Conestoga
Connections

July 2011
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A Cup of Tea for the Ladies at Conestoga

Ladies' Tea & Fashion Show was a smashing success as we enjoyed a delicious lunch and inspiring presentation by Jane Hirneisen titled "Fill My Cup Lord!" She challenged us to heal our cracked cups of negativity, fear, worry, resentment, or anger. Savor God's Word with a sip of quietness in our busy life! Dump the bitter brew down the drain and instead fill our cups with love, acceptance, affirmation, and encourgement. When the Lord fills our cup, He fills it to be used—to share with others with the gifts that He has "blessed" us with!

The **Fashion Show** revealed some hidden talent in our midst as five ladies modeled clothes purchased at next door's ReUzit Shoppe. Yes, some of us went over to the Shoppe following the Tea! Thanks, Lisa Miller for chairing this Tea with Tina Essick announcing each model: Liz Petersheim, Kristy Petersheim, Linda Mast, Leigh Ann Mast, and Madison Martinez.

The Pastors Connection

Strengthening Prayer Ministry

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in your heart
that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved (SOZO). Rom. 10:9

"If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed (SOZO).
Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart daughter," he said,
"your faith has healed (SOZO) you." Mt. 9:21

Those who had seen it told the people how the
demon possessed man had been cured (SOZO.) Lk. 8:36

During our annual Oversight Team review this past March, our Pastoral Team discerned priorities for this next year. One we sensed God confirming was to strengthen our prayer ministry. Our actions to fulfill this goal have included:

- Protecting space in our Pastoral Team meetings to pray for our members, our life together, and our mission and ministry needs

- Beginning an 8:30-9 weekly Sunday morning "Prayer Connection" held in the room between our sanctuary and fellowship hall. You are welcome to join us!

- Adding a "HiStory Prayer" so I can give voice as your Pastor to appropriate praise and prayer items in our worship

- Identifying a Pastoral Team couple offering prayer and/or anointing following worship. We have been blessed with consistent response.

The above items have been fruitful! We also sense a need for deeper effectiveness. In January we discovered that Janet Richards has trained others in SOZO prayer tools. SOZO is the Greek word translated "saved" "healed" and "delivered" in our English versions of the NT; as noted above.

Over my life time, there have been numerous times where I recognized something was hindering connection with God and growth in ministry. I praise God He has given me the courage to take advantage of the tools God has been gifting to the Body of Christ to experience breakthroughs into deeper maturity.

Other than scripture, no tool is fully inspired. Any tool has potential to be misused. But the tools God gives each generation also have great potential to strengthen mission and ministry.

I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider this training workshop scheduled Friday evening and Saturday, July 29-30. Required registration forms are on our lobby shelf. Several local churches have also been invited. My personal goal is to have 24 persons participate. Might you be one of the 24? If registration cost is a factor, please speak with any member of our Pastoral Team so we can provide assistance. We want all persons whom God confirms to be able to participate!

Living HisStory with you,
Pastor Bob

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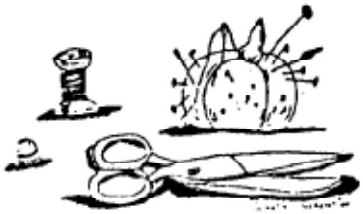


Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on June 1, 2011. There were 15 ladies present. Completed items were 3 comforters, 40 diapers, 6 baby kimonas, 11 baby blankets, and 15 health kits. There were 16 kit bags donated. A quilt was given to Mike and Liz Petersheim who lost their two quilts in a fire which consumed their vehicle.

For devotions, we sang "Saved By Grace." The Scripture reading was John 16:17-24 followed by a devotional entitled "Deadly Sins."

The special offering amounted to $62.00. We sang "More Like The Master" before adjourning.

- Julia Yoder, Acting Secretary

Seats are still available for the Bus Trip to Tobias Wildlife Park on August 5

(for all ages)

ADVENTURE AT ITS WILDEST!

$25.00 (hot dog, fries, drink, ice cream)
$30.00 (buffalo burger, fries, drink, ice cream)

children, age 12 and under are $10 less
(must be accompanied by an adult)

Sign up in the church lobby to enjoy Conestoga's annual summer bus trip—this time to TOBIAS WILDLIFE PARK on August 5. This year, we are traveling to central Pennsylvania to enjoy a safari ride through the open fields. We will see a variety of wild animals (buffalo, elk, emu, fallow deer, llama, Scottish Highland cattle, yak, whitetail deer, and Zedonk). A petting zoo and a Reptile building including tropical birds will also be a delight. All ages will enjoy this time outside in God's nature.

Conestoga's Summer 2011 Bible School

Invite your neighbor children to attend Bible School from July 18-22. An adult class will also be offered titled "Embracing Life from God's Point of View." Guest teachers will include Rich Deeds and Rusty and Janet Richards.

Before enjoying the evening concert in our church sanctuary featuring SET FREE, invite your friends to join you as we all eat a delicious meal! This is a good time to invite friends who do not usually attend church!

There are cards in the lobby to distribute to your friends and neighbors, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and anyone else. Thank you for your prayer support as well.

- Kathleen Weaver and Susan Johnson
Bible School Leaders

THE TV IS MY SHEPHERD

The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want.
It makes me to sit down and do nothing for His name's sake,
Because it requires all my spare time.
It restores my knowledge of the things of this world.
It keeps me from the study of God's Word.
Its' sounds and picture, they comfort me.
Even though I live to age 100, I shall keep on viewing.
As long as it works, surely no good thing will come of my life.

- Shared in a Sunday School class and reprinted here at their request; author is unknown. May God empower us to keep Jesus as our Shepherd in 24/7 life.

Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

August 3 — Slip and Slide Fun organized by the Young Adults. Beginning time is 6:30 p.m.—get ready for some FUN!

Summer Bible School at Conestoga on July 18-22 from 6:45-8:45 pm each evening. The theme is "Taste & See, God is Good." The closing program will be on Saturday evening from 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. with a Community Meal prior between 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The evening will be wrapped up with a concert by "Set Free" at 7:30 pm. [Anyone who attends Bible School four of the five evenings and the closing program will receive tickets to any home game of the Reading Phillies.]

Spiritual Life Weekend in the mountains on August 12-14. Watch for more details coming later.

Annual Swim Party (before the pools close) sometime in September. This will be the time to say good-bye to those members aging out of Jr. Youth and welcoming new members.

- Nelson & Marilyn Beam, Jr. Youth advisors

JR. YOUTH COOKOUT SUPPER & MINI FIELD DAY

hosted by Andy & Dot Leatherman

Left: Thomas and his cousin Tyler stacking matches on the top of a bottle—one of the 15 activities each person recorded on their score card!

Right top: Josh balancing a yard stick on one finger.

Right: Luke and Josh stacking matches on the top of a bottle.

Marilyn Beam trying to ring a chair leg.

Natalie and Mindy timing Nelson's ping pong dribbling.

Praying for the thirteen persons who went on the mission trip to Kingcome Inlet in British Columbia.

Preparing for the mission fundraiser meal—thanks to everyone who supported us by eating the meal and sharing money towards this mission trip.

Remaining Conestoga Mennonite Softball Games

Coach Mike Petersheim welcomes the congregation to attend softball games. All games begin at 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 5 - Conestoga vs. Forest Hills @ West Nantmeal

Monday, July 11 - CFC1 vs. Conestoga @ Christian Fellowship

Monday, July 18 - Bethany vs. Conestoga @ New Holland East

Saturday, August 6 - Playoffs

Becky Yoder, Official Refreshment Caregiver!

MYF Activities

June 30-July 11- Mission Trip. Group will report on Sunday morning, July 17.

July - Plans are in the works for a get-together with Blainsport Youth. Details later.

July 18-22 - Summer Bible School 6:45 to 8:45pm. See where you can volunteer!

July 23 - Community Meal, Bible School program, and "Set Free" Concert starting at 7s:30 p.m.

Friday, July 29 - Set aside a time to explore St. Peter's Village and a campfire to follow. Meet at Lyle & Tina's at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, August 3 - Slip & Slide at the church at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 4 - Reading Phillies in Action. Sign-up in the Youth Room for your $8 ticket. Meet to car pool to game from the church at 6:00 pm. Twenty tickets are available. Invite your friends. Fireworks too! Bring money for snacks or souvenirs.

Saturday, August 20 - Youth Shore Trip to Long Beach State Park, N.J. Meet at the church at 6:00 am. Bring a packed lunch, snacks, water, drink, beach toys, chair, umbrella. Money for supper. See signup sheet later.

Above: Dot Leatherman ready to assist the Food Pantry recipients. Right top: Howard Moss sharing with a volunteer with Natalie Stoltzfus in the background.

Above: Krista Petersheim arranging the shelves. Left bottom: Carol Moss and Gary Stoltzfus helping Mitchell to line up boxed milk.

Praises and Requests

• Thank God for sending persons to the **Food Pantry** and all the helpers . . . especially those who contributed the delicious food for the evening meal! It truly was a blessing!

• Pray for a **new ministry** that began at the Food Pantry in June—a prayer ministry as a way to minister to the spiritual needs of the community in addition to supplying a need for food. Pastor Bob has asked **Wes & Lois Boyer** to develop this. If you would like to volunteer to mingle with the people, talk to them, listen to their stories, and pray with them as the Spirit gives opportunity, please contact Wes and Lois Boyer at 717-875-9489 (Wes) or 717-875-9467 (Lois) or e-mail: lwboyer@gmail.com.

• Praise God for "*love*" . . . and this gift that He has given to **Kristy Petersheim** and **Austin Unruh** as they have announced their engagement! Join them in praying that they will discern His leading for their life together as they anticipate a Summer 2012 wedding.

• Thank God for the Team (**Bob Horning, Greg Petersheim, Becky Yoder, Doug & Bonnie Beam, Austin Unruh, Kristy Petersheim, Dylan Beam, Denise Beam, Joy Beam, Bryce Petersheim, Sonya Petersheim,** and **Wendell Baer**) who are giving ten days this summer to "serve" at Kingcome Inlet, British Columbia, under the direction of Mennonite Disaster Service. Pray for opportunities to share God's love!

• Pray for **Carrie Stoltzfus** as she is taking three different classes over the summer months towards her Masters degree; and pray especially that a job will open for her this fall! As we all know, too many school districts are cutting staff, and Carrie was one who got laid off—let's pray that God's will be done whether she gets called back or another opportunity opens!

• Thank God for the **three interpreters** that He has sent our way to do sign language during our morning worship services! Welcome to **Beth Hillman**, **Beth Setley**, and **Marsha** who will be worshipping with us! Pray for God's leading and direction as we discern whether this ministry continues—contingent on available funds. Contributions may be given through the offering envelopes designated for "Deaf Interpretation."

• Thank God for the safety that he provided **Jon Essick** and his friends on their cross-country bicycle adventure! It is good to have you back again, Jon!

• Pray for **good health** for the growing number of persons in our community who no longer have health insurance coverage.

• Thank God for **Nikki Rineer**, President of Hope Within Community Health Center, and **Beth Good**, Executive Director of Hope Within, from a free medical clinic near Elizabethtown, Pa., who are considering Conestoga Mennonite as a satellite to offer free medical assistance. Pray for the group of persons who will be meeting with Nikki and Beth on Thursday morning, July 14, to discern God's will for this "need" here in the Tri-County area.

• Thank God for the contacts we will make in **Summer Bible School** this summer and the long-lasting influences that these contacts will have on children's minds! Pray for the teachers and leaders as they prepare!

Above: Wes and Lois Boyer shared a memorable presentation on their mission service in Kenya, Africa, at the June Senior Connections.

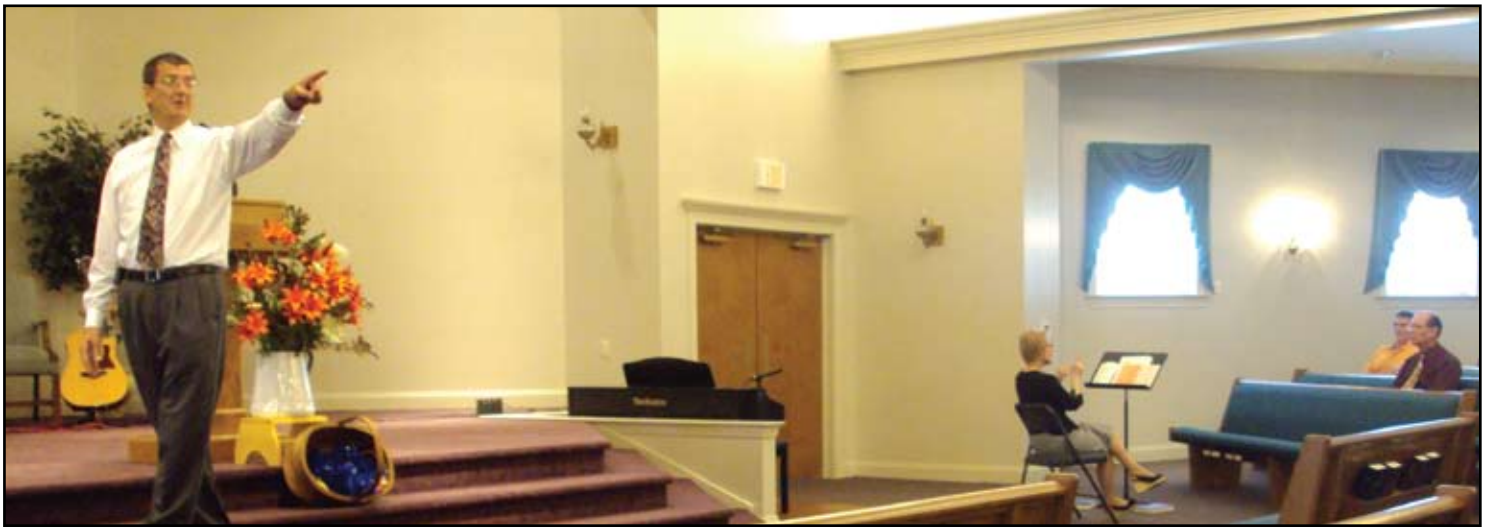
Next Sr. Connections

Lunch at noon followed by Austin Unruh giving his testimony and Dr. J. Calvin Wenger sharing on "The Plain People of Lancaster County" on July 14, 2011. Invite your friends!

Conestoga Member at Work

Kristy Petersheim *(right) dips ice cream at the Mill General Store for two very special customers (left to right): Duane Unruh from Belgium and Austin Unruh (Conestoga's summer pastor intern and Kristy's fiancé). Austin's father, Duane, visited our area lately enroute to his parents' 50th wedding anniversary celebration. Kristy also does typing at Masthof Press and bookwork for Petersheim Plumbing.*

Left: Ruth Stoltzfus recently attended her grandson's graduation from Temple University. Adam received a "Doctorate in Medicine." Pictured is Alex Lake, Dr. Adam Lake, and Ruth Stoltzfus. Alex and Adam are sons of Ruths' daughter Lorna. Congratulations!



Pastor Bob demonstrating a point in a Sunday morning service. On the right, Beth is doing sign language.

Rachel Kolb and Mindy Beam sharing after our morning worship service (left) with Pastor Bob and Denise Beam in the background and Bill Beam in the far background. Right: Wes Boyer and Pegge Tennant share with Howard Sr. and Barbara Moss (center).

Fundraiser dinner to help the Youth Mission Trip to British Columbia.

Right: Violet Beam and Tina Essick sign-up on the bulletin board for Summer Bible School.