

# The LCF Connection

August 2024

## Children's Ministry Update

BY BECKY HOSTETLER

My husband Phil and I have been attending LCF for over 21 years now. Ever since we have been a part of this fellowship, there has always been a large number of children. As time went on, we contributed to that number by adding four of our own. ☺ Then, Covid hit. Our congregation weathered that storm, and, in the process, the number of children in attendance dropped. Even last fall Sunday School attendance was low, at least in our older two classes. There were several Sundays that I did not have class due to having only one or no students. It was frustrating....preparing each week and not knowing what to expect on Sunday. I began to pray, "Lord, give us children to teach. You have blessed us with this beautiful facility and resources, now please bring the children."



Becky's Middle School Class

The school year continued, and gradually I found myself teaching a class every Sunday. In fact, I now have six regular attenders on my roster (those who have completed grades 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>). One Sunday we took a class picture.

Later that day, as I was studying the picture, it dawned on me that God answered my prayer. Praise God for bringing me children every Sunday to teach them about His Word! What a joy and a privilege to serve Him in this way.

My class isn't the only one to see an increase in attendance. In fact, we currently have so many children that the Children's Ministry Team is planning to add another class. We will now have a preschool class (ages 3-4), an early elementary class (grades K-1), an elementary class (grades 2-4), and a middle school class (grades 5-8). I am thrilled about the growth in our children's ministry program. Now we need your help. Would you consider teaching a class for a quarter? You may find, like me, that it is your calling. We have the opportunity to impact these children for the kingdom of God. Let's make the most of it.

If teaching is something you have interest in, please contact Rob, Jodi, Rosy, or me to answer any questions and begin the screening process; and whether you end up teaching or not, we would appreciate your prayers for this vital ministry within our church. We are also in need of a Children's Ministry Coordinator and would welcome your prayers that God would provide in that way as well.

*"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." -Psalm 78:4 (ESV)*

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### How to Share Your Faith

#### *A Message from the Pastor*

BY ROB SWARTZ

My doorbell rang, and there were two kids from my neighborhood asking if I had any work for them to do to earn some money. I had seen them around and knew where they lived. Offhand, I couldn't think of anything, but I did have this thought. "Here is an opportunity to develop a relationship." So, I took their number and later I had them come over a couple different times to help me with some projects. As we worked together, we learned to know each other, and they have stopped by since just to talk and hang out. Then I got this idea of doing a neighborhood Bible study with them and whoever else they would like to invite. I asked them, and they liked the idea, so we met for the first time today. I don't know how long it will last or where it will go, but I am taking the opportunity to see. ☺

My advice to you is to look for your opportunities and take them. You will need to look for ways to connect with people who don't know Jesus or you're not sure if they do. You will need to think creatively about how to engage them in conversation about Jesus. And then you will need to plunge in...whether you feel qualified and confident...or not so much. Most importantly, be praying for opportunities and praying that God will prepare the hearts of the people you meet.

I've tried lots of different things in the past. I think a good verse to keep in mind is 1 Peter 3:15 which reminds us to be ready in all circumstances to share the hope that we have, but to do it with gentleness and respect. This helps guide our attempts to

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*Rob and the neighborhood kids meeting for Bible Study*

share Jesus. It's good news! Jesus does ask for everything from us, but He offers so much more in return. How do we gently and respectfully share this good news with our friends?

Yes, I said friends. Be intentional about making friends with nonbelievers, but be careful. In your attempts to save others, you may end up falling yourself. If you want to share Jesus with nonbelievers, you will need to spend time with them. There isn't really any other way to do this. How you do this will be unique and different from how others may do it. God made us all unique and has given us different circumstances. Take who you are, your interests, your connections, your work, your play...and use it to share the gospel.

The workplace is an important place to be respectful, but I have had so many good conversations about God in that place. I led Bible studies over lunch time. I've gone out to lunch with people. I miss this place of natural opportunity.

Children are another fantastic opportunity. Families end up doing many of the same things: playgrounds, sports teams, band concerts, drama teams, school activities, etc. Doris and I found that the busy childhood years were great natural opportunities to connect with others in similar stages of life.

We included our children in this vision. It became evident that our oldest daughter was a "people-gatherer" so in her high school years she and her siblings brought young people from high school to our home for a Bible study. Our kids brought the youth and did the games and food. I simply taught them from the Bible. It was an opportunity that fell in my lap, and I took it. I don't know what happened with most of those youth, but I know two young women who came to faith during that time and are living for the Lord today. It was God's doing; I just needed to recognize the opportunity and be available.

Lately, our primary focus has been our neighborhood. We take walks almost every evening, partly for exercise, but partly for meeting people. We've met a lot of people who don't know Jesus. Our small group has been made up largely of people from our neighborhood. There are other neighbors we could probably be a little more bold in talking to about spiritual things. I'm praying we know how to do this with gentleness and respect...but to do it.

Our neighborhood is where I first met these kids that I'm starting a Bible study with. Will it fly? I don't know, but I'm going to put myself out there and try. I think the opportunities are many when we intentionally live life with our eyes open and a willingness to do whatever it is God might ask. The harvest really is plentiful.

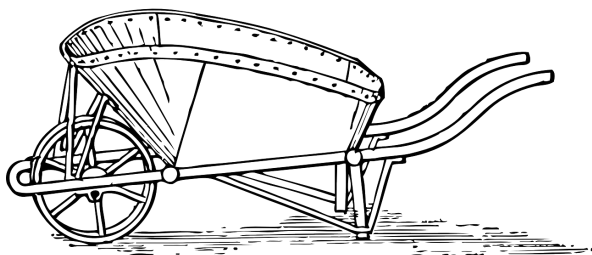
I can't say what it looks like for you, but I'm sure you are uniquely made and placed in the world to share the gospel, and I would encourage you to simply be intentional about making the most of your opportunities. You may need to change some things to create more opportunities. Be willing to do that. I'd love to hear your stories of how God has brought people across your path and how you have been respectful but bold in telling them about Jesus. It's an exciting adventure, and we never know exactly where it will take us, but it is one of the most fulfilling things to do in this life. May we encourage one another in this great work and never give up!

## Caught in the Act!

BY JODI TRAVERSE

Ray Raber and Rob Devlin recently spent several hours working on the landscaping here at the church. They trimmed bushes, spread mulch, and hauled off quite a bit of plant trimmings. Thank you for volunteering your time to help keep the church looking beautiful!

As you can imagine, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the church building and property looking nice. The Buildings and Grounds team is often looking for volunteers to help with projects such as this one. If you have any interest in getting involved, please contact Phil Hostetler.



*Our hardworking volunteer landscapers*

# Getting to Know the Wengerd Family

BY THERESA HENNIS



Many of you have gotten to know a little bit about Brandon and Megan Wengerd and their family. We hope this interview offers a little more insight into who they are. Thank you for sharing with us, and we look forward to getting to know you better!

## Where are you from, originally?

Megan grew up in Garden City, Missouri, a small town just south of Kansas City. Brandon was born in Goshen, Indiana. His family moved to Rapid City, South Dakota when he was two and then back to Goshen in high school. He claims the Black Hills as where he grew up.

## Where do you live now?

This past November we moved from Missouri to a rental house in Columbus. In January, we bought a house in London.

## Are you from a large or small family?

Megan is third oldest out of four with an older brother and sister and a younger sister. Brandon is the oldest out of three with a younger brother and sister.

## You have four lovely children? Their names? Anything special about them you'd like to share?

We have four kids, Adda 10, Cali 8, Nehemiah 4 and Ruby 2. We are currently homeschooling but our schooling experiences have varied each year since Adda began kindergarten.

## How did you two meet, and was there anything unusual about how you met?

We met at Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas. Brandon was the teacher's assistant for Megan's algebra class. Never being a huge fan of math, Megan was not shy about needing to ask Brandon for help with homework. 😊

## Where did you get married and is there something special you'd like to share about your wedding day?

We were married at Megan's home church in Missouri. We took our chances at having our reception outside. After a week of unusually rainy days, it cleared out just in time. It was a little warm and humid but not nearly as bad as it could be for a typical Missouri June evening. Our wedding and reception included a variety of music from singing congregational hymns to songs being led by Megan's dad's international champion barbershop quartet.

## What do you do, as far as a career or service work?

Brandon is an estimator of high-voltage substations and transmission lines for an engineering company in Columbus. Megan has the more challenging job of guiding and nurturing our kids at home. In the past, she has worked at a few different coffee shops as a barista.

## What would you say is a perfect day? What would you be doing?

Brandon would be running a marathon in another state to get closer to running one in all 50 states. Megan would be exploring for unique coffee shops in between cheering Brandon on at different points during the race.

## If you had to give up one of your "creature comforts" which one would you let go? Which one could you not do without?

Megan would have a hard time giving up coffee. Brandon would have a hard time giving up potato chips.

## What motivates you most or inspires you?

We'll share a favorite scripture for this:

Megan - Psalm 25:4-5

*"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you."*

Brandon - Hebrews 12:1-2a

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."*

## What can we, as a church, pray about for you?

Parenting is an everyday need for prayer. A dream of ours would be to open a coffee shop in hopes of also potentially starting a church through it.



## The Joy of a Child

BY JODI TRAVERSE

When was the last time you stared in wonder as you watched popcorn pop? Or when was the last time you starting dancing in your living room because your favorite song started playing? Watching Theo delight in the ordinary things of life is one of my favorite things about being his mom right now. I love seeing him be happy and so full of joy! Watching him be amazed at what I consider to be the small things reminds me to take a step back and do the same.

If I am so excited to see my child be filled with joy, how much more is God hoping to see us filled with His joy? I often think back to a pivotal point in my teenage years when I was mowing the lawn and listening to "Thrive" by Casting Crowns. It suddenly struck me that God didn't want me to be wallowing in the sadness I was being drawn to more and more. He wanted me to enjoy the life He gave me. He wanted to see me be happy.

Now that I have a child, I can see that even more clearly. I love it when I know Theo is happy! I will gladly act a little silly, even in public, if it makes my little boy giggle. And that kind of love is nowhere near the perfect love that God has for us!

I know that as we grow older and our lives become more complicated, it's natural to feel burdened. I'm not saying we need to pretend life is all sunshine and roses. But I think we would all do well to watch the children around us and remember how we also once experienced such pure, innocent joy. What can we do to experience a joy like that again?



## Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

The LCF Council met on July 23, 2024. In attendance were Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Russ Hauge, and Rob Swartz by phone conference.

Sarah noted that she had filed the church payoff documentation with the recorder's office to complete the steps to register the final mortgage processing.

While we continue to review the budget, the Council approved making the quarterly payment to RNOC while temporarily holding back the latest payments to Rosedale International and Rosedale Bible College that were last paid in June.

The LCF Council is planning to meet next on August 20th.



*Isaiah Zane, Ella, Jolene, and Micah*

## Bethel Camp

BY ELLA HOSTETLER

The theme of Bethel Camp the week I attended was "Therefore Go." As Christians, we are called to share our faith with others. In doing this, we give others the opportunity to know the Lord and to build a relationship with Him. A passage that I memorized, that was used very frequently in the sermons at camp, was Matthew 28:18-20. It emphasizes that God calls us to share our faith, and to baptize them in the name of the Father, while reminding us that God is with us through all of it. I was reminded that not only can we share Christ through directly bringing up God in conversation, but also by the way that we live and treat others. Making disciples is not an option, but a command given to us by the Lord. I think this year's theme was something that I, and many other Christians, need to be reminded of. Being in an environment with such uplifting people who are on fire for God immensely strengthens your faith.

This year the girls in my cabin were incredible; always praying for one another and building each other up. The campers were offered different activities that we could sign up to participate in. Some of the ones that I did included canoeing, creek hiking, art room, and pickleball. This just added to the experience and allowed for the campers to bond and spend quality time with other Christians.

At the very beginning of the week, we were split into teams with other campers and counselors, and had a variety of games that our teams could win for points. At the end of the week, whatever team had the most points won team games! My team ended up in third place. Some of the games we played included Capture the Flag, Midnight Olympics, Miller B, and Kickball. Every year after camp, I come home with not only a Kentucky accent, but also a fire to share Christ, worship Him, and obey Him. All in all, the worship, the sermons, the incredible campers and counselors, and the exciting activities made that week an unforgettable one.



## 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](mailto:secretary@lcfweb.org).  
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