

CONESTOGA Connections



February- March 2014
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A Sunday Morning at Conestoga Mennonite



Sunday, February 9, was extra special as Sharon Stoltzfus (left) was surprised by all of her family attending our morning worship service—the day before she turned 60! Congratulations, Sharon! Their family now numbers ten with her and Gary's three grandchildren!

The upper left photo of Wimpy and Sandy Bailey shows them celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary! It was a special day as they shared the beautiful anniversary bouquet of flowers at the front of our sanctuary.

And then the above photo on the right was just one of many photo opps that show the fulfillment of being part of a church family! We are blessed!



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Lent Practices and Abundant Life

“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set his face towards Jerusalem.” John 9:51

“I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly” John 1:14

The past years we shaped Lent worship to reflect on Christ’s journey *“setting his face towards Jerusalem.”* It honors Christ to recall his strength to not exercise his option of escaping the cross knowing what awaited him. It deepens our capacity to face our suffering without turning away from him. It enlarges our appreciation of resurrection life.

Today I call us to reflect upon Christ doing this work in obedience to His Father, but also *“that we might have life, and have it abundantly.”*

By reading gospel accounts we sense some of the trauma Jesus faced at Calvary. They describe wrestling till he sweated blood in Gethsemane, brutal beatings, and eventual death on a Roman cross. Any who have



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watched movies like “The Passion of Christ” can feel the immense sacrifice Jesus made to earn our salvation.

Do we stop to recognize Christ’s motivation was ***our abundant life?***

I wonder how badly we want abundant life. Do we go after healing for old wounds? Are we willing to trade in sweet dreams of revenge for the sweeter reality of being set free? When we don’t forgive, bitterness enslaves us. Biblical forgiveness releases the matter to Jesus entrusting him to judge. That is when we find freedom!

The Worship Planning Team has again affirmed using *Leader* magazine resources with this year’s Lent theme of *“Encountering God, what are we witnessing?”* It meshes beautifully with our Lord’s 2014 promise to CMC that *“Honest Sharing Will Strengthen Faith.”*

Something new we envision beginning March 9 is to offer a five-week “Light Lunch Connection” on the Sundays not already scheduled for a fellowship meal. We will keep it simple with no pressure to participate. Some persons have other plans. Some prefer eating at home. Some prefer a restaurant. But others may delight in connection!

We picture those wanting to participate finding seats in the fellowship hall for prayer before entering serving lines. We encourage sitting with persons you know less well. Since research hints that New Testament believers shared communion weekly, a leader at each table will open by breaking bread and passing the cup. A simple two-soup option with bread and salad will follow. Hot dogs will be provided for young children as well as the young at heart.

We envision several different households each week working together to provide the soup and salad, plus doing set-up and clean up. Lois Ann Mast has volunteered to coordinate. If you wish to help host a “Light Lunch Connection” speak with Lois Ann or watch for sign-up opportunity.

It is our prayer that all of us taking time over Lent to remember, and some of us participating in one or more of these Light Lunch Connection’s will indeed deepen our connection with God and one another. It is our hope that we will more ***fully know abundant life!!***

*Joyfully Living HiStory Together with You,
Pastor Bob Petersheim*

Did You Know That . . .

. . . February's **sewing circle** was cancelled due to guess what? SNOW—isn't it beautiful?

. . . **Conestoga's annual church bus trip in 2014** is only about four months away? It is time to sign up for this sailing adventure on a tall ship in the New York City harbor as we pass the Statute of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Ellis Island, and other sites. See breathtaking views of New York City in a way you never have before! We will leave at 7:15 a.m. in the morning of Friday, June 27, 2014, and return about 7:30 p.m. in the evening. If you think you may be interested, please sign up in the church lobby. Cost for adults is \$78 and for children ages 12 and under is \$54.

. . . minutes of our **annual business meeting** are in our church mailboxes on Sunday, February 16. For those who attended, it was another wonderful presentation by each of the Directors:

- ~ Dot Leatherman, Director of Christian Education
- ~ Tina Essick, Director of Fellowship
- ~ Gary Stoltzfus, Director of Missions
- ~ Pastor Bob gave Bill Beam's report as Director of Stewardship since Bill was on a business trip
- ~ Sharon Stoltzfus, Director of Worship
- ~ Pastor Bob Petersheim, Director of Pastoral Ministries
- ~ Rachel Mast, Minister of Youth and Young Adults, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

. . . **Conestoga's young adults** are planning a retreat weekend on March 28-30?

. . . **five youth and six adults** will be serving on a mission trip to Harlan, Kentucky, from June 9-14, 2014, serving with SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People). They will work on construction-type jobs. Those looking forward to participating in this mission outreach are Mindy Beam, Josh Beam, Mason Stoltzfus, Natalie Stoltzfus, Weston Caley, James Valentino, Dan Mast, Rachel Mast, Lyle Essick, Tina Essick, and Jill Stabilepszy. Let's surround these eleven persons with our prayers now as they prepare to serve.

. . . **James and Faith Wenger** and **Merv Stoltzfus** will be meeting with Conestoga's Pastoral Team on Friday and Saturday, February 28 and March 1, at Tel Hai Retreat Center. The Wengers will also join CMC in worship on March 2 with James bringing the morning message



*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 4 —

Food Demonstration

by Lucas Ho, Food Service Directory
at Tel Hai Camp

— February 11 —

“Mentoring as Demonstrated by Ruth and Naomi”

by Loice Byler

— February 18 —

“Reality Discipline”

by Rita Richards

— February 25 —

“Hearts United with Haiti”

by Crystal Funk

— March 4 —

“The Bridge Youth Center in Ephrata”

by Jacinda Martin

— March 11 —

“When the Well is Dry”

by Sharon Charles

— March 18 —

“The Bible, The Big Picture”

Bible Study led by Tracy McGuire

— March 25 —

Knotting comforters for MCC

with Carmen Weber and Krista Petersheim

— April 1 —

“The A-Z's of Perennial Gardening From Planning to Maintaining

Fieldtrip to Espenshade's Greenhouse at Mohnton
to hear Suzanne. Meet at the church at 9:15 a.m.

Pre-registration required.

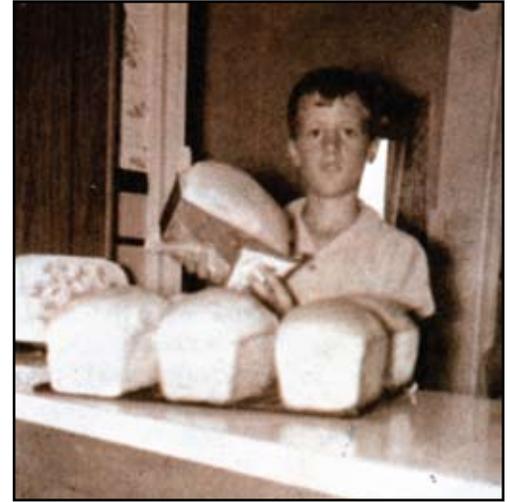


Sharon Mast (now Sharon Stoltzfus receiving the offering at the Conestoga Mennonite Sunday School in 1971.

Where Did the Money Come From?

by Sarah Yoder

(sister to Julia Yoder)



*Greg Petersheim baked bread to earn money for the mission offering. He put a sign **HOMEMADE BREAD** at the road in front of his house. (Caption actually called him Gregory!)*

Three hundred sixty dollars for the special children's project suggested by the Elkhart Mission Board! That was the record of the juniors and primaries of the Conestoga Mennonite Church at Morgantown, Pennsylvania, in 1970. Their goal had been \$300.

The goal for 1971 is \$350 and they expect to exceed it by fifty to a hundred dollars.

Where does the money come from?

Karen Smoker: Sometimes my parents give it. Sometimes I earn it by doing errands. I wash dishes, mow lawn, and clean the house.

Dianne Beam and Nelson Beam (children of Omar and Ruth Beam): Each week we get \$.25 a piece. Of this, we give 5¢ to the offering. Sometimes we get extra money for extra chores.

Dianne Beam: Every Saturday morning, I clean the washbowls. I set the table too.

Nelson Beam: I feed the pigs, feed the cats, drive the tractor, and the pickup.

Wanda Stoltzfus: My parents give me offering money.

Darrel Beam: My brother and I have 4-H steers. The money we earn is ours to do whatever we want. I usually give some of it to the offering. [Is this Darrel Stoltzfus or Bill Beam?]

Robert _____: I drive the baler and help on the farm. I give

25¢ out of every dollar [Is this Pastor Bob Petersheim?]

Audrey Stoltzfus: I have an allowance. Sometimes I give some of that money, but not regularly.

Karen Stoltzfus: I have an allowance. [Karen Horning today]

Parke Weaver: I work at home on our fruit farm. I get an allowance and I give some of that. [Allen Weaver's son]

Grant Stoltzfus: I help Dad on the farm. I get an allowance and I give some of that. [Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus' son]

Greg Petersheim: My parents give me money for the offering. But now I just started a new project. I bake bread and I get half of the money. We put a sign out front and people stop to buy. Later I will be giving some of the money I earn from the bread baking. [Walter Petersheim's son]

Doug Beam: I get wages every week for working on the farm. I bring some of that money. [Titus and Violet Beam's son]

Juanita Stoltzfus: Each month, I get an allowance of \$1.25. I put some of it in the offering. (Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus daughter]

Mrs. Wilma Petersheim Smoker [daughter of Mabel Petersheim] was in charge of devotions in the balcony and

commented, "About three years ago, we started regular offerings. Up to that time, the children had missionary banks at home but we had no regular offerings each Sunday morning for the children. The first year, we set our goal at \$150. I made a huge thermometer and the children watched it climb. When the top burst, I had red streaks going in all directions. They loved it. This past year (1970), our goal was \$300. We made \$360. Each year, we have exceeded our goal by \$50 to \$100. Our goal for 1971 is \$350. Already, we have over \$100."

"Each Sunday morning, we begin our Sunday School worship with a little story or perhaps I read a letter from the Mennonite Mission Board, or some similar opening. Then

we have prayer. After that, everyone who has an offering brings it. Some bring coins, others dime cards.

"There are usually about 40 children present. All give at least once a month. I would say the enthusiasm for giving is 100%.

"At the end of the year (October), we are ready to decide where the money should go. The children think about the various projects and then vote on them."

This article was published in the October 31, 1971, *On the Line*, a periodical for junior-age children published weekly by the Mennonite Publishing House (no longer published). Thanks, Julia Yoder, for sharing this article!!!



Children's Worship

Don't you wish you knew what these children are excited to about? I have a feeling that Ryan Petersheim might know! But on second thought, the children would know as well!

Thanks, Austin and Kristy for leading this special time every other Sunday morning during the morning sermon! And thank you, Ryan and the other helpers who assist in this appreciated facet of our church ministry.

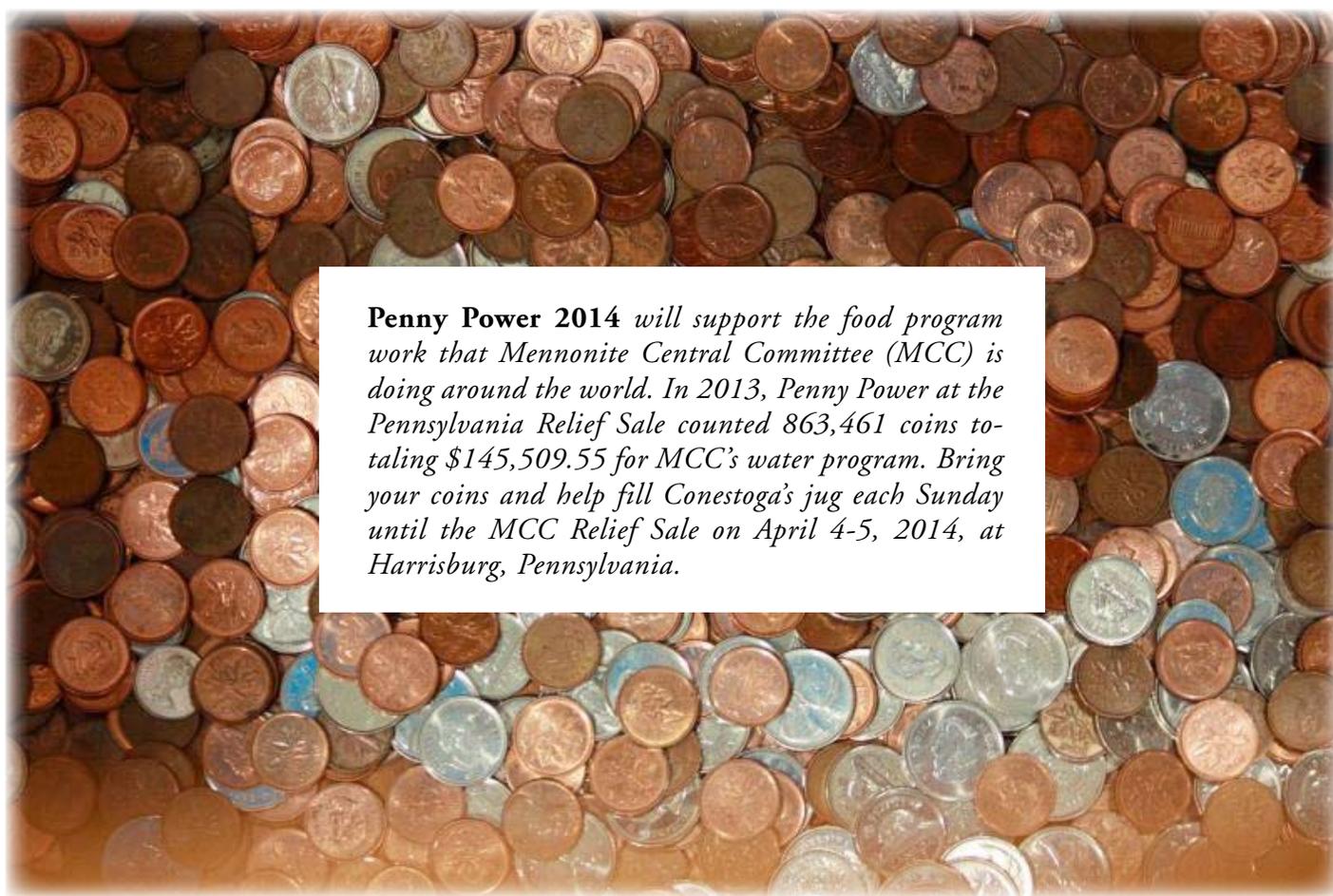
Austin and Kristy Unruh have been a "gift" to Conestoga Mennonite Church in coordinating this Children's Worship on a regular basis with at least one adult man filling our "M46: a promise of the Holy Spirit connecting men and children across the generations."

This summer, we need a new person or couple to replace Austin and Kristy after they graduate from college. Let's pray that someone else will feel God's call to continue this valued program of our congregation!





Connecting with each other during fellowship meals is special as we better learn to know each other. During the Lent season, beginning on Sunday, March 9, a soup and salad lunch will be offered until Easter Sunday, April 20. It is suggested we sit with someone we do not know as well. See Pastor Bob's article on page 2 in this issue for more information.



Penny Power 2014 will support the food program work that Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is doing around the world. In 2013, Penny Power at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale counted 863,461 coins totaling \$145,509.55 for MCC's water program. Bring your coins and help fill Conestoga's jug each Sunday until the MCC Relief Sale on April 4-5, 2014, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Recycling Paper

A “Paper Retriever Recycling” unit has arrived in Conestoga’s parking lot. Church members and the public are invited to deposit newspapers, magazines, catalogs and mail (no phone books, hardcover books, or cardboard).

This recycling project will not only benefit the environment and community, but will also benefit Still Waters Ministries as it serves the community with no-cost counseling!

Each time the Paper Retriever is emptied, the truck’s on-board scales and computers will weigh the paper and send a check that in 2014 will be directed to Still Waters Ministries.

Included:

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines
- Catalogs
- Office school papers
- Mail
- Envelopes
- Paperback books

Not Included:

- No cardboard
- No textbooks or hardcover books
- No phone books
- No glass or metals
- No trash

Paper Retriever will recycle these products into new newsprint. Even booklets and folders that include staples may be deposited in the bin. Shredded paper is also acceptable, but should be placed in bags before depositing in the bin.

No colored paper, wrapping or tissue paper, carbon paper, or even sticky notes can be recycled, so please do not place these items in the Paper Retriever. Cardboard cannot be used in making newsprint due to the excessive bleaching required. Neither can any food boxes including cereal boxes, soda boxes, and other food containers be accepted. These items are recyclable (including hardcover books), but not through Paper Retrieval. Different kinds of recycling equipment are required to recycle these other products.

Neither can phone books be used to make newsprint. The fibers in the pages of the phone book are in their smallest form and do not contribute to the fiber needed for newsprint. Also, it is very hard to remove the ink from a phone book page. However, phone books are a valuable recycling commodity and should be recycled somewhere else.



Still Waters Ministries is a no-fee community counseling clinic. All services and any corresponding costs are covered by private donations. Still Waters Ministries is a community-focused, church-based counseling center with a commitment to excellence and sensitivity to the needs of all persons in need of quality care.

— Upcoming New SWM Programs —

✓ Still Waters Ministries will offer a class for women every other Tuesday evening beginning February 25, 2014, at Conestoga Mennonite Church from 7-8 p.m. This class, led by Jill Waters, is titled “The Value of You” and will emphasize the importance of women valuing themselves, with a focus on self-care and esteem. There is no cost and no registration is required. The community and church members are welcome. Please call the church office at 610-286-9124 for more information.

✓ During the entire month of March, the Morgantown branch of Susquehanna Bank will feature Still Waters Ministries on their lobby display presentation table. Another wonderful opportunity of exposure for community outreach!

✓ A Fundraiser Luncheon to support Still Waters Ministries will be held after church on Sunday, March 23. Pork and sauerkraut will be offered by our beloved cook, Becky Yoder! Plan to come and enjoy this delicious meal. Invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Scrapbooking Fundraiser for the Food Pantry

