

CONESTOGA Connections



October 2010
Vol. XXI, No. 10



Senior Connections met on September 9 for a luncheon plus sharing on "Healthy Approaches to Aging."



A "must" at our 250th Anniversary was taking pictures ESPECIALLY during the singing school! What fun!



Conestoga in September 2010



What a delight to "connect" with friends and enjoy stories together at our Anniversary!



What will Mark think of this photo 50 years from now when Conestoga celebrates its' 300th Anniversary?



Mindy Beam praising God with her flute on a recent Sunday morning!



Cameron Johnson, Anthony Weber, and Rosene Weber, enjoyed beginning a new Sunday School class in September!



The PASTORS CONNECTION

Jumping on the Bed

Then because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"... But many... ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them. Mark 6:31-34

One of the books I enjoy reading to our grandchildren is the story of a bunch of monkeys who create chaos with their energetic activity. The line that ends each page and rings in my head is "The Doctor said: `No more monkeys jumping on the bed!'"

As I write, we have accomplished a rich and rewarding 250th celebration! Some of the one hundred (plus) guests who were present were neighbors simply fascinated by the reality that we have been a worshipping community longer than America has been a nation. Many of the guests were persons who grew up in this congregation who scattered elsewhere to live, work, and worship, and returned to reconnect. Their presence with us gave the weekend the feel of a family reunion!

One of the many highlights was the messages by John D. Roth. I heard choruses of affirmation for his clear



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

2779 Main Street
Morgantown, PA 19543
(610) 286-9124
www.conestogamc.org

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.

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

biblical teaching that achieved dynamic representation of God at work. I also heard numerous comments that his presentations strengthened appreciation for our Mennonite colleges. These acknowledgements warmed my spirit. In the 1980s, I experienced deep integrity in the professors I had the privilege of sitting under during my three year M. Div. work at Goshen Biblical Seminary. No individual or institution is perfect; every generation has its challenges; but I found our scholars to be ones who "correctly handle the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). It was truly a blessing to have the congregation I love testify to that same experience this weekend.

Any such event takes immense work. We would be remiss if we failed to express deep gratitude to the many persons who contributed. Noteworthy is the work of Becky Yoder and Tina Essick and their team in the kitchen. We applaud the planning team of Lemar and Lois Ann Mast, Paul Kurtz, and Ruth Stoltzfus! Their tireless creative energy and immense leadership sacrifice granted the rest of us places to contribute. Thank you to one and all!!

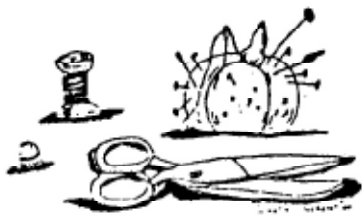
Together you were gracious hosts. Together we were enriched by story and song and scripture and laughter and tears. Through it all we were reminded that history has best impact when it is His story impacting our story.

It is also true that many of us were tired during and after the weekend. And I suspect I'm not the only one who is at greater risk of being grumpy with tired. Introverts need quiet space away from the crowd. Introverts will want to hear: "Our leaders are clear: `No more big events yet this year.'"

The challenge, of course, is similar to what Jesus encountered when headed with his disciples towards a quiet retreat: the needs got there ahead of him and engaged his heart of compassion. So Monday morning, Re-uzit staff and volunteers were back at their stations. The Masts and Ruth were here putting documents away and returning our facilities to their usual order. On Tuesday, Neighbors met and our doors opened for another food pantry distribution.

In the text above, Jesus' heart remained open to compassion; even as he aimed for balance by seeking rest. I pray we will do the same. We are created after-all as human "beings" not human "doings." But we are also commissioned to be "doing" the works of the kingdom. So alongside some jumping on the bed; find time to rest on it as well; lest we hear, "The Doctor said 'No more monkeys jumping on the bed!'"

Joyfully living Christ's story with you, Pastor Bob



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, September 1, 2010. There were 16 ladies present. Thirty-five kit bags were donated.

Completed items that day included 88 diapers, 3 baby gowns, 2 baby blankets, 2 comforters, 4 school kits, and 6 health kits.

For devotions, we sang "It is Well With My Soul." The Scripture reading was taken from I Thessalonians 5: 12-18, after which a devotional entitled "Thanks for Fleas" was read.

Our special offering amounted to \$73.00. We sang "I Know Whom I Have Believed" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell

ACC News . . .

This year's **ACC Mennonite Women annual dinner** will meet on Friday, October 22, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pa. Marlene Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Weaver will speak on "Later Life Transitions." Our own **Heidi Stoltzfus** is President of this organization and is looking for seven other ladies from Conestoga to fill a table with her. Reservations are due by October 15 to Ruth Ann Martin, 336 Sun Valley Drive, Leola, PA 17540. Cost is \$15.00 per person with checks payable to ACC Mennonite Women.

The theme for the **2010 ACC Fall Assembly Celebration** is titled "Celebrating the Edge" and will be held October 23 at Forest Hills Mennonite. Young adults from across ACC, including Conestoga's **Carrie Stoltzfus**, will form a panel to discuss their perspective on key questions facing ACC and the broader church. For more information and registration, check: atlanticcoastconference.net

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 for this time of fellowship!*

— October 5 —

Basic Skills to Teach Your Children Before They Leave Home

led by Sharon Charles

— October 12 —

Boundaries With Kids, Part I

led by Dot Leatherman

— October 19 —

Boundaries With Kids, Part II

led by Dot Leatherman

— October 26 —

A Step Outside My Box—Learning to Grow in Our Faith by Taking Steps Out of Our Comfort Zone

led by Debbie Hollinger

Neighbors is a mission of Conestoga Mennonite Church designed to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of the women in our community. Worship, fellowship, and a variety of inspirational topics are offered. Invite your neighbors and friends.

Upcoming Activities . . .

Friday, Oct. 22 - ACC Mennonite Women Annual Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 23 - ACC Fall Assembly at Forest Hills

Sunday, Oct. 24 - Fellowship Dinner in honor of Pastor Emeritus
Harvey Z. Stoltzfus

Tuesday, Oct. 26 - Food Pantry

Friday, Oct. 29 - Twin Valley Medical Clinic

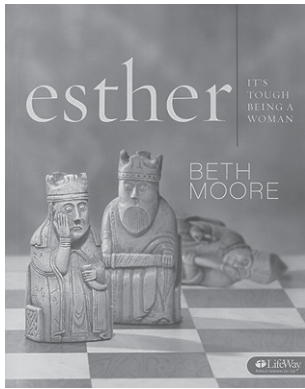
Monday, Nov. 8 - ACC Vision Dinner at Shady Maple

Friday, Nov. 26 - MYF Dinner and Auction

Sunday, Nov. 28 - Amish Turkey Fellowship Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 19 - Conestoga Christmas Caroling at the Church

Sunday, Dec. 26 - Christmas Brunch



Conestoga Ladies Study “Esther”

Conestoga ladies are studying a new Bible Study this fall titled *Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman*.

For centuries, Esther has been a byword for feminine beauty and wisdom, but we already have been reminded in this book study that Esther came to Persia as a terrified Jewish orphan to be raised by her cousin. And then she unexpectedly discovers that the only way to survive is to win the heart of the king. This true Bible story is passionate and suspenseful as it illuminates the dilemma of a woman torn between her heart and her sense of duty.

I personally admire how Esther “chose” to be strong instead of feeling crushed! We have these “choices” in our life as well!

It is probably good that Esther had no idea that the fate of a nation would hang upon her courage. What comes into our path today that we think might be a huge challenge, but it ends up effecting our life forever?

God worked through Esther’s doubts, fears, struggles, and even identity crises to cause her to become a heroine of faith! Is it possible that God wants to work through my doubts and fears and struggles in order to rise to the task God calls me to?

Beth Moore has already challenged us with a number of insights and we are only in the second section! Let me share some with you:

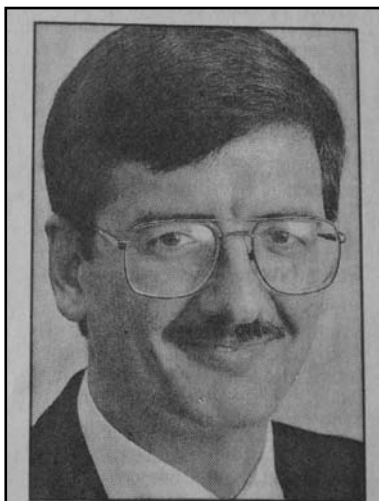
- Coincidences are miracles in which God prefers to remain anonymous.
- The book of Esther neither mentions the name of God nor gives us explanations on how we might live the Christian life.
- The events in the book of Esther falls between chapters 6-7 of the book of Ezra.
- King Xerxes ruled over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia!

- When we trust our lives to the unseen but ever-present God, He will write our lives into *His story* and every last one of them will turn out to be a great read!
- Scripture answers some questions outright and leaves others hanging in the air.
- Humor is a good way we can cope with tough situations.
- We have a sovereign God who reigns over all and is threatened by none.
- The conflicts in Esther are those caught in the crossfire between wisdom and foolishness, modesty and licentiousness, bravery and cowardice, waiting and acting, living and dying.
- God has a destiny for each one of us.
- God cannot amputate our history from us! We cannot become the person God wants us to become without our history.
- God is attracted to weakness. When we are weak, we are so much more open to God working in us.
- God often makes the story line flow uninterrupted—even by interjections of moral judgements.
- Even those most serious about their pursuit of God and godliness fail to be perfect examples all the time.
- The study of Esther will pick the scabs off some of the wounds our culture has inflicted on us. God will use it to clean those wounds so they can heal.
- If girls today work a tight rope, Esther and the other girls her time walked a tight thread.
- The Israelites, for all practical purposes, had lost their distinctiveness.
- Esther was flawed just as we are. She was not the ultimate woman, but she did possess a rare ability of discussion.

Did You Know . . .

. . . that **Bob Horning** installed a wonderful contribution to our church lobby this past week? Check out the bulletin board with a new shelf (pictured on right) that makes it easier for sign-up sheets. Great work, Bob!!

. . . that **Josh, Joy, and Denise Beam** were recently members of a Chester County 4-H Livestock Judging Team at Penn State? Josh was on a Jr. Team and Joy and Denise were on a Senior Team. Joy and Denise won first place out of about ten teams from across the state. Denise also won first place as an individual judge. The win grants them the honor of traveling to the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 16. Well done!!!



TODAY'S PREACHER
Rev. Robert L. Petersheim

The Rev. Robert L. Petersheim, lead pastor of Ridgeview Mennonite Church, 3723 Ridge Road, which is the north side of Route 340, Gordonville, preached this sermon there preached Sunday. He grew up in Lancaster County, attended Messiah College, and earned the ministry graduate degree at Goshen Biblical Seminary.

Prior to this pastorage, beginning 1985, he served in youth work at the Neffsville Mennonite Church and four years as Atlantic Coast Conference youth pastor in a team ministry with his wife.

He and Cindy Hess Petersheim and their two daughters live at Leola.

. . . in one of the 40+ scrapbooks on display at our 250th Anniversary, someone discovered the newspaper clipping (pictured on the left) dated July 25, 1994? Sure is good to have you here at Conestoga, **Pastor Bob!**

. . . over 21 wedding dresses were on display at our 250th Anniversary? Even **Dave Yoder** and **Allen Weaver** enjoyed looking at the pictures! **Thank you, Sharon Stoltzfus** for the spectacular job you did in coordinating and setting up this remarkable display that really added to our weekend activities!

. . . **John Roth** shared four "H's" from the Sermon on the Mount:

1) *Hospitality*—Jesus expects us to be rooted in hospitality and welcoming

2) *Honesty*—Jesus expects us to be committed to honesty; name things for what they are; speak the truth even when it is risky;

and to speak in love at all times.

3) *Healing*—Jesus expects us to assist in the healing of the broken, the hurting, the diseased, . . .

4) *Humility*—Jesus expects us to live a life of humility; meekness; lowly of heart; not timid or display low self-esteem but boldly assert that we are made in God's image.





Senior Connections at Conestoga

The **October 14 Senior Connections** will feature a luncheon and a tour of behind-the-scenes at Weaver's Orchard. Our own Allen Weaver will serve as the tour leader to see how Weaver's cider is produced! Of course, a sample of the cider PLUS an apple right off the tree in their orchard is ours to enjoy! Invite your friends and neighbors and enjoy this time of fellowship and cider-tasting!



Library News . . .

The following new books were recently added to Conestoga's Church Library just in time for Fall. Yes, why not "fall" into a good book as the leaves start falling down! Check out one of these new books or DVDs and find yourself in another land:

Boundaries With Kids
Love is A Verb
The Power of a Praying Parent
God is Closer Than You Think
Without a Word

Secret Believers
A Persistent Peace
Choosing to See
Do Something

Biographies

Rescued
Same Kind of Different As Me

I Will Carry You

Fiction

A Dream to Follow
My Heart Remembers

Shiloh Autumn

Junior Books

The Sign of the Beaver
Lizzie and the Redcoat

Blue Dog

DVDs For Young Children

Fun Lessons to Learn
Silly Little Thing Called Love
Pistachio, The Boy Who Wouldn't

Sunday School Songs

Food Pantry Update . . .



Another successful Food Pantry distribution took place on Tuesday evening, September 28, under the direction of Howard and Carol Moss and their many helpers! On the right, you can see Jo and Amy ready to distribute the organic vegetables from Mt. Pleasant Organics at Honey Brook and Hartz Natural Food at Morgantown (solicited by Beta Starchild). Above, Harvey and other volunteers prepare plastic bags to bag the food.

Conestoga Celebrates 250th

“What a great weekend experience! Truly we have a ‘Godly Heritage.’ God bless you all!”
- Sanford Stauffer, N.Y.

“Very enjoyable time meeting people from the past. We marvel at the outreach of this congregation over the years in spreading God’s love and the good news of Jesus to the world. May this congregation be found faithful when Jesus returns.”
- Richard Glick, Vermont

“It was great to share a weekend with this congregation. I learned so much about my ancestors. I attended here, birth to 1965.”
- Dale Snader, Vermont

“It was special for me to be part of Conestoga’s celebration, and to re-connect with so many people who have been formational in my life. I am hopeful in many ways for Conestoga as together you move forward after so much time of challenge.”
- Bev Kreider, Mt. Joy, Pa.



*Four
Generations
Celebrate
Conestoga's 250th*

