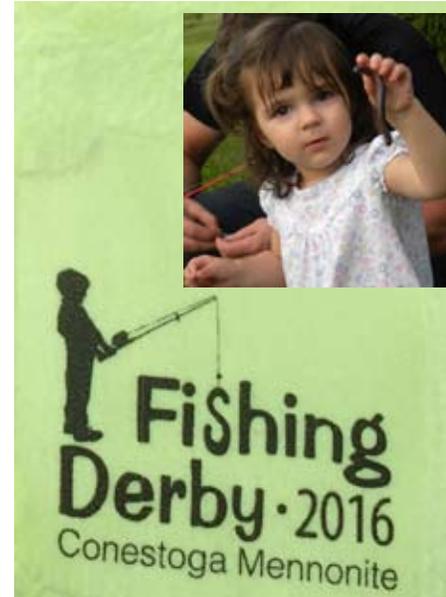


CONESTOGA Connections



July-August 2016
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No. 8-9

Conestoga Mennonite Fishing Derby



Conestoga Mennonite's 2016 Father/Family Fishing Derby

In celebration of fathers and families, 50 persons between ages 6 months to 85 years-old gathered to participate in the 2016 Fishing Derby. Even the weather remained calm as it blessed the young and the old alike. Everyone caught fish with a rough estimate of over 80 fish caught for the evening.

Prizes were awarded for the largest and smallest fish caught overall and in various age groupings, along with the first trout pulled from the pond (extra thanks to Abe Oberholtzer for sharing his trout catch this spring). A light hot dog supper was also supplied for the eager fisher folks.

The highlight of the evening was watching the participants cheer each other on when they pulled "one" any size from the pond. We are truly blessed to have such delightful families connected to Conestoga.

A special thanks to the Derby officials: Abe Olberholtzer, Bronson Fox, Ryan Petersheim, and Erin Nafziger. The night would not have been complete without the food provided by Becky Yoder, Kaiti Fox, and Rebecca Beam. Cindy Petersheim served as the activity coordinator for the evening.

So until 2018 (this happens every other year)—keep casting.

- Cindy Petersheim



What fun for all ages! Here, Grandpa Bob Horning is a great teacher!



Spectators at the Fishing Derby were also having a lot of fun!



ACC's recognition of David Heineman's prior ordination for Hospice Chaplaincy was led by Merv Stoltzfus.



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Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, June 1, 2016. There were 15 ladies present with donations of 2 comforters, 4 comfort tops, and 70 kit bags. Five comforters were completed and 24 hygiene kits filled. For devotions, we sang "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" followed by the reading of Matthew 10:26-32 and then a devotional titled "Can't Die But Once." The special offering amounted to \$50.00. We ended by singing "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

Sewing Circle met again on July 13, 2016. There were 12 ladies present with donations of 30 kit bags, 2 comforters, and 4 comforter tops. Four comforters were completed and 24 hygiene kits were filled. For devotions, we sang "America" followed by the reading of Psalm 122:6-9 and a devotional entitled "Join the Cry." The special offering amounted to \$40.00. We sang "Day is Dying in the West" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

NEIGHBORS caring & sharing

First Neighbors this fall is on Sept. 20 at 9:15 in the fellowship hall with the theme "Honey for a Women's Heart" presented by Susan Crooks. This ministry has been a blessing to many women through the years. Young mothers to grandmothers have appreciated this Tuesday morning program, so please invite your friends and neighbors.



Sunday Morning Worship Service & Feeding of the 580!



*Thank You again,
Conestoga, for sharing
your facilities with 680 Zooks
on the July 4 weekend!*



Memories of My Mother Arlene (Landis) Kurtz



Through the memories of my mother, there were not many tragedies or dramatic events. But she really had stories to tell. She grew up on her family farm helping in the garden.

Throughout her entire life she enjoyed the outdoors.

As a teenager, she sat on a limb to pick cherries and the limb broke and she fell to the ground and broke her ankle. It was never set right. She had a best friend, Verna Brenner, whose family asked her to vacation with them in Atlantic City. In asking her parents if she could go, they told her they could not afford to send her. Luckily enough she found \$22 along the railroad tracks by their house. In bringing it to her dad, he said this must be someone's pay for a week or month. He said we will run an ad in the paper, if no one claims it you can go to Atlantic City. She was upset about running the ad but no one ever claimed it, so she went to Atlantic City and loved it.

When she was in her late teens, she went with a group of young ladies to a weekend cottage meeting and didn't take a sweater or jacket and said she nearly froze. They were forced out of their cottages to attend the meetings. She would ask, "Why would anyone want to live or vacation in the mountains? You will freeze." So we never went to the mountains.

At the age of 36 (two weeks before her 37th) birthday she married my dad after dating six years. She always said it was during the gas rationing, so he would come to see her on his motorcycle.

My early memories are of going to the local greenhouse in Honey Brook. On the way home we got lost (really lost). It got my attention knowing that I needed to watch where to go so I could help in the future. I bet I was only around five years old. I would sit on the edge of the front seat.

One winter we went to the Farm Show in Harrisburg. We were in the large arena and upon leaving we walked around and around the arena. I tried to tell them we need to go through a door and up the ramp. Mom said, "What do you know—you are so little." After going around a few more times,

then she finally said, "Ok. Show us how to get out." So I led them through the door, up the ramp, and out we went. They were amazed!

When we were rather young, Mom would go to the barn to help Dad. My brothers Le, Arlan, and I would take all the dishes out of the cupboard under the sink and shove them into another cupboard. Then we looked out the window until we would see Mom coming. We would all three hide under the sink and mom would look for us. Another night and another cupboard. One evening to hide, we locked ourselves in the coat closet and she decided to leave us in there for a while until we begged to be let out. This ended hide and seek for good . . . or so I thought.

Mom did not go on many trips, and we only went on two short vacations that I recall—the first to Atlantic City and the second to the New York Worlds Fair in 1965. For our vacation in Atlantic City, we stayed overnight in a motel—a big deal for us. For this trip, our neighbor Russell Beck volunteered to milk the goat while we were away. Mom loved goats and we always had one. He tried to milk her and she kicked and kicked. My mother always milked the goat and that was that! The goat would not have it any other way. When we got older, we told her we no longer liked goats milk. We would take the back seat out of the car and put a couple kid goats in the back and off to Green Dragon we would go to the auction. This was always an exciting event.

When I was 12, Mom followed in her mother's steps to go to market. We got a stand at Lancaster Southern Market. It was a lot of hard work. She would plant 14 long rows of sugar peas, and we would bunch onions, pick and shell lima beans, and carry heavy bags of corn. In the Fall, we would take ornamental gourds and straw flowers. She would also dry them and later bunch them and take them to flea markets. It was exciting because after helping to set up the stand, I got a break and would walk up to the square and go into the Watt & Shand Store, Garvins, Woolworth's, and the new store at the time—Hess's.

In 1963, my dad bought a brand new Plymouth with a new push-button dash. This was the first car she had that came with turn signals. She would put her turn signal on, travel a little, then flip to the adjacent lane. I would say, "Mom, you almost hit the car beside you." She would respond, "They should have seen I had my turn signal on." Even though she made her own rules of the road, she never had an

(continued on page 7)



SWAP



Conestoga Youth In SWAP

Conestoga’s youth enjoyed their SWAP mission trip in June under Mennonite Central Committee that was called “Sharing With Appalachian People.”

The youth and leaders worked with and for local clients living in eastern Kentucky “In the name of Christ” as they shared the message of God’s love and built relationships that served to enrich all involved.

Most of the work was done in home repair for low-income families, and included painting, porch repairs, replacing leaky roofs, adding rooms, and doing basic renovations.

The Team included (see photo below, left to right): Tina Essick, Lyle Essick, Rodney Luke Stoltzfus, Zach Johnson, Mason Stoltzfus, Weston Caley, Kendra Gilbert, Mindy Beam, Sari Smoker, James Valentino, and Rachel Mast.



Food Pantry



The June 2016 Twin Valley Food Pantry served 127 families accounting for 496 people! Approximately 70+ volunteers from across our community helped to distribute about 12,000 pounds of food, personal health, and hygiene items, thanks to all the donors across the community for their contributions.



The small group Bible Study groups here at Conestoga are providing unique fellowship. Above are photos of the Wandering Shepherds Bible Study who recently met at Tel Hai Retirement with Ada Fisher, Ruth Essick, and Ruth Stoltzfus. It was "special" to enjoy this time with Ada who was alert and made us laugh!



The July Senior Connections was blessed with these young musicians who used their gifts! Left to right: Cody Emery on the trombone, Kyle Emery on the saxophone, Celia Johnson on the trombone, Zachary Johnson on the baritone trumpet, and Rosa Johnson on the violin.

accident in the city. One Saturday, Mom went to the market all alone. On the way home on Route 23 just east of Goodville, she fell asleep, crossed the road, and hit a pole head on. The car was totaled, but all that happened to her was a broken nose. God was watching over her and she put her angels on overtime.

My mom was a stay-at-home mother. Our parents provided a secure home for us. She saw that we went to Sunday School and church. Raising us in a Christian home was very important to her. My mother and I had different interests and I don't remember doing many activities together. She did not go shopping, did not really play games or get excited about things that other girls do.

Mom would always say, "I don't ever want to go to a nursing home." She took her special needs brother (Harold) into her home, and was a caregiver until he passed away. Then at age 96, she did not want to live alone. Within a month, she fell and hurt her head causing her to go to the hospital and from there to Fairmount Nursing Home. She was used to being a very independent, outdoorsy person, and disliked being there. It was like a prison for her.

Working full time at the warehouse and trucking business, I was tied down and always busy. So not having the freedom to do things was the norm for me. In weighing the odds, I thought about how I had a home with space to have Mom. I considered all the traveling back and forth to visit her and knew she didn't like it there—all stressful for me. Having her live with me was a better life for her and a more productive way to spend our time together, and it ended up being a more affordable option. With dementia in the early stages even though she disliked the nursing home, she was still nervous about leaving it. She agreed to come live with me. I set up caregivers to be with her daily while I went to work. They were very good to her. After getting her into a smooth routine she said, "I want to live until I am 200!"

After my mother came to live with me, she had a completely different life than when I was a child. Her caregivers took her on trips. She went to the nursing home on a weekly basis to visit the younger people. I took her to different farmers markets, out to eat, and shopped with my friends. The caregivers suggested getting a Transport Wheelchair which came in handy on many occasions.

Mom loved going down to the family farm to

visit Arlan and Louise and to see her grandchildren. When I would mention about going to the farm, she would immediately go to the closet to get her jacket and bandana. She enjoyed watching all of their activities. They also helped care for her with Louise making beautiful gift baskets for each of us and the caregivers.

Mom liked helping around the house. Washing dishes was her favorite and she enjoyed folding laundry. At times she frustrated me, and other times made me laugh. Her favorite game was hide and seek. Hiding her teeth, hair pins, clothing, and food. She could even pull you into the game. At times I thought it was a reminder of the saying, "What goes around comes around," from all the times we were playing hide and seek as kids.

There are many sacrifices in serving as the caregiver of an elderly parent, but many untold blessings as well. Just prior to her 101st birthday, I asked, "How old will you be on your next birthday?" She said, "Ah! Ah! A dollar and ah! Ah! Penny."

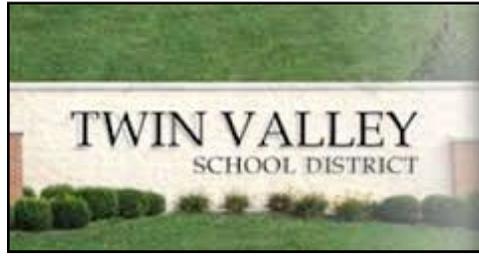
For 6 ½ years, Mom was blessed with wonderful caregivers including Vida Beiler from here at Conestoga.

In the last weeks of Mom's life we were additionally blessed with the help of very appreciated Hospice.

- Kathleen Weaver



Next
Sr. Connections:
Tuesday, August 16
12:00 noon
Alaskan Lunch
followed by
Lemar & Lois Ann
sharing about their
recent trip to Alaska.



Conestoga Goes Back to School . . .

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Hannah Petersheim - Conestoga Christian School

KINDERGARTEN

Gavin Buckwalter - Conestoga Christian School

Sawyer Fox - Robeson Elementary School

FIRST GRADER

Mark Petersheim - Conestoga Christian School

SECOND GRADERS

Cameron Johnson - Conestoga Christian School

Emma Parsons - Blue Ball Elementary School

Rosene Weber - Hinkletown Mennonite School

THIRD GRADER

Anthony Weber - Hinkletown Mennonite School

FOURTH GRADERS

Cora Parsons - Blue Ball Elementary School

Liana Stoltzfus - Birdsboro Elementary School

FIFTH GRADER

Marissa Buckwalter - Leola Elementary School

SIXTH GRADER

Madison Martinez - Blue Ball Elementary School

SEVENTH GRADERS

Celia Johnson - Conestoga Christian School

Rosa Johnson - Conestoga Christian School

Joshua Kurtz - Blue Ball Elementary School

Kayla Richardson - Conestoga Valley Middle School

Nick Stoltzfus - Daniel Boone Middle School

Chloe Young - Brecknock Elementary School

EIGHTH GRADER

Brendan Richardson - Conestoga Valley Middle School

NINTH GRADERS

Zachary Johnson - Conestoga Christian School

Domanik Young - Garden Spot Middle School

TENTH GRADER

Rodney Luke Stoltzfus - Lancaster Mennonite School

ELEVENTH GRADERS

Nathan Smucker - Garden Spot High School

Thomas Young - Garden Spot High School

TWELFTH GRADERS

Mindy Beam - Conestoga Christian School

Natalie Stoltzfus - Lancaster Mennonite School

James Valentino - Twin Valley High School

COLLEGE FRESHMAN

Weston Caley is majoring in Mechanical Engineering at LeTourneau University, Weston Caley 1522, PO Box 7001, Longview, TX 75607-7001.

COLLEGE SOPHOMORES

Joshua Beam is majoring in Animal Science at Penn State University, University Park, Pa.

Mason Stoltzfus is majoring in Pre-Med at Eastern Mennonite University. Address: 1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.

COLLEGE JUNIORS

Jonathan Ebert is majoring in Nuclear Engineering at Penn State University, University Park, Pa.

Heidi Kurtz is majoring in Psychology at Lancaster Bible College

Josiah Kurtz is majoring in Economics at Penn State, Berks

COLLEGE SENIORS

Dylan Beam is majoring in Crop Production at Penn State University, University Park, Pa.

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

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Jody Essick is studying Physical Therapy at Neumann University, anticipating graduation in May 2017.

Carrie Stoltzfus is studying at Arcadia University in a EdD doctorate program in Ed. Leadership.

TEACHERS

Kelly Essick teaches third grade at Corl Elem. School, State College School District.

Justin and Sarah Kolb both teach at Conestoga Christian School; Justin teaches high school science and calculus, and Sarah teaches high school history.

Carrie Stoltzfus is the transition coordinators at Simon Gratz Mastery Charter School. Address: 1648 S. Bancroft St., Philadelphia, PA 19145; stoltzfus.carrie@gmail.com

SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEES

Linda Mast drives school bus for Garden Spot School.

Lisa Miller is Executive Secretary for the Twin Valley School District, Elverson, Pa.

Heidi Stoltzfus is Director of Advancement at Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pa.