



Sunday School at Conestoga

*Some of the class members
of Sunday School class
taught by Clyde Stoltzfus.*

Conestoga has Sunday School classes for all ages from three-year-olds up through seniors. If you are not now attending Sunday School, come and try it out some Sunday morning. Just ask the ushers where to go, or contact Lisa Miller, Sunday School Superintendent.

Conestoga started Sunday Schools for the first on June 3, 1900. They were taught in the German language and were held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. The adult and youth classes met in the auditorium in our old church building in tight quarters. Can you imagine 10-12 different teachers all talking at the same time?

Attendance in the church grew with these Sunday School classes. In 1900, there were 105 students, and by 1930, there were 369 students.

The Bible was used for study until 1914 when the Mennonite Publishing House published Sunday School materials in both German and English. Conestoga purchased the German editions and used them until 1917 when only English was published.

Until 1938, nominations for teachers of the different classes were taken from the church floor. In 1939, the Sunday School superintendents were given the task of finding teachers. In 1925 already, Elam Hartz (1887-1950), a school teacher who had graduated from Millersville State College (now University), organized the first Sunday School teachers' meetings to inspire the teachers. They met at times weekly and other times monthly. During the late 1940s, these classes gradually evolved into the mid-week prayer meetings, and the study of the Sunday School lesson was dropped.

- excerpted from As Long as Wood Grows and Water Flows





Replacing A Bad Habit

Rodney Stoltzfus

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it." And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds." Genesis 1:1, 1:11, 1:20, 1:24

If I ever need proof of the existence of an all powerful, all knowing, all caring God, I just need to immerse myself in the creation that is all around me. Whether it is running in Lancaster County in the early morning or being in the great north woods of Clinton County, I get to see, touch, and feel God in a very real way.



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

2779 Main Street, Morgantown, PA 19543
(610) 286-9124
www.conestogamc.com

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

I recently chose to eliminate something that is poison to my life and have tried to replace it with running. I share this not out of pride but out of amazement. I am amazed at how easy God has made it for me to accomplish!

Where Heidi and I live along with Mason, Natalie, and Luke, is the perfect place to accomplish this. We have many choices of running loops around our home in New Holland. I have taken advantage of them so many times this summer that I have lost count. Praise the Lord for all he does, for even me! (Note: not every run has been glorious, many have been brutally hard, but they distract me from the addiction to tobacco that has been a part of me for most of my life)



Many of you know that a group from Conestoga has been spending time together in God's Creation—a two-day hike at World's End State Park and a three-day camping trip to North Bend, Clinton County, Pa. It started as the Young at Heart Sunday School Class and ended up including anyone interested in sharing time together in God's Creation. We had people from all ages and all walks of life. The beauty we witnessed, along with the fellowship we shared will be with me for a very long time. Taking yourself out of your comfort zone allows you to see the world from a different perspective and connect with people at a different level. I hope these outdoor ex

(continued on page 3)



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on September 4, 2013. There were 17 ladies present. One comforter was donated. Finished items included 3 comforters, 14 baby blankets, and 40 school kits.

For devotions, we sang "Work for the Night is Coming." Phil. 4:4-9 was read, followed by a devotional entitled "Walk Away From Worry."

The special offering amounted to \$38.00. We sang "County Your Blessings" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

Replacing a Bad Habit

(continued from page 2)

periences continue to evolve and more people can participate. Pastor Bob warned me, however, that we took too many people away from the Sunday morning service (considering that he joined us, I think it was good-natured ribbing).

Creation can be beautiful, enormous, dangerous, and scary at times. It makes us feel like we can do anything and it can make us feel tiny in comparison. It makes me yearn for that day when I can experience God's glory more fully, because we are most likely not seeing the half of it!

- Conestoga Elder Rodney Stoltzfus

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!

— October 1 —

Michele Glick's Testimony of

"God's Redeeming Love" following her tragedy.

Collection for New Life Mission Trip until October 22:

toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap,
baby wash/shampoo

— October 8 —

"The Beatitudes for Women"

by Bonni Greiner

— October 15 —

"FreeFromHumanTrafficking"

A local outreach to educate and free Humans from slavery.

by Daniela Fiorentino

— October 22 —

Walk at Warwick Park

Please pre-register.

— October 29 —

"From Out of the Fiery Furnace"

An historical one-act drama depicting women's lives at Hopewell Village.

Led by Lee Forester



David Shenk sharing at the Hebron School Banquet on September 19.

Upcoming MYF Events

Wed., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in the Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Sunday, Oct. 6, 6:30-8 p.m. - Bible Study in the Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Saturday, Oct. 12 - Corn Maze and Bonfire with Zion Mennonite Youth

October 16 - Stocking Food Pantry shelves at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in the Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

November 29, 2013 - Annual MYF Auction in the fellowship hall



Left to right: John Miller, Jody Essick, Marlin Petersheim, Jill Stabolepszy, Ryan Petersheim, and Christy Longacre.

Upcoming Jr. MYF Events



Saturday, October 12 - Campfire dinner and fishing at Pastor Bob's pond with a sleepout at the church.

Saturday November 9 or 16 (exact date to be announced) - Fall Barn Party

Sunday December 22 - Make fruit baskets and enjoy playing Christmas games.

Hope to see you Friday and be sure to invite friends too, especially the ones who were with us on the Summer Retreat!

Swimming, Then Bicycling, and Then Running

Early on Sunday morning, September 15, some of our Conestoga members competed in the Marshman Sprint Triathlon at Marsh Creek State Park. The event consisted of a one-fourth mile swim in the lake, then a 13-mile bicycle ride on the public roads around the park, and ended with a two-mile run in the park. There were more than 400 participants in age groups that ranged from 0-19 through 70-74 years old. **Jody Essick, Ryan Petersheim, Jill Stabolepszy,** and **John Miller** successfully completed the course without injury. Jill won a medal for finishing in the top three in her age category. **Christy Longacre** and **Marlin Petersheim** also participated, making for a fun and memorable activity. - Lisa Miller



Look Familiar?

Beta Starchild's dog Sandy was pictured on the front page of the September 22 Mercury! Congratulations Sandy and Beta!

Sandy is a Red Siberian Husky who was photographed by Tom Kelly III of The Mercury staff. Sandy, a Red Siberian Husky, and Beta were attending the Pottstown Pet Fair where Tom Kelly III of The Mercury staff took this photograph.

Did You Know That . . .

. . . the **Annual MYF Auction** is less than two months away on Friday evening, November 29? This is always a fun evening as we contribute items to be sold, and then bid on the items to benefit the youth for the coming year. What did you start making to sell?

. . . **Omar and Ruth Beam's** granddaughter works in the offices of Mennonite Mission Network at Goshen, Indiana in the same office where Dean Heisey works? Sara Alvarez is pictured in the September 16, 2013, *Mennonite World Review*, as a new editor in the marketing and communication department. She recently graduated from Goshen College and volunteered with the Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience before accepting this new position. (Dean Heisey preached a sermon here at Conestoga on "Mission: Knowing Him" on Sunday, September 22.)

. . . **Howard and Barbara Moss** are now the oldest married members here at Conestoga? (Horace and Bertha Mast held that record until Horace died.) Howard and Barbara will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on April 10, 2014.

. . . **Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus'** granddaughter, Jodie Hostetter, was pictured on the front cover of the September 16, 2013, *Mennonite World Review*? Jodie was participating in "The Abraham Project" in Lancaster, Pa., on September 6-8 where Mennonites and Muslims met for a weekend of discussion, interaction, and fellowship. Their goal of deepening interfaith relationships was reached.

. . . October is "Pastor Appreciation Month" when each year we do something special for **Pastor Bob and Cindy Petersheim** to let them know that we appreciate them? Did you know that 80% of seminary and Bible School graduates who enter the ministry will leave the ministry within the first five years? Let's thank God and thank Bob and Cindy for their service here in the Tri-County area—specifically here at Conestoga! "

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15 KJV)



*Conestoga Mennonite
enjoys Fellowship Dinners
the fourth Sunday of
each month immediately
following the morning
worship service.*

*Fellowship Dinners provide
a relaxed atmosphere
where members
and friends can spend
time interacting and
sharing with each other
and guests.*



*Church Fellowship
Dinners are a great
opportunity to get
to know one another
and to share lives
together.*

*Sunday, October 27,
is our next Fellowship
Dinner here at
Conestoga where we each
bring a covered dish
to share in this
potluck dinner.*





The best cathedral for worship is outdoors in God's good creation!

Young at Heart Sunday School Camping Trip

Rod and Heidi Stoltzfus organized a great Labor Day weekend for families from their Sunday School class and invited others in the church to join them.

They set up volleyball and croquet, but they enjoyed wading in the creek the most, especially the little ones.

We also enjoyed taking a drive over the mountains where we saw a lot of deer. The first pictures of deer were taken in our yard while we were eating breakfast. They also came out when we were eating our lunch, but once the tent city was set up, they were not so brave.

The picture with the red building was taken at the young guys cabin. We saw about 25 deer right in that area one evening.

The whole weekend was great fun and well organized by Rod and Heidi. Everything went well in spite of some rain on Saturday night. The mothers of the little ones were afraid their children may be frightened by the thunder so we told them they could come into the cabin, but they all were brave and did not make the move. A great weekend enjoyed by all!

- Violet Beam



Senior Connections on Thursday October 10

Features a Service Project

Join us as we spend the day helping at Mennonite Central Committee's Material Resource Center in Ephrata. We will car pool from the church. Here are photos of this service project last October. Questions can be directed to Violet Beam, 610-406-2796.





**“Oh sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.”**
~ Psalm 96:1-2



**“Come, let us *sing* for joy to the Lord;
let us *shout* aloud to the
Rock of our salvation.
Let us *come* before him with
thanksgiving and *extol* him
with music and song.
For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.”**
~ Psalm 95:1-3

“Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
Praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
Praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath **praise** the Lord.
Praise the Lord.”

~ Psalm 150

