

Church Camp-out Coming September 18-20

by Andrew Sharp

Summer is winding down and September is here, which means it's almost time for LCF's annual church camp-out at Camp Clifton. The camp is near Yellow Springs and right next to John Bryan State Park, about 30 minutes from London.



Steve dressed as the mascot for his team.

It's a time to relax and spend time together. That can mean hiking the nearby trails, table games, football, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, or just sitting and chatting. There are plans to try to watch the Buckeyes game on a projector if possible (some things are not left behind on a retreat).



Audrey and Twila enjoy a hike across the gorge bridge.

On Saturday night, the youth group will be overseeing the talent show. Anyone interested in participating will be able to sign up at church in the next few weeks. All kinds of presentations are welcome. In a past talent show, Ryan Freed recalled singing a touching love song with his brother Shaun and Jared Stutzman, and an interesting skit by Keith Scheffel called "Going on a Squeegie Hunt." He also remembered the time Tom and Candice Mast edited photos to combine different people's faces. Everyone could guess whose face was in involved in the picture. "It was very freakish," Ryan said. "I was combined with Keith, and it was scary." And Reuben Sairs' eyes set in Steve Swartz' head? "Creepy."

Meals and lodging are provided, although people will still need to bring a few things. There is no meal on Friday night, so everyone is responsible to bring their own food or eat before coming. People may also want to bring drinks or snacks along for between meals. The cabins



Bob, Rich, Rob, Jared and Dave try to see who can say "chubby bunnies" best with the most marshmallows in their mouth.

Inside this Issue	
Church Camp-out	1
Championship Form	2
Elders' Notes	2
Getting to Know Stephanie Sharp	3
Strive	3
An Update from Indianapolis	4

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

Continued on page 4

Championship Form

A Message from the Pastor

By Rob Swartz



For many, the vision of a star athlete competing is a thing of beauty. In a few weeks, thousands of fans will be glued to their TV screens, marveling at the plays their favorite football players make. I recently watched former Olympic champion Usain Bolt shatter the world record for the 200m at 19.19 seconds, finishing well ahead of the second place finisher. Those who follow track and field and especially those who have competed know how amazing this feat is. In any sport, there is great admiration and glory to be gained for mature athletes who have trained and disciplined their bodies to work in such perfect harmony.

The body of Christ also has great potential, as Paul reminds us in Ephesians four. As he calls us to make every effort to help the body mature, his words paint a picture very similar to training for athletic competition.

At the start of athletic training, the body is somewhat uncoordinated and out of shape. How does this change? Through the hard work of exercising and training, which tune the body for optimum performance. Eventually, all the parts are working together efficiently to accomplish a common goal.

The same is true of the body of Christ, a body we are each part of. As we learn and exercise our gifts under direction from the head, Jesus Christ, we began to mature and grow. Just like physical exercise, this time of training and exercise can be painful and discouraging as we slowly improve.

If, however, we stick with the program, the results begin to be encouraging. We start to experience a maturity and strength that we've never experienced before. Our capabilities increase as our stamina and our ability to overcome injuries grow significantly. Our level of impact becomes more significant.

The crowd begins to notice the performance. How is it that this diverse group of people can work together so effectively and efficiently? It becomes a thing of beauty to observe.

Do any of the body parts get the glory for the performance? Does the success come from great hands, strong legs, or bulging biceps? No. Ultimately, the individual parts owe their success to the head, Jesus Christ. Paul puts it best in Ephesians 4:16. "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

That's our vision, to reach our potential as part of a body and bring admiration and glory to Jesus. Athletic success starts in the mind, with the vision and willpower to train to win. Success in the church starts with Christ, the head. When the body of Christ operates in oneness, like that fine-tuned athlete, the world will turn its attention to Christ and give Him the credit.

Elders' Notes

Ideas and thoughts from recent meetings

It will soon be time for the long service format featuring children's Sunday school and the adult discipleship class. The format will run from September 27 to November 22. In the adult class, Reuben will be teaching I Corinthians. The children will go back to individual classes after being in children's church during the summer.

There is one major change in the format. The start time for the service will remain 10 a.m., so Sunday school will start after the morning service. The idea is to reduce confusion, because in the past those who came just for church sometimes got confused about the start time. The children will be dismissed to their classes immediately after the sermon and sharing time. The adults will be able to get a cup of coffee and socialize for a few minutes before Reuben begins his class.

The elders have yet to decide on a time length for Sunday school in the new format. Any feedback from the congregation is welcome about the change in format or the length of the service.

A fundraising team is in place for the building project. Richard Troyer will be chair and work with Audrey Maust and Tyler Knief.

It will be time to nominate a new elder in October. Phil Hostetler is eligible for another term.

The elders plan to have a retreat at the end of January to plan for the coming year and discuss the vision for the church. In early January before the retreat they want to have a congregational meeting to get everyone's perspective on what the church's vision should be.

Getting to Know... *Stephanie Sharp*

Describe your ideal way to spend a free day.

Right now it would be with a cup of coffee, a good book, and a couple of friends. Sometimes it's going outside, or climbing mountains, canoeing, or seeing family.

What's a favorite childhood memory?

Probably sledding. Whenever school was out, my sister and I would spend pretty much the entire day going downhill, carrying our sleds back up, going down the same bumpy ride, and trying to avoid going into the creek. We would come back into the house soaking wet and drink hot chocolate. It's so much fun; you end up with bruises all over your body.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Reading, coffee. Sometimes crocheting, or going outside and sitting by water somewhere.

What do you notice about people?

Their handshake—if it's firm or not—and their smile.

What's your favorite holiday, and why?

Probably Christmas. You get to see a lot of family, you get a lot of presents. Growing up, on Christmas Eve we would eat supper in the barn. We would pack hot soup and sandwiches and hot chocolate or hot tea and go up in the straw mow all bundled up and eat supper there. It was a really cool reminder of where Christ was born.

List a few things you enjoy.

Traveling, the smell of new paper, chocolate.



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“Strive”—A Men's Discipleship Group

Several of the men at LCF have been meeting over the past year in a group called Strive. The name reflects the purpose of the group, which is to seek after God and give real effort to spiritual success. The members help each other in discipleship and grow leadership skills through study, accountability, and mutual support.

The current group includes Jeff Thoman, Kevin Duncan, Tyler Knief, Andrew Sharp, and Rob Swartz. After meeting together for about a year, they want to make other men in the church aware about the group and that they are welcome to join at any time. It's open to guys of about high-school age and above.

If you want to have more passion for God and more of a connection with other men in the church, this group might be a good place to start. There is no requirement for a high level of spiritual maturity to participate. It's for men at all different places in their journey with Christ, so they can learn and grow together.

The group meets about once a month. Possible activities for the coming year include bible studies, book studies, personal sharing, sharing advice and counsel, and accountability. Talk to Rob, Kevin, Jeff, Tyler or Andrew if you want a better idea of what the group is about.

An Update from Indianapolis

By Ross Kauffman

It has been two months since I packed up and headed west to Indianapolis. With the move came a new apartment, new job, and new church home. I am happy to report that I am getting settled into each: becoming familiar with the places and meeting new friends.

My home is in Lockefield Gardens. Once Indianapolis's original public housing project, these historic buildings have now been converted to apartments. They are within easy walking distance of my job and the downtown area, including the central branch of a wonderful library system.

My primary job is working as a researcher. I look at ways to use technology in efforts to promote tobacco cessation and prevention. So far, the work has been both challenging and enjoyable. I am blessed with wonderful colleagues, and am learning a lot from my experiences.

I am also getting settled into a new church home, First Mennonite Church. It is a larger congregation than London Christian Fellowship, with average attendance of around 200, so I am still meeting new people each week. However, I have been warmly welcomed and am coming to feel at home. I have recently joined a small group that promises to be a source of fellowship and spiritual growth.



Ross Kauffman making music playing his pennywhistle at the 2007 church camp-out.

Thank you again for all that each of you did to make my time at LCF special. I hope I will have the chance to worship with you again soon. Until then, I hope that God will continue to bless your good work.

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Church Camp-out, continued from page 1

are somewhat sparsely furnished, with walls, a ceiling, and wooden bunks. Those who like soft things to sleep on or blankets and pillows are advised to bring those along. It's good to bring some sports equipment, like softball gloves, soccer balls, or Frisbees.

On Sunday, there will be brunch and a service in the morning, so there will be no service at LCF.



This was the "girl's cabin" at the 2004 camp-out. Who do you think grew the most since then?

There is still room for you to join us at this year's church camp-out. If you have not yet registered, please contact Colleen Wolford by Wednesday, September 9th.



Sunday morning outdoor worship service.

The LCF Connection

A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship

If you'd like to make comments on any of the stories or "LCF Connection" in general, email us at: connection@lcfweb.org.
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