



Conestoga at ACC's 2010 Fall Assembly

Over 4,000 persons are now members of ACC (yes, the number is growing thanks to the work of the Holy Spirit plus intentional planning and work by God's people!)

Conestoga members attended both the ACC Mennonite Women's Dinner on Friday evening, October 22, as well as the Fall As-



sembly the next day—all located at Forest Hills Mennonite Church this year.

President Heidi Stoltzfus (pictured to the left and addressing the ACC Mennonite Women's Dinner) did a superb job leading the evening dinner program. Nine ladies from Conestoga attended including Bonnie Beam and Lisa Miller (pictured from left to right in the same photo).

The theme for the Friday evening program was "Later Life Transitions." Mother and daughter, Marlene Kaufman and Anne Kaufman Weaver, spoke from their own experience of journeying together in preparation for life's transitions. "Transitions of long term illness, dementia, and dying are more difficult when we are not ready for them—when there has not been open discussion of each person's needs or desires." Marlene and Anne's humor and honesty helped attendees move into an important space of considering shared power, respect, control, and care of each other.

Saturday's ACC Fall Assembly carried the "young adult theme" throughout the day—a wonderful time with Carrie Stoltzfus and seven other young adults sharing at different times. It was informative and invigorating to hear their views and opinions and perspectives as persons who are "choosing" to identify with the Mennonite church! Carrie will be sharing in an upcoming Sunday morning service as part of her delegate responsibilities. We look forward to hearing more then!





The PASTORS CONNECTION

Generosity

Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Psalm 112:5

A “name it and claim it” wealth gospel distorts the full wisdom of God’s word. Texts like Hebrews 11 define heroes of faith as those who trust God even though they die without receiving all God promised. The above promise does not define fulfillment time frames. Sometimes a reward is only paid in full on the other side of glory, but forms of good impact the day-to-day lives of those who walk in God’s ways.

The past month we have seen God’s generosity expressed over and over in congregational life. The 250th celebration featured in last month’s *Connections* was the prime example. But others are worth noting.

A life of leadership worth honoring: October 24 we were blessed to host a celebration naming Harvey Stoltzfus our “Pastor Emeritus.” The meal and the sharing with story, laughter, and tears was a beautiful example of a life lived generously that God has rewarded. Good surrounded Harvey and Lillian through family, friends, and legacy.



CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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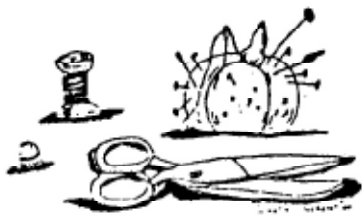
A legacy of mission impact: We remain in awe that we sponsor 17 long-term mission partners through the Elsie Zook Mission Fund (EZMF). This fund was not established as an endowment to distribute earnings only. Rather we are distributing the gift itself. Continuing the above generosity means full distribution in three more years. The Pastoral Team and EZMF Team are reviewing these realities alongside the donors’ wish that the monies strengthen the mission involvement of Conestoga Mennonite Church (CMS); and are adjusting distribution policies accordingly. We are grateful that Christ’s kingdom has grown as we have administered this gift to God’s glory.

A history of strong fund balances: This week we distributed in boxes a letter outlining our history of generous fund balances as a congregation. Although offerings since the split in 2007 and fire in 2008 have not fully matched expenses, our fund balances remain amazingly strong. In the letter we outline the CMC funds we invite you to consider supporting if you wish to include CMC in end-of-year giving. Thank you for your generosity that enables us to invest in many ministries to God’s glory. We celebrate being able to joyfully live Christ’s story together with generosity!

Shaping society: In spite of being tired of political ads, or maybe as a way of countering them with biblical principles, let me yet note that numerous Old Testament prophets echo the message of Isaiah 58 that a nation will only experience God’s blessing as it practices generosity and justice. CMC members likely have a wide range of opinions regarding which candidates would best achieve this biblical mandate; but if we are ones who vote, let us at least approach the voting booth with God’s standards informing our discernment.

During our November 21 worship, we will celebrate the thanksgiving holiday with another “in-gathering” of supplies for our food pantry. Holidays are good habits, especially ones set aside for gratitude. But minds that train the heart daily towards gratefulness and justice and generosity are the ones that experience a richly rewarded life. May it be our legacy together to God’s glory!

Joyfully living Christ’s story with you, Pastor Bob



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. There were 34 ladies present. It was our annual "Bring a Friend Day."

Two comforter tops were donated. Completed items includes: 74 diapers, 3 comforters, 6 baby gowns, 13 baby blankets, 13 health kits, and 2 quilts.

For devotions, we sang "I Love to Tell the Story." The Scripture reading was taken from Acts 25:1-12. A devotional entitled "Spheres of Influence" was also read.

Our special offering amounted to \$97.00. We sang "Face to Face" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

Did You Know That . . .

. . . **John and Lisa Miller** will become grandparents about March 2011? Enjoy the anticipation of Jen and Nate having their first child and your first grandchild!!

. . . nine **Conestoga ladies** enjoyed a delightful dinner at the ACC Mennonite Women's Dinner at Forest Hills Mennonite Church on Oct. 22? Thank you, Heidi Stoltzfus, for doing such a wonderful job serving as President of this organization!

... **Lemar Mast** drove through 5 countries (Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, France, and Germany) in 16 days in October? He even drove on the same roads that decorated cows were being driven from a judging contest!



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!*

— November 2 —

Bible Study with Stan Deen

Service Project for November: Twin Valley Food Pantry

— November 9 —

Seasons of Solace

led by Janelle Hertzler; Twin Valley Food Pantry collection

— November 16 —

Our Words Make a Difference

led by Bonnie Greiner; Twin Valley Food Pantry collection

— November 23 —

Thanksgiving Week—no meeting

— November 30 —

Mom's Day Out

Drop your children off and enjoy time with friends, shopping, . . .

November 28 Fellowship Dinner

Sunday, November 28

Amish Turkey Fellowship Dinner

Turkey, filling, and potatoes will be provided.

Persons under age 65 - Bring a salad, relish, or fruit

Persons over age 65 - cookies (bar cookies, rolled cookies, ...)

The Ladies's annual "Dust Bunny Hunt" will begin after our fellowship dinner at 1:00-1:15 p.m.—ladies participating in the hunt will have their cookies/dessert as a snack during one of the afternoon stops. We have a wonderful "surprise hunt" in store, and should return to the church no later than 3:00 p.m. Please feel free to bring cameras along for the hunt. A roster is posted in the lobby to sign up, and remember to invite your "hunting widow friends."

*Pizza and Bowling for
the Jr. MYF in October!*

Thank you, Pastor Bob and Cindy,
for organizing the pizza and bowling
party for us in October!

Thank You! ☺
Mason Stoltefus
p.s. - It was a great
time!

Thanks alot!
I had fun!
-Josh

Thankyou
Bob and Cindy!
I had a great
time! Nat ♡ 8



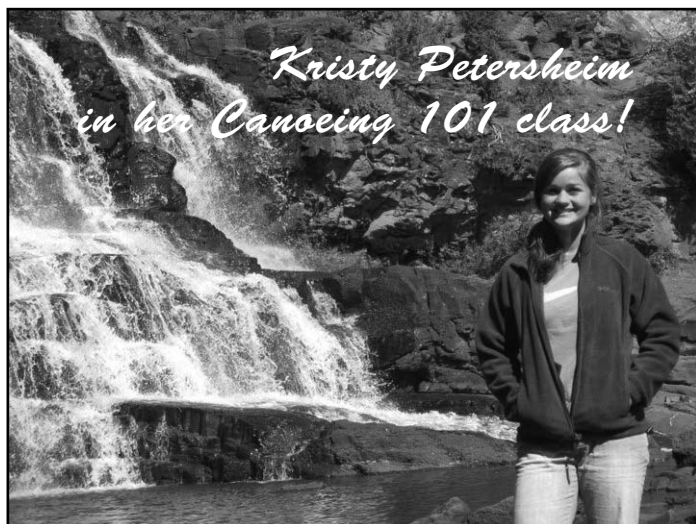
Thanks!
It was so
much fun.
-Mindy



**Jr.
MYF
Go**



thank you Bob & Cindy
Luke ☺ Luke



Upcoming MYF Activities . . .

*Bible Study every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.
in the Youth Room.*

November 13 – Bowling

November 26 – Fundraising Meal and Auction

The meal is going to be a Jambalaya (New Orleans style), salads, and ice cream sundae dinner. Please tell Bob and Karen Horning by Nov. 15 what you are donating for this Auction.

December 4 – Holiday Special

December 30-January 2 – Camp Deerpark Service Trip

Young adults are needed to help us with this

service trip—talk to Karen Horning if interested!



Hello to everyone at Conestoga from Cable, Wisconsin! For those of you who don't remember, I'm studying Bible here at Philadelphia Biblical University's Wisconsin Wilderness Campus. WWC is well known in this community and I'm glad to be part of a larger witness to this area of the Northwoods. I'm not exactly having a typical freshman year of college, which I love. Let me give you a small picture: there are 24 students living here on a campus in the middle of a peninsula on Lake Owen. In the summer, the campus is a gymnastics and skate camp for kids, so we get the benefits of that atmosphere, as well. My class includes students from the New England states, Colorado, Belgium, Mexico, plus many from our area. We take modular-style courses, since professors are only here for a week at a time. So far, I've completed my credits in Environmental Science that included field trips to local farms and woodlands. We also spent a week in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area on the border between Canada and Minnesota camping and canoeing. Other courses have included Student's Life and Calling, Introduction to Bible, and Life Management. Currently I'm in the middle of my study of the Pentateuch, which has been eye-opening. We study not only the content, but the way to understand context, author's intent, etc. I'd love to tell you more details if you're interested! Besides reading and writing papers, I stay busy working in the kitchen, hiking, kayaking, and exploring the local area. I'm attending Living Hope Community Church and am starting to get involved with the youth group and worship team there. Let me tell you, it's been a major adjustment living in a new community where I didn't know anyone, but I've made several close friends and lifelong memories...like introducing classmates to whoopie pies and tasty cakes, completing a 35-foot high ropes course in the rain, visiting Lake Superior, and talking with our neighbors about what I'm doing at a Bible college in northern Wisconsin! It's hard to sum up 7+ weeks, but I look forward to talking to you when I see you on December 12. I'd like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers, they mean SO much in this year of change. God Bless you all.

- Kristy Petersheim



My college experience is comprised of a lot of learning, way too much cramming Sunday night before test block, and time spent in the clinic attempting to master the skill of cleaning my patient's teeth without making them cry. Since it is only a two-year program, I have only a few general education classes and mostly Dental Hygiene classes. Therefore, I am learning a lot of new things, and loving it except for the tests. I have clinic twice a week, and although it can be frustrating, my instructors are fantastic, and it's a welcome break from long lectures on the pros and cons of various dental materials. College does differ from my years at Conestoga Christian School. The most obvious is, of course, the people I come in contact with. It's been a good experience making new friends and hearing their backgrounds, many of which have little in common with mine. As for the professors, they teach very well, but most differ greatly in regard to background, religion, and lifestyle from those I've had previously. In short, it's a whole new world beyond CCS, and at times it forces me to reevaluate what I believe as a follower of Christ.

- Sonya Petersheim



Senior Connections at Conestoga

The **October 14 Senior Connections** to tour behind-the-scenes at Weaver's Orchard was enjoyed by more than expected due to the rain. Allen Weaver served as an excellent tour leader and the cider was delicious!

The **November 11 Senior Connections** will feature the "Thanksgiving" theme with input and sharing followed by games. Invite your friends to join us for another delicious lunch followed by some inspiration!

Nursery News . . .

Are you interested in blessing our church nursery or library with a gift this Christmas season? The librarians have recently purchased several kids/ DVDs—a start to a new section in the library.

Donations of children's Christian drama or music DVDs are welcome. They can be given to one of the librarians.

The church nursery is still looking for a small child-size table with chairs or benches. Please check with Dot Leatherman for more details if you are interested in making or purchasing this item for our nursery. It is needed and will be well-used!

Medical Clinic Update . . .

Three patients were treated at the first Twin Valley Medical Clinic held here at Conestoga. Robin Miller as our volunteer nurse assisted Dr. Moser while Beta Starchild and Lois Ann Mast took care of the receptionist duties.

It was a "holy moment" to sense that we as a congregation were providing this assistance to persons living here in the area where God has planted them and us!

We had prayed that the Twin Valley Medical Clinic could become a satellite medical clinic from an already-established clinic, but so far the doors have not yet opened, so we postponed the opening of the Clinic in October until legal work is processed. Pray that God's will be done as we serve this need here in our community.

- Lois Ann Mast



Conestoga Mennonite Church recently received this framed "Covenant Agreement" from Tel Hai Retirement Community stating: "We hereby agree to work together to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior for mutual encouragement and support of our respective ministries."

RECIPE CORNER

Marinated Chicken Breasts From Becky Yoder's Kitchen

Tenderize chicken breasts. Use fork prongs if you don't have a tenderizer. Marinate for two days—completely covered with Italian Dressing. Sprinkle parsley and paprika on chicken in pan. Bake covered with the marinade at a temperature of 300° - 325° for 2.5 hours.

Let the Children Come

Children are a joy. They make us chuckle with delight. They bring us new adventures and bring out the child in us as we join them in play. They remind us to smell the flowers and appreciate the small and big things in our world. They ask questions that make us ponder life and faith in new ways.

Children are also a big responsibility. They are vulnerable and sometimes lack common sense. They need us adults to protect and care for them. They are our most precious natural resource!

“We see in the Gospels that Jesus placed great value on children (Matthew 18:5-6). We believe God embraces children and places great importance on our nurture and care for them.

At Conestoga Mennonite Church, we acknowledge a God-given responsibility to protect children and youth from all forms of abuse. We affirm our unwavering commitment to the physical safety and spiritual nurture of our children and youth. As a community of faith, we pledge to conduct our ministries in ways that assure the safety and spiritual growth of all our children and youth, as well as the adults who work with them.” (The introduction to our new Child Abuse Policy.)

At the request of our congregation’s leadership, a committee worked during the summer to review and update our Child Protection Policy. (Those on the committee were Bonnie Beam, Robin Beam, Susan Johnson, Rod Stoltzfus, and Dot Leatherman, chair.)

In September, this Committee discussed the new policy with leaders of our ministries to children and youth. These leaders provided evaluation and valuable input from their perspectives. In October, the Pastoral Team reviewed and approved this new policy.

For our policy to be effective, the whole congregation needs to be aware of the contents of this policy. Staff and volunteers who work with children and youth need to be screened and trained in this policy. This training will include information on safeguards for keeping our children and youth safe, how to recognize signs of abuse, and what to do if abuse occurs. All of our staff, and volunteers working with children and youth will be asked to attend one of two trainings scheduled in January.

You will hear more about this policy, as well as our plans for training, in December. Look for a copy of this new policy in your mailboxes in December. You will then have an opportunity to sign up for one of the trainings.

Everyone who volunteers for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Sunday morning nursery, M4:6a staff, youth, and quizzing leadership, and any other ministries with children and youth will be asked to participate in this training.

The trainings are scheduled for Wednesday evening, January 5, and Sunday, January 23 (after the fellowship meal). Parents of young children are strongly encouraged to participate, and congregational members of all ages are welcome to participate.

For the sake of our current children and those whom God will bring to us in the coming months and years, it is right that we make this a high priority. Jesus said “Let the little children come to me. . . ; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” *- Dot Leatherman*

Food Pantry Update . . .



The Food Pantry this past Tuesday evening distributed food to over 60 different families again. On the left, Carol Moss is giving directions before the doors are opened. Above, are Beta Starchild and Becky Yoder enjoying bagging and boxing organic vegetables from Mt. Pleasant Organics at Honey Brook and Hartz Natural Food at Morgantown.

Seeing Europe

In October, we enjoyed showing three Metzler couples where their ancestors lived in Europe before coming to America—some came already in the 1700s while others came in the 1860s. Lemar drove a nine-passenger van for most of the trip while I sat behind him and helped find the right roads!

- Lois Ann and Lemar Mast



We sat in the kitchen of Regula and Simon Fankhauser in Switzerland with their daughter Kristina and listened to this first-generation Anabaptist couple. They live in an old house dating back to the time when Anabaptists hid in a special hiding place to escape the authorities who were arresting and killing them. They now tell the story to over 2,500 persons who visit their farm every year!



Right: We really enjoyed visiting Rene and Lidie Hege in Wissembourg, France. Rene is a brother of Erica Shirk, New Holland. Meeting persons living in Europe is one of the best ways to learn about the country. Here Rene is talking to us in front of his home where they hosted us before showing us their church and other sites.



Left: Both Sundays we attended two different Mennonite churches, but here we were hosted by Lydia Bachman and her family who attend this Mennonite Church near Zurich, Switzerland. They have fellowship meals three Sundays out of every month with delightful simple meals!



The Swiss and Austrian Alps are the most beautiful majestic awesome sight! On the right, we enjoyed watching farmers bringing their cows to town for a judging contest. Here a family including a young son lead the cows down the main street of Trub, Switzerland, where we stayed overnight.