

CONESTOGA Connections



April 2013
Vol. XXIV
No. 4

Conestoga Serving in the Church and Community . . .



Left: Jo Ebert, Lois Boyer, Lois Ann Mast, and Pegge Tennant and her granddaughter, Megan prepared over 100 dinners in March for "Meals From the Heart."



Above: Krista Petersheim viewing the frozen meats before she distributes them at the Food Pantry.



Left: Conestoga's 2013 Quiz Team studied God's Word and quizzed well!

Below: Gary Stoltzfus and Thomas Young unpack food items before the doors open at the Food Pantry.



Upper left: Krista Petersheim and others at Neighbors Caring & Sharing knotting for the poor.

Upper middle: Sunday morning fellowship as spring tulips were distributed after church.

Left: Pastor Bob sharing with a loving heart in a closing prayer.

Right: Howard Moss chatting with Beta Starchild, organizer of used clothing distributed at the Food Pantry, and Kathleen Weaver, coordinator of the evening meal served at each Food Pantry.



“You are Now Entering the Mission Field”

by Howard Moss

Throughout 2013, members of Conestoga’s Pastoral Team (including Pastor Bob) are sharing thoughts and perspectives on this page. This month, it is Elder Howard Moss’s contribution, and next month we will hear from Pastor Bob.

Carol and I have been attending Conestoga Mennonite Church for almost twelve years. One thing remains constant today as it did when we first entered the front doors—the inviting and caring nature of the people. We have found that a “welcoming” nature means letting the visitors know that they are valued. The Bible gives us clear direction on our need to give glory to God by helping others in need. He further instructs us to love others and attend to their needs. This is accomplished by taking the time to sincerely engage them in conversation (especially the ‘Good News’), getting to know them, including them in activities, attending to the needs through service offerings, and demonstrating a Christ like witness in everything we do.

Foremost, mission work in the surrounding community allows us to embrace these instructions not just within the confines of the church walls but throughout our community. What has always and continues to challenge me is the sign we see when leaving the sanctuary—“You are now entering the Mission Field”. We can take this to heart through scripture . . . Matthew 5:14-16: “You are the light of the world . . . it gives light to everyone in the house . . . in the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your GOOD DEEDS and praise your Father in heaven.”

At Conestoga our “welcoming” nature has led to growth in our community ministries over the years with

new ministries continuing to blossom and grow. Among them is the ReUzit Shop expanding its service in the last few years to address the demands driven by the economy. Other missions include “Meals from the Heart,” Still Waters Ministry, “Twin Valley Food Pantry,” and the emerging “River of Life Medical Clinic.”

Matthew 25:35-40 - ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink (Twin Valley Food Pantry); I was a stranger, and you invited Me in (Greeters every Sunday); naked, and you clothed Me (ReUzit Shop); I was sick, and you visited Me (Visitation Teams); I was in prison, and you came to Me (many members have prison ministries, New Person Center). Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ “And the King will answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.”

Near and dear to our hearts (Carol and I) is the Twin Valley Food Pantry beginning its fourth year of service to the local community. There are many scriptures that embody this service:

1 John 3:17- But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

Proverbs 22:9 - He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor.

Hebrews 6:10 - For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Philippians 2:4 - Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.”

John 15:12 - “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Hebrews 13:16 - And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

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CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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Monthly newsletter for Conestoga Mennonite Church published since 1988. Deadline for articles and photos is the 20th of the preceding month of publication.

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



Sewing Circle was cancelled in March due to bad weather, but here are some photos of ladies at work!



The Food Pantry continues to grow, and I appreciate the patience of the congregation as we continually work to balance and accommodate the needs for all missions. Over the last three years, we have seen growth from 25 supported families to over 150 families. Some of this naturally is driven by the economy but in speaking to many clients—they continue to convey that they enjoy coming to Conestoga because of the experience. The social experience of feeling invited, respected, and the variety of services available makes the evening “a highlight”! Clients are given an opportunity to shop for what they actually need—“client’s choice” verses a box of food like many pantries. Not only do we offer non-perishable foods, but we offer “freshies (fruits, vegetables, breads and pastries), personal hygiene and cleaning supplies, diabetic, and gluten-free products. We also offer many frozen items—meats and fish, and always “a smile” from the volunteers. The evening also includes a free meal served to the clients and the volunteers while they share time and stories

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 7 —

Garden Tour at Welkinweir

Pre-register for this final time together this season!

— June 4 —

Tour and Taste at Lapp Valley Farms

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the farm store south of New Holland.

throughout the evening. The variety of services offered continues to grow with help from volunteers offering: “Bargain Clothing,” flu shots from the Department of Public Health, Bibles from the Gideon’s, free tax assistance from VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program), unused greeting cards, Christmas gifts from a variety of organizations, Girl Scouts offering “Back To School Supplies,” and countless food drive donations from many churches and community organizations. We also offer an outreach program with members of Conestoga engaging in conversation and offering to pray with clients when requested.

The Food Pantry mission has given us all an opportunity to act as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, coming together as a community to serve those in need. It amazes me the number of churches and organizations that actively support this mission each month. We have made so many new friends through meeting clients and volunteers that we continued to be blessed every month. The generosity of many through food drives, financial donations, fundraisers, volunteer hours, and prayers continue to ensure we can meet the growing needs of the community.

Conestoga has always been a mission-focused congregation, and as missions continues to grow, and new ones are introduced, we look for leaders with a “sense of calling to service” to move from the inspirational to the reality. Leaders of the mission help inspire others to support and establish the foundation of the new service. I encourage those who feel they have a calling . . . to pray for guidance and discernment, and then reach out to the Pastoral Team to discuss their inspirations.

- Howard Moss, Elder

Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

Friday, April 5 – Meet at the church at 5:30 pm for our annual trip to the MCC Relief Sale in Harrisburg. We will take the money that was collected for Penny Power with us, count the money, browse the variety of stands that are present and taste some of the wonderful food! Return time is approximately 9:30 pm.

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00-8:30 pm – Devotional & Games in CMC Youth Room

Any questions or to be included on the email list, please email Marilyn & Nelson Beam @ marnelbeam@dejazzd.com



Introducing Joy Beam . . .

This spring, Joy was first chair of her school orchestra at Twin Valley High School. She also participated in the county orchestra. She was selected for District orchestra, and then moved on to Regional orchestra, and then came within just a few places shy from making it to states. Although she does not plan to major in music in college this fall, she is looking forward to playing with the Penn State University orchestra after graduating from Twin Valley High School. Joy Beam is the daughter of Nelson and Marilyn Beam and granddaughter of Marian Stoltzfus and Omar and Ruth Beam.

Upcoming MYF Events

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. - "Meet Your Quiz Sponsor" Night in Conestoga's Youth Room

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. - Game Night with Zion Mennonite and Hope of the Nations youth

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. - Food Pantry stocking and Bible Study in Conestoga's Youth Room

Sunday, April 21 - Kayaking after church

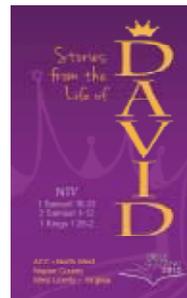
Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 a.m. - Bible Study in Conestoga's Youth Room

July 1-6, 2013 - Mennonite Church USA Convention at Phoenix, Arizona

July 14-18, 2013 - Helping with Summer Bible School at Conestoga



Wonderful job, Conestoga's Quiz Team!!!



Joy Beam
Josh Beam
Meredith Groff
Weston Caley
Mason Stoltzfus
Amanda Valentino
Sonya Petersheim, Coach



Mennonite Mission Network prepares a monthly prayer newsletter titled PRAYER VINE to keep us connected with God's work around the world. The April 2013 PRAYER VINE is available for downloading and can be mailed to you by e-mailing Lynda Hollinger-Janzen at: LyndaHJ@MennoniteMission.net or by calling 1-866-866-2872, ext. 23026.

All Ladies, girls and babies . . .

Save Saturday, May 18, a.m., for Conestoga's bi-annual **MOTHER/DAUGHTER BRUNCH**. Special program this year of a Biblical Baby Parade, growing out of our very own Teddy Bear Club.

Please invite your sisters, daughters, mothers and others as we celebrate the gift of God to all Ladies. Look for details to follow in the bulletin and the May Connections.



GAMEO by Lois Ann Mast

GAMEO . . . what is GAMEO?

Recently, I was sharing with a friend here at Conestoga how much I enjoy working with GAMEO, and she asked what it was?

GAMEO stands for "Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online" and is an encyclopedic resource for Anabaptist-related (Amish, Mennonite, Hutterite, Brethren in Christ) topics, including history, theology, biography, institutions and local congregations. Secular topics from an Anabaptist perspective and full-text source documents are also included.

I encourage you to check out this on-line encyclopedia at www.gameo.org. On the right is an article about the Mennonites who moved from Russia to Paraguay where the country has recognized the Mennonites' valuable contributions by issuing three postage stamps with Menno Simons and other Mennonite-related information. Interesting!

Articles in GAMEO continue to be updated, almost daily, as volunteers across the U.S. and Canada are at work.

75th Anniversary of the arrival of Mennonites in Paraguay (Scott: Paraguay #2692, 2693)

On 25 June 2002, Paraguay issued two stamps of similar design to honor the arrival of Mennonite settlers in Paraguay 75 years earlier. On the upper left hand corner of both stamps was the text: "Paraguay Llegada de los Mennonitas 1927-2002" (Arrival of the Mennonites in Paraguay, 1927-2002) and under this is: "75 Anos" (75 Years) with three sketched-in figures. Both stamps featured a portrait of Menno Simons in their upper right corner and a symbolic cross and plow in the bottom right corner. On the bottom of the 2,000 guaraní stamp was the text: "Iglesia



Mennonita-Filadelfia-Chaco Paraguayo" (Mennonite Church-Filadelfia-Chaco Paraguay). The 4,000 guaraní stamp had the text: "Iglesia Mennonita-Loma Plata-Chaco Paraguayo" (Mennonite Church-Loma Plata-Chaco, Paraguay).

The Day My Wife “Died”

by Andy Leatherman

It was May 20, 1981, six weeks after I had been installed as the first fulltime pastor of Sandy Hill Mennonite Church near Coatesville, Pa. I was at home alone with our four-year-old daughter, Beth. The older two children, Gerry and Judy, were at school, and my wife Dorothy had gone to Coatesville to shop for a needy person from the church community.

Suddenly the telephone rang. I answered and a woman’s voice introduced herself as a doctor for the nearby Coatesville Hospital. “Your wife has been in an accident,” she said. “Please come as quickly as possible to the hospital.” Shocked, I told my four-year-old daughter that something has happened to Mommy and we must go to the hospital right away. We put our coats on.

Just before walking out the door, the phone rang again. “You haven’t left yet?” asked the same voice. “I am sorry to tell you that your wife has just died. You should come to the hospital right away.” Completely shook up, I quickly called Dorothy’s parents to alert them to what I had been told.



Andy and Dot Leatherman family in 1983, left to right: Gerry, Dot, Beth, Andy, and Judy.

My daughter and I then jumped into the car and sped off to the hospital. All I could bear to tell my daughter was that something bad had happened to Mom, and we are going to the hospital. In my mind I frantically begged the Lord not to let this horrible thing happen. Yet the facts were staring



Dot Leatherman

me in the face: I had just been widowed. My wife had just died. The doctor said so. Meanwhile, the news began to spread to the family: “Dorothy died in an accident.”

We rushed the two miles, my mind in an utter daze, parked, and hurried into the main entrance. In tears, I told the receptionists that I had just been informed that my wife Dorothy Leatherman was in an accident and had died. Where is she?

The receptionists looked at each other, and at their records. “We do not know of a Dorothy Leatherman that was brought to the hospital. There is no Dorothy Leatherman in the hospital from our records. Neither are we aware of any emergency just now. Might you be at the wrong hospital?”

I replied that she had gone shopping in Coatesville, so she could hardly be at another hospital!”

The receptionists were deeply sympathetic, and said there have been some hoaxes recently, and hoped that this was just a hoax.

Beth and I left the hospital. The only thing I could think of to do was walk through the shops on Lincoln Highway in downtown Coatesville, look for Dorothy and hopefully find her.

After about the fifth shop, I looked in another store and there she was! She was utterly surprised by my tears and embrace. I told her what had happened and how I was so glad to see her!

The shopkeeper also looked on in amazement at this
(continued on next page)



Senior Connections

Thursday, April 11

Lunch With Erin's Goats



Erin Hale who raises “kids” for meat, cheese, soap, and milk, is joining us for our April 11 Senior Connections lunch. In addition to bringing some of her baby goats, she will also share about the goat products they make, as well as their vision for this fledging endeavor. Wait till you see the newborn “kids” in cages (of course, they will be outside and we will be inside)! Erin’s daughter attends Conestoga Christian School. Come on Thursday, April 11, at noon for lunch with Erin’s goats.

strange scene and story. We decided to go home at once since the news of her “death” was spreading.

As I walked into our home, two things happened at the same minute. Dorothy’s parents were at the front door urgently knocking to come in, AND the phone was ringing. I quickly unlocked the door, motioning them to come in, and then answered the phone.

There was that same familiar voice! “Haven’t you gone to the hospital yet?”

I took a deep breath. “Lady,” I said after a pause as I collected myself. “What you did was evil and wrong! There is nothing wrong with my wife, and you were lying to me. You need Jesus in your life to clean up the evil.” I said a few more things, but the woman hung up on me.

In the intervening years, I thought about this woman.

What would make a person do something like this?

What evil would inspire someone to act like she did?

Did she get pleasure in hurting other people?

I am thinking she might have even read this story since it was circulated in the church community. Maybe she is changed now. Maybe she has become a Christian. Maybe she will attend church someday. What will I do then?

I have forgiven her, I think. I know that I too have a sinful nature that could go off the deep end like this

woman’s—if it were not for Christ holding me. So why shouldn’t I forgive her as Jesus has forgiven me?

I believe God wanted to make sure I would stick with His calling to this church and not bale out when it gets tough. He wanted me for my own sake to have a rock solid commitment to being a pastor that would hold me up through thick and thin for the next 12½ years.

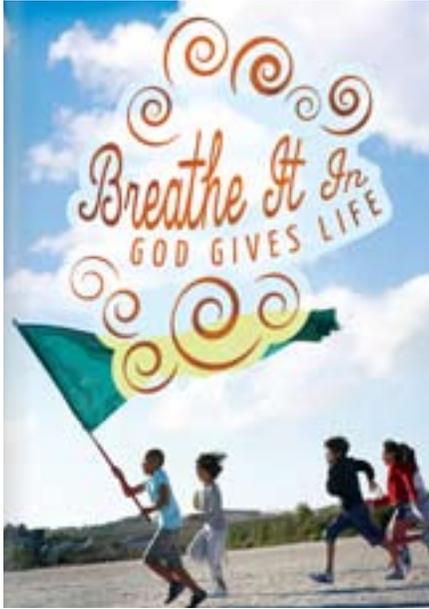
The hoax incident was one of many tests to my sense of commitment that first year! My June 16, 1981, prayer in my journal mentions this incident.

Dear Lord, it is now two and one-half months since I became pastor at Sandy Hill. I have preached about eleven times, and each time it was with a message straight from You. Thank You, Lord. I am enjoying this work more and feel a deep contentment in giving spiritually to other people. You have given me much to give.

Lord, it has been about a month since the searing experience of thinking Dot had died and then finding it was a hoax. Lord, I weep again when I think of it because the emotions cut so deep and left their mark. God, I cried in absolute desperation to You not to let it be true even though the terrifying facts said that I was widowed. You indeed allowed it not to be true, and I thank and thank You for it. My life is in Your hands. I am willing to die when my time comes, but it must be Your timing.

Conestoga Mennonite Summer Bible School

July 14-18, 2013 (Sunday through Thursday evenings)



This summer, children ages preschool through grades six will study “Breathe It In” as they discover the *life-giving breath of God!* Children will explore the use of water in Bible times, as well as water issues (good and bad) around the world today. The theme “reinforces that God is the source of life. Just as water sustains life, God also provides refreshing sustenance for us”

Children will enjoy exploring how God’s own breath was used to create people, and how the *wind of the Spirit* helped the young church to grow. As they participate in lively worship, music, Bible memory, and creative response activities, children will understand that God is the giver of life and is present with us.

This summer Bible School program is published by MennoMedia and for the sixth year in a row has been named one of four “top picks” by the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. The reviewers said MennoMedia’s Bible School program is “easy-to-use for volunteers who are not teachers.” They also said “the overall message of the curriculum is gentle and positive.”



We recently had the privilege of traveling to Newport News, Virginia, to see what we could learn about the Hertzlers who used to live here in the Morgantown area before moving to Virginia.

Due to busy schedules, we did not take the time to do our homework before traveling. All we knew was that Lemar’s father recalled riding with his Dad on the loooooong trip to Newport News in the mid-1930s to visit his Great-Uncle Isaac D. Hertzler. There were no four-lane highways back then and the trip really did take a long time—in fact, they could not drive it in one day. (We drove it in six hours.)

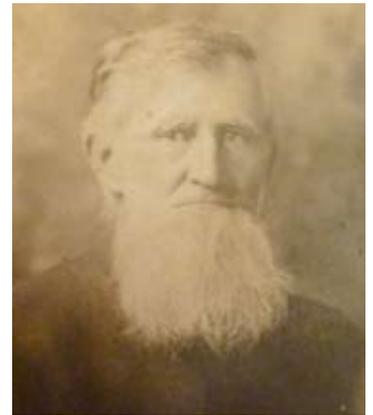
With the help of Google, we easily located Hertzler Road near the Warwick River Mennonite Church here in Newport News. Walking through the cemetery, we found the tombstones for both Lemar’s Gt-Gt-Uncle and Gt-Gt-Aunt. As we were heading to our vehicle to leave, a car stopped and a young gentleman asked if we were from the “old-

Meeting a Second Cousin Once Removed

colony-Mennonites?” At first, I thought he was referring to the Hutterites, but then later in further conversation, we realized that he was referring to the first Mennonites who settled here in this “Colony”. In fact, there is a Colony Road, a Colony Shopping Center, a Mennonite Lane, a Yoder Barn, and many other references in this area to the first Mennonites and Amish who settled here the very same year that Newport News became a city in 1898!

Steve told us that we must speak with Nelson and Kathryn Baer (local residents) who promptly invited us over for dinner with another local historian. What fun to learn more details, and then to also learn that 94-year-old Oliver Hertzler, grandson of Isaac Hertzler, is still living on the original Hertzler land. At the time of this writing, we had not yet visited Oliver, but we are eagerly anticipating Lemar meeting his second cousin once removed tomorrow!

- Lois Ann Mast



Preacher Isaac D. Hertzler whose parents moved from Morgantown to Long Green, Md., and then I.D. moved to Newport News.