



Bus Trip to Lake Tobias Wildlife Park on Friday, August 5

ADVENTURE AT ITS
WILDEST!

Spring is less than a month away and summer is less than four months away, so let's start thinking of summer activities!

Conestoga's Activities Committee is planning another fun bus trip this summer like we did last year! This time, we are headed for Lake Tobias Wildlife Park to enjoy a safari ride through the fields to see a variety of wild animals.

If you are looking for adventure, this Safari Tour will get you close to the animals—in fact, you won't believe how close you come to the animals! After the 45-minute ride to see buffalo, elk, emu, fallow deer, llama, Scottish Highland cattle, yak, whitetail deer, Zedonk),



we will explore the Zoo Exhibits, the Reptile building (snakes, reptiles, tropical birds), and the Petting Zoo.

Many of the animals at this park may be hand-fed! However, only healthy food purchased at the park is permitted. And don't worry, we will remind you that animals cannot distinguish

between fingers and food!

We invite and encourage grandparents to put this date on your calendars in order to enjoy this day with your grandchildren. Please note that no child under age 13 is allowed in the Park without an adult. If you want to bring two grandchildren, there are a number of adults at Conestoga who could adopt one of your grandchildren for the day! Just ask!!!

The best part of the day will be lunch served at the Wild Wagon. Are you ready to try an authentic buffalo burger? (If not, there are also chicken tenders, pizza, and french fries).

Watch the church bulletin board to sign-up for this opportunity to share the day with your church family on a "fun" day enjoying God's nature!





The PASTORS CONNECTION

Aroma That Nurtures Life

“For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing; to the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.”

II Corinthians 2:15-16

As I write, the Neighbors Care and Share Planning Team is preparing for this year’s annual Valentine Dinner. A local farmer increased their challenge by spreading manure. Our facility is filled with aroma that the farm boy in me knows comes from material that nurtures life, but my nostrils tell me imitates the smell of death. I don’t want to complain; but truly, it is rare!

A member of our Energy Audit Team gave us insight into why our facility so quickly reflects outside odor, and why our propane bill is high. Namely, law does not grant the option of a facility this size to simply raise the temperature of air already in the building. Rather, heaters must transfer a percentage of air from outside to inside. On a zero degree day we raise zero degree air to a temp required to heat the building. Consequently, when neighbor’s burn trash or haul manure, our building quickly reflects exterior aroma.



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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

This is the monthly newsletter for Conestoga 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

This impacts our options for managing energy use. What we are committed to doing is sealing exterior door cracks, closing sanctuary blinds, closing interior doors between zones when unoccupied, turning off lights, and only heating rooms as needed for effective ministry. We invite your active partnership.

But some are asking bigger questions. I was part of an informal conversation this week wondering if we might contract, as did Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), with a company willing to install solar panels on our roof or in our back field. If I understand it correctly, EMU absorbed neither the cost for material or installation. Yet they could advertize as reflecting cutting edge environmental concern, and sign a multiple year guarantee of fixed electricity costs.

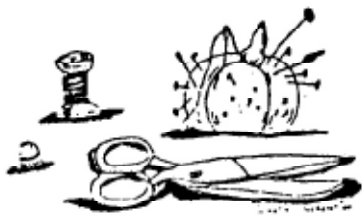
Or we wondered: what if we could install wind turbines as did Turkey Hill dairy recently? This valley seems to have constant air movement. Previous generations powered machines and pumped water with wind mills. Might it be economically and prophetically beneficial to care for creation with technology relevant to our generation?

At our annual meeting, our Stewardship Director invited us to brainstorm together how we might better steward the facility God has entrusted to us. Maybe research would reveal that none of the above options are fiscally viable, but what if not?

A lot of Kingdom good goes on from this ministry center, and facility maintenance contributes as foundation. Gratefully, your generous giving helped us to again meet budget and carry into the New Year strong fiscal balances that supports our growing mission of joyfully living HisStory to benefit others.

The material giving off today’s “smell of death” will help create new life this spring. A cycle of death to life is part of God’s created order. Each generation finds passion to live creatively into that cycle. May God grant us wisdom to better steward His creation, even in practical applications such as energy use. To God be the glory as our ministry grows in this community.

*Joyfully living HisStory with you,
Pastor Bob*



Sewing Circle

The beautiful white snow kept all the quilters and knotters home in February. If you have not been to the monthly Sewing Circle lately, plan to attend the Wednesday, March 2, Sewing Circle and help them catch up since they missed February's service in assisting MCC and other agencies.

TOP TEN MENNONITE TEXT LIST

Our Sunday, March 6, Sunday School hour will be held in the Fellowship Hall to hear Mark Wenger share the "Top Ten Mennonite Text List." Come early and enjoy coffee and donuts!

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!*

— March 1 —
"Faithfulness to God"
with Joyce Stoner

— March 8 —
Guess Who's Coming to Brunch?
Pre-registration required

— March 15 —
Knotting Comforters for MCC
Time of fellowship while helping others

— March 22 —
"Landscaping With Native Plants"
with Gregg Tepper, Woods Path Horticulturist at Mt. Cuba Center

— March 29 —
"What About the Change?"
with Ruthie Dunkle

Conestoga plans VBS

Harvey Z. Stoltzfus, pastor of Conestoga Mennonite Church, reviews plans for this summer's Vacation Bible School with two of the program coordinators, Sharon Stoltzfus (left) and Robin Beam. VBS will be Monday, July 6, through Friday, July 10, from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at the church, located on the north side of Rt. 23 about a mile west from the center of Morgantown. Registration will be on July 6 at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at 286-9124.

*Photo by
Peabody Associates*



Conestoga's 2011 Summer Bible School is scheduled for July 18-23, 2011! Above is a photo printed in the local newspaper announcing our Bible School in the late 1980s: left to right: Sharon Stoltzfus, Harvey Stoltzfus, and Robin Beam.



Julia Yoder (back left) standing beside her mother Emma. Julia's two Rolon nieces are standing in the front. As you can tell, this was a few years ago! Thanks, Julia, for sharing this photo and article with us!



*David S. Yoder pictured above with his wife, Emma Stoltzfus, was a preacher here at Conestoga from 1921 until his death in 1967. He was ordained by lot on May 29, 1921, one year after he was married. Together, David and Emma had six children: **Ruth Stauffer**, **Phebe Reed Bell**, **Sarah Scott**, **Mark Yoder**, **Julia Yoder**, and **Dorcas Rolon**. David had 20 grandchildren when he died at the age of 82. (Those in bold face are members of Conestoga today.)*

THE BEST Chocolate Carmel Candy

by Julia M. Yoder

One day while cleaning the file drawer in my desk, I came across an old, tattered cookbook that once belonged to my great-great-stepgrandmother, Catherine (Wayre) Mast.

Catherine was the second wife of my great-great grandfather “Leather Davy” Mast. Caty Mast, as she was called, came from Holland as a child. She died in 1894 when my mother, Emma (Stoltzfus) Yoder, was one and one-half years old.

This cookbook is significant because it contains a recipe for chocolate carmel candy that was a Christmas tradition in our family. My mother told me that her mother, Mary (Beiler) Stoltzfus, also made this treasured candy!

The only problem with this old recipe is that the directions are quite limited. They simply say, “Let it boil slowly and pour on flat tins to cool. Mark off while warm.”

My mother would consider the candy done when it formed a soft ball in cold water. I felt that was a bit uncertain so I bought a candy thermometer and discovered that the soft ball stage is 235°F.

My mother would always wrap each piece of candy in a square of waxed paper. I do this too, because they have a tendency to stick together.

If you wish to try this delicious candy, here are the ingredients:

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup cocoa
- 1 Tablespoon flour
- butter (size of a walnut)
- 1 cup milk

DEBORAH

DARING TO BE DIFFERENT FOR GOD

The Conestoga Ladies Bible Study will begin a new six-week book study on “Deborah” on Monday evening, March 14.

Deborah was a leader of Israel when God’s people were in a period of great decline. This Old Testament story in Judges 4-5 shows that faith, courage, and devotion toward God had a powerful impact in a woman’s life.

Everyone loves a captivating story, and this one on Deborah is that! Through the life of Deborah, a Biblical woman with a challenging mission, we will learn how God works in the world, in the lives of His people, and in our circumstances.

Deborah was the first and only female judge in ancient Israel. That is quite an accomplishment by itself. Judges led the people, interpreted national laws, and commanded military forces. But Deborah also was fair, trustworthy, and God-fearing. These were hard-to-find attributes during the chaotic times recorded in the Old Testament book of Judges. Still, Deborah held firm, and **dared to be different for God**.

Following twenty years of oppression, God told Deborah that it was time to deliver the people once again. She appointed Barak to lead the army, but he

was afraid to go without Deborah. He saw the deep faith that she had in God. He saw how she had united the people of Israel and led them to victory against the Canaanites. He saw Deborah serving as Israel’s judge when no man was willing to lead.

Deborah is one of only five women in the Bible who were called a “prophet.” And, she was a woman who **dared to be different**. Different from the “normal role” for women in her culture; different in values from the pagan beliefs surrounding her; different in the way she handled her success. But the most

important difference was that she committed her life to God. Deborah was different not for herself, but for Him.

Even though Deborah lived thousands of years ago, her difficulties and victories represent the path of women who pursue God and his will. No matter the era, no matter the calling, the Lord asks us to “come out from them and be separate” (II Corinthians 6:17). When we do, it’s a distinctive journey.

How does someone become different—and make a

difference—for God?

What does it mean to be different for God in our daily life?

If we dared to be different for God, how might our life change?

How could we make a difference for Him?

If you are interested in joining this Bible Study, contact Carol Moss, Bonnie Beam, or Cindy Petersheim.

Chapter Titles:

1. One of a Kind
 - Daring to be different for God
2. Plain & Simple
 - Choosing to speak the Lord’s words
3. The Need to Lead
 - Stepping out when others won’t
4. The Big Chance
 - Recognizing when the time is right
5. A Humble Success
 - Giving the praise to the Almighty
6. Good Memories
 - Encouraging people with your story



Crossings: Memoirs of a Mountain Medical Doctor

by Elam S. Kurtz, MD and Michael D. Kurtz, D. Min

Dr. Elam S. Kurtz, past member here at Conestoga, recently printed his life story! A copy is in our church library (copies are also available for sale at Masthof Bookstore). Elam was a man of great vision, a man of deep faith, and a man of enormous energy. With these qualities, and more, God formed, fashioned, and refined a medical doctor, who had a profound and pervasive positive influence upon the many people whom his life touched and whom he served in N.C.

To his patients he was known as Dr. Kurtz, or “Doc.” To his friends he was referred to as Elam. His family addressed him as Dad, or, in later years he was affectionately referred to as “Pop.” Pop’s eighty-six years of life yielded numerous transitions and changes in various areas and aspects of his living, or “crossings” as he alludes to in this book that captures and shares many of these crossings. Yet, more than relating just the actual crossings, the hope is that readers will discover in these pages inspiration and motivation for their own journey crossings.



Jon and Kelly

Meet Conestoga Member

Jon Essick

I am currently employed at Mast Roofing and Construction Inc., owned by Kerwin Mast. My daily activities involve installing/removing roofing materials such as asphalt shingles, slate, metal, and cedar. We also do general construction like doors, windows, and remodels. My job is exciting because I work on something different or a different house almost every day. I also enjoy the people I work with which makes a hot summer more bearable. But because of a low amount of work right now, I have been spending most of my time at home lately. I am currently studying to become CompTIA A+ Certified. This certification will allow me to pursue a career in Information Technology as a Computer Support Specialist.

The young lady who you may have seen sitting with me at church is my girlfriend Kelly Flanagan. She is from Parsippany, New Jersey. She went to college with me at Penn State and is currently a senior majoring in Education.

- Jon Essick, j.f.essick@gmail.com
58 Warwick Circle
Pottstown, PA 19465
610-469-0751

Did You Know That . . .

. . . **Pierce Ebert** was accepted into the Engineering Program at Penn State University Main Campus? His parents, Eric and Dana, and grandparents, Bob and Jo, are very proud of him!

. . . **Denise Beam** is looking forward to continuing her college education on the main campus at Penn State this coming September? She is studying Animal Sciences.

. . . every **sermon** given at Conestoga is taped? In the very near future, these sermons will be placed on our church website to be listened to on your computer!

. . . a **Volleyball League** has been playing every Monday night at Conestoga Christian School? Those from Conestoga include Dan Mast, Brendon Petersheim, Mike and Liz Petersheim, Ryan Petersheim, and Carrie Stoltzfus. Championship games will be played on April 4 at 9:15 p.m.

RECIPE CORNER

Chocolate Chip Bundt Cake

1 box Betty Crocker Milk Chocolate Cake Mix
1 small box Royal Dark and Sweet Chocolate Pudding
4 eggs
1/2 cup oil
1/2 cup water
1 small container sour cream
1 large package chocolate chips

Mix cake mix with the dry pudding, eggs, oil, water, and sour cream until well blended. Fold in chocolate chips. Spray Bundt pan with Pam. Fill pan 3/4 full. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes. (Note: I had to bake it 95+ minutes because a toothpick did not come out clean earlier.) Cool upright 15 minutes. Turn upside down on plate until it releases itself. Dust with powdered sugar.

This recipe is shared by request after it was taken to the Valentine's Day Dinner sponsored by Neighbors Caring & Sharing. - Lois Ann Mast

Next Senior Connections

Thursday, March 10, 2011
12:00 noon

JOIN US FOR A
casserole lunch with special holiday cupcakes
by Jo Ebert, Lois Ann Mast, and Jane Stoltzfus.



Conestoga's March 20 Fellowship Dinner



ALERT . . . Our Fellowship Dinner in March will be served on the third Sunday of the month on March 20 instead of the fourth Sunday because the Oversight Team will be here at Conestoga that weekend!

James and Faith Wenger and Graham Cyster from ACC will be participating in this annual evaluation of our mission and leadership relationships. So, we plan to conclude the weekend with a fellowship dinner consisting of a baked potato bar with all the fixings. The congregation is invited to bring either a salad or dessert.



Food Pantry Workers

preparing food before the shoppers



Your coin change is like a mustard seed. It may seem small but when planted it grows to be the greatest of all garden plants.

PENNY POWER

Put your change to work!

Just a Month To Go!

Mennonite Central Committee
pennypower.mcc.org



Pegge Tennant and Greg Petersheim sharing after a Sunday morning worship service.



Children's Church held every other Sunday during the sermon are a "hit" to Conestoga's children! Thank you, Cindy and your helpers!



Neighbors' Valentine Dinner



Neighbors' Valentine Dinner!

Life at Conestoga in February



Blainsport-Conestoga Quiz Team

