

The LCF Connection

March 2025

Ladies' Bible Study

BY MARTIE GEORGE

Molly Rosati sent out the invitation for a ladies Bible study of 1 Peter, and I'm so glad she did. A group of ladies met for a sweet time of fellowship for six weeks.

It was said many times in our meetings how much we were enjoying this time of fellowship with God and one another.

Molly was encouraged that God met us "Under His Wings" (a favorite hymn of Mabel's which we sang several times) as we met at Rhoda Sommer's home. He promises in Matthew 18:20, "*where two or more are gathered in My name, there I am with them.*"



Rachel Troyer remarked, "It is always a blessing and encouragement to me to sit with other women around the Word of God "

Doris Swartz shared, "I always enjoy the opportunity to study God's Word with other ladies, to learn and to know one another better as we share insights and pray with and for each other."

I so thoroughly enjoyed this time of studying and fellowship. I learned a lot from the women sharing their thoughts on 1 Peter, their life experiences, praises, prayers, Molly's activities and leadership. I will especially continue to reflect on Mabel Sommer's witness of how God has been with her and her attitude of gratitude.

Please be encouraged to be involved in prayer and Bible study, especially with others. We had such a time of refreshing, and I want that for all of us.

Inside this Issue

Ladies' Bible Study	1
What Kind of Personality Do You Have?	1
Council Update	2
Getting to know Bill & Eilene Duncan	3
Celebrating God's Love	4
Elders Notes	4



255 US 42 NE London, OH 43140
(740) 490-2121 LCFweb.org

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

What Kind of Personality Do You Have?

A Message from the Pastor

BY REUBEN SAIRS

What kind of personality do you have? A whole industry of tests and tools exists to tell you who you are. I find that there is at least a little bit of baloney in personality types as laid out in various schemes from Myers Briggs to Enneagrams. The tests are helpful, but I suggest a grain or two of salt. There are many testing instruments. Once upon a time I took one called DISC and another that matched me to Biblical characters (I'm not tellin'). Tests can be helpful, but they can also be a little off track. It doesn't take a genius to see where the questions are going, and you can manipulate the results to make yourself look like the person you would like to be. More than that, though, tests can be restrictive. Our personalities are complex, dynamic, contradictory and altogether beyond simple summaries. I found that though I generally was put in a type and it was by and large accurate, in fact I straddled a couple of categories. I didn't fit any one pattern in some glaring way or another. I think all of us, at least in part, fall in the "unique" category. We're our very own combination of things. That's mostly why you're so wonderful.

(Continued on page 2)

Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge by Microsoft Teams conference.

January income was \$17,697 which was more than our expenses of \$12,611 by \$5,086. Our YTD income is \$17,797 compared to our YTD expenses of \$12,611, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$5,086.

The LCF 2025 Budget was completed, reviewed by the Elders team, and submitted to the congregation on February 14th for approval.

With the budget completed, the council's primary focus shifted to completion of the Church Premise Use Policy. While not fully updated, the majority of the February meeting was spent working on the policy. Good progress was made both prior to the meeting and during the actual meeting. The goal will be to have the policy updated for review by the elders during April.

Previously approved furnace maintenance was completed early February with the repair of furnace #2 and replacement of furnace #3.

Ministry Works has been contracted to process all LCF payroll and tax reporting activity beginning the end of March. Sarah is in the process of finalizing all of the details with the first payroll anticipated to be auto deposited on March 26th. This will provide LCF with another level of review and remove our dependency on constantly updating our payroll software with yearly tax modifications.

There will not be a council meeting during March. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15th, at 7 pm by Microsoft Teams conference.



(Personality...continued from page 1)

One of the earlier attempts to categorize temperament types was based on humors—biological elements: Sanguine, Melancholic, Phlegmatic and Choleric. You can have fun looking those up and finding free tests online. I fall in the Choleric pattern—something similar to what the other tests found. Among its main presentations is anger. I get it. That much is true. Anger seems to be woven right into who I am and why I do what I do. It's almost always there, I think. But is anger always childish tantrums, lashing out, barely in control? Does anger have any powers that aren't destructive? I insist that anger can be a positive energy. If God engineered a human race, a set of human natures each with different presentations, then isn't it likely that all of them can bear God's image and overcome the sinful proclivities of that particular type? All types can bear the wonderful fruit of the Holy Spirit. Love is the chief exhibit of God in our lives. We can all do it.

I don't generally go through my day with seething anger and a hair trigger. But I find things that make me angry, and they put my spiritual faculties to work to respond, to be a Christian in that moment. But it is anger. In that sense all the negative thoughts or behaviors that might rise from anger also become my enemies, and I'm mad at them, too. I don't like being selfish, or greedy, or disrespectful to someone. The absence of love in a given situation makes me mad, so I'd better summon more love from within.

Here are some anger verses that mean a lot to me. James 1:20. Ephesians 4:26, apparently a reference to Psalm 4:4, which implies that it is okay to be angry, but you can control it.

The simple summary is that there's more to me than that one type, and many things in me don't fit the type. That will be true of everyone. Some of the more sophisticated personality measurements consider contexts—who you are in certain situations. I'd say, too, that age and experience work for us. As time goes by our rough edges smooth, and we learn to play different parts as situations demand.

My free pastoral advice is to be happy with who you are, and assume there are dominant traits that give you a personality. We could put on many of those traits and wear them badly, but at the same time under the hand of God working in the Holy Spirit those same traits become gifts that the rest of us need. We need you to be you. Not someone else.

Getting to Know Bill & Eilene Duncan

BY THERESA HENNIS

Many of you have gotten to know a little bit about Kevin Duncan's parents Bill and Eilene since they started attending LCF regularly. We hope this interview gives you a little more insight into who they are and what interests you may have in common. Thank you, Bill and Eilene, for sharing with us, and we look forward to getting to know you better!

Where are you from, originally?

Bill was originally from Sedalia before moving to Tradersville (don't blink or you may just miss Tradersville). In Tradersville, he and his dad, Everett, farmed 850 acres by themselves. I (Eilene) grew up on a dairy farm on the Arbuckle Road in Somerford Township. When our son David was eight months old, we moved to Twinsburg. A few months later, Kevin was born. Bill was a machinist grinding landing gears for all commercial, military, and private planes. I was the head of our church's day care before going into customer service. We lived there for thirty-one years until Bill got sick, and we moved back.

Are you from a small or large family?

Bill is the second of five children (Bob, Bill, Kay, Debbie, and Linda). His was a tight-knit family with Sunday dinners at his place with *all* the relatives. I am the youngest of four children (Carol, Ivan, Arlene, and Eilene). Many of you knew my twin, Arlene, who passed away last May. She was only six minutes older than me.

How long have you been married?

We will be married sixty-two years in June.

Are you a student or graduate?

We are retired.

Do you have any special interests/hobbies?

Bill loves to work jigsaw puzzles. I enjoy doing word-search puzzles. Both of us enjoy our sons, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Of course, we also enjoy our puppy, Annie Oakley. She's the most spoiled puppy.



What is one thing or person that has inspired you or made a special difference in your life?

We both believe our dads made us who we are today. Both of our dads taught us if you are going to do something, do it right the first time. They taught us to work hard and have faith in God. They also taught us to be kind and help others.

Do you have a favorite scripture/passage?

We both believe strongly in the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Bill would like to go to Scotland since the Duncans originally came from Scotland. I just want to see all of the USA.

What is something you feel passionate about or about which you hope to make a difference?

I believe that more people should know the Golden Rule. What a wonderful world this would be if everyone would treat others as they would want to be treated. I try to say something nice to everyone I encounter. You never know when someone just needs a smile and a kind word.

What is some advice you've taken that you feel might help someone else?

Be yourself, and be a true friend.

What, from the Bible, has impacted your life for the better and that you wish more people knew?

John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that whoever believeth in him shall have eternal life."* It may surprise some, but we learned that verse not in church but in school. People would come to schools and give the children New Testaments if they memorized that verse. Everyone did, as they wanted that little book. It meant so much to me that God would give His Son so I could live in Heaven with Him.

How do you feel most comfortable sharing the love of Jesus to others?

Just talking to people.

Celebrating God's Love

BY JODI TRAVERSE



It's always fun to walk into church on Sunday morning and see some extra decorations and food to make the day a little special. On February 23rd (delayed a week because of church being canceled due to bad weather the week before), the congregational care team had set up a photo backdrop and brought in some delicious food for everyone to enjoy. There were also some verses displayed on the wall and an area where people were able to write encouraging notes. Thank you to the congregational care team for all the work you put into this!



Elders Notes

BY DORIS SWARTZ

The elders gathered at Rob and Doris Swartz's home on February 5th. After our time of sharing updates, concerns, and praises and praying together, we began by reviewing and approving the 2025 Budget we received from the

Council. We are thankful for all the time and work they put into it.

On February 9th, the congregation will be voting on the elders recommendation to invite Corin Wenger to come for a paid part-time one year associate pastor internship. Assuming that it passes, we will proceed with making the offer to Corin.

We are planning to have an elders retreat at the Tanglewood Manor in Hocking Hills April 25th & 26th. Megan has agreed to organize the food for it. One of the main areas of discussion will be the role of pastors and elders in church, especially in light of adding an associate pastor intern to our pastoral team.

We will have an announcement about Bethel Camp on February 9th. We are continuing to work on the policy concerning requests that we receive from people outside of our conference.

We like the giving focus that we added to our Sunday service. It's a good reminder to all of us that everything we give to God—whether in the offering being passed, donations made online, giving of our time, abilities, etc.—is an act of worship.

We began a discussion about how a person's beliefs and practice impacts their ability to serve in various positions at LCF. We will think and pray about this and continue to discuss it more later.

Rob & Doris and Reuben and Vicki will be attending Pastors Conference in Sarasota, and thus will not be at LCF on Sunday, February 16th and 23rd. The elders will be covering things while they are away. Our next meeting will be on March 12th.



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.
Editors: Jodi Traverse, Theresa Hennis, Doris Swartz