

The LCF Connection

July 2024

City Challenge

BY THE C4 YOUTH GROUP



C4 Youth Group

Mike and Karen - C4 has had a busy past couple of months. In anticipation of our mission trip, we did our fundraiser by flocking houses with flamingos. As a group, we had a blast moving our flamingo flock from house to house. It was also fun seeing how you all got into the flocking with us whether through sending it to someone, purchasing flocking insurance, or receiving the flock with a joyful heart. Thank you so much for participating and helping us to raise money so fourteen of us, three leaders and eleven students, could participate in City Challenge. Every day we had worship, a Bible lesson, outreaches, debriefs, pod time (small group time) and ended the day with hanging out and getting to know each other even better. We learned how to serve with joyful hearts, grow closer to God and rely on Him through the calm and the storms. Our outreaches included going on prayer walks, feeding the homeless, playing games with kids, working in a community garden, cleaning up at the YMCA, and doing yard work. The prayer challenge was a highlight for many. We left the RIC at 11:00 a.m. and headed into downtown Columbus. We had six interns to find with one map. We also had several questions that we had to ask

people as we walked around the city. Another aspect of the challenge was eating. We were given the amount of money a homeless person lives on in a day, so we had \$1.50 per person in our group of four to five people. We were also given \$8 to feed someone else, preferably a homeless person. We had to return to the RIC by 4:00 with the hopes of accomplishing every aspect of the challenge. All three of our groups completed the challenge. We asked our students to write something about their time at City Challenge to help you see the week through their eyes.

Jayce - When I look back on City Challenge, I immediately think of two words...God's Grace. The reason I think of those two words is because throughout the entire week, we weren't just handing out food, water, our time, etc. The most important thing we handed out to everyone we met was God's grace. Not everyone accepted it in the way we would have hoped, maybe some even forgot about what we did, but, no matter what, it was absolutely worth it. As you're reading this last part, I want to ask you for prayer for all the volunteers and all the future youth groups that are helping in similar ways that we did.

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

Thank You, Jim

BY RHODA SOMMERS

In each church, there are people who serve in visible positions and those who serve behind the scenes. Jim Jones is one of those who has served faithfully and largely invisibly at LCF. If you started coming to LCF after 2020, you most likely do not know Jim and Annette Jones, though Jim has served as chair of Church Council since 2015. Jim and Annette moved to Florida in 2020 when they retired, but they continue their regular attendance and involvement with LCF virtually.

Jim and Annette moved to West Jefferson in the mid-1990s. At that time, they began attending Shalom Community Church which became London Christian Fellowship in 2004. After LCF's current building was completed in 2013, Jim was asked to take care of selling the old building. The property needed to be split and parceled which presented some unique challenges with Madison County. After that process was completed, the old building was listed, and Jim played a key role in showing it to a host of interested buyers. Eventually, the building was sold to a business owner who has been a great neighbor for our church. Since the church chose not to use a realtor for the sale of the building, Jim invested a lot of time and energy in getting the building sold. The additional capital from selling the old building along with extra principal payments gave LCF the opportunity to pay off the church building early in June 2024.

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Is There Anyone You Need to Forgive?

A Message from the Pastor

BY REUBEN SAIRS

Is there anyone you need to forgive? Chances are there are people that you need to forgive. Holding back forgiveness is a refutation of our gospel. We forgive others because we remain keenly aware that God has forgiven, and continues to forgive, us. Our new nature in Christ is becoming more like Him.

Forgiveness is not easy. Sometimes I think of it in terms of cases rather than individuals—people are connected to circumstances in a worldly conspiracy of forces that have somehow wounded us, taken something from us, insulted us. It does no good to think that the offense isn't true in many cases. It may not be “our” problem in terms of accountability, but something happened, and it created a bitterness in our souls. That is our problem.

It is good advice that there are situations we cannot change—they're real, but they may be past resolving in any way that might vindicate us. What we can do is work on forgiveness. In most serious cases, forgiveness is an ongoing struggle and not something that settles once and for all.

But what did Jesus say?

Matthew 6:14, *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

What did Paul say? Colossians 3:12, *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”*

I don't need to pile on more verses. Christians know these truths, but we can find the truths about forgiveness very hard to do.

The Matthew 6 passage follows the Lord's prayer just above it in that chapter. *“And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.”* It's not shocking that the prayer asking not to be led into temptation follows quickly on its heels.

Learning to forgive is a common and enormous issue in our lives. Probably everyone has been wounded at some point, so who can say that it is “not my problem.” Wouldn't making prayer in this regard a regular part of both our personal and our Sunday morning worship be an opportunity? It is an opportunity to affirm in faith that we are forgiven by God, and that we all share a desperate need to be forgiven. Thus we affirm the message of salvation. We affirm God's love shown in forgiveness; we affirm the new life and perspective we have in Christ.

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In 2015 after 30 years of service in the military, Jim retired, and Rob Swartz asked him to serve as chair of Church Council. Jim agreed and served as chair until June 2024 when he decided it was time to step down. Jim said, “The highlight of serving on church council, hands down, was working as a team with...fellow council members.... Everyone brought a unique perspective, and it was always a privilege getting to know them and serving with them on a personal level.”



During Jim's time as Church Council chair, some challenges the church faced included the COVID pandemic shut-down and needing to switch to online services. Years when the annual budget was tight and resulted in needing to make difficult financial decisions to stay within budget have also been challenging; however, God always provides, and the congregation continues to display overwhelming generosity.

Jim commented that “the future for the church is in good hands with those that continue to serve as they will take LCF to the next level as God continues to provide. I'm thankful that I can continue to stay connected through the online services, emails, texts, and conversations.”

Those of us who have served with Jim on Church Council have appreciated his strong leadership, organizational skills, adeptness in navigating what can feel like competing needs and desires, and his ability to build a team to meet expectations and fulfill responsibilities.

Elders' Notes

BY JEREMY HISEY

The Elders had our June meeting on Tuesday the 18th at the home of Abraham and Naomi Ndungu. Attending was Rob Swartz, Reuben and Vicki Sairs, Abraham and Naomi Ndungu, Gideon Eichorn and Jeremy Hisey. Abraham kicked us off with a quick tour of their house before leading us in prayer.

There were a wide range of topics discussed which included the upcoming celebration of life for Arlene Idlewine, communion service on 7/14, a possible outdoor service later this year, as well as the council nominations and the church constitution updates. We also talked about some of the positions we still need filled for Children's Ministry Coordinator and help for the Youth leaders.

Other topics of discussion were fall small groups, Sunday morning offerings, needs of those in the congregation and adult discipleship class. We enjoyed snacks provided by Abraham and Naomi including delicious Chai Tea. Reuben closed our time by leading us in prayer.

Getting to Know Wayne & Sherry Skinner

BY THERESA HENNIS

We were happy to get to know Wayne and Sherry Skinner through doing an interview with them for our July Connection. Of course, a one-time interview can never fill in for getting to know them better on a personal basis, and we invite you to use this interview to learn a little bit about them and then introduce yourselves to them and get to know them even better. Thanks, Wayne and Sherry, for sharing!

Where are you both from, originally?

Wayne - Flint, MI

Sherry - South Tom's River, NJ

How did you meet, and was there anything memorable or special that you would like to share about how you did meet?

We were both students at Grand Rapids School of Bible & Music. I offered to hold his coat while he was playing foosball.

Is there anything special or unusual about your engagement / wedding?

Dad walked me (Sherry) down the aisle, and then turned around and did the ceremony—he was a Pastor.

Do you have children? If so, how many, their names, and do you have any grandchildren? Any beloved pets?

One son named Daryl, age 36, and a cat named Hercules

Wayne, what is one thing that stands out to you as unique or special about Sherry that you feel people should know about her?

She's a good seamstress.

Sherry, what is one thing that stands out to you as unique or special about Wayne that you feel people should know about him?

He enjoys putting together semi-truck models.

Who influenced each of you the most in life and why?

Sherry - Mom & Dad were both godly examples.

Wayne - Dad, because he was non-compromising.

If you could pick any particular time in history to live, when would it be? And why would that be?

Sherry - Renaissance period. I love anything kings & queens & castles.

Wayne - 70s and 80s- had the best music & cars.

What is something you love to do as a hobby or pastime? And do you do those things by yourselves or together?

Sherry - sew and play piano by myself.

Wayne - wood working, play guitar, assemble semi-truck models.

What would be a perfect day to you? What would that look like?

Sherry - a foot of snow!

Wayne - sunny 75 degrees

What do you feel is your unique spiritual gift or gifts?

Sherry - teaching children, helping

Wayne - helping

Is there is one thing that you could change about your life or yourself, what would that be? And if you're happy with it as is, then that's great. Tell us what makes you happy with how things are as they are.

Sherry - my height & weight

Wayne - my height - be taller

What is your favorite way to study God's word? Is it something you like to do by yourself or with each other?

Sherry - by myself - reading devotional guides.

Wayne - just read scripture.



We are thankful to God for bringing you both to LCF. We look forward to sharing life together.

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Micah - This was my first time participating in City Challenge, and it was absolutely worth it. I loved getting to know my fellow youth people better than I had already known them. I loved being able to help people we came across during our brown bagging and prayer challenge. I loved doing the work/service projects. We were split up into pod groups during City Challenge, and our discussion time with our pods was one of my favorite times of the day. I was able to unwind and just talk. My pod often went over the allotted time, but it was so fun just talking about random nonsense that ended up leading to deep conversations. I'm sad that I will not be able to participate in City Challenge again due to the fact that I am graduating next year, but I hope that C4 can participate in the future and have just as much fun, if not more. Thank you to all the people who donated through our flocking fundraiser to help us go to City Challenge. Thank you to all of Rosedale International and all the Interns for making City Challenge so much fun and so invigorating spiritually!

Ella - City Challenge helped me get out of my comfort zone to be able to openly pray for strangers as well as just bring up my faith. What helped me throughout the week was the advice that our job is to plant a seed in others about the Lord, and to trust and pray that He will do the rest.

Isaiah Zane - This was my first time doing City Challenge. It was enjoyable, and I had fun. My favorite event was the prayer challenge. I was the navigator in my pod, and I was able to ask many people questions as part of the challenge. I also took excessive notes, helping my pod to win which made me enjoy the challenge even more. I didn't really find the walking difficult since I work out a lot, and I don't really get nervous talking to strangers because we travel a lot. Rather than *learning* something new from God, I felt more of a *reinforcement* of some things God had already been working in me. I am very thankful for the experience I had at City Challenge.

Patrick - I really enjoyed City Challenge as it was very nice to spend the evenings in our pods and just conversing with a lot of people in the evenings.

Derek - My experience at City Challenge was really good. I got to meet some really good people and made some strong bonds with friends. Something God showed me during City Challenge was love. God calls us to love everyone, even the ones we hate and despise. My favorite part of City Challenge was the prayer challenge. Our pods had to find interns who were in locations around Columbus. We couldn't ride the bus but had to walk. The only thing we had for directions was a map (no GPS allowed). On the way to find the interns, we had to go up to random people and ask ice-breaker questions. We also had 8 bucks to provide a meal to a homeless person and \$1.50 per person in our pod to get something to eat. My group combined all our money so we had \$7.50. We were able to get a large Dominoes pizza. Overall, I had a fun time at City Challenge.

Jolene - City Challenge was an amazing experience! It helped me grow in so many different ways. Before City Challenge, I'd had a hard time reaching out and sharing about my faith, but now I find myself wanting to talk to everyone about it! It helped me realize that I want to do RIC's Reach Program once I am out of high school.



Flocking Fundraiser

Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

The LCF Council met on June 18th. In attendance were Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, and Russ Hauge by phone conference.

Sarah paid off the remaining mortgage on the church building on June 1st and posted an announcement on Band at that time. Council approved payments to Rosedale International and Rosedale Bible College that had been previously deferred in May.

Please congratulate Derek Elfrink who has been awarded the \$500 Rosedale scholarship by the Church Council.

The Congregation placed nominations for the open Church Council position in June, and Zach Freer received the most nominations. The leadership team has approved Zach's joining the Council pending a vote for member acceptance which will be held on July 14th. Council approved the final version of the updated Constitution and are planning a vote for member acceptance on July 14th as well.



The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship.

We would love to hear your feedback. Email us at secretary@lcfweb.org.

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