

CONESTOGA Connections



August 2011
Vol. XXII, No. 8

Conestoga Bible School was Tastefully Delightful!!!





MC USA Assembly in Pittsburgh



Left: A restaurant just down the street from the Convention Center prepared a unique menu for the week—available all week long.



Above photo was printed in the July 18, 2011, Mennonite Weekly Review with a caption: "Robert Petersheim of Morgantown, Pa., speaks during table group discussion."



Lois and Wes Boyer shared in one of the many informative seminars.



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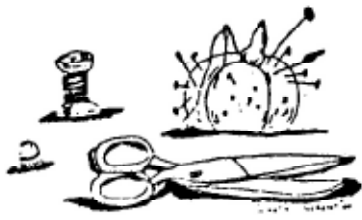
www.conestogamc.org

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One of Conestoga's two delegates, Carrie Stoltzfus, posing in front of one of the 446 bridges in the city—photo taken from the Convention Center.



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on July 13, 2011. There were 15 ladies present. Completed items were 3 comforters, 12 health kits, 6 kimonas, 9 baby blankets, and 59 diapers.

Donated items included 31 kit bags, 12 baby caps, and 6 comforters from “Just Us Quilters of Summerfield.”

For devotions, we sang “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.” The Scripture reading was Philemon 4:1-16 followed by a reading entitled “Freedom At Alcatraz.”

The special offering totaled \$42.00. For our adjournment, we sang, “Oh Happy Day.”

- Julia Yoder, Acting Secretary

Small Groups at Conestoga

Small Groups—what are they? The type of small group we would like to develop at Conestoga are made up of 6 to 10 people committed to Spiritual growth, building relationships with God and others and inviting unchurched people to Jesus. The New Testament church started in small groups. Our Anabaptist forerunners started with strong small groups.

Small groups are safe places for open and honest Christ-centered relationship to grow. Casual acquaintances become close friendships. Freedom to share needs and concerns is enhanced in small groups. People learn accountability and confidentiality. The group studies the Word and allows freedom to ask questions and share experiences. We learn from each other. Small groups are good entry points for new people to be assimilated into the congregation. It is an open door to invite unchurched people to a home setting that is less threatening than a formal church service.

We would like to develop the idea of small groups here at Conestoga. We need people who will be willing to become leaders of a small group. Let’s pray and ask God to provide leaders. You can volunteer or suggest someone whom you feel is gifted for this type of service.

- Wes & Lois Boyer

Let’s take a trip back 90 years to the time when a letter took three weeks (no instant communication) to travel from France or Germany to the parents and siblings of “Your Son and Brother Sol.”

That was in 1920 when an adventurous, compassionate, 25-year-old school-teacher left the valleys of Mifflin County, Pa., to serve the suffering people of Europe following WW I.

Against his parents’ wishes, Solomon E. Yoder joined the American Friends Service Committee working under the American Red Cross. These persons were Quakers (Friends), Mennonites, and other conscientious objectors to war who went to Europe which had suffered much damage and destruction to cities, homes, factories, and farms.

First, Sol was in charge of a small group of German prisoners with whom he could communicate in his childhood Pennsylvania Dutch. They worked hard in less than the best of conditions, often feeling cold and hungry.

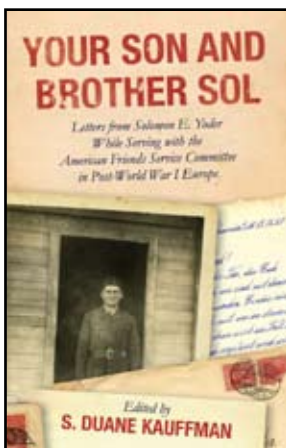
They sorted army supplies to be shipped to buyers in other areas of Europe. When he had a few days vacation, he and a friend or two would hike or bike to cultural events or historic spots. They could not always travel where they wished because of government regulations. He really hoped to visit Switzerland, and he did enter a small portion of the country, but was not allowed to leave the train.

There were unusual, embarrassing and many said stories, especially later as Sol with others hunted the suffering, aged parents of the POW’s to give Red Cross earnings to their families—some of whom were quite needy of food and clothing.

Sol’s friendships lasted many years after he returned home to the States. This is evidenced by the numerous letters included in this book—all of which he answered.

Sol’s experiences caused him to change his career to study and become an osteopathic physician practicing many years in Lancaster, Pa., where he continued to serve mankind.

- Ruth Stoltzfus



Your Son and Brother Sol

ed. by S. Duane Kauffman

261 pages

In our church library
and available at
Masthof Bookstore

Upcoming Jr. MYF Events

Slip & Slide Fun — Slip and Slide Fun organized by the Young Adults on Wednesday, August 3. Beginning time is 6:30 p.m. — FUN! FUN! FUN!

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

MYF Activities

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 at 6:00 pm. Invite your friends. Fireworks too! Bring money for snacks or souvenirs.

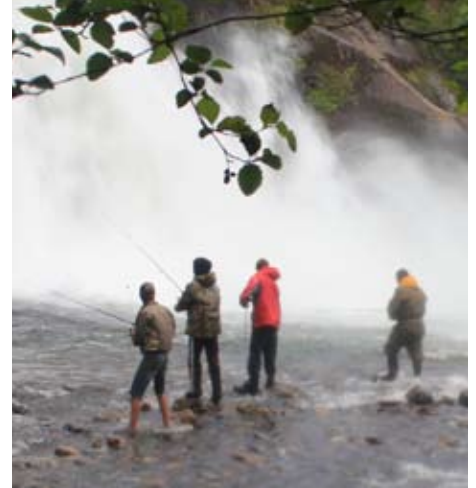
Saturday, August 20 - Youth Shore Trip to Long Beach State Park, N.J. Meet at the church at 6:00 am. Bring a packed lunch, snacks, water, drink, beach toys, chair, umbrella, money for supper.



Conestoga's children enjoying a delightful "Summer Outing" at Andy and Dot Leatherman's home!



Kingcome Mission Trip



PRAISES AND REQUESTS

- Pray for the **Ken Parris family** who have moved into Conestoga's Security House. Ken is the new administrator at Conestoga Christian School and will be joining us on Sunday, August 28, to share in our worship service.

- Thank God for the vision that past leaders had to begin a Christian elementary school here in our Valley in 1952. Thank God that **Laura Kurtz** (first teacher), **Stephen Kurtz**, **Greg Petersheim**, and **Karen Horning** have been involved through the years and agreed to serve in our combined adult Sunday School on Sunday morning, August 28.



- Thank God for **Harvey and Lillian Stoltzfus** who weeded the flowerbeds around the Security House in the month of June. Here in this picture, they are talking to Michelle and Kenny Parris.

- Thank God for a “fun” season for **Conestoga's Softball Team** who registered eight wins and seven losses—a better record than last year! The play-offs begin August 4 and go through August 6.

- Praise God for the **three interpreters** (Beth Hillman, Beth Setley, and Marsha Barr) whom God has sent to Conestoga to offer deaf interpretation during our Sunday morning worship service. Thank God for those persons contributing financially to this program. Pray that God will bring others to be blessed through this ministry.

- Pray for those **Conestoga members** who cannot attend church on a regular basis. Thank God for the **Visitation Team** as they and other faithful members visit on a regular basis.

- Pray for **April Petersheim** and **Marlin Petersheim** who are leaving tomorrow (August 1) on a mission trip to Brazil to work in missions in the Amazon. They are requesting prayer for safety and a harvest of much fruit as they join a team from Overland Missions.

- Thank God for the many Old Testament Bible persons who teach us so much as we study their life—especially Abraham's wife, Sarah, whom the **Ladies' Bible Study** studied the past several months. Thanks be to God that amidst our fears and faith, we too can choose a spiritual legacy.



- Praise God for the friendship and love between **Shawn Petersheim** and **Jessica Zwickel** who recently announced their engagement.

- Pray for **Pierce Ebert** who is attending a six-week summer semester at Penn State University Main Campus. He will have about one week off between this session and the beginning of the fall semester. Thank God that he is enjoying meeting new friends and is doing well in his English and Engineering courses. Pray for safety and continued good study habits as the workload increases.

- Pray for Conestoga's college students as they prepare to begin another year at college: **Pierce Ebert, Denise Beam, Sonya Petersheim, Austin Unruh, Mattie Horning, Christine Ebert, and Jody Essick.**

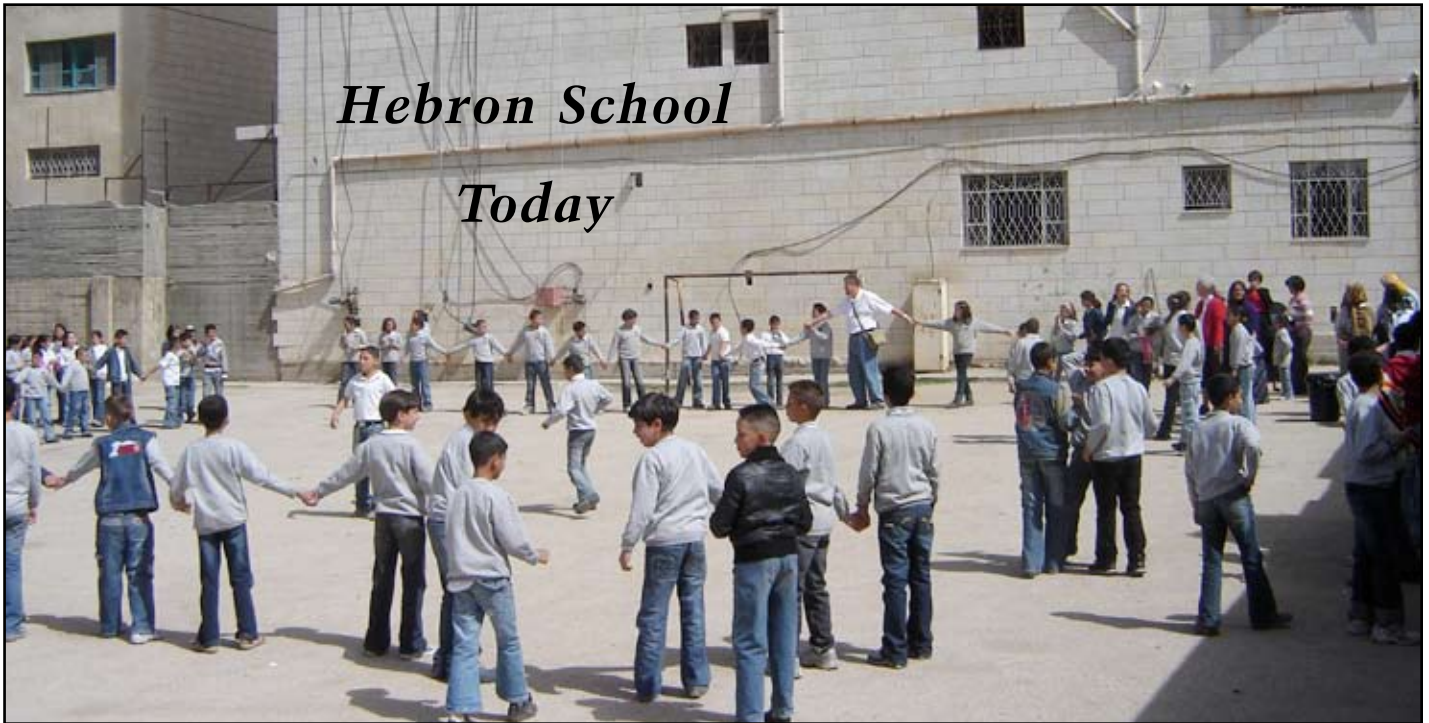
- Pray for Conestoga's students as they prepare to begin a new school year: **Madison Martinez, Paige Meadors, and Piper Meadors** going into first grade; **Chloe Young** in second grade; **Celia Johnson, Rosa Johnson, and Preston Meadors** in third grade; **Zach Johnson and Domanik Young** in fourth grade; **Luke Stoltzfus** in fifth grade; **Thomas Young** in sixth grade; **Mindy Beam, Becky Miller, and Natalie Stoltzfus** in seventh grade; **Josh Beam and Mason Stoltzfus** in ninth grade; **Jon Ebert and Hope Miller** in tenth grade; **Dylan Beam and Joy Beam** in eleventh grade; and **Bryce Petersheim** in twelfth grade!



- Pray for **Graham Cyster**, our conference minister in Atlantic Coast Conference, as he serves the broader church, and as he prepares to share in our September 25 Sunday morning worship service.

- Pray for the **2.5 million children** in the United States who have a parent in prison today! (One in 15 African American children and 1 in 42 Latino children have a parent in prison, compared to 1 in 111 white children.)

- Pray for **opportunities to let Jesus' light shine** through you during the week as you relate with others at work, at home, and in the community! And then remember to thank God when He opens the doors to share *His love that passeth all understanding!*



Started in 1954 as an Orphanage by Ida and Ada Stoltzfus from Conestoga Mennonite

~ Hebron School ~

In 1954, Ada and Ida Stoltzfus, twin sister members at Conestoga Mennonite, went on a venture to Palestine to begin an orphanage and school. Conestoga supported these sisters through the years with finances, needed items made by our Sewing Circle, prayers, and visits.

As mother and friend to many orphans, Ada and Ida's vision lives on today. Come and learn more about this mission that is the only Christian influence in the city of Hebron today.

**Hebron School
Fundraiser Dinner
Friday, September 9, 2011**



Above: Howard Moss is playing with school children at Hebron. Below: Bob Ebert is playing in the playground with children. Right: Lemar and Lois Ann connecting with the child they sponsor.



"Faces from Behind the Walls" — by Sue Steffy
~ Power point about the Hebron School accompanied by the song "If These Walls Could Speak."

"In God's Time" — David and Lois Garrison
~ Updating the latest developments at Hebron School

Plan to attend this informative evening starting at 6:00 p.m.



Serving with MDS at Kingcome Inlet, British Columbia



We made it! The Conestoga team of young adults and leaders made the journey all the way to Kingcome Inlet, British Columbia, and left with a sense of accomplishment. We saw so much of God's beautiful creation, made friendships with many of the people, stretched our own abilities, and made a big difference in the restoration of two homes.

We were the first of four Mennonite Disaster Service groups to come in and help the area after a September 2010 flood covered the First Nations village with 12 feet of water. Part of a glacier fell into the lake up-river, sending huge amounts of water down over the village. There are about 70 people living there on the land of their ancestors, trying to preserve their language and traditions. The beauty of their valley is breathtaking, surrounded by towering snow-capped mountains and evergreens. It is only accessible by plane or boat, but I don't think any of us minded being away from busy roads for awhile.



We met the four people from MDS at an orientation in Canada, and then traveled with them on the boat rides to the village, helping to set up their whole operation at the same time. We stayed in classrooms in a very modern school building in the center of the village. It stayed light after 10:00 p.m., so we were able to work hard and play hard afterwards. Soccer was a popular evening game.

Personally, I found MDS to be a great way for me to learn new skills. Darin, the MDS intern, was my crew leader for most of the week and patiently taught me how to drywall and spackle. If I couldn't find anything else to do, I always had a job cleaning up the boys' mess! I was glad for dust masks and gloves.

There are several life lessons I will take away from this trip. First of all, be flexible and be willing to go with the flow. I didn't have to know all the details ahead of time to still be able to go and have a wonderful experience.

Secondly, be willing to listen to people when they want to share their thoughts; you might realize that it helps both the speaker and the listener. I was blessed by little unexpected conversations that came up throughout the week.

And finally, I learned again to trust in the Lord to give me the strength I need, because He is able to provide it. Praise God!



- Kristy Petersheim