



## Working Together to Benefit Tel Hai Camp!



### Members of Conestoga's Homes for Christ Sunday School Class

recently pooled their talents to create a replica of a Conestoga wagon for one of the mini-golf holes at Tel Hai Camp.

Above is **Bill Beam**, woodcrafter in his workshop, who used his talents and resources to build this detailed wagon using several different kinds of wood.

**Tina Essick** had the idea.

**Bill Beam** (pictured above) was the woodcrafter.

**John and Lisa Miller** reinforced the interior of the wagon and made the cover.

**Lyle Essick** helped with the finishing touches.

Lyle and John installed the project at the Camp.



# Sharing in Sunday School

*Members of "Homes for Christ Sunday School" are blessed every Sunday morning with a summary of what happened in Sunday School and in church, thanks to Sharon Stoltzfus.*

## Sunday, August 19, 2012

Hello. Gary and I had a vacation that was restful but included some fun family activities. We were at a cabin in northern Pa.—a site that has a long family history!

Praise and prayer requests from S.S. class:

1. House repairs to the house just west of the Reuzit Shoppe are complete. Howard thanks all who helped.
2. Doug and Bonnie hosted the dinner they sold to benefit the youth group. It was a celebration of good things. We continue prayer for strength for Doug.
3. Still Waters Ministry is almost at capacity.
4. Jill Waters will undergo surgery this week.
5. Visitors in our class included the Unruhs (parents of Austin), Jeremiah (son of Nevin Martin), Tim (a new acquaintance of Pastor Bob) and a friend of Kathy Weaver.

Andy Leatherman was in rare form as our S.S. leader. He instigated a lively discussion based on verses from Jeremiah 23 and 33. The lesson title was 'Ruling Justly.' Again we discussed justice-kingdom justice and justice as man sees it. Justice is not perfect in our world because it involves humans....Jesus is the truest justice. Jesus is referred to in our lesson text as the coming justice. When we are part of the body of Christ he sets the standard for our lives. We need to love our God and this love paves the way for true justice. This love is achieved by spending time with the Lord, talking to God, focusing on God and beginning each day by asking to operate 'in love,' 'out of love,' and 'receiving love.'

Our worship service included guests attending the Kurtz Reunion. Calvin Kurtz read 2 Samuel 9 where David wants to show kindness to the family of Jonathan. The minister, Stephen

Miller, reflected on the gospel—is the gospel all we need?, the gospel has an order: believe, be saved, obey—challenging us to remember that without God we can do nothing.

Personal note: I know this service had a profound impact on some of the families who attended. Apparently, some older members of the Kurtz family are studying family history and are finding stories of MY great-grandfather's Kurtz's alcoholism and the kindness of a hired man from the Esch family. With the assistance of this hired man and with the encouragement of his extended family, the Kurtz family was able to keep the family farm, obtain education and also have a heart for missions. My three aunts who attended on Sunday (the oldest age 92 years), knew very little of this situation with their grandfather and are just hearing this info. for the first time. My aunts are somewhat curious about this but do not have the strong feelings that some of the other people do. I feel the service was a bit confusing with allusions to families and events from the past. For example, the man they talked about in the service—C.D. Esch—who was a mission worker in India died in 1931. This is several generations away from people I remember.

See you soon, Sharon

## Sunday, August 26, 2012

Hello friends,

Prayer and Praise notes from Sunday, August 26:

1. Bob and Cindy went with the youth to the beach on Sat. They had a good time altho the waves were fierce.
2. Vida appreciated the church service last Sun. and also the Kurtz reunion that followed. She appreciates her Godly heritage!
3. Wes and Lois requested peace about the interim pastor position process.
4. Prayer for healing for Jill Waters after surgery.
5. Pegge Tennant will have testing on a lung irregularity.
6. Comfort and healing for Glenda Blank and her family.

Lois Boyer led our S.S. lesson from Ezekial 34:23-31, titled 'Tending the Flock.' A lively discussion on what constitutes a 'good' leader—is a good leader a Godly leader? We were reminded that we are likened to sheep (they have unflattering characteristics) with God leading us. The Lord reassures us that He will be true to his promises—unlike empty promises sometimes by politicians or parents. We see this being fulfilled today and in the future with heaven being the full fulfillment.

Austin and Kristy were commissioned as Directors of Children's Ministry, with commissioning of Bill Beam as he continues as Director of Fellowship, and Pegge Tennant as Director of Fellowship.

Pastor Bob preached on Ephesians 6:17 - Stand (Firm) for Advancement with our tool being the word of God. We are to:

1. Engage with the word of the Lord
2. Engage through prayer
3. Engage by remaining alert and interceding by prayer.... to the very end!

Thanks Bob!

A fellowship meal was well-attended. The desserts were spectacular!

See you soon, Sharon



## CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. There were 11 ladies present. Donated were 10 school kits. Finished items included 3 comforters, 14 baby blankets, 6 baby gowns, and 71 school kits. Also completed was one quilt.

For devotions, we sang, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Mabel Kurtz read Phil. 4:4-9 and the history of the above hymn and composer Joseph Scriven.

The special offering amounted to \$52.00.  
- 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!*

— September 18 —

### Pumpkin Patch Party

*with a devotional by Pastor Bob Petersheim*

A fun time to reconnect and meet new friends and enjoy delicious food created from pumpkin.

— September 25 —

### Hospitality: A Home-Made Ministry

*with Sharon Charles*

You don't need to live in a mansion or even be a Martha Stewart to open your home to others. Sharon will share simple steps to making hospitality a blessing to hosts and guests alike.

## A Teacher's Love

How can we begin to repay a teacher's love?

When we put our children in their loving care and hope at the end of the day, the teachers do not pull out all their hair!

As a parent, I can only hope the teacher gives my child all their devotion, so in return, when I see my child's success, it is no surprise that I will fill up with emotion.

When it comes to conference day and I see what my child has learned since the beginning of the year,

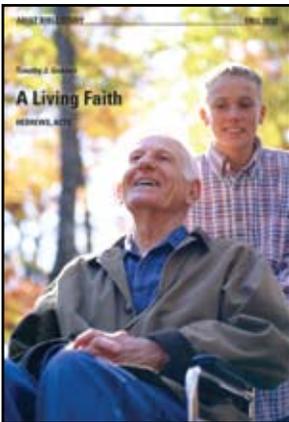
I cannot help but wipe away a happy little tear.  
When school is over for the day, it makes us proud to see our children smile, all because the teacher took the time to teach that extra mile.

All the "thank you" in the world can never repay a teacher, our child's most treasured creature.

So after having said all of that, there is no surprise that our child has become a success because of a special teachers' patience and love!  
And, of course, with a lot of help from God above!

Our message to you, dear teachers, is that we want to thank you a lot for helping us care for our little tots!

*This poem was written by Rebecca Edwards McWilliams, mother of Skiler and Heather McWilliams. This poem was written 15 years ago when her son graduated from preschool and was read at Skiler and Heather's graduation from preschool in May 2012.*



## Sunday School

A new Sunday School year begins the first Sunday of September. Some of the children will be moving on to new classes!

The youth and adult study for the next 13 weeks is titled "A Living Faith" as we study the impact of faith in

Jesus within the early church and its surrounding cultures. The first five Sundays asks the question, "What is Faith?" based on Hebrews; the next four Sundays asks the question, "Who Understands Faith?" based on Stephen, Simon, and Philip in Acts; and the final four Sundays asks the question, "What Does Faith Cost?" also based on Acts.

There are four youth and adult classes open that are stimulating with excellent teachers! If you are looking to attend a class, contact Sunday School Superintendents Lisa Miller or Rodney Stoltzfus. You won't regret it!

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**Upcoming Jr. MYF Events**

Wednesday, Aug. 1 - Friday, Aug. 3 - Annual Spiritual Life Retreat with Rachel Mast as resource person.

Any questions, call Marilyn Beam at 610-406-7628.

**Upcoming MYF Events**

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 14-16 - ACC Fall Youth Retreat at Refreshing Mountain Camp. Meet at church parking lot at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and return by Sunday about 1:00 p.m. "Whose Brand are You?" is the theme that Michele Hershberger will focus on for this weekend of fun and growth. Contact Tina & Lyle Sept. 3 if you can join us.

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in Youth Room led by Rachel Mast



Zach Johnson



Dylan Beam



Mindy Beam



Celia Johnson



Joy Beam with her Dad Nelson



Josh Beam



Rosa Johnson



Josh Beam



Joy Beam



Cameron Johnson

**Steers, pigs, and sheep** were shown at Chester County's 4-H Livestock Sale on August 15, 2012. Eight Conestoga youth and children did a fabulous job with fathers and mothers and uncles and aunts and grandparents assisting and/or buying the livestock! It was a *fun* evening for all—especially for four-year-old Cameron (left) who had the privilege of showing the very last pig donated by the Beams. Joy Beam was awarded with the "Reserve Grand Champion Swine."

## Theological Objects of Counseling ~ A Back Pack ~



In last month's article, I mentioned a number of objects in my office that serve as reminders of my calling and my theology of counseling ministry. Last month I talked about my walking stick or staff. This month I want to talk about the back pack in my office.

Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Having benefitted from counseling during a very difficult time in my own life, I fully understand there are times in every person's life when they need someone to come along side of them to help carry their burden.

Last week on one of the television networks' early morning shows, they talked about the significant increase in the number of individuals affected by anxiety and worry. According to the news cast, anxiety has increased more than 200% in the past year and is the nation's leading mental health issue. Burdens surrounding mental health affect nearly one in every five Americans. Statistics indicate that only half of those affected actually receive help.



As Christians, we are called to carry one another's burdens. However, there are times when the burden is one that requires the help of a counselor. "The straw that broke the camel's back" is just that . . . one too many burdens that can bury any one of us. We are not created to carry too heavy of a load. It will result in brokenness. The back pack is a daily reminder not only of my professional obligation, but my Christian responsibility to pick up the back-pack of another who is weighed down by the "heavies" of life that ought not be carried alone.



### *Saturday—Recreation or Work?*

*Many of us work a 40-hour work week and enjoy recreation or hobbies on Saturdays. Future issues of Connections will feature Conestogans and what they do on a Saturday. Our first person to feature is Nevin Martin who on August 4, 2012, chose to assist his brother, Larry from Virginia, in a blacksmithing exhibit at the Shirktown Thresherman's Reunion near Bue Ball.*

*Blacksmithing as a hobby provides a perception of a vital component of our past. Iron workers produced all the nails, hinges, farm implements, and any bracket or brace where wood or stone structure required additional support. Today we practice blacksmithing predominantly as ornamental, whereas in the past blacksmithing was mostly utilitarian and all iron products were very expensive because of the labor involved.*

*Thanks, Nevin, for being our "first" Saturday feature!*



*Joe Miller shared an abbreviated version of his life story at the August Senior Connections. Bob and Jo Ebert's grandson graced us with three hymns played on his trumpet—all after a Greek dish of Mousaka, jello salads, and fresh fruit dessert (cantaloupe, watermelon, blueberries, and ground cherries).*



**Senior Connections . . . Thursday, September 13**

**Join us at noon for a picnic lunch at the church followed by a fieldtrip (including wagon ride) to Weaver's Orchard with tour guide Allen Weaver.**



*On a recent outing while trying to pull a Conestoga wagon, Pastor Bob is reminded again why he is grateful that members and leaders join hands together to accomplish our mission.*

A TRIBUTE TO LINDA BUSH

What can be said of our Linda?  
So much that the cup overflows.  
A life filled with love and compassion,  
And blessings the wealthiest know.

What can be said of our Linda?  
A heart that is sweetness and light.  
A tongue that expresses contentment.  
A soul filled with boundless delight.  
Her gifts pour as rain from the heavens,  
Her service with hard work and smiles.  
She offers them up with her gladness;  
Yet we know, she has overcome trials.  
God's grace is sufficient for Linda.  
All these years she has certainly known,  
That He has been faithful in all things;  
Good fruits He has graciously sown.

What can be said of our Linda?  
Have you been to a feast by her hands?  
It is wonderful, yummy and plenty,  
All dishes infused with her care.  
To be in her presence is privilege,  
To know her is favor from God.  
Precious is how we describe her,  
Her journey well-lived and well-trod.  
These hot summer days have reached ninety,  
And Linda's reached ninety, as well!  
We wish her the best  
As her life is so blessed,  
And her joy is unspeakably full!

Happy 90th Birthday, Linda!  
August 13, 2012

Much love,  
Jill Waters



Two birthday ladies recently turned 90 years old and celebrated this special event with family and friends. Pictured above is Linda Bush who turned 90 on August 13 and is pictured here with son, Larry, and niece Dotty Martin.



Barbara Bush attended Linda Bush's birthday party. Here she is talking with Titus and Omar Beam. This "Barbara Bush" is Linda's daughter-in-law married to son Ron Bush.



*HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
Linda and Phebe!*

*Phebe Bell also recently turned age 90 and celebrated it here in Pennsylvania—currently living in Indiana with her daughter Sally. Phebe is the sister of Julia Yoder (pictured beside Phebe in the picture on the left) and Ruth Stauffer.*