

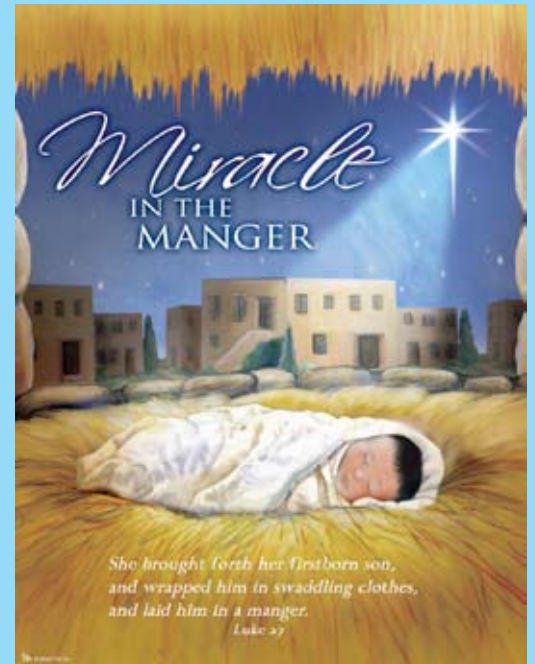
# CONESTOGA Connections



November 2012  
Vol. XXIII  
No. 11



*Conestoga's Rachel Mast and Wes Boyer and six other new leaders were commissioned and formally welcomed at the October 27 Atlantic Coast Conference's Fall Assembly. ACC congregations, including Conestoga, contributed over \$4000 for the Nickels for Neighbors project this year with \$2500 going to Camp Deepark to build a lake with an amphitheater overlooking the lake PLUS another \$1500 providing community food packs at Ridgeview Mennonite. Our own Pastor Bob and two others introduced a survey they took among conference churches regarding congregational leadership support systems in ACC and how we can better accomplish our ACC mission.*



## Children's Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 8, 2012**  
**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**  
**More information coming.**



*Next generation is taking over washing dishes after our monthly fellowship dinner! Thank you, Celia and Rosa Johnson and Savannah McCall.*



*Greeting each other during our Sunday morning worship service is always a treasured blessing!*



# The PASTORS CONNECTION

## Anticipating Incarnation

*Do not be afraid... because he will save his people from their sins . . .* excerpts from Matthew 1:20-21

When we publish the next *Conestoga Connections*, our worship focus will have completed fall ingathering and started Advent. Enthusiasm will be building for our December 2, 6:30 p.m. Christmas Hymn Sing and our 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Stormy weather is anticipated during winter. But as I write, Hurricane Sandy smashes rain and wind against my home office window. Every season has its evidences that life needs transformation. And obviously weather is not the primary thing needing saving! All people on earth are ‘his people’ needing salvation from ‘their sins.’

I praise God that He is favoring Conestoga with increasing fruit as we live Christ’s story to benefit others. Our ministries are setting free neighbors caught in the addictive and punishing forces of evil.



### 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

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Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus

None of us has reached perfection. Even those of us who have followed Jesus all our lives carry unhealed wounds and distinct dysfunctions. But through ministries like the Food Pantry and our partnership with Still Waters, we interact with people who show significant impact of generational sin and bondage. We know that God loves them enough to have sent Jesus to die for their freedom.

Now he sends us to point them to Jesus. Many need to hear the words “Be not afraid,” for many cannot remember a day they lived free from fear.

God is giving us courage to witness; gentleness when restoring those caught in sin; and care as they invite us to help unwrap the grave clothes with which Satan is already binding them.

I am grateful for Sam and Jill Waters’s patience; and the wisdom of CMC leaders as we discerned partnership. Pastoral Team originally approved Still Waters as a CMC ministry, but as we began to address tax and liability issues we discerned to advise separate 501©3 status and committed to alternative ways to partner.

Partnership includes prayer for and promotion of Still Waters. We encourage members to give financial gifts through our approved designated gift line. We provide a \$1.00 lease for office space. CMC members Dot Leatherman, Gary Stoltzfus, and John Parsons join others from our community on the Board. Although the counseling is “no cost” so recipients without insurance can access the help they need; the goal is to raise sufficient support to replace the part time salary and health coverage that Sam gave up to pursue this calling.

I testify from speaking with counseling recipients that Still Waters is a partnership worth investing in. God is using this ministry to “save his people from their sins.” May the voices of praise become a chorus of testimony connecting CMC members, our community, and angels rejoicing around the throne!

Amen and Amen,

Pastor Bob Petersheim



## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met for our annual “Bring a Friend” day on October 3, 2012. There were nine regular members and twelve guests. At noon, we enjoyed a covered dish meal.

We completed 13 health kits, 5 baby gowns, and 2 comforters. The offering amounted to \$75.00.

For devotions, we sang “Christ Returneth,” listened to a reading entitled “Day Unknown,” and Matthew 24: 1-8. Our parting song was “Will Jesus Find Us Watching?”

- Julia M. Yoder

## NEW LIBRARY BOOKS in our church library . . .

### Children’s DVDs

*Christmas*  
*Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors*

### Biography

*Miracle in the Mine*  
*Under the Overpass*  
*Trevor’s Song*  
*Life Not Typical*  
*God Knows My Path*  
*Amalyah’s Search for Love*  
*Kisses From Katie*

### Fiction

*The Fugitive—Menno Simons*  
*Not My Will*

### Non-Fiction

*Angels on the Night Shift*

- Julia M. Yoder

# 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!*

— November 6 —

### Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?

Pre-register and share in a meal and enjoy fellowship around the table.

— November 13 —

**Showers of Grace**  
*with Carolyn Hunt*

— November 20 —

**No meeting due to Thanksgiving holiday season**

— November 27 —

**Bible Study**  
*with Stan Deen*

## A Sunday School Surprise

While preparing to teach Sunday School on Sunday, October 14, one of the resources I used to prepare to lead the discussion was *The New International Lesson Annual* published by Abingdon Press (Methodist Publishing House). The commentary on Stephen’s martyrdom (lesson for that day) included the following:

“Having been harshly persecuted in Europe, members of the Amish and Mennonite churches began arriving in the New World in search of freedom to live and worship peacefully. Even here, they were outsiders because of their beliefs about education, government regulations, military service, and taxes. It was not until 1972 that the Amish were able to run their own private schools and end their children’s education at the eighth grade.

Due to their beliefs in pacifism, during World War I, some of their conscientious objectors were abused even in camps established for those who objected to war. In 1981, a baby riding in his parents’ buggy was hit and killed by a rock thrown by boys riding in a car. A series of arsons destroyed seven barns in 1992, but the Amish were stunned when \$600,000 was raised by those beyond their Pennsylvania community to rebuild the barns and replace the livestock that had died.”

- Lois Ann Mast

## Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

November 3 - Barn Party at the Beam's (134 Beam Rd, Elverson, 19520), 6:30-8:30 pm. This will include a hayride and games—some new and some old....sure to be lots of fun!!! Everyone bring a snack to share.

November 17 - Service project for John and Marsha Parsons. As you may know, John was shot in September in a work-related incident. They live in the woods near Zerbes Nursing Home. We will meet at POOLE FORGE Park at 3:00 p.m. and travel to the Parsons to rake their leaves. Bring rakes & gloves (optional) and dress according to the weather. The Parsons will supply hot dogs after our raking (if the weather is nice, it may be a hot dog roast!) Guesstimated pick up at the park is 6:30 pm.

November 23 - Annual Youth Auction and Meal. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. with the Auction beginning at 6:30 p.m. Rumor has it that the menu will be pizza! Come and eat, donate an item, watch the auction, help in the auction, bid, buy, or all of the above!



*Twelve ladies from Conestoga enjoyed attending the Friday evening ACC—Mennonite Women's Fall Dinner with both Heidi Stoltzfus (chair) and Cindy Petersheim (secretary) serving on the Executive Committee. It was a good evening of inspiration, fellowship, and good food!*



## Upcoming MYF Events

Sunday, November 4 - Barn Party with Zion Mennonite and Hope of the Nations youth. Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. and plan to return by 9:00 p.m. Bring a snack.

Monday, November 5 - Roller skating at Skateway. Meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and bring about \$5.00 for admission/skates.

Wednesday, November 7 - No Bible Study.

Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Wednesday, November 21 - No Bible Study

Friday, November 23 - Youth Auction. Meal at 5:45 p.m. with Auction at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in Youth Room led by Rachel Mast



*Phyllis Pellman Good spoke to the ACC Ladies' dinner preceding the next day's 2012 Fall Assembly. Notice the flowers in crockpots in the foreground. Our evening dinner consisted of foods made in crockpots. It was all unbelievably impressive and quite tasty! An informative evening!*



## Sr. Connections Service Project

Senior Connections participated in a service project in October at MCC's Material Resource Center at Ephrata. Members of Conestoga's Sewing Circle also joined us as we quilted, knotted, sewed, baled cardboard, and prepared relief buckets for Ethiopia. Upon arrival, we donated a total of 16 hygiene kits and 5 relief kits—thanks to the contributors!

Highlights of the day included a speaker from Ethiopia who spoke during our lunch hour. Did you know that there are 400,00 Mennonites in Ethiopia today? That is unbelievable for such a small country! They also have a Mennonite college. We also heard that 59,000 comforters have been distributed by MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) in the past year! It was a great day serving with others from Conestoga!

~ Violet Beam

Conestoga's Sewing Circle has donated the following to Mennonite Central Committee so far in 2012: 25 comforters, 80 hygiene kits, 144 school kits, 68 baby blankets, 35 baby gowns, 6 relief kits, and one quilt for the MCC Relief Sale. The Senior Connections group purchased 2 hygiene kits and 2 relief kits.

~ Julia Yoder



MCC has partnered with International Medical Corps in Ethiopia since 2003 providing assistance to the disaster-affected community in Ethiopia and Somali Refugee settled in southern Ethiopia bordering Somalia.

Dolo Ado District is found in Somali Regional state of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia bordering Somalia. In late 2011, ongoing insecurity, severe drought and restricted humanitarian access in southern Somalia brought the number of Somali refugees in Dolo Ado area to a total of 149,377. Fifty-two percent of the total population is female, with over 66% of the population under 18 years of age.

Hygiene kits and relief kits were shipped from Ephrata, Pa., on October 11, 2012, and arrived in Ethiopia on November 25, 2012.





Senior Connections enjoyed a fieldtrip to Weaver's Orchards in September.

Senior Connections . . . Thursday, November 9, will feature . . .

### Thanksgiving Dinner and Sharing

Come to the church fellowship hall at noon on Thursday, November 9, for turkey and all the trimmings. Please invite your friends because a presentation will be given of 2012 Senior Connections' activities. Plus, enjoy the generous "surprise" that all Senior Connections will enjoy this Thanksgiving season. [Senior Connections is for anyone age 60+ . . . bring a friend!]

#### SWM Moment With Sam Waters

## Theological Objects of Counseling Ministry — Eye Glasses (Spectacles) —



The eye glasses that sit on the shelf in my office serve as a reminder that as I meet with counselees in my office, I do so with a Christocentric perspective. In the Mennonite faith, we would agree we ought to preach and teach Christocentrically. But have you ever given thought to the idea that we should also counsel Christocentrically?

Hebrews 1:3. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

What we know of God's character, values, principles, and priorities governs our understanding of what we believe the Bible is teaching in all its parts. Jesus Christ is the 'exact representation' of God's being (Heb 1:3) and so we know God's nature by considering both the words and works of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament.

Of the many names given to Jesus, the most significant for me was Mighty Counselor. Christ was a mighty counselor for a number of reasons, but most of all because

like no other counselor before or after Him, He was able to see directly into the heart of his counselee.

So what made Christ an effective counselor? Christ used a bottoms-up process. He started by getting to know the person. He loved them. He got to know their world. The people he counseled knew he cared. He gave them good reason to trust Him. Once they could trust Him, He could meet their needs and made the good news of the gospel relevant to their lives.

As Christians, we cannot see directly into the heart of our counselees, but we can see them through the eyes of Christ. And, we can tap into the Holy Spirit to guide us in the counseling process. By following the top-down model demonstrated for us by Christ, we too can gain the trust of our counselees. As we gain the trust of our counselees, we can begin counseling from the perspective and basis of Jesus' character, principles, and priorities as revealed directly or indirectly by the Biblical revelation of what He said and did.





*One of our highlights was visiting a school seeing students in their classrooms, playing volleyball, and even a program just for us. (above).*



*All Orthodox churches were very impressive with gold icons, gold trim, gold lights, and gold frescos (above) picturing Bible stories!*



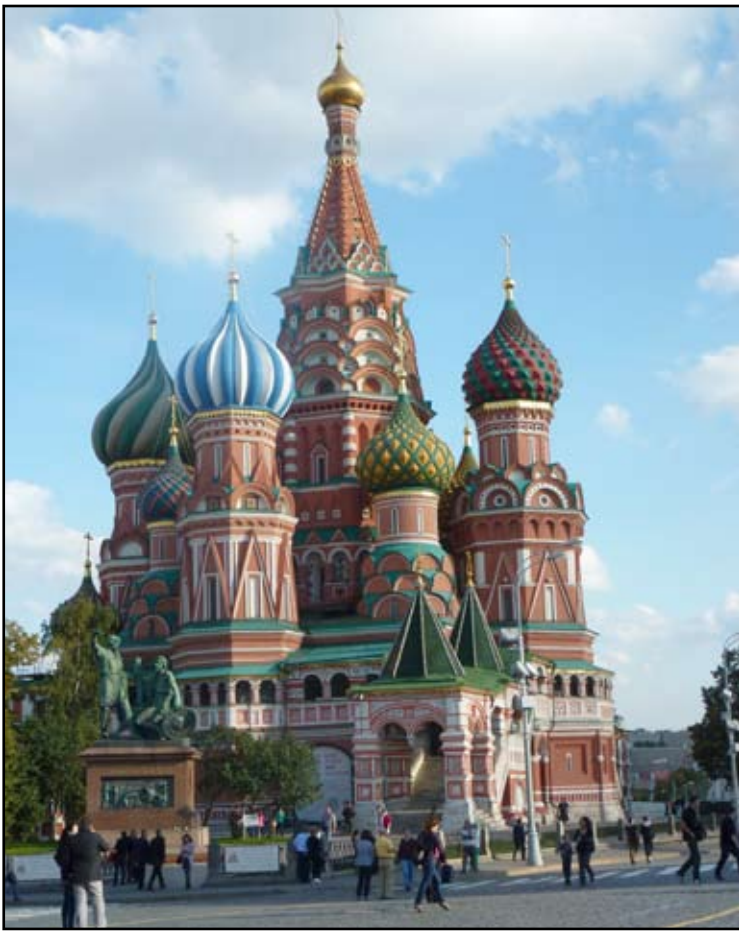
*Left: Hundreds of decorative fountains all over Peterhof near St. Petersburg was the summer home of Peter the Great who ruled Russia for 29 years until his death in 1725. The picture below on the right is a statue of Catherine the Great in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. Filled with gold again, the Hermitage rivals if not surpasses our Smithsonian. Catherine the Great did much to help the Russian Mennonites settle in her territories. They became appreciated farmers until the Bolsheviks kicked them out.*



*Left: Lemar found another garden! We had the privilege of visiting a Russian family in their home. They showed us their home, their garden, and their animals! We even were fed Russian foods and tea! - Lemar & Lois Ann*

*On one of our few rainy days in September (on the ship most of the day so it did not matter), we passed this spire on top of a church that no longer is used! The town was flooded and everything destroyed—only the church spire remains. We saw so many churches on this trip and were told that there were many more before the communist era.*



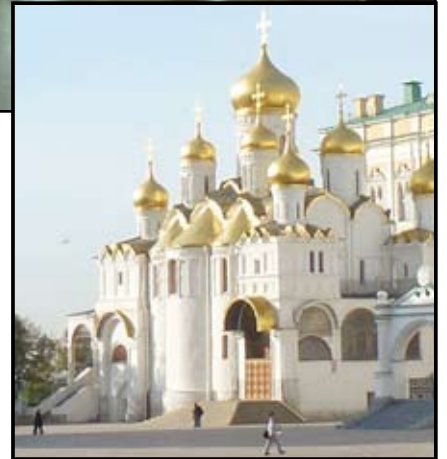


*St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square in Moscow. The beautifully designed underground subway system called the Metro is pictured above on the left. Gold leaf was all over this ceiling!*

## **A Visit to Russia**

Planned for over a year, we sure anticipated visiting this old country with so much history that even holds much Mennonite history after Catherine the Great invited Mennonites to settle there in the 1700s. We flew into Moscow and went on a river cruise to St. Petersburg stopping every day at a different site. (See more on the preceding page.)

*One of the cathedrals inside the Kremlin wall again was overwhelming with all the elegant gold trim!*



*The huge GUM department store in Moscow had everything from clothing to fresh vegetables reminding Lemar of his garden back home. Above we are pictured with Russian guide Katherina and friends John and Sandy Gindlesberger from Ohio. Katherina led us on a private tour to see the Gulag (concentration camp) Museum and Bunker 42—secret headquarters of Stalin eighteen floors under Moscow.*