

CONESTOGA Connections



July 2010
Vol. XXI, No. 7

Louisiana • 2010



On Thursday night, our group hosted a block party for the homeowner's family, friends, neighbors, as well as the other groups who were with EFCA.

Meredith Graff spackling the ceiling.



Justin Pechart could be found inside the house mastering the art of sanding, spackling, and painting ceilings.



Many of the guys in the group worked hard outside in the sun putting on vinyl siding, soffit and fascia.



The block party group came from near and far. The homeowner, Alberta, [located in the front middle] was able to get transportation to attend the party. Her son Gary lived in the back yard [located in the front middle] and joined us as well. The other group that was helping out that week was from Ohio. And others who were family and friends from the neighborhood [not all pictured] joined in at the cookout.



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Spiritual Gifts

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. I Corinthians 12:12

A small group is using the book *Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow* to discover spiritual gift principles during our Sunday School elective over the summer months. It is a rich time of learning.

Participants will take an inventory revealing which three to four gifts (of the twenty five in the tool) God has given as their personal gift-mix. But author C. Peter Wagner also notes, "Just as God gives specific gift-mixes to various people, he may also give specific gift-mixes to various churches...." Wouldn't it be fun to know Conestoga's gift-mix?

Unfortunately, I know of no such tool. But I suspect we would be strongest in giving, helps, mercy, hospitality, and service. I suspect we would be less strong in prophesy, evangelism, miracles, discerning of spirits, and tongues, for example.



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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This is the monthly newsletter for Cones-toga Mennonite Church, Morgantown, Pa., published since 1988. Deadline for articles and photos is the 20th of the preceding month of publication.

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Wagner goes on to say, "Whatever the gift mix that God has chosen for you and your church, it is a mix adequate for growth if the dynamic is released by the power of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to the Lord of the harvest." The words "adequate for growth if released" stick with me. What might that further look like for us?

Several local medical doctors have expressed interest in doing pro-bono work to persons in our community unable to afford health care. They need a facility out of which to work. Conestoga's Pastoral Team and Council have been discerning whether God would have us host such a clinic one day a month.

In our recently approved Church Constitution, conditions are outlined in section 4.1 concerning what should influence your Pastoral Team in making such a decision. We have discerned that all conditions but one have been met.

Is God calling someone at Conestoga to coordinate a once-a-month medical clinic providing free health care here for the community?

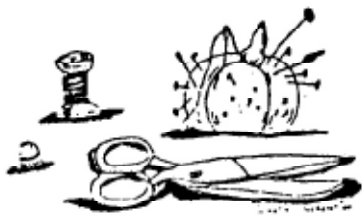
The yet unmet condition is for a qualified individual to give leadership. If you sense God's Spirit drawing you towards this expanded application of our mission to better live Christ's story to benefit others, let's talk!

Without an expression of interest by a person with potential to lead, we will conclude to pursue this opportunity no further. But the question remains: might someone have the spiritual gifts to pull off this exciting ministry adventure?

When we first discovered that the local Food Pantry needed a new home, none of us knew that God was already stirring Howard and Carol Moss to give leadership. What we knew was that if God was in it, God would call and confirm. And God has been faithful! Abundant spiritual gifts were revealed and released!!

On similar foundations, we again simply wait, pray, and trust God to reveal His will.

*Joyfully living Christ's story with you,
Pastor Bob*



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. There were 13 ladies present. Donated items included: 1 baby quilt and 20 kit bags. Finished items included: 47 baby blankets, 14 diapers, 1 baby gown, and 1 queen-size quilt for the Romanian Benefit Auction.

For devotions, we sang "The Name of Jesus is so Sweet." Phil. 2:5-11 was read followed by a devotional reading entitled "Name Above All Names."

The special offering amounted to \$61.00. We sang "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell

CPR

(Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)



Sign up today to take a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) class in our church fellowship hall on Saturday, August 7, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. A certified instructor will teach adult, child and infant CPR, as well as how to use an AED.

Sunday School teachers especially are encouraged to enroll in this class. If this class fills up, another one will be scheduled in the future. Participants will receive a certificate from the American Heart Association at the completion of the four-hour course. Cost is \$35 with the class size limited to twelve persons. Contact Bonnie Beam to register or for more information.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, is a combination of rescue breathing and chest compressions delivered to victims thought to be in cardiac arrest. When cardiac arrest occurs, the heart stops pumping blood. CPR can support a small amount of blood flow to the heart and brain to "buy time" until normal heart function is restored.



Conestoga's Children

It's obvious to a newcomer like me that Conestoga values children. There is a strong desire to nurture our children and their families. Many have also expressed a desire for more young families to become part of our fellowship.

In order to continue our growth in welcoming children, we are inviting donations of the following items:

For the library:

- DVDs of Christian music and drama for children.



These can be new or used, possibly ones your family has out-grown. DVDs can be dropped off at the library.

For the church nursery:

- child-size table with chairs or benches
- pad for on top of the diaper-changing station
- large floor puzzles (24-36 pieces)

For the baby nursery:

- platform rocker with arms, new or used in good condition
- small bookshelf for books and toys

Please contact Dot Leatherman (610-384-3678 or dotandy@yahoo.com) if you wish to donate any of the items for the church nursery or baby nursery. Thank you!

- Dot Leatherman

Are We Quiet Enough to Hear God Speaking?

Our recent Middle School Sunday School lesson from Numbers taught the lesson of Balaam and his donkey. We were reminded that Balaam needed a dramatic experience before he listened to the Lord who was speaking to him through an angel.

As an exercise in OUR listening skills, we were invited to have a time of silence. We went outdoors into the beautiful sunshine with the instructions of no talking when we left the building. We were instructed to write down everything we heard—categorized as man-made sounds or sounds of nature.

Six minutes later, we gathered to share our findings. Man-made sounds included church ventilation fans, cars, airplanes, car door closing, a pencil dropping, race cars, a motorcycle and a farm fan. Sounds of nature included birds, leaves blowing in the wind (on trees and on blacktop), a rooster and the sound of grass as we walk.

More significant than our list was the collective appreciation for the time spent in active listening! The students agreed that attentive listening was a joy they would like to repeat in other settings.

We do hear God's voice through scripture, music, nature and other people. We hope you spend some time intently listening!

*Middle School Sunday School Class
Josh, Mason, Mindy, Natalie and Thomas
with Sharon*



Photos at the June 25-27 Jr. Youth Retreat.

"Finding God in Nature" was the theme—even in spiders!



2010 Conestoga Softball Schedule

- Tuesday, July 6 - Conestoga plays Mt. Zion at West Nantmeal Park
- Monday, July 12 - Conestoga plays CEFC at West Nantmeal Park
- Tuesday, July 20 - Conestoga plays Grace Fellowship at West Nantmeal Park
- Saturday, August 14 - Season End Tournament

LOUISIANA SERVICE TRIP

continued
from
page 1

Once the guys who worked outside were finished putting up siding, soffit and fascia, they began cleaning up the pile of trash in the front yard.



Denise Beam and Rachel Kolb spackling walls and ceilings.



A well-needed lunchtime after a morning of hard work. [Pictured L-R: Dylan Beam, Bryce Petersheim, Jed Hess, and Justin Pechart]



Leah Egolf painting corners.



An advertisement that members of our group created and put out by the road for the block party.



We had the privilege of meeting our homeowner, Alberta, one evening after working all day. Her son, Gary, also joined us as we went to visit her.



Conestoga Will Celebrate 250th

- Conestoga's Anniversary Quilt is in the "making," and it has everyone's name on it! The photo at the bottom of this page shows ladies quilting this wall hanging that will be finished before our September 24-26, 2010, Celebration. Thank you, **Violet Beam**, for coordinating this quilt that will eventually hang in our fellowship hall.

- If you were married at Conestoga and still have your wedding dress (for the ladies), or if you have a mother's or grandmother's wedding dress worn in a wedding held at Conestoga, please see **Sharon Stoltzfus** who is planning an exhibit of these wedding dresses down through the years—of course, accompanied with photos!

- If you have a favorite song that you learned at a "Singing School" a few years back, share it with Krista Petersheim who will lead these songs during our anniversary! Oh, yes, we are suspecting that *The Message* will be requested!

- Special tours of the current ReUzit Shoppe will be given that weekend since the building used to be our church building.

- If you have scrapbooks of items and photos pertaining to persons who attended Conestoga since 1760 (smiles) when our congregation began, talk to either Ruth Stoltzfus or Lemar Mast who will be organizing an exhibit.

The **July Senior Connections** event is the bus trip on Thursday, July 8. Fifty-five persons (including about 20 children) will visit Uncle Henry's Pretzels, enjoy a picnic lunch, and experience a steam train ride on the Hawk Mountain Steam Train on a train chartered just for us!

The **August 12 Senior Connections** will feature a noon meal in charge of Jo Ebert and Ginny Bell followed by an informative discussion led by Marie Cutman. Her talk is titled "Oh, I Remember," and will include 75 or more items that were useful in the days before all of our modern conveniences:

- ~ plate lifter to an old cook stove
- ~ brass rings that circled the stove pipes where they went into the chimney
- ~ iron you heated on the cook stove
- ~ large old keys
- ~ short piece of carpeting, tack hammer, and tack puller
- ~ ink well and fountain pen
- ~ button shoes and button hooks
- ~ Model A tire-pressure gauge
- ~ Model T tire iron
- ~ large hock used to open and latch tobacco shed louvers
- ~ roller towel, plumb line, pill boxes
- ~ items given out by businesses as "premiums" with the business name and a message: folder of needles from Elverson Bank, fly swatters, rulers, etc.

You won't want to miss this *fun* time of reminiscing—bring a friend along, and then conclude with a game of shuffleboard.



Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

On Sunday, June 27, sixty-one persons who attended Conestoga's morning worship service enjoyed lunch at one of the following five hosts' homes: Bob and Jo Ebert, Lemar and Lois Ann Mast, Pastor Bob and Cindy Petersheim, Ruth Stoltzfus, and Kathleen Weaver.

Guests received their sealed envelope after church telling them where to go for lunch. As we each gathered in the hosts' homes with one host welcoming 20 persons (Pastor Bob and Cindy), it was "fun" to see the dishes that were brought to share for dinner: scrumptious salads, gorgeous desserts, and homemade breads, and much more!

The expectation and anticipation was high as people excitedly opened their envelopes and discovered that their "guess" as to where they were going was usually wrong! Oh, it was *fun* to see the reactions!

Pastor Bob wrote afterwards, "We had a delightful time of fellowship with a nice diversity of ages. The food our guests brought was excellent. They contributed stories with generosity and creativity. There was good laughter. The group was enriched by participants who have been part of Conestoga all their lives and persons who were guests at church that morning. We are grateful to Lois Ann for organizing this time of fellowship and look forward to future annual events."

Kathleen Weaver, another host, wrote, "We had a wonderful time. My mother enjoyed seeing people that she had not seen for a long time. Each guest said over and over they appreciated spending time here. It was really neat to have people that have never been to my house before. I don't know how you could improve on a good thing."

Stories flowed at every home. Ruth Stauffer shared about her childhood experiences at the Yellow School on Best Road. She shared that at age three, she wanted to go to school and walked all the way to the Red School and stood in the middle of Route 23 in front of the school. Their home was located between the two schools. Ruth was asked why they chose to attend the Yellow School, and she responded: "Most children at the Red School were Amish, and more families from Conestoga attended the Yellow School." Ruth also shared about her longest trip which was traveling across the United States with Julia and her family.

In organizing this event, I thought it would be fun to "surprise" some of the hosts and invite guests from outside our congregation. This was *rewarding* for me and proved again that I can keep a secret! What fun to see the reactions as they walked in that Sunday morning!

I will admit that it was disappointing that we chose a Sunday when there were three major family reunions involving a number of our regular Conestoga attendees, so we will try harder the next time to choose a date that more of you can join in this "blessed" experience!!

THANK YOU again, everyone, for sharing of yourself in "blessing" each other! Personally, I can't wait to start planning another one!

- Lois Ann Mast for the Activities Committee

*"The unthankful heart
discovers no mercies:
but let the thankful heart sweep
through the day and,
as the magnet finds the iron,
so it will find, in every hour,
some heavenly blessings!"*
- Henry Ward Beecher

"Thankful For"

by Jon Essick

i thank God for my job
for it provides my needs

i thank God for my co-workers
for they all support me

i thank God for the rain
for it gives me water

i thank God for the sun
but don't make it hotter

i thank God for the storm
and his power displayed in it

i thank God for my car
and the tree that just missed it

i thank God for my friends
with whom great memories are born

i thank God for my family
with whom my love is never torn

but not last of all
i thank God for Himself

and for saving us all
and even myself.

[Jon wrote this poem to share when he served as worship leader on June 27.]



Lemar Mast sharing the devotional at the final Church Council session on June 15, 2010. He lit an ancient lamp purchased in Jerusalem that dates back to before Christ was born. Carol Braglio, our new church administrator is pictured on the right as she was taking minutes of the meeting. A commissioning of our new Ministry Council will take place some Sunday morning this summer.

Conestoga's Summer Picnic

Sunday, July 25, at Pastor Bob and Cindy's pond



A Photo From Our Past . . .

Members of a Ladies' Sunday School class here at Conestoga in the 1990s after they enjoyed breakfast together at Yoders. Can someone help us assign a date to this photo? See Lemar Mast with your suggestion. Thank you!