

CONESTOGA Connections



July 2012
Vol. XXIII
No. 7

Thank You God for all the wonderful Bible School helpers!



Conestoga's 2012 Summer Bible School was Bible-based plus lots of fun. All children who attended at least four evenings, received a free mini-golf ticket (plus another one for a parent to accompany them). Pictures on this page (top left and then right and down) show Mason Stoltzfus coordinating an outside activity every night except the night helping with the Food Pantry. Dot Leatherman assisted by Becca Horning provided an exciting evening for all the preschoolers. Crafts coordinated by Marcia Parsons and Liz Petersheim was also highlight each evening. Jill Waters came on Wednesday night and helped each child do a Borderbyte! Bible stories expanded the drama given during the worship time . . . Joy Beam is pictured above teaching a lesson on Naaman. Left: John the Baptist (Bob Horning) is baptizing Jesus (Roger Mast) during the worship time on Thursday evening.



More photos of the Youth Mission Trip on page 5.

A Blessed Trip to Bloomsburg

This year Conestoga's youth group had the privilege of traveling to Bloomsburg, Pa., for our mission trip. The group included: Lyle & Tina Essick, Jody Essick, Meredith Graff, Hope Miller, Mason Stoltzfus, Josh Beam, Weston Caley, Janet Caley, Becky Yoder, Bob & Jo Ebert, Joy Beam, Dan Mast, and myself. Some were there the whole week while others came for a day or two. It was wonderful to have not only the youth working on the trip, but also others of different ages.

We worked on four different houses while we were there. Jobs included sanding, mudding, hanging drywall, painting on primer, installing plumbing, putting in washers, dryers & dishwashers, picking up trash, etc.

One job that was not included on that list was scraping liquid nails off of a tile floor. We worked at scraping the tiles in a house where a couple in their 70s lived near the Susquehanna River. In fact, it was practically in their back yard. They had spent some of the money they had received from their insurance to hire someone to fix up the kitchen. When they returned to see their finished kitchen, they found it a mess. Whoever had done the work, had gotten liquid nails all over the tiles and this couple had tried everything to get this mess off their floor.

A whole day of work later, we were able to scrape it all up. It sure made the floor look totally different! I can't even describe this couple's happiness and thankfulness. Yes, it was tough work scraping that stuff up, but it sure was a privilege to serve this couple.

Overall, it was great to work alongside everyone who volunteered for this trip. It was wonderful to see everyone working together, and at the same time blessing our Bloomsburg neighbors. There were a few things that set this trip apart from others. One, Bloomsburg is not too far from home. Two, we invited others of different ages to join us. And three, this trip had no shortage of thankful homeowners. ~ Rachel Mast



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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Editor: Lois Ann Mast
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Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. There were 11 ladies present. Donated items included two comforters and 1 relief kit. Finished items included two comforters, 17 baby blankets, and seven baby gowns.

For devotions, we sang "Faith of Our Fathers." Proverbs 4:1-7 was read along with a devotional entitled "Cutting a Trail." The special offering amounted to \$46.00.

Five relief kits were purchased in the month of May and delivered to the M.R.C. We sang "Savior Like a Shepherd" before adjourning.
- Betty Cannell



Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Essick!

Jon and Kelly (Flanigan) Essick

*were married on June 23, and are
living in State College, Pennsylvania.*



Relay for Life walkers, Howard Moss with daughter Sabrina and grandchildren Paige and Piper and Preston.

Did You Know That . . .

. . . **John and Lavern Petersheim** celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on June 19 when the Wandering Shepherds Bible Study met there for a hymn sing and time of prayer and celebration and snacks! Happy Anniversary!

. . . **the Hebron School** in Israel started by the late Ada and Ida Stotlzfus, members here at Conestoga Mennonite, is expanding by building a new school in nearby Bethlehem? Come to the July 28 Hebron School Fundraiser Dinner at 6:15 p.m. to learn more from Holy Land Ministries President Dave Garrison and also hear Sadi Othman share his story as a student of Ada and Ida in Hebron. Tickets are available from either Lemar or Lois Ann Mast.

. . . **Team Doug** members included Bob and Cindy Petersheim, Linda Mast, Lois Ann Mast, Roger Hoffner, Sabrina, Paige, Piper, Preston, Carol and Howard Moss, Kristy Petersheim, and Austin Unruh? The Team walked more than 52 miles in 24 hours and raised nearly \$1000 toward the fight against cancer.



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.]

- 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 10 - Conestoga vs. Grace & Truth at Bowmansville Park. Note that this is a late game beginning at 8:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 17 - Conestoga vs. Christian Fellowship 2 at West Nantmeal
- Tuesday, July 24 - Conestoga vs. Twin Valley Bible at West Nantmeal
- Saturday, August 4 - Playoff Tournament

Upcoming MYF Events

Wednesday, July 4, 7:30 p.m. - No Bible Study.

Wednesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study led by Rachel Mast.

Saturday, July 14, 6:00 p.m. - *October Baby* movie at the church (free).

Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. - Springside Par 3 Golf. Cost is \$6.00 per person.

Wednesday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study led by Rachel Mast.

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.



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)



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

Left: Becky Miller surprised the adults each evening with a different art sketch on our sketch board, so we invited her to design something special for the Conestoga Connections and here it is! Keep using your God-given gift, Becky!



More mission trip photos continued from page 1.



CONESTOGA'S FISHING DERBY

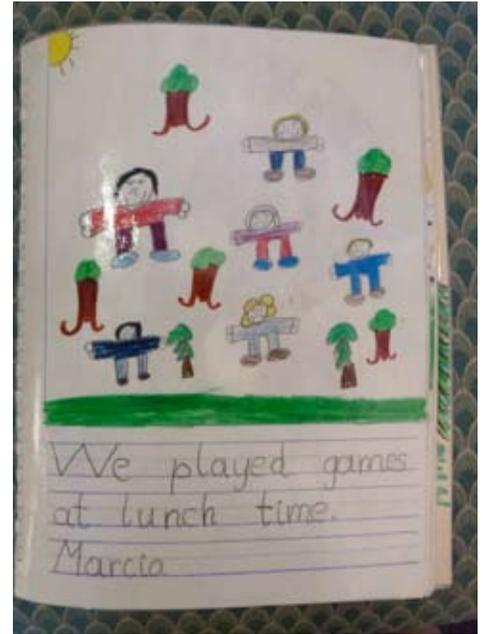
I was eager to accept the challenge when Cindy Petersheim prompted my father and I to organize a community event. We were told to plan and carry out a “fishing derby” (fishing competition) where folks from the community could come out to the Petersheim pond and fish for both recreational and competitive fun. During the weeks prior to the event, both Cindy and my father (Rodney Stoltzfus) were out and about asking different stores and restaurants to donate items and certificates towards our cause. Therefore, by June 8, we had accumulated a stockpile of donated items along with \$100 worth of fishing rods and tackle boxes. There were five predetermined categories in which the competitors could win prizes: Mindy Beam caught the largest fish, Zach Johnson caught the smallest fish, Mason Stoltzfus caught the most fish, Evey Lewis was the youngest person to catch a fish, and Dan Mast was the oldest person to catch a fish.

The night of June 8 was a perfect day for fishing—the air was crisp and the water calm. Many of the folks had come early to enjoy Becky Yoder’s cooking, but the fishing started at 6 o’clock. When the starting time arrived, all the lines were tossed into the pond and the fun began! Throughout the night, there were over a dozen bass caught along with four catfish. The fishing concluded just after 7:30, and we all headed back to the group over at the campfire to receive our awards and get a chance at some door prizes. Eventually, people started to trickle away and the cleanup was finished. We said our farewells and hopped into the truck and drove up the driveway, the bag full of fresh bass still rustling in the back. - *Mason Stoltzfus*





Mary Jane Albertson (Susan Johnson's mother) sharing in our morning worship service after the Youth Mission Team was dedicated for their upcoming week of service at Bloomsburg, Pa. Mary Jane lives in Bloomsburg, just happened to be visiting Conestoga this morning, and spontaneously thanked the Team and the church for willingly working to help the people around Bloomsburg!



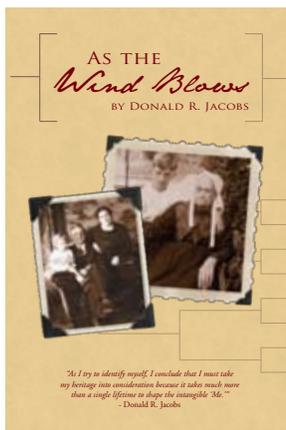
Above right: Julia Yoder recently surprised Marcia Parsons by presenting her with a book compiled when Marcia was in Julia's first grade school class!



Sharon Stoltzfus playing a song in memory of her father on Father's Day on the piano donated by her family to the Conestoga Mennonite Church when our new church was built.



Singing on a Sunday morning is a very important part of our worship whether we sing with our voices or with our hands.

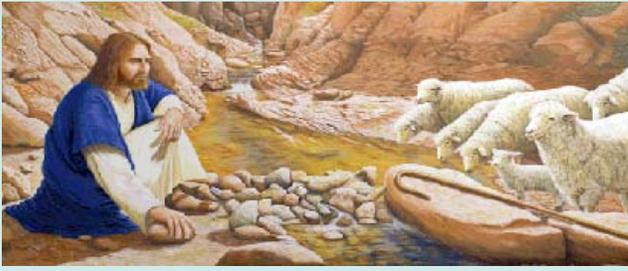


***New Book
in our
church library!***

Do you have a good imagination? Can you envision the thoughts of your ancestor as he lived in a prince-ruled German countryside with no hope of owning any land to call his own? Oh, how this young man dreamed of sailing across the ocean to a place where a person was free to make his own living possibly in the wilderness? Some traveled with others from their church family, while others were on their own. After their arrival in this new world, read how some weathered the storms of anti-German feelings during World War I, so determined to remain German in language, religion, and culture.

Others built a church house and in the dedication sermon, addressed the members, neighbors, and friends in English, breaking the tradition, but yet pleasing neighbors, some of whom returned to the next services. Some families moved near the city to sell their produce, and consequently their children married Lutherans. That was not so terrible since they were still German-speaking and part of their culture. But who were these English?

Mix Mennonite, farmer, English, town, Lutheran, German, all in the melting pot of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and you get the stories of *As the Wind Blows* written by Donald R. Jacobs. - Ruth Stoltzfus



Still Waters Ministries

COMMUNITY COUNSELING SERVICES

www.still-waters-ministries.org

God is continuing to work His purpose out here in the Morgantown area! Conestoga's Pastoral Team is humbled by yet another ministry that is beginning here at Conestoga Mennonite Church.

When Sam and Jill Waters presented a written proposal of their vision to begin a no-fee community counseling clinic with no cost or fees to clients, it was unanimous after prayer and discernment to partner with Sam and Jill and provide office space here at Conestoga.

Many of us know of friends and family who need counseling, but no insurance is available and the cost is prohibitive. Pastor Bob has often shared that he receives many requests for counseling, so yet again, God is opening the door to fill needs here in our community.

Certainly, there will be costs incurred, but it is obvious that Sam and Jill consider this a "calling from God" and with Godly passion they are pursuing this ministry in faith! All services will be covered by private donations.

Check out the Still Waters Ministries website to learn more: www.still-waters-ministries.org

In addition to individual counseling services, support groups and seminars will possibly be offered as needed (listed on the right). Encourage interested persons to call the church office to make an appointment. As a congregation, let's pray for this new ministry at Conestoga—especially bringing Sam and Jill to God's throne!



Sam and Jill Waters sharing in a recent offertory on a Sunday morning.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- *Grief Support Group*
- *Divorce Recovery/Support Group*
- *Addiction Recovery/Support Group*
- *Parents Without Partners Support Group*
- *Parental Eldercare Support Group*

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

- *Stress or anxiety*
- *Depression*
- *Career counseling*
- *Eating disorders*
- *Substance abuse*
- *Family relationship conflicts*
- *Financial stress*
- *Grief/loss issues*
- *Intimacy, commitment, or relationship issues*
- *Identity concerns (e.g., ethnic/racial identity; sexual orientation, spiritual identity)*
- *Thoughts and feelings about suicide or self-harm*
- *Anger or thoughts of violence*

TOPICAL SEMINARS:

- *Stress management*
- *Pain management*
- *Coping with loss and grief*
- *Mourning the living*
- *Anger management*
- *Marriage enrichment*
- *Empowering parents*

