

# CONESTOGA Connections



February 2013  
Vol. XXIV  
No. 2

**Only Six Months Away—Put This Date on Your Calendar!**

## Conestoga's Annual Summer Bus Trip

~Saturday, August 3~

Conestoga members and friends have enjoyed the annual summer bus trip. In 2013, a chartered bus has already been reserved to take us on a journey to meet the Michael Salamh family who are Native Americans descended from the Indians who lived here in this area before the white man came.

Michael and his wife and two elementary-age children will share stories, play Native American games with all the children, and assist us in preparing and serving a Native American picnic lunch!

A "new" longhouse has recently been erected near the 1719 Hans Herr House, and we will visit both sites!



*The 1719 Hans Herr House is the oldest home in Lancaster County!*

The Herr House is actually the oldest homestead in Lancaster County.

This bus tour will be geared for all ages, but grandparents are invited to bring their grandchildren to enjoy this special day making memories. Activities will be available for the children, but the adults will "love" watching their excitement.

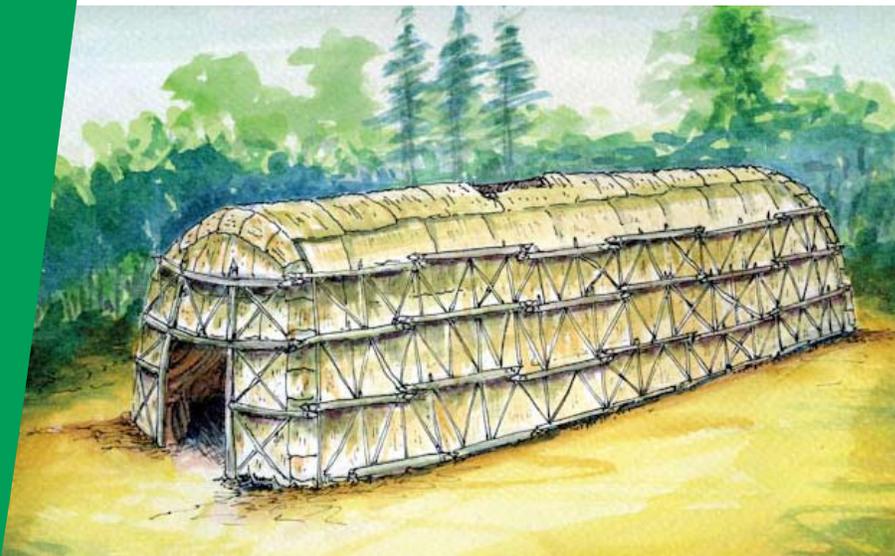
We will learn that the following Indian tribes lived in this area less than 400 years ago: Shenks Ferry, Conoy, Lenape, Mohawk, Nanticoke, Seneca, Shawness, and Susquehannock.

Wait till you see the games these Native American children played, the toys they made, the costumes they wore, the language they spoke! You won't want to miss this—no matter your age! So put the date of Saturday, August 3, on your calendar and invite your children and grandchildren to reserve this date! Watch for a sign-

up sheet coming soon on our church bulletin board.

The cost for the day including the bus transportation is \$40 for adults and \$30 for children ages 7-12. All children under the age of seven are free. There is a requirement though that every child under the age of 12 needs to be accompanied by an adult. As has been done in previous years, there are adults willing to accompany a child, if no other adult is available.

*Left: Sketch of the longhouse erected near the Hans Herr House . . . native Americans in this area did not build wigwams, but rather longhouses.*





*Merv Stoltzfus (seated center) attended the January 17 Pastoral Team meeting, and shared a brief 30-minute version of his life story leading up to his current service as Conestoga's Conference Minister. In this picture, the Pastoral Team participated in a prayer of blessing for Merv in his ministry service.*

## Am I Making the Most of Every Opportunity?

*Live wisely among those who are not Christians, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversations be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone. Colossians 4:5-6. (NLT)*

Here we are already beginning the second month of 2013—where did January go? It is interesting how fast the months and years fly by as I get older. It certainly is all the more incentive to work more for our Lord in inviting friends and neighbors into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.



### 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  
**Proofreader:** Tina Essick  
**Reporters:** Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus

As I examined the adult Sunday School quarterly for the month of February, I discovered that we will discuss the realities of accomplishing the different tasks of building the body of Christ:

- Knowing Jesus (Feb. 3)
- Putting Jesus First (Feb. 10)
- Life or Death Choices (Feb. 17) which I understand better as Godly and ungodly (evil) choices
- Pray! Witness! Jesus as Lord! (Feb. 24)

Reading over the daily readings for the month of February, I was most challenged by Colossians 4:5-6 that deals with the task of relating to those who have a dark or a dim view of the world of Christianity. As a quiet and somewhat shy man, this is especially challenging for me.

I feel that “living wisely among those who are not Christian” is a rather easy task, but the second part of this verse is “make the most of every opportunity.” Here I fear that, all too often, I allow opportunities to slide by rationalizing that the opportunity will rise and again and then I will be better prepared. What if that opportunity never rises and it is a loss to both God and myself?

What about verse six: “. . . let your conversations be gracious and effective so that you will have the right answer for everyone?”

This is a much larger fear of mine, as I serve in leadership, that I will give the wrong answer and mislead people in a very important part of their spiritual journey. I am likely not the only person in this boat, so perhaps we could pray for each other with such fears. This would enable us to serve more effectively as workers in God's ministry.

As I studied and read Colossians, I also thought of how others view Christians from the outside. Several years ago at a prayer breakfast, Steve Wingfield shared how non-Christians view us, as well as three reasons for not becoming a Christian:

1. Christians are boring.
2. Christians are controlling (legalistic).
3. Christians are hypocritical (not “walking the talk!”)

Building relationships with non-Christians can often lead them to a relationship with God, thus building the body of Christ.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19. (NLT)

*In 2013, members of the Pastoral Team (including Pastor Bob) will share on this page. This month, the sharing is by Conestoga's Deacon Lemar Mast.*



## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on January 3, 2013. There were 15 ladies present.

Donated items included 22 kit bags and 3 full-size comforters, plus one crib size.

Completed items included: 7 hygiene kits, 1 comforter, and 6 baby gowns.

For devotions, we sang "Angels From the Realms of Glory." The Scripture reading was from Psalms 34:1-13 followed by a devotional entitled "The Power of Terminal Thinking."

The special offering amounted to \$73.00. We sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem" 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!*

— February 5 —

**"Ratty Bathrobes, Cranky Kids, and Other Romantic Moments"**

*with Tami Horst*

— February 12 —

**"Always Kiss Me Goodnight" Valentine Dinner**

*6:30 p.m. with Sam & Jill Waters*

Bring your favorite dish for our potluck dinner.

Pre-registration is necessary by contacting Tina Essick.

— February 19 —

**"Here am I, Send me . . . Reaching out to the Sick, Poor, and Oppressed in Haiti"**

*with Janice Horning*

Note: Pre-register by Feb. 24 for the March 12-19 Basket Weaving.

— February 26 —

**"Power of Praise"**

*with Loice Byler*

**Shalom**

**Ernst Bänninger**  
Leading of Chorus,  
Alphorn, Guitar and  
Flugelhorn

**Lorenz Schwarz**  
Singing, Alphorn, Guitar

**Andreas Bühner**  
Professional Pianist

## Did You Know That . . .

. . . in addition to our regular tithes, we also have the privilege to "bless" the following **"Designated Offering Funds"** by listing on the outside of the envelope that we wish to give to one of these projects:

- Conestoga's Children's Ministry
- Conestoga Mennonite Church Mission Fund
- Conestoga Counseling Fund
- Deaf Interpretation
- Food Pantry
- Mennonite Disaster Service
- Still Waters Ministry

. . . on Tuesday, May 7, the **"Shalom Choir"** from Switzerland (pictured on the left) will give a concert here at Conestoga at 7:00 p.m.?



Conestoga's 2013 Bible Quiz Team practicing in Dan and Rachel Mast's living room. Left to right: Josh Beam, Weston Caley, Amanda Valentino, Joy Beam, Coach Sonya Petersheim, and Mason Stoltzfus.

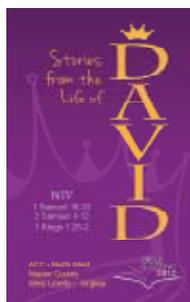


## 2013 Quizzing Season Is Here!

**Go Conestoga Quizzers!** Our 2013 Quiz Team includes Joy Beam, Josh Beam, Meredith Groff, Weston Caley, Mason Stoltzfus, Amanda Valentino, and Coach Sonya Petersheim.

### Schedule:

- January 27, 2013 - I Samuel 19-22 at Calvary Monument (6:30 p.m.)
- February 3, 2013 - I Samuel 23-25 at Elizabethtown Mennonite (2:00 p.m.)
- February 10, 2013 - I Samuel 26-30 at Strasburg Mennonite (6:30 p.m.)
- February 17, 2013 - I Samuel 31 through II Samuel 3 at Lancaster Mennonite (6:30 p.m.)
- February 24, 2013 - II Samuel 4-8:14 at Forest Hills Mennonite (6:30 p.m.)
- March 3, 2013 - II Samuel 8:15-12 at Hinkletown Mennonite (6:30 p.m.)
- March 10, 2013 - 1 Kings 1:28-2 at Lancaster Mennonite (6:30 p.m.)
- March 17, 2013 - ACC Tournament at Lancaster Mennonite (1:00 p.m.)
- March 22 - 24, 2013 - Invitational Tournament - NW Ohio



## Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

Sunday, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. – Leave Conestoga parking lot to attend the ACC Bible Quizzing at Strasburg Mennonite where the Sr. High Quiz Team is quizzing. We will return between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m. Plans may include an ice cream stop between quizzes.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22-23 – 30 Hour Famine for middle school and high school youth at the church. This activity will raise funds to be given to World Vision for hunger relief. This service project will include games projects, and other activities. If you have not received an info. packet, let us know!

Any questions or to be included on the email list, please email Marilyn & Nelson Beam @ [marnelbeam@dejazzd.com](mailto:marnelbeam@dejazzd.com)

## Upcoming MYF Events

*MYF Bible Studies every Wednesday evening in our Youth Room with the exception of the third Wednesday evening when we help to stock the Food Pantry. Bible Study is based on the quizzing material with quiz practice afterwards.*

February 22-23, 2013

♦ 30-Hour Famine project



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

## Meet Nevin and Anna Martin

Ever since I was a child I have always been fascinated with what God is up to. At age twelve, I became bedridden for about a year. I had lots of time to read and I became interested in a book about dispensational truth of the Bible. It has been a huge interest to me ever since.

At age eighteen, my mother was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and me, being the only daughter, became fully responsible for running the household. At age 24, I married Nevin Martin whose responsibilities and beliefs so nearly paralleled my own. Our recent past experiences at that point too, had been much the same. With “hippie” tendencies, we had rebelled against the social and religious order of things. To our surprise, we found that God had held onto us, pushing us forward while holding us back, but holding us, none the less.

In March 1974—the year we were married—Nevin’s father died. Nevin cared deeply for his mother just as I did for mine. It was a deep connection that we felt with each other as we realized in each other the strong commitment to family.

God then gave us two wonderful sons and as Nevin puts it, “They are both much better and smarter than we were.” God in turn gave them two wonderful wives (one each) and four sweet daughters (two each). They all are the joy of our earthly existence!

This past year we have come to deeply appreciate and care for the people at Conestoga Mennonite Church. We consider it a “huge” blessing that God has directed us into this fellowship. We hope to live and work alongside each of you for many years.

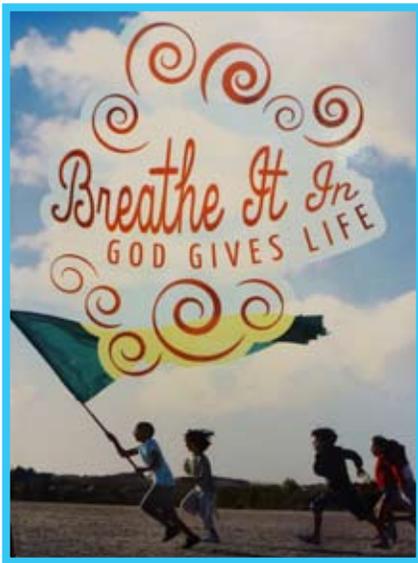
May God richly bless you for receiving us and so many others as well.

Sincerely with love, Anna Martin





*On a recent drive-by our church, I had to laugh out loud . . . a large dump truck was ahead of me and slowed down approaching this sign! I was a little irritated because as usual I was in a hurry to get back home! Why was this truck slowing down and even putting his brakes on when I could easily see there was no vehicle in front of him? Why? All of a sudden, I began laughing out loud . . . the driver was curious . . . he (I guess he was a he) wanted to know what this “fact” was? God is \_\_\_\_\_? When he finally recognized that this was the entire message, he sped up! Wow, what a message! - Lois Ann Mast*



## Conestoga Bible School

July 14-18, 2013

*Put this date on your calendar  
for another exciting  
Bible School  
to share with  
children in  
Pre-Kindergarten  
through grade 5.*

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## Breathe It In—God Gives Life

This summer's Bible School will feature five nights of discovering the life-giving breath of God on the following daily themes:

- Day 1: *Breathe in Life*: God shares breath with humanity.
- Day 2: *Breathe in Hope*: God can transform desperate situations.
- Day 3: *Breathe in Courage*: God is with us during difficult times.
- Day 4: *Breathe in Wisdom*: God provides a solid foundation.
- Day 5: *Breathe in New Life*: God sends the Spirit to grow the church.

Through Bible stories about breath and wind, children will explore how God created people and how the Spirit helped the early church grow. Participating in lively worship music, Scripture memorization, and fun response activities, kids learn that God is the giver of life and is always with us.

Youth from grades 6 up will join the adults in sharing this five-night series for the children here in our community.

If you would like to serve, contact any of the Bible School Committee:

Kathleen Weaver, Director  
Marcia Parsons



In Memory of

## Edna Good

*Fifth to Eighth Graders, 1934-1935, at the Conestoga Public School, Morgantown, Pa. Edna is the third girl from the left sitting in the middle row.*

*(boldfaced names are members at Conestoga Mennonite, including Edna). Front: Melvin S. Mast and Stephen M. Petersheim. Middle row, seated: Amanda Kurtz, Mary Styer, **Edna (Mast) Good**, Susie (Petersheim) Kauffman, Sara (Yoder) Scott, Pearl Hartz, **Phebe (Yoder) Reed Foltz Bell**, Elsie Petersheim, Martha (Petersheim) Lantz, Back row, standing: Ruth (Petersheim) Good, **Ruth (Weiler) Stoltzfus**, Ida (Petersheim) Summers, Sarah (Stoltzfus) Fisher, **Ruth (Yoder) Stauffer**, Esther (Mast) Kniss, David Y. Stoltzfus, David K. Mast, and Norman M. Kurtz.*

What do first, second, and third grade girls in a one-room schoolhouse play at recess? Perhaps, “tag,” “hide and seek,” or just race around the outside of the Conestoga Public School (located south of Morgantown—no longer there today). In this schoolhouse, is where I first learned to know Edna Mast. We were in the same schoolroom for the first five years. Later, her family—John M. and Rebecca (Hartz) Mast—moved to the Oley Valley.

It was about the winter of 1945 when Edna and I were both working at Goodville Mutual Casualty Company in Goodville, Pa. One day, I answered the phone when James Good called to speak to Edna. Edna hurried up the stairs to the extension phone to answer where she had a bit more privacy. That is likely why he chose to call her at her workplace rather than where she lived with her grandparents. (James would become her future husband.)

On June 16, 1945, a ladies quartet of Edna, her sister Esther (later Kniss), her aunt Nancy Mast, and Lela Hershberger sang two hymns at the wedding service of Christian U. Stoltzfus and myself.

After Edna and James were married, we did not see each other, although I followed news of her family and the making of the shoofly pies while they lived in the Fleetwood area. We reconnected the last seven years when they moved to Fairmount Homes. Edna was not only a longtime friend, but also a third cousin. ~ Ruth W. Stoltzfus

**Edna Mae Good**, 89, went to be with her Lord on Dec. 28, 2012, at Fairmount Homes in Ephrata, Pa, where she resided. She was born on Dec. 19, 1923, in Morgantown, Pa., to the late John M. and Rebecca (Hartz) Mast and moved with her family to Oley, Pa., after high school. She attended Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Va., for one year.

On April 6, 1947, she married James A. Good, who survives. Also surviving are two daughters: Catherine (Larry) Nafziger of Goshen, Ind., and Christine (Edward) Shenk of Hamburg, Pa., and two sons: Harold (Caryle) Good of China, and Ethan (Carol Joy) Good of Green Lane, Pa. She has 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Esther Lorraine Savage.

Edna Mae worked with her husband for many years making Good’s Shoofly Pies and then Good’s Shoofly Pie mix, a family business. She was also employed at the United States Post Office. In her retirement years, she enjoyed working in real estate.

She loved her family and stayed in touch wherever they lived and enjoyed traveling abroad. Singing was a big part of her life—originally with her six siblings, in church, and various chorus groups. In her later years, knitting prayer shawls brought her much joy.

She was a member of the Conestoga Mennonite Church after moving to Ephrata in 2005. Most of her life she was involved as an active member of Oley Mennonite Church in Oley, Pa.



# Love For a Lifetime

*Sam and Jill Waters will be the speakers at the Valentine Dinner held here at Conestoga on Feb. 12.*

**VALENTINE DINNER**  
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.

**“Always Kiss Me Goodnight”  
by Sam and Jill Waters**

**Pre-registration is necessary by  
contacting Tina Essick.**

**LOVE.** We all love “love”. You know, that warm and fuzzy feeling that makes us emotional and giddy and irrational and, wait a minute....Valentine’s Day will soon be upon us, and from what the world says is love, we should all feel elated by that feeling all the time. And, that feeling should solve all our problems when conflicts and difficulties arise. However, that is not reality. When the stuff of life happens, the substance and essence of love are reflected in the absolute, supernatural aspect of what God says it is. The truth is, He is the only one who is our perfect example of love. And, He shows us how to maintain a Christian marriage.

Unlike no other, the Christian marriage holds a mystery. In John 13:35, Jesus tells us, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one.” Some may say this two becoming one is figurative, but it is a literal joining.... two hearts, two minds, and two spirits.

As Christians, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. When a man and a woman enter into the marriage covenant, God literally and spiritually binds together a husband and a wife, and the two become one. In a supernatural way that goes beyond human understanding, the Holy Spirit is the thread....the unfailing faithfulness that binds them together.

We agree that God’s intent for marriage is to be for life. Gibbon apes, wolves, termites, coyotes, barn owls, beavers, bald eagles, golden eagles, condors, swans, broilga cranes, French angel fish, sandhill cranes, pigeons, red-tailed hawks, anglerfish, ospreys, prairie voles, and black vultures all share something in common. They are but a few of the animal kingdom that mate for life. It is not a choice for them. It is a part of their DNA. God could have created us in the same manner, but He has given us free will. As believers, we have surrendered our free will for His Will. And His will for marriage is.... ‘til death do us part.

We can all agree that husbands are to love their wives and wives are to love their husbands. This is not a request by God, or even a suggestion. It is a command. Mark 12:31-32 says “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

Of course, God did not just give us a command without providing a way for us to carry out His command. In Galatians 5:23, the Bible says “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Love is a fruit that is produced (super) naturally in us through the power and working of the Holy Spirit. And not just love, but every fruit that is required to love our neighbor....our spouse, obviously being our closest neighbor.

These fruits, however, cannot happen without some work on our part. Ephesians 5:18 says “Do not get drunk with wine, but be filled with the spirit.” In the original Greek translation, this verse tells us to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is a lifelong process.

Of course, fruit cannot be produced if our spirits are clogged with other junk. As married couples, we need to empty our spirits DAILY of any garbage that has entered in and is residing within us. Giving our “clutter” over to God allows our spirits room for His holy work and fruit-bearing results. The Holy Spirit is then free to fill us with the fruits, like love, which are essential for a healthy, faithful marriage to thrive. Making room for God is the key. We, as believers, know to confess and surrender any temptation or sin that would hinder the best that God has in store for our marriages. He desires the best for us!

When the waves pound against your marriage and you and your spouse are flat, face-down on the sand and cannot get up, remember the feelings of fluffy love will not lift you. Only the sustaining power of God’s love will raise you and your spouse up to a higher plain where the real, nitty-gritty issues in a marriage can be resolved.

“Let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...fixing our eyes on Jesus...” Hebrews 12: 1-2a

Marriage is not a sprint, it is a marathon! Hold one another’s hand and run together through anything, in love and endurance.

*Always kiss me goodnight*