

# CONESTOGA *Connections*



June 2012  
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No. 6

**Welcoming New Conestoga Members on May 20, 2012!**



**Mark Petersheim was the youngest "worker" at Conestoga's 2012 Work Day!**



**Workers at Conestoga's 2012 Work Day enjoying coffee and donuts!**



**An inspiring alphorn/yodeling concert by two Swiss natives was enjoyed by 400+ persons.**



**Sam and Jill Waters sharing during the offertory.**



# The PASTORS CONNECTION

## Stewarding New Visions

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old members will dream dreams, your young members will see visions. Joel 2:28 (adapted)*

It is an honor to welcome new members by believer's baptism and by reconnection to the Body of Christ. Truly our May 20 service was a memorable morning as eleven persons became partners with us!

At the rate our young adults are marrying and choosing CMC as their church home, my successor may have the rich blessing of baptizing a group of CMC children as numerous as my baptismal class forty plus years ago. That is a worthy "old members dream!"

I also pray that between now and that future dreamed-of day; and beyond; God will continue blessing us with new members who display the richness of background, ages, and testimony of those who joined our mission May 20. Surely such diverse richness is evidence of God's Spirit being "poured out on all people" as the prophet envisioned.

New members add gifts to fulfilling existing mission and ministry. They also bring fresh perspectives and new passion. Praise God!! This is what keeps us relevant to "God's redemptive activity in our generation" (wording from our eighth Guiding Value).

The introduction to our CMC Constitution recognizes that "Members who share in this ministry need an organized way to coordinate and empower, and to be accountable. They also need flexibility to act as the Spirit leads." In Section four we address how we will discern new visions; with the commitment that "New ministries will receive an automatic 'Yes' by the Pastoral Team when they assess that:

- a. The envisioned ministry contributes to our vision
- b. There is evidence of adequate resources (finances, personnel, etc)
- c. The life of the person envisioning the new ministry has integrity for leading it."

Two new visions are currently being pursued with joy. Pastoral Team recently approved Lois Boyer as Administrator to work with the highly effective Hope Within Medical Clinic in exploring a satellite in our Ministry Center. We invite your prayers, counsel and support as this dream is pursued towards reality.

We are also dreaming with Sam and Jill Waters beginning "Still Waters Counseling". Pastoral Team is in awe of God's generosity to us as we discern how to best partner together in this kingdom work.

Although social ministries dare not displace a church's fulfillment of spiritual needs; research shows that the most effective evangelism is "needs based." When we imitate Christ's example of addressing physical needs people more easily respond to gospel. As example; many of my recent witness opportunities began as Food Pantry connections. Imagine the expanded commitments to Christ as Still Waters Counseling and Hope Within Medical Clinic help us be Good Samaritans to our neighbors.

Five years ago a prophetic word began turning me towards home at Conestoga. It envisioned Conestoga wagons again going out from this place filled with supplies to enlarge Christ's kingdom. May God continue to favor us with members who "dream new dreams" so "His kingdom will come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

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.

Editor: Lois Ann Mast  
Assistant Editor: Elizabeth Petersheim  
Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus





## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. There were 12 ladies present. Donated were: 70 kit bags and 2 relief kits. Finished items included: 2 comforters, 15 baby blankets, 5 baby gowns, and 18 health kits.

For devotions, we sang "I Would Be Like Jesus" followed by a reading of Romans 12:1-2, 9018, and a meditation entitled "Who You're Meant To Be." The special offering amounted to \$65.00. We sang "Make Me a Blessing" 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!*

— 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.*



*Ruth with her children and grandchildren (left to right): Adam Lake, Conestoga, Pa.; Alex Lake, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Lorna C. Stoltzfus (daughter), New Holland, Pa.; Ruth W. Stoltzfus, Honey Brook, Pa.; Nikolaus Stoltzfus, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Neal W. Stoltzfus (son), Baton Rouge, La.; Larisa Stoltzfus London, United Kingdom; Sidney W. Stoltzfus (son), Sugarloaf, Fl.; and Zachary Stoltzfus, Vancouver, Wash.*

## ~ 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration ~

Ruth W. Stoltzfus helped to plan her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration when her children and grandchildren (pictured above) all returned to Pennsylvania to enjoy the well-planned day initiated by Ruth's daughter, Lorna. It started on a Saturday morning by boarding a chartered bus as the happy extended family toured nearby cemeteries and homesteads pertaining to Ruth's Weiler ancestry. Nieces and nephews also enjoyed this historic tour.

One of the many highlights was visiting the Weiler homestead where Ruth was born along Route 10 near Morgantown. Time was also spent in our church archives viewing Stoltzfus artifacts, as well as listening to Lloyd Weiler traced the family genealogy back to Europe.

The day concluded with a delicious meal featuring long-time family recipes held in our church fellowship hall. Congratulations, Ruth, on your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!!!



*The Jr. Youth Sunday School class taught by Kristy Petersheim and Austin Unruh purchased and compiled two Cleaning kits, two Toiletry kits, and one House warming kit. Thank you for generously giving to the "Dollars for Desserts" fundraiser! These kits will be distributed by Church World Service to refugee families living in Lancaster. Class members are Luke Stoltzfus, Mindy Beam, Natalie Stoltzfus, Zach Johnson, and Nate Smucker (absent from photo).*



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  
**Mike Petersheim, coordinator,**  
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.]

- 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 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





# 2012 Conestoga Mission Trip

Sunday June 10 through Friday, June 15

Bloomsburg Pa., area under direction of Mennonite Disaster Service

Repair work of residences following flood damage  
NEED Many willing workers plus someone who likes to cook(food provided).  
INTERESTED? Contact [tina.m.essick@gmail.com](mailto:tina.m.essick@gmail.com) or call 610-469-0751

Thank you to the following persons already registered for this mission outreach:

**Full-time:**

Hope Miller  
Daniel Mast

Weston Caley  
Rachel Mast

Mason Stoltzfus  
Lyle Essick

Josh Beam

**Part-Time:**

Joy Beam  
Bob Ebert

Tina Essick  
Jo Ebert

Janet Caley

Jody Essick



## Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

Sunday, June 17 - Thursday, June 21 - Summer Bible School at Conestoga

Sunday, July 1, 5:00 p.m. - Bike Ride on the Thun Trail with a stop at Scoop DeVille Ice Cream Parlor. If a bike is needed, ask Marilyn.

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

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

Sunday, June 10 - Friday, June 15 - Mission Trip to Bloomsburg, Pa., with MDS

Sunday, June 17 - Thursday, June 21 - Summer Bible School at Conestoga

Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study led by Rachel Mast.

# CONGRATULATIONS!



## Jon Essick (left) at Work!

I am now a part time IT Specialist for Penn State and am really enjoying the new atmosphere. My department is called Information Systems and Services (ISS), and we service and support the College of Health and Human development. That college is comprised of 18 buildings and 1,200 users. Kelly and I are getting married on June 23, 2012, and are honeymooning in New Hampshire, near Mount Washington.



## Rebecca Horning (above) is a New Manager!

Praise God for this new job opportunity! It has been great so far! I am the manager at *Kupkake Kouture* in West Reading on Penn Ave. I'm in charge of decorating the cupcakes and special order cakes.

## Christine Ebert From College Straight to Work!

I graduated from college on Sunday, May 20, and began working the next day at Singer Equipment, Elverson, in the Marketing Department.



Cassie Beam recently accepted a new position as a web developer at



Shawn Beam recently received a job promotion and now assumes the position of a retail sales representative for **syngenta** in New York State. He resides in Geneva where he sells agricultural products to clients between Rochester and Syracuse.

## 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

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Have you seen the new bulletin boards that were recently installed? The one above is in the hallway looking towards the church office (displays how we organize our church ministries), and the other is at the fellowship hall entrance (displays our DNA Small Groups).



*Senior Connections* on Thursday, June 14, will feature

## **A Squeak From a Twig From a Branch From Conestoga**

by Calvin Kurtz

*A hot lunch will be served at noon followed by this presentation and then time for shuffleboard and games! Although, Sr. Connections is open for anyone age 60+, we welcome all ages to this special luncheon!*

*Rev. Calvin Kurtz is Executive Director Emeritus of the Reading Berks Conference of Churches. He and his wife, Esther, live near Elverson. Calvin is the son of Conestoga's late minister Christian U. Kurtz.*



### ***Did You Know That . . .***

. . . **Andy and Dot Leatherman** served as missionaries in South Korea from 1967 to 1971 helping as a social worker (Andy) and English teacher (Dot) under Mennonite Central Committee? A reunion of the workers was planned for May 21-28 in Korea and Andy and Dot had the privilege to attend.

. . . **Bill Beam** as Conestoga's Stewardship Director has negotiated with Liberty Power and PP&L to save on our church electric bill. For this coming year, our savings could be \$2,526.00 (based on the same usage as 2011). Thank you God for Conestoga's Directors who take their job seriously as "servants of God."

. . . **Conestoga's Fishing Derby** on June 8 will have the following prizes:

- First fish caught
- Most fish caught
- Youngest to catch fish
- Longest fish caught
- Smallest fish caught
- Oldest to catch a fish



. . . **Bob and Jo Ebert** were surprised at the May Wandering Shepherds Bible Study as they were honored for leading this Bible Study for 17 years? Excerpts were read from the minutes kept by Jo over the 200+ Bible Studies they led and a list was distributed showing where every Bible Study met. Bob and Jo were "blessed" with this flower arrangement and words of appreciation were

shared. They will continue to be involved in future Bible Studies, but have passed the mantle on to Lemar and Lois Ann Mast who will now serve as the coordinators.



# 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!

**Thank you**  
for your  
prayerful support  
and encouragement  
as we host our  
**2012 Summer Bible  
School week**  
this month!

Children ages 4 through grade 6 will study the same Scriptures as the Adult Bible Study led by five different teachers (Wes Boyer, Nevin Martin, Lois Ann Mast, Pastor Bob Petersheim, and Andy Leatherman).



Sign showing "Holy Land Ministries" at the entrance to the Hebron School in Hebron, Israel.

## Hebron School

We cannot all serve in person in missions around the world, but we can learn about how God is at work, and then share our gifts of offerings with God's work!

Conestoga Mennonite has supported Hebron School since 1947 when Conestoga members Ada and Ida Stoltzfus began serving as administrators of this Christian boy's school (now both boys and girls). This school is now the only Christian influence in the city of Hebron—a wonderful "light on the hill" to both students and parents.

On **Saturday, July 28**, Conestoga is hosting a fundraising dinner to support the Hebron School. Invitations were placed in church mailboxes last week. Put this date on your calendar and obtain tickets from Lois Ann Mast.

This year our main speaker will be Sadi Othman, a former student of Miss Ada and Miss Ida, who expressed a sincere desire to come to Pennsylvania and "do what he can to continue God's work that Ada and Ida began."

Sadi is well-known in the international world as a wise and trusted translator for U.S. government officials and leaders. But it does not stop there . . . he is also well-respected and trusted by Middle Eastern leaders as well.

Come and hear Sadi's story and share in this mission outreach at Hebron!



Sadi Othman with Prime Minister Tony Blair.