

# CONESTOGA Connections



August 2012  
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No. 8

**Praising God and Fellowshiping Together on Sunday Mornings!**



*When you come together, each of you has a song, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.*

*- 1 Corinthians 14:26*





# The PASTORS CONNECTION

## Finding a Family of Faith

*Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn. Isaiah 50:1*

I was struck anew recently of the strength to this congregation of persons who have “chosen” this church family. Although we value and celebrate those who were carried into the original building in the arms of their mothers, we also praise God for a rich heritage of welcoming others. We would be a severely impoverished body if the only members were ones with generational lineage.

Howard Moss and I had the privilege last winter to hear the story of the house on the west side of Re-Uzit owned by Conestoga Christian School. We heard how patron members of Conestoga Mennonite Church (CMC) built the home originally for a teacher moving with her family into our community to teach at the School. We heard how over time ownership transferred, followed by neighborly challenges, such that when the property came up for sale, CMC patrons of the school bought

the home back and donated it debt free with the only obligation to the school being the condition it never be sold.

Rental income has generated consistent support to the school’s budget “through good times and bad.” Now the home needed a face lift. The question became “How might we as CMC members honor the CMC school founders?” What would it mean to “pursue righteousness” as called for in the text by “looking to the rock from which we were cut, the quarry from which we were hewn.”

Motivated by honor of founders, Howard organized volunteers to pull carpet, paint walls, and repair cabinets. Early this morning as I was making my small contribution to the effort by cleaning up debris from the back yard, it struck me that the primary volunteers did not have generational patron roots. They have names of Moss, Ebert, and Boyer—all of whom have made CMC their church family such that they too are “looking to the quarry from which we were hewn.”

I wonder whom it is that God is yet bringing through our doors to lay claim to sharing this godly heritage. Who has God’s eyes to see those in our community who want to be adopted into a church family with roots that go deep? What connects us to gospel relevant and fresh? What does it look like for CMC to run with passion in the power of God’s Holy Spirit applied to God’s heart for this community in this generation?

When life seems fragmented and torn, when busyness threatens to disrupt our pursuit of righteousness, Isaiah the prophet tells us to listen to him and, “Look to the rock from which you were cut; the quarry from which you were hewn.” May we honor with joy the reality that newcomers bring fresh energy transplanted into the edifice of faith; for as Peter (2:5) so elegantly declares: the New Testament church is “like living stones, being built into a spiritual house.”

May the edifice honor the Cornerstone, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May it bring joy to the quarry generation from which we are hewn. And may it produce the next generation of living stones living hiStory to benefit others.

Amen and Amen, Pastor Bob Petersheim



### CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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Monthly newsletter for Conestoga Mennonite Church published since 1988. Deadline for articles and photos is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month of publication.

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## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, July 16, 2012, due to the first Wednesday of the month being July 4. There were 11 ladies present. We had one visitor.

Donated items included 4 relief kits. Finished items included 2 comforters.

For devotions, we sang "Have Thine Own-Way" followed by the reading of a poem entitled "A Chosen Vessel."

The special offering amounted to \$67.00. We sang "Near the Cross" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell



*Left to right: Scott and Samantha (Beam) McLelland, Doug Beam (Sam's dad), Bonnie Beam (Sam's mother), and Cassie Beam (Sam's sister).*

*Congratulations*

*Mr. and Mrs. Scott McLelland!*



*Congratulations*

*Mr. and Mrs. Sam Petersheim!*

## *Did You Know That . . .*

. . . three Eastern Mennonite University classes will be offered here at Conestoga this fall: 1) **Living Theology** on Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. taught by Dr. Brinton Rutherford. Theology is the essential and ongoing task of faithful reflection of life lived in the presence of God, others and creation.

The second class is: 2) **Formation in God's Story I** on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. once a month taught by Dr. Marcus Smucker. In this core formational course, students will explore their own life narrative in the larger picture of God's story as recorded in Scripture.

The third class is: 3) **Anabaptist History & Theology** on two different weekends all day Friday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on October 5-6 and November 30 and December 1. This study of Anabaptist history and theology introduces students to the elements of missional leadership within the increasingly multiethnic region as we become more acquainted with the polity process and relationship of Mennonite Church USA. Dr. Mark Wenger and Rose Bender will lead this discussion.

For more information, contact Julie R Siegfried at EMS-Lancaster: [julie.siegfried@emu.edu](mailto:julie.siegfried@emu.edu) or phone 717-397-5190.



*Stephen Petersheim is second from the left.*



The **2012 Conestoga Softball Team** was surprised and blessed by Mabel Petersheim and Becky Yoder after the June 28 softball game! Mabel's late husband, Stephen (pictured above), began Conestoga's softball team a number of years ago, and in memory of what would have been his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mabel presented a check of \$100 to the Team. Mabel shared that Stephen drove 50 different times from Blue Ball to Morgantown one year for softball practice or games! If that was not enough of a surprise, the evening was capped off with Becky Yoder serving homemade ice cream that she had made for this special occasion!

## Youth Game Night

sponsored  
by  
Young  
Adults



## Upcoming Jr. MYF Event

Wednesday, Aug. 1 - Friday, Aug. 3 - Annual Jr. Youth Spiritual Life Retreat. Meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 1, to pack & leave for Eagles' Nest cabin in Centre County! Rachel Mast will lead us in four sessions, plus we will enjoy time in the mountains and at Poe Valley State Park! Stay tuned for activities already in the planning for September!

### Community Meal Saturday, August 11

5 - 6:30 PM - Community Meal (Compliments of Church)  
7 PM - **Shelleen Weaver** (in church sanctuary)  
Christian Music Artist from New Holland, PA  
([www.shelleensings.com](http://www.shelleensings.com))



Conestoga Mennonite Church  
Route 23, west end of Morgantown, PA  
**610-286-6270**

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# CONESTOGA STUDENTS

## PRESCHOOL / PRE-K

**Cameron Johnson** - Twin Valley High School  
**Emmie Parsons** - Conestoga Christian

## KINDERGARTEN

**Cora Parsons** - Blue Ball Elementary  
**Heather McWilliams** - Twin Valley Elementary  
**Skiler McWilliams** - Twin Valley Elementary

## SECOND GRADE

**Madison Martinez** - Blue Ball Elementary  
**Paige Meadors** - Blue Ball Elementary  
**Piper Meadors** - Blue Ball Elementary

## THIRD GRADE

**Chloe Young** - Brecknock Elementary

## FOURTH GRADE

**Celia Johnson** - Twin Valley Elementary  
**Rosa Johnson** - Twin Valley Elementary  
**Preston Meadors** - Blue Ball Elementary

## FIFTH GRADE

**Zach Johnson** - Conestoga Christian  
**Domanik Young** - New Holland Elementary

## SIXTH GRADE

**Luke Stoltzfus** - Locust Grove Mennonite

## SEVENTH GRADE

**Thomas Young** - Garden Spot Middle School

## EIGHTH GRADE

**Mindy Beam** - Conestoga Christian  
**Becky Miller** - Locust Grove Mennonite  
**Natalie Stoltzfus** - Lancaster Mennonite  
Middle School

## TENTH GRADE

**Joshua Beam** - Conestoga Christian  
**Mason Stoltzfus** - Lancaster Mennonite  
High School

## ELEVENTH GRADE

**Jonathan Ebert** - Twin Valley High School  
**Hope Miller** - Lancaster Mennonite High School

## TWELFTH GRADE

**Dylan Beam** - Twin Valley High School  
**Joy Beam** - Twin Valley High School

## COLLEGE FRESHMAN

**Bryce Petersheim** - Pennsylvania College of Technology

## COLLEGE SOPHOMORE

**Pierce Ebert** - Penn State University, Main Campus

## COLLEGE JUNIOR

**Denise Beam** - Penn State University, Main Campus  
**Austin Unruh** - Lancaster Bible College  
**Kristy Unruh** - Lancaster Bible College

## TEACHER

**Carrie Stoltzfus** - Camelot Academy



**Thank you to Pastor Bob and Cindy for inviting us to their beautiful pond setting for our church picnic! It was a beautiful day with lots of good food and fellowship and even some fishing! Congratulations to Paige Meadors, Cora Parsons, Luke Stoltzfus, Mason Stoltzfus, Natalie Stoltzfus, and Dominic Young for catching a fish!**





## Dream it. Do it.

*"If you can dream it, you can do it!"*  
- Walt Disney

Jill Waters

Dreams arise from the most unexpected places. They are seeds that have been planted deep within, maybe long ago, at a time when the sowing of those seeds would have been impossible. The beautiful, Biblical quote found in Ecclesiastes gives perspective. . . . **"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven."**

Dreams hold the essence of all the thoughts and ideas that are collected in our lives . . . at any age. When the sowing and harvesting of a dream happens, it occurs because it is time. It cannot be forced to happen. It just unfolds on its proper path, in the season of its intention.

For over 30 years, I have been teaching piano. Hundreds of students have sat on my bench during those years and I can tell you that the most inspirational students have been my adults. Ages have ranged between 45-75 years old. Many of my senior piano students have almost given up on their dream to learn music. Number one reason? Fear of failure. "I can't do this, but I've always wanted to," they say. I smile. I have heard it all before. I assure them that they can do this. And to their amazement, they do! These older folks are playing the classics and are thrilled with their new-found skill . . . and they love it. They work harder and practice harder than those many years younger than themselves. Why? Because first of all, they are paying for their own lessons! But there are more reasons than that. They are fulfilling a long desired dream of playing music. Some played as children and regretted not sticking with it. But for some, this is a first-time venture, never touching a keyboard. For these, the true miracles of joy are reaped.

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*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but when dreams come true, there is life and joy."*

- Proverbs 13:12

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One such adult student was Rose (name changed). She had grown up on a farm and she was told her entire life that she was dumb (she is not). Growing up, she and her siblings had no books in their home to read and her education was very limited (just a side note here . . . she is presently her church's librarian). Rose left home and got married at a very young age. At her first piano lesson, she told me that she had always had a secret desire to learn to play the piano. Rose sat on my bench with tears in her eyes and said, "I don't know why I'm here. I am 66 years old and I'm too dumb to learn this, but my sister insisted I contact you. This will probably be my first and last lesson."

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*"Whether you think you can or think you can't—  
you are right."* - Henry Ford

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Rose took lessons from me for nine years until the day she had to have wrist surgery. For the first time in her life, she was immersed in complete joy of her one dream coming true. Playing the piano was hers and hers alone—no one else's. Her daily companions were Beethoven, Bach, and the great hymn composers. Each Christmas, she played holiday music and Canon in D by Pachelbel. The world for Rose had expanded far beyond anything she could have imagined or hoped for—all because she had jumped out of her comfort zone and let go of any fear of failure. What a wonderful, courageous woman who truly deserved something of her own to enjoy boundlessly. A gift she gave to herself which no one could ever take away.

My ten-year-old granddaughter, Elle, dreams of being a chef. Every week in a nearby major city, she takes gourmet cooking classes preparing dishes that even I have never attempted. Over the years, she and I have made many wonderful (and not so wonderful) dishes and the fun we have had is all part of my precious memory bank. Now, I am learning from her . . . all because she is determined to pursue her dream. I tell her that she might prepare and present food someday in the White House. We encourage big dreams in our family! As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

So, we ask ourselves . . . is there something holding us back from our dreams? Did you know that God knows what our desires are and what we wish for? The Lord pays attention to our dreams. We can know that when we give all our hopes and dreams to God, we can leave it with the Creator whose wisdom and love embraces all we think and do. What we dream and hope for matters to God and He is listening. Even when no one else does, He does. The Bible teaches us that the Lord gives us the desires of our hearts. If our hearts are in tune with His, it is a good thing, a good plan, a good dream.

The average human life lasts about 650,000 hours (more or less). An AARP survey was done with patients nearing death and the number one regret they had in life was they wished they had lived a life that was true to themselves and realized more of their dreams. Wow. That is the kind of statistic that needs to take seed in our hearts.

Most of us have jobs we go to every day, and hopefully, they give us some sort of satisfaction. But a dream is different. It is not a "have to" obligation. It is our own unique creativity springing up with an idea or thought that we want to pursue. At any age, as long as we have breath, we have an opportunity to embrace our dreams. They propel us into new adventures beyond our present status quo. Some wise soul once said that "our lifeline to tomorrow is through today's dreams—respect its call."

What will your dream bring to our world? As we line up our plans with God's, we can be filled with hope and follow His lead as He shows us that "all things are possible." He can fulfill His plans for us as we follow His direction. So, DREAM BIG! God has great things in store and joins us in our spirit-led endeavors.



## Senior Connections . . . Thursday, August 9, will feature . . . **Lunch With Joe**

Come at noon for lunch and then hear Joe Miller share his story of being raised as a Roman Catholic in a family where he was regularly beaten by his mother. At the age of 15, he ran away from home to work as a rock radio announcer in Philadelphia. By the time he was 24, he knew he was in trouble and needed God. Those of us who know Joe's story marvel how God gave him courage to avoid a life of evil and instead pursue God. Senior Connections is for anyone age 60+ . . . bring a friend!

### SWM Moment With Sam Waters

## Theological Objects of Counseling — A Walking Stick —



A number of objects can be seen in my office as reminders of my calling and my theology of counseling ministry. One such item is a walking stick or staff. Psalm 23 is the inspiration for the name of *Still Waters Ministries*.

Verse one of Psalms 23 tells us that the Lord is our Shepherd. First and foremost, the staff reminds me that Lord is my Shepherd and everything I do in ministry is done in the name of and for the sake of my Shepherd.

Verse 2 tells us that He leads us beside still waters. Here the staff reminds me that in every counseling situation, the primary goal is to help bring the counselee beside still waters.

Verse 4 says that His rod and staff comfort us. The staff is a reminder of God's comfort and gentle guidance. Often counselees are hurting from circumstances and situations beyond their control and what they need most is understanding and comfort.

*Still Waters Ministries* is a ministry for everyone. This ministry was established to come along side anyone who has hit a bump along life's highway. Maybe it is as simple as getting counsel to make an important educational or vocational decision. Or it could be helping a couple in getting their marriage back on track. It could even be getting counsel in dealing with anger management, control over anxiety or sadness that just doesn't seem to go away. Life sometimes offers us lemons, leaving us to deal with a bitter taste. Wise counsel can help turn those bitter lemons into lemonade. Life, better, not bitter!

In the months to come, I will share some of the other objects reflecting the ministry's theology of counseling. Always know there is an ongoing invitation to stop by the office any time.



On Thursday, July 26, 16 children, 7 adults, and 26 senior adults enjoyed a

## CANAL BOAT RIDE

