

CONESTOGA Connections



November 2011
Vol. XXII, No. 11

“Joyfully Celebrating Worship, Work, and Fellowship”



Food Pantry excitement! Left: Jonathan and Dana Ebert unloading the storage area to prepare for doors to open. Above: Kathleen Weaver serving her homemade meatloaf to workers.



Worshipping our Lord through song and instruments on Sunday morning! Thank you to our talented Worship Teams who lead us in worship!!



Fellowship Time. Sharing and caring for each other before and after church each Sunday morning is truly a “blessing!” This is where we learn how to better pray for each other.



Bob and Jo Ebert at their 50th wedding anniversary where guests brought donations for the Food Pantry instead of gifts for the happy couple. Thanks Eberts!



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Investing in Our Future

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believer in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Tim. 4:12

Here at Conestoga, we are blessed with members of each generation. Different age groups bring unique strengths and needs.

I am humbled by our older members! They offer wise counsel, encouragement, generous financial contributions, and active service. They also have unique needs. As such we have developed three new ministries the past two years for older members.

The first was a Visitation Team to minister to any member in the hospital as well as our older members in their homes. The second, developed by visionary members, supplements the Wandering Shepherds Bible Study with a monthly Senior Connections with a meal, stimulating input, games, and fellowship. The third, Meals from the Heart, creates nutritious meals for distribution to any in need.

When Cindy and I began ministry with you, we recognized the young adults as a second age group of strength. They



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Editor: Lois Ann Mast
Assistant Editor: Elizabeth Petersheim
Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus

also had natural leaders. Because the congregation recognized that discovering and equipping these gifts was central to the CMC mission we were affirmed in making investment in this group priority. It has been a delight to host them in our home and participate in their Bible studies and fellowship events.

A strong future also requires young families. When God brought Andy and Dot Leatherman to CMC, the congregation commissioned Dot onto our Pastoral Team to help shape our ministries toward the priorities of young families. We praise God for the fruit as we see more young families making Conestoga their home! In March, Andy and Dot made the sacrifice to continue her investment, now as a volunteer, so the next staffing priority could be our youth. God has now brought Rachel Kolb Mast to us with gifts and enthusiasm to strengthen our ministry to youth and young adults.

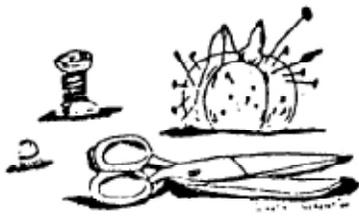
In 1975, one month before my twentieth birthday, the Elders of Neffsville Mennonite Church confirmed their offer for me to join their staff part-time giving leadership to their youth ministry. The older I get, the more their action amazes me. It says more about their commitment to growing young leaders than about my maturity. The congregation was consistently affirmative, and God was gracious to cover with His favor the mistakes from my inexperience.

In my early months of service, I came across the above verse. I wasn’t sure how I was to keep others from looking down on me if they so choose. What I resolved was that I would give my all to set an example. Looking back I realize it was the congregation who challenged each other to not let anyone look down on me because of my young age.

Two weeks ago, the Pastoral Team introduced a proposal to invest in our future by commissioning Rachel as Minister of Youth and Young Adults. As a Pastoral Team, we have seen Rachel’s commitment to “set an example for the believer in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.” As the congregation affirms this recommendation, we look forward to partnering together so our youth can add their testimony to mine of experiencing a congregation who won’t “look down on them because they were young.”

If you have not read the proposal, I invite you to do so. Engage your Pastoral Team with questions. Make this a matter of prayer. Let’s together watch what God will do when old, middle aged, and young “set an example” together!

Living His story with you, Pastor Bob Petersheim



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, October 6, 2011. It was our annual “Bring a Friend Day.” There were 24 ladies present, 11 of whom were guests.

Twenty-two kit bags were donated, as well as a baby comforter—both of which were given to the “House of His Creation” benefit auction. Finished items included 1 comforter, 3 baby gowns, and 13 baby blankets. We also filled 16 health kits.

For devotions, we sang “Throw Out the Lifeline.” The Scripture reading was Matthew 16:21-28 accompanied by a devotional entitled “What Really Matters.” The special offering was \$44.00. We again sang “Throw Out the Lifeline” before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell

Connecting Tithes With Our Mission

God is blessing us here at Conestoga with new members, increased facility use, and an expanded community mission. Due to the faithful generosity of members, our October 26 Treasurers’ Report indicates we have only needed to draw down fund balances so far this year by \$10,641.92. We are grateful for your continued partnership in this mission and ministry!”

Christmas Sunday Service

To honor Christ’s birth with both our church family and our biological families on Christmas Sunday, our December 25 morning service will be limited to a one-hour (10:00 to 11:00 a.m.) service of meditation, scripture reading, and song! Note this time change on your calendars.



*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!*

— November 1 —

“Praying Like Hannah”

with Tami Horst

Service project: Distribute bags for MCC kits.

— November 8 —

“Papua New Guinea”

with Brian and Andrea Holmquist

Sharing Stories of Papua New Guinea

[Pre-register for next week’s Neighbors!]

— November 15 —

Trip to MCC’s Material Resource Center

Work and learn about the many ways that MCC helps people around the world plus deliver MCC kits.

[Pre-register for next week’s Neighbors!]

— November 22 —

No meeting due to Thanksgiving week.

— November 29 —

Craft with Lee to create an antique keepsake box

November 27 Fellowship Dinner

Sunday, November 27

Amish Turkey Fellowship Dinner

Turkey, filling, and potatoes will be provided.

Everyone else is invited to bring either a salad or dessert.

The Ladies’ annual “Dust Bunny Hunt” will begin after our fellowship dinner at 1:00-1:15 p.m.—ladies participating in the hunt will enjoy an afternoon tea that will be “stylist and humorous!” You won’t want to miss this wonderful “surprise hunt” that should return to the church about 3:00 p.m. Please feel free to bring cameras along for the hunt. A sign-up sheet is posted in the lobby to sign up. Remember to invite your “hunting widow friends.”

Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

Barn Party
Saturday, November 5
7:00 p.m.

Come to Gary & Sharon Stoltzfus' barn
at 104 W. Main St., Elverson.

- Nelson & Marilyn Beam, Jr. Youth advisors

PRAISES AND REQUESTS

- Praise God that **John Stoltzfus and family** are moving from Illinois to Pennsylvania where John will be serving part-time as School Pastor at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School and part-time as Youth Pastor for Franconia Mennonite Conference. (John is the son of **Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus**.)
- Thank God for healthy bodies! Pray for the “runners” in our congregation as they enjoy this form of exercise. Did you know that two sons and a daughter of **Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus** ran in the Chicago Marathon in October? Yeah **Lois, Grant, and John!**
- Pray for our **members** who are feeling their “age” and experiencing health challenges. Remember them with a thoughtful card, or better yet, a visit!
- Thank God for the new “truths” that He is revealing through the “**50 Day Adventure**” series. And praise Him that His people here at Conestoga are listening and responding!
- Pray for our upcoming “**Community Christmas Carol Hymn Sing**” planned for Sunday evening, December 4, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors and family to join in this special time of singing Christmas carols!
- Thank God for the 15+ ladies who are contributing food and time so that Conestoga can share dinners through Conestoga’s “**Meals From the Heart**”!
- Pray for the persons we served dinner to on Tuesday evening at the **Food Pantry**. Pray that they will be reminded that Jesus loves them!
- Thank God that Lancaster General Hospital has given free **flu shots** to Hope Within who will be helping us to share these free shots on Friday evening, November 4. Thank you to Robin Miller who will be giving these shots!

MYF Youth News

- Nov. 2 - Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room
- Nov. 9 - Devotional and Quilt Knotting with Violet Beam for the MYF Auction
- Nov. 16 - No Bible Study
- Nov. 17 - Going to see the movie 58:The Film at Gap. Meet at the church at 5:45 pm. The movie takes a radical and hopeful look at global poverty.
- Nov. 25 - Set-up for Auction at 3:30 p.m. Meal served at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with the Auction beginning at 7:00 p.m. (MYF and parents: see sign-up sheets.
- Nov. 30 - Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. in Youth Room

Plan to attend our Dec. 30 - Jan. 1 **Work Weekend at Camp Deerpark** in New York. We are looking for additional chain saw users and manpower. See Bob and Karen Horning if interested.
- Tina Essick

Praying for Ice Cream

My six-year-old grandson asked if he could say grace at a restaurant recently. As we bowed our heads, he said, “God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Nana gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!”

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, “That’s what’s wrong with this country. Kids today don’t even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!”

Hearing this, my grandson burst into tears and asked me, “Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?”

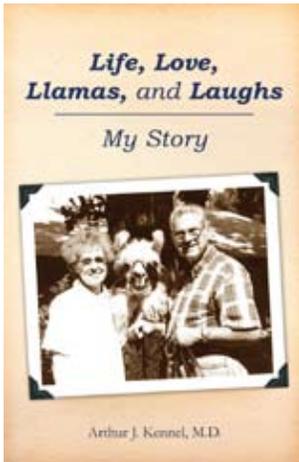
As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my grandson and said, “I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer.”

“Really?” my grandson asked.

“Cross my heart,” the man replied. Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), “Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes.”

Naturally, I bought my grandchildren ice cream at the end of the meal. My grandson stared at his for a moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, “Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already.”



A New Book In Our Church Library

Did you ever have a love-hate feeling about a book you are reading? Some chapters are interesting and then the next chapter you would have to “wade” through! This was my response to *Life, Love, Llamas, and Laughter* by Arthur J. Kennel, M.D.

The book begins with Kennel genealogy which includes stories dating back to their European beginnings through immigrating to America.

Then, there are stories about Art’s early schooling, working on farms, helping neighbors, his carpenter father,

and family. He had lots of love and guidance from his nine sisters sandwiched between his older brother, Calvin who left home when Arthur was only two years old so he scarcely knew him.

Arthur attended Lancaster Mennonite High School, experienced the usual boyhood escapades and travelled to various parts of war-devastated Europe and Israel to Alaska.

He worked summers to earn tuition to attend college and then Hannemann Medical School. He practiced in the Southern Highlands of Virginia, two years in Africa, and then to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Between some of the above events, he met and became attached to llamas—buying, raising, and selling.

In this book, you can learn “all you ever wanted to know about llamas and then some.

The question is, “What do you do with a llama?” In the U.S., they are a rich man’s pet for personal enjoyment. In South America, they are utilitarian, a necessity for survival.
~Ruth W. Stoltzfus

“Traveling to Turkey, Greece, and Rome— Walking Where Paul and John and Lydia . . . Walked”

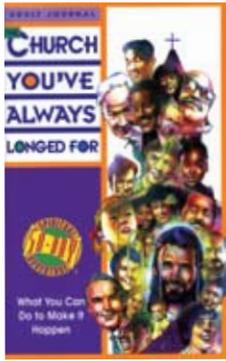
*Sunday evening, November 20, 6:30 p.m., at Conestoga Mennonite Church
with Lemar & Lois Ann Mast and other tour members*



Join us on Sunday evening, November 20, to see glimpses into the life of the apostles when they lived and worked to spread the Gospel in Turkey, Greece, and Rome, Italy. See this land today through pictures and words. And then enjoy some Mediterranean food afterwards.

What a surprise to see how huge the Colosseum was in Rome, Italy. This is where gladiators would fight each other and lions killed Christians.





50 Good Things About My Church

As a result of Conestoga members currently studying the “50-Day Adventure” series, the following are expressions of appreciations that have evolved so far through our study.

- abundant generosity of members to ministries
- lots of joy and laughter
- quality published materials
- many multiple generational blessings
- SOZO principles learned and applied with good impact
- worship is anointed
- food pantry blesses community
- new persons are welcomed
- gifts are released quickly
- trustees are very faithful
- facility is a very useful tool
- more weddings than funerals
- great young adult group
- dedicated volunteers
- ReUzit that benefits neighbors, volunteers, and MCC
- forgiveness increasing since the split
- Pastor Bob's Godly wisdom in empowering members
- serves God
- helps others
- well organized
- good cooks who willingly share food
- love for each other
- accepting of me
- we are not judgmental
- Jesus is honored
- the priesthood of believers is practiced
- people in leadership try new things!
- children are valued
- we have a good number of young adults
- power is shared
- we use the gifts of many members
- the pastor is gracious
- we host a food pantry
- we do public reading of Scripture
- blessing of “Meals from the Heart”
- caring visits of the Visitation Team
- positive attitude of the pastor
- warm welcome that we receive as we enter the building each Sunday
- reading of the Word of the Lord between pastor and congregation
- vision of the people for ministry
- dedicated pastor and pastor's wife—who give of their time and of themselves
- deaf interpretation is available
- fellowship meals
- the blessings table
- handicap accessible
- offertories are varied
- “Neighbors” program fills a need for ladies
- a good connection with Reuzit Shoppe
- quick response when someone is in need
- courteous non-pressured invitations to use my gifts for the church.
- people seem humble and contrite
- facility is available for many external uses
- a respect for older people
- Krista's cheerfulness in leading music each Sunday
- good preaching by Pastor Bob
- sincere and thorough attention to evaluation and accountability of leadership
- willingness to try new things
- a gentle welcome of new people
- Carol and Bonnie in the church office
- a respectful and thoughtful commitment to the spiritual foundations of our Mennonite heritage
- unity of so many ministries
- on-fire Scripture-sharing pastor
- friendly smiling people
- sound teaching
- uplifting worship music
- utilization of gifts in action
- comfortable facility/surroundings (chairs, climate)
- opportunity to worship in freedom (no FEAR)
- sharing/meeting peoples's needs
- deaf ministry
- friendly greeters and hospitality
- financial generosity of members
- our nursery care system
- our church library
- cleanliness of the building (tribute to our janitors)
- lovely functional and sizeable kitchen
- warm welcome specifically during and after baptism
- safe and comfortable place to worship God
- Pastor Bob is passionate about what he does
- sensitive to the traditions and ideas of multiple generations
- good cooks in our congregation—especially Becky!



Ginger Snaps

- 3 cups sugar
- 2 1/4 cups shortening
(or margarine)
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup Brer Rabbit
Molasses (green label)

- 3 Tbsp. ground ginger
- 3 tsp. cinnamon
- 6 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 1/2 cups flour

Cream sugar and shortening. Add eggs and molasses and beat well. Add spices, soda, and salt. Mix well.

Gradually add flour. Dough will become stiff and may need to be mixed by hand.

Form one-inch balls from dough. Roll each ball in sugar and place two inches apart on cookie sheet. Do not flatten. Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes. They will be very soft, not overly brown when taken from the oven. They will firm up as they cool.

- Sharon Stoltzfus

Conestoga Hobbies



YEAH JUSTIN McCALL!

Did you know that Justin enjoys riding bulls?
And, recently, he won second prize in a contest in Maryland!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Next Senior Connections

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 12:00 noon

*Thanksgiving Dinner
with inspiring program on "Thanksgiving."*



Wait till you see this TURKEY dinner with all the trimmings! Invite your neighbors, friends, and relatives who are ages 60+! We would love to fill up the fellowship hall, so sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many are coming!



Welcome to Josh Beam, Becky Miller, Mason Stoltzfus, and Luke Stoltzfus.



Greeting Conestoga's Newest Members On October 16 After Baptism

