



Back to School for 2014-2015

Back to School

PRESCHOOL

Sawyer - Robeson Lutheran Preschool
Mark - Conestoga Christian School

KINDERGARTEN

Cameron - Conestoga Christian School
Emma - Blue Ball Elementary School
Rosie - Homeschooled

SECOND GRADERS

Cora - Blue Ball Elementary School
Anthony - Homeschooled

FOURTH GRADERS

Madison - Blue Ball Elementary School
Paige - Twin Valley Elementary School
Piper - Twin Valley Elementary School

FIFTH GRADERS

Celia - Conestoga Christian School
Rosa - Conestoga Christian School
Josh - Blue Ball Elementary School
Chloe - Brecknock Elementary School

SIXTH GRADER

Preston - Twin Valley Middle School

SEVENTH GRADERS

Zachary - Conestoga Christian School
Domanik - Garden Spot Middle School

EIGHTH GRADER

Rodney Luke - Lancaster Mennonite School

NINTH GRADERS

Vinny - Garden Spot High School
Nathan - Garden Spot High School
Thomas - Garden Spot High School

TENTH GRADERS

Mindy - Conestoga Christian School
Natalie - Lancaster Mennonite School
James - Twin Valley High School

ELEVENTH GRADER

Weston - Twin Valley High School

TWELFTH GRADERS

Joshua - Twin Valley High School
Mason - Lancaster Mennonite School

COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Jonathan is majoring in Engineering at Penn State, Berks Campus
Heidi is majoring in Elementary Education and Bible at Lancaster Bible College

Joshua is majoring in History and English at Houghton College, Houghton, NY

COLLEGE SOPHOMORES

Dylan is majoring in Crop Production at Penn State Berks, Reading, Pa., until Spring 2015 when he will go to Penn State University, University Park, Pa.

Joy is majoring in Animal Science at Penn State University, University Park, Pa. Address is: 0001 Dairy Admin. A, University Park PA 16802

Meredith is majoring in Business at LaSalle University, Philadelphia, Pa.

Amanda is majoring in Veterinary Technology at Murry State University, Murray, KY: 4254 Hart Hall, Murray KY 42071.

COLLEGE SENIOR

Pierce is majoring in Petroleum Engineering at Penn State University, University Park, Pa.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Denise is attending Iowa State Univ., Ames, Iowa, majoring in Animal Science. She will be doing research under Dr. Ken Stalder who concentrates on sow lameness.

Jody started May 2014 at Neumann University, Aston, Pa., in a three-year doctorate Physical Therapy program.

TEACHERS

Kelly teaches third grade at Corl Elementary School, State College School District. Address: 118 Horseshoe Circle, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865.

Carrie teaches 11th and 12th graders at Simon Gratz Mastery Charter School, Philadelphia, Pa. Address: 610 S. 11 St., Philadelphia, PA 19147; stoltzfus.carrie@gmail.com

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

Linda drives for Garden Spot School District



Life in Other Parts of the Church

Rachel Mast

As the Minister of Youth and Young Adults here at Conestoga, I am privileged to see and interact with all ages of the people who attend Conestoga Mennonite Church. Outside of leadership teams, many of you don't even know what I do with the youth and young adults! So I will try to provide an overview of the groups that I interact with.

The **Jr. Youth**, consisting of grades 6-8, is an energetic group! Most recently a group of 12 kids enjoyed their annual Jr. Youth Spiritual Life Retreat at Nelson and Marilyn Beam's cabin. They are the current leaders of the Jr. Youth. I had the privilege of going up for the day while they were on their retreat and spent time with the group. It was a beautiful day full of shaving cream fights, water balloons, enjoying a beautiful park tucked away in the mountains, wise words from speaker Andy Leatherman, a homemade water slide, wonderful company, and delicious food donated from other members of the congregation! Nelson and Marilyn do a wonderful job relating with this age group. The next Jr. Youth event is the annual barn party this fall!

The **Youth Group** here at Conestoga is such a fun group! Our summer kicked off in high gear with our mission trip to Harlan, Kentucky, with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People). It was a hit! We were able to



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.

Editor: Lois Ann Mast
Assistant Editor: Elizabeth Petersheim
Contributing Editor: Anna Martin

serve the community and also be challenged in our ways of thinking and relating to people.

I am in charge of leading these youth at Wednesday night Bible studies, and this summer we decided to do some traveling on our Wednesday evenings. We took our Bible study on the road and traveled to different homes. Our summer concluded with a cookout at Josh and Mindy Beam's on Sunday, August 17, and then on the next Sunday, the 24th, we went to French Creek for a round of Disc Golf!

This September, a group of us youth are planning to attend the ACC Fall Youth Retreat, which will be a great way to connect with other youth in our conference, as well as to be challenged spiritually!

Another really exciting thing going on in regards to the youth is that I have been meeting monthly with the youth leaders from community churches. This includes youth leaders of Morgantown Community Church, Community Evangelical Free Church, Hopewell, Action Impact, and also the principles at Twin Valley High School and Conestoga Christian School. It has been a wonderful group to gather with as we pray for one another, encourage each other, and try to bring the community youth together. We are hosting a Unity Youth Rally on Wednesday, September 3, for all of our youth groups. I pray that this will be a blessed evening as we gather, worship, and have fun!

Finally, I am also involved with the **Young Adults**. This is actually the largest of all the groups, which is a unique position for a church to be in! There are so many churches that lack the 20-30 age group. During the summer, we gathered the first and third Monday evening of each month. During the rest of the year, we typically switch to the first and third Tuesday nights.

We have found that reading through books together is especially rewarding for our group. We all take turns leading the sessions, which is really encouraging to hear from everyone! This year we have read through Greg Boyd's *Myth of a Christian Nation*, and we are currently finishing up a study called *Samson: A Life Well Wasted*. Our discussions are lively, challenging, and insightful.

I wish I could tell you all the rewarding ins and outs of each group! But I am glad to report that in each of these groups that God is at work doing some really cool things. Thanks for all the support each family and each person here at Conestoga gives to the younger generations!

- Rachel Mast, Minister of Youth & Young Adults



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, August 6, 2014. There were 12 ladies present. Donated items included 100 kit bags by Carmen Weber, 12 comforter tops, and 2 comforters. Completed items included: 1 wall hanging, 1 comforter, and 30 school kits. We sang "We have an Anchor" for devotions, followed by the reading of Psalm 71:1-8. The devotional was titled "If Go is Good, Why Do We Hurt?" The special offering amounted to \$80.00 to be used for school kits. - *Betty Cannell, Secretary*

Conestoga Sister Church Service Trip

A group from Conestoga is organizing to travel to Spanish Lookout in Belize in January 2015, probably about January 4-11. Might God be calling you to help in this service project? Do you like to work?

The house that Rich and Rachel Deeds are currently living in belongs to the church they attend. They would like to move it to the church property, enlarge it, and use it to house Life Change Institute students. This cannot happen until the house that the Deeds have started is finished. Rich hopes to have the interior walls framed and the electric and plumbing completed, so that our group can drywall the house that is under construction.

The house they are building will be used for their family and as a hospitality house for church guests, gatherings, and youth activities. If you are interested in this opportunity to serve, please talk to **Bob and Karen Horning**, coordinators of this mission trip. We are looking for persons of all ages willing to learn and/or have some construction experience.

Sonya Petersheim, our Sister Church Team Chair, is giving leadership to a fundraising meal for this mission trip during our October 26 fellowship meal. - *Karen Horning*

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!

— September 23 —

Tea For You

Welcome to all newcomers and those returning!

Justine Jones will lift our spirits with music and

Lois Boyer will provide a devotional along with a fun tea time.

— September 30 —

Fresh Flower Arranging and Inspiration From God

led by Michele Glick

— October 7 —

YWAM Experience

Michele Brubaker will share how God used her family in their six-month YWAM experience earlier this year.



Food Pantry Volunteer Dinner

Howard and Carol Moss, Directors of the Food Pantry here at Conestoga, were surprised at the August 15 Volunteer Dinner to receive a fruit basket presented to them in appreciation for their leadership and example of

service of the growing Food Pantry!

Following the delicious dinner catered by Becky Yoder, we heard Howard share: "A total of 135,000 pounds of food was distributed in 2013 with 1,507 families fed in an evening meal to over 5,000 persons who came to the Food Pantry distribution. Each night, there is an average of 63 volunteers representing all ages. The highest food distribution was in December 2013 when 168 households received food. A number of generous businesses and organizations have donated food and money. A new Focus Group is forming consisting of both CMC and community members to provide additional consultation and support for Howard and Carol as the Food Pantry soon completes five years here at Conestoga.

The Godfather

Understanding human relationships can help us understand, accept and appreciate spiritual relationships. The relationship between a child and his earthly father can illustrate the unique connection that same child might have with his heavenly Father.

Intensive clinical studies on the development of peoples' images of God show the spiritual development of our perception of God is more of an emotional process than an intellectual one. A child's first perception of his Heavenly Father are projections onto God those early emotional connections made with our earthly fathers.

Consider a few ways in which your perception of your earthly father may have affected your perception of your heavenly Father. If your father was distant, impersonal and uncaring, you may see God as having those same characteristics. Likewise, if your father was close, personal and loving, you may see God having similar characteristics.

To be a father is to take on an awesome responsibility. Consider the following...

- **If your father was a pushy man** who was inconsiderate of you, or who violated and used you, you may see God in the same way. You probably feel cheap or worthless in God's eyes, and perhaps feel that you deserve to be taken advantage of by others. You may feel that God will force you—not ask you—to do things you don't want to do.

- **If your father was like a drill sergeant**, demanding more and more from you with no expression of satisfaction, or burning with anger with no tolerance for mistakes, you may have cast God in his image. You likely feel that God will not accept you unless you meet His demands, which seem unattainable. This perception may have driven you to become a perfectionist.

- **If your father was a weakling** and you couldn't depend on him to help you or defend you, you may feel that you are unworthy of God's comfort and support, or that He is unable to help you.

- **If your father was overly critical** and constantly came down hard on you, or if he didn't believe in you or your capabilities and discouraged you from trying, you may perceive God in the same way. You don't feel as if you're worth God's respect or trust. You may even see yourself as a continual failure, deserving all the criticism you receive.

In contrast to the negative perceptions you may have about God, here are several positive character qualities of a father. Notice how these qualities may have positively impacted your perception of God.

- **If your father was patient**, you are more likely to see God as patient and available for you. You feel that you are worth God's time and concern. You feel important to God and that He is personally involved in every aspect of your life.

- **If your father was kind**, you probably see God acting kindly and graciously on your behalf. You feel that you are worth God's help and intervention. You feel God's love for you deeply and you're convinced that He wants to relate to you personally.

- **If your father was a giving man**, you may perceive God as someone who gives to you and supports you. You feel that you are worth God's support and encouragement. You believe that God will give you what is best for you, and you respond by giving of yourself to others.

- **If your father accepted you**, you tend to see God accepting you regardless of what you do. God doesn't dump on you or reject you when you struggle, but understands and encourages you. You are able to accept yourself even when you blow it or don't perform up to your potential.

- **If your father protected you**, you probably perceive God as your protector in life. You feel that you are worthy of being under His care and you rest in His security.

Obviously all earthly fathers, being human, make mistakes. As fathers, it is not in our faults that we exemplify God to our children, but in our guidance, patience, honesty, security, stability, love and forgiveness. When we provide such to our children, these characteristics will be magnified when applied towards God.

A child who trusts his dad will find it natural to trust in God. A child who can comfortably talk to his dad will find it easier to talk to God. A child who respectfully obeys his father will be less likely to resist the instructions of God.

So what do we do when we have a distorted perception of God? We can read the Word to understand the true attributes of our Father God. And then we can stand in the truth of who is our real God....regardless of how our earthly fathers behaved. And we can build new relationships with fellow Christian men who exemplify those God-like qualities.

For this and other topics of importance to men, consider being a part of the Conestoga Mennonite Church's men's fellowship starting in the fall.

- Sam Waters

Still Waters Ministries



**Emma
Parsons**



Rosie Weber

Conestoga's Kindergarteners!

These three Conestoga children are going to Kindergarten this fall! Best wishes Emma, Rosie, and Cameron!



**Cameron
Johnson**

“Value of You”

This class for women will begin on Tuesday evening, Sept. 16, at 7:00 p.m. Discussion on the book UNGLUED by Lysa Terkeurst will be led by Jill Waters.

“Grief Support Group”

This group for both men and women will begin on Thursday evening, Oct. 9, at 7:00 p.m. It will be led by Chaplain David Heineman of Crossroads Hospice of Philadelphia.

Sponsored by Still Waters Ministries, these classes will meet in the conference room at Conestoga Mennonite Church.



**Did you notice
the new photos
on the MYF
bulletin board?**

**Check this out
in the west
hallway!**

Conestoga Happenings

On Aug. 6, **Allen Weaver** and **Bob Ebert** went fishing at Allen's pond. Bob casted out the night crawler, hooked a fish, handed the rod to Allen, and the fight was on. The fish took the line and had the rod bending with Allen holding on. Allen said, "Here, you take the rod," and handed it to Bob. The fish kept fighting and made a run every time it neared the shore. They finally got him in, and measured it with a yard stick that had been brought along, just in case they hooked old Methuselah. This fish (pictured above) was a largemouth bass, measuring 15 inches long. They took a few photos, weighted it, and put him back in the pond. They also caught four other largemouth and three sunfish, and put them all back—a good day of fishing.



Five persons from Conestoga (**Marilyn Beam, Lois Ann Mast, Rachel Mast, Pastor Bob Petersheim, and Rod Stoltzfus**) were invited for dinner to Pastor

Brenda Martin Hurst's home along with four other persons from Frazer Mennonite Church on Monday evening, August 11, to better learn to know each other. As we cranked the homemade ice cream machine together, we learned to know each other even before we sat down to eat the delicious meal. The rich conversation blessed each of us as we recognized the many commonalities we appreciate in each congregation. In spite of the darkness that descended on us as we sat on the outside deck, the glow of Jesus was apparent in our smiles as we said our goodbyes.

In 2014, **Bob Ebert** caught 113 trout fish! He claims that the reason he was privileged to catch so many fish was because he knew where the fish were stocked (he helped to stock), he is now retired and has time to fish, but especially because he uses *garlic* to attract the fish!



Did you know that **Dot Leatherman** can trim hair? Here she is intently working on her daughter-in-law Judy's hair while the Leatherman family were all vacationing together in Oregon to celebrate Andy and Dot's wedding anniversary!

Howard and Carol Moss in the attire they wore to go zip lining in Vail, Colorado, in August. When something is on your bucket list, why not do it? Good for you, Howard and Carol! Are you going to do it again?



On Wednesday, August 13, **Linda Bush**, celebrated her 92nd birthday! One of the activities included a surprise birthday party hosted by Rick and Ruthie Umble (Linda's nephew and wife) with two of her older siblings (Susanna Umble, age 94, and Stephen Kurtz, age 96) joining to celebrate.



Wild blueberries (also called huckleberries) were everywhere while spending a relaxing weekend at the mountains, so why not pick them? So, **Greg and Krista Petersheim** and Krista's brother and spouse picked 40 pounds (pictured above)! Ask them if they were tasty.



Omar Beam was “surprised” at the Wandering Shepherds Bible Study in August when the group met at Omar and Ruth’s home for Bible Study and, of course, a birthday celebration for Omar’s 87th birthday! He knew the Bible Study was coming, but he did not know that his younger sister, Arlene Eberly, was also coming!



Let’s continue to pray for **Austin and Kristy Unruh** as they started their new job on August 18 in Molina, Colorado. While driving the 2,000 miles from Morgantown to Molina, they saw more wild animals in the last two hours of driving in Colorado than the previous seven states: mule deer, foxes, coyotes, and then about a week later, an all too close meeting with a mama (brown) black bear and her cub, in which Kristy and Austin were positioned neatly between the two, while standing on top of the compost pile the bears had hoped to dine on. Austin wrote, “Never before had I put greater faith in the two-inch blade of my pocket knife, nor had I ever respected an animal more than I did that evening. Needless to say, we are still alive, with one more story to someday impress our grand kids with.”



Eleven ladies enjoyed a luncheon on August 13 with **Mabel Petersheim, Lena Smoker, and Della Stoltzfus** who live at Fairmount Home. What fun to share lunch together and then share with each other. Some of the comments heard: “A day without cheese is like a day without sunshine.” “I am surprised that these “old” people are so loud (said by one of the persons we came to visit).” And then, when one of the visiting ladies thought her cell phone was ringing, she could not get up because her neighbor was sitting on her skirt (on the chair beside her)—laughter erupted by all when it was realized that the so-called ringing of her cell phone was merely the wall clock chiming. What an effort it was to quickly reach the phone only to discover it was the clock chiming on the wall!! Wasn’t that fun, Lois Boyer? And, I will never forget hearing dear Lena respond when asked what she does with her time: “I work a little bit and sit a long bit!”



Happy 90th Birthday to **Mabel Kurtz** at her birthday party last month at Garden Spot where she lives!

Becky Yoder replacing all the salt and pepper shakers in our church kitchen after she took them home, emptied them, washed them, and re-filled them! Thanks, Becky!



Community
Yard Sale
in our
church
parking
lot!



*Senior Connections will meet on September 11, 2014, to
Visit Weaver's Orchard*



After a light lunch at 12:00 noon, we will carpool to
Weaver's Orchard about 1:30 p.m.

Our orchard tour on a wagon ride (seats 25)
is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.—followed by a tour to see
how and where they make cider. Let's join
Conestoga member Allen Weaver on this tour!

