

CONESTOGA Connections



May 2015
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No. 5

Easter Sunday at Conestoga: Sunrise Service at Pine Grove Cemetery, Worship, and Easter Egg Hunt





ACC Spring Assembly Celebration

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; **and you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*
Acts 1:8, NIV

Six persons from Conestoga (Wes Boyer, David Heineman, Lemar Mast, Lois Ann Mast, Rachel Mast, and Pastor Bob Petersheim) attended the April 18 ACC Spring Assembly at Forest Hills Mennonite. The theme was “*and you will be my witnesses*” taken from Acts 1:8.

There was meaningful worship that included singing, Scripture reading, and prayer—but then there was also table fellowship, brainstorming on missions, and even briefly helping to knot a comforter (see photo at the bottom of this page).

Representatives from three different congregations shared how God was working in their church describing how they were involved in missional activities. The theme of ACC was evident in each congregation, and ACC Moderator John Denlinger summed it well: “As we are *centered in Christ*, we *create connections* with our families, our friends, our neighbors in the workplace, across the street and around the world. As we go, we are called and sent to *share God’s love* with all creation.”

Conference Minister Warren Tyson shared a short history of missions in ACC through the past years including both Conestoga and Maple Grove congregations who birthed 12 new congregations between 1936 and 1963.

Missions in our local “Samaria” communities as well as neighboring “Judean” regions and “other parts of the world” have also involved ACC members.

We have understood the Gospel message as something to be shared with neighbors near and far.

From 1982 through 2002, Nickels for Neighbors sponsored by ACC raised over \$159,781 for ministries benefitting children and families all across ACC.

We have also been blessed as first-generation immigrant church plants have requested membership and affiliation with ACC: African Community Church of Lancaster (who led our afternoon worship), Hiwet Legata Church, and Radical Living in New York City. Churches in Argentina and Puerto Rico are connecting with ACC.

With all this in our past, what is now happening today? Where are we involved in missions today? Is our vision for missions waning? The facts are that fewer churches are participating with fewer dollars contributed towards Nickels for Neighbors projects. It is more difficult to find persons to serve on the Missions Committee. What does this mean?

So the afternoon was spent around tables answering some hard questions, and brainstorming new ideas on how we can relate to our communities and around the world. What does it mean to be witnesses in 2015 in our backyards? What does it mean to assist our needy neighbors? Is sharing finances the answer? How are we connecting with those we work with to let them know that Jesus is central in our life? Where and when are we passing on the *love of Jesus*?

~ Lois Ann Mast, Conestoga Connections Editor



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Spending a few minutes knotting a comforter for MCC was putting our faith in action.

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, April 1, 2015, with 16 ladies present. Six comforter tops were donated. Completed were: 3 comforters and 38 hygiene kits.

For devotions, we sang “Just As I Am,” followed by the reading of John 20:24-31, and a devotional entitled “Come Unto Me.”

The special offering amounted to \$55.00 to be used for hygiene kits. We sang “Christ Arose” before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell

— May 5 —

A Private Tour of the Daniel Boone Homestead

Bring a picnic lunch along.

Pre-register and meet at the church at 9:00 a.m.

Cost is \$5.50.

— June 2 —

Emma’s Popcorn Tour

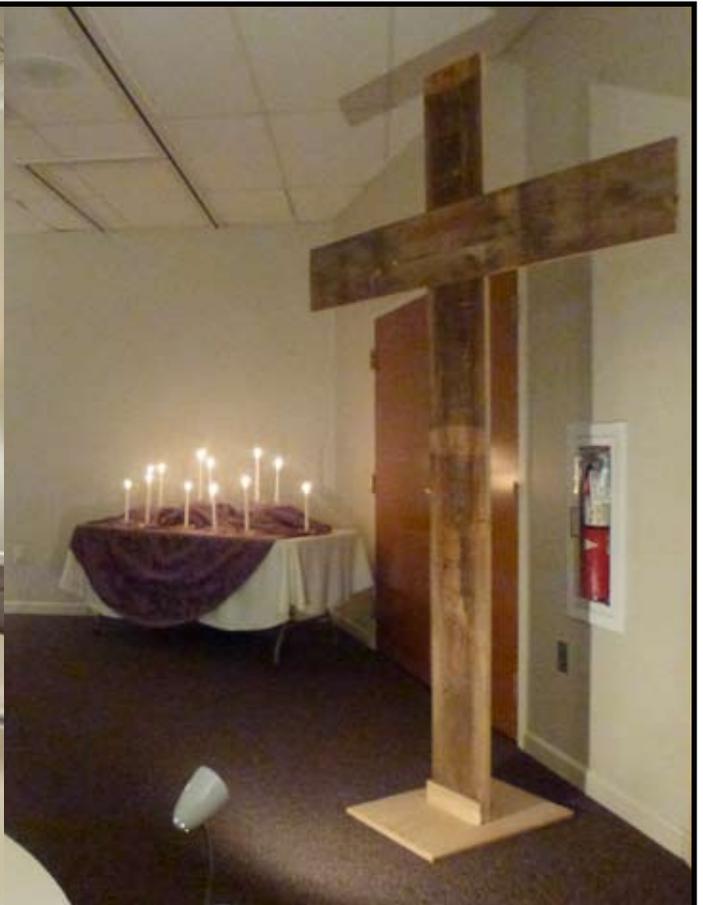
Tour and sample the delicious popcorn!

Pre-register please by contacting:

Tina Essick, 610-864-7714, tina.m.essick@gmail.com



Maundy Thursday



Conestoga’s 2015 “Maundy Thursday” evening service included thoughtful and inspiring moments as Scripture was read, songs were sung, and table discussions took place followed by communion at each table as we pondered the time that Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples at the Last Supper.

April 19-22, 2015

Spruce Lake Retreat
CANADENSIS, PA

“Connecting our Stories: Imagining our Future”

From Sunday afternoon through Wednesday lunch on April 19-22, I attended the Youth Ministry Council 2015 sponsored by Mennonite Church USA and hosted by Spruce Lake Retreat Center.

This year’s theme was “Connecting our Stories: Imagining our Future” as we wrestled together with the complex topic of racism. The Planning Committee acknowledged that this subject is not necessarily comfortable, but as followers of Jesus, we know that the intersection of life and faith is sometimes messy.

Messy stories are all around us. Each night the news reports on Ferguson, on Staten Island, and on places in our communities and neighborhoods, where peace is dim and hope wanes. Hard questions are being asked, and there are no easy answers. But there **are** stories to share. Transformation always begins with building relationships. And building relationships begins with listening and sharing together.

Well-known author and pastor Eugene Peterson writes, “Stories are verbal acts of hospitality.” Sharing our stories of life and call is an authentic way of building bridges, forging relationships and creating community. What would happen if we could sit down with one another—and swap tales? How might sharing our own story and honoring another’s story change us, and possibly awaken us to seeing how God is moving in the world around us, inviting us to take part in new ways?

At this year’s retreat, we participated in morning prayers, worship, resource sessions, and open spaces. Felipe Hinojosa, assistant professor of history at Texas A&M University, was our main presenter.

Felipe began by presenting an overview of Latino history and racism and easily convinced that racism is alive and well today. In fact, the U.S. population is becoming a mixed race. We discussed what that means for the future? We also discussed white privilege and how whites do not fully understand “the other side” of Latinos or Blacks.

Our guiding verses during worship and discussion were taken from “The Parable of the Good Samaritan” in Luke 10: 25-37. What really stuck out to me was how the Samaritan went the extra mile for this stranger. He cleaned and bandaged wounds, put him up for the night, and then opened a “care tab” in his own name! I asked myself, “When do I go out of my way and go the extra mile for a complete stranger and maybe a stranger who may not be the same color or same economic class as my own? What are my prejudices towards others that keep me from helping? Why do I feel special enough/prideful that I feel like I do not need to help others? How am I a good neighbor in the Morgantown area where I live?”

Another speaker also continued the discussion on the Good Samaritan saying that too often Mennonites are like the priest who passes by on the other side—we just are not interested in the “dirty work.”

The bottom line is that “being a neighbor” to anyone is **not** about us! Most of the time, it requires us to drop what we may be doing and go and help someone!

So, I encourage myself and you to think about ways to be a “great neighbor” by going the extra mile for anyone, but especially the strangers we come into contact with everyday.

- Rachel Mast, Minister of Youth & Young Adults





??? Quiz Sponsors ???

The 2015 Bible Quiz Season is now behind us . . . and on April 22, it was time to reveal who the Quiz Sponsors were for each quizzer. These sponsors are always appreciated by the quizzers because they know that someone “secret” is praying for them and cheering for them! Of course, the weekly gift is always a special blessing to every Sunday! This past year was very unusual because it was only twice that they met at the scheduled time due to snow and ice and bad weather!

- Quizzer Mindy Beam’s Secret Sponsor was Jill Waters
- Quizzer Josh Beam’s Secret Sponsor was Mason Stoltzfus
- Quizzer Weston Caley’s Secret Sponsors were Bob & Karen Horning
- Quizzer Rodney Luke Stoltzfus’ Secret Sponsor was Dan Mast
- Quizzer James Valentino’s Secret Sponsor was Becky Yoder
- Coach Sonya Petersheim’s Secret Sponsor was Marilyn Beam



THANK YOU JR. YOUTH for taking all the coins (\$311.84) collected on Sunday mornings for MCC to the Pennsylvania Relief Sale in Harrisburg! Sounds like you had a great evening with your leaders Nelson and Marilyn Beam! Did you know that the sale started in Morgantown in 1957? Since then it has raised over \$12 million to “respond to basic human needs and working for peace and justice in the name of Christ” throughout the world! *-Photos by Rachel Mast.*

Conestoga Happenings . . .



Congratulations to **Rebecca and Matt Beam** on the announcement of their new baby coming in October 2015! We are so happy for you!!!!



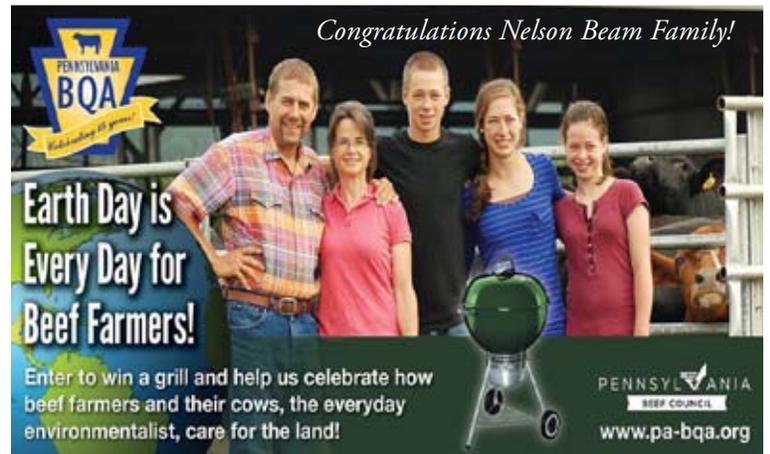
James Valentino and Weston Caley (Conestoga quizzers) received Third Place in last month's Pa. State PSA's competition! Yeah, James and Weston!!! (see left)

It is always fulfilling to work together knowing we are blessing people, but when you receive a "thanks," it is special:

"Thank you ladies who help to make the meals each month for **"Meals From the Heart."** We have liked them all, but the chicken breasts were our favorites. And the sweet potatoes (with pecans) was delicious. The ham loaf is also one of our favorites. I don't know if you get much feedback, but I want you to know that when I pray over the meal, I also ask God to bless the people who prepared it." - **Elsie Eberly**



This birthday cake was shared at the April fellowship dinner celebrating **Pastor Bob's** 60th birthday on May 13!



Congratulations to **Rodney Luke, Rodney, Natalie, and Mason Stoltzfus** who finished the Hyner Challenge last month!!



About fifty women gathered on Saturday morning, April 24, at 8:30 a.m., in the Tel Hai auditorium/chapel to experience a Women's Retreat led by Chaplain Brenda Socci. Her committee had planned a program led by **Lois Boyer**, retired pastor's wife (while her husband was in the hospital—he is now home again).

Lois spoke on:

- Joy—in God's Creation (this lovely spring time now)
- Joy—in the Birth of Christ (Happy Christmas)
- Joy—in our Salvation in Christ (Hebrews 12:1-3)
- Joy—over the Bride of Christ (who is coming again)

A lovely lunch was included for all participants. The whole morning was refreshing both physically and spiritually for all!

- *Ruth Stoltzfus*

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

Happy Mother's Day — Sign up in the church office for this fun event!



Our April Sr. Connections luncheon with Dietitian Anne M. Rinehimer, speaking on "Food Labels."

Senior Connections will meet on Thursday, May 14, in our church fellowship hall. Following a dried beef macaroni luncheon served at 12:00 noon, we will hear Derick Bendetti (senior Health Promotions Coordinator) share on "Services Available From Lancaster County Office Of Aging."

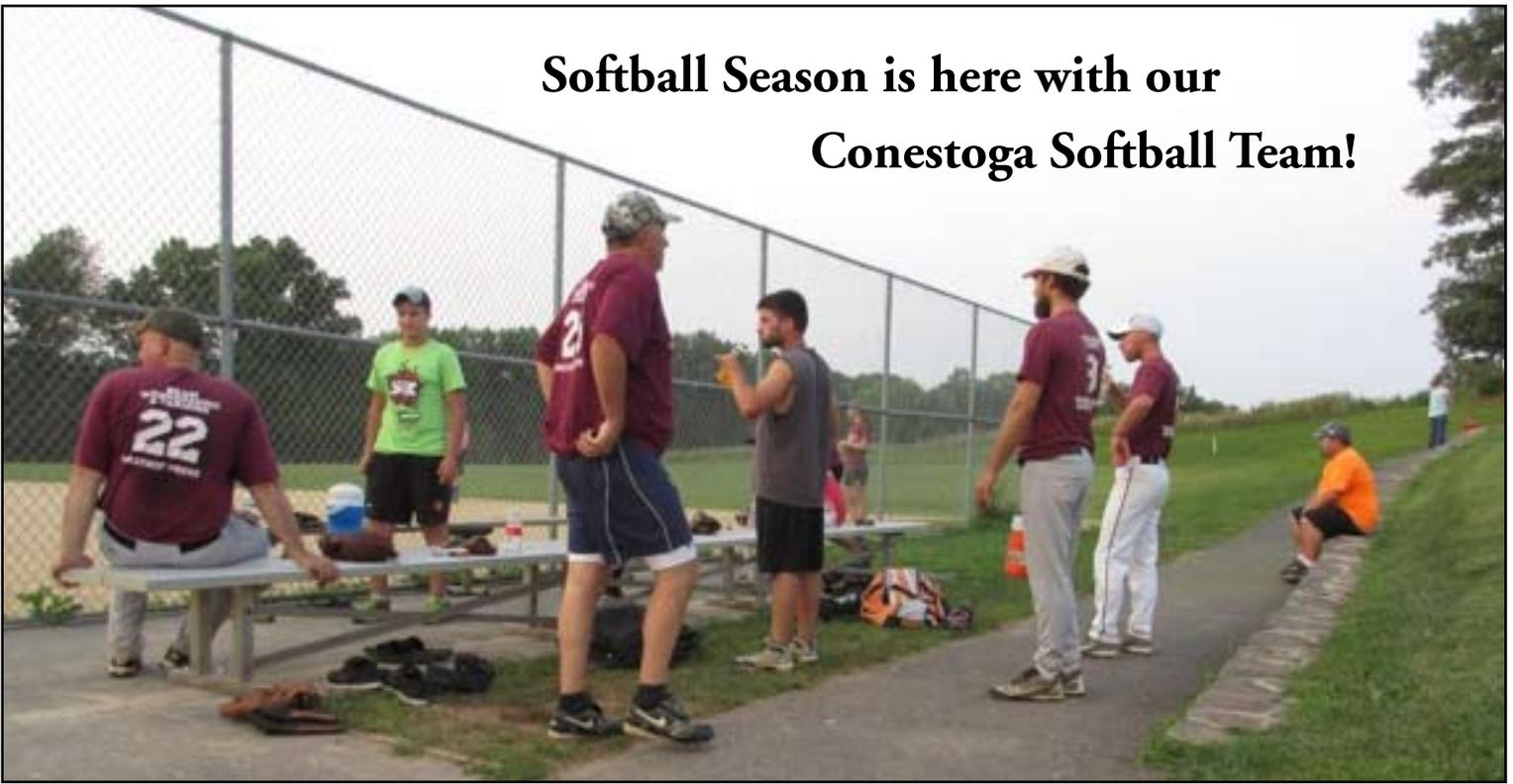


Meet the Petersheim Family



Welcome to Ivy Marie Petersheim, daughter of Brendon and Blair Petersheim.

Softball Season is here with our Conestoga Softball Team!



Conestoga Mennonite has had a long-time softball team that interacts with other church softball teams. This year, there are 17 teams participating. Our first game was this past Monday evening, April 27, with New Life Family Center, and we won 12-11 which included multiple home runs! How exciting!

Team players for the 2015 Team (as of the writing of this article) includes:

Mike Petersheim, Coach	Rod Stoltzfus	Bret Kurtz
Luke Stoltzfus	Nelson Beam	Josh Beam
Mason Stoltzfus	Ryan Petersheim	Jody Essick
Dave Johnson	Laurell Bosdorf	Ryan Bosdorf

Bronson Fox	Amanda Valentino	Jim Valentino
Brendon Petersheim	Shane Petersheim	Josh Gable
Bryce Petersheim	Brandon Stoltzfus	Nate Smucker

Everyone is invited to attend and cheer Conestoga's team! Upcoming Conestoga games for May are:

Monday, May 4 - Conestoga plays Akron at New Holland East
 Tuesday, May 12 - Conestoga plays CEFC at West Nantmeal
 Thursday, May 14 - Conestoga plays Mt. Zion at Mt. Zion
 Monday, May 18 - Conestoga plays Bethany at Bowmansville East
 Tuesday, May 26 - Conestoga plays Calvary at West Nantmeal

GO CONESTOGA!

