

# CONESTOGA Connections



June 2011  
Vol. XXII, No. 6

## Communion Sunday—May 22, 2011



*Grandpa Gary Stoltzfus sharing his granddaughter with Tina.*

*Above: Josh Beam playing piano for the offertory on communion Sunday—  
It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High. Psalm 92:1*

*Right: Zach Johnson assisting with communion clean-up. Yes, that home-made bread is delicious!*



*Jr. Youth Sunday School class and Teacher Sharon Stoltzfus asking questions of Pastor Bob during Sunday School on Communion Sunday.*



# The PASTORS CONNECTION

## “I am Grateful”

This month, I decided to simply outline my day for *Conestoga Connections*.

Tuesday began with my usual devotions and coffee. After stretching I drove to Sheetz for a paper and to Penn Wood for a power walk. Back home, I checked on the signets hatched to our swan. I marvel. If I get too close, they put their lives on the line to protect their young. I recall recently counseling a community youth and grieving how many children lack similar priority. I am grateful to be part of a church with generations of sacrifice to equip parents and protect children.

Austin Unruh and I spent the morning visiting. The first stop was a Food Pantry recipient. The husband said they are believers but inactive. Grandchildren now in their care have them rethinking need for a church family “to shape moral values.” Might an old tattooed hippy be welcome he wondered. I am grateful I could assure him they would find welcome here.

Our next stop was Chester County Hospital to visit Pat Mastrangelo. Pat is relieved that tests reveal his chest

pain was not heart-related but an upper respiratory issue. I invited Austin to lead in prayer and was grateful to hear our intern pray with depth of compassion and clear connection to God.

On the way back, we visited with Ruth Beam. Ruth testified of faith even in the face of uncertainties of readiness to leave Tel Hai. Riding together with Austin was opportunity to share my life story and respond to Austin’s inquiries. Later in the day, I met with Omar. I am grateful to be part of a church where the older generation models aging with grace.

My phone rang. It was a young pastor that ACC asked me to mentor, needing to reschedule his monthly appointment. Before he got off the phone, he shared several answers to prayer. I am grateful God intervenes to meet needs as we pray.

When I got into the office, I heard an update on the sign upgrade gift challenge. Although church leaders in the scripture regularly address financial matters and serve as fundraising organizers, I am grateful I can focus my primary attention elsewhere as our Treasurer and Finance Committee take the primary lead in overseeing this congregation’s legacy of faithful giving.

In the middle of writing this connection, a member stopped by to request help in mediating tension. He outlined the dynamics and we reviewed options that might contribute to deeper understandings. I am grateful God equips his body with tools to work towards harmony and peace.

After dinner Cindy and I enjoyed watching our ball team. Although winning isn’t everything, I celebrate their numerous victories. Mostly I’m grateful they model grace whether losing or winning.

After the game, I met with a Dan and Rachel for pre-marital counseling. I am grateful God is bringing delightful young people to us building a base for Conestoga’s next generation of faith.

Each day is a gift from God. I am grateful God has called me to serve as your pastor and grateful for the rich variety each day provides.

*Joyfully living HisStory with you,  
Pastor Bob*



### CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

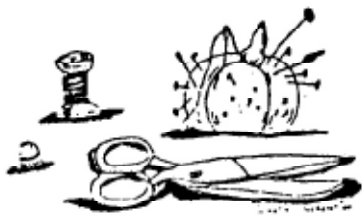
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This is the monthly newsletter for Conestoga Mennonite Church, Morgantown, Pa., published since 1988. Deadline for articles and photos is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month of publication.

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Reporters: Bonnie Beam and Sharon Stoltzfus



## Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on May 4, 2011. There were 12 ladies present. Completed items included 34 diapers, 18 health kits, 1 comforter, and 1 quilt. Thirteen bars of soap and 1 comforter were donated.

For devotions, we sang "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." The scripture reading was John 20:1-8 followed by a devotional entitled "Dead or Alive."

Our special offering amounted to \$75.00. We sang "The Way of the Cross Leads Home" before adjourning.

- Julia Yoder

Acting Secretary

# 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!*

— June 14 —

## Barb Zimmerman's Farm

*Meet at Barb Zimmerman's farm at 10:00 a.m.  
before going to Poole Forge for lunch.*

**Any questions, contact Tina Essick at  
boss955@hotmail.com or call 610-864-7714.**

## A New Ladies' Bible Study

A new Ladies' Bible Study will begin in June celebrating the life of Sarah in the Old Testament. It will meet at the church on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Sarah was a woman of faith whose insecurities sometimes got the better of her—her story is certainly not one of perfection. And neither will ours be. But, Sarah's legacy is of her journey to take God at His word and of growing into the name that He had given her—His Princess. We cannot hide behind our femininity or our husband, and assume we do not have a place in God's plan. Like Sarah, we too need to grow into our destiny.

Quote from Lesson 1: "Facing Life's Uncertainties, A Study of Sarah by Janet Kobobel Grant": Sarai (barren one) clipped the words in her mind to the rhythm of the camels feet. Her world seemed consumed by those pesky elements. For days she and her husband, Abram, and his nephew Lot, with all their belongings, had traveled through the desert. They were on the move—again. This time they planned to settle in Egypt until the famine ended. Settle wasn't exactly the right word. They never seemed to settle anywhere. Four moves, one of them spanning more than 750 miles, had marked the progression of the years since her marriage. Little else changed! Sarai tried to console herself with at least having devotion and beauty, even if she didn't have children. But last night, as the desert breezes whisked sand around their camp, she regretted them both—and wondered about God's faithfulness. - Carol Moss, Bible Study Leader



## Conestoga's Summer 2011 Bible School

"Taste and See—God is Good" is the theme of Conestoga's Bible School this summer. All

children from ages 5 through grade 8 will participate in three different stations each evening in addition to a worship time and snack time:

- 1) Bible Lesson—Lisa Miller and Sharon Stoltzfus
- 2) Activity—Kristy Petersheim and Austin Unruh
- 3) Creative Response—Mike and Liz Petersheim

The worship time with a drama, music, and prayer will be offered at the beginning of each class on July 18-22, with a closing program at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday evening, July 23, after a community meal. A concert featuring SET FREE will also be featured beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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



## Go East Young Men . . . Go East

Jon Essick and two other students from Penn State University are biking from San Diego, California, to Ocean City, New Jersey, in a trip that is giving them a variety of experiences. Check out their blog at: <http://goeastyoungmengoeast.blogspot.com/2011/05/day-10-hail-bryce.html>



## 2011 Conestoga Mennonite Softball Schedule

*Coach Mike Petersheim welcomes the congregation to attend softball games as Conestoga's team begins another new season. All games begin at 6:45 p.m.*

- Tuesday, May 31 - Conestoga vs. CEFC @ West Nantmeal
- Tuesday, June 7 - Grace & Truth vs. Conestoga @ West Nantmeal
- Monday, June 13 - Grace Fellowship vs. Conestoga @ New Holland West
- Tuesday, June 21 - Conestoga vs. Summit View @ West Nantmeal
- Saturday, June 25 - One Pitch Tournament @ Brubacher Park
- Tuesday, June 28 - Conestoga vs. Pine Grove @ West Nantmeal
- Tuesday, July 5 - Conestoga vs. Forest Hills @ West Nantmeal
- Monday, July 11 - CFC1 vs. Conestoga @ Christian Fellowship Church
- Monday, July 18 - Bethany vs. Conestoga @ New Holland East
- Saturday, August 6 - Playoffs



**Conestoga's Softball Team** has four wins and one loss at the time this *Connections* went to press! It must be because Becky Yoder continues to bring drinks and cookies to every game! Yeah Becky!



*Jr. Youth enjoying fishing at Pastor Bob and Cindy's pond on Saturday evening, May 7.*



## MYF 2011 Service Trip

Twelve Conestogans are flying west on Thursday, June 30, to participate in a Mennonite Disaster Service trip at Kingcome Inlet, British Columbia, in rebuilding after serious flooding.

The Team includes Bob Horning, Doug and Bonnie Beam, Greg Petersheim, Austin Unruh, Kristy Petersheim, Denise Beam, Sonya Peterstheim, Dylan Beam, Wendell Baer, and Becky Yoder.

In September 2010, the natives of this isolated area experienced severe flooding so this service project consists of building fish drying sheds and landscaping/gardening. Just about all the fish drying sheds were destroyed—the families rely on dried fish for year-round food.

On **Sunday, June 26**, here at Conestoga this Team will be hosting a fundraiser meal to help support the expenses to serve in this needed project.

Pray for the safety of this group as they fly out to Seattle and go by boat to the work site. Their return flight home is scheduled for Monday, July 11.

MDS just sent the following requests this past week:

- Pray for safety for all the volunteers as they fly, drive and travel by boat
- Pray for safety on the work sites
- Pray for the community as they prepare for the MDS volunteers
- Pray for the MDS volunteers as they prepare to be hosted in Kingcome; that they can be prepared to be guests and to assist where needed
- Pray for the leadership team of Peter & Dorothy Regehr, Darin Bontrager, and a cook yet to be confirmed.

### Jr. MYF Events

**Thursday, June 16** — Human Dutch Blitz, Bible Study, & Ice Cream Floats. Check e-mails for more details!

**Saturday, June 25** — Cookout Supper & Mini Field Day at Dot and Andy Leatherman's. Plan to meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. and return at approximately 8:30 p.m.

**July Activity** — Slip and Slide Fun organized by the young adults. Stay tuned for details!

**Summer Bible School** at Conestoga on July 18-22 from 6:30-8:45 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. Details coming later.

Please remember to invite friends to any or all of these activities! The more the merrier!!! We would like to know about any activity ideas you would like to do! Feel free to call with any questions!

- Nelson & Marilyn Beam, Jr. Youth advisors

# A VISIT TO THE HOPE WITHIN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Since last fall, “doors” have begun to open to cause us to ponder and pray again as to whether God wants a free medical clinic here in the Tri-County area and whether it should be hosted here at Conestoga Mennonite Church.

Since September 2010, it has been exciting to relate with Dr. Moser who is now retired and after visiting the Food Pantry one evening last fall, said that he would love to donate his time to help get a clinic started here at Conestoga. His vision increased over the days and weeks to come and inspired us to visit a clinic in Berks County. There we learned how needed and helpful these clinics are to the community during these economic times, but also how many details need processed to accomplish this with government regulations.

When the board of the medical clinic in Berks County decided that now is not the time for them to begin a satellite, Cindy Petersheim shared with us that there was another free medical clinic near Elizabethtown that we should pursue.

We knew that many at Conestoga were praying for God’s will to be done, so we relied on God to open the doors if He wanted a clinic to open here at Conestoga.

After contacting the board chairman of HOPE WITHIN at Elizabethtown, he communicated back and forth a number of times via e-mail sharing their desire to begin a medical clinic (satellite) in eastern Lancaster County, but they decided to first commit to opening a satellite clinic in Columbia in April 2011.

At the beginning of May 2011 with their first new satellite clinic established, the President of “Hope Within Community Health Center” sent an e-mail inviting us to visit their site and sit down and chat.

When we received Nikki’s e-mail, we really were not sure what to expect with this visit—but, oh my, if that wasn’t an interesting encounter! Within a few minutes, all three of us sensed that God was leading the discussion! It was fulfilling and exciting to share back and forth, to answer Nikki’s questions, and also to see her growing enthusiasm! Wow!

Within only five years’ time, HOPE WITHIN today not only provides primary health care, but also in-house lab services, spiritual counseling, physical therapy, dietician-led cooking classes, financial budgeting, and even a sexual abuse support group—all with the help of a group of 50 volunteers and seven paid staff (two are full-time).

We learned that 8.6% of Lancaster County residents are uninsured according to the 2008 Health Insurance Survey. This is a total of 42,651 persons just in Lancaster County and there are similar numbers in the surrounding counties!

As a faith-based clinic, HOPE WITHIN services uninsured only in Lancaster and Dauphin Counties who fall under 250% of FPL (\$55,500 for a family of four).

The first step that Nikki Rineer (President) requested us to do was to survey the persons participating in the Food Pantry distribution to see if there is a “need” here in the Tri-County area. After our May Food Pantry event, we mailed the 51 survey forms to Nikki who was quite pleased!

Our next step now is to organize a board to oversee the continued process. If you would like to participate in this exciting new ministry that is unfolding or have a suggestion of a prospective board member, please contact either Lemar or Lois Ann Mast.

We then want to organize a field trip for interested persons to visit the satellite clinic at Columbia that has just opened and perhaps also to visit the headquarters at HOPE WITHIN near Elizabethtown. In the meantime, additional paperwork is starting on Nikki’s desk as she convinces the board that now is the time to begin a clinic in eastern Lancaster County! She already is convinced and we are excited with her about working together as the doors continue to open for Kingdom Work—oh yes, it is Health Work, but so much more—it is really Kingdom Work in Nikki’s words!

Pray for Nikki as she continues this process, as we provide the needed information that she requests, and especially as Nikki appeals to the state of Pennsylvania that HOPE WITHIN be permitted to provide services for more than just residents living in Lancaster and Dauphin Counties, but also Berks and Chester Counties where residents live who would come to our clinic!

Thank God for the opportunity and privilege to consider using our facilities here at Conestoga Mennonite to fulfill His Kingdom work here in the Tri-County area.

Pray for a Director who will oversee this clinic here at Conestoga—someone who senses a definite calling to serve in this needed ministry!

Thank God for Hebrews 6:19—the core Bible verse of HOPE WITHIN: “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

As Jesus Himself set the example during His time on earth, HOPE WITHIN seeks to meet people’s immediate need of health care while sharing the hope of Christ for the future.

*- Lemar and Lois Ann Mast*



*Next Senior Connections speakers are  
**Wes and Lois Boyer**  
who are our recently-appointed  
Small Group Coordinators.*

## Answering the Call

### Fitting Into God's Plan

When **Wes and Lois Boyer** retired from full-time pastoral ministry, they knew that they wanted to continue to answer God's call to service. As they were in the process of making plans to serve with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), God opened the door for them to fly to Nairobi, Kenya, to serve as Host and Hostess at the Mennonite Guest House. They had never been to Africa, but without a doubt, they knew that this was from God, and said yes. God was faithful in making the way straight. Their age and lack of cross-cultural experience did not hinder them in doing what God called them to do. YES, He is always faithful to give each of us what we need to fulfill His calling. Plan to attend the Thursday, June 9, SENIOR CONNECTIONS in our church fellowship hall to hear Wes and Lois share some of their many experiences. You will be blessed—first with lunch and then by listening to how God is at work in Africa!



**“Meals From the Heart”** began here at Conestoga in May when the freezer set aside for this new program at Conestoga was filled with \_\_\_ dinners plus \_\_ desserts. Dinners have been distributed to \_\_ persons so far. Thank you to the 12 ladies who have cooked and baked to share with others.



*Kindergarten and First Grade Sunday School Class taught by Dot Leatherman learning another Bible lesson on Sunday morning.*

# Conestoga **BIBLE School!**

July 18-22, 2011

Ages 5  
through  
Grade 8

6:30-8:45  
p.m.

*Everyone  
is  
Invited!*

## Community Meal

(compliments of the church)

Saturday evening, July 23  
5:00-6:30 p.m.

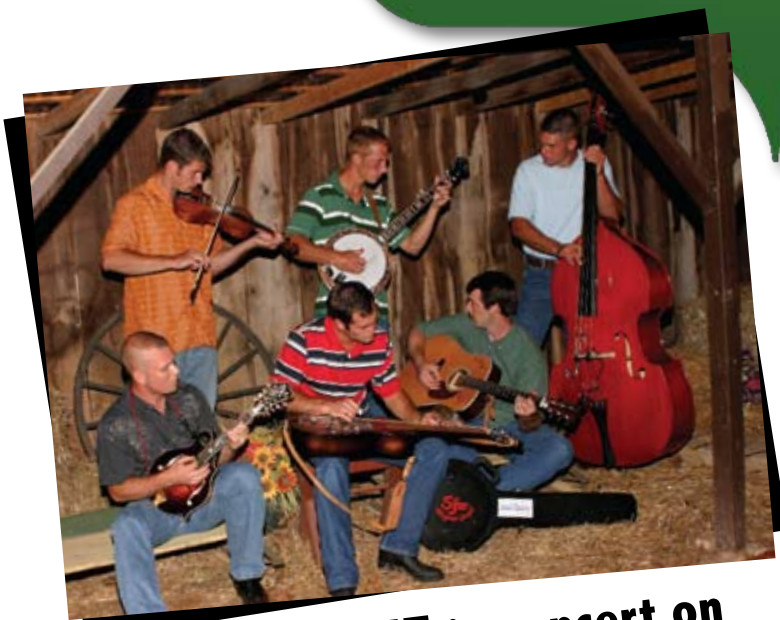
## Closing Bible School Program

6:45-7:15 p.m.

## "Set Free" (see below)

7:30 p.m. in the church  
sanctuary

taste  
& see  
God is good



**SET FREE** in concert on  
Saturday evening!

## R-Phils

Kids who attend at least  
four of the five nights of  
Bible School and attend  
the closing program on  
Saturday will receive tick-  
ets to any home game of  
the **READING PHILLIES**  
during the 2011 regular  
season.