

## *The Pastors Connection*

June 2011

*“I am grateful”*

This month I decided to simply outline my day for 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 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 Ruth Beam. Ruth testified of faith even in the face of uncertainties of readiness to leave Tel Hai. Riding together 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 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 fund raising 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