

The LCF Connection

June 2025

A Season of Change for Our Family

BY COLLEEN WOLFORD

Life brings many seasons, and for our family, this is a time of big changes. As we look back with gratitude on the years we've spent in this community, we also look forward with hope and faith in where God is leading us next.

This past month, both Amber and Ashton graduated from college. Ashton graduated from Hope College and has accepted a position as a Chemical Processing Engineer near Holland, Michigan. Amber graduated from Ohio Northern University and has been accepted into a masters program in Orthotics and Prosthetics in Tampa, Florida.

With Amber beginning her next chapter in Florida, she and I will be moving there this summer. Dave is nearing retirement, with less than a year left of service at the Westerville Fire Department. Once he retires, he plans to join us in Florida as well.

These transitions are exciting and a little bittersweet. We've been blessed to be part of this church family for the past 20 years. You've walked alongside us through many of life's moments, and it's hard to imagine not being here with you all each week.

Please keep our family in your prayers as we navigate these changes. While there are many unknowns ahead, we feel God's hand in each step. Doors have opened, plans are unfolding, and we trust that He is guiding our path.



*The Wolford family (from left to right):
Amber, Ashton, Dave, and Colleen*

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Speaking Man to Man

A Message from the Pastor

BY ROGER HAZEN

Right around Father's Day, I was talking with a brother in a church I once pastored. He said he had noticed over the years that on Mother's Day, the sermons of most preachers usually had to do with what a great job the mothers were doing, how much the world depended on them, etc. But on Father's Day, the sermons were more like locker room pep talks to a bunch of guys who weren't doing too well in the game of life. All about everything we fathers, or men in general, needed to change to fly right in life and in God's kingdom. As I pondered my own track record of sermons, as well as those I had heard, I think he had correctly identified a trend. I wondered why. I'm guessing part of the answer is that most pastors are men, and men preaching from the pulpit, while unafraid to go where Scripture goes concerning God's will for Christian women, are going to hesitate to give the sisters in church a "straighten up and fly right if you want to be a good mother" kind of message. Most men would agree that while we can know some of what women are going through, as men we haven't experienced what women have experienced. To take the liberty of telling the women how they need to do things, especially as mothers, goes beyond the comfort level of most male pastors. But when it comes to men, and being fathers, we male pastors have a much keener insight into what's going on. And just maybe the sermon we preach to fathers, or men in general, has a lot to do with what we know to be in our own hearts and souls, and so we're somewhat preaching to ourselves.

That being said, I admit that every so often, it's nice to hear someone tell me I'm doing okay as a man and father. My children are now adults, responsible for their own decisions, and I have two grandchildren. But I'd guess there are a few men right now with young children who might need to hear that same kind of message. Don't get me wrong. I'll be happy to tell you how you need to straighten up and fly right as a father if you're being lackluster in your duties. But most Christian men I know are

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Celebrating Our 2025 Graduates



Micah Baker

Hello LCF family! Big news—I graduated! I still can't believe high school is over. I've been homeschooled my whole life and actually finished a year early. I didn't skip a grade, but when we lived in Africa, we did school year-round. I worked hard in elementary school, and thanks to my amazing teacher, I got ahead. I'm glad I did—senioritis hit hard! I've always loved learning, but by the end, I was ready to be done.

Now on to what's next! Since I'm a bit younger than most graduates, I'm taking a gap year. You'll still see me around LCF! I'm working to save up so I only need to work part-time in college. I already help with races alongside my mom and have some job options lined up for the fall. This summer, I'm working at Bethel Camp for two weeks in June then attending High School Camp in July. After that, I'll help with Ride For Missions and hopefully attend Multiply Conference. After my gap year, I plan to attend Lancaster Bible College to study Intercultural Studies. My dream job is to be a travel journalist, but I'm open to wherever God leads.

Here are a few fun facts about me:

- I have a major book addiction—reading, collecting, even writing (though I rarely finish). I own nearly 200 books.
- My favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 2:10. It's brought me comfort during hard times.
- I like to rollerblade and kayak when it's warm outside.
- A tough part of my story: I nearly died at age two when I stopped breathing. I don't remember much, but it left some lingering effects.
- Highlights from this past year? Definitely our family RV trip and my youth group's City Challenge—both were incredible!

That's a bit about me! Feel free to come chat if you want to hear more. I love talking—sometimes too much!

Wesley Miller

Hi there! I'm Wesley Miller, and I've recently graduated from Capital University in Bexley, Ohio! My degree is a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science. In addition, I was able to study different aspects of music and music technology, as well as perform with several ensembles, including a semester with the Capital Consort Choir and Capital's Lab Band jazz ensemble! I'm very grateful for the people, friends, girlfriend, and family who were able to help me along the way and help me find myself, as a young adult taking my next steps into my career and life as a whole! At the moment, I've been accepted into Nationwide Insurance as a TEC Associate, where I will be in a full-time, rotational program for two years, helping different teams in regards to software engineering and other IT projects!

One part of finding myself through these 4 years is how I was able to truly define my faith and beliefs, as a believer in the Christian faith. I've been connected with the LCF community my whole life, but to go out into the world and figure out how to think about my faith (and applying it in my daily life) has been a difficult process. However, I think the most important facet of my faith I've made sure to expand upon is how Jesus calls us to be kind and caring to ALL people, unconditionally. Sharing that kind of love in all the different circumstances the world throws at us as believers can be trying, but I can assure you, the journey in making that a core part of my adult life has been worth it! Galatians 5:22-23 shows us that, *"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."* As I go on in my adult life, I hope and pray that I can keep to these words, and grow as a believer in Christ!



Evan Hostettler

I graduated from West Jefferson High school and Tolles Career Center. At Tolles, I was in the welding program and participated in an internship. This summer I am working at Zoombezi Bay as a lifeguard. In the fall, I plan on attending the Rosedale Trades program where I will take both trade and Bible classes. I am looking forward to learning about other trades.

A favorite Bible verse is *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9

Congratulations Class of 2025!

There are quite a few graduates at LCF this year! In addition to the graduates who chose to be featured here, we also have two others who graduated, Kaleigh Duncan from high school and Mike Baker from college.

We celebrate with you all as you reach these milestones and wish you the best as you enter a new phase in your life.



Amber Wolford

I graduated from Ohio Northern University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a biomedical concentration. This fall, I will be continuing my education to pursue a Masters Degree at the International Institute of Orthotics and Prosthetics in Tampa, Florida. I am excited about this opportunity to experience a new community. After spending 4 years at ONU, I've learned a lot about myself and met a lot of new people. I've enjoyed expanding my perspectives on life. Please pray for me as I continue to grow and as I adjust to a new learning environment.

Ashton Wolford

In May, I graduated from Hope College with a degree in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry. I recently accepted a position as a Chemical Process Engineer at Gentex Corporation in Zeeland, Michigan, and will be moving there in the middle of June. These past four years have allowed me to grow as an individual and showed me that there is so much more for me to learn and explore. I am excited to take on new challenges as they come my way and trust that God will be with me throughout these times. I have been greatly guided by this church community throughout my life and would appreciate your prayers as I enter this new chapter.



Emma Hostettler

I graduated from Ohio State for finance, and I'm going to start working as a paraplanner for Peak Retirement Planning in Columbus while I study for my Series 65 license. I began interning there in December, and I've learned a lot. I am excited to begin working there. My goal is to become a Certified Financial Planner.

My favorite verse is 1 Corinthians 16:14: "Let all that you do be done with love."



Elders Notes

BY DORIS SWARTZ

On Friday and Saturday, April 25–26, the elders team enjoyed a wonderful getaway at Tanglewood Manor in Hocking Hills. After arriving at various times Friday afternoon, we began with a shared meal, followed by an extended time of worship, prayer, and sharing. Saturday morning began with breakfast and a time of worship and prayer before our overseer, Roger Hazen, led us through a biblical study on elders. It was interesting to note that the term *elder* appears 139 times in the Old Testament and 62 times in the New Testament. Our study spanned from Genesis to Revelation, examining the diverse ways the term is used, what elders did, and the characteristics they are called to embody.

Some of the observations we made included:

- *Elder* originates from the Greek word *presbyteros*, meaning "old man"—someone who is older and wiser.
- In the Old Testament, elders were respected community leaders with semi-official roles in decision-making and judgments.
- At times, elders strayed from God's ways and failed to set good examples (Ezekiel 8:7-13).
- In the New Testament, the Jewish elders were often among those who opposed Jesus and His disciples.
- Despite this, God chose to call the leaders in the early church "elders" entrusting them to guard the truth of His Word and model it through their personal lives.
- Spiritual maturity matters more than chronological age; elders should be recognized by the church as mature, spiritual leaders.

Reflecting on God's Word (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9), we were humbled by the qualifications for elders: blamelessness, integrity, a good reputation, faithfulness in marriage, good parenting, self-control, hospitality, teaching ability, sobriety, peacefulness, and unwavering adherence to Scripture. We acknowledged that none of us, in our own strength, are fully capable of meeting these standards and are thankful for God's help and grace.

After lunch, we shifted our focus to elders' roles and responsibilities at LCF. We reviewed our selection process and discussed practical ways elders serve—including praying regularly for the church, preaching, and attending monthly meetings. Recognizing individual strengths and passions, the elders expressed a willingness to take on additional responsibilities as needed that would align with their gifts and passions. Rob will work more with each elder individually on this.

Looking to the future, our team deeply desires to prepare LCF well for long-term leadership transitions. We believe the healthiest transitions occur when younger leaders work alongside older ones—benefiting from their wisdom while bringing energy and creativity. We know it will be a long process, but we want to work towards having younger people give leadership on all of the various teams,

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indeed trying to live as Christ wants them to, trying to be the father God wants them to be, and trying to follow the directives of the Scriptures as the Holy Spirit gives them understanding about how they should raise their children. If anyone needs to be convinced that fathers don't always get this right in every way, I'd be happy to write my autobiography for them. And millions of others could do the same. But we're trying to be right and do right. What I've concluded is this: we men, some of us fathers or grandfathers, need to have in mind living faithfully for one Person first and foremost, Jesus Christ. If we can become more faithful in that desire, more passionate about the One who is infinitely passionate about us, we will have our wills aligned with His. And when we do that, other things begin to fall in line, whether it's loving our wives and children as we should, training our children in righteousness, or teaching them how to ride a bike.

So men, if you're faithfully seeking more of Jesus in your life and in the lives of your family, great job! You're doing what you need to be the best person you can be and to see your family become the best people they can be. Well done, good and faithful servants!

(Elders Notes... continued from page 3)

including the pastoral team. Notably, the retreat attendees spanned five decades, with an average age of 54 (ranging from 39 to 74). While the future is unpredictable, if Corin's pastoral internship goes well this year, our hope is to be able to bring him on as an associate pastor. We will involve the church in all those decisions and transitions.

One of our responsibilities as elders is safeguarding biblical teaching. Rob recently completed a series on the Beatitudes and is considering preaching through the Sermon on the Mount. He asked for input on future sermon topics, and one significant subject that emerged was Biblical Sexuality. Rob had begun a series on this before Covid, but it was postponed when services moved online. Given its cultural relevance, we believe it's essential to address this issue in a way that embraces God's good design—emphasizing what is right rather than simply highlighting what is wrong. Our goal is to balance both grace and truth. We ask for prayers that God would grant wisdom as we approach this topic with love and care.

We reviewed the current Pastors and Elders Job Descriptions, noting minor corrections and updates. Given the upcoming pastoral internship, some details may change, so we will revisit them later. Additionally, we discussed the possibility of Adult Discipleship Class and the potential impacts on children's ministry, worship practice, and other areas. We recognize both pros and cons and will continue to think and pray about this and discuss it further at our next meetings.

We had a wonderful time together and are so grateful for:

- LCF, for making this retreat possible and providing us with this opportunity to worship, pray, plan, and connect.
- Roger Hazen, for traveling from Michigan to guide us through Scripture's teachings on elders.
- Megan Wengerd, for her excellent organization of our delicious meals.
- Jodi Traverse, for securing the location and handling logistics.
- Our church family, for your prayers, support, and grace as we serve in leadership.

Several weeks later, on May 21, we gathered for our monthly elders meeting at the home of Rob and Doris. As usual, we began with a time of sharing—updates, prayer requests, and praises related to both our personal lives and our church family—followed by praying together about them. We are grateful for the many ways we see God at work among us and trust Him to be faithful in each struggle that we and those we love face.

The LCF Council shared their proposed Premise Use Policy for LCF with us and asked for our review and feedback. We spent the remainder of our time going over the eight-page document, noting comments and questions for Rob to take back to Russ. We are deeply grateful for the council's diligent work on this—it is thoughtfully crafted and will be a valuable resource.

Since we ran out of time, Rob invited the elders to review and provide feedback on the Google document he shared, which will serve as a starting point for the guidelines we have been discussing for those in leadership roles at LCF. We plan to continue this discussion in greater depth at our next meeting which will be held on June 18th.



Elders Retreat at Tanglewood Manor

Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Attendance: Sarah Eichorn, Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge by Google Meet conference.

April income was \$17,187 which was more than our expenses of \$15,818 by \$1,369. Our YTD income is \$88,240 compared to our YTD expenses of \$66,138, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$22,102.

The final modifications to the Church Premise Use Policy were reviewed and accepted. The updated version was then sent to the Elders Team on May 20th for their review and comments.

The process to transfer funds between our local Bank and our new online Bank at Capital One has been successfully completed. With this step finalized, LCF will be taking advantage of a higher interest return on our assets.

As previously stated, Text2Giving (one of our online giving options) has notified us that they will begin charging for this service. Based on that development, we will no longer provide that as a giving option moving forward. Sarah will be posting an additional message on Band.

We are now "live" with processing LCF payroll through Ministry Works. During that migration process, a few minor procedural questions came up related to payroll processing that we are currently working to answer.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17th, by video conference.



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

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