Local church reaches out to fellow congregation

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MORGANTOWN — Every year St. Thomas Episcopal Church picks two organizations to donate to using proceeds from their Apple Dumpling Festival.

This year, they decided to help out another church a little ways up the road, Conestoga Mennonite Church.

In June, Conestoga Mennonite had a fire, probably caused by lightning.

The pastor of the church, James Wenger, was confident the insurance the church had would be enough to cover expenses.

"There were a number of things... not included in the building's insurance," he explained on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Thankfully for the congregation, many community members volunteered services and donations to help rebuild the church.

"We didn't really ask for anyone to do anything. There was an outpouring of help," he said, including that around 100 volunteers came to help pull apart the section of the building that was damaged.

He also received a call from Pastor Eli Hart of St. Thomas. She told him her congregation had raised about $1,200 to aid Conestoga Mennonite.

"It's a very wonderful gesture of Christina solidarity. The [Conestoga] congregation was very touched," said Wegner. He added that Conestoga had also received gifts.

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