveling! We would love to see the balloon festival in Turkey, snorkel in Iceland, and go hiking/backpacking in Chile.

If you had limitless resources, what would you surprise your spouse with?

- Audrey: I would surprise him with endless travel opportunities.
- Peyton: And I would surprise Audrey with a flower farm or pottery studio. ■



Like Arrows in the Hands of a Warrior....

by Becky Hostetler

*"Children are a heritage from the Lord,
offspring a reward from him.*

*Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.
Blessed is the man who has a quiver full of them."*

Psalm 127:3-4

Have you ever read this passage and wondered why God compares children to arrows? I have. One day last fall, I heard a sermon on parenting based upon this passage, specifically the part about arrows. I had never heard things explained this way. The message fascinated me, and I felt compelled to pass along some key points.

Arrows are polished and sharpened. Arrows are stored in a quiver, but are not meant to be kept there. Arrows are shot in a certain direction with the goal to hit a target.

Just like *arrows are polished and sharpened*, parents have a responsibility to mold and shape their children, and to provide, to the best of their abilities, a healthy home environment where Jesus is King. I found this was easier when the kids were younger, before school, sports, and activities consumed so much time. In our current stage, I look for opportunities in conversations to talk about spiritual matters.

Arrows are stored in a quiver, but not meant to be kept there. The goal is for the arrows (our children) to eventually leave the quiver (our home). With four kids ages 13–20, my family is experiencing that right now. We have one in college, one trying to figure out his "next step," and two right behind him. We are in the process of "launching" our kids into adulthood.



Arrows are shot in a certain direction with the goal to hit a target. We should direct our children toward a relationship with Jesus. As much as we aim our children toward that target, it is ultimately up to them to accept

Jesus. I take comfort in Proverbs 22:6: *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."* That's a proverb, not a promise, but it is still encouraging.

The pastor closed by stating that *many children are being launched without ever being aimed.* Wow! That hit home. How have I, how am I aiming my children toward Jesus? Lots of prayers for wisdom! Lord, may my home be a place that instills biblical values and wisdom in the children you have blessed me with, that they may grow to love and serve You with all of their heart. ■

DNA...continued

by poverty and addiction, and they don't have positive relationships with adults. Our mentoring program allows for those positive adult relationships to be established and continually built through time spent one-on-one with adults from the community. We also put on a yearly Summer Camp, an opportunity for exciting games, art projects, and hands-on career experience. Our primary goal for Summer Camp is to provide a safe atmosphere for kids to be kids. They are able to tap into their imaginations, know that they're loved, and receive opportunities to learn and develop skills to help break the cycle of poverty.

My time at DNA started when I volunteered to run the first 7th & 8th grade week of camp with Sarah Landis (both Sarah and I are now employed at DNA). I had no idea what I was signing up for; I didn't even like kids. But through our various activities, lessons, and moments of vulnerability, I've gained insight into how hard it is to be a kid growing up today, specifically those with dysfunctional homes. It's been a great experience for me to get to connect with the youngest community of the city. That time grew my curiosity for DNA and led me to eventually join their staff.

My position, serving as Administrative Assistant, allows me to help with a lot of our various resources and programs, and most recently to help prepare for a huge transition. We are currently in the process of leaving the facility that has housed all DNA programs for the last 10+ years with no particular building or site to settle into. Despite that, we have trusted that the Lord will continue to meet our needs, and He has in the form of churches volunteering their sanctuaries, gyms, kitchens, and basements to house our different programs. Although we continue to pray for a permanent facility, we are still able to provide for our neighbors in this format. Additionally, we are about to wrap up our second semester of ESL classes and are getting ready for another round of our Summer Camp weeks!

Our core values stem from loving our neighbors, acting to alleviate poverty, and walking together toward Christ. If these values resonate with you, consider learning more about our programs by becoming a mentor, sharing pancakes with us on a Saturday morning, or through prayer. We would love to talk to you more about how you can partner with us in our mission to show the love of Jesus to our neighbors. ■



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