

CONESTOGA Connections



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Youth at Work in Kentucky in June!



Working in Harlan, Kentucky. My crew's jobsite was at the home of the young Hardy family and their daughter. Our job for the week was to build a 6x14-foot free-standing deck along side of the Hardy family's double wide (see above). Our task for the first day was to dig the holes for the deck posts and to begin construction of the deck itself. We were blessed to have great weather to work in for most of the week.

On the second day, Wednesday, we started setting the deck posts and setting the deck itself. On Thursday we only worked until about 1:00 p.m., and then had the afternoon free to go to Martin's Fork Lake to eat supper. Here, we were able to grill out, swim, play volleyball, and fish. Friday was our last day to work and we pushed hard to get the deck finished and a roof constructed above it. By the end of the day we had all but finished the deck and said our goodbyes to the Hardy family. On Saturday we woke up early, packed up, and hit the road for home! - *Mason Stoltzfus*

(continued on page 5)



Photos contributed by
Rachel Mast and Tina Essick.



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Mission

“As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it. If it is not deserving, let your peace return to you.” Matthew 10:12-13

With these words, Christ sends his disciples out in teams for local mission. He tells them to invest where listeners receive greeting.

The primary form of mission to which God is calling our generation is similar to this, “Go to your community” commissioning. A century ago, His primary commission was, “Go to the ends of the earth” from Matthew 28. The few called went. The many supported.

Obviously, Christ is still calling some to foreign mission; and they deserve support! But His primary call to our generation is for each one of us to recognize our 24/7 life as context for mission.

I believe this deeply. I believe it passionately. I sometimes feel like a broken record.

I am confident God is calling us to be a sister church with Fountain of Life in Spanish Lookout,



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Belize. Since God is in it, we can be certain it will be rewarding! And I have no doubt we will support this partnership with appropriate generosity!

We anticipate good things when a CMC mission team travels this fall or early winter to help construct the hospitality house that will also be the Deeds home. We anticipate transformation as a Team from CMC and our local community goes down early summer 2015 to go through a three-week Life Change Institute.

No problem with any of the above. It is mission; blessed of God! It will bear good kingdom fruit. It will be fun, and hard, but rewarding as mission always is!

But I wonder what it would take for us to be equally impassioned about the life-changing missions God is pouring from our ministry center.

But His primary call to our generation is for each one of us to recognize our 24/7 life as context for mission.

Every week persons come for no-cost counseling from Still Waters ministry. In Jesus name, they receive deep listening and godly counsel. Testimony increases of lives saved—literally, consistently.

Each month testimony, scriptures, witness and prayer are offered to Pantry recipients. Mission unfolds. Lives are impacted. Jesus is honored. His name is lifted up and glorified in word and deed.

These ministries, and others that flow from our Ministry Center, are how Jesus is primarily doing mission in this generation. Do we have the eyes to see? To see that when we support our CMC budget we support both ministry and mission? When our Treasurer pays facility bills do we recognize we are supporting mission?

Are our ears open to hear God’s present mission priorities such that when we designate dollars to Twin Valley Food pantry and Still Waters Ministry, we recognize it as mission equal to dollars sent to Africa, or Central America, or Asia?

Through our CMC ministries, the peace of God is entering many many local homes. When “the peace” we extend is received, may we embrace such as the mission to which Christ has commissioned us!!

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



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, with 19 ladies present. There were 2 comforters donated and 5 comforters completes as well as 18 hygiene kits assembled.

For devotions, we sang, "Near to the Heart of God," followed by the reading of Psalm 121 and a devotional entitled, "The Gift of Sleep."

The special offering amounted to \$34.00 to be used for hygiene kits. We sang, "Now the Day Is Over" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

Upcoming Jr. Youth Retreat



July 15-17 - Jr. Youth Retreat. Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, July 15. On our way to Eagle's Nest at Woodward, Pa., we will stop at a wildlife park for our first worship session. Andy Leatherman will lead four worship sessions. We will return to the church parking lot about 1:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, July 17.



"Picnic at the Pond"

— Sunday, July 27 —

*After the morning worship service
at*

Pastor Bob and Cindy's pond



Parenting is Heart Work

The next session of this video series is during the Sunday School hour on July 13 (again on August 10) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. This class is intended to encourage parents of preschoolers to look into the hearts of their children and get to know them on a deeper level so that they relate to the true needs of their children rather than simply react to surface behavior. The sessions encourage parents to study their children's motives and attitudes, thus becoming more effective in guiding their children's development. Practical strategies are presented so parents don't have to rely on anger to solve problems with their children.

Each session includes a half-hour video presentation followed by a time of discussion and sharing. This will provide opportunities for participants to learn from each other. Childcare will be provided. **Call the church office at 610-286-9124 to register.**

Titles of the the next two sessions are:

1. Reaching Deep into a Child's Heart
2. Correction Ideas that Touch the Heart

Fountain of Life Ministries

Conestoga Mennonite of Morgantown, Pa., and Fountain of Life Ministries of Spanish Lookout, Belize, are beginning a sister church relationship/partnership after a number of months of prayer and discernment by Conestoga's Sister Church Team. The Team proposed to the Pastoral Team that Conestoga partner with Fountain of Life Ministries.

On Sunday, June 22, Pastor Moore and his wife Maritza and Rich and Rachel Deeds from Fountain of Life Ministries were at Conestoga sharing in our Sunday School hour and during the morning worship service. Following the sharing, the Moores and the Deeds plus the Deeds' two teenage sons shared in different homes for "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."

Sonya Petersheim is chairing the Team at Conestoga to lead us in our relationship, or partnership as some call it, as we learn from each other in our walk with God. The other Team members at Conestoga include Bill Beam, Ryan Petersheim, Gary Stoltzfus, Karen Horning, and Pastor Bob.

Fountain of Life Ministries has almost 300 members with about 60% German Russian Mennonite descendants and the rest Creole natives in Belize, although some more recent members are people who moved there from the U.S. or Canada.

What is God planning for our two churches as we learn to know each other better? We don't know for sure, but God does! We do know that Rich and Rachel Deeds who lead the Life Change Institute, a ministry of the church, are in need of more space to house guests.

Might God be calling some of our Conestoga members to fly to Spanish Lookout to assist in building a Hospitality House sometime this fall? Let's join in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Belize.



Youth and young adults at Fountain of Life Ministries

The Life Change Institute began about three years ago by the Deeds—actually Rich corrected this by saying that it was God who began it! The Institute's classes bring together a vast array of Biblical teaching that reveals truth from God producing genuine life transformation. Lives are being changed!

The Pastoral Team is praying that as God calls, we will be open to His call as we continue our relationship/partnership with Fountain of Life Ministries.





Going to Harlan, Kentucky, was a great learning experience for me and a great time to bond with other churches. Our first breakfast as a group got me really pumped to go and get some work done. My group, which consisted of Dan Mast, James Valentino, Weston Calley, and a few from Kansas, got to tear down an old deck on the back of a house and rebuild it all in four days. I can say that now I know how to build a new deck, thanks to Dan.

But I think my favorite part of the whole trip was the half an hour ride back to camp after a long day. Just sitting there and staring out the window at the gorgeous mountains made you fall in love with the scenery. Then getting back you got that shower you have been jouncing for all day and dinner with amazing food. It really was a good way to end the day. But then after filling ourselves we were destined to go out and play some sort of game and hoped everything stayed put.

As the week went on, the more we accomplished. And finally on Friday we finished our deck (see photo in the upper right corner) and made our home owners extremely happy.

It was a happy sad moment though, knowing that it would be the last day at the site. On Saturday morning, it was time to leave the *fun camp* and try to survive the 9-10 hour drive back home. We did! - *Natalie Stoltzfus*



Plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.

Plant three rows of peas:

Purity, Patience, Perseverance.

Plant six rows of lettuce:

Let us be unselfish.

Let us be faithful to duty.

Let us search the Scriptures.

Let us not be weary in well-doing.

Let us be obedient in all things.

Let us love one another.

No Garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for church, prayer meetings, Bible Study.

Turn up with a smile even when things are difficult.

Turn up with determination to do your best for God's cause.

- submitted by Julia Yoder



2014 Conestoga Softball Schedule

Games start at 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 8 - Conestoga vs. CFC1 at
West Nantmeal

Tuesday, July 15 - Conestoga vs. NH Nazarene
at West Nantmeal

Tuesday, July 22 - Twin Valley vs. Conestoga at
Mt. Zion

Coach Mike Petersheim
Assistant Coach Ryan Bosdorf

*For questions, contact Mike Petersheim
at 484-364-6193.*



Did You Know That...

... **81 Conestogans** participated in the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" Sunday on June 22? Thank you to all, especially the hosts and hostesses: **Nelson & Marilyn Beam, Titus & Violet Beam, Lyle & Tina Essick, Bob & Karen Horning, Lemar & Lois Ann Mast, Clyde & Jane Stoltzfus, and Gary & Sharon Stoltzfus.** Above are young adults enjoying playing Kubb after lunch at the home of Gary and Sharon Stoltzfus.

Karen Horning said, "We enjoyed a delightful time together with the Mike and Liz Petersheim family and Dave and Susan Johnson family. Memories included campfire hot dogs (topped with ashes for a few of the children) and splashing together in the water. Mark (almost) successfully demonstrated every dive he observed at the diving show the day prior. The weather was not the hottest, but the entertainment excelled."

(continued on the next page)



... three ladies served in our church nursery one Sunday in June, including 100-year-old **Arlene Kurtz**—mother of **Kathleen Weaver** and **Arlan Kurtz**? Thank you, Arlene!

... **Bertha Mast** (center) sitting beside **Katie Stoltzfus** (right), both long-time Sunday School classmates at Conestoga. They both are now living at Fairmount Home. Here Bertha is helping to make egg salad by squashing the hardboiled egg in a plastic bag



... as you drive past 2933 Best Road just south of Morgantown, you will see the delightfully landscaped entrance to the **Arlan and Louise Kurtz** farm—members here at Conestoga.

... **Conestoga's Softball Team** enjoying their 2014 season. Here, **Jody Essick** is hitting the ball with **Ryan Bosdorf** on first base preparing to run! A large number of men plus three ladies played softball this season.



... **Ryan Petersheim** planted 500 sweet potato plants and is looking forward to making his delicious sweet potato chips? These were a best seller at last year's Youth Auction!



... **Bronson Fox** donated 10 inches of hair to Locks of Love this past month? Locks of Love provides hair-pieces to disadvantaged children under age 21



suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

... the **Pastoral Team** on June 19 heard **Sonya Petersheim's** proposal for Sand Volleyball Court(s) somewhere here on our church property. This is an activity that would be appreciated and used by not only Conestoga youth and young adults, but also the community. After general logistics and finances were discussed, the Pastoral Team gave approval to pursue financial support for two sand volleyball courts. A line item will be established for donations towards the \$6,000 needed so that no general budget money is used for the project. The amount needed is that low due to **Colt Berg** generously donating the backhoe work.



... **Joy Beam** sharing her gift of playing the violin during the offertory on a recent Sunday morning. Thank you, Joy! We really are blessed here at Conestoga with so many persons willing to share their God-given gifts through music. God is praised and we are blessed!



The June 20 Hebron and Bethlehem School Dinner where we learned more about Ada and Ida Stoltzfus' footsteps in Hebron.



Steve Shank and Holy Land Ministries leaders, David and Lois Garrison in prayer for the Hebron School ministry. Author Marie Cutman is also pictured here. Ada and Ida Stoltzfus were long-time members of Conestoga Mennonite.

Hebron School is Now Two Schools—

One in Hebron and One in Bethlehem

Conestoga hosted a fundraiser dinner for the Hebron School begun by Ada and Ida Stoltzfus as an orphanage/school for Muslim boys. In 1955, they accepted four young boys and today the school has expanded to over 300 students at Hebron. This fall the school is expanding and opening a second school at Bethlehem.

Many persons have contributed financially to make this vision, but it definitely could only be God who opened these doors and is making it all possible. On June 20, when Conestoga hosted the 2014 dinner, we had the privilege of learning more about their work in Hebron.

Steve Shank of Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM) gave an inspiring powerful message that touched not only Andrea but also those present! His four points were:

1. Care more than others think is wise
2. Risk more than others think is safe
3. Dream more than others think is practical
4. Believe more than others think is possible