



Living Stones Ministry Team takes the Stage.

One of the most exciting parts of working at a school such as CCS is that when a new idea arises, there is often opportunity to explore. Last spring, I approached Ken Parris with an idea for the fall drama, and when he graciously accepted, I began to prepare for the travelling drama ministry team that would become “Living Stones.”

It didn’t take long for the pieces to fall into place. As I wrote and developed material for the program over the summer, a theme emerged: out of His grace, God chooses to redeem the worst of sinners to accomplish His work in order to glorify Himself. These “worst of sinners” ranged from Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba from Jesus’ genealogy in the book of Matthew to Peter, the woman caught in adultery, and the Samaritan woman from the Gospels. I wrote these

characters’ stories into a series of skits and vignettes and entitled the program “Sinners to Saints.”

I had the privilege of working with a team of thirteen 8th to 12th grade students. As we began the rehearsal process, it became apparent that God had brought each student together to be a part of this team. Their spiritual maturity and sincerity brought the truths that they were proclaiming to life beautifully.

After only a month of rehearsals, we took the show (and our mobile cardboard set pieces!) on the road and had a three week long whirlwind of performances at churches, youth groups, and our own CCS stage. At each venue, I was blown away and humbled by the responses of our audiences and how encouraged and challenged they were by this unique portrayal of the Gospel message.

Though I do not have any “dramatic conversion stories” to tell, the impact that this drama has had is profound. Older generations were inspired to see youth so dedicated to their faith, but perhaps even more significantly, the students exemplified to their peers a genuine and passionate desire to follow Christ, in spite of their weaknesses and shortcomings. And that is the heart of this drama’s message, that God has not come to save the “perfect” or the “righteous,” but the weak and the broken. Though we are sinners, He makes us saints.

By Janna Hertzler



The Living Stones Ministry Team presents “Saints to Sinners”. Written and directed by Alumni and Current teacher Janna (Weiler) Hertzler ‘12

Alumni Newsletter, back in the spotlight

The Alumni Newsletter, COUGAR CONNECTION is making a comeback. It is the desire of the school to let you know what is happening on campus, make you feel welcome at our upcoming events and provide a way for alumni to keep in touch with the school and with each other. We

would love to hear what is happening in your lives as well. Feel free to send information for the alumni news section to Jack Greenly the Director of Alumni Relations at Jack.greenly@conestogachristian.net

or by filling out the form on the alumni section of our website. You can also connect with alumni on Facebook, and Instagram. Information about this and the schools social media pages is found on the back of this newsletter.

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Mission

- Educating the whole student—body, mind and spirit—for God.

Vision

- Conestoga Christian School, in harmony with the home and church, provides a quality educational program for preschool to 12th grade students in an environment which develops critical thinking, nurtures Christ-like character, and equips students for a life of discipleship and service.

1952—Memories of the first years by Cora Kurtz

I was in 7th grade when the school opened as a one-room school house in the Fall of 1952. With my sister, Laura, as my teacher and only 3 students (including myself) in my class, it felt more like playing school than the real thing. I know we gave Laura a hard time, especially when she was teaching the first and second graders on the other side of the pot belly stove in the middle of the room. I do remember learning about gerunds and other forms of the English language from our workbook in English class. We had good textbooks and workbooks that guided our learning when Laura was busy working with other classes. Looking back on that year now, I can't imagine what Laura must have experienced with teaching grades 1-8—and it was her first teaching experience!!

The next year, when I was in 8th grade, we moved into the new school building. It was just one building; the other buildings were added later. Grades 7-9

were in a classroom together. Elsie Peterheim was our teacher. A few more students



First Students in 1952: Left to Right
4th row: Cora Kurtz, Caroline Kurtz, Laura Kurtz (1st teacher)
3rd row: Monroe Stoltzfus, Wesley Mast, Hannah Zook, Rhoda Nancy Mast, Elizabeth Zook, Titus Kurtz, Ethel Stoltzfus, Richard Stoltzfus
2nd row: John Gehman, Charity Stoltzfus, Emma Mae Mast, Barbara Stoltzfus, John Stoltzfus, Wayne Mast, Kenneth Sharp, Martha Stoltzfus.
1st Row: Calvin Kurtz, Ira Kurtz, Paul Mast, Andrew Stoltzfus, Melvin Gehman.

had joined us. I don't remember much about what we learned from our classes but I had no trouble academically when I transferred to Lancaster Mennonite High School. So I know it was a high quality education. I remember most about getting to know my cousins better and forming friendships with my classmates and students from the 2 other classes in the room. These 2 years were good formative years for my future. We had plays and Christmas programs where we each had parts. Our families appreciated coming to the plays and programs to see how we were learning and working together to make a good production. CCS provided more interaction between the faculty and parents than I experienced in the public school. I remember my parents attending a PTA and coming to our classroom to see exhibits of our work that were posted.

Cora attended CCS in 7th—9th grades and is currently living in Florida.

The BBQ & Country Auction—New ideas brighten a classic event

The annual BBQ and Auction was held on October 19th and 20 this year. Several changes were made to help to make this event sustainable for many years to come, as well as adding to the excitement and draw of the event. As in past years, the class baskets continue to be a favorite event and the apple dumplings a sought after commodity. This year an online auction was added which provided two benefits. It enabled auction day to be slightly shorter to enable families to still have the afternoon and evening for their own families as well as allowing friends

and family who were not able to attend to still bid on items of interest. The online auction started the day before the BBQ and continued for two weeks. A cold brew specialty coffee bar and alumni fellowship area was also added to the area that formerly just held crafts. Now alumni and visitors alike can not only browse the craft area but enjoy the iced coffee drinks that have become so popular all while catching up with old friends. Be sure to come next year to enjoy this new area! SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR —OCTOBER 18-19, 2019



Mrs Kolb and several HS students sell cold brew, hot coffee, and hot cider in the new Alumni Area

Students Pack Meals to donate to the Twin Valley Food Pantry

Friday morning of auction weekend students from Preschool to 12th grade cooperated in a morning of service, helping to pack macaroni and cheese dinners. CCS worked with an organization called Meals of Hope to plan and organize this whole school service event. CCS continues to strive to equip students for a life of discipleship and service and the best way to do that is by providing opportunities for students to serve others.

The students were divided into teams with students from Elementary, Middle School and High School working together on each team. When all was said and done, 10,000 meals were packed by our students and donated to the Twin



Students work in teams from all classes to pack meals which were donated to the Twin Valley Food Pantry

Valley Food Pantry located at Conestoga Mennonite Church.

If you have a service opportunity you think would be a good match for the school feel free to let us know.

Founders Event—ZACH ERTZ of the Philadelphia Eagles

CCS is excited to announce that the speaker for the 5th annual Founders Event will be Zach Ertz #86 Tight End of the Philadelphia Eagles. Zach was drafted by the Eagles in the second round of the 2013 NFL Draft. He holds the NFL Tight End single season reception record and caught the winning Touch Down in Super Bowl 52 en route to the Eagles winning their first ever Super Bowl. Zach grew up in California, the oldest of 4 boys and his original love was for basketball before realizing his talent on the football field.

The evening will be a moderated question and answer time and there will be several

ticket price levels. There are also 250 tickets available for those who would like a photo opportunity that will occur at the end of the evening.

The event will be held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Reading on April 5th at 7:00 pm. There will be multiple raffle opportunities that evening with the winners receiving a “Birds of Pray” book or Football signed by Zach. More information about the event and how to purchase tickets will be available by the end of February on the school website.

Photo credit: Keith Allison [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons



Watercolor Workshop offered by Alumni Parent—Becky Gromlich

Becky Gromlich, an alumni parent, will be teaching a watercolor workshop on March 8th and 9th from 9am to 4 pm each day. Come learn how to create inspiring paintings by learning the art of capturing reality. The class will do two different paintings during the event. The cost is \$80 if you bring your own supplies and \$100 if Becky provides your supplies. Class space is limited,

so if you are interested please contact Ginnie Lodge at ginnie.lodge@conestogachristian.net for more information about how to register. Becky is currently living in Washington State so it is an exciting opportunity to have her here with us while she is in the area.



Alumni Spotlight— Cory Murphy

Cory Murphy (Class of 2007) attended Philadelphia Biblical University (now Cairn University) where he majored in Student Ministry. After graduating from college he briefly served as a student pastor at Living Rock Bible Church before landing at Gateway Church in Parkesburg where he served as pastor of student and children’s ministries for more than six years. While at Gateway he and his wife Becca welcomed both of their children into their lives and Cory was also able to complete his Master of Divinity from Liberty University.

“It was at Gateway where I really felt I grew into a leader and visionary. I was cared for and developed as a pastor

and that changed my outlook on what God had in store for my life and ministry.”

Cory has now stepped into a new role, and he is involved as a planting pastor of Branch Life Church in Pottstown. In May of 2018 Cory and his family moved from Coatesville to Pottstown in order to begin the process of planting the church and growing its roots deep into the Pottstown community.

“It’s a new adventure, for sure.

Early in my ministry I never thought I would be a church planter or possibly even a lead pastor but it seems God had other plans and

I am so thankful that he did. I love where God has called me and I love being on the front-lines of planting a brand new church. I am so thankful to CCS for giving me a Biblical foundation that encouraged me to follow God’s calling on my life.”

Branch Life Church launches on April 28th in Pottstown and their services will be held at the Connection Worship Center on Sunday nights at 5pm. You can find more info at branchlife.church.

“I am so thankful to CCS for giving me a Biblical foundation that encouraged me to follow God’s calling on my life.”

We're on the Web!

ALUMNI FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/CCSAlumni123



ALUMNI INSTAGRAM



Check out the NEW Alumni section of
the school website

www.conestogachristian.net/alumni

Upcoming Events

• OPEN HOUSES

*Want to know **SMRe** about
Conestoga Christian School?*

Mornings of February 27 and March 27 and the evening of May 9

- **Pastors Lunch**—February 7th
- **Grandparents Day**—April 5
- **Founders Event with Zach Ertz** — April 5th
- **Evening of Science and the Arts** —April 26th
- **Spring Musical**—FIDDLER ON THE ROOF—May 16-18
- **Graduation**— June 7 at Hopewell Christian Fellowship
- **Winter and Spring Athletics**—The schedule can be found at www.conestogachristian.net/athletics

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE AT

WWW.CONESTOGACHRISTIAN.NET

SCHOOL FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/conestogachristianschool/

SCHOOL INSTAGRAM

www.instagram.com/conestogachristianschool/

ATHLETICS INSTAGRAM

Alumni News



Rachel Petersheim '99 married Nate White on July 7, 2018

Sonya Petersheim '10 and Josiah Stoltzfus where married on September 8, 2018



Kaitlyn Kurtz '10 married Paul Fulbright on November 18th, 2017

Eric Gardner '11 married Jessi Hayes on July 29, 2018 in Shawnee Oklahoma.

Christiana (Urbano) Stanton '12 received her masters in Library Science from Simmons University and is a Tech Reference Librarian at the Public Library of Brookline. She and her husband Branden live in Boston with their cats Wendell and Flannery.

Bryce Petersheim '12 married Madison Parris '13 on October 28, 2017.

Lauren Kurtz '13 married Kyle Frey on April 21, 2018

Bradley Nafziger '13 and Justine Sokso Nafziger '13 welcomed Wesley George on January 29, 2019—Just in time to make the newsletter!

Jon Shoup '14 and Leah Thompson '13 were married on September 10, 2018



Marshal Dosch '14 and Madison Duncan '14 were married on September 9, 2018



Brandon Herr '14 graduated from Messiah College with a Athletic Training degree in 2018 and has recently joined ATI Sports Medicine this past summer.

Jessalin Urbano '16 is doing 2 semesters of study at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan as a Japanese/Linguistics major at PSU.