

CONESTOGA Connections



April 2015
Vol. XXVI
No. 4

Life at Conestoga During Lent



Members of community congregations gathered here at Conestoga to worship and pray together over the Lent season.





<http://www.mennoniteusa.org/>

**Mennonite
Church
USA**

Conestoga Mennonite Church is one of the 36 congregations who are part of Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)—a member of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA). And ACC is one of 21 conferences across North America that make up MC USA.

For the past seven years, I have had the privilege of serving as the Resource Advocate for ACC and am invited to a full weekend of input given by the six agencies of MC USA for the purpose of us then returning back home to our conference and sharing with our congregations.

Last month, I joined 21 other conference resource advocates at Pittsburgh to learn what is happening in the church and the amazing behind-the-scenes work that leaders are sacrificially giving to further Kingdom work. I can only whet your appetite on some of what I learned:

1) Mennonite Early Childhood Network provides an Anabaptist-based resource for parents and teachers who raise and teach children. Started by Mennonite Education Agency (one of the six MC USA agencies), check it out at: <http://www.mennoniteeducation.org/MEAPortal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=624> and then print the useful “Now It’s Summer: Suggestions for Summertime Activities”! Also, check out <http://buildingfaithmcn.weebly.com/> and sign up to receive twice monthly an email with a new “Building Faith” concept!

2) SHINE—the exciting Sunday School curriculum we are using here at Conestoga for children up through junior high has a wonderful website for both parents and Sunday



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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.

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Contributing Editor: Anna Martin

School teachers. Especially parents should take the time to check out: <https://shinecurriculum.com/music/> to download some of the songs that your children are hearing and singing in Sunday School.



3) Purpose is a 32-page periodical produced by MennoMedia (one of the six agencies of MC USA) that is filled with inspirational articles on food, peace, humor, and resources for faithful living. If you want this placed in your church mailbox each month, tell Rachel Mast in the church office.

4) The Mennonite is the 56-page publication of MC USA that helps to tie us together as a denomination. This monthly periodical (\$37 per year discounted church group rate should be given to Rachel Mast in the church office) includes a variety of church news and insightful articles on what it means to be an Anabaptist today. A free weekly e-zine from *The Mennonite* can be sent to you by subscribing at: <https://themennonite.org/t-mail/>



5) Beyond magazine is placed in our church mailboxes featuring stories and perspectives of Mennonite missionaries who are serving with Mennonite Mission Network (another one of the six agencies of MC USA).

6) End-of-life Planning, a six-part video series produced by Everence (another of the six agencies of MC USA) can be downloaded free at: <http://www.everence.com/end-of-life-planning/>. Titles include: “The benefits of planning well,” “Tame and wild dying,” “Advance care plan for a peaceful departure,” “What to do with my body,” “Necessary family conversations,” and “Making your wishes known.”

Every two years, **MC USA** hosts a gathering that is truly a faith formation event where people come together to worship, to learn, to discern and to fellowship. This year, the gathering is taking place in Kansas City, Missouri, from June 30-July 5, 2015. Conestoga’s youth will be attending as well as Pastor Bob and others.

We are especially blessed this year that we also have the opportunity to attend **Mennonite World Conference** in Harrisburg, Pa., on July 21-26, 2015. See the back cover.

- Lois Ann Mast, Conestoga Connections Editor

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.



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. There were ten ladies present. Two hundred kit bags were donated plus one small comforter. Three other comforters were completed. We sang "More About Jesus" during our devotional which was followed by the reading of Matthew 13:19-23, and a devotional entitled "Seeds and Soil." The special offering was \$56.00 to be used for hygiene kits. "Somebody's Knocking at My Door" was sung before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell

— April 7 —

Saran Wrap Faith—Miss Cling, Miss Fling, and Miss King
with Bonni Greiner

Discussing lifestyles—is your faith working in your life?

— April 14 —

Red Carpet Gala

Come dressed as if accepting an Oscar!

Stan Deen rescheduled to speak for a half hour!

Share a dish for celebration. Pre-register to bring a red food item.

— April 21 and 28 —

No meeting.



Conestoga Family Fun Night

- Fun games for all ages plus delicious refreshments -



*Future Family Fun Nights are scheduled for the following Saturdays:
June 13, 2015
October 3, 2015
and
Jan. 16, 2016.*



Knitting Comforters for MCC at Neighbors
led by Krista Petersheim and Carmen Weber.





Thirty-Hour Famine

Conestoga's Jr. and Sr. Youth participated in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine on February 27-28. Many games were played at the church teaching about world hunger, and all participants slept in cardboard boxes. On Saturday we traveled into Reading to volunteer at Hope Rescue Mission. There we took a tour of the place, learned about what they are doing to help men get off the streets, and volunteered our time by cleaning and helping to serve lunch to the men. On the way back to the church we stopped to roller skate. At the end of Saturday night, we broke our fast with Vegetarian Chili, Cornbread, and homemade "Plumpy Nut" which is something that is served to severely malnourished children in other countries. Thanks to all who helped make this happen and held our group in prayer. ~ Rachel Mast



New Church Library Resources for Children



Some of our young parents have expressed a desire for a greater variety of media in children's resources in our library. We are pleased to announce the following new items have recently been added:

- 6 *Adventures in Odyssey* DVD's
- 2 *Adventures in Odyssey* audio CD's
- 2 Cedarmont Kids DVD's
 - *Action Bible Songs*
 - *Gospel Bible Songs*
- 1 Veggie Tales DVD – *Heroes of the Bible*
- Wee Sing Bible Songs* (book and CD)
- Wee Sing in the Car* (book and CD)
- Boxcar Children* collection of audio CD's
- Little Red Wagon* (DVD family movie)

We are grateful for funds from the Stauffer estate which have been allocated to the library, enabling us to purchase these DVDs and CDs. We believe these resources will bless our children and their families as they put them to use!

- *Dot Leatherman, Director of Christian Education*

~ Meet the Stoltzfus Family ~



Rod and Heidi Stoltzfus and their three children: Rodney Luke (blue shirt), Mason (behind him), and Natalie (on the right) live near Blue Ball, Pa. Rod serves as an Elder here at CMC and works for Hunter Truck Sales. Heidi works as Director of Advancement for Lancaster Mennonite School. Rodney Luke is in eighth grade; Natalie is in tenth grade; and Mason is in twelfth grade—all at Lancaster Mennonite School.



Children's Church

During our morning worship on the first and third Sunday of each month, Marcia Parsons leads the children in a special service of their own. These pictures show Andy Leatherman and Carol Moss assisting. If you would like to assist, there is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby.



Conestoga Happenings . . .

Conestoga's Jr. Youth will take the **Penny Power offering** collected during our morning worship services to the Pennsylvania Relief Sale on Friday, April 17. Please meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. They will count the coins and then have some free time to browse the stands and fill their stomachs with the delicious food stand options. Bring some spending money for your food favorites and plan to return approximately 9:30 pm. See you then. *-Marilyn Beam*

The **Annual Spring Yard Sale** will be held again in our church parking lot on Saturday, May 16, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Talk to Lisa Miller or Bonnie Beam.

Global Youth Summit for young adults ages 18+ will be held from July 17-19, 2015, on the campus of Messiah College with about 1,000 young adults around the world! Check out: www.mwc-cmm.org/pennsylvania-2015/global-youth-summit and speak with Rachel Mast if interested because CMC will assist with your expenses.

Still Waters Counseling Ministries is offering two classes for women this spring: "The Value of You" class resumed in March and will meet through May every other Tuesday night; and "Beautiful Ever After," will meet the first Tuesday of every month

starting April 7. This is a support group for teenage girls and women struggling with eating disorders. Jill Waters will facilitate the group and local resident, Tory Smith, a 27-year-old nurse who in her own 10-year eating disorder journey, will lead the class with original material and through her own inspirational story. Classes begin at 7:00 p.m., and are no-cost.

Sister's Day for **Carmen Weber** (right) and **Krista Petersheim** (second on the left) with their sisters. Yes, Carmen is the youngest!



Here **Cheryl Heineman** (person on the right) is pictured with a co-worker dressed up at work to give some smiles to the residents living at Woodland Heights Retirement Community (previously called Zerbe Sisters Nursing Home).

Pioneer Women

Mother/Daughter Brunch

Saturday, **MAY 30, 2015** at 9:30 am
Conestoga Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
Storyteller: JOANNE SIEGRIST



You are welcome to come dressed in Pioneer day costume!
and/or... bring a Pioneer Day heirloom or recipe along for display!

AWARDS for the most authentic:

Dress • Shoes • Hair Style • Most Desired Recipe
Look alike Mother/daughter or granddaughter

Suggested donation \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 for a family.

Sign up by **May 25** on the bulletin board at
or e-mail Rachel: admin@conestogamc.com





Senior Connections will meet on Thursday, April 9, in our church fellowship hall. Following a home-cooked meal served at 12:00 noon, Anne M. Rinehimer, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for Berks Visiting Nurse Association, will share about “Food Labels—Nutrition data on how foods affect our health and how to choose healthy foods.” Photo above pictures Dr. Donaldson sharing in our March meeting.

In Our Past . . .

Guess Who?

*These
little boys
in Conestoga’s
Bible School
are now
grown up!*

*Do you
know who
they are?
Do they
recognize
themselves?*



Mennonite World Conference—2015 Conestoga Bus Trip



Have you ever wondered about the beliefs that we share as 1.7 million Anabaptists around the world? Mennonite World Conference is coming to Harrisburg, Pa., on July 21-26, 2015.

Mennonite World Conference (MWC) Assembly meets every six years on a different continent and this year, it is coming to Harrisburg, Pa., in the Farm Show Complex. This reunion of the Anabaptist-Mennonite family worldwide is an amazing experience that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime!

The last time an Assembly was in North America was in 1990. Since then it has been in India, Zimbabwe, and Paraguay. The next MWC Assembly is in 2021 in Indonesia.

Planned for all ages, MWC Assembly helps break down cultural stereotypes as we learn about the global church. It widens our understanding of what it means to be a Christian and part of God's big beautiful church as a Mennonite.

Conestoga's annual church bus trip this summer will be to experience one day of MWC. We will board our chartered bus in the church parking lot and travel to Harrisburg to mingle and worship with 7,000+ other Mennonites and Brethren from around the world!

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. with singing led by an international choir followed by a variety of speakers around the world! At 10:15 a.m., two separate programs are available for children ages 4-11 and 12-17 years of age.

Lunch is available for you to purchase what you wish.

Afternoon:

- **Global Church Village** is a large display area and meeting place on the Assembly site, features continental displays of culture and church life (artifacts, videos, recorded music, games, storytelling from Anabaptist churches around the world, and a stage giving drama performances from around the world.

- **Service Projects** on-site include building a house with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS); preparing corn for

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC); and cutting and knotting comforters for MCC. Off-site projects in the city of Harrisburg will include painting, small repairs, and other tasks at nonprofit organizations.

- **Anabaptist World Cup** consists of players from different countries, gender, and age levels forming teams and playing futbol/soccer each afternoon. Cost is \$20 which includes a Pa. 2015 t-shirt! Spectators can also participate for a cost of \$15 which includes a t-shirt and shuttle transportation to the playing field. (Only available for full-time registrants.)

- Other **sports, games, and fun** are also available during each afternoon.

- Between 160-200 **workshops** are also offered each afternoon on a variety of topics: theological, historical, cultural, and creative.

Supper will take place between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.—again on your own to purchase what you wish.

Evening worship begins at 6:45 p.m. and will conclude at 8:30 p.m. so that we arrive home in our church parking lot about 10:00 p.m.

Sign-up in our church lobby to ride our 32-passenger chartered bus on Wednesday, July 22—our annual bus trip from Conestoga!

Cost is \$95 per person which covers the registration fee and transportation for one day. The actual cost is more than this price, but our church is paying the difference for Conestoga attendees to attend this once-in-a-lifetime experience.