

CONESTOGA Connections



November 2018
Vol. XXIX
No. 6

Conestoga's 2018 Fall Communion with Elder Dan Mast explaining communion to Children's Church





These two photos were taken at a recent Neighbors' Brunch in local homes. All enjoyed good food and fellowship.



Neighbors Caring & Sharing

Neighbors began its 33rd year with attendance peaking at 28-30 attendees including attendees from the community as well as our church. Neighbors is an organized women's ministry supported through our church budget and offering childcare for children under five years of age.

Our first meeting this fall was a great time to reconnect from our summer break and also a time to involve new women. Cindy Petersheim shared on "Sweet Talk" and how it is good to bless and encourage people, but yet we need to do it honestly. Find something good to say to a person. A game was led to reconnect us with our attendees. We ended the meeting with fellowship and delicious refreshments made with caramels.

Eleanor Isaacson was rescheduled from last year. She did not disappoint us speaking on "Breaking Generational Bondages." Eleanor shared *10 Steps to Breaking Bondages*. Some are: Know your Enemy; SATAN—not your husband, parents, boss, kids, siblings; Know the battle is won by Faith; Believe the Word; Trust God to heal and cleanse; Think and speak in words of Faith with God's power; and God used people who were sinners and repented. Jill Waters also shared about her ministry, Lilies of the Valley, asking for our group to financially support them. Neighbors then created three gift baskets for the October Still Waters fundraising event.

On October 2, Bonni Greiner, another favorite speaker, shared on "Time Management" using 1 Corinthians 14:40 for order and discipline. The question is, "Is your busyness of value and what affect does it have on eternal value? Do all your activities line up for God? For success in the home, you need goals. Bonni gave us tips using the Time Management acronym.

- T - Take time to read the Bible. Pray to God daily. Memorize Scripture.
- I - If you are married, respect your spouse.
- M - Make Goals; Grow in Godly Character; and affirm others with Godly character words.
- E - Exercise wisdom with priorities today.
- M - Make a list of daily work, prayer concerns. Keep believing. What can I do today to bless someone today?
- A - Arrange to do important things when you do regular activities.
- N - Note change on calendars and notebook. If too busy, Say NO!
- A - Always plan your activities on your time schedule.
- G - Giftings should be recognized. What do you love to do?
- E - Energize your children to have lists and goals.
- M - Measure life and time as irreplaceable.
- E - End the day with encouragement and prayers and Thanksgiving. Have a house of peace.
- N - Never give into despair or worry.
- T - Trade for seemingly important to for eternal value.

On October 9, Pamela Armstrong Pautz, executive director of North Star Initiative, shared on their goals of restoring women from trafficking for freedom, for life, forever! North Star provides a restoring home to women who are survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation by addressing their physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs through holistic, Christ centered focus. This is a huge overwhelming sinful problem that is right here in our area. NS can only house about 10 women—some leave in a few hours, a few months on their own will. But this is a long term treatment plan to be effective. I would like a greater audience to hear of their work and learn about the evil in our own community and how to be aware of someone needing help to break free.

Each week we are blessed in our gathering with fellowship, prayer support, learning, doing, or blessing others. Check out our schedule, this is for women of all ages.

A special invitation for Tuesday December 4 at 10 a.m. will include a Christmas Concert in the sanctuary for all, directed by Carrie Warner, one of our attendees. Invite your friends with cookies and drink afterwards. ~ Tina Essick, Director



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Contributing Editors: Anna Martin and Jill Waters



Sewing Circle met on Sept. 5, 2018, with 21 ladies present. There were 6 comfort tops donated. Completed were 4 comforters and 57 school kits. For devotions, we sang the Doxology. Fern Kraybill read Matthew 18:1-4. She explained how we need to come to God with childlike humility and complete trusting and dependence on God. She told us the story of how she prayed for a sibling and received a little brother some months later. Verna reminded us that October is our “Annual Bring a Friend” and pot-luck lunch meeting. She also told us about a new supplier she found for kit bag supplies. The special offering amounted to \$24.00. We sang, “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” before adjoining.



Sewing Circle met again on October 3, 2018, our annual “Bring a Friend Day” with a covered dish luncheon. There were 27 ladies present, eight of whom were “guests.” There were 4 comforter tops and 32 kit bags donated. There were 6 comforters completed. Two relief kits were purchased with the September special offering. For devotions, we sang “How Great Thou Art.” Fern reminded us that “the sun is constant—only the clouds are variable.” In her meditation, she explained how a heart monitor that she was required to wear, worked and then compared it to a spiritual heart monitor that we have in Hebrews 4:12—the Word of God. Unlike a physical meditation, God’s medication never has had side effects. (Proverbs 17:22). Violet announced a workday at Ephrata Material Resource Center on Monday, October 29, at 9:00. We need to bring our lunch. The special offering amounted to \$39.00.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

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 to attend this time of fellowship!

— **Tuesday, November 6, 2018** —

Collecting Bars of Soap

Jeff Leath from GAIN Ministry will share Bible stories and tell how they are relevant today.

— **Tuesday, November 13, 2018** —

The Gift of Gratitude: Colossians 2:6-7

led by Beth Random

— **Tuesday, November 27, 2018** —

Wood Slice Ornaments (Christmas Craft)

led by Shyla Rohrer

Pre-registration required including a small fee.

— **Tuesday, December 4, 2018** —

Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary

directed by Carrie Warner

Public invited.

— **Tuesday, December 11, 2018** —

Visiting Espenshade’s Christmas Display

Pre-registration required to go to Bowmansville.

Merry Christmas!



**You are invited to attend
Senior Connections**

**on Thursday, November 8
Thanksgiving Celebration Meal
and**

**on Thursday, December 13
to hear CCS students’ Christmas
program with Christmas Lunch**

**Watch for more details
in the church bulletin**



ACC Assembly—For Whom?

Conestoga members who shared at the 2018 ACC Fall Assembly at Akron Mennonite Church.

What do you think of when you hear ACC Assembly? “Oh, that’s just for pastors and leaders?” or “I don’t know what that stands for?”

ACC stands for Atlantic Coast Conference, and is the group of churches that is our umbrella here at Conestoga Mennonite. It is for ALL church members and attendees of the 34 churches we partner with in ACC.

This year the ACC Fall Assembly was held October 27 at Akron Mennonite Church. It was a most delightful day. Wes and I were not delegates, but we love to attend anyway! Yes, we admit that we went for many reasons including the fun, the food, the inspirational input,

and the fellowship! It is a time to meet old friends and make new ones.

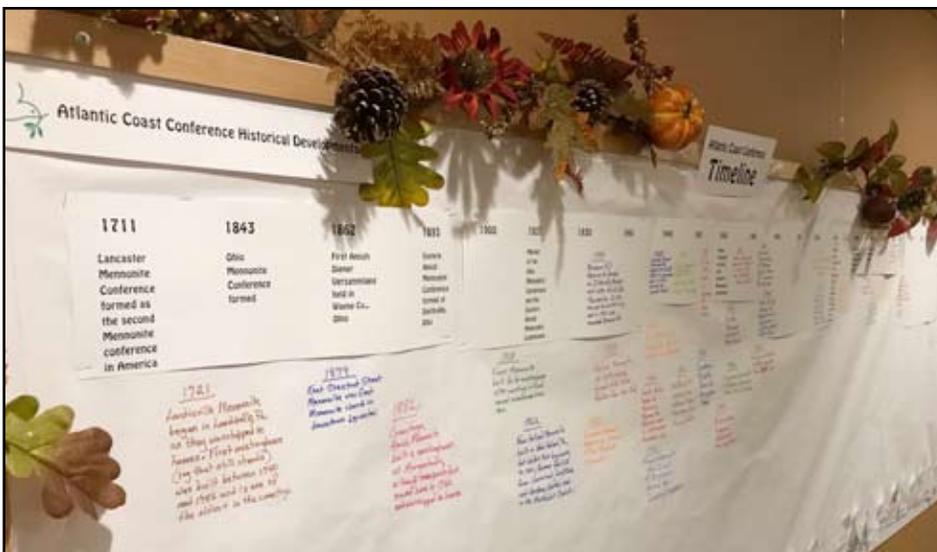
One of the Anabaptist beliefs is the brotherhood/sisterhood of believers. It was there! Such joy and love! And worship! The worship was meaningful and inspiring. The music was so beautiful with lots of male voices —almost heavenly!

The reports were so interesting and encouraging to learn how far-reaching ministry with other churches goes. We join in Nickels for Neighbors, the children’s program. To see all those kids pass their little containers around to collect our change and see them take it up front and then to hear about the mission where this was going

filled my heart with joy! This year the money was presented to Manhattan Mennonite Church for their Radical Living Youth Gardens. This will help inner city youth who have gardens to raise food for the needy.

We learned about Women in Ministry. We met new pastors and recognized retired ministers.

We have a Peace ministry which was recognized with a peace mug. We learned about Church Planting and how it got started in ACC from Wes who was the first Church Planting Consultant in its beginning. We approved minutes and had a short year-end finance report. We have a Congregational Leadership



“Time Line” at ACC’s Fall Assembly listing the history of ACC since 2018. This year (2018) is the 40th year of 36 churches amiably leaving Ohio and Eastern Mennonite Conference (OEMC) in 1978 and beginning a new conference of all the OEMC churches east of Ohio. The first meeting for the new Conference was held at Conestoga Mennonite.

The 12 children who attended Conference (including above Mark and Hannah Petersheim) were involved in different ways including taking the offering.



Children from The City School in Philadelphia—one of ACC’s Conference Related Ministries—shared some songs. The children who attended Conference had prime seats up front.

fund endowment raised for training and supporting ACC leaders—so helpful to encourage young persons considering pastoral work.

We voted on the slate of ACC leaders. Lois Ann Mast was voted to serve on the ACC Gift Discernment Committee.

Cindy Petersheim welcomed Bridge of Hope as a new ministry of ACC to join 24 of the other ACC Conference Related Ministries.

Dwight Rohrer, Conference Youth Minister along with Brook Musselman gave an update on Youth Ministry including quizzing.

We were favored with several songs by The City School Choir of Philadelphia (previous Philadelphia Mennnite School). They knew how to sing and praise the Lord. See picture printed above.

We were told how ACC was formed by Lois Ann who presented

the “Time Line” shown on the previous page. And then there was a panel that shared some of ACC’s history and ministry. They were elderly folks who had been with ACC from the beginning and some of it was quite humorous!

That was all before lunch! The lunch was very good as usual at Conferences, and the time of fellowship around the tables was great. After lunch we had a time of worship in song. We sang some songs from our current blue *Hymnal*, *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*. It was really good and a special blessing!

Then we heard about our connections with the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Most of the afternoon was spent around tables to discuss questions about how ACC relates to building God’s kingdom, including how we could improve in our individual congregations and in the broader picture of ACC.

Then about a dozen persons including Rachel, Cindy, and Pastor Bob shared their vision for the future.

The meeting was over at 3:15. It was a wonderful day!!

~ Lois Boyer

My vision for future of the church:

*The timing of this question coincides with my reading of Andy Stanley’s new book **Irresistable**, so I admit I am influenced by that right now. But as I look towards the future of the church, I hope that the church again becomes irresistible as it was in the book of Acts and that people are captivated and drawn to the message of the gospel. I don’t know exactly how to get there from here but I think it starts with two things:*

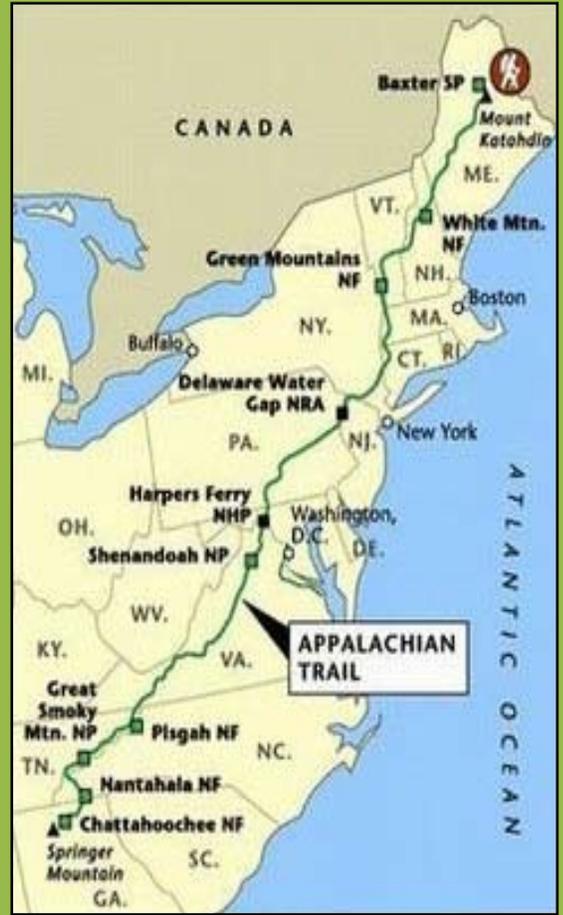
1) Members of the church fall so in love with the good news of Jesus. Sometimes it is hard to see the hope and the joy that the good news brings because we have heard the stories growing up and they just seem to lose their luster. I hope that we can know, understand, find hope in, and know all the implications of loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and loving your neighbor as yourself.

2) There is a longing for genuine respectful conversation in the world right now....even between those who disagree. If you spend any time on YouTube, you find so many videos of respectful dialogue that people appreciate! I really would love to see the church be a primary place for respectful loving conversations. I wish church members could set a counter cultural example of what a loving community looks like even in disagreements. Because when people can have the hard conversations and still remain friends afterwards, I think that is what catches people’s attention.

I close by sharing the lyrics from a Kari Jobe song called “Heal our land”:

*Spirit of God, breathe on your church
Pour out your presence
Speak through your word
We pray in every nation, Christ be known
Our hope and salvation, Christ alone.*

~ This was given by Rachel Mast at the ACC Assembly. ~



Did you know that **Becky Yoder's** granddaughter—Lauren Smucker—hiked the entire Appalachian Trail that goes from Georgia to Maine? Lauren started in Georgia on March 2, 2018, and arrived at Mt. Katahdin in Maine on October 6, 2018—a distance of 2,200 miles. No, she was not alone, but enjoyed the time with two other hiking friends.



A view from above on the day of **Clyde and Jane Stoltzfus's** sale. Their new home is at Fairmount!



Conestoga offers Sunday School classes for all ages! Beginning the first Sunday of December, the adults will break up into five elective classes for one quarter (Dec.-Feb.) to experience inter-generational classes. Thank you Superintendents for this planning!





Youth Barn Party in
Josh Kurtz's barn!
Lots of Fun!

