



Focus on Floradale

Volume XXXI, No. 2

Floradale Mennonite Church

April, 2015

Celebrating God's Generosity: The building is paid!!

On Sunday, April 19 Floradale Mennonite Church took time to celebrate together that through God's generosity and the generosity of our people we were able to pay off the new building. There was extra money at year end so at our annual meeting at the end of February we agreed to use \$2,017.33 to pay off the last of the debt.

We had pictures of the building process, we had a photo booth set up by the children (see pg 12) and we had a guessing game (answers on pg 8). Everyone was invited to sign on a framed photo of the new church. During worship we had Alina Kehl and Ashley Bauman talk about some of their memories of the old church and we were blessed with a special song written for the occasion by



Gloria J. Bauman signs the framed photo.



We had the building committee cut the cake: Jeff Bauman, Ron Metzger, Clarence Diefenbacher, Richard Bauman and Rick Freeman. Dennis Brubacher was also on the building committee.

Nichelle Bauman (see page 2). James and Susan Martin talked about the original building, using a new sketch of that church and the old bench.

After a potluck lunch we had cake and ice cream. Jeremy Bowman and Peter Ellis performed a little skit written by Barb Draper that reflected on the building process.



Jeremy Bowman played Richard Bauman and Peter Ellis played Clarence Diefenbacher in a short skit.



Zenas Buehler is served by Marilyn Weber.

My favourite place in the new church

By Mary M. Martin

There is a piece of artwork at church that holds my attention and my spirit each time I sit in a pew where I can see it. It is my favorite space in our new church.

The beautiful dove originally sketched by Ron Metzger carries a metal olive branch shaped by Robb Martin and has back lighting installed by Dennis Brubacher. The carving was done by Ni Adico.

Each piece of this artwork on its own is beautiful but when all are combined the result is a truly amazing symbol of peace. Actually, I think it is more than a symbol of peace; it is symbolic of how a healthy growing church or community works. Together Ron, Robb, Dennis and the carver used their talents/gifts to create a beautiful thing. It makes me wonder how many other amazing things are waiting to happen if we choose to work together, each of us using our own talent or gift for the greater good. Let us be open to recognizing the gifts in each of us and encourage each other to use them.

Mel and Martha Eby also contributed to the dove by paying for the costs. They did this to say thanks to God for Martha's recovery from cancer.

Special places in the new building— quotes

-“The worship space is great with “gather round” seating.” -Florence
“Even if you're short, no matter where you sit, you can see— except in the very back benches.” - Marilyn

A very special song

For our celebration on April 19, Nichelle Bauman was invited to write a new song. We were blessed and touched to hear her sing (with her own accompaniment) the following song. She admitted that with a baby demanding attention it's harder to write songs than it once was.

Untitled - April 19

Words and music copyright 2015 Nichelle Bauman

The Spirit is here, I feel it moving
Lord, we want to be moving closer to You, closer to You
we want to have giving hands and open hearts
we want to be a shining star that points to You, points to You
draw us in community, help us be Your hands and feet

And be the city on a hill that we are called to be
be the open door and the servants on our knees
we are the vessel that carries the Word through centuries
be love, be joy, be peace

Blessings here, they flow abundantly
Lord we come on bended knee to worship You, worship You
and in the times of wilderness Lord we know
You are our comfort and our hope, we call to You, call to You
we will walk in faith, bound together by grace, ever seeking Your face

And be the city on a hill that we are called to be
be the open door and the servants on our knees
we are the vessel that carries the Word through centuries
be love, be joy, be peace

Be hot or cold
feed the hunger in your souls
listen for His call
be light and salt

Be the city on a hill that we are called to be
be the open door and the servants on our knees
we are the vessel that carries the Word through centuries
be love, be joy, be peace

“The kitchen is pretty nice.”

- Phares

“It's all so different from what we had before. The sanctuary is very nice and so is the fellowship hall where you can have 200 people...I also like the sewing circle room.”

- Laura

“There are quite a few spots that are special. When you step inside the doors, there is a warmth. I call them ‘welcoming doors.’ And I like the lighting; there is adequate lighting.”

- Darrell

Remembering the old and new with Fern Metzger

By Mary M. Martin

In the history of Floradale Mennonite church, April 19, 2015 is significant because we celebrated the mortgage being paid off. This event also provided an opportunity to reflect on the changes that came with the move from the old church to the current one.

For me it raised the question of what changes those who have been lifelong members of Floradale have seen and experienced. For answers I reread Brent Bauman's book, *Forged Anew, A History of Floradale Mennonite Church (1856 – 1996)*. And I met with Fern Metzger for her perspective.

I discovered that Fern is the oldest lifelong member of Floradale Mennonite and I wondered what the changes were that she would have seen. Over a leisurely lunch she shared her recollections of some of the changes she had witnessed over the years. I was struck by how the Floradale church was like a thread through her life. She grew up in the Floradale church, she was baptized in the church, her parents' funerals were in the church, her children grew up and were baptized in the church, her children were married in the church, her husband's funeral was held in the church and he is buried in the church's cemetery. Neither the changes in her personal life nor in the life of the church have severed the thread that has held Fern and the church together.

Fern's parents had left the Old Order church to attend the old church on the hill before Fern was



The 1936 building

born. She was three years old when they went to the new red church in 1936. Brent writes of Rueben Dettweiler being "known as a dynamic speaker" but Fern's childhood memory is of his "nice" prayers. The deaths of Fern's parents coincided with times of change in the church – Rueben the minister died in January and her mother died in February of that same year which meant the church had no minister at the time. Years later when her father died in 1957, an addition was in the process of being built and there was incomplete construction at the time of the funeral.

A change that Fern appreciates is how today when a church member dies the viewing often is held at the church and a light lunch is prepared for the family between the afternoon and evening viewings. The burial happens before the memorial service—when her mother died, her mother's body and the viewing happened in the home and her body was in front of the church during the service with the burial following the service.

Fern also recalled when there were trustees rather than a church council, when there were deacons instead of elders, when

church leaders were chosen by lot. She remembers participating in the Literary Society which involved the youth of the area churches and was the forerunner of MYF as we know it today.

I asked Fern what her thoughts and feelings were when the old church was torn down. Initially she had decided not to watch but was drawn to the church site anyway. It seemed to me the thread that held Fern and her church together for so many years pulled her there in order to witness the ending of an era. To her it looked like a war zone and she felt a deep sadness as her memories lingered but "we have to go forward."

For Fern an especially good part of "going forward" is the bright and well lit multi-purpose room. She says it is her favorite room in the current church.

As Fern reflected on these changes, she shared them more as observations than judgments, but she did wonder why it is that new and different is deemed better. For Fern, her "Mennonite roots go deep" and her desire is to be faithful to what has sustained her but knowing that she too "has to go forward."

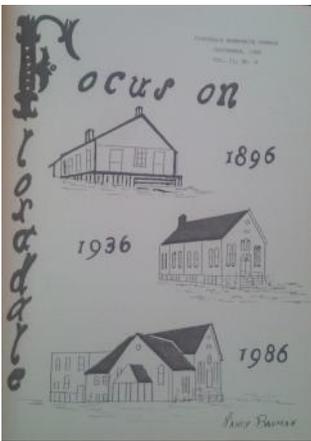
In *Forged Anew* Brent in writing about the centennial celebrations said, "But a common thread runs through every change, a desire to better serve God and reach out to people around them." I believe what was true then is still true today and I quote Brent again, "with faith and God's guidance Floradale Mennonite Church can meet each challenge presented to it with diligence and devotion."

New beginnings and old memories

By Nicole Woeschka

I have attended Floradale Mennonite Church all my life and I thoroughly enjoy going through the old *Focus on Floradale* articles to read about what was happening in the community at different points in time. Right now we are focusing on the new Church and celebrating the accomplishment of completing the payments! In order to properly honour the building, we are reflecting on the old church as well as the new.

In September 1986 there was an issue of the *Focus* with a cover page showing the church buildings in 1896, 1936 and 1986. Barb



Draper wrote a poem describing the decision process for the addition that had been built. It was a funny poem that

also shared the difficulty they experienced when trying to come to a decision!

In December 1989 Elmeta Bowman wrote an article sharing the highlights of the '80's at Floradale including the addition: "In 1986 we added an addition to the east side of our building. This gave us new and much-needed facilities such as a larger entrance and foyer, a lift, a library, a study and three additional classrooms. We also installed a carpet on both floors, put in new windows, padded the benches, closed in the balcony, improved the kitchen and

washroom facilities, put an addition on the parking lot and drilled a well."

In December 1994 there was an article by Clarence Diefenbacher on behalf of the Church Council and Building Fundraising Committee in which he shared an initial report about stats, plans and hopes for what we could accomplish. That building proposal which was an addition to the old building was eventually scrapped.

In October 1997 some people were asked what they appreciate about the Floradale congregation. Some of the feelings shared were: "I think Floradale's strongest point is our sense of community and fellowship together." "I am grateful for all the volunteers who commit themselves to teach Sunday School, lead Boys and Girls Club, Junior Youth and MYF. I strongly believe in creating a place where our young people feel comfortable and a part of the whole congregation." "Floradale is a caring community." "We feel a sense of belonging at Floradale and desire to continue serving God's will."

For me, when I think about the old Church I immediately think of four spaces. First, 'The Dungeon' where the MYF held their Sunday School classes, Bible Quizzing practices, and used as a hang-out area. The smell of mildew and constant dampness never seemed to discourage us from enjoying ourselves!

The second space that comes to mind is the upstairs Sunday School rooms. This space is memorable mostly because of the long hallway that housed cup-

boards and things that crazy children found exciting to climb through! What possessed us to do such things, I wonder?

The third space I think of is the balcony—or rather the stairs leading to the balcony. Anytime you had to climb those stairs, and of course do it quietly so as not to disturb anyone, you could tip-toe up or down those stairs and it always sounded like a herd of elephants! I was able to (after a lot of practice) learn that if you walked on the furthest edge of the step (practically against the wall), the noise lessened considerably!

The final space that I remember, with the greatest fondness, is the stage and alcove at the front of the church. This is where I was baptized. It is also where I got my start with performing music, whether it was special music or pre-/postlude, and speaking at church.

The new building also has very special memories for me. My favourite place in this beautiful new building is the stage in the sanctuary. It is the place I was married. I find it absolutely breathtaking and it makes me feel close to God. I see a bright future at Floradale Mennonite Church—a future full of possibilities!



May God bless the family we have here at Floradale Mennonite Church and the bright future ahead of us!

Memories of the old church

By Steve O. Bauman

- On a Sunday morning when you were in the basement, men would go up one stairwell and ladies another.
- If you weren't sitting in the pews at the beginning of church the back doors were closed up and you weren't allowed in until the first song was being sung.
- Grade 5-8 sat at the front of the church with their Sunday School teachers during the main service. Many a child would get hauled back by his parents for not being able to behave themselves. I don't recall that happening to me but my memory isn't quite as good as it once was.
- Grades 5-8 on the 3rd floor would all be together with Elmeta Bowman at the start of Sunday School before being dispersed to individual classes. There must have been 30-40 kids up there at a time.
- Nathaniel Horst, Mel Eby, Elaine Bowman and Allen Martin were our song leaders. They used a pitch pipe to get the right note to start the song. I know there were others but these were the ones I remember as a child.
- Valina Martin doing book reports on the new books she had gotten for the church library.
- As an MYFer we would go to the Sunday evening service at 8 p.m., not for the service per se but to go out afterward to someone's house for a party or to go bowling. No wonder I was always tired on Monday mornings.
- MYF exchange weekends where we would have an extra 30-40 kids come in from 2-4 different churches and we would have them stay over at our homes. We would sometimes go over to the old fire hall because it had the biggest open space for a huge group.

- I loved being late for church as a kid and going up to the balcony and looking down on the congregation. Those Sundays seemed to go a bit faster.
- Our Sunday School class would recite scripture from memory on a Sunday morning.
- Sunday School students received a metal globe piggy bank to save money for a special church cause.
- I remember Summer Bible School with Homer Schwindt ringing his bell to start the day. We also had different kids in our class as children would be driven in by their parents from outside the area.
- The ushers would open and close the windows during the first songs to help regulate the temperature (a strange memory but a memory none the less).

Memories

By Clarence Diefenbacher

Memories of the old church

My earliest memory is of a Christmas program when I was 3 or 4 years old. Rebecca Bauman, my Sunday School teacher was trying get me to recite my Bible verse and I wasn't saying anything. She held up a Bible story book and said if I said my verse I would get the book. I guess I was open to bribery.

I have good memories of Homer Schwindt as our primary Sunday School superintendent and of Elmeta Bowman as a teacher. She was great at getting us to memorize scripture; we would recite Bible verses in front of the congregation once a month. When there was a program for Christmas or Easter, Elmeta would take us to her home



Before 1986 the church had an open balcony and doors at the back.

for Sunday noon and we would do our practicing at her house.

Vacation Bible School was flourishing when I was young. I remember 200-plus kids in attendance. We had classes in the buggy sheds because the church wasn't big enough to hold everyone. In my day, Homer Schwindt was the VBS superintendent and we sang "We're marching to Zion."

I remember being asked to be the Adult Sunday School Superintendent when I was a young married man. I considered it a meaningful responsibility, especially because of the people that I took over from. Delton Martin and Homer Schwindt had both been in that role for many years.

Special spaces

When I was teaching MYF and young adults we would have 25 people up in the balcony. These young people were making important life decisions, and many of them chose to do some voluntary service. Often two or three people each year would choose VS.

Potlucks in the old church were crowded, but the basement was an important space. Those crowded potlucks provided a good chance for intergenerational mixing.

We also had meaningful services in the old sanctuary with many visiting speakers who held a series of meetings over several days. I remember Simeon Hurst and his wife, missionaries from Africa, who led meetings with a missionary emphasis.

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Feeling the presence of God

The experience of nurturing young people to go into voluntary service and being asked by some of them to provide references was a moving experience. I also believe the student aid program, especially when we could support and affirm pastoral gifts was important. Floradale was able to produce several pastors.

The new building has some very meaningful spaces. We did a lot of discussing about how big the new foyer should be and when we visited other churches when we were planning our new church, they stressed the importance of a large space. Our foyer today is warm, welcoming and accessible. It's a great place to have conversations, or to sit on the side and watch others in fellowship, whether on a Sunday morning or during a funeral visitation. I appreciate our foyer because it allows so much interaction yet doesn't impede the flow of traffic.

Another place I appreciate is the gym. Playing shuffleboard with other seniors, or the many other activities that happen in the gym simply weren't possible in the old building.

Many good things happen in the sanctuary too. We've enhanced the possibilities for drama and musical events. The acoustics are much better than before. I appreciate events such as baby dedications, baptisms and other family vents. One that was especially moving was the ordination for Sherri Martin-Carman when Sherri sat down beside her dad, Allen Martin, in the wheelchair and the two of them sang together.

Our building can accommodate larger conferences and community events, including weddings and funerals. There are more com-

Memories of an old office

By Fred Redekop

My favourite spot in the old church was my office. More specifically, it was the original outdoor wall of the church building that became the inside wall of the office. And the windows on that wall allowed me to look into the sanctuary. It seemed to me that I was always connected to the worship of the church. During the week, I often opened those windows to just listen to the silence. The office was added in the 1985-86 addition to the original structure. It connected me to the old as well as the new, although I never really knew the 1936 building in its pure form.

Those windows were not pure glass, but were a little frosted and uneven. You could not see clearly through them. I cannot always see quite clearly in my faith, so those windows are representative of my theology, and my going forward into the future.

I took those two windows out right before we knocked down the old building, and was hoping to do something with them, but they have lived in my basement for these eight years waiting for some inspiration to arrive, but nothing yet. With the celebration of the paying of the costs of the new place, maybe I will be inspired to think of what those old windows might mean for my going forward. "For now we see through a glass darkly, for I know only in part," but hopefully I will know soon. I can wait until tomorrow.

munity-oriented possibilities and bigger potlucks.

We must remember that the building is only the shell; the people that participate in the programs and events are the heart and soul of what happens within this shell. This will determine the type of witness we are in the community. May we always remember to give the honour and glory to God. He has blessed us with gifts and abilities to complete this project and have it debt-free within ten years.

A lifer! What a privilege!

By Zenas Buehler

Floradale Mennonite Church is the only church I can remember of which I was a part. A few months after my birth my parents decided to switch from horse-and-buggy Mennonite. So I am not quite a lifer. My parent's choices were to stay with the horse-and-buggy people or join the Markham Mennonites, or the Lutherans, or the

Evangelicals or the almost brand new Red brick Mennonite church.

There were always a lot of churches in Floradale, five then but now still four. To be able to drive car, to have a telephone, to go to Sunday School were reasons to change. My parents chose the Red brick over the black bumper Markham Mennonites because of Sunday School. Today Sunday School does not seem to fill the same need as a tool of education.

Education is one of the changes from the church of my childhood. Boys stayed home at age 14 to help. Girls became hired girls or possibly went to grade 10. The choices for girls were nurses, teachers or secretaries. There seemed to be a fear of higher education and was often the butt of jokes or ridicule.

With the ending of WWII our COs began returning with their stories which created peace as an important principle. The SS Curriculum, visiting speakers and a

thirst for peace was prevalent. Happily our church still embraces peace and justice as an important concept of Christianity. The opportunities are different but the concept continues.

In 1945 church activities and administration were different. We had a district Bishop to oversee our ministry. Our preachers were chosen by lot and were uneducated and unpaid. We collected a "love offering" two or more times a year, for their support.

Our Deacon was also chosen by lot, also unpaid. He (of course a man) served similarly to our elders. Also he read the scripture text and gave a brief meditation on a Sunday morning.

The church held what was known as an "Inquiry Service" a week or two before each Communion Service. This served as a place for concerns to be aired as well as confessions of our failings and weaknesses.

Our chorister was of course also male and there were absolutely no musical instruments allowed in our building. The black *Mennonite Hymnal* dominated our music but we also had *Life Songs* with songs of hope and praise.

The church building of my childhood was a plain, rectangular, red brick structure. There was no kitchen and we didn't eat, play instruments or hold parties in the building. It had a large U-shaped shed (originally used for horses) behind the church. Later the shed was used for storage and Summer Bible School. Children's Sunday School classes met in the basement. The classes were divided by cloth curtains. Adult classes occupied 1 or 2 benches each at various places throughout the sanctuary.

Our building had two lobbies, two stairways upstairs from the

basement and two going upstairs to the balcony because tradition demanded the separation of genders. Men sat on one side of the church and women on the other. Tradition also showed in our dress. Adult women wore bonnets to arrive and a prayer covering during the meeting. Men always wore hats to church and took them off before entering the sanctuary. Some men wore suits with straight coats and no ties. Other men wore regular suits and ties.

The church also held weekly Wednesday evening prayer meetings. (Think sharing time of today) but everyone was encouraged to pray audibly in turn. As well we had Sunday evening church services. Lay members were assigned a topic to research which was presented in a 5-10-minute speech.

The meetings I recall with regret, were the Annual meetings. The meetings were male dominated, acrimonious and long and dubbed by my 14-year-old friends as "fight night." It now is a pleasure to attend annual meetings with its atmosphere of accepting each other, dispensing information and sharing everyone's ideas as important. Good job Floradale Mennonite Church!

We were active over the years in church planting. Bethel/Berea/Glen Allen/Hawkesville/Zion/Moorefield all started with people and help from Floradale. We also had at least one migration to other denominations because of philosophical differences

There was no MYF but a district "Literary Society" which met monthly. There were a variety of programs such as plays, parties, formal (competitive) debates, music, guest speakers and more. Literary was a popular way to meet people

especially someone to ask out for a date.

Our new building has many features not available in the old one. It has more and better parking, a large more comfortable sanctuary, a large efficient kitchen, a gym/hall, bright SS rooms, a large very useful multi-purpose room, but best of all a large and spacious foyer. This is my favourite place in the building because it fosters community. It allows people to mix and mingle both before and after services. It also acts as an entry point for special events such as plays, hall rentals etc. It is also a large and spacious place to hold visitations if we have a funeral.

There are things that we are able to and that we do differently than before. We have developed a thriving Hopping Thursdays night that welcomes our extended community. We have produced meaningful and excellently presented dramas. We can accommodate large meals such as weddings and funerals and other large gatherings. We have a very capable crew of kitchen experts and the kitchen has become a source of promoting enjoyable community fundraising events. There seems to be unlimited possibilities to host events and to worship in many ways. We only need to allow our creativity to surface and blossom.

I was asked was "where do you feel the presence of God most intensely in our new building?" I prefer not to compare or judge God's presence. My reply would be "When I drive into the parking lot and when I enter the church."

It has been interesting to follow the evolution of our church and its programs. I have noticed that our programs still seem to be initiated by the same priorities and passions as the church of my youth.

Where in the church can you find the following? This guessing game was available for our celebration on April 19. Here are the answers:



Cabinet in foyer



Basement elevator



Library shelf



Foyer above coat rack



Kendra's office



Library window shelf



Fred's office



Foyer cabinet



S.S.
Room
2



MYF room window sill



Foyer



Basement storage



Kendra's office



Fred's office



Basement Room 11



Outdoor balcony



Multi-purpose Rm



Basement storage



Nursery Crib Rm



Library



Kendra's office



Photocopy Room



Multi-purpose Rm



Janitor's Room



MYF room



Behind stage



Multi-purpose Rm



S.S. Room 4



Mezzanine



Stairwell



Behind stage/bulb turner



Above the mailboxes

Christian Peacemaker Teams: A Day in the Life

By Hannah Redekop

Every day is different when you are a part of Christian Peacemaker Teams. I am what some people call an international accompanier, or international observer, which can also be understood as a glorified journalist or reporter. But my work is not only based on documentation (photos, videos, and articles) and dissemination of human rights abuses, but also rooted in the idea of Third Party Nonviolent Intervention.

There are many excellent Colombian reporters and journalists who are decrying the injustices of civil war and we do not intend to duplicate their work. The idea behind Third Party Nonviolent Intervention is to reduce violence by providing international presence where violence is happening.

Let me explain. Often it is hard for us—as white, middle-class, Canadians—to wrap our heads around systemic oppression. When we call the police, they come. When our government writes us the title to our land, we expect the right to work on that land. That is not true for all people. Colombian farmers and indigenous people are specifically targeted and often denied their human rights. The idea of international accompaniment is to try to level that playing field by being present in the communities in hopes of reducing that violence.

Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. It's hard to measure success because we'll never know what the outcome could

have been. When we accompany Carlos Morales, president of CAHUCOPANA (The Corporation for Peace and Coexistence in Northeast Antioquia), as he travels and coordinates human rights workshops in the region, he is able to travel freely through military checkpoints. If we were not travelling with him, it is likely that he could be detained, harassed, or threatened by the military. In Las Pavas, the farmers call the police in the face of violence, but the police never come. When we visit the community we hear their stories and validate their experiences of injustice, and pray that because we accompany the community the palm oil company security guards will refrain from physical abuse and property damage. Tito said to me once, “If you didn't show up every month to check up on us, they would have killed us a long time ago.”

But there is one thing we do that not many other accompaniment organizations do. We call it presence. Being present can look very different in different communities, contexts, and conflicts, but in Colombia we do a lot of pastoral care. I wasn't expecting this to be part of my job description but it has been the most meaningful for me while working for CPT.

It's so important in forming relationships, that we be present with the communities not only when they are experiencing conflict, but also when they experience peace. We visit communities regularly, and when things are calm we help them plant rice, take part in birthday celebrations, and

welcome newborn babies. Erick thanks us deeply for our presence, noting that “sometimes, in the midst of conflict, we just need to laugh. And when you folks show up to spend time with us and laugh together, sometimes we can forget for a little while.”

As a team we rotate in teams of two for travelling to the rural areas. We try to visit each of the three farming communities once a month to maintain regular presence in the region. We also accompany CAHUCOPANA as a human rights organization and accompany them upon request. We are on call for any emergency situations and can be called out at any point from our four principal partners. We have other partners within the city of Barrancabermeja, and respond to their requests as needed and when we have the resources to do so. In the city we spend time in the office, collaborating on campaigns and writing reports, as well as attending meetings with partners and advisors that help us stay informed about the regional and national context of the conflict.

And when I've just about had enough, and can't put up with working and living in the same space as my teammates, I go out and play soccer with the local ladies, who make me laugh until my belly hurts!



Ontario Mennonite Heifer Relief Sale 2015

By Clarence Diefenbacher

The 34th Ontario Mennonite Heifer Relief Sale was held on Friday, Feb. 20, 2015 at Carson's Auction Facilities, Listowel, Ontario. The sales arena was again filled to a capacity crowd, thanks to a cold sunny day which allowed people to travel safely.

Rick Cober Bauman, executive director of MCC Ontario head office, led us in a moment of silence to recognize the work and contribution of the late Roy G. Snyder, a heifer sale committee member, a founding member of this sale series and who was still a part of the headliner purchases for the 2015 sale. Rick also updated us on some of the recent projects MCC is involved in, especially the work and support of refugees in Syria.

2015 Heifer Sale results

112 heifers sold for	\$196,925.00
Semen, models, etc.	8,010.00
Cash donations to date	6,065.00
2015 sale total	211,000.00

This year's sale was up nine head over last year with 112 heifers sold for an all-time high average of \$1,758.00, compared to last year's average of \$1,557.00. The top selling animal brought \$6,600.00, also a record high.

Top Sellers

- Bosdale Gold Chip Elise, top-selling animal, donated by Grand Valley Fortifiers, Cambridge, Ont., purchased by Don Horne, Stratford, Ont. for \$6,600.

- Woolview Aftershock Georgie, 2nd top-selling animal, do-

nated by Mennonite Savings & Credit Union, Kitchener, Ont., purchased by William L. Killing, Tavistock, Ont. for \$5,100.

- Earlen LI Snow Layla 3rd top-selling animal, donated by Headliner Associates, purchased by Mornholme Holsteins, Paul Frey, Listowel, Ont. for \$4,600.

- Fradon Colt 45 Jules, 4th top-selling animal, donated by Headliner Associates, purchased by David Carson Farms, Listowel, Ont., for \$4,100.

- Hyden Mascalse Jellybean RC, donated by Hyden Hosteins, Bryan Zehr, Milverton, Ont., purchased by Rick Carberry, Caledon, Ont., for \$3,800.

- Fradon Brazzle Alyssa, donated by Headliner Associates, purchased by Dustin Streicher, Newton, Ont., for \$3,750.

Harold Erb of Wellesley, Ont., has been carving and donating a model carved wooden cow for the last twenty years. This year's model was purchased by the Royal Bank, Elmira, Ont., for \$1,150.

The members of the Ontario Mennonite Heifer Relief Sale



Committee are very grateful to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this sale. We estimate that it takes the cooperation of approximately 300 volunteers working together to make this project happen, including unselfish donors, willing bidders, supportive sponsors, quality animals and interested spectators. This has been a successful community and interdenominational project for the benefit of many MCC programs.

The total sale receipts of \$211,000 was forwarded to Mennonite Central Committee for relief and peace development work around the world. The Lord truly blessed us with another successful sale.

Clarence again served as the chair of the Heifer Sale committee this year.

Pizza and movie night

The wonderful aroma of pizza and popcorn enticed many people to a pizza and movie night on Saturday March 28th here at Floradale church. We invited our friends, family and neighbours to come share in fellowship with us. Thirty pizzas were served and many bags of popcorn were popped.

We enjoyed movie sound quality while watching "Heaven is for Real" on our large screen. What is your belief in Heaven? Is it as real to you as it was to the little boy, or do you have questions just as the little boy's father had? We hope the movie touched your heart and captured your mind.

Thank you to everyone that helped to make the night a success.

Delphine Burkhardt, Karen Bender

Hopping Thursdays presented “Happily Forever After” on Friday, April 17

Under the leadership of Merri-Lee Metzger, Vernelda Weber and Chris Kehl, the Koinonia Kids (Grades SK to 8) wrapped up the Hopping Thursdays program with another amazing musical.

“Happily Forever After” is a musical about the Kingdom of God. The princesses and the knights find themselves searching for the true kingdom, helped on their way by a carpenter.



Fee Fee (Kyana) and Mischievous (Grace) are dragons guarding the bridge.

Many people attended the event, friends, parents and grandparents, people from the church and even some teachers from Floradale school.

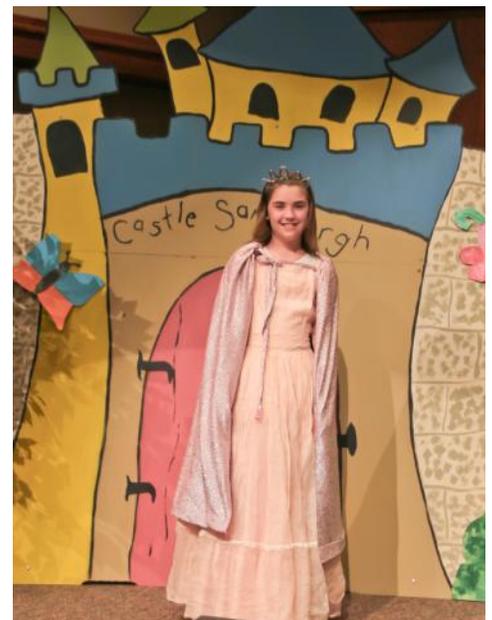
As well as the 30 children on stage, there were several who chose to contribute by helping with the set. Once again the Kathy Weber did a wonderful job in creating costumes that added a great deal to the performance.

An offering was held at the close of the program to raise money for ANADESA, which runs a community and educational program in Guatemala. Merri-Lee and Veg were among the people from Floradale who spent a week helping to build a kitchen for this organization. The offering raised about \$625.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this amazing performance.



Posing with the carpenter (Callum, centre) are a Knight (Adam), Sir Burlyman (Ashton), Sir Brags a Lot (Trevon) and Lady Court Lee (Amanda).



Brooklyn played the role of an ordinary girl who found herself a princess.

MCC Relief Sale Promotion Dinner

The speaker at this year’s fundraising dinner was Issa Sadi Embombolo, the founder of Peace Clubs in Zambia. He fled from Congo to Zambia after he became a Christian and feared for his safety many years ago. While in Zambia he received peace training from MCC and was able to begin creating peace clubs with young people. When people saw the effectiveness of using dialogue rather than violence, the peace clubs grew to 650 peace clubs. He hopes they will soon spread to Pakistan and also to Toronto. He thanks MCC for the support of these clubs.

Focus on Floradale is published 5 times each year.

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Special Anniversaries

Congratulations to Cleason and Irene Freeman who are celebrating 65 years of marriage on May 10, 2015.



Dave and Marj Metzger will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12, 2015. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Earl and Erma Wideman who will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on June 16, 2015. Congratulations!

On the very same day as her parents, May 10, Shirley and Gerald Shoemaker will celebrate 40 years of marriage. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Ron and Rosie Martin who will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary on May 15, 2015.



Brent and Rita Bauman will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on June 1, 2015. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dan and Karen Bender who will celebrate 25 years of marriage on June 16, 2015.

Dennis and Marie Brubacher will celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary on June 3, 2015. Congratulations!



Cleason and Irene Freeman married for 65 years on May 10, 2015. Best wishes from their 5 children and spouses and 10 grandchildren. A happy family event will be held in their honour.

From the April 19, 2015 photo booth



Elijah



Andrew Martin and Kendra Whitfield Ellis

Birth

Jesse Josiah was born to Angela and Noah Ishaka on April 7, 2015. He is a new baby brother for Elijah and Safi.



Nancy Martin enjoys her babies, Jesse Ishaka and Reuben Bauman.