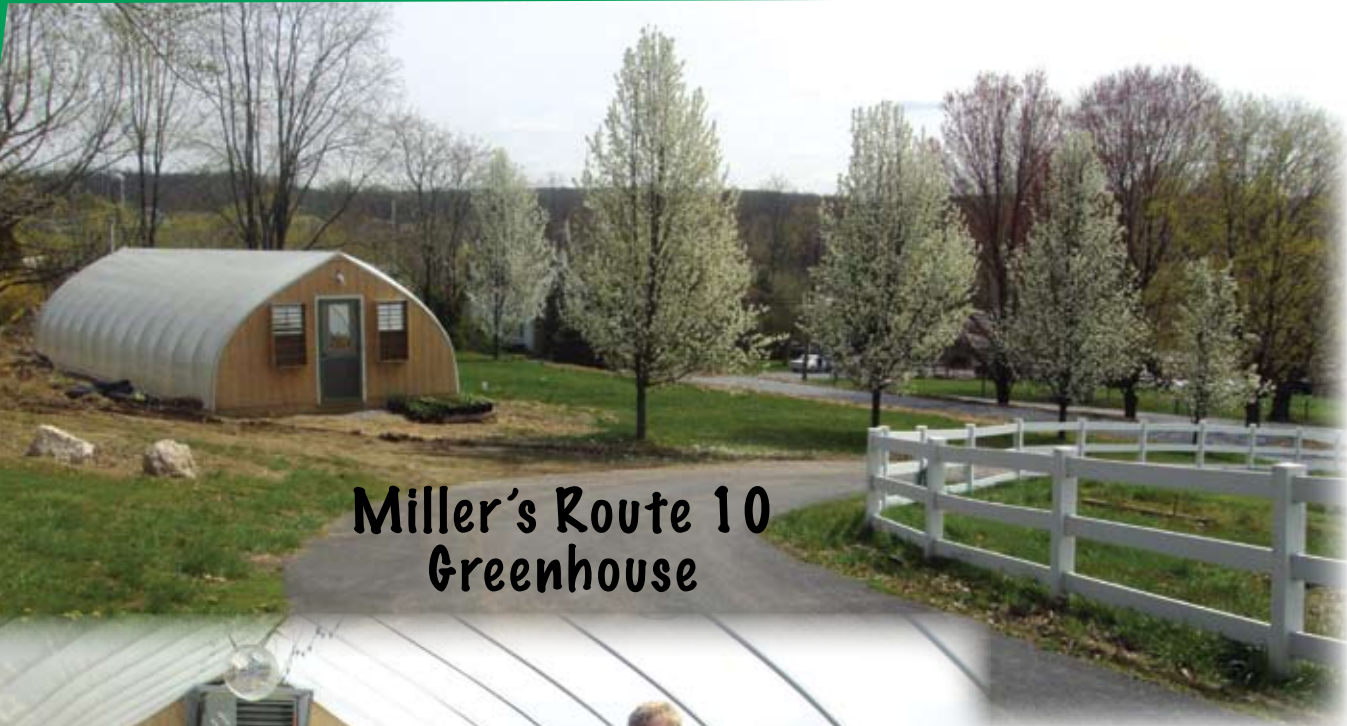


# CONESTOGA Connections



May 2011  
Vol. XXII, No. 5



## Miller's Route 10 Greenhouse

**Joe and Robin Miller** recently opened their greenhouse business for the season raising and selling a variety of perennials. Stop in to see them at 3125 Compass Road (Route 10). Later this spring/summer, stop to see the thousands of blooming canna bulbs that they have planted! Their children (Mike, Hope, and Becky) make it a family business!





# The PASTORS CONNECTION

## Stewarding a Pregnancy

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19*

In our March 27<sup>th</sup> worship, Rusty Richards shared a prophetic word. He and Janet were present to bring a mission update. Rusty asked the Lord for a word he might speak on our Lord’s behalf. Rusty sensed the Lord speaking “pregnant.”

Over lunch I asked his sense of what it might mean. He shared that “God is generating something new in Conestoga. It will build on the values of previous generations, but it represents a new thing. Conestoga is pregnant with new life.” He encouraged us to steward the gift.

In our “Guidelines for the Use of Spiritual Gifts” we noted that I Corinthians 14 and I Thessalonians 5 call us to both welcome and test a prophetic word. As your Pastor, I confirm the word Rusty spoke.

During our Oversight Team weekend, Conference Minister Graham Cyster shared a similar sentiment. He noted that the gospel pattern is of Jesus helping people belong. From belonging they believe in God’s love. Upon foundations of belonging and believing, behavior is transformed.

Graham noted that religious tradition, including our own Mennonite era of legalism; flips those three “b” words on their heads. Namely, a religious spirit requires one to first behave in a certain way and believe correctly before one can belong. Graham sensed that God is helping Conestoga get the sequence in their right Kingdom order.

Recently I shared that our youngest daughter and husband announced their second pregnancy. We were ecstatic! Every child is God’s gift. But this one feels extra special in light of dark days after Eric was struck by lightning nearly three years ago. Doctors gave little hope for life.

Eric’s lightening strike and the one that struck Conestoga’s ministry center happened days apart. From both has come new life. This is the work of God!

Pregnant couples prepare a nursery. They get extra sleep. They guard their diet and exercise. They focus on giving the baby its best shot at quality of life.

This week Pastoral Team spent over an hour of our meeting time in sharing and worship and intercession. We noted that as we joyfully live Christ’s story to benefit others God is connecting us to those who don’t yet know him and those who need his healing and hope. These past months He is entrusting us with the privilege of welcoming, nurturing, and protecting. We invite you to join us as together we steward the promise of a “new thing” from pregnancy to birth towards full maturity of faith.

Birthing and parenting is hard messy work. But it is a very rewarding. May God favor us with the privilege of hearing “well done” with the new life He is bringing to us; no matter what form the labor takes.

*Joyfully living HisStory with you,  
Pastor Bob*



### CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

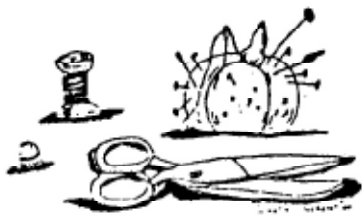
2779 Main Street, Morgantown, PA 19543  
(610) 286-9124  
[www.conestogamc.org](http://www.conestogamc.org)

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.

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



*Pastor Bob leading the Maundy Thursday communion.*



## Sewing Circle

---

Sewing Circle met on April 6, 2011. There were 12 ladies present. Completed items included 36 diapers, 6 baby blankets, 3 kimonas, 3 comforters, and 12 health kits. One health kit was donated.

For devotions, we sang "Low in the Grave He Lay." The scripture reading was Luke 24: 12-27 followed by a devotional reading entitled "Lincoln's Testimony."

Our special offering amountd to \$71.00. We sang "Christ, the Lord is Risen Today" before adjourning.

- Julia Yoder  
Acting Secretary

## Conestoga's Healing and Hope Fund

Conestoga's May fellowship dinner is scheduled for May 22—the fourth Sunday of the month. This month, no one needs to bring any food because the Pastoral Team members are hosting the dinner as a fundraiser for Conestoga's "Healing and Hope Fund" which serves to provide counseling to members and others who worship with our congregation. The menu will include turkey potpie (potpie will be homemade!!!), homemade rolls/bread, toss salad with homemade dressings, topped up with scrumptious desserts. Thank you for planning to attend this dinner and generously sharing with this needed "Healing and Hope Fund."



---

*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!*

— May 17 —

## Warwick Park Walk and Lunch

*Meet at Warwick Park at 10:00 a.m.*

**Come and enjoy the beautiful Warwick County Park  
and Playground as we walk, talk, and share at lunch time.**

**Bring a packed lunch.**

**Everyone is welcome!**

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

## "Meals From the Heart"

A new program at Conestoga is scheduled to begin on Thursday morning, May 12, called "Meals From the Heart." Ten Conestoga ladies have expressed interest in being part of this program—some will come once a month to cook and bake in our church kitchen while others will cook and bake at home and bring the food to the church.

Our purpose is to prepare dinners to share with persons in our congregation—a family with a new baby, someone who returns home from a hospital stay, or simply a "gift" for our seniors. Meals will be frozen in containers that can be warmed up in a microwave. Contact Lois Ann Mast, Meals From the Heart Coordinator, if you know of someone who we could "bless" with a home-cooked dinner!

## Budget Update

For the first quarter of 2011, our Sunday morning weekly offerings averaged \$3664.74. In order to meet our annual budget, our weekly offerings need to average \$4451.00. Praise God for the mission we can accomplish with our faithful giving."



*Lots of activity in our church nursery during Sunday morning's worship.*



*Playing games during Senior Connections!*



*The children's bell choir did a super job on Easter Sunday morning!*



*Julia Yoder admired Becky's Phillies photo!*



*Easter egg hunt during Children's Worship.*

## 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.

- Thursday, May 5 - BORE vs. Conestoga @ New Holland West
- Thursday, May 12 - Conestoga vs Mt Zion @ Mt Zion
- Monday, May 16 - NH Nazarene vs. Conestoga @ New Holland East
- Tuesday, May 23 - Conestoga vs. St. John @ West Nantmeal
- Thursday, May 26 - Conestoga vs. CFC2 @ Christian Fellowship Church
- 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 Graduates!

## C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

**PIERCE EBERT** is graduating from Twin Valley High School on Saturday, June 11. He will be attending Penn State University at the main campus beginning with the summer session majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

**MATTIE HORNING** is graduating from Lancaster General School of Health Sciences on May 20, 2011. She will receive a degree in Radiologic Technology, and will continue her studies in the summer for a certification in mammography. She is searching for an RT job and until one is found will continue her current work as a Tech Aide at LGH and at Garden Spot Village Wellness Department.

**SABRINA JORDAN** is graduating from the University of Phoenix on May 14, 2011, with graduation ceremonies at the Baltimore Convention Center. She will receive a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with a specialty in Software Engineering. This coming summer, she will continue working at Stapler Insurance Agency while looking for new opportunities in the IT field.

**RACHEL KOLB** is graduating from Eastern Mennonite University on May 1, 2011, with a B.A. in Congregational and Youth Ministries with a minor in Psychology. This summer, she will return home to plan a wedding and work at Kolb's Farm Store, their family store. She is also looking forward to volunteering at different summer camps as well.

**SHANE PETERSHEIM** is graduating from Geneva College on May 7, 2011, with a B.A. in Accounting. Ask him what his summer plans are!

---

**CONGRATULATIONS** also to:

**Madison Martinez**  
**Paige Meadors**  
**Piper Meadors**

who are graduating from kindergarten at Blue Ball Elementary School. Their last day of school is Monday, June 13. Congratulations!

## MYF 2011 Summer Service Trip

From July 2 through July 11, Conestoga's youth and young adults plus some older adults are participating in a Mennonite Disaster Service project at Kingcome Inlet in British Columbia, Canada.

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

The Conestoga Team will be working in a First Nations (Native Canadian) community which will give the team the opportunity to not only see a different culture, but to work with persons in that culture.

Traveling to this site will be interesting to say the least and include flying to Seattle, Washington, driving by van to Port McNeill on the north end of Victoria Island after putting the van on a ferry to cross to Vancouver. MDS will have a boat waiting to bring our team in to Kingcome Inlet—a two-hour boat ride to the work site.

No tools need to be taken—all tools will be provided because of crossing the border and the difficulty in transporting them by plane.

The Team appreciates the congregation's prayers as plans continue to be made for this experience.

# Next Senior Connections

Thursday, May 12, 2011

## Fieldtrip to the Berks County Heritage Center

• Canal Center Tour • Herb Garden Tour

We will car pool from the church leaving at 11:45 a.m. and enjoy a picnic at the Center! Sign-up on the paper in the lobby.

### Did You Know That . . .

. . . Air Express won the volleyball tournament at Conestoga School this spring? Congratulations, **Rod Stoltzfus**, who has played on this team for the last three years. Kevin Beiler is the team captain. It was a great season!

. . . **Conestoga's Softball Team** is forming. If you would like to play and have not yet contacted the team captain, call Mike Petersheim at 484-364-6193.

. . . Conestoga's **Wee Wonders Sunday School** class (Anthony Weber, Cameron Johnson, and Rosene Weber) delivered fresh-baked bread to four Sunday School classes—preschool through grade 8—on April 10 when the SS lesson was on the Lord's Last Supper? The "Wee Wonders" then watched their own bread bake in the church oven!

. . . **John and Lisa Miller** spent 30+ hours preparing a wonderful overview of Conestoga's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held in 2010? You can now re-live everything that was shared in the public meetings on Saturday and Sunday, September 25-26, 2010, now available via a thumbdrive that can be downloaded on to your computer, or on four cassette tapes. Contact Bonnie Beam in the church office if you are interested in downloading this historic event on to your computer OR purchasing the cassette tapes.

. . . **Shawn Beam** will spend this summer studying in Brazil? Upon returning, he will work as an intern for Syngenta and graduate from Penn State in December with a major in Marketing and a minor in International Business. Keep up the good work, Shawn!

. . . on the average, 47% of the U.S. population does not attend church? And fewer than that percentage attend **Sunday School**? Who could you invite to attend Sunday School and church with you next Sunday?

# My Aunt Sarah *(continued from page 7)*

- **Native American chants**—Eye, Yai, Yai, Yai, Yai...."
- **Playing Scrabble**—Watch out, the Yoder sisters take it very seriously!
- **Postum**—Sarah kept a jar in the cupboard for the Reed boys whose mother let them drink coffee at home. Not that there was anything wrong with that, Mom.
- **"Far East Dinner"**—Sarah's exotic dish she made with rice, vegetables, and fish—bluegills caught by Grandpop in a farm pond would do just fine.
- **Mistletoe hung over a dooway at Christmas**—get caught under it and you got a kiss on the cheek which as a 10-year-old boy, you had to pretend you did not like it.
- **Harry and Steven Kee**—Navajo brothers from Arizona. They needed Sarah. They needed us. We needed them. Somehow she knew that and made it happen!
- **Drying dishes properly**—you certainly did dry dishes if she cooked for you.
- **Washing hands and arms before supper**—"But that's tan." "I don't think so." And then later to my mother, "Does he look a little more pale?" Followed by the trademark Sarah chuckle—just one example of her dry wit up until the end.
- **Philadelphia Zoo**—She commented on the "good business sense" of cousin Galen for not squandering his allowance on trinkets from a street vendor—a gentle way to encourage a nephew and offer a lesson to the rest of us.
- **Teaching children**—by example, showing us what was possible if you dreamed a little and worked hard to achieve it. Introducing us to new things. Listening and offering encouragement. Knowing when to take one of us aside for a moment—just the two of us riding in her little blue VW to get frozen custard, after supper of course.
- **Bill Scott**—after accomplishing so much, she met Bill. Let's be honest—we were not all sure that this was a good thing at first. Grandmom Yoder had more trouble than most with the awkward habit of referring to Bill as "that man who Sarah wants to marry." But she came around as we all did—Bill's indisputable charm—he had to have it to win her after all those years as an accomplished single woman, the six Scott children, and seeing Sarah reinvent herself as a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. They were her final project, the capstone of her life as a teacher.
- **Moving to Delaware**—When Aunt Sarah made plans to move from Del. to Pa., she sent a letter to her nieces and nephews which included a list of many items which she had accumulated over the years. She offered us the opportunity to put in a claim for something we wished to remember her. I chose a Hopi pot which Sarah got in Arizona in 1958 from a Hopi woman who made it. The potter wrote Sarah's name in pencil on the bottom, but left off the "h" at the end. But what does that matter? (She also introduced me to Shakespeare who asked, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Aunt Sarah—you are and always will be my rose, my princess, my teacher!

---

# My Sister Sarah

by *Julia Yoder*



When I was born, my sister Sarah was 4½ years old. It seems that she made herself responsible for me right from the beginning. When I was three months old and lying the coach, she filled my mouth with ripe raspberries one day. She did not know why our mother was so upset and turned me upside down.

Sarah was a good big sister to Dorcas and me. She played with us, told us wonderful stories, and made special treats for us.

When I was ready to start school in first grade, Sarah was starting sixth grade. We walked not quite a mile from our farm to the one-room country school on Best Road. I had to trot fast to keep with Sarah's long strides, and many times she carried my lunch box for me. One day when it was sleeting, she fixed a handkerchief under my cap to hang over my face to keep the sleet from hitting it.

Sarah taught me so much during my growin-up years about cleanliness and orderliness. If, for instance, I did not hang up my clothes or put my shoes in the closet, I would find a funny note from the shoes begging to be put in the proper place.

Sarah loved children and was an excellent teacher. While teaching on the Navajo Reservation for three summers in a row, she brought Steven and Harry Kee, little Navajo boys, along to Pennsylvania, for the summer. They both became Christians and have kept in contact over the years. Another example of her influence is Irma Guzman Gonzales who was a Mexican migrant child in her kindergarten class in Mathas, Texas. She is now head of the MCC material resources room in Newton, Kansas.

Sarah received her college education in bits and pieces at Millersville, EMU, West Chester, and JMU. She loved to travel and saw much of Europe, South America, Puerto Rico,

Canada, and the U.S. Along the way, she collected a variety of friends. We took a number of trips together, both before and after she was married.

Sarah always had a flair for writing. She had a number of articles published in various magazines. She also filled many journals and had a file folder of stories that she wrote about her growing-up years.

What a great encourager and influence to help me decide to become a teacher, just like Sarah!

Sarah took a new challenge in 1973 when she married Bill Scott, moved to Delaware, and became a mother to his six children. They became a very important part of her life. At the same time, she was also able to remain connected with her nieces and nephews. Nor did she neglect me. During the years that I taught at Churchtown, we always enjoyed a special day in the summer when I would travel to Delaware and we visited a museum or some other special site.

The year that I retired from teaching when it was time for school to begin again in the fall, she and Bill took me to the beach. We also had some other trips together—to Louisiana, Alaska, and other places.

Church was always an important part of Sarah's life. She was baptized shortly before her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. Over the years, she was involved in the life of the church wherever she lived. She served as an able Bible School and Sunday School teacher. In Delaware, she was involved in a neighborhood Bible Study as well as the various ministries of Green Hill Presbyterian Church.

Five years after Bill, Sarah's husband, died, she found it increasingly difficult to live on her own and I invited her to come and live with me.

I will always treasure the memory of the five years that we had together until it was necessary for her to move into the nursing care facility at Fairmount Homes. It was hard to see her gradual decline. She never lost her sense of humor, but she was so ready to move on to her real home in heaven. I can only be thankful that she is finally without pain and is now experiencing the joys of heaven!

---

# My Aunt Sarah

by *Herb Reed*

"Sarah" means "Princess"! Aunt Sarah was a teacher—she had the gift of knowing that what children needed most of all were caring adults who would love them, listen to them, offer encouragement, and show them the way! And she recognized and affirmed the gifts of each child.

Sarah's nieces and nephews were her special project, but I later realized that we were her laboratory for teaching children

all over the world—Pennsylvania Amish, Texas migrants, Navajos, Brazilians; and later a mother to the Scott children in Delaware.

I speak from my own flawed memory, but I trust that much will ring true for others. I will just name a few things she introduced me to:

- **Gilbert & Sullivan**—"He polished up the handle so carefully that now he is the ruler of the Queen's navy."
- **Petrified wood from the petrified forest**—"You must go there sometime, Herby, you would like it!"

*(continued on page 6)*

# 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.