



Focus on Floradale

Volume XXXI, No. 3

Floradale Mennonite Church

June, 2015

Outdoor service and 'Four Wheels Show'



Floradale Mennonite Church held its annual outdoor service on May 24 behind the church just outside the basement door so that if it was cold some people could sit inside. But once again, the weather was sunny and warm.

We had lots of music with a band including Nichelle Bauman, Jeanette Towns, Ryan Bauman, Angela Ishaka, Richard Bauman, Alina Kehl and Taylor Clemmer.



After the potluck lunch, everyone was encouraged to look at and even experience some of the cars, trucks and tractors on display.

There were lots of tractors on display including Dave Metzger's (top left). Tyler Woeschka brought his uncle's show car and Mark Weber gave the children a ride on the antique Elmira fire truck. Many thanks to Oscar J. B. Martin for organizing the "Four wheels" show.

Checking out the tractors are Earl Gingrich, Ron Martin & Oscar J.B.

Memories of an old church

In our last issue of the Focus we featured our celebration that the new building was paid off and reflected on some memories of the old church and the new. Articles written by Tim Greenwood and Mary Frey Martin missed getting into that issue, so we are printing them here.

By Tim Greenwood

Recess couldn't come quickly enough for me. I was always counting down the seconds until we as a class could run outside and play games that would probably give most teachers and parents of today's students minor heart-attacks. Not on this particular day though. No, because this was the day that everything I knew about the church, everything that symbolized my memories, was about to come crashing down. Literally.

The bell rang, and with a sense of one resigned to facing the inevitable, I followed my classmates outside. I didn't even have to look, I could hear the sound of the back-hoe, and the men calling out instructions. There it was. Floradale Mennonite Church. And behind it, another Floradale Mennonite Church. Out with the old, in with the new.

Sure, the rooms were getting to be too small to compete with our growing demands. Yes, we didn't have the most welcoming foyer (I will say though, for a small entrance, there was always innumerable hiding places), but did we really need to build a new one and tear MY church down?! These were the kind of thoughts that raced through my 10 year-old mind as I watched the demolition crew creep closer to the sad, fragile-looking church.

Treads churned soil, hydraulic pistons raised buckets and claws. I couldn't help but join in childish boyhood amazement with my friends as we watched these ma-

chines move. But what had the church ever done to deserve such a smashing (pun intended) end!?

My mind was back from the powerful attraction of men operating giant metal machines. I had settled back on to what I saw as the painful part. The letting go. How does one just forget an entire church? It's not until you look back that you realize... you don't. You just simply don't. Of course, that was something I had not yet realized, and so, as that massive machine took it's first swing, punching into the roof, and ripping chunks the size of my bedroom off of my church, I just sat down. Stunned by the sudden violence and crashing end of a place that was in every way the exact opposite.

I only had time to watch those first few blows. Recess was over, and with it, my last glimpse of a church building I had grown up in. As the old one fell away however, the new church grew behind it, as less of the old blocked what would become Floradale's new home.

When I came out next break, I was amazed, the new church looked so... New! It was so big. And just like that, when I saw how great it would be to grow up in a place like the new church, I began to forgive the machines, the men, and everything that had gone into removing such a physical part of my life. My faith existed in the people of the church, in the broader community; not in a single building. Oh, and the gym helped a little.



Memories of the old church

Tyler Kehl: I remember when we would have potlucks downstairs, and how we [the kids] would go upstairs to run around, and before we knew it, the adults would be coming up to tell us to be quiet. One time a light fixture even fell down from all running around we were doing.

Brendan Metzger: I remember how hot the attic and Sunday school rooms were, especially in the summer. I also remember reading books all the time, and running back and forth to the library to get new ones.

Youth fundraiser for MWC

Three MYFers are planning to attend Mennonite World Conference in Harrisburg, Pa. in July. To help cover their costs, they held a fundraiser lunch on May 31. They served baked potatoes with lots of toppings—meat sauce, sour cream, cheese, tomatoes, lettuce etc. They were very pleased to raise about \$800.

Favourite things in the new church

By Mary Frey Martin

As I ponder on what I want to write about the old church and new church at Floradale, I am aware that I really do not have a major emotional connection to buildings. I have difficulty now even remembering the church building where I spent my youth years, got baptized, got married, dedicated my babies, had my mother's funeral. I know there are people who felt very sad when the old building was torn down, I just wasn't one of them.

One positive memory of the old church is standing around outside in the summer visiting on the steps and sidewalk of the original 1936 building. I think because we

had less space we just naturally spilled outside more. I have the impression of no one being in a rush to leave, people were leisurely enjoying each other's company.

My impression, when I think of the old and new church, is of the crowded feeling of the old church and the really amazing amount of space we now have in the new building. I was teaching preschool Sunday school when we moved to the new church, and we had this lovely big private room in the basement of the new building, but when a child needed the wash-room, I realized I could not just send them alone, they would get lost finding it. I remember having

to take the whole group together and how big it all seemed.

This is the challenge of the new large place, we have so much more space to handle large crowds, but sometimes that cozy feeling is missing.

I really applaud the chairs and tables that have been set up in the foyer of our new building, along with the coffee machine; I think that has really helped to have a place people can sit and visit.

My favourite thing in the new church is the dove on the wall of the sanctuary as well as the grand piano. To listen to the piano and look at the dove as well as the cross and the arrangement on the table that is so artfully done is an excellent way to connect spiritually for me.

MennoHomes Bike-a-thon

MennoHomes held a Bike-a-thon on Sat. June 20 to raise money for a new three-storey apartment building to be built in Elmira on a site shared with Woolwich Community Services at the corner of Church St. and Memorial Ave.

The day started early with 11 riders taking part in the 75km ride from St. Jacobs to the Shand Dam near Fergus and back. More than 70 participants enjoyed cycling, running or walking a variety of distances on the Kissing Bridge Trail between Wallenstein and West Montrose. Following lunch a group of motorcyclists took off at 1:30pm for scenic 3 hour tour north and west of Elmira.

At 10 a.m. Executive Director Dan Driedger was joined by Regional Chair Ken Seiling and MP Harold Albrecht in sending off the riders, walkers and runners. Both Ken Seiling and Harold Albrecht expressed their thanks and support for the work of MennoHomes. At noon everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch and short program that included remarks from Sandy Shantz, Mayor of Woolwich Township.

Since 2010, MennoHomes has provided seven affordable housing units in Elmira. "All funds raised

today will go towards our new project in Elmira. Once our funding is in place, we can start building" said Dan Driedger.

A number of local businesses generously supported the event through donations of food and door prizes. Corporate sponsorships were provided by Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, and MAX Canada Insurance.



Shirley rode her motorcycle.



Fred used pedal power.

Relief Sale report - Tea Balls

By Nicole Woeschka

This year the weather forecast was full of rain for the Saturday of the Relief Sale. We weren't sure if we were going to be a success or if we would be rained out!

Friday afternoon and evening the weather was beautiful and there were a lot of people milling about making purchases at the booths that were open. We were able to sell through 13 pails of our batter! We decided we would not turn anyone away, just in case our fears came to reality on Saturday—we didn't want to be left with leftover batter we would be unable to sell. We also decided that we would not start as early as other years so we started frying a little later than usual (5 a.m.) and we were able to sell our remaining 9 pails (totaling 22 pails)!

We actually finished frying by 10:00 a.m. which was lucky as we were able to get cleaned up and



packed up just before the torrential downpours began!

In total, with the help of all our wonderful volunteers, we were able to raise over \$10,000 for MCC! Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who contributed to another successful year!

We received this card of thanks from the New Hamburg Relief Sale committee:



Relief sale quilts

These quilts from Floradale Mennonite Church were sold at the New Hamburg relief sale on May 30. A crib quilt (38"x50") in the Bird in the Shade pattern in turquoise and white was pieced and quilted by Irene Freeman and sold for \$250.

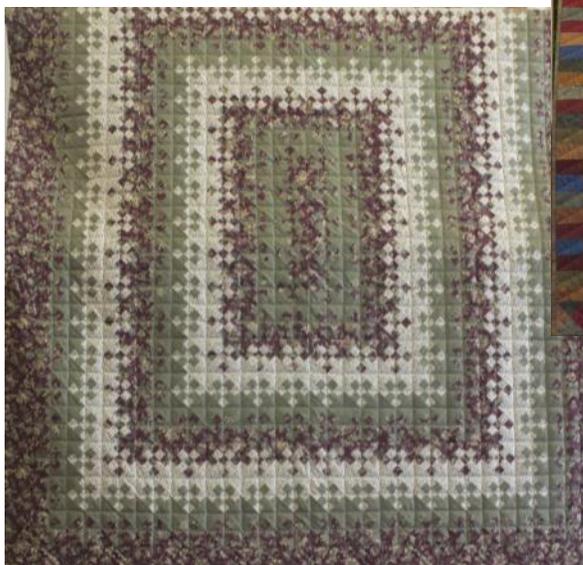


A crib quilt (45"x56") in the Trip Around the World pattern in pink, blue and white, pieced by Vietta Martin sold for \$225.

A sofa quilt (61"x82") in the Scrappy Stars pattern in multi colours was pieced by Laura Bauman and sold for \$450.



A full bed quilt (95"x111") in the Blooming Nine-Patch pattern, pieced by Laura Bauman sold for \$950.



Other afghans, aprons, shoulder bags and another quilt were also donated by individuals from the church. Between Sept. 2014 and June 2014, women from the church also donated 47 comforters to MCC Ontario.

Worshipping with the Meheret Evangelical Church

Before and after church on June 21, members of the Meheret Ethiopian church led a coffee ceremony in the foyer. This ceremony begins with green coffee beans that are then roasted and ground as part of the ceremony. The coffee is served in tiny cups and it is traditional to have popcorn as well. Small groups of people were able to participate in this ceremony in the foyer.

After the service coffee and muffins and sweet breads were also served as people chatted with each other and with our guests from the Meheret Ethiopian church.

Members of the Ethiopian church told our congregation about their church and their choir sang two pieces. They brought a keyboard and borrowed one of our drums to accompany the choir.

Mibrak Araya was one of the people who talked about their church. She and her husband were raised Orthodox and Catholic in Ethiopia. They attended church occasionally, but never read the Bible or prayed themselves. They were sent to the Nazareth Christian school in Ethiopia because their parents wanted them to get a good education.



The Ethiopian coffee ceremony involves coffee and popcorn.

Mibrak said she was “happy to get the Saviour and her soul mate at that school!” Although the school closed in the 1970s while the Christian church was under persecution in Ethiopia, she said “the Jesus in our hearts didn’t go away.” In fact her husband grew stronger in his belief.

Eventually Mibrak and her husband fled Ethiopia and went to Italy, to Germany, to the U.S. before finally coming to Canada. Today there are about four Ethiopian churches in Kitchener.

When they lived in Ethiopia, Christians considered themselves to be separate from the secular world and she believes that in Canada Christians need to be more separate.

They have many children in their church and they are teaching them the ways of Jesus.

Teddy Tekle is the youth worker in the Meheret Evangelical Church. He grew up in Toronto and became a Christian through his parents. When he was a teen he was part of a youth group of five people, but today it has grown to 25 to 30. They are a very multicultural youth group who are trying to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.



The choir from the Meheret Evangelical (Ethiopian) Church sang on June 21.

The *Focus on Floradale* is published five times each year.

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Communication and Technology



By Peter Ellis

Even in my short life of close to 40 years, I have seen much change in communication technology. I was enthralled with Atari, arcade games, and pinball machines. This led to our family purchase of a Commodore 64 and a few years later our family made the leap and got the super-fast 486 computer...with a modem. WOW, this was big news back then. This new technology would now let us talk to other people using computers—fantastic.

Of course, my parents didn't care all that much for this new technology other than it made their kids happy (when we weren't fighting over using it). Needless to say, the next generation (e.g. my kids) don't even know what an Atari, pinball machine, modem, or phone jack is.

With the exception of several science fiction writers, communication has evolved in a way that few could have predicted in the last 100 years. Smartphones, cellphones, free Wi-Fi, and all the other gadgets (not including computers) that are used to communicate are the new norm. Internet apps such as Facebook and Twitter allow people to keep in touch and stay up-to-date with friends, family, and the world in nanoseconds. Email is considered obsolete by most young people these days. I think you get the point.

Communication has changed and it continues to change. As this technology has changed the world, the Focus committee began to ponder a few questions such as "Should the church be using more

modern communication technology?" and "How can the church better use these communication tools?"

I personally favour face-to-face communication over any other form. And I suspect that this form will not ever be truly replaced. But I know that new technology will continue to make communicating more "convenient" when time and space separate us.

I think there are many opportunities to better integrate communication technologies into church life. I've seen it first hand with the MYF. Before coming to Floradale, Kendra and I didn't own a cell phone. Well, you can imagine the difficulties coordinating MYF events without one nowadays. I say all this to say that changing technology is a fact of life and the church would do well to integrate some of these technologies into church activities and events, as long as it meets the needs of our church's goals and objectives.



New communication tools have pros and cons

By Peter Ellis and Dana Bauman
Peter interviewed Dana about communication and technology.

Q: *Do you use Facebook?*

A: No

Q: *Do you use Twitter or any other social media sites?*

A: No and no

Q: *Why not?*

A: I'm not tech savvy. Facebook is too "open" in my opinion. There are things on these social media sites that shouldn't be there. I don't think it's a good place to have things. I also believe that these sites hinder face-to-face communication. Having said that, these sites do provide great communication tools with friends and family who are living a long distance away. For these scenarios, I think it's okay.

Q: *What is your preferred form of communication?*

A: I like to talk to people face to face. I believe people are losing the capability of communicating and are increasingly having difficulty understanding social cues and how people are feeling. Texting and other smartphone apps are making it difficult for people to relate to other people in the world, except in a superficial way.

Q: *How has communication technology/social media changed the way we communicate?*

A: I think there are some good and bad ways that these tools have changed our lives. Bad - I feel like teenagers nowadays don't know how to socially interact with customers anymore. Smartphones and cellphones, in some ways, have made it more difficult for parents to communicate with their kids, especially face-to-face. Good - now parents can text their kids and expect an immediate response to questions such as "Where are you?" and "What are you doing?" So yes, ultimately, this technology has changed the way we communicate.

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Q: How have our lives changed because of smartphones?

A: I like texting with my sister. It is nice for simple questions and answers and for quick ways of keeping in touch. There are certainly pros and cons to smartphones. Everyone seems to lead such busy lives now. As a result of this busyness and crazy schedules, we are increasingly not able to arrange in-person visits with friends and family. However, social media does allow us to still feel connected despite our hectic schedules and inability to connect together in person.

Q: Should the church be using more modern communication technology? How so?

A: In my opinion, a good church website is highly important, especially for people searching for a new place to worship. But, social media stuff may lose people or not hold value for certain people in the church (e.g. older people). How do we find a balance between using social media and other more traditional forms of communication? I must confess that I still like using email. The benefit is that you can draft one message and send it to many different people at once. It's been nice to have the bulletin and focus newsletter available via email. Opposed to the telephone, where some people don't have an answering machine, or if they do, they still may not get the message, with email, as long as people check it regularly, they will get the message.



Social media can devour time

By Fred Redekop

Social Media. I sometimes think that it should be called "anti-Social Media." I am part of Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. They are sites on the Internet that enable me to see a lot of news, and connect with many people. On Facebook, I was going to limit myself to 100 friends, but I am now up to about 140. I have found a few friends from elementary school through Facebook. My experience has mostly been positive, but there are a lot of nasty comments on there, and even nastier pictures.

LinkedIn is for connecting people in the workplace. There are discussion places for people to discuss issues. You can recommend people for doing their job well. I think it can also be used to find a new job, if you are looking for that. People are able to look up your resume, and look at what you are doing and what you are saying.

Twitter. I do not get it. You are supposed to use only 144 characters, but you can attach articles and pictures as well. People are really mean on it, and there are many people on it who are imaginary. I do "twee" but I do not know the meaning or the purpose of doing it. It has not got me into trouble yet ...

What does it have to do with my faith? All of the internet can be a distraction for me, to not work on the real issues of my life. Hours can be eaten up very quickly. I am a news junkie, so that also takes time. But... I can hear what the Pope says, and I can hear of people who work for justice and peace all

over the world. I can be inspired by Christian people on the Web.



The Gospels, the Old Testament and the letters of Paul are also part of social media. They tried to keep the community of God together when they were not able to be together. Paul says a few times that he wished he could be there visiting, but it is not possible. Facebook and Twitter allow you to be in touch with people who are not in the same space as you are. If the Internet replaces your faith with a digital/virtual experience, I am sure that it is not a good thing for you or the community. We need to be in the flesh and blood to each other. We need to eat together; we need to worship/sing together. Social media cannot replace community of faith; it can enhance it, if used in the right ways.

Communicating using technology

By Lester and Wanda Kehl

I have used the internet for most of my communication both in church business and other communication coming from working on various committees. I still like to have a hard copy for more extensive reading such as committee minutes. Our bus company uses the internet for most of its communication to drivers.

I more recently have been using Google to read materiel on theology etc. from AMBS. I have a cell phone but don't use it very often. It is off when we drive on the bus and we can be reached by 2 - way radio. I cannot text on mine so

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I rely on my telephone if I need to give a message. While I can scan down on Facebook I do not have an account.

Wanda uses Facebook a lot to keep in contact with some of her relatives in the USA. Wanda also uses her phone for texting at times to get messages to her grandchildren about meals and who might be home for supper.

Wanda uses the telephone to keep in touch with her family. We have a good telephone plan unlimited to the USA or Canada. This is our major form of communication and the one I prefer. I still panic when I need to respond to some business on the internet and if it is real important I like to get a grandson to help me.

I think it has become import communication for the church but I am too much of an “immigrant” in the tech world to give advice on this.



Technology and Social Media

By Nicole Woeschka

Picture this... family sitting in the living room. TV is on – some sort of HGTV program is playing. Dad has his BlackBerry in hand sending a “where u at” message to his son-in-law Tyler who is likely working a night shift or on a service call.

Mom has her iPad in her lap, glasses askew on her face so she can see the screen to work on a puzzle in the HDJigsaw App.

I’m sitting across the room trying to finish my puzzle first on my own iPad!

Kaitlyn is on her laptop looking up horses on Kijiji... *BZZZZZ* now she’s looking at a SNAPCHAT that just came in on her iPhone and it brings on some strange cross-eyed face with her phone in front of her face *CLICK* and she’s send her own SNAPCHAT into cyberspace! Tyler is in the kitchen for a snack and then heading back down to his room to get back to the XBOX or PlayStation game that has his attention. *BZZZZZZZ BZZZZZZZ BA-LING BA-LING* “Light is flashing green” dad says as he hands mom her phone – Mom just got a text from Sharon.

We spend a lot of time together, whether in a Family Group chat in BBM or sitting in companionable silence as I described earlier. We don’t spend much time with board games or having picnics anymore! We’re always hooked up to some kind of electronics! I’m guilty – I use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, email and I’m quicker to send a text than make an actual phone call. If I don’t get a response to a text message within 15 minutes I’ll make an “actual” phone call to get an answer, but it’s usually a last resort!

I remember having to leave a message on someone’s answering machine and then waiting until they came home and got the message. Now everyone is available all the time! I’m not sure it’s a purely positive or negative thing – its progress.

We can get news to many more people much more quickly using technology, but we also lose face time... and no, I’m not refer-

ring to the App “FaceTime” from Apple! It’s great how easy it is now to share pictures, videos, stories, etc. with friends and family.

I think it’s great that Floradale Mennonite Church has a website – I can access videos of church services, copies of the bulletin for announcements, electronic copies of the *Focus on Floradale* and other things. The weekly emails Vernelda sends out are great, too! Especially when there are reminders of upcoming events!

Floradale has gone through a lot of changes and that will continued – it’s progression. This younger generation is “plugged in” to everything. In order to appeal to that demographic it may be time to build a larger presence online. We also need to honour our traditions and remember not everyone has “online” as a priority. Food for thought. God bless!



Technology and social media

By Nicole Woeschka
& Rosie Martin

I spoke to my mom, Rosie Martin, about our theme for this month’s Focus on Floradale. We’re thinking about technology, social media and how it affects our lives today:

I only use Facebook; I don’t post much myself, but I really enjoy keeping up with friends and family and seeing the pictures they have posted of weddings, children, and exciting events in their lives. It is an easy way to stay in touch with

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people you may not have seen or heard about otherwise.

I never thought I needed a cell phone; I've always had a job or been around home where there is a phone nearby where people can reach me. However, as the kids got older and moved away it was much easier to send a text message to ask how their day was or to ask who will be home for dinner. This was especially nice when my second daughter, Kaitlyn, moved to Alberta last year! It was so nice to see pictures on Facebook, to receive emails with stories and to get text messages whenever she had a free minute or two.

Many people feel teenagers aren't as connected as we used to be because they don't seem to have as many "in person" conversations. I disagree; I think they're even more connected. One of the downsides to being so connected with social media is in a moment of anger or hurt, one message can be sent immediately to many people. On the flip side of that coin, you can apologize to the world just as quickly.

The Floradale Mennonite Church website is lovely; I love that I can log on to see the most recent bulletins or other communications or if you have missed a few weeks of church, you can still stay up to date with current events, etc. The weekly emails, prayer requests and reminders are also great, but having the phone chain is good to keep as not everyone in the congregation has access to email."

Thank you, Mom, for sharing with us!

Technology and Social Media

By Nicole Woeschka
& Susan Martin

I had a conversation this week with Susan Martin where we discussed technology, social media and how it is used at Church and in our community. The first thing she said was "it all depends on how you handle it—you need to be responsible."

For the younger generation, social media attracts them. It can be an effective tool; it depends on which audience you want to reach. A great example of this is that we just did our Farm Safety day and it was one of the biggest events we've had with over 150 kids—that is almost double previous years. This year we advertised on social media using Twitter, etc. which attracted more kids and more sponsors than just making phone calls or sending emails to specific people.

Technology and social media have their place, but you want to respect those who are uncomfortable with it.

Susan said she uses Facebook some and email a lot, but in the end nothing is better than a face-to-face conversation or a phone call. Text messages and emails are great but you are unable to gauge a person's feelings or reactions. We don't want to lose the art of good "old fashioned" communication and the sense of community it brings.



Email is wonderful

By Barb Draper

Email is a wonderful invention. It is my preferred method of communication because it allows me to receive or send emails when it is convenient for me. I'm not fond of long chats on the telephone and much prefer typing an email where I can edit what I say. While I do have a pay-as-you-go cell phone, I rarely have it turned on and texting requires too much concentration.

I do not use Facebook or Twitter although I do occasionally go to a specific Facebook site for specific information. Social media simply provides too much information—I can't process it all and I find it distracting. Someone bullied me into joining LinkedIn and I wish I hadn't.

There is too much information coming at us, constantly. The challenge is to sift through it and discern what parts are worthy of attention. It's like sipping from a fire hose. Perhaps I don't know what I'm missing, but sorry, I don't need to know everything my relatives did today and I especially don't need to know what my friends are eating!

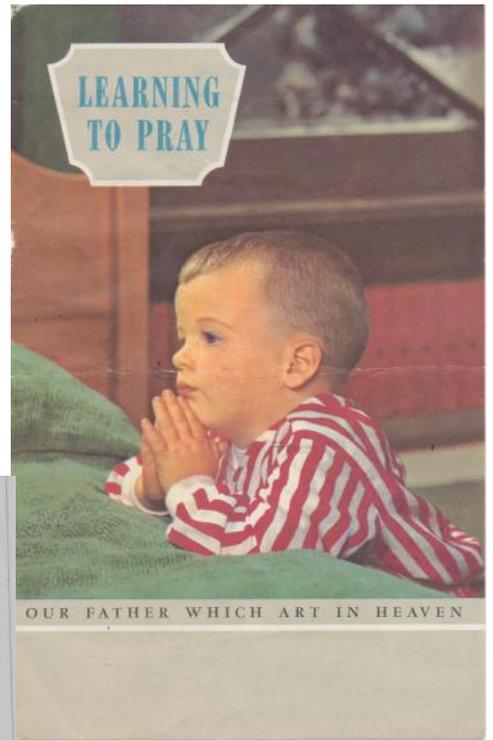
We've come through quite a revolution in communication systems and it will probably take years before we can assess how damaging or how valuable these changes have been. How we use social media depends on what we value. If we value knowing what's happening in other's lives we'll see it as important. If we value our own time too much pay attention to the trivia of other people's lives, we might not know what's happening in the world around us.

Personally I prefer reading books.

Bible School memories of 1965

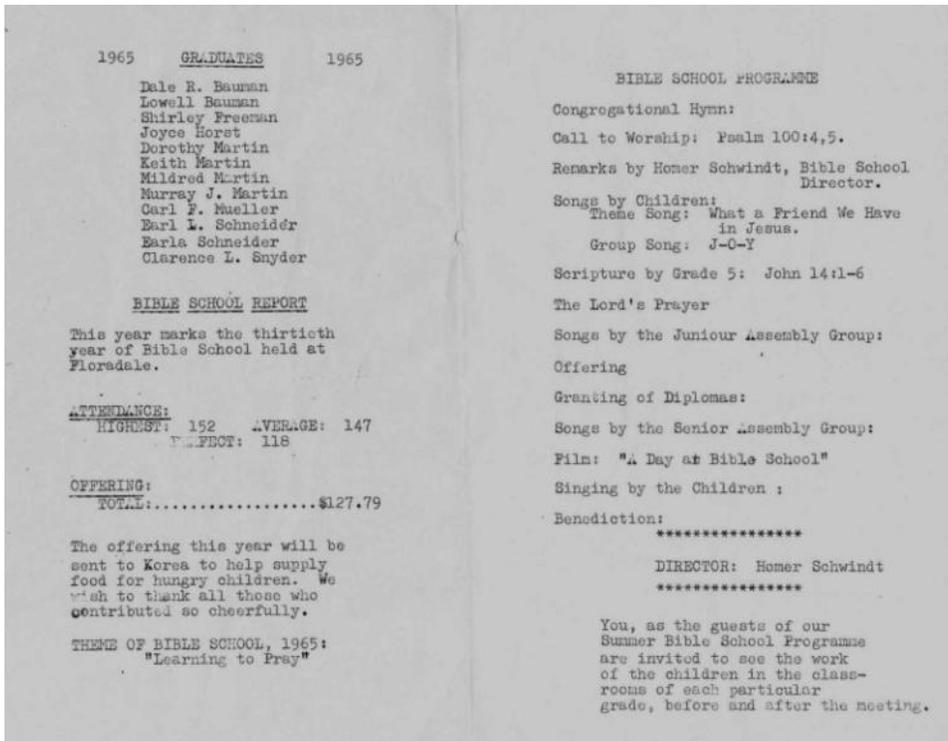
Shirley Shoemaker graduated from Floradale's Vacation Bible School 50 years ago. She kept the bulletin from the closing program. It has no date, just the year of 1965. The bulletin (duplicated on a Gestetner machine) reports that 1965 was the 30th anniversary of Floradale's summer Bible School.

The following students graduated from the VBS program that year: Dale R. Bauman, Lowell Bauman, Shirley Freeman, Joyce Horst, Dorothy Martin, Keith Martin, Mildred Martin, Murray J. Martin, Carl F. Mueller, Earl L. Schneider, Earla Schneider, Clarence L. Snyder.



Attendance at Floradale's VBS in 1965 was an average of 147 students with 152 on the highest day. There were 118 students who had a perfect attendance.

Theme for the two weeks was "Learning to Pray" and the offering was sent to Korea to supply food for hungry children. Homer Schwindt was the director of VBS.



Floradale Generosity Fund to assist refugees

At a brief congregational meeting after lunch on May 31, 2015, Floradale Mennonite Church agreed to kick-start a new refugee assistance fund to be held at MCC Ontario. We agreed that for the next three years, we would put up to \$20,000 each year into a fund to match contributions to MCC's project to help settle refugees, primarily in Waterloo Region.

Leon Kehl, our Missions Commission chair, came up with this proposal. He knew that there are groups in the Kitchener-Waterloo area who would be able to do re-settlement of refugees better than we can, but who struggle to find the funds to take on refugee sponsorships. This fund at MCC Ontario would help those willing to take on sponsorships by matching their fundraising efforts.

Leon believes that this fund has the potential to support 15 to 20 refugee families in the next few years and would help MCC Ontario to settle more refugees in this area than ever before. Most of the refugees would probably be refugees from Syria since that is where the Canadian government has set its priorities. The government has a new program where it is willing to pay part of the cost for these refugees. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees decides who is a refugee.

Individuals from our congregation are encouraged to give to this refugee fund at MCC Ontario on top of our \$20,000 per year so that more refugees can be helped to settle in Canada.

Maurice Bauman

Nov. 28, 1926 – April 21, 2015



Maurice was born on Nov. 28, 1926 to Absalom and Lydian Bauman and grew up in New Jerusalem (SE of Elmira) with his younger brother Ray and sister Norma. He helped at home until Eldon Martin and Maurice travelled to Alberta and B.C. for a few years.

After returning to Ontario he married Verna Shoemaker on April 7, 1951 and began farming on Shallow Creek Farm north of Floradale. He milked cows, raised pigs and chickens.

On May 20, 1952 their daughter Rosemary was born, followed by six sons, Charles, Cameron, Mark, Eric, Jeff and Brad. After they sold the farm in 1976, they built a house on Cedar Springs Road and began driving truck for Martin Feed Mills.

Maurice retired in 1991, filling his time with his lovely wife and his hobbies which included making maple syrup in the spring and having taffy pulls for their friends and family, bus trips, going

to the coffee shop, playing crokinole and trips out west.

In 2001 they sold their house and moved to Parkview Manors in Floradale. Due to health concerns, Maurice and Verna moved into assisted living in St. Jacobs where they lived until Verna went to Leisureworld in 2010. Maurice followed later in the year and they were able to share a room together there.

Maurice was unable to drive while in St. Jacobs so he purchased a scooter. He used this to make trips to Tim Horton's and the St. Jacobs Farmers Market. He continued to terrify the streets of Elmira while at Leisureworld.

On April 2011 Maurice and his beloved Verna celebrated 60 years of marriage together. She passed away 12 days later. Through all the years together, Maurice and Verna were faithful members of Floradale Mennonite Church. When getting around became more difficult and he needed to use a wheelchair, Maurice liked to be there on Sunday mornings.

He appreciated that our services were videotaped so that he could watch and listen even when he couldn't be there in person.

Maurice's health began to decline rapidly in the last month and he passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 with his family by his side.

Maurice loved to visit and ask questions, many questions. He loved to laugh and was known for his distinctive laugh. He had a keen interest in world affairs and sports and he was always interested in what was going on in his children's lives.

When Maurice's name is mentioned, most people smile. That is a pretty good legacy!



Mennonite Disaster Service congratulates all MDS volunteers, past and present for continuing to lift up disaster survivors! Earlier this year MDS was named the "2015 National Member of the Year" by the 120-member consortium of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) in the USA. Over and over MDS participants were thanked and affirmed for the outstanding work, good spirit and collaborative nature of MDS volunteers. Many specifically commented that they appreciate the Canadians

MDS wins U.S. disaster response award

who come and serve with MDS in the USA. Thanks to all who have served, prayed for and given of their time to make MDS a respected and appreciated organization faithfully carrying out a small part of God's mission.

The American Red Cross, a NVOAD member, nominated MDS for the award based on MDS work in the post-Superstorm Sandy response.

In 2014 MDS had 3,636 volunteers working in the U.S. and Canada, 40% of them under the age of 30, in short and long-term assignments.

Special Anniversaries

Congratulations to Ozie and Marilyn Martin who were married 40 years on June 26, 1975.

Congratulations to Murray and Char Weber who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 27, 2015.



Murray and Joyce Martin will be married 35 years on Sept. 6, 2015. Congratulations!

Jeff and Gloria Bauman celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 23, 2015. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Peter Ellis and Kendra Whitfield Ellis who will celebrate 15 years of marriage on Aug. 26, 2015.



Congratulations to Tony and Char Martin who will celebrate their 10th anniversary on Aug. 5, 2015.

Elmira MCC Thrift and Gift store report

The Elmira MCC Thrift and Gift held its annual meeting on Tues. June 2 at Floradale Mennonite Church. The volunteers and their spouses were invited for supper, catered by Susan Martin and the Floradale catering committee. (Spouses were asked to pay for their meal.)

This year the thrift store had gross sales of over \$1,000,000, a 5.2 percent increase from the previous year. The top departments for sales included clothing (\$251,864), housewares (\$155,850) and books/music/stationery (\$130,748). In each case the sales were slightly higher than the previous year.

There are many costs to running a store including staff salaries, utilities, maintenance and equipment. In the year April 2014 to March 2015, the Elmira thrift store forwarded to MCC \$610,000.

Thank you to all the volunteers from Floradale who help to raise this money.

Birth:



Congratulations to Ryan and Romy Schill on the birth of Adalyn Maggie on June 20. She is a new sister for Cameron and Emerson.

Search Committee Report

The Search Committee is pleased to announce that they have found good candidates for two positions:

Katie Gerber, a 20-year-old from Wellesley Mennonite and studying at U of Guelph will be our new 1/4-time youth worker beginning Sept. 1.

Angela Ishaka will begin a two-year term as our 1/4-time music ministry worker beginning August 1.

The Search Committee is also recommending **Nancy Mann** as a half-time Associate Pastor. She and her husband, Robert, have been long-time members at First Mennonite in Kitchener, but in recent years Nancy has worked as a pastor and a chaplain. We will meet Nancy on the weekend of July 18-19. Affirmations or concerns should be expressed to the Elders or Church Council in the following five days after which Elders and Council will discern whether Floradale Mennonite Church will extend a call.

Save the date:

Sat. July 18, 7:30 p.m.: Bonfire in the park with Nancy and Robert Mann.

Sun. July 19, 10:00 a.m.: Nancy Mann will bring the sermon.

11:00 a.m. informal chatting in the fellowship hall. Nancy has been invited to share some pictures and stories of her life during this time.

Sun. Aug. 16: Farewell to Kendra Whitfield Ellis. Kendra will preach her final sermon. We will have a potluck with a short program in the early afternoon.

Katie Gerber and Angela Ishaka will have the opportunity to tell us something about themselves sometime in September.