

The LCF Connection

August 2025

Leaning on God Through Every Trial

BY PAM SHAY

Throughout life's unexpected turns, our family has always found comfort in God's guidance. This Memorial Day, Tim and I celebrated eight years of his sobriety—a milestone that reminded us how God has been our steadfast leader through every crisis. His recovery is a living testimony to grace and strength, and it amplifies our trust in God's divine plan.

This past fall, Tim began suffering from troubling stomach issues. After many hospital visits and countless doctors assuring us nothing was wrong, we turned to God in prayer, seeking His guidance. In His perfect timing, we eventually found the right doctor. Tim underwent surgery to fix the issues, and the operation unexpectedly revealed that cancer had spread throughout his body. Stage 4—a diagnosis with no cure, where treatment is focused solely on easing symptoms and offering comfort. His doctors estimate that he may have about a year to live.

The shock of this news was overwhelming, yet we turned it over to God. Tim has maintained a remarkably positive attitude, trusting that only God knows the exact time of his earthly departure. He finds solace in knowing that his future home is with our Lord, and he even looks forward to receiving a new, healthy body in heaven. While leaving family behind is painful, Tim trusts that it is all part of God's plan.

For me, leaning on God has been essential as well—not only to support Tim during these challenging medical times but also as I care for my 90-year-old mother, Pauline, who lives with us while battling dementia. At times, people ask why God has placed so many burdens on us. I simply respond by embracing His plan with both humility and humor. In our trials, we continue to laugh, cry, and pray, knowing that God covers every step of our journey.

We are so thankful for the many gifts, opportunities, and friends and families God has placed in our lives. Each day, we rest in the assurance of God's love and guidance, trusting fully in His perfect plan.

One of our favorite verses these days is Isaiah 41:10, *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*



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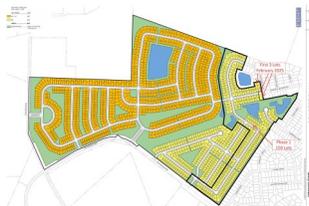


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London Christian Fellowship seeks to develop authentic and passionate followers of Jesus Christ.

A Growing Neighborhood, A Growing Mission

A Message from the Pastor
BY ROB SWARTZ



Our neighborhood is going to grow by almost 1000 homes. A few months ago, this development plan was posted on our neighborhood Facebook site, detailing what this was going to look like.

A friend of ours asked Doris and I recently, "How do you feel about that?" My reply was, "I'm excited!" and I am. Oh, I'm sure it will introduce some new challenges for our neighborhood, city, and community, but to me, this expansion presents lots of opportunity. Doris and I walk our neighborhood almost every day. We do it for exercise, but our primary purpose is to meet and connect with people. We are intentional, but hopefully not overbearing. If you are out in our neighborhood, we will likely stop and talk to you. Most recently we have been making friends with a young couple about a block away who most likely don't know Jesus. I'm excited. They appear to like us and we are enjoying getting to know them. We are looking and planning for an opportunity to share. I have made friends with some young teenagers who stop by just to chat. I already see God at work in their lives. It is so cool!

Our small group these past several years has been made up primarily of people we have met in our neighborhood. For these years of our lives, our neighborhood presents the best natural opportunities to meet new people, get to know them,

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Council Update

BY RUSS HAUGE

Rhoda Sommers, Zach Freer, and Russ Hauge met by Google Meet video conference. Sarah provided the finance input via email.

After a short “summer vacation”, the Council held its first meeting since May during the middle of July. Multiple topics including required HVAC maintenance, church safety, and church access were discussed with a summary below.

June income was \$16,494 which was more than our expenses of \$13,903 by \$2,591. Our YTD income is \$120,536 compared to our YTD expenses of \$92,531, which leaves a YTD balance of +\$27,995.

The final version of the Church Premise Use Policy was distributed on May 29, 2025. This version started being used June 1, 2025. We will continue to track potential revisions that need to be incorporated for clarification or for areas that were not previously identified. Updates will be made on an “as needed” basis.

After discussions with the Building and Grounds Team, repair work on the leaking front window is nearing completion with interior ceiling drywall and painting remaining to be scheduled.

The Building and Grounds Team is looking into multiple alternatives to fix the 14-year-old HVAC Unit #2 (3 times larger than the unit replaced earlier this year) that serves the fellowship hall and kitchen area. Different quotes are being received, and additional updates will be provided by the Building and Grounds Team or council when a direction has been finalized.

While working with the decoration team, we are nearing a final recommendation of the AED, First Aid Kit, Choking Prevention Unit, and signage. During that process, Zach Freer and Russ Hauge met with Chief Bennington of the Lafayette/Summerford Fire Station along with one of his Fire Engine Crews at the Church on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 for recommendations and a chance for his crew to understand how the church is laid out in case they have to respond in the future. The meeting was very productive for all involved with Chief Bennington offering any assistance that they could provide the church in the future including AED, CPR, and fire extinguisher training.

With the help of other church members, the council is looking at options for updating the security system for church access. The ultimate goal is to install a simple system that will allow remote Wi-Fi updates and tracking without the need to have someone physically come to unlock a door when the party accessing the church either does not have a key or did not bring it with them. This is an ongoing topic with more information to follow in the coming months.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 19th, at 7 pm by video conference.

(A Growing...continued from page 1)

and introduce them to Jesus. Back in the day, it was my secular job. Then it was with our kids and their activities—at playgrounds, school activities, sporting events, etc. Right now, it seems like it is simply our neighborhood. That’s why I think it’s fantastic that we are about to get a bunch of new neighbors.

What will the opportunities be in the future? I’m not sure, but I’ve been thinking about it. Retirement will likely come within the next 10 years, and what will that look like? We are encouraged to plan for retirement—401Ks, investments, etc. I have friends who can’t wait to move to Florida. I don’t know what retirement will look like for us and even if I’ll live till then, but I am planning for it. I’m planning for new opportunities to share Jesus. I dream of maybe working at a coffee shop where I can meet people regularly, get to know them, care for them, and share Jesus with them. Doris and I have thought of being campground hosts with the opportunity to meet lots of people coming through. Jesus tells us that “*The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*” I have found this to be true. We are surrounded by opportunity. And the workers...well, I desire to see every Christian engaged and intentional about this calling.

How about you? Have you found your place to share the gospel in your own unique way and setting? My guess is that it will be quite different from ours, but are you intentionally looking for those people who don’t know Jesus, whom you might be able to share with? Are you making plans for today and for the future of how you will position yourself to have every opportunity to share Jesus? I’d love to hear what your plans are. Jesus calls all of us to go into all the world and share the gospel both near and far. Some of us will be called near and some will be called far, but all of us are called. It’s not something we ever retire from. It’s why we are here.

I’m excited about these 1000 new homes coming into our neighborhood. Doris and I intend to spread seeds of God’s love up and down those new streets. We don’t know how it works, but we anticipate new people coming to Jesus. I have a strong feeling this new couple we’ve met this summer, as unlikely as it might seem, are going to believe someday. I don’t know for sure, but I know it’s possible. It is what God does as He draws people to Himself. I want to be a part of that miracle. I want to see it happen. I want to watch that seed grow and produce its own fruit so many others might believe as well. It is one of the most exciting things to ever be a part of in this life. May each of us find our place in this amazing work.

Love Like Jesus

BY JAYCE HISEY

Looking back on my time at Bethel Camp, I realize it wasn’t just about the fun moments we shared. It was about how God used those moments to shape something deeper in us. Bethel’s theme this year was “Love Like Jesus,” and while I’m not sure that theme always carried over into the team games, the message came through powerfully in the chapel.

Mark Driskill, the primary speaker, and Christian Thurman, our guest speaker, really ran with the theme. This was only my second time attending Bethel Camp, but every time I step onto that property, I can feel the love and compassion in the air. It’s like the Holy Spirit is already waiting for us.

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Getting to Know Keith and Shannon Scheffel

BY JODI TRAVERSE

Keith and Shannon have been attending LCF for many years and continue to be actively involved in the church, both in the spotlight and behind the scenes. We are blessed to have them in our midst and hope this interview helps you get to know them a little better.

Where are you from?

Keith: Pryor, Oklahoma

Shannon: Fredericktown, Ohio

How did you meet?

We met at Rosedale Bible College. Keith was a student, Shannon had been a student earlier, and we both attended an inauguration service for the new president. We shared a hymnal and started talking because of a mutual friend.

How long have you attended LCF?

We have attended 33+ years—as long as we've been married. When first married, we rented an apartment in London so Keith could commute to Plain City for work, and Shannon could commute to Cedarville to finish her schooling.

What would you say are some formative experiences in life?

Keith: A month before my 16th birthday, my only brother was killed in a plane crash. He was the oldest child, and I was the youngest, but we shared a bedroom growing up. I look back at his death as a turning point in my spiritual life. Another formative experience was traveling with Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry for two years when I took a break from college.

Shannon: Attending Rosedale Bible College and Cedarville University, participating in the YES Youth Evangelism Service program (a short term discipleship program), and the death of loved ones in recent years have made me more reliant on God.

How many children do you have? Any pets?

We have three children (a son and two daughters) and two sons-in-law. When our kids were young, we had an outside dog and cats for many years but are currently pet-free.

Tell us about your job/careers.

Keith: I was a Bible major in college and thought I would eventually be a pastor. But God had other plans and led me to serve for 20+ years on staff at Rosedale Mennonite Missions (now Rosedale International). For the past seven years I've served as Executive Director for the Mutual Aid Sharing Plan (a health insurance cooperative for ministry organizations).

Shannon: I feel my life has had many chapters. Since high school, I have worked as a waitress at Der Dutchman, worked at a daycare, did some substitute teaching, was a stay-at-home mom when our kids were young, worked at Rosedale Mennonite Missions as a financial assistant, taught at Shekinah Christian School for 11 years, and now my job of the past five years has been in sales at Millwest Furniture in Plain City.

What are hobbies/pastimes you enjoy?

When we first met, we played a lot of volleyball together and found that we enjoyed doing active things together. We still enjoy biking, walking, pickleball, and going to the gym two nights a week to attend a Burn class. We also love to travel to new places.

Keith: playing piano, guitar, and reading historical non-fiction books.

Shannon: growing flowers, baking bread and sharing it with others, and dabbling in some sewing projects

What are resources that have helped you grow spiritually?

We enjoy listening to various podcasts of the Bible Project and highly recommend the Bible Project as a resource.

(Bethel Camp...continued from page 2)

Christian spoke each morning during chapel, while Mark spoke at night. Both mainly focused on the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). They also highlighted other scriptures like Luke 9:28–36 (Jesus' transfiguration) and Luke 9:37–43 (Jesus healing a boy with an unclean spirit). These passages reminded us just how powerful and compassionate Jesus is, and how hard it is to love like Him.

Let's be honest, loving like Jesus isn't easy. He literally died on a cross for people who mocked, betrayed, and abandoned Him. That kind of love feels impossible. I can think of people who've wronged me, and I definitely wouldn't be willing to die for them, especially in such a painful way. But that's the point. Like the Samaritan in the parable, we're called to love beyond past wounds or judgments. No questions asked. Just love. Just like Jesus.

Thursday night chapel ended with a powerful prayer session. I don't always feel the Holy Spirit strongly, but when a whole room is crying, praying for each other, and lifting up real hurts... you can feel Him. Even now, just writing this, I feel His presence all over again.

Bethel Camp hasn't confirmed next summer's dates yet, but I can't recommend it enough. Whether you're in middle school, high school, or even looking for a family camp, there's something for you. If you've had family attend, check out the photo album and video on Bethel Camp's website (www.bethelcamp.org). It's a great way to relive those memories or see what camp is all about. Also, I'm thinking of counseling during the Middle School weeks so come join me!



Elders Notes

BY DORIS SWARTZ

The elders team met at Rob and Doris's home on Wednesday, July 16th. We spent the first part of our meeting sharing updates from our own lives and the lives of others connected to LCF and then praying together about those things. We are thankful for the many prayers God has answered and look forward to seeing how He will continue to answer prayers and to be at work among us—guiding, providing, healing, and helping each of us to grow in our love and understanding of Him and His Word.

As we enjoy the end of summer and look ahead to fall, there are many exciting things ahead—from various upcoming trips and RNOC's Multiply Conference in southern IN to special services at LCF—such as our outdoor service and baptism on September 28th and communion on October 5th. Following are other details and items of interest that we discussed.

Small Groups: Rob hopes to meet with small group leaders sometime soon to support and train our leaders better with the plan being to kick off small groups in September.

Leadership Accountability: The Leadership Accountability document compiled by Reuben was reviewed and approved. This policy will be shared with team leaders at upcoming meetings and emailed to others who can't attend.

Building Usage Application: For those interested in using the building for potential outreach or ministry use, an application will be submitted to the elders team. Megan sent us a proposed Outreach and Ministries Usage Application, and we approved it. The goal is to make applications like this digitally accessible via BAND.

Pastoral Internship: Corin begins his internship in August. Plans include broad ministry exposure—preaching and teaching, helping out with children and youth, visitations, elders meetings, and mentorship with Rob and Reuben. He and Katie will also co-lead the young adults small group with Jamison and Annika, transitioning leadership from Steve and Phyllis. Corin's commissioning and housing allowance designation will be formalized by the council.

Youth Transportation: It was noted that volunteers have not been receiving gas reimbursement for youth events. Moving forward, we propose that all youth-related mileage expenses be covered by the youth fund.

Children's Ministries: We continue to pray for a new Children's Ministry Team leader. Rob is temporarily coordinating efforts with Becky, Lisa, and Jodi. A trial of a new Sunday School curriculum is in motion, and fall teacher recruitment is underway. LCF is blessed with 43 children from birth through grade 12.

Prayer Before Class: It had been suggested that we have regular prayer for children and teachers before they are dismissed for Sunday School. Ideas include short, varied formats like call-and-response involving the children. We will continue to think about possibilities and will share additional thoughts and comments via our BAND app.

Offering Sharing: The brief meditations and prayer before offerings are helping us to be more mindful of our worship in giving. We're thankful for generous giving this year—especially considering the large unexpected expenses we have had with building repairs.

LCF Connections Survey: Among the feedback received from Jodi's BAND survey in April was interest expressed in having more teachings on Anabaptist beliefs and conference positions. Rob noted that he will be naturally addressing some of this in his continued journey in preaching through the Sermon on the Mount.

Community Outreach: We talked about the needs around us and how God may be calling us to be involved. We are thankful for the ministry that is happening in the prison, with wheelchair ramps, etc. but we want to be open to pursuing new avenues for people to share the love of Jesus with those in need. Some of the ministry possibilities that were mentioned/discussed included: DNA in Plain City, the food pantry at London Schools, the HELP House, Lifepoint Family Center, and a letter that Rob received earlier this year about helping the homeless in our area. We know that God cares deeply for the foreigners, and those who are needy and hurting. We desire to share His love and compassion out of our love for Jesus. We will be discussing this more at our next meeting.

We closed our time with prayer and set the date for our next meeting to be on Wednesday, August 6th. We thank God for each of you and the opportunity to serve at LCF. As always, we invite you to contact any of us with your questions, suggestions, or feedback.



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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