

CONESTOGA Connections



May 2012
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Celebrating and Worshipping During the Easter Season



Children's Easter egg hunt after church Easter Sunday morning.



A CHURCH ON THE MOVE

The following is excerpted from Sheldon Good's article in the April 16, 2012, Mennonite World Review

The London Mennonite congregation in London, England, is taking worship outside with a "Walking Church." The last Sunday of every month since January, Wood Green Mennonite Church in London has worshipped outdoors on the move. They call it "walking church."

Wayne and Lois Hochstetler are two of the two dozen plus persons blending together traditional worship elements such as prayer, liturgy, and meditation with the more unconventional practices of walking, conversing, and explaining the local community. In fact, they are doing more than just getting exercise—they are seeking to be invitational.

As they walk, they carry a sign: "We're a walking church. You are welcome to join us."

Wayne and Lois Hochstetler have spoken here at Conestoga a number of times as Conestoga has supported them in their mission involvements under Mennonite Mission Network. For those of us who have previously visited the London Mennonite Centre, it is expanding into two units—one in London and one at Birmingham.

A new house holding three family units at 69 Lyndhurst Road, London, UK N22 5AX in the Wood Green neighborhood is now home for Wayne and Lois. Wayne serves on the steering committee of the "Walking Church" and led the first two walks in Jan. and Feb.

The Wood Green Mennonite Church which previously met at the Centre is meeting in the Westbury Avenue Baptist Church in Noel Park for Sunday afternoon services. Let's pray for our brothers and sisters living there in London, and also for the new persons who are joining this group.



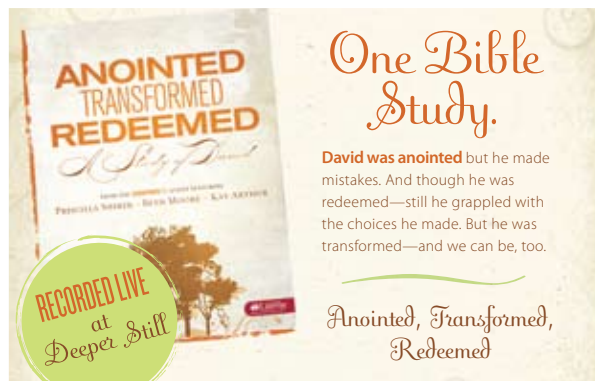
CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed: A Study of David

is a Bible study featuring Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, and Kay Arthur who explore the life of David in this six-session Ladies' Bible Study that will be held here at Conestoga over 12 weeks. We will meet bi-weekly June through August. Each session will focus on the life of David at a different stage of his life. David had 22 years of waiting to see the fulfillment of his calling. The day after his anointing, he was back out in the fields tending the sheep—fighting off lions and bears. His next job was a delivery boy to his brothers who were on the front lines with the army serving King Saul and cowering from a giant named Goliath. Then (let this one blow your mind), his next job was serving the current king—the very position David himself had been anointed to take at some point in the future. But David did it, with his whole heart! Oh, that we would be as faithful in the places God would have us work and serve! So what if where you are is not where you want to be? Is it where God wants you to be? That is what matters!



CONGRATULATIONS to *Christine Ebert* who is graduating on Sunday, May 20, with a B.S. in Marketing From La Salle University

She is looking forward to her new job at Singer Equipment Company, Elverson.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Jody Essick* who is graduating on Saturday, May 5, from Penn State University. He will be serving an internship at Premier Physical Therapy in West Chester this summer.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Sonya Petersheim* who is graduating on Thursday, May 24, at Northampton Community College with an associates degree in Dental Hygiene.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Melissa (Horning) Smoker* who is graduating on Saturday, May 12, from Alvernia University with a Masters in Occupational Therapy.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Bryce Petersheim* who is graduating on Thursday, June 7, from Conestoga Christian School. He will work for Mast Roofing this summer and then this fall will be majoring in Construction Management at Pennsylvania College of Technology.



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, April 4, 2012. There were 11 ladies present. Finished items included 1 comforter, 6 baby gowns, 12 baby blankets, and 11 health kits.

For devotions, we sang "Christ Arose" followed by a reading of Matthew 28 and a meditation entitled "Honest Doubt." The special offering amounted to \$69.00. We sang "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," before adjourning.
- Betty Cannell

NEIGHBORS caring & sharing

*Neighbors meets on Tuesday mornings during the academic school year in our church fellowship hall from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Everyone is welcome for this time of fellowship!*

— May 1 —

Field Trip to Mt. Cuba Center

*Meet at 9:00 a.m. and bring a packed lunch for this two-hour walking tour. Pre-registration required.
\$5.00 admission.*

— June 12 —

Bowling at Blue Ball Lanes

*\$8.00 a person for two games, shoes, and ball.
Come at 10:00 a.m. and pack a lunch for later.*



Last year's Conestoga Softball Team.

Softball Season is Here!

**Support Conestoga's Softball Team—
a fun time of fellowship and a
great encouragement to our guys!**

Go Conestoga!

Questions can be directed to
Coach Mike Petersheim
at 484-364-6193.

2012 Conestoga Softball Schedule

[All games begin at 6:45 p.m. with the exception of those played at Bowmansville Fairground that begin at 8:15 p.m.]

Tuesday, May 1 - Conestoga vs. Mt. Zion at West Nantmeal

Monday, May 7 - Conestoga vs. Community Evangelical
Free at West Nantmeal

Tuesday, May 8 - West Nantmeal vs. St. Johns

Tuesday, May 15 - Conestoga vs. Grace & Truth at
Bowmansville Fairgrounds (8:15 p.m.)

Thursday, May 17 - Conestoga vs. Grace Fellowship 1 at
New Holland West

Tuesday, May 22 - Conestoga vs. Bethany at West Nantmeal

Monday, May 28 - Conestoga vs. Grace Fellowship 2 at
New Holland West

Monday, June 4 - Conestoga vs. Bore at West Nantmeal

Tuesday, June 12 - Conestoga vs. Pine Grove at Brubacher
Park-Meissner

Tuesday, June 26 - Conestoga vs. Christian Fellowship 1 at
West Nantmeal

Thursday, June 28 - Conestoga vs. Summit View at New Holland E.

Monday, July 2 - Conestoga vs. New Holland Nazarene at
Bowmansville Fairgrounds (8:15 p.m.)

Monday, July 9 - Conestoga vs. Lighthouse at New Holland East

Tuesday, July 17 - Conestoga vs. Christian Fellowship 2 at
West Nantmeal

Tuesday, July 24 - Conestoga vs. Twin Valley Bible at W. Nantmeal
Saturday, August 4 - Playoff Tournament



Conestoga's 2012 Quiz Team with their Secret Sponsors one Wednesday evening . . . yes, we even enjoyed a special quiz session followed with ice cream sundaes! The above is a picture drawn by two artists thanking Justin Pechart for being the MOST AWESOME COACH! And, even though this season's quizzing is so current, the quizzers' excitement for next year was already quite obvious!

— Conestoga Members Enjoying Life With Their Hobbies —



Left: Lyle Essick with his 1966 GT Mustang that he restored along with a rebuilt engine. Son Jody also assisted while home on college breaks. The car is now complete and running—like new! Congrats, Lyle!



Becky Yoder with two of her grandchildren traveled to Florida to watch the Phillies play in Spring Training. They are pictured here along with another friend.



Jerry Petersheim caught this 24" long trout the first day of fishing this Spring! Several weeks later, the editor thought she heard it had grown to 42" long!



2012 Conestoga Mission Trip June 10-June 15

WHERE: Bloomsburg, Pa., under the direction of MDS

TYPE of WORK: normal repair work for residences after flooding—might include insulation, drywall, sanding, painting, etc.

NEEDS: many willing workers plus someone who likes to cook (food is provided).

INTERESTED? contact tina.m.essick@gmail.com or call 610-469-0751.

Conestoga's May Fellowship Meal
Sunday, May 20, will be
hosted by Conestoga Youth Group
to support their mission trip!

Notice this is the third Sunday and not the usual fourth Sunday.

Upcoming MYF Events

Sunday, April 29 - Pizza after church in the MYF Room followed with an afternoon of kayaking. (Rain date is May 6.)

Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study led by Rachel Mast.

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study led by Rachel Mast.

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. - Meet at the church to travel to the Twin Valley High School Pops Concert where Joy Beam is performing.

Sunday, May 20 - MYF Fundraising Meal for Youth and other Mission Workers. Arrive at 8:30 a.m. to help with set-up and food preparation.

Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study led by Rachel Mast.

Thursday, June 7 - Conestoga Christian School graduation to celebrate with Bryce Petersheim.

COMING . . . FISHING DERBY

for fathers/daughters/sons of Conestoga attendees

Friday, June 8, 2012



Eric and Steven, son-in-law and grandson of Pastor Bob and Cindy, just caught a fish!

Arrive anytime after 6:00 p.m. at Bob Petersheim's pond. The Derby begins at 6:30 p.m. with 20 different Dads/family units allowed to register—Conestoga Dad's will have priority.

To register, please sign the sheet located on the bulletin board, or e-mail the church office (attention Carol) by June 1, 2012.

Hot Dogs and picnic items will be available after 6:00 p.m. No cost for registration and no license required. Awards, pictures and door prizes will be part of the evening.

Ideas, suggestions or questions should be directed to Rod Stoltzfus. Please bring your own fishing rods and patience and celebrate the gift of Fathers in our church.

Line detanglers welcome. Look for list of awards by category in the June *Connections* (i.e. biggest fish, first catch, etc).



The Reluctant Visitor

Jill Waters

The first time I held a Bible in my hands was when I was 15 years old. A friend from high school had invited me to visit her church. A small rural fellowship outside Columbus, Ohio, where several months later I walked to the altar and gave my heart to Jesus. My second birth! Born again. Saved. Words that were “new” to me. Word that would join an unfamiliar “Christianese” vocabulary and language for me. I could not begin to imagine all that I was about to learn and all I did not know.

This was what I knew . . . these people who gathered together every Sunday were different from what I had . . . and I wanted what they had. Love. Sweetness. Peace. Joy, Kindness. I had been born into the opposite, and I surely was hungry for a change, and a faith that I could hold close that would not let me go.

During those early months of being a new Christian, I saw a television clip of Billy Graham in a crusade talking about being “saved.” I remember thinking to myself, “Saved . . . from what???” All I knew of that context was when you were drowning and someone reached out and rescued you. That did not make sense to me in God terms, but I did find out later, that was EXACTLY what it meant!

Although everyone showed love to me, I still felt like an outsider. Most of these believers had been in the faith for a long time with Godly generations who had gone before them. They had that great cloud of witnesses cheering them on from the heavens (that was from another sermon I had listened to in astonishment . . . wow!). As far as I knew from my lineage, no one was in heaven rooting me on from the sidelines. My ancestors were anti-God, deeply into the occult with hellish addictions. God was never mentioned except in profanity. So, for these Christians, everything was familiar. What they took for granted, I knew nothing about!

I recall sitting in the pew with a Bible on my lap and having the person next to me help find the book and chapter for the morning’s message. (As I write this, I am wondering when was the last time that we helped someone locate a book of the Bible during a worship service? If we have visitors with no ties to faith, we would hope it would be often.)

I eventually got some nifty Bible book tabs that I could use to aid in finding a book reference. Gradually, very grad-

ually, I acquired the skill to lead me to the appropriate passage.

It was strongly suggested to me from the pulpit that believers should be daily in their “WORD”—a term I eventually came to learn was my Bible. My first book to study for personal devotions? Philippians. After that, I was hooked. When I drove, my Bible was always open on the passenger’s seat and when I stopped at red lights, I would read a verse or two. It was my sustenance. What wonderful words of life breathed into my spirit from those anointed pages. New life! Beautiful light pouring into my darkness!

And so my spiritual journey began. From a God-less, blasphemous home to a reluctant church visitor to a born-again believer. The difficult days ahead were only beginning as I could not then know the deep sustaining permanence of a faith that would carry me through the next 40 years of hideous trials.

“I was a stranger and you invited Me in.”

Matthew 25:35b

At times, I visualize God watching and listening from heaven to the praises, prayers, and songs lifted up to Him on Sunday mornings. What a grand, precious chorus of murmurings and messages from His awesome-created planet earth. God and His angels see the faces and hearts of the lost, and rejoice when even one comes to Him. (Luke 15:10). That is our mission of love for the reluctant visitor who does not know God.

We need to pray for our visitors as they cautiously enter our churches. We need to be reminded that a visitor’s first steps are difficult and that a church experience can be a new and sometimes very scary one. Many persons here in our area are unchurched and we need wisdom to welcome inclusively, on many levels.

Greetings at the door and a sign-in book are great welcoming tools, but we also need to keep an eye on and become a shadow to the newcomer. Sit beside them, share your Bible, hand them the hymnal, and sing with them. Invite them to comfortable church activities, or out for a meal. Smile, Love, Follow-up. Always assume, in sensitivity, that this seeker may know nothing of God’s Kingdom.

Coming out of our familiar and comfortable world, remember the visitor’s perspectives and impressions. Only then in love, can a relationship start to build.

Editor’s Note: Watch for opportunities that God opens for you to sit with a guest on Sunday morning and help to make them feel welcome!

Senior Connections . . . Thursday, May 10, will feature . . .

Just Me and Miija

Come at noon for lunch
and then let Miija warm your heart and
put a smile on your face
with her performance.

You will enjoy Joanne Warrick and her dog Miija!

Sr. Connections is for anyone age 60+ . . . bring a friend!



Neighbors Caring & Sharing

featured

"Once Upon an Apron"

on April 3, 2012.

*Everyone brought their favorite apron(s)
and shared a story or history of the apron.*



Have a
GREAT
Summer
until Neighbors
meets again
this Fall!

Conestoga Summer Bible School

Sunday-Thursday, June 17-21, 2012

Ages 4 through Grade 6

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Take Me
to the
Water
God's Love Flows

There is a place
for you in
this summer ministry!

Water
is a "powerful" theme
in both the
Old Testament
and the
New Testament.

This year
Vacation Bible School
is planned for
students up to grade six.
Seventh and eighth
graders
from our church
are encouraged
to volunteer as helpers.

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme this year is "Take Me to the Water: God's Love Flows." The lessons are taken from Old and New Testament stories around the theme of water (for example, the healing of Naaman and the woman at the well).

The five evenings will have a similar format as last year, beginning each evening with an assembly including singing and a drama. Students will be divided into groups which will then rotate to three stations: Bible lesson, crafts and snack, and games.

A few things will be different this year:

1) VBS is scheduled in June rather than July, beginning on a **SUNDAY EVENING** and ending on Thursday evening (June 17-21)

2) A new early childhood class for children ages 4 through kindergarten. This class

will attend assembly but remain in their own self-contained classroom for the rest of the session.

Approximately 25 volunteers are needed to staff our VBS program. A few volunteers signed up last month, but the committee will be busy recruiting many more this month. Please consider one of the following:

- Helping with the drama
- Co-leading one of the stations
- Leading a group from station to station (no preparation)
- Helping to staff the early childhood department
- Serving as a helper.

If you have questions or want to volunteer, talk to one of the committee members: Kathleen Weaver, Sharon Stoltzfus, or Marcia Parsons.