

The LCF Connection

July 2011

A Sneak Peek at CMC's Annual Conference

By Steve Swartz

In addition to visiting many churches and ministers of Conservative Mennonite Conference (which is why I'm absent from LCF so much!), a sizable portion of my time is spent planning and administering the program and logistics of our large conference gathering each year. The annual conference is held in late July or early August and the location circulates through several Midwestern and Eastern states.



Mark your calendars for this year's conference in Frostburg, Maryland, July 28-31. This event is family-friendly! High quality nursery care and children's programming are offered during the morning and afternoon each day. While there is no registration fee, you do need to pay for housing and food. You can find more information and register online at www.cmcrosedale.org.

Conference starts on Thursday evening with A Taste of Missions, a fast paced look at missions stories and projects from Rosedale Mennonite Missions in the past year, followed by a snack.

On Friday are meetings for all age groups, with teaching and sharing from a variety of speakers. The senior high youth participate in their own worship services, and there are youth social activities late into the evening. "The Café," consisting of the post-high school age group, meets together for worship and fellowship in a casual setting. Those older than "The Café" age group (women, laymen, and ministers) gather separately.

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Transition

A Message to Our Friends at LCF

By DeAnn Miller

Many of you know that we will be leaving soon for the new place God has called us. Todd will be assistant pastor at Vineyard Community Church of Richmond, Kentucky. We have known the senior pastor Joe Wood and his wife Janice for many years and crossed paths with them often. They know a lot of people in CMC, and Joe went through Rosedale Bible College's Institute of Pastoral Studies. The church is relatively new—two years old this August—and experiencing rapid growth. The congregation meets in a remodeled department store in the Richmond Mall with plans to rent the vacant store next door this fall.

Todd looks forward to taking some of the pressure off of the senior pastor. He doesn't know exactly all that his ministry will entail, but it's a new challenge for him and he's excited about it. He is looking forward to running a new believer's discipleship program. I will continue to put my energies into our home school and look forward to being a part of a homeschooling community there. I also look forward to being a part of Todd's ministry,

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How to be Part of a Great Church

A Message from the Pastor

By Rob Swartz

How connected are you? I'm not talking about using Facebook, Twitter, smart phones, or other social networking tools. I'm talking about the church; the body of Christ. "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." (Ephesians 4:16)

Is this your experience in the church? Do you feel a part of a close-knit body, or are you feeling like an extra appendage? Do you have close brothers and sisters in the Lord, or only distant relatives?

We are reminded in Ephesians and other parts of the New Testament that the health and maturity of the body of Christ depends on each of us doing our part to serve, support, and build each other up in love. How are you doing with your part?

What is your part? The short answer is...to get involved. Look for ways to use your gifts. You don't have to do everything, but everyone can do something. In fact, depending on the responsibility, most could manage several things. Be a greeter. Shovel the sidewalk (next year, of course). Teach a Sunday school class. Plan a men's or women's outing. Each of these tasks contributes to the health and maturity of the body, and if everyone does something, nobody is overloaded.

I attended the children's ministries meeting this past week was reminded of the great things that are being done with our children, all of which require faithful volunteers. What if each person in the church volunteered to do something for our children this next year—teaching, helping with the Christmas program, doing nursery duty, or working with children's church? How about it?

Another important way to be involved is to participate in the vision and direction of the church. Come to business meetings like the building project meeting coming up. Participate in evaluations and give input when it is requested. Give prayerful consideration to decisions that are being considered, and cast your vote when you have the opportunity. Be willing to be involved in leadership positions. All of these are important ways that you can contribute to and participate in the body of Christ.

My last suggestion is to have fun together! Take time for fellowship! Join us at our annual church retreat during the last weekend of August. It's a great time to sit back and have a little more time to catch up with one another, and to enjoy food, fun, and relaxation together. Join a small group, if you are not already a part of one, and enjoy fellowship, Bible study, and sharing together. Go out to eat. Facebook each other. Use your texting plan. The possibilities are many, but take the time to enjoy and encourage one another.

What is the result? Paul says that as we support each other, build one another up in love, and do our part, the body matures and grows in unity, "attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Leadership Team Notes

Ideas and thoughts from recent meetings

Pray for Tom and Candice Mast, who have had some frustrations in Thailand as they help set up a foundation for Rosedale Mennonite Missions. There may be an opportunity to visit them in Thailand; talk to Rob Swartz if you are interested. Tom and Candice will be in Ohio next year during their home leave, probably early in March.

Weaver Construction has provided revised plans for the proposed new building for LCF. Richard Troyer, head of the Expansion Task Force, will go over them with the other members of the team and then give feedback to Weaver Construction so they can continue developing 3D plans. The leadership team likes the plans, but still has some concern that there may not be enough space and wants to make sure the new building will meet the church's needs. They'd like to have an auditorium with at least twice the capacity of the current auditorium. Depending on when the plans are ready, the team would like to hold a potluck meal after church sometime soon, followed by a congregational meeting to go over the building plans and financial options. The Finance Team will present financial stats and encourage everyone to make a monthly pledge for whatever amount they can. Total pledges will need to be enough to cover the remaining monthly loan payment.

Rob continues to meet monthly with representatives from area churches to make plans for "Be the Church" Sunday on September 4. He says he has already seen benefits from involvement in this project as he learns to know and work with local brothers and sisters in Christ.

The leadership team is encouraged by the teamwork the church showed in putting together the fundraising auction in May, and is thankful for the money God continues to provide for the building fund.

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

- Charley and Sandy Gregg (Ryan and Kris)
- Dale and Sharon Headings (Richard and Robin)
- Gary and Dina Hoffman (Reuben and Vicki)
- Phil and Becky Hostetler (Keith and Shannon)
- Jim and Annette Jones (Rob and Doris)



Connecting via a cook-out at LCF on July 6th.

Getting to know...*Robin Troyer*

Where are you from?

The Hilltop in Columbus until second grade, then West Jefferson.

What are some activities you enjoy?

I like to read. I read Ted Decker; I read true stories. I scrapbook and make cards. I like to look up houses that are for sale online, because you can look inside and see how they decorate, and see possibilities for the future. I like to shop for a good deal. I like to tend to my flowers and play in the dirt.

What are some of the jobs you've had?

A lot of cooking. I started out at the Dutch Kitchen as a prep cook, and that's where I found Richard. I worked for a business that sold commercial lawn mowers and did repairs. I was doing the books and looking up parts for the mowers on the microfiche machine. And I worked at CompuServe for a number of years. I cooked for the company that Rob worked at. That was an interesting job because I was cooking lunch for about 100 employees by myself and there was no commercial equipment. I just recently decided to change course. I've done so much food, but I knew I didn't want to do it for another 20 years. I want to get back into customer service or some clerical work.

What's your dream job?

I want to be the best grandmother there is.

What makes you happy?

My family, a good cup of coffee, and a nice thick book. Flowers; I like lots of color in my life. I do like animals a lot and I like to be around children.

What's your favorite kind of movie?

My favorite kind of movie is based on a true story.

What's your least favorite kind of movie?

Napoleon Dynamite. I know that's not a kind. But what was the plot? What was it supposed to be about?

What is something you're thankful for?

I'm thankful for my family. I'm really thankful for the way God has provided for us this year after a couple of dry years. The fact that I have a Savior and don't have to live on this earth forever.

What is something you're passionate about?

I'm pretty passionate about leading a healthy life... I actually would cook a lot differently if my family would go along with it. I already pretty much cook from scratch; I try not to use a whole lot of packaged products. I would say I'm passionate about people too, I care a lot about people, probably too much sometimes. I get kind of consumed with what other people are feeling, and I want to fix it. I'm still thinking about that article about human trafficking in the *May Beacon*, so I think God's talking to me about it. I just think that's one of the worst evils out there, it's just brutal and it's senseless.



Transiton continued...

helping him lead parenting classes and premarital counseling. Maybe I'll find some kids down there who like to sing!

When do we move? Many of you have asked. We wish we knew exactly! Sometime in August, Lord willing. Our house is not sold and we have no place in Kentucky yet. Our faith and trust in God's provision is all being tested right now. And I can truly say that God is giving us his PEACE in the midst of uncertainty. I am currently reading "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer, which is very timely. I am learning that I need to have thoughts controlled by the Holy Spirit and not the devil. The battle to trust God and believe truth is won or lost in my mind. Praise God for victory. But it's a daily battle and the enemy doesn't let up. We have watched many of you at LCF battle illness, look for work, and try to sell houses just like us. Your faith in God and peace in adversity and testing have been a testimony to us. Now it's our time of testing and we want to be faithful.

We look forward to keeping up with all of you on Facebook and returning for visits. It's only three hours from here and located right on Interstate 75, just south of Lexington. We're hoping to see people who are heading to Florida! We are so thankful for the four years that we got to worship with you. Our children will miss their friends at LCF. You have been a blessing to us during our time in Ohio. We can't overstate how much we appreciate your prayers and concern for us.

In His hands, DeAnn for the Todd Miller family

Saturday brings everyone except children together for worship services in the morning, afternoon, and evening. This year, you will hear a gifted ventriloquist, the beautiful harmony of a chorale, the entire book of II Peter recited from memory, 11 workshops, a public baptism, hymn sing, and a conference sermon on the theme "Passing on the Faith."

Missions Day is Sunday, and you will be inspired by RMM missionaries from around the world.

If you don't know anyone at Conference, you can make new connections during a number of activities planned to inspire and entertain you between the main events. You can attend a special singing school, watch Veggie Tales and enjoy kettle corn, find Faith Characters around campus, participate in a New Testament Read-Aloud, watch artisans at work, and attend a concert and ice cream social.

How does one dress for such an event? Well, you need not dress like Becky and Stephanie did in Vicki's play last year—just dress like you do at LCF.



I hope to see you there!

Elizabeth, Becky and Stephanie in the drama "Remember Us" that was performed for last year's conference at Cedarville, Ohio.



The men and boys from LCF enjoyed "dime-a-dog" night at the Clippers game on Monday, June 20th.

Greetings from Delaware!

By Tasha Slabaugh

It has been almost three years since Joe and I have lived in London. After we were married in August 2008, we spent two years in Cleveland. There, I worked on my Associate Degree in Interior Design, while Joe worked for a large farm/implement. We were also able to connect with a young adult group at an Assembly of God church, and still consider them family. It was bittersweet as we left the city and our friends behind, and headed for Sussex County, Delaware.

We moved into our rental house in the tiny town of Lincoln, and for the first three months, I was searching for a job with an interior design company. There were a few possibilities that fell through, and I started to become discouraged. As one of my last resorts, I put in an application at a Sherwin-Williams paint store, and I got the job!

I have been there since March, and although it is not the design job I had hoped for, it has been a blessing. My boss is easygoing, always involved, and works to promote his employees. A highlight for me is that I still get to assist customers with color selection and design ideas.

Meanwhile, Joe has been working for his dad. His main job is running a tractor in the chicken houses, cleaning out the old litter before a new flock comes in. It is a dirty job (for the wife who does laundry, too!) but with the large chicken industry on the East Coast, it provides security. Joe also makes use of his mechanic skills with all the equipment failures that occur. On the side, he has been starting a custom combining business. He really enjoys talking with clients, and takes pride in a venture of his own.

We have been attending Cannon Mennonite Church. After two years outside a Mennonite church, it has been a little bit of an adjustment. We are so grateful for the worship services, and sermons that come from (and go to) the heart. We are a part of a small group that meets bi-weekly, where we are one of five couples. We are beginning a study on marriage. We are also learning bits here and there about parenting, since one family has six children, and another two families have five. For all those who are curious, we are still waiting for the current changes in our life to settle before we start our own family!



However, we have added one to our family (a puppy named Rocky), and we hope to have a farm for him to play on in the near future. We are in the process of purchasing a house and two chicken houses, on ten acres of land, in the Greenwood area. It seems like we have been given so many "yesses," and then another hang-up comes. We are learning what it means to be first-time homebuyers. Please pray for us, as it is a big commitment to make. Joe is not very fond of raising chickens, but he has the knowledge and skills to make a good living, which would allow us to possibly purchase farming ground in the future. We are excited *and* nervous.

It has been exciting to learn the ways of living, in Delaware. Joe loves to go out on the water for blue crabs, and took me along for the first time last weekend. I was not nearly as swift as his sister Maria, but I did catch a good portion of our 135 crabs that day! Some people don't like the idea of picking the meat out of a crab, and even say you can starve from not getting enough, but I have been able to catch on, and even fill myself up. I have also been putting up food with my mother-in-law this spring and summer. I miss doing it with my mom, but now I am forced to truly learn the process of freezing strawberry jam, peaches, and corn. Thankfully, I have enough experience under my belt, that Joe and I can enjoy all the fruits of my labor for the next year. We think of you often, and wish that our visits to Ohio would not have to be so short. If we do not make it there before, we will be around during the Farm Science Review in September. Blessings to you and yours!

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A monthly newsletter designed to enhance communication at London Christian Fellowship

What did you think? If any of the stories in this Connection sparked an idea or opinion you'd like to share, email us at connection@lcfweb.org. Editor: Andrew Sharp; Layout: Doris Swartz