

The LCF Connection

November 2010

LCF Celebrates Harvest with Party



Despite chilly weather on October 31, about 75 people showed up at the harvest party at Kelvin Snider's for games and harvesty foods like hot dogs and pumpkin and apple dishes (with hot cider to wash it down). The volleyball never got going because of the cold wind, but the adults enjoyed sitting and chatting adult-style while the kids took a more active, grain-themed approach and played with the cornhole game and ears of left-over corn found in the adjacent field. A beautiful sunset punctuated the evening.

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Thanks for Sharing

By Ryan Freed

There's nothing like a government-sanctioned national holiday to remind us to do something the Bible tells us to do more of. As Thanksgiving Day approaches, I do find myself falling into a thankful mood. I'm thankful for all the normal stuff; for my delightful family, both immediate and extended, for a job that fits me, for decent health, and so forth. I'm thankful for the sweet things I've experienced this past year: whitewater rafting, the youth trip to Costa Rica, and watching Kalvary take off on her bike the second the training wheels were removed. And, of course, the birth of Korban.

I am also thankful for many things about LCF over the past year. When I think about this church, my thankfulness extends not so much to the current or future building, or to our Sunday services (though I do love them), but more to a simple fact about our church. We share. We share in our griefs, our joys, our babies, our Bible studies, our potluck recipes, and our responsibilities. Sure, we have our struggles sometimes, but we generally share

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

Ignored

A Message from the Pastor

By Rob Swartz



Stranded! It was a peculiar feeling. As the last person headed home from LCF this past Sunday I suddenly came to the realization that I did not have my van keys. Hmm...what to do? There are a bunch of guests at my house waiting for me to come home. Guess I'll have to call Doris to come get me. Wait...I have the van, but she has the keys. How's that going to work? I guess she'll have to send someone else after me. Where's my cell phone? Looks like I left it at home this morning. I guess I'll need to use the church phone. No dial tone? That's right! Doris said the church phone was acting funny this week.

So there you have it. It was a comedy of errors and I felt helpless. I went out to the road and tried to flag down cars, but everyone zoomed by. (I guess I must have looked suspicious.) So I started to run. A mile down the road I knocked on a door. No answer. Off I ran again. I held out my thumb, but car after car passed me by. One guy even mocked me by sticking out his thumb as he drove by.

I eventually made it home, but the experience got me thinking, "Where's the love?" What if I really were in trouble? Would people notice? Would they stop? The people buzzing by in cars were in a position of power and I was at their mercy. Most did not even seem to notice me.

Since then, I have wondered how many people I have buzzed by in life, either oblivious to their situations or purposefully avoiding eye contact so I didn't need to get involved or feel guilty. My forced run reminded me how it feels to be in need and ignored. It wasn't a great feeling.

I know caution and discretion are needed, but I don't want to be someone who can't even trust a pastor by the side of the road. (Maybe it would have helped people if I had one of those white collars.) I want to be generous with the things God has entrusted into my care. When I am in a "position of power," I want to use it to help others, not hoard it for myself. I know there is much for me to learn, and I thank God for reminding me what it is like to be helpless.



Upcoming Events...

- Nov. 29 - Caroling at London's Old Fashioned Christmas, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5 - RBC chorus at LCF for morning service
- Dec. 12 - Christmas program "Follow the Star" at 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 19 - LCF Family Christmas, 10:00 a.m.

Elders' Notes

Ideas and thoughts from recent meetings

The Benevolence Team has had several requests for assistance and has been able to help out some people in the church. There are still some funds remaining; talk to a member of the team if you or someone you know has an urgent need. The team includes Ryan Freed, Levi Miller, Bob Zachrich, and Andrew and Stephanie Sharp.

Reuben will teach the adult Sunday school through December 12. Because of Christmas activities, class will not be held December 19 or 26. New classes will begin in January, with various people leading while Reuben and Vicki are out of the country. More information will be coming out soon when details are finalized.

Voting results indicate the majority of the congregation is in favor of budgeting to pay associate pastors 10% of the lead pastor's salary rate each month, starting in January.

Church group updates: the men's discipleship group "Strive" has started meeting again and will meet every three to four weeks. Tom and Lois Reninger have agreed to lead several Junior Youth meetings in November and December.

Shannon Scheffel and DeAnn Miller are working with the children on a Christmas musical which will be performed on Sunday evening, December 12.

The expansion team reviewed input from the congregation, and decided to move forward on the project as planned. The church is giving about \$3,000 in donations per month while receiving about \$1,000 in interest from money loaned to Rosedale Mennonite Missions. The elders' team will evaluate church finances and loan options and the ETF will work with the contractors to get bids that can be presented to the church, hopefully by the end of the year. One question that needs to be addressed is how much of a monthly payment the church can afford to make on a loan. The team is hopeful that bids for the work will be lower in the slow economy. They are working to get quotes with the current plans before investing in actual blueprints. The expansion team will give the church regular updates on the project.

The elders' team will look at pastoral reviews and other surveys during their retreat March 4 and 5, tentatively slated to take place at RMM's Rosedale International Center in Columbus.

The leadership team is praying specifically for the following people this month:

Mark and Rhonda Montrose (Ryan and Kris)
Abraham and Naomy Ndungu (Richard and Robin)
Kirk and Amy Nichols (Reuben and Vicki)
Jennifer Nutt (Keith and Shannon)
Eric and Brittany Parsons (Rob and Doris)



Word of the Month

By Reuben Sairs

“Prophet”

The word “prophet,” especially in an Old Testament context, might conjure up Hollywood images—men wild in the eye, wild in the beard, and always with some storm clouds and lightning bolts close behind. We hear of dangerous prophets, who might call bears out of the woods to eat young men who are taunting them (see 2 Kings 2:23-25).

Reality was a little broader than that—there were many flavors of prophets. The first difference was between the true and false prophets. False prophets only pretended give God’s messages—perhaps they were charlatans, mentally ill, under demonic influence, or just self-deceived. The authentic prophets really spoke for our God.

The true prophets could be either men or women, and their styles varied greatly. Some were very dramatic, but some were probably pretty ordinary people. They were from different classes. Some were ecstatic and seemed to go into trances. Some lived and worked in groups, while some seem to have been solitary. Some were insiders with the ear of the king and his court, some were outsiders and came and went mysteriously.

We can’t learn a lot about these people by dissecting the Greek and Hebrew words for “prophet.” The Hebrew word for prophet is נביא (nabi). That word tells us little. The New Testament word is προφητης, or prophetes (sound familiar?). This word, too, sheds little light on what prophets were like in the New Testament and what we should expect them to be like today.

We can learn more from reading about them in the early church. If you’re interested in prophets in the church, 1 Corinthians 14 is a good chapter to read. From what we discover in these verses, we don’t expect a prophet to give us a “Thus, says the Lord” in quite the same way it was done in the Old Testament. Now the Holy Spirit gives this gift freely and abundantly.

There are qualifications to the gift. “We know in part and we prophesy in part,” Paul says. All prophesy in the church is to be subjected to analysis and appraisal. No modern prophet can say, “Don’t challenge me!” My advice would be to be very suspicious if someone stands up in a church and says they are speaking for God in the sense that Jeremiah or Isaiah did.

First Corinthians 14:37 might give us a hint as to how to understand the role in the church era. “If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.” We have the Bible, the New Testament, and the real test of whether a person speaks prophetically is how in tune they are with the Bible.

But what exactly is a prophesy? Stay tuned for Part 2.

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them too. It is very easy and a joy to serve in a church where so much is shared.



You may have heard of the 20/80 rule. It is the idea that in most churches, 20 percent of the people do most of the work, while 80 percent, well...don’t. Many congregations complain about this, and it is blamed for a lot of leadership burnout. While I don’t know the reasons behind this phenomenon, I know that the rule does not apply to London Christian fellowship. If you pick up a church directory and start going through it, you will be hard-pressed to find a regular attender who is not involved in some way. Person after person, from junior youth on up to senior citizen, is playing a part. Worship team members, buildings and grounds, sound, Sunday school teachers, small group leaders, nursery workers, ushers—all doing their parts and often wearing several hats.

I am very grateful for all of you and I know that that sentiment is echoed by the entire leadership team. We don’t want to take you for granted, and you need to know how we feel. We are a church, a body of believers, because all the body parts are working hard and doing their parts. Thank you. Thank God for you! You are glorifying him with your efforts and you are awesome.



Getting to Know...*Eric Parsons*

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a town called Midway just about 10 minutes south of London.

Where do you work?

I work for Advanced Drainage Systems, which is the world's leading seller of high-density polyethylene pipe.

Is this your ideal job?

My ideal job would be sitting on a beach, watching the sunrise *and* the sunset, so no, this is not my ideal job. I want to be retired.

What do you like to do to relax?

I like to golf. I might read, I like reading. Mostly success and leadership books, things that teach me stuff about life.

Are you the kind of person who likes to be in a big group of people or are you more of an introvert?

I'm more of an introvert. I'm more comfortable being in small groups, but if I'm in a big group I can talk to people. Actually, I enjoy being in a big group because it allows me to get out of my comfort zone.



Do you have any plans or goals for the future?

One of my short-term goals would be to get Brittany away from a job, and then long-term I'd obviously like to get away from my job, and travel the world I guess. That's one thing we've always kind of wanted to do is travel. I really want to see Italy, there's a lot of history in Italy and I'm a huge history buff.

What's the chore you hate the most?

Mowing. Probably because I've done it since I was like five and I'm kind of getting tired of it.

When did you first get a passport?

July.

Favorite color?

Green.

Coffee or tea?

Tea.



*I will give thanks to you, Lord,
with all my heart; I will tell of all
your wonderful deeds.*

Psalm 9:1

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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