



May God "bless" these children and their parents!



Bronson Fox holding son Sawyer and Kaiti Fox holding Cece.



Luke and Keshia Miller holding Alanna.

Parent and Child Dedication

Bronson has worked in the shipping department at Carpenter Technology in Reading for about a year and a half now. They live in a small fixer-upper in Beckersville which they are currently renovating and hope to be finished by the end of this summer. Within a year or two, they anticipate moving to a bigger "forever" home in the same area they are now living. The whole family loves the outdoors. Bronson loves to fish, hunt, trap, and garden—he grows all of their veggies. He also raises chickens, both for eggs and for butchering; and he spends time cutting and splitting firewood for not only them but also **Katie's** Mom. **Sawyer** is already following in his daddy's footsteps for his love of the outdoors. He will stand on the deck and just cast his fishing rod over and over again into the grass. When he isn't "fishing," he's helping Bronson in the gardens or with the chickens. It is also obvious that he loves his sister and takes good care of her; plus, Katie said that she can tell by the way **Cece** watches Sawyer that he is going to be her best friend. Katie also loves the outdoors as well, but has taken a break from hunting and fishing while caring for her children, but she does hope to return to it in the future. Her newfound passion for flowers this year has produced a collection of potted plants and flowers growing on their deck. But what she loves the most is spending time together as a family. She said she is the happiest when the four are all together, especially when they just hang out at home. They look forward to many years of making memories together.

Luke is a partner-owner of Lichty Brothers Collision Repair, so obviously he enjoys working on cars. He actually enjoys doing anything with his hands, whether it is building or refinishing furniture, or remodeling their home. **Keshia** says that she really enjoys her new role as a stay-at-home mom to their sweet little girl, **Alanna!** In her spare time, Keshia loves reading and enjoys cooking and baking. Understandably, their life has changed considerably with Alanna joining them, but it is in a very good way. Keshia says, "It has helped us to appreciate and soak up every moment because time goes by so fast. Becoming parents has given us a completely different outlook on life, which means we pray a lot more."

Thanks, Katie and Keshia, for submitting content to share here on this page. - Lois Ann Mast, Editor



Reflections of a Salesman

by Elder Greg Petersheim

Over the past several months as part of my job, I have visited many sporting goods stores in Pa., Md., and Del. The fear of gun rights legislation changes has created unprecedented sales over the past months. A frequent question that dealers ask is “How long can this buying frenzy continue?”

I was told by one sales associate the week prior to my arrival that the gross sale of guns and ammunition for the week was over \$1,000,000! The largest portion of these sales were not sporting arms but were assault rifles and the ammunitions for them. The question that is asked frequently is “Does buying all these additional guns and ammunition give us more safety and protection?”

I believe all of us are born with natural survival instincts to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Fear is a God given sense that can keep us away from many dangers and it is an incredible motivator. It can cause us to take the right precautions, but it can also make us do irrational things. Some examples of ways we protect ourselves are building homes to protect us from the elements, installing smoke detectors and alarms to warn us of danger, wearing seat belts and using car seats for our children, washing our hands to protect us from germs, not entering dangerous places—the list could go on and on. We are wise to do these things and surely it does not mean we are not trusting in God for our safety. Many times, however, our instincts and fears cause us to do irrational things, and we then trust in false securities. How do we protect ourselves from our fears?



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.

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I observe most people working to protect themselves from physical harm; however, it does not appear that most have the same urgency and zeal in protecting themselves from far more serious dangers that can destroy their souls.

- Do we know what the (spiritual) dangers are?
- Do we even have a sense of fear when we are “drifting too far from the shore”?
- What kind of weapons / ammunition are we stock piling for these battles? As sales reps, we talk about places and streets that you never want to drive through (especially not at night).
- Have you identified the “DO NOT DRIVE IN AREAS” in your spiritual life?

BAD NEWS : We can fight to protect our physical lives, but eventually death’s finger will catch each one of us.

GREAT NEWS! If we trust in God, Satan cannot destroy our souls. Jesus has secured a way for us to live eternally with Him and God (in a world that will know no evil).

Are we trusting Christ for our most important protection, and are we building up treasures in heaven rather than stockpiling arsenals down here?

Psalms 20:7: Some trust in their war chariots and some in their horses, but we will trust in the Lord our God

Psalms 121:7 The Lord will protect you from all danger, He will keep you safe.

Ephesians 6:10, 11: Be ye strong in the Lord and in the power of His might; put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the devil’s evil tricks

I Peter 5: 8,9: Be alert, be on Watch! Your enemy the devil roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him.

I Peter 2:11b: Do not give into bodily passions, which are always at war against your soul.

II Peter 3:17b: Be on your guard so that you will not be led away by the errors of lawless people and fall from your safe position

James 4: 7,8: Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will run away from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands you sinners! Purify your hearts you Hypocrites!

James 5:16: Confess your sins to one another—pray for one another so that you will be healed. The prayers of a good person has a powerful effect

Hebrews 10:30b, 31: The Lord will judge His people. It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God

Hebrews 9: 27,28: Everyone must die once and after that be judged by God. In the same manner CHRIST also was offered in sacrifice once to take away the sins of many. HE WILL APPEAR A SECOND TIME, NOT TO DEAL WITH SIN, BUT TO SAVE THOSE WHO ARE WAITING FOR HIM.

(All verses are from *Today’s English Version.*)



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on May 1, 2013. There were 21 ladies present. Twenty-one baby caps were donated. Completed items included two comforters and ten baby blankets.

For devotions, we sang "Saved by Grace." Psalm 92 was read, followed by a devotional entitled "Fresh Fruit."

The special offering amounted to \$27.00 to be used for hygiene kits.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

Newsorthy Notes at Conestoga . . .

Every school child and youth at Conestoga is being prayed for on a regular basis? Last year when the new school list of school children including college young adults was printed in the *Conestoga Connections*, Laura Kurtz divided all the students into seven groups to cover one week, and is praying for each one during her evening devotions. Thank you, Laura!

Mason Stoltzfus (pictured on the right) was recently elected president of Lancaster Mennonite School's Hans Herr FFA (Future Farmers of America). Go Mason!



Two people from Montana flew to Pa. specifically to attend Conestoga's **Swiss alphorn concert**. Captain Mike Montgomery was on John Zook's retirement flight (both airline pilots) and when Mike heard the Swiss were coming to Pa. for a concert, he and his wife flew to Harrisburg and drove to Morgantown for the concert. Ernst Baenninger, one of the alphorn players at Conestoga, played "Amazing Grace" on his alphorn at John and Mike's retirement party in Switzerland.

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 4 —

Tour and Taste at Lapp Valley Farms

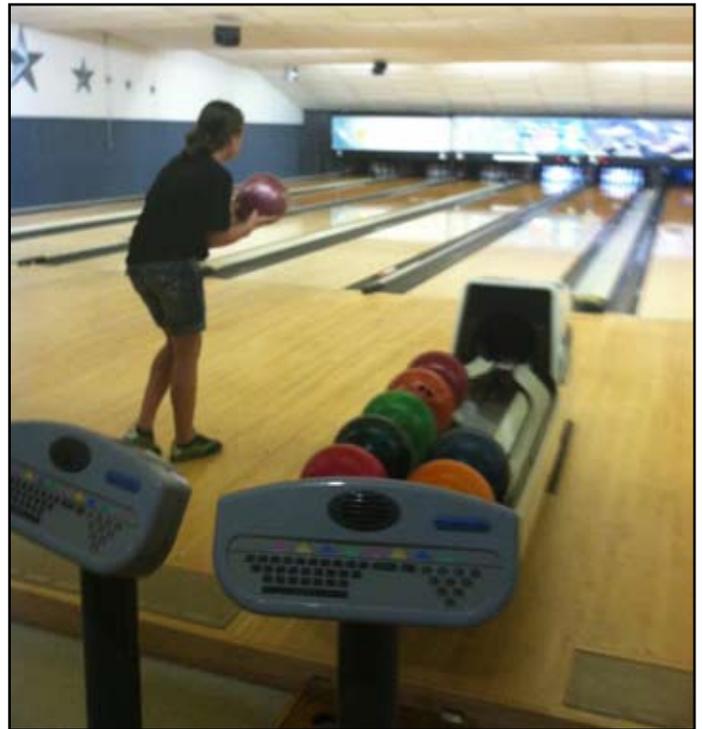
*Meet at 10:00 a.m.
at the farm store
located just south
of New Holland.*

It was worth flying to Morgantown to hear this same alphorn player again! (John Zook was one of the organizers of this group and the U.S. contact for the Swiss musicians.)

A **new camera** was recently purchased to tape our Sunday morning worship services. It has improved both the audio and video quality. To access these messages, go to Conestoga Mennonite Church's website and in the lower left-hand corner, click on "Services can be viewed online here."

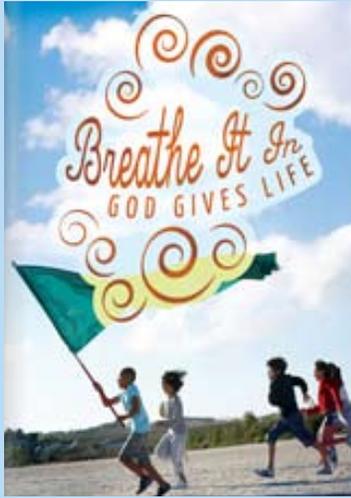


Horace and Bertha Mast celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on May 24 by observing communion given by Pastor Bob and Rachel. Horace and Bertha are the oldest married couple at Conestoga. The above photo was taken the same week of their anniversary and pictures the Wandering Shepherds Bible Study meeting in their home. Colleen Kriskula, Lutheran Home Hospice chaplain shared her testimony and led us in singing with a devotional. Colleen visits Hospice patients on a regular basis, also providing encouragement to the caregivers.



On Saturday, May 11, the Jr. Youth, a few older youth, and Bryce and Sonya Petersheim enjoyed an evening of bowling with pizza. The evening included some great competition that was fun, including “creative ways to bowl”—just ask Nate or Vinny how these worked out! The competition narrowed to Rachel Mast, Bryce Petersheim, and Nelson Beam, and Bryce ended up claiming the winning score!!! Congratulations, Bryce, and thank you, Nelson and Marilyn for hosting this event.





Conestoga Mennonite Summer Bible School

Our 2013 Vacation Bible School is planned for July 14-18 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. This year's theme is "Breathe It In: God Gives Life."

Children will hear about how God's own breath was used to create people. They will hear another story of blowing winds and the wisdom of building a foundation on God. And they will discover how winds blew and the church grew.

Classes are planned for children ages 4 through grade 6. Older youth are welcome to be helpers. There will also be a class for adults. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us this year!

The committee is working on planning and recruiting the main teachers and staff. Volunteers are needed again to serve as shepherds (who lead groups to stations) as well as other helpers. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board during the month of June. Please consider signing up to be a shepherd, a helper, and/or a prayer partner. Thank you!

Conestoga Mennonite Summer Bible School

July 14-18, 2013

Preschool - Grade 6

6:30-8:30 p.m.



On Communion Sunday morning, a number of memorable events occurred that touched others. One was at the end of the footwashing time where the ladies washed each other's feet or hands. As everyone was leaving, I heard Rosa and Celia Johnson ask Susan, their mother, if they could wash her hands—they understood the concept of "servanthood" and wanted to practice it! Thank you, Austin and Kristy, for sharing this valuable lesson with the children before hand.



Conestoga's youth and young adults participated in the local volleyball tournament over the winter months and into the spring. Here Joy Beam is in the foreground with other Conestoga young adults in the background. Now that it is softball season, let's attend games and enjoy the competition!



Singing, testimony, instrumental playing including swiss alphorns, all provided an inspiring evening of music for the estimated crowd of 550 persons. Notice that the wall at the rear of our auditorium was removed and chairs set up in the overflow area as well as in the entire rear of our sanctuary. The singing sounded great with a full house! Words of appreciation along with a receipt of \$2,059 for the offering was sent by the Shalom Choir who really appreciated singing here at Conestoga. They hope to return, but after paying most of their own way this time, will need to decide how best to return again.

Swiss Alphorn Night



Yes, they really were playing guitar and blowing alphorns at the same time to praise God with their instruments! Chairs were also set up in the front of the sanctuary.



At the end of the service, we had the privilege of sharing our "thanks" by placing money in the end of an alphorn! Everyone had a smile on their face as they left the evening of worship that praised God and blessed the listeners.



Buffalo burgers with caramelized onions, five-bean casserole and fresh asparagus was served at the May Senior Connections. In June, we are anticipating a fieldtrip to the Lapp Valley Farm near New Holland, Pa., for a tour and, of course, sample their delicious, well-known ice cream! Anyone is invited to join us—just be in the church parking lot by 9:00 a.m. so that we can carpool together.

Senior Connections

Wednesday, June 12, 12:00 noon

Lapp Valley Farm

Leaving from our church parking lot at 9:00 a.m., our June Senior Connections event has been moved to a different day so that we can enjoy a tour of the Lapp Valley Farm near New Holland, Pa. (If you prefer to drive directly to the Lapp Farm, plan to arrive there by 9:30 a.m.) First, we will enjoy a self-guided tour of the farm as we see how the Lapps process their products. Then it will be picnic time on their covered deck which, of course, will include a delicious ice cream cone—provided by Senior Connections.



Four sets of mothers and daughters participated in an exciting game—Rebecca Beam and Patsy Horning won!



The baby parade was a smashing success—here Caleb McClure and Mark Petersheim played Jacob and Esau.

Mother-Daughter Brunch

On Saturday, May 18, over eighty ladies gathered in our church fellowship hall to enjoy time of sharing with mothers, daughters, and grandmothers! There were several four-generations seated amongst the tables where we enjoyed a delicious brunch organized by Bonnie Beam, Lisa Miller, Cindy Petersheim, and Kristy Unruh. And then the Baby Parade was also a hit as pictured on a recent bulletin cover!

— Make-ahead Breakfast Casserole —

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| 8 slices bread, cubed | 4 eggs |
| 1 pound sausage, cooked until brown | 2 1/4 cups milk |
| 1 can (4 oz.) mushroom stems and pieces, drained | 1 can (10 1/2 oz.) cream of mushroom soup |
| 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry | 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese |
| 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese | 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard |

Spread bread cubes in bottom of greased 9x13 baking dish. Top with cooked sausage. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together eggs and milk. Stir in soup, spinach, mushrooms, cheeses and mustard. Pour egg mixture over bread and sausage. Refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Bake casserole 55-60 minutes or until set and lightly browned on top. Makes 10-12 servings.

- Thanks, Lisa Miller, for sharing this recipe you made for the Brunch!



Bob & Jo Ebert and Harvey & Lillian Stoltzfus recently enjoyed a “Mennonite Your Way” bus tour to the Rochester, New York, area. On this page, we see some of what they saw: Highland Park Gardens at the George Eastman House in Rochester (large photo plus photo in lower left corner); next photos left to right: Erie Canal at Lockport Lock; Herschell Carousel Museum in North Tonawanda; and the Falls at Letchworth State Park. Thanks, Jo, for these beautiful photos!

