

CONESTOGA *Connections*



September 2013
Vol. XXIV
No. 9



The Annual “Low Country Boil, Campfire, and a Swim” Enjoyed by Conestoga’s Young Adults and Young Families at Bob & Karen Horning’s Home



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Walking the Valley

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. Psalm 23: 4

As is standard practice with our Summer Ministry Intern, Jody Essick and I read a book this summer and discussed its content. We chose John Piper's *Don't Waste Your Life*.

John tells his childhood story of witnessing an elderly man for whom John's church had prayed for decades, who when he gave his life to Christ, wept with the words, "I've wasted it (my life). I've wasted it."

Piper was profoundly impacted such that his driving life force has been to daily give back to God the life God entrusts to him. Piper is grateful that due to the man's death bed conversion, they will now both

share eternity together. But he is passionate to have his life story be different.

God has called Conestoga Mennonite Church (CMC) to live Christ's story to benefit others. We are blessed as we raise up the next generation of young leaders. It is a rich encouragement to see young families joining our fellowship. It is empowering to see new ministries such as the Food Pantry, Still Waters no cost counseling, DNA Small Groups, and Teddy Bear Club complementing the many other excellent ministries with deeper roots.

The spiritual discipline I practice of praying through our CMC Directory made me aware soon after God called me to CMC that serving till retirement meant I would be entrusted with the sacred privilege of walking with a whole generation as they joined the Hebrews 12 "great cloud of witnesses." In June it was John Petersheim; several weeks ago Ruth Stauffer; today Horace Mast. Although none of us gets to practice death before it is our turn, I witness one after the next "fearing no evil."

Karen Horning reflected in our last Pastoral Team meeting of her work observation that although persons can naturally be anxious early in the dying process; at some point they begin to sense peace. We recognized as a Team that this reality is our Good Shepherd "with us, his rod and staff comforting us" promise fulfilled.

I am in awe to witness so many who are unlike the man in Piper's life with nothing but regrets on his death bed. I am surrounded by a community of people who "fear no evil" because over a lifetime they have been loving and serving their Lord.

What a great God we serve! What an awesome church tradition we are privileged to steward. May our generation and those who follow so walk the journey of life!

Joyfully living HiStory with you, Pastor Bob



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on August 7, 2013. There were 22 persons present. Donated items included 52 kit bags and 1 comforter top.

Finished items included 5 comforters and 40 school kits.

For devotions, we sang "Search Me, O God." Colossians 3:1-10 was read, followed by a devotional entitled "The Parable of the Dead Dog."

The special offering amounted to \$89.00. We sang "Take Time to Be Holy" before adjoining.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

Dinner on the Deck . . .

Conestoga's "Teddy Bear Club" and Young Adult "women" enjoyed two events in August: the "Low Country Boil" at Bob and Karen Hornings early in August (pictured on front cover) and "Dinner on the Deck" on Wednesday evening, August 28.

Ten ladies enjoyed dinner on the Deck at Emily's Restaurant while the rain peppered the evening. Tina Essick and Lisa Miller entertained the children in the Zion Mennonite Church Nursery room.

Conestoga is so blessed with these young responsible mothers and young adults. Remember to pray for them and their families every day: Rebecca Beam, Kaiti Fox, Rachel Mast, Kathy McClure, Keshia Miller, Kristen Petersheim, Liz Petersheim, Sonya Petersheim, Jen Spece, Jill Stabalepszy, Kristy Unruh, and nine children. Special thanks to Bob and Karen Horning and Tina Essick and Lisa Miller for helping with the children.

- Cindy Petersheim



Fall Assembly Celebration October 26, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Akron Mennonite Church

ACC's Fall Assembly Celebration's theme is "God's Power at Work" taken from Ephesians 3:14-21. Nancy Kauffmann, denominational minister from Mennonite Church USA, will provide our inspiration. Plan to attend this day of worship, discernment, storytelling, and prayer.

In addition to the Fall Assembly on Saturday, the Annual Leadership Resource Day on Friday, October 25, is offering two sessions for ACC congregational leaders and pastors at Akron Mennonite Church. Conestoga's Pastoral Team members along with Pastor Bob will be attending the "Healthy Congregational Systems" seminar.

Friday, October 25, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Akron Mennonite Church

- 1) Restorative Justice Practices co-presented by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz & Jim Amstutz
- 2) Healthy Congregational Systems led by Richard Blackburn of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Lombard, Ill.

Friday Evening, October 25, 6:30 p.m. Ridgeview Mennonite Church

- 1) ACC Mennonite Women Dinner. Dr. Madonna Talbert will speak on "Self Perspective as we navigate seasons of life." Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. with the meal served at 6:30 p.m. Dinner fee is \$15.00. Payment can be received at the event or mailed to the ACC Conference office by October 15, 2013. After Oct. 15, 2013, call or email Ruth Ann Martin to check availability at 717-656-8028, razmartin@frontiernet.net. See back cover.
- 2) ACC Mennonite Men Dinner. Register for this event at www.AtlanticCoastConference.net

Upcoming MYF Events

Happy Back to School!

September 11, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in the Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

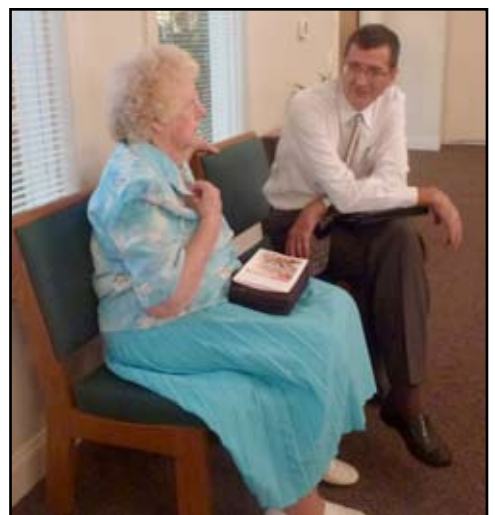
September 18 - Stocking Food Pantry Shelves at 7:00 p.m.

September 25, 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study in the Youth Room led by Rachel Mast

Start thinking about our upcoming Youth Auction on Friday evening, November 29!



Sunday Mornings Before Sunday School Begins is a favorite time of church fellowship as people are welcomed, they chat, rehearse, and “serve” the church by bringing flowers! Come early and be blessed!





Chickenetti

Fellowship Dinner September 22

Conestoga is hosting a Fundraiser Fellowship Meal on Sunday, September 22, to benefit Conestoga's Children's Ministry and

A.C.C.'s matching challenge (see bulletin board).

The meal will include Chickenetti, Salad, Cornbread, and Apple/Fruit dumplings with ice cream. Our goal is \$1,800.00 to be divided evenly between both ministries.

Both of these opportunities are in our 2013 budget line items. Conestoga's Children's Ministry is for the children's ministry outside of our Sunday School and Bible school programs. Every other Sunday morning, Conestoga offers a special service for the children led by Austin and Kristy Unruh.

The ACC matching challenge is an opportunity to help begin a small reserve for Atlantic Coast



Austin and Kristy Unruh leading Children's Worship.

Conference. Past moderators (i.e. Pastor Bob) and other donors are helping this initiative. A poster with complete details is on the bulletin board for your information.

See you on September 22!

~ Cindy Petersheim, Activities Coordinator

Did You Know That . . .

. . . **Mike and Liz Petersheim and family** moved on Labor Day, September 2, to 2864 Best Rd, Morgantown PA 19543? Their phone numbers remain the same.

. . . **Fran and Wayne Gunzenhauser** recently donated the old bench that once sat in the front of Conestoga's first church building? See it pictured on the right. In 1923, the first building was just too small, so the building was literally moved across the road while a new church building was built (currently the ReUzit Shoppe, although it was added to some years later). In order to have services from April through November while the new church was constructed, sturdy round logs were placed under the jacked-up old church, and it was slowly moved across the road. Photos can be seen in chapter 14 of the book *As Long as Wood Grows and Water Flows* of this move. Fran wanted this original church bench to find its place back at Conestoga Mennonite Church, and donated it in memory of her parents, Will and Ada (Hertzler) Beam. Fran is a sister to Omar Beam and Titus Beam who currently attend Conestoga. Take a peak in the Youth Room back in the corner against the wall and you will see this old bench! It will be used by the seniors once a month as they enjoy shuffleboarding! Thank you, Fran!





Still Waters Ministries Offers Classes

Still Waters Counseling Ministries will offer two classes beginning Tuesday, September 24, at 7 p.m.

“The Value of You”

One class, led by Jill Waters, will be for women entitled “The Value of You” which will emphasize the importance of women valuing themselves, with a focus on self-care and esteem. There will be instruction on saying “no” to the negative influences that can devalue a women’s life, and even cause her harm. Choosing positive over negative habits will be discussed.

“Marathon Men”

The other class, led by Sam Waters, will be a group called “Marathon Men” that will equip, support, and encourage men to cast off those issues that weigh them down. Challenging topics that face men daily will include: fears, anger, addictions, anxieties, and self-esteem.

These classes will meet, in separate designated areas at Conestoga Mennonite Church, every other Tuesday evening. Community and church members are welcome. Please call the church office at 610-286-9124 for more information.



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!

— September 17 —
“Fondue Fun”

All women are welcome for a morning with Barb Wimer lifting our spirits with music, and Leon Shirk providing a devotional along with some Fondue Fun!!

— September 24 —
CRAFT: “Create a Fall Grapevine Wreath”
Led by Lee Forester

— 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

It’s Time to Smile . . .

Abraham bought himself a fancy new computer. He was showing it to Isaac one day. “Look at all the wonderful programs it has on it. And look at all the neat things it can do . . .” Isaac was impressed, but a little concerned . . .”But dad, I don’t think your computer has enough memory.” Abraham said “Don’t worry son; the Lord will provide the RAM.” *(If you don’t get it, ask a grandchild!)*

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather’s lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, “Grandpa, did God make you?” “Yes, sweetheart,” he answered, “God made me a long time ago.” “Oh,” she paused, “Grandpa, did God make me too?” “Yes, indeed, honey,” he said, “God made you just a little while ago.” Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, “God’s getting better at it, isn’t he?”

“Retire” or “Refire”?

Reaching age 60 is not too bad, even though one can face more health challenges—I believe that this is the worst part of getting older as we face the fact that our body is no longer “young.”

As baby boomers, Lemar and I approached retirement much faster than we ever expected that we would! We were enjoying life so much that all of a sudden, the 60s were here! Actually, Lemar hit age 65 last fall already and I am trying to catch up to him!

We see ourselves and our friends, who also are baby boomers, looking at retirement not necessarily with a “retirement mentality,” but with a “refiring mentality.” It is exciting to see peers participate in service trips and do things they never did before! This not only blesses the church and community, but also is a blessing to those who serve!

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green.
Psalm 92:12-14*

So the question is, “How does the church help the baby boomers as we “refire” instead of “retire?” What programs and projects does God want us to begin so that we can bear fruit as we age?

Everyone at Conestoga has been thanking God for Conestoga’s young adults and young married families as we pray for each other. Each generation needs each other, and the church needs each generation. Conestoga does this well as we value each other.

If I counted correctly, twelve more persons here at Conestoga will turn age 60 in the next five years. They will join the 62 persons who already have had the privilege of hitting this landmark!

This is exciting as we see the wide range of gifts that God has given these people, and also as we consider how and where and when God will open doors for us to use our gifts for His glory here in our community and perhaps even around the world!

Thank you God that you have placed so many gifted seniors here at Conestoga, and more are on their way! Thank you God for giving us a pastor who honors the seniors and empowers both young and old to “bear fruit.” Open the doors of opportunity here in our community so that we can tell more people about You!

~ Lois Ann Mast

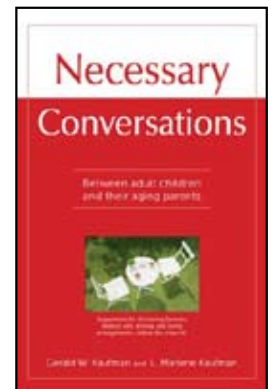


Senior Connections on September 12

Features
Gerald & Marlene
Kaufman

All seniors are invited to bring one or two of your children along with you (if available) on Thursday, September 12, as we enjoy lunch together at 12:00 noon followed by Gerald and Marlene Kaufman share about their new book, *Necessary Conversations Between Adult children and Their Aging Parents*.

And if you don’t have a parent to come with you, come anyway to hear valuable advice and exciting ideas from these experienced family counselors who are members at Akron Mennonite Church.



In this timely book, Gerald and Marlene Kaufman urge adult children and their parents to have direct conversations about the decisions that lie ahead as parents age. This is a thoughtful and useful guide to a life stage that is often dreaded and muddled through.

Necessary Conversations is filled with stories and examples from many families, most with different life circumstances, but all facing these same issues. The chapters end with “Getting Started,” a list of suggestions for action, as well as “Questions” for focusing on practical outcomes to the discussions. The book includes a series of exhibits—from a “Needs Assessment for Caregivers” to a “Medications and Supplements List” to a “Driving Contract and Checklist.” This book grew out of 40 years of counseling experience with families. We are privileged to have them attend Sr. Connections!



Atlantic Coast Conference

Fall Women's Dinner

Self Perspective

As We Navigate Seasons of Life



MADONNA L. TALBERT, MD came to Lancaster County in 1984 and became the first women obstetrician and gynecologist in the county. A graduate of Ball State University and University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Talbert brings a wealth of education and experience to her medical calling.

She has been a member of the Lancaster Church of the Nazarene since 1984. She has been married to her husband Charley for 41 years. They have two children, Meredith and Peter, both graduates of Lancaster Mennonite School.

Dr. Talbert has lectured on topics ranging from the Biblical approach to puberty and female development, abortion and its consequences, prevention of female cancers, and perimenopause to menopause.

October 25, 2013

Ridgeview Mennonite Church
3723 Ridge Road
Gordonville, PA

6:00pm—Appetizers

6:30pm—Dinner

\$15 per person

RSVP to Ruth Ann Martin

phone: 717-656-8028 or

e-mail: razmartin@frontiernet.net

or on-line at www.atlanticcoastconference.net

*Bring a
friend and
widen our
fellowship!*



Offering Project

The Worm Project
(A Ministry of Franconia
Mennonite Conference)

Sponsored by
Atlantic Coast Conference—Mennonite Women

Registration Deadline Oct. 15, 2013