

CONESTOGA Connections



September 2011
Vol. XXII, No. 9

Introducing Conestoga's New Deaf Interpreter



Jill and Sam Waters live near Morgantown and have four grown children and six grandchildren. They enjoy traveling and then returning home to their peaceful retreat in the woods.

Welcome to Sam and Jill Waters!

The first Sunday in September will find Sam Waters serving as Conestoga's deaf interpreter every Sunday (a few exceptions when he cannot attend). Sam and Jill live on Conestoga Creek Road—about a mile from our church building—and are excited about using their gifts here at Conestoga! Sam has a Master's degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Missouri and also attended the Gallaudet College for sign language training. He was previously a licensed pastor for deaf and the deaf and blind. Sam works as the "Human Resource and Accounts Manager" for Holiday Inn, Morgantown.

Jill Waters has a Bachelor's degree in speech and musical drama from Asbury University. She has served as a church pianist; worship/music/drama leader; Ladies Bible Study teacher and retreat speaker; and her most recent ministry project was working with domestic abuse within the church. Together, Jill and Sam have led grief support groups. Jill is the founder and owner of "BorderBytes by Just Jill."

Thanks, Sam and Jill, for your vision of ministry and your willingness to share it!



Stop in at Conestoga's church nursery to see the table and benches that Merle Weber recently constructed for Conestoga's church nursery! Above, Merle and Carmen also enjoy sitting at the table! Thanks, Merle, for serving by using your gifts!



Conestoga's combined Jr. Youth and Discovery Class met this past quarter studying and preparing for baptism and joining and contributing their God-given gifts as members of Conestoga. A baptismal service for several of these youth will take place on Sunday morning, September 18.



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Small Group D.N.A. Teams

*Day after day, in the temple courts
and from house to house,
they never stopped teaching and
proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.
Acts 5:42*

At different times over the years, Conestoga has given emphasis to small groups. Persons testify that small group connections have helped develop friendships, advance spiritual maturity, and strengthen community outreach.

Our Pastoral Team has discerned it is again time to strengthen small group ministry. But we were unsure who might give leadership to the effort. Then God brought Wes and Lois Boyer to us with experience and passion for small groups growing out of the impact they witnessed of small groups in the three churches where Wes served as Pastor over his life. We are in awe of the gift of their enthusiasm and readiness to serve.



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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Editor: Lois Ann Mast
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Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus

As many of you know, Wes was involved in an accident recently. With a broken sternum and six broken ribs, he will need time to heal. But we praise God that Wes is on the road to recovery. And we celebrate that the injuries are not life altering. So, I write this article for the *Connections* in faith and confidence that Wes and Lois will return to the task of leading our small group ministry.

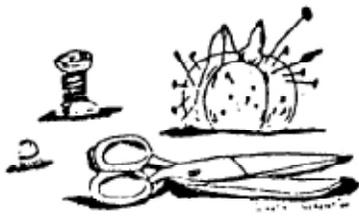
In our monthly meeting prior to Wes's accident, the three of us began brainstorming how we might kick- start small group ministry. This led us to set aside October 9 through November 27 for using 50 Day Adventure's "The Church You've Always Longed For" material. Our weekly sermons will enlarge this theme. Small groups will form to meet weekly for seven weeks. No one will be required to participate, but everyone will be encouraged. We would love to have all ages involved for this seven-week journey together. Watch for further details.

In the title of this article, you note the initials D.N.A. They stand for Discipleship, Nurture, and Action. We want our small group teams to disciple one another by recognizing Christ in their midst; nurture one another by sharing real life stuff; and to take action together that is rooted in relevant caring.

There are some activities that only a large group of people can experience together "in the temple courts." There are other activities best accomplished in a smaller group meeting "house to house." Pray that our D.N.A. Teams will make a meaningful contribution to our life together. Give consideration to signing up when we shape our teams. Persons interested in leading a small group D.N.A. Team should speak with a member of the Pastoral Team.

With the early church, we want to "Never stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is Lord." Meeting house to house can help us accomplish that goal!

*Living HisStory with you,
Pastor Bob*



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, August 3, 2011. There were 15 present and 3 visitors.

Donated were: 74 kit bags. Completed items included: 11 baby blankets, 6 gowns, and 1 comforter. One hundred and one school kits were assembled.

For devotions, we sang “Blessed Assurance.” The Scripture reading was Titus 2:1-5 with special emphasis on living good and productive lives devoted to God.

The special offering was \$50.00.

We sang “God Be With You” before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell



*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!*

— September 20 —

“Herbs and Spices of the Bible”

with Lee Forester

— September 27 —

“The Power of a Thankful Heart”

with Ann Gobble

Welcome ladies of all ages!

Enjoy these great mornings of fun, food and fellowship.

God and Moses—Stories From Exodus

We begin another new Sunday School quarter the first Sunday of September! If you are not attending Sunday School, you are missing something! Come on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and the ushers will suggest several choices for you.

Classes are available for children through seniors. One adult class is discussing current events with *The Mennonite* as their resource. All other adults are studying “Growing in God’s Wisdom” based on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Matthew. There is so much wisdom in these three books focusing not only on wisdom but also on how to transmit it: teacher to student and parent to child as it is passed from one generation to another. Then in November, we will study the powerful Sermon on the Mount.

The children through Jr. Youth are studying Moses—Israel’s greatest leader—this coming quarter. Isn’t it interesting how the Bible rarely goes into detail about the Bible leaders’ lives, but instead concentrates on what God accomplishes through His people? These students will witness the greatness of Moses who allows himself to be used so fully by God in spite of his mistakes. God frees these Israelites from cruel servitude to Pharaoh so they can engage in life-giving service to God.

Let’s pray for the gifted teachers we have here at Conestoga this coming new quarter: Susan Johnson and Sonya Petersheim (Preschool); Dot Leatherman and Pegge Tennant (Primary); Jon Essick and Kristy Petersheim (Jr. Youth); Jerry Petersheim (Youth); Rod Stoltzfus, Lois Boyer, Andy Leatherman, Howard Moss, Lois Ann Mast, Greg Petersheim, Clyde Stoltzfus, and Omar Beam (Adults).

Cappuccino Punch

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup instant coffee granules
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 quart milk
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream
- 1 quart chocolate ice cream

Combine sugar and coffee granules and stir in boiling water. Refrigerate until chilled. Just before serving, pour mix into a gallon punch bowl with milk. Add scoops of softened ice cream and stir until melted and mixed.

This recipe was submitted by Karen Horning at the request of a number of persons who enjoyed this punch Karen created for her daughter Melissa’s wedding and shower.

Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

Annual Swim Party—Sunday, September 11,
Parents & families are welcome to join us for our annual swim party to say “goodbye” to our members who will be moving up to Sr. Youth and officially welcome those coming into Jr. Youth. After church we will go to Lynne & Jim Graff’s house (Geigertown) and their heated swimming pool plus hamburgers, hot dogs, and fun! Bring a snack or side dish to share. We will return to the church at 4:00 p.m. for anyone who needs a ride. Watch your email for more info!

Fishing With Allen

Going over to Allen Weavers and doing some fishing with Allen has been fun and in some cases we even caught fish. One late afternoon, I called Allen and said, “Allen, I just bought a new lure, and I think we can catch some fish with this one.”

Allen replied, “Come over after 7 (pm) and we will give it a try.” So, I put the new (secret) lure on Allen’s line, and for the first cast, he hooked into a nice 13-inch largemouth. The next cast—another nice bass, the next cast—another nice bass, and for six straight casts—a nice bass every time. Now it was my turn, and with this new (secret) lure, four casts—four bass. We hooked into 26 bass that evening!

On another evening, Allen hooked into a big one, and during the fight, the fish kept taking out line with his rod bending, and Allen holding on, all of a sudden the rod went straight, and no more pulling of the fish. I went over to take a closer look, and the fish had taken all of Allen’s line right off the reel! Line lure all gone. So somewhere in the pond is a fish with a lure and line attached! That same evening I caught a bass and it had a Colorado spinner still in its mouth with a short piece of line attached!

Another time we had a fishing contest, and who do you think was in? Becky Yoder! She held her own, but the men had the better of it.

A few years ago I took my two grandsons, Pierce and Jon, and we caught this bass that was 15 and ½ inches. The next year he was 16 inches. We, along with Allen, kept catching this bass at the same place every year, until the last time we caught him he was 17 and ¼ inches. I wonder whatever happened to him??

The first week of August this summer, I took our two grandsons, Cody and Kyle ages 9 and 7, to the pond and that was an adventure! Untangling lines, teaching them to cast, even when they said, “I know how to do it,” taking off fish, and taking pictures. Needless to say, no fishing for me that evening.

MYF Youth Retreat

The annual ACC Youth Retreat for high schoolers will be held on September 16-18 at Refreshing Mountain Camp. The weekend theme is “*How Can I Keep From Singing!*” with Nate Stucky as resource speaker.

In addition to Bible study, worship, and meditations (including at a camp fire), there will also be a coffee house/talent show, a high ropes course, giant swing, ultimate frisbee competition, and lots of good food!



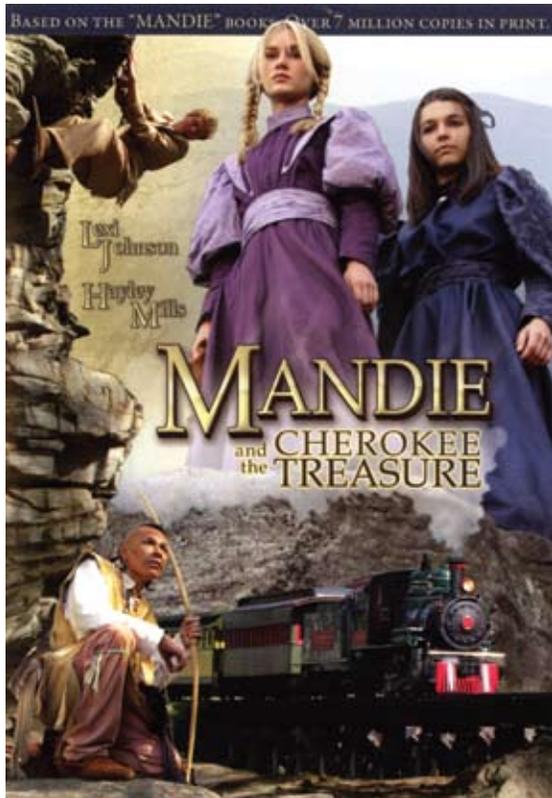
The last time I fished with Allen was during one of our (actually mine) Visitation Team visits. It sure is nice to combine “business with pleasure.” We were nearly skunked, but we each caught one a piece, both were 15 inches, and a picture to prove it.

Taking time to fish with Allen is not only enjoyable and fine fellowship with a fellow brother, but talking about things, laughing, and just enjoying evenings together. Also, I got to know more about Allen that I had not ever known.

Like the time many years ago when after coming home from church during the winter, a young boy wanted to ice skate on the pond, Allen had said, “No, the ice is not thick enough.” Sometime later a cry for help came from the pond. And Allen looking out the window saw that someone had fallen through the ice and could not get out. Allen ran to the pond and pulled out the little boy. It was his son, Ed Weaver.

- Bob Ebert

MANDIE MOVIE NIGHT



~ Saturday ~
October 8
6:30 p.m.

**Put
this date
on your
calendar!**

A New Ladies Bible Study is coming soon . . .

A new Ladies Bible Study—*Forever in Love With Jesus*—will begin on Monday evening, October 3, and will meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A video series and workbook will guide us through this study.

Women have “fallen” in love with Jesus and learned to “live” in love with Him. Now it is time to study the depths of that love. Turn your eyes upon Jesus and work towards developing a steady confidence, sweetness in knowing and being known, and an inextinguishable joy, no matter the circumstances.

Based on the Gospel of John, this study explores the eight portraits of Christ from Hosea and John:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ~ The Great I AM | ~ The Betrothing Bridegroom |
| ~ The Word | ~ The Redeemer |
| ~ The Master Artist | ~ The Lion of Judah |
| ~ The Brokenhearted
Bridegroom | ~ The Resurrection and the
Life |

As we study these portraits, we will discover both a tender and yet a strong side of Jesus. There are times when Jesus is the lion in our lives taking down all those things that distract us from our relationship with him and our Heavenly Father, and yet the lamb who loved us enough to be slain. *- Carol Moss*

Roll Outs *by Julia Yoder*



The following was written for a bridal shower given for Rachel Kolb who is planning to marry Dan Mast on October 22, 2011. Oh yes, Julia also presented a rolling pin to Rachel!

A rolling pin
That's made of wood;
It can be bad,
It can be good;
Be sure you use it
Like you should!

When it's time
To cook for Dan
What to feed him
You must plan.

Feed him lamb,
Feed him ham,
Feed him chicken liver,
Feed him spuds,
Feed him corn,
And jello all a-quiver.

Feed him anything you've goot
In the pan or in the pot.
But don't forget
To make him sigh,
You'd better feed him
Apple pie!

If a rolling stone
Gathers no moss,
Does a rolling pin
Determine who's boss?

Does he make you happy?
Does he make you sad?
Are you feeling grumpy?
Are you feeling glad?

Take your joy or sorrow,
Your feelings—low or high,
Take whatever mood you're in
And bake it in a pie!

Roll the dough
When you're low
Bake a pie
And you'll get high.

A rolling pin
Can help you win
Respect from all
Your kith and kin.

PRAISES AND REQUESTS

- Pray for **Bill Beam** as he travels with the American Soybean Association board to Russia and Kazakhstan leaving on August 28 for about ten days.

- Thank God for young adults willing to study and prepare to be pastors like Andre Shenk, the grandson of **Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus**. Andre recently graduated from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Indiana with a MDiv (concentration in theological studies). Andre is a member of Community Mennonite Church, Lancaster (ACC sister congregation) and the son of Harvey and Lillian's daughter Juanita. See Andre's photo on page 4 in the *AMBS Window* inserted inside the August 2011 *The Mennonite*.

- Pray for the **Neighbors Caring & Sharing** women's ministry here at Conestoga will begin in September. Thank God for the leadership team of which **Tina Essick** is chair as they organize and oversee this time for women to gather every Tuesday morning.

- Thank God for **Conestoga's Sunday School teachers!** Pray for them as they study and share God's Word and related topics each Sunday!

- Thank God for answered prayer for **Wimpy and Sandy Bailey** who will be moving in September to 127 Frogtown Road, East Earl, Pa.



- 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**"! Above are the five ladies who created 83 dinners (four different meals) in August.

- Pray for the persons we served dinner to on Tuesday evening at the **Food Pantry**, and that they will be reminded that Jesus loves them!



A Note From Our Family Life Shepherd

I always feel *blessed* when a young child comes running to greet me at church on Sunday mornings! It's good to see this happening between various children and adults on a regular basis here in our congregation.

Conestoga Church is blessed with a growing number of young families with children. We treasure every one of these little ones, and want to encourage and support their parents in every way possible. As Family Life Shepherd, I'm hoping to visit each of our young families in the next several months. I'll want to hear from you about your parenting experience—what you enjoy as well as what you find challenging. In what ways can our faith community be supportive of your parenting and family life? The church is making available some parenting resources for me to share with you on this visit. You can expect a phone call from me to schedule the visit before I come.

Scripture says "Children are a gift from God." Their care and nurture is an awesome privilege, both for parents and our church community. Let's rejoice and give thanks for each one!

~ Dot Leatherman

Next Senior Connections

Thursday, September 8, 2011

"Fruitfulness and Moist Clay"

by Karen Horning

Director of Social Services at Garden Spot Village

Enjoy a home-cooked lunch followed by a discussion on bearing fruit and keeping our clay moist for the Master Potter as we age.



*On the way home from **Lake Tobias**, we had some amazing artists on the bus as animals seen at the Park were created out of heavy-duty tin foil! Here are some of the many different animals God has created!*





*The highlight of our visit to **Lake Tobias Wildlife Park** was riding this Safari Tour Bus for over an hour! The tame animals got almost too close to some of us! But then there were others who could not get close enough. See Kyle below holding a boa constrictor. Kyle is Bob and Jo Ebert's grandson.*



The yak and huge buffalo came right up next to our bus. We enjoyed feeding crackers to these and many other different animals. They really did not act that hungry—only greedy for more!



Left: Time to rest for a little—in the shade!



Right: Four generations of Petersheims enjoyed Conestoga's 2011 annual bus trip!