

CONESTOGA Connections



December 2010
Vol. XXI, No. 12

2010 MYF Auction





The PASTORS CONNECTION

An Active Stillness

Be still and know that I am God.
Psalm 46:10

Pausing may be our generation’s most needed spiritual discipline. We live with constant noise, the expectation of instant availability, and a dizzying array of entertainment options. In the face of action and reaction, God invites us into periodic stillness; not for the purpose of “emptying,” rather to know anew the abundance of God’s generosity.

Sunday, November 28, began the 2010 season of Advent. Advent is a time to wait fulfillment of God’s promises. It is opportunity to anticipate Christ’s coming. It is an invitation to sharpen focus on foundations so as to not miss God at work in His world.

Our Worship Planning Team has discerned to follow the themes developed and published by the Mennonite Church *Leader* magazine. The material is introduced this way: “When we stop long enough to notice what’s going on, God’s generosity and creativity surprise us, and, catching the vision, we can’t help but respond. As we gather for worship, we suggest beginning each service

with silence, and leaving one or two quiet times within the service. A few snippets of stillness can offer us a sense of spaciousness and suggest a bounty of time, as well as give us opportunity to receive deeply what has been said, to reflect on what we have heard.”

In that spirit, we will weekly introduce the lighting of the Advent candle by the ringing of a bell calling us into active silence. Returning again to the worship resource words: “We encourage you to use the time to pray; to remember why we are people of faith to begin with; to remember the ways of the One who made us; to receive the Love who was born into poverty” so He might become our Lord and Savior through a faithful life, death, resurrection and reign as Lamb of God.

Update on mission discernment. In last month’s *Connections*, I noted that generous commitment of the Elsie Zook Mission Fund (EZMF) was rapidly distributing funds, requiring review of our policies. We also revisited the donors wish that the monies strengthen the mission involvement of Conestoga Mennonite Church (CMC). As a result, we have discerned to retain the uncommitted balance for one of three priorities: CMC members involved in long or short term mission, a partner mission church relationship, or persons going on a short term mission team sponsored by CMC. We have sent letters to current EZMF recipients alerting them of these changes. Pause in this holiday season to pray that others would step up to meet their funding needs when our current commitments are fulfilled. In your moments of stillness, praise God for the significant kingdom impact our stewardship of these funds has to His glory!

Special times to invite guests. There are several opportunities this month to give a special invitation to friends and neighbors to worship with us. Sunday evening (6 p.m.) on December 5, we are hosting a “Community Christmas Hymn Sing.” On Sunday morning, December 12, we will host the Conestoga Christian School Vocal Ensemble during our worship hour. On Sunday, December 26, we will meet in the fellowship hall for a “Christmas Fellowship Brunch” during the 9:30-10:20 Sunday School time followed by our morning worship in the sanctuary. Invite family, friends and neighbors to these special events as together we set time aside to be still and know that God is God, and God is good!



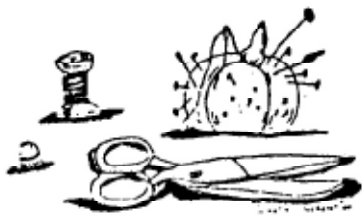
CONESTOGA MENNONITE CHURCH

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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.

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Joyfully living His story with you, Pastor Bob



Sewing Circle

Sewing Circle met on Wednesday, November 3, 2010. There were 12 ladies present. Eight kit bags were donated. Completed items included: 15 diapers, 16 baby blankets, 3 comforters, and 34 health kits.

For devotions, we sang "God Will Take Care of You." The Scripture reading was from Philippians 4:19 and a devotional entitled "Blues Chaser" was read.

Our special offering amounted to \$33.00. We sang "Blessed Assurance" before adjourning.

- Betty Cannell, Secretary

Did You Know That . . .

. . . when **Jerry Petersheim** and **Pastor Bob Petersheim** were three and four years old, their Sunday School teacher was **Linda Bush**? In fact, Linda had 17 children that year in the Nursery Sunday School class! Thank YOU Linda!

. . . **Shawn Beam**, **Dan Mast**, and **Nate Speece** (son-in-law of John and Lisa Miller) were three of the firemen who hosted an open house of the new Twin Valley Fire Department on November 21? On the front cover of the Open House program was Isaiah 43:2.

. . . **Andy and Dot Leatherman** left this past Thursday for Dade City, Florida, to serve in construction work with Habitat for Humanity? They plan to return home on December 22.

. . . 20 **Conestoga ladies and friends** enjoyed a delightful tour of the mansion house at St. Mary's of Providence on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 28? Afterwards, we met at Robin Beam's house where we were hosted to chocolate fondue and English tea.

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!*

— December 7 —

"Garland of Joy—Paper Craft with Lee"

Pre-registration is necessary.

— December 14 —

Christmas Story shared by Dr. Doris Schoel

— December 21 and 28 —

Christmas Break—Merry Christmas!

Bring-A-Friend Christmas Brunch

Sunday morning
December 26



*During our Sunday School hour,
beginning at 9:30 a.m.*

*Conestoga's Activities Committee
will host a delicious Christmas Brunch
before our Sunday morning worship service.*

*This is intended to be a time to invite friends
to join us for brunch and worship!*

*The Partners With Christ Sunday School Class
plus the Activities Committee will provide this delicious brunch!*

*Celebrate the birth of Jesus by sharing this JOY
with others in our community!*

Remembering Advent



FIRST Sunday in Advent—November 28, 2010

- Wake From Sleep! -

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

SECOND Sunday in Advent—December 5, 2010

- Repent and Reconnect! -

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

THIRD Sunday in Advent—December 12, 2010

- Be Patient as God Works! -

Psalm 146:5-10; Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

FOURTH Sunday in Advent—December 19, 2010

- See the Sign! -

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Isaiah 7:10-16;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

FIFTH Sunday in Advent—December 26, 2010

- Weep and Rejoice! -

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2: 13-23



Poised to **Explode**...

Are we on this earth for each others' benefit, or for the community?

Jeff Wright (pictured on the left) is ACC's "New Church Development Coach" who just began serving on the Atlantic

Coast Conference (ACC) staff this fall. He excited and inspired the group of ACC members who attended the November 8 ACC Annual Vision Dinner at Shady Maple Restaurant.

Jeff challenged us that he sees ACC *poised to "explode"* as a *new church singing an "old" song*—the song of Jesus! It was very exciting to sense his energy, his enthusiasm, and his excitement as he shared a variety of stories of how he sees God opening doors throughout our conference and across the Mennonite Church!

There are many non-churched persons in our communities who are searching for a "family" (a church family) who will accept them. Jeff affirmed us that we have a "very special gift" to offer them as a Mennonite people! "Thousands of persons across Lancaster County and surrounding counties are waiting for us to invite them to join us on a Sunday morning," encouraged Jeff.

Wright shared that more and more Christians (not Anabaptist) are studying Anabaptists (includes Amish and Mennonites and other faith groups sharing values of taking Jesus seriously in His teaching as well

as His atoning sacrifice), and accepting the peace and nonresistant theology because it is more Biblical than their denomi-national theology.

Yes, we were surprised by some of Wright's insight. One was, "The most unhappiest churches are the busiest churches. In the months to come, we will see Mennonite churches become more simple so that we can concentrate on what is essential—we do not need 25 committees in a church of 100 members! Instead, we need to first, make room to love God more, and second, love people more! Within a simpler church, our love WILL abound more and more and take on a role as a body of Christ as we live as Jesus modeled!"

**God's work done in God's way
never lacks God's provisions.**

Wright challenged us that our ultimate vision as Anabaptist Mennonites is to "create church!" "We are called to reach beyond ourselves to those who are searching . . . to those who are intrigued . . . to those who are challenged . . . to those who desire to join us! Find the ways to offer this *gift!*"

ACC is poised to explode into a *new church!* Wright ended by saying that this new church will be inspired by the young adult vision among us who desire to focus on nonviolent love, and who have the vision and ability to implement new ways to sing the "old, old" song. What are we doing to use their gifts? *- Lois Ann Mast*



Conestoga's Primary Sunday School class (with co-teacher Liz Petersheim) designed and created their very own THANKFUL TREE posted outside their Sunday School room. Check it out and express appreciation to: Celia Johnson, Rosa Johnson, Zach Johnson, and Preston Meadors.

Upcoming MYF Activities . . .

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

December 8 or 15 – Join the youth at Hope of the Nations Church in Reading to practice Bible quizzing for the upcoming ACC Bible Quizzing from Jan.-Mar. 2011.

December 30-January 2 – Camp Deerpark Service Trip. We plan to leave the church parking lot at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, December 30. Our service project for the weekend is cutting firewood. We would really appreciate some chili or chicken corn soup for one of our meals. Contact Karen Horning.



THANK YOU

**for contributing towards our MYF Auction!
You helped us raise \$6,729.00!**



London Mennonite Centre where Wayne and Lois Hochstetler are based in London, England.



Lois Ann Mast visiting the Centre's well-known and appreciated Anabaptist Library. This is actually only a small part of the entire collection—largest Anabaptist library outside of the United States. Thank God for the work that Wayne and Lois are doing around the world. (Wayne and Lois shared in our morning worship service last Sunday, November 28.)



Senior Connections at Conestoga

The **December 9 Senior Connections** will feature a “Christmas” theme with input and sharing followed by games. Invite your friends to join us for another delicious lunch followed by inspiration!

Our Livestock Judging Experience

This year Denise and I (Joy Beam) had the opportunity to compete in Livestock Judging at a national level against 4-H teams from across the United States. Livestock Judging is a contest in which a person ranks 12 classes of either four cattle, sheep, or pigs in order of their market or breeding value. The contestant then gives oral reasons to an official describing why the individual placed the class the way they did. Our team, consisting of us, two other teammates, and our Dad and Betsy McCauley as coaches, won the contest at the state level this year and were then able to go on to a higher level. We practiced once a week and went to four minor contests along the east coast and then headed out on a week-long trip to the final, most important contest in Louisville, Kentucky. There, our team placed 13th out of 38 teams and Denise placed 14th out of about 130 individuals. All of the fun we had along the way and the livestock evaluation skills we learned made this trip a truly amazing experience!

- Joy Beam (Sophomore in High School)

Mom's Hands



Mom's hands

are what
I remember.

Hands white with

flour rolling out a pie crust.

Red and chapped hands wrapped with adhesive tape
from cutting chicken gizzards at Manbeck's.

Hands rubbing alcohol on my aching growing
pained legs.

Hands holding up the burning paid-off mortgage
to the farm.

Hands slicing potatoes into a pot and holding out a
slice for me to snack on.

Hands hoisting the yardstick of correction, more
smoke than fire; the sparkle in her blue eyes
giving her away.

Hands darning socks using a light bulb.

Hands laying a cold washcloth on my fevered
forehead.

Hands holding brother Ken's hand at Kathy's
funeral.

Hands working with a pencil, brow furrowed,
calculating if we can afford the payments on
a new Ford.

Hands with a hammer driving a nail putting up
wall board.

Hands with a Kleenex wiping away tears of worry
for a wayward son.

Cupped hands around her mouth calling, “Yoo-hoo,
supper!” from the wash house door.

Hands braiding Sally's hair on a Sunday morning.

Hands in a photo holding high a copperhead she
shot with the 22 long rifle.

Hands ticking off the points on the Scrabble board
as the grin gets wider.

Wrinkled hands showing me how to swaddle baby
Lizzy in a blanket.

What I remember are Mom's hands.

*Written by Herb Reed on October 29, 2010, on the occasion
of moving his mother, Phebe Reed Bell from her home in
Morgantown, Pa., to live with daughter, Sally Reed Miller,
and husband, Ken Miller, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.*



David and Pegge Tennant

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~ David's Favorite Bible Verse ~

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. - Mark 11:23

~ Pegge's Favorite Bible Verse ~

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28

**Wherever you go,
Be a blessing."**

An Evening With David and Pegge Tennant

On Tuesday evening, November 17, David and Pegge Tennant joined Conestoga's Young Adult Bible Study to share their testimony and enable us to learn to know them better. It was a fun evening filled with stories, many humorous ones, as well as reflections of their life.

First, the details. David grew up in central Illinois in a large farming community. Pegge grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and later attended Millersville University to further her education.

They enjoy their six successful children—four daughters and two sons spread throughout the country. Of course, they love their eleven grandchildren.

Together, they led the Catholic Charismatic prayer group for the entire state of Oklahoma. Although they have always loved Jesus, they both felt a calling to have a deeper understanding of the Bible. This desire let them to attend Rhema Bible College in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and shortly after, their daughter and son-in-law followed them graduating there.

After finishing their education, they felt led to join another church called "Church on the Move," a church of over 12,000 people. They were very active in this church and were in charge of the hospital visitation. God drew men to David who had terminal illnesses, and he would walk with them and minister to them, many times helping their families just as much. Through these experiences, they learned that it is important to know who you are in Christ.

David and Pegge currently live near Elverson with their three dogs. David works in the insurance business and Pegge is a full-time caregiver to her mother as well as a distributor for J.R. Watkins which she sells at the Middletown Market on Saturdays.

Involved with a variety of different types of churches, some big some small, they have learned that the Gospel always stays the same and you need to stay in the Word since you are God's instrument.

Having now joined our church as members, David and Pegge appreciate the love and peace that the Mennonite faith has to offer. The rich heritage, family traditions, closeness and style, are just some of the gifts that draws them to Conestoga's family.

With no plans to retire anytime soon, David and Pegge are full of passion and energy. Their prayer is that they will be part of the body of Christ, with a motto of "Wherever you go, Be a blessing."

- Liz Petersheim

Life at Conestoga in November



Cindy Petersheim with her granddaughter enjoying a cup of English tea on the “Dust Bunny Hunt.”



Anthony and Rosene Weber shaking hands with Pastor Bob.

Right: Flower arrangement presented to Beta Starchild in memory of her dog Navajo. The Ladies’ Bible Study each brought a flowering sprig for Cindy and Carol to design.



Lemar delivering Conestoga’s MCC grocery bags.



Sister Irene led us on a delightful tour at St. Mary’s—now used as a Christian retreat center. Note the carved-wood doors and the high ceiling that was painted by one of the sisters.



Every Sunday morning before we arrive, church trustees and other volunteers do the final clean-up of leaves before we arrive. This Sunday morning it was Gary Stoltzfus and Fred Peachey. Thanks, guys!!!