

# The LCF Connection

October 2013

## Survey Says...We Are Boring?

by Trish Eaton



According to the most recent survey results (that is last April's survey results) we are a boring congregation. What's that you say? Boring? Well, if you remember the survey we asked you folks to fill out last April, one of the questions was related to an illustration that Rob had used in a recent sermon regarding car color and what it says about your personality. Out of the 62 responses we received, just over 24% of us drive a vehicle that is some shade of silver, grey, charcoal, or as one respondent answered, ooh la la...a smokey grey. Aaaaand, according to the research that Rob gathered at the time of the sermon...that means we are boring. Actually, the words used were "A gray vehicle says you are sober, corporate, practical. And boring."

Do not lose hope, though, friends! The research does go on to say that "if that grey car is charcoal with sparkles, you still have flashes of brilliance and charisma." So those of you who answered with "charcoal" or "smokey grey" may be keeping us from totally falling asleep at the wheel as it were. It is also noted that grey cars are driven by 16% of the general population. Now THAT means our hefty 24% grey population puts us up there with the popular kids! On an even happier note, grey also seems to indicate that the driver of the car is self-assured, unflinching, calm, and, it would seem as a result of those attributes, less likely to engage in car accidents.

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



by Trish Eaton

Okay, folks...picture it. You've had this happen before...don't say you haven't, 'cause we all know you have. You're sitting in service, the worship music is hitting

you dead center, and tears are welling up as you realize that THIS song was probably written by someone who had overheard a conversation you and a friend were just having last week! Go figure! Then as the pastor begins to preach you look around, a bit uncomfortably perhaps, thinking to yourself, "How did he know THAT? How did he know I needed to hear THOSE words on THIS day?" I can imagine many pastors have been accused of being eavesdroppers...I personally have accused at least three pastors in my life of looking in the windows at my home. How else could they have known the exact words that my aching heart needed to hear on that particular Sunday morning?

Well, I'll tell you how they know...and this comes from the answer that one such accused pastor gave me. "It's not me looking in your windows, it's God!" Well...yes, I suppose he's right, but here's the thing. Had that pastor not made himself entirely available, open, listening, and alert to God's leading, he would not have known to share the message that he did. Not being a pastor myself, I'm not entirely sure,

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# Grow in Wisdom

## A Message from the Pastor

by Rob Swartz

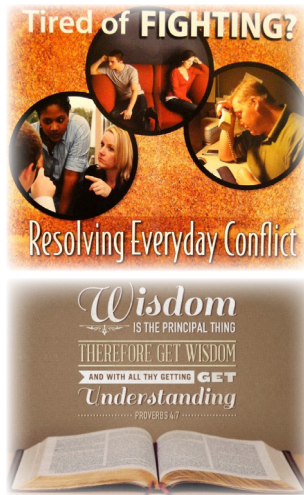
At London Christian Fellowship we believe passionately in the power of God's Word to speak into and transform our lives. Every sermon, every small group, every devotional, every song, every class...

rooted in God's Word has awesome potential to change our lives. We are committed to giving you the opportunity to dive in and put into practice the timeless principles of God's word.

It is for that reason that in the fall and spring we expand our service format to include classes to dig deeper and to learn more. This fall we are offering two classes which will run from 11:15 - 12:00.

Keith Scheffel will facilitate a video series and class discussion on "Resolving Everyday Conflict". This study on what the Bible has to say about conflict and relationships will help you discover practical answers that can change how conflict looks in your life. Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- when to overlook an offense
- the root cause of conflict
- what makes a good apology
- what forgiveness really means
- how to deal with difficult people
- and much more!



In **Proverbs**, the words *wise* and *wisdom* are used at least 125 times. If you would like to learn how to acquire and apply God's wisdom to the decisions and activities of daily life, join the class that Reuben Sairs will be teaching on the book of Proverbs.

Both of these Biblical, practical classes will be very interesting and will help you learn new truths from God's Word that can make a big difference in your life. I encourage you to choose one of these classes to participate in, and...grow in wisdom!

# Leadership Team Notes

## A junior youth Sunday School-style leadership team meeting

by Vicki Sairs

Well, not really, but the leadership team did meet in the junior youth Sunday School room on September 23. It was quite cozy, and we didn't resent letting the benevolence team take over the library with its lovely conference table at all. Really.

Rob's devotional focused on Jesus' call to love and serve 'the least of these,' and he encouraged us to be praying about ways LCF can show God's love to our community.

After a short time of prayer, Rob updated us on LCF 101, adult discipleship classes, ways he's developing young leaders in the church, the community youth group, and his hope to find small group leaders for the growing number of young adults at church.

Bob chaired the meeting again. We think he's doing such a good job that someone should get him a gavel.

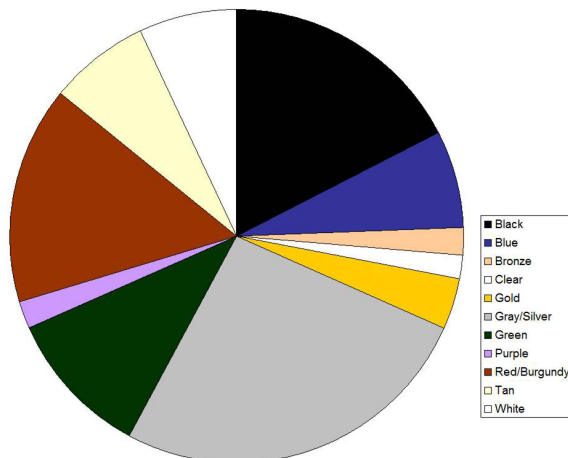
We discussed changing the schedule around on Sunday morning to optimize Sunday School attendance. Upgrading the half hour before church (9:30 till 10 am) into a more intentional fellowship time, with coffee (and more?) and pub tables and chairs was a popular idea.

Marcus is opting not to be available for another term as elder due to his other responsibilities. We hate to see him go. Nominations for a new elder will take place on Sunday, October 13.

We closed the meeting with a brief discussion of matters related to our Statement of Faith. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 14, when we hope to be in the library again (if the benevolence team doesn't need it).

We Are Boring continued...

Speaking of car accidents, there are 16% of us driving black cars. Research reveals that these drivers have the highest accident rates...and I would guess the highest insurance rates as well! A black car seems to be the preferred choice for people who view themselves as empowered, not easily manipulated, and [insert James Bond theme song here] mysterious!



In addition to that "smokey grey" response, there were some other interesting colors reported by our congregants. I'm sure Ryan Freed will not mind my telling you that according to research, his "dirty purple" reveals that "purple is a weird choice and usually a person who drives a purple car is unique...a person who doesn't care at all about the way others see him...a person who wants to tell you that he is one of a kind". I'm not exactly sure what "olive" and "sage" look like in a car color, but thank goodness we have them and the other shades of green here at LCF. Drivers of green cars exhibit calm personalities and care about the environment. I must say, after surveying the results, the most original answer we received came from one Gabrielle Stewart who, at 14, is still wishing for her first set of wheels. Her response? "Clear."

## Getting to Know... *The Cocanour Family*

### Tell us a bit about how your family got started.

Steve is from the Newark, and Renee is from the Middleton area. We met at Marion's Pizza in Dayton when we were both in our thirties. We married and started our family soon after. The twins, Stephanie and Natalie, (Stephanie is just a few minutes older than Natalie) came along very quickly. We just celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### What's a favorite childhood memory?

- Steve – I remember the road trips my dad would take my brother and me on as boys. We would pile in the car and go to Niagara Falls, Washington, DC, the Twin Towers in New York City, you name it. We may not have traveled first class; sometimes we ate PBJs from a cooler, but Dad made sure we saw the country.
- Renee – I have a vague memory of climbing up on a stool to kiss my grandpa goodbye when he was in a hospital bed. I was 3 when he passed away. That memory is special to me. I now have that old stool at my house.
- Natalie – I remember going to Disney with my family and my grandma when we were seven.
- Stephanie – My favorite memory is of the first time we went on a cruise...to the Bahamas!

### What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Steve enjoys motorcycling, Renee loves working in her garden and canning the fruits (and veggies!) of her labor, and both girls play volleyball as freshmen at West Jefferson High School. The whole family enjoys camping, sitting in front of their backyard campfire, and playing with their German Shepherd, Brandi.

### What is the first thing you notice about people?

Renee: I guess if they have a sense of humor...the expression on their face.

### What's your favorite season, and why?

There is a family split here...Steve and Stephanie enjoy the spring weather, while Renee and Natalie enjoy the crispness of the air in autumn.

### What does your family usually do for Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is spent at Steve's mom's house. Renee is famous for her bread cornucopia filled with veggies and dip! (Note to Hospitality Committee...don't forget to schedule a potluck close to Thanksgiving and invite Renee to make this delicacy for all of us to enjoy!)

### What is something each of you would like to accomplish in the next year?

Steve is excited about getting a great start at his new job, while Renee is interested in surviving and hopefully thriving in her 11<sup>th</sup> year of full time teaching at Cypress Christian School. The girls recently invited a friend from school to youth group and Natalie says she is excited about bringing more friends to church, reading her Bible more often, getting As and Bs in school, and making the JV volleyball team next year as libero, a very active defensive position. Stephanie is also anxious to bring more friends to youth and is working toward making as many sports teams as she can.



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*Pastor Appreciation continued...*

but I'll bet there's a lot more that goes into this whole business of pastoring than meets the eye.

Once upon a time I took it upon myself to write a letter to my pastor at the time letting him know just how much a particular sermon had touched my heart. He said in a return letter just how much "guys like him" appreciated "notes like that". I'm not sure if there's a biblical commandment anywhere or not, but October is typically known in church circles as "Pastor Appreciation Month". Folks, please, make the effort this month especially, to let your pastors know how they have touched your lives. Maybe it was a certain message from the pulpit that gave you a new perspective. Maybe it was a visit in the hospital. Maybe you and your spouse started out your married life facing one of these fine gentlemen we call Pastor. Maybe it was five minutes of conversation after service that left you with a lighter load than you carried in that morning. MAYBE your pastor came to your house on a cold winter's day and helped you stack firewood. Stranger things have happened, and probably will continue to happen as long as we are blessed by the good, kind, strong, loving leaders that God has placed in our midst. Rob and Reuben,...thank you for all that you do to make this place truly a Christian Fellowship!





## LCF Youth Update by Doris Swartz

Some of you may be wondering...since Ryan and Kris ended their term as youth leaders the end of June...what's been happening with the LCF youth group? They continue to meet here at the church every Sunday evening from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. for Bible study, prayer, games and of course, if you know teenagers...food! :) They are enjoying getting to know some new youth who have joined the group recently. Currently several interim youth leaders have agreed to give leadership and assist the group until the end of this year; they are: Aaron and Andrea Biscup, Reginald Cooper, and Andrew Pullin. We welcome any parents or anyone else who has questions about youth to talk with any of them. We are grateful for their leadership and will be talking with them further to determine more permanent leadership for the youth. We love our youth and are excited to see what God is doing among them. Please pray for them and the current leaders, as well as more permanent leadership in the future.

## Farm Science Review September 17-19, 2013



Thanks to: Levi Miller, Karla Knief, Sandy Gregg, Marcus Freed, Clete Yoder, Sherry Yoder, and Rob & Doris Swartz for volunteering at this year's Farm Science Review. They earned \$304 to be put towards some pub tables for our church foyer. Following are some thoughts from some of those who volunteered:

**Sandy:** *Every September, The Ohio State University hosts the Farm Science Review right here in London at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center. Our church has been given the opportunity to raise a little extra money by helping out at the food tent run by the Hilliard Kiwanis Club. We provide volunteers and they make one check out to the church for the hours worked. It's a great way to connect with people in and outside of our congregation, not to mention a really good and easy way to raise funds! We just have to show up and they put us to work grilling, wrapping sandwiches, replenishing drinks or selling them out by the main street. The time goes quickly and the company is good, plus you get free admission and parking! The most memorable thing that happened to me this year was when one of the Fire Marshalls walked past me on his way out and said, "You know, I've never been to this before and didn't know what to expect...It's like Woodstock for Farmers!". An apt description, if you ask me.*

**Clete:** *I had no idea that this event was so huge! I left my house early so that I would have time to look around the event before my shift started, but due to the traffic (which was backed up all the way past our church and even onto I-70), I ended up getting there 10 minutes late. My job was to keep the warmer stocked with bean soup...and yes, I did get to sample it. It was a fun day, and next year I will know to leave home much earlier.*

**Sherry:** *I enjoyed being able to serve with my father (Clete). I worked a variety of jobs from selling pop to working the cash register. I enjoyed interacting with many of the workers as well as the customers. When asked how I ended up working there, I was able to share that I was volunteering with my father's church to raise money for various needs in the church. I enjoyed catching up with Pastor Rob during my break and talking about my recent mission trip experiences. I always enjoy being able to volunteer and give back to others. I encourage you to consider volunteering and giving some of your time; whether a mission trip around the world, or just an afternoon serving in your home town. You never know how God may use you. In my experience I have always received so much from God in return for allowing him to use me.*

## The LCF Connection

*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](mailto:connection@lcfweb.org). Editors: Doris Swartz and Trish Eaton

*If you prefer that we do not use photos of you in the Connection, you may opt out by emailing us at [connection@lcfweb.org](mailto:connection@lcfweb.org).*