



Focus on Floradale

Volume XXXI, No. 5

Floradale Mennonite Church

September, 2015

Farewell to Kendra

On Sunday, August 19 the congregation said farewell to Kendra. We had a potluck lunch and a short program which included a song written by Vernelda Weber and sung by the group below. The song concluded



with a prayer shawl being wrapped around Kendra (above). A gift from the congregation was a quilt (left) quilted this summer while Peter and Kendra were on vacation.

Focus on Floradale is published 5-6 times a year.

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In this issue:

New staff—pages 2-4

Fall season/change—pages 8-10

Family profiles—pages 13-14

A new associate pastor

By Nancy Mann

As a pull out of my driveway in north Waterloo on Tuesday mornings, I begin the journey to the small town of Floradale to begin my week of ministry here at Floradale Mennonite Church. I drive through the beautiful fields of tall corn and ripened grains, and pass pastures for cows, sheep and even a few chickens. I marvel at the stunning beauty of the Ontario countryside at this time of year and my heart rejoices. God is good! We are blessed here in the Waterloo Region. What pathways have brought me to this place at this time, to minister here at Floradale? Let me share a few brief highlights.

As a child growing up in Hamilton Ontario, attendance at weekly worship was a priority for my family. Attending Sunday school, junior choir and weekly girls club at Binkley United Church were all part of our weekly routine. If there was a special event happening at the church, our family would be there. I was learning about God's presence in the assembly gathered for worship which I would only understand in later years.

I met my spouse, Robert, at an ecumenical youth program during my teen years. Robb became a physicist and in 1987 we moved to the Waterloo area, where he accepted a position as a professor at the University of Waterloo. I took more time to discern a vocational goal, but eventually completed a counselling degree at the University of Toronto. I then spent 15 years working as a coun-

sellor at University of Waterloo, assisting students with developing career plans and other personal issues. During this time, we worshipped together at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener.



Here we are preparing to sing the Brahms Requiem with the Brisbane Chorale.

How can I explain the experience of a "call" to ministry? I had a great passion for the church, and was feeling the need for a change in my life. Our daughter, Heather, had graduated from high school and was leaving home for higher education. The timing seemed right to embark on theological studies at Conrad Grebel University College. Here I was encouraged and challenged to explore my Christian faith at a deeper level.

In 2004 I was called to serve as the Spiritual Care Coordinator at Nithview Community. After five years, in 2009, I received a call to serve as the lead pastor at Waterloo-Kitchener United Mennonite Church.

Here I learned about the difficult stories of the Russian Mennonites who had immigrated to Canada. These stories have touched my heart deeply in many ways. Each of our lives has unexpected twists and turns. Some are tragic, others perplexing, and some are cause for great rejoicing.

In 2014, Robb and I had the opportunity to spend a year living in Australia, while Robb took a sabbatical year at the University of Queensland. Living, travelling, and worshipping in Australia was a very rich experience and has given us new perspectives on our lives here in Canada.

When I left for Australia, my future was quite uncertain. It was such a joy for me to receive the call to come to Floradale! I had prayed for another opportunity to serve in pastoral ministry. This congregation has a strong reputation for faithful worship and generous service. I feel greatly honoured to have the opportunity to serve as your Associate Pastor.

My journey of faith has taken me through many congregations in my lifetime. I remain passionate about the church in all its many expressions. It is the vehicle God has provided to proclaim



We were delighted to receive a visit from our daughter, Heather. Here we are on a hike in the Lamington Forest near Brisbane, Australia.

the good news, to feed the hungry, to welcome the stranger, to bind up the broken hearted and to care for all in need. How does our connection to a particular congregation enhance our personal life of faith? How does our worship together shape the discipleship we demonstrate in the week to follow? These are abiding questions underlying our congregational life together. These “deep questions” give me the energy and enthusi-

asm for the daily tasks of ministry.

How do I like to relax? Cooking and reading are two of my favourite activities. I also enjoy hiking, swimming, cycling, squash and cross-country skiing, all in moderation.

I recall reading the Henry Huggins and Ramona Quimby series of books by Beverly Cleary as an older child. Her insight into the lives of children and teenagers

was both humorous and deeply moving. I have enjoyed re-reading these books as an adult.

I love a good Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings, or a delicious dark chocolate bar from Ten Thousand Villages. But if I'm home on my own, a simple fried egg on toast makes a nice dinner too. Thanks for every word of welcome you have given to Robb and me here at Floradale. We do indeed feel very blessed.

Getting to know Angela Ishaka

By Angela Ishaka

I grew up as Angela Brubacher, the daughter of Shoe Kenny Brubacher and Geraldine Bauman. We lived in Hawkesville until I was three years old, and then moved to Elmira where we lived until I went to university. My grandpa, Urias Brubacher, owned the shoe store in Elmira, and my dad owned the custom shoe store, so I have grown up around shoes and feet :)

My Mom's family is from Wallenstein, and both of my parents are from large families so I always have had lots of aunts, uncles and cousins around. I have 1 sister and she married David Hiller of Floradale. They live near Breslau and have 6 children...keeping up the large family tradition! David owns a business called Hiller Truck Tech which helps truckers reduce fuel consumption on their vehicles. We went to Woodside Bible Fellowship in Elmira, which has lots of family connections with people from Floradale Mennonite Church.

What are you passionate about?

I love people, music, reading, lakes, and especially helping other people make music. I love many styles of music, but some of my favourites are classic rock, motown, and the romantic classical period, especially Brahms's piano music and his German Requiem.

My favourite literary genres are historical fiction, and Canadian Lit. If you give me non-fiction, I will politely nod and say “thank you” with very good intentions to read it, but it will inevitably wind up inside my bedside table collecting dust.

What influenced your decision to work/join Floradale?

Noah! When he and I got married, it was hard for me to leave Stirling Ave Mennonite Church. I still love that church, however, Noah felt as though the people at Floradale were like his family, and he doesn't have other family in the area so it was no problem for me to move over. Also, Rick Martin helped influence me to work here as he encouraged the congregation to adopt the new position of music minister. Thanks Rick!

Who is your favorite author?

Mordecai Richler, John Irving, Ken Follett to name three.

How do you debrief or relax?

I read before going to bed each day, and I like to watch movies as well. I also go for walks around Hawkesville and I meet up with people and have a conversation. I love people!

What are your favorite foods?

Hmmm...so many kinds. Avocado, home-made tortilla chips, butter chicken with rice, hot and sour soup from The Lucky Dragon in Toronto, baklava, sambusas which are a Congolese version of samosas, pad thai, curries, and bleddlen grumbada. (Editor's note: This is a local Mennonite specialty. Literally translated, *bleddlen grumbada* are “saucer potatoes,” sliced potatoes, cooked and served with a bit of cream.

The Focus committee was eating breakfast so came up with the question “how do you like your eggs?”

Over easy!!! With rye toast on the side.

Introducing Katie Gerber

By Katie Gerber

I grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Wellesley, where my family and I attended Wellesley Mennonite church. I am the oldest of four children. My sister Taylor is 19 and my brother Kodie and sister Gemma are 13-year-old twins. My parents are Paul and Linda Gerber.

My dad sold our cattle when I was 10 years old and now owns his own renovation business, and my mom is a special education teacher at Bridgeport Public School. I attended Rockway Mennonite Collegiate for high school and now am in my third year in Child Youth and Family Studies at the University of Guelph!

Most recently, I was working for the Guelph YMCA as their Summer Camp Youth Support Worker. There, I came to understand the hardships of many families living in low income neighbourhoods and fell in love with the families I worked so closely with.

One of the things I am very passionate about is providing the opportunities, support and encouragement necessary for children and youth to succeed. While volunteering with Start to Finish, an organization that runs a program called Run and Read within

Over the weekend of September 11-13 the youth and I went on a retreat to Riverstone retreat centre in Durham! We had tons of fun hanging out, sharing with each other, playing glow in the dark capture the flag, eating a ton of chips and learning more about God's love for us.

schools in low income neighbourhoods, I saw the absolute importance of this through mentoring a team of students. I want children and youth to believe in themselves, to know they are created in the perfect image of Christ and that they are loved with an everlasting love.

I am beyond excited to support the youth of Floradale Mennonite as they learn about God and grow in Him, and as God works through me to share His love with each and every one of them.

And just in case you were interested here are some fun facts about me:

I love honey crueller donuts, dark chocolate and Miss Vickie's salt and vinegar chips. I have quite the collection of cook books and read them in my spare time. Spring is my favourite season because there is so much excitement for what is to come and everything is new! My favourite TV show is Prison Break, but I am a chick flick fanatic. I enjoy running, baking, country music and am fascinated by the night sky. I love talking about ideas and want to be continuously learning because there is just so much to know!

(Just so you know, Floradale Focus team, I like my eggs over easy. 😊)



Beans and Corn for House of Friendship



Left: Ron Martin, Donna Freeman, Jane Hesselink, Glenn Martin, Pauline Martin, Marilyn Weber, Dave Metzger and Barb Draper work in the bean patch.

Below: Lots of people from the community help to process the beans.



The Urban Ministries project of green beans and sweet corn at the Jim Maurer farm produced another abundant crop. Our major recipient, the House of Friendship, received several hundred dozen cobs of freshly picked sweet corn and bushels of fresh green beans for daily meals over the weeks and to use in their food hamper distribution program. We also provided approximately 549 lbs. of freezer-ready sweet corn and 195 lbs. of freezer-ready green beans.

We are grateful for the many church and community volunteers who came out to help pick and to process the beans and corn and make the required deliveries. In addition, we were able to contribute fresh produce to our local Elmira Food Bank, assist other local families in need, and share of the abundance with our Floradale Church Food Committee. Again, many thanks for a beautiful spirit of cooperation and goodwill to make all this possible.

Darrell Jantzi for the Urban Ministries Committee



Above: Wanda Kehl, Florence Jantzi, Mary Martin and Lester Kehl package the corn in the church kitchen.



Left: Meanwhile Lorne Bowman, Dave Metzger, Bert Springer and Glenn Martin are busy husking the mountain of corn.

Leftovers from the August issue of Focus on Floradale

Somehow the following two reflections on Mennonite World Conference didn't make it into the August issue. It is entirely my fault; I had them but neglected to get them included.—Barb Draper

Quotable Quotes from MWC notes

By Darrell Jantzi

Without question, I found my participation in Mennonite World Conference both inspiring and challenging. Each day, our worship and teaching reflected the faith and thoughts of one of five world continents—Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America—various aspects of our theme “Walking With God.”

I would like to share quotable quotes from my notes spoken in some powerful messages presented each day, and their young Anabaptist responders. The invitation was clear, “Let’s walk with God this week; Let’s walk with God forever.”

- If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to walk far, walk together. Walking is a journey, it’s plural and involves us completely. It is communion with God and each other.
- We are not alone because we are propelled to work together. Through Christ all things are made new. Be growing like the “wozo” plant in Zimbabwe that will bend, but never break.
- Jesus/God is a thorn remover—he frees us, intervenes, strengthens, unifies us and leads us into safety.
- Facing life without doubt is like a body without antibodies. Doubt and conviction are like two pedals on a bike. Doubt can sharpen conviction, but doubt has also left a trail of destruction.
- Our Lamb has conquered. Let us follow him in simple thoughtful expressions of God and faith. Time for God’s people to be awe-inspiring children of light in the midst of darkness in our day and time.
- Be clear symbols of unity. Let your unity speak to fruitful encounter. Be salt and light communities, a brotherhood of non-violence, and responding as people of peace.
- Anabaptism is our core identity. We must regain it to be boldly prophetic. We have the words down pat, but little of the essence. Sin is not just individual but corporate. Too often we use the Bible to close doors rather than to open doors. We must learn to listen, and to love people who live in fear and seeming helplessness. “Follow me” was repeated 56 times by Jesus.
- Need to change the way we go to the world....need to turn around. Have the same mind as Christ, compassion in the mercy and mind of God. Matthew 3-7 is what the church is all about.
- We have been on this mountain long enough.
- A Church that questions mission is not a church of God. A church that doesn’t have mission will die. Let us recognize our salvation and our call....We seem to be allergic to evangelism. Ouch!
- I really don’t want to be the Church of the future but rather the Church of today. We are called to constant creativity. We

need to listen in order to dignify the gospel.

- Church is a place where you will develop your skills of loving. We become priests to one another. We go to Church to experience grace, and learn to share grace freely with others.



World Conference Assembly was amazing

By Shirley Redekop

It was the music and singing; no, it was the workshops; no, it was the young Anabaptists talks; no, it was catching up with “old” friends and others from around the world. No, it was all of this and much more. Since there is no decision-making at Mennonite World Conference, Mennonites from over 80 countries can come together to worship, sing, listen, pray, and share together, even with their many differences. God’s Spirit was moving in so many ways.

Each day after the morning worship time, there were options of tours in the area, workshops, resource booths, a bookstore, and Ten Thousand villages store to browse through, or hang out in the Global village. The Global village had tents from each continent, a tent of Mennonite migration information, a stage with international musicians and artists, and lots of Dutch Blitz games happening. An-

other hit was the Amish buggy and an East Indian Rickshaw to sit in for pictures. There was always a long line to get painted henna designs. And there were lots of stories and laughs together.

I attended several workshops. One was sponsored by Mencolde, an initiative of the Colombian Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Brethren Church with the purpose of “carrying out the Gospel and Mission of Christian churches with a priority for the nation’s most poor and vulnerable people.” I met several of

the Colombian people who knew Hannah too. I heard stories of women and their families who are displaced and/or have lost husbands, fathers, and family members in the ongoing conflict there. I heard stories of hope and peace building too.

Another workshop was about Sister Care: a program begun by Women of Mennonite Church USA, but now around the world. This program helps women to heal from past and continuing hurts and learn to embrace God’s loving care for them through “sisters in Christ.”

The impact of singing with over 7,000 people is too hard to share with words. Go to the MWC website and listen to the video clips to hear a bit of this, although it won’t do it justice, I’m sure.

And before returning, we were able to spend an evening picnic with all my Pennsylvania family at my niece’s home. It was a great week!

The next MWC is in Indonesia in 2021. It’s worth the flight to Indonesia.

Celebrating 50 years of marriage

By Dave and Marj Metzger

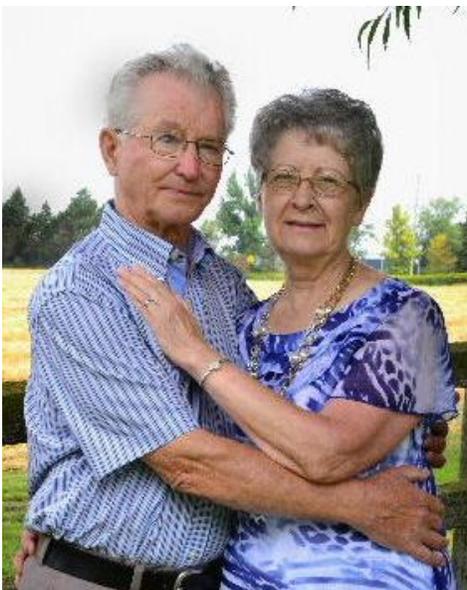
In June we celebrated 50 years of marriage and also 50 years of farming, so it was important to us to host the event on our farm. Our family was very involved with the whole process—we could not have managed it without them, but the weather was out of our control.

It was an awesome day despite the rain. The first people to arrive were the Zinger family from whom we bought the farm. Edna is now 93 years old. Also very special people were two couples from Pennsylvania; the ladies are pen pals of Marj since the age of 12. As well, a couple came from near Ottawa. Judy worked with Marj at her first job at age 18.

Our family came from Victoria, Vancouver and Chetwyn, B.C., Wanham, Alta., Harrisonburg, Virginia, and many parts of Ontario. We were humbled by the turnout to the open house and

by the affirmations we received. After the dinner and program the sun came out, so we were able to have some pictures taken. It was a very special day.

Thanks to our church family for your support. Thanks to God who gave us life, health and each other.



Dave and Marj Metzger were married 50 years on June 12.



The 50th wedding anniversary for Earl and Erma Wideman was June 16.



September... End of summer or beginning of fall?

By Nicole Woeschka

“Blech... yuck... Wow it’s hot! Oh man ... is it winter yet?” These are the kinds of comments that get me evil looks wherever I go from April to September. I am what you could call a “fall/winter person.” I prefer a cooler temperature outside and basically become a wimp as soon as the temperatures reach the mid-twenties.

One of the great things about living in Canada is the change of seasons. We get to experience the best of all the worlds, so they say. We get fall with the beautiful colours, winter with the beautiful snow and silence and crunching that comes with it, spring with the fresh smells, crocuses and tulips, and then summer (shudder).

A lot of people say summer is their favourite. They love the heat, going to the beach, sitting in the sun, etc. For me, summer is the time of year when I hibernate in my air conditioning to wait out the heat wave. I brace myself to make the walk from the air conditioned building at work to my air conditioned truck. I *might* venture out into the heat by the time it gets dark in the evening

A lot of people start getting sad and upset about summer being over and school starting. To me, September is the time of year that gets me borderline giddy! It’s the time of year that the leaves start changing and the temperature (typically) drops. I can walk across the parking lot without breaking into a sweat! Yahoo!

Some say January is the time of new beginnings, others say September with the return to school. I don’t really feel like a certain time of year is the

“beginning” or “end.” I look at the change in seasons with excitement—change can be good. Even when it turns into summer.



Learning from the sunflowers

By Mary M. Martin

Thirty days has September! September brings transitions and we have thirty days to enjoy and witness the annual tussle between days staying warm or turning cooler, daylight and dusk or leaves changing their colours. September heralds the beginning of the autumn and signals a period of change. How one feels about change or how one deals with change may very well affect how one feels about the fall. When you face change do you want to hang on like the last lonely leaf on the branch or can you embrace the new and unknown? Do you face change with excitement or dread? Do you view September as the *end* of summer or the *beginning* of fall?

The flowers in my perennial gardens, especially the sunflowers, serve as a teacher of change for me. Just a few weeks ago the sunflowers were strikingly eye catching in their beauty. It was not unusual to see a car stop and have someone lean out of the car

window with their phone to take a picture.

My sunflowers come up each spring on their own and later under ideal conditions, I can almost see them grow. Later, after they have started to bloom, I watch how the flowers follow the sun. Now, that their stunning beauty has diminished and their stems are sagging with the weight of their flower heads, they no longer catch the attention of passersby. But now the birds are busy and I can listen to the finches sing, the chickadees chirp and the blue jays boss everyone else as they feasts on the sunflowers seeds and I am happy to delay the back breaking task of dragging them to the compost pile.

Now for the lesson. Sunflowers and the other flowers appear to effortlessly follow their life cycles. They spring forth, they grow, they flower, they become very beautiful, they let their beauty fade, they produce seed heads and finally they die. They find a reason, a purpose to exist even as their beauty fades. Contrary to my natural tendencies the sunflowers do *not resist or fight against change even when the end looks like death*. They gracefully embrace and accept the changes that are apart of their life cycle.

The sunflowers present me with a challenge. Will I choose to move into the autumn of my life with grace, accepting the changes that come with aging, or will I resist or fight against the inevitable? As the sunflowers do, will I find a purpose for being even as I let go of things that are familiar? It is a lesson that I am trying to learn and practice.

Responding to change

By *Tim Greenwood*

How do you take to change? Do you see infinite possibilities, or the end of everything you've come to know? When I look back on my first days of university, I'm reminded of the seeming endless stretch that faced me. The four years that remained between me and a piece of paper at the end felt at that time to be even longer than the 12 years of schooling I had already been through.

There was lots of change in those first years, not just starting a whole new period of my life, but friends, ideas, and more. Though it all seems so normal now, those transformations and adjustments felt scary and foreign at the time. I faced each new year at university with the same tired resignation, assuming to be stuck in long classes, with piles of homework, and long exams. This year I started my last year of my undergraduate degree. And with that realization, I approached this fall with a completely new mindset.

How does it feel to be entering something that you can clearly see has an end in sight? I'm sure you can imagine the feeling.

Fall is a time of change, great change. Leaves are changing colour and falling, wind and weather pick up, temperatures drop, and people head indoors (unless they're like me). I've always loved the fall. It invigorates me, fills with a contentedness I only get from warm drinks on a blustery day, and jackets that cut off the chill wind.

With the past three years of starting school though, it was hard to feel happy when so much

seemed to be in my way. And this is the beauty of it, now that I'm free to admire the changes of fall I love so much, I am also coming to realize that with an end in sight, I can look ahead to all the change that lies before me. Do I shrink at the even greater emptiness that follows this? Or do I revel in the simple hope that change brings? I choose to hope.

Change can be heartwarming

By *Shirley Redekop*

I used to thrive on change—meeting new people, seeing new environments and learning new things in several countries. But, now that we've lived in Floradale for 24 years, it isn't as easy to move and change. We've raised our children here; we've connected with the neighbours and community. We've accumulated 24 years of "stuff!" And there are lots of memories.

So, our next change is in smaller increments. A smaller house, a smaller property, and only a few miles down the road. It was good to get rid of a lot of the stuff, but I didn't feel lighter or freer like a lot of people say they do when they purge. I'm a sentimental type and keep most things for the memories they evoke.

Two sentimental things we couldn't bring along were the blue spruce tree in the backyard that we planted when my father passed away, and two Rose of Sharon bushes that we brought from Fred's sister Marilyn's place years ago. As I was sitting in the backyard of our new home the night before we moved, thinking about this, I was drawn to look to

the right, and there was a blooming Rose of Sharon bush. I looked around and there was another one behind my chair getting ready to bloom! As I walked back to the house, I looked around me and there, in our backyard is a beautiful Blue Spruce tree! I guess I hadn't thought about it before. Heartwarming.

We did have a garage sale. I made myself sell a lot of the things I'd been carrying with me in boxes I barely opened. I didn't part with the letters my friends, family, and Fred have written me over the years though. They were great to read again as I went through things for the move.

In the garage sale, we sold some things we had collected from our journeys around the world. A woman came and was interested to learn about many of the things we had, and was fascinated with the stories. As we talked, and I could reminisce, she said she was a teacher at Linwood school and wants to use them in her class to teach students of others around the world. It was heartwarming.

I was also selling a lamp that my grandfather made for me. It reminded me of a lamp that would look great in a cottage (yes, kinda ugly), but even though it had a special meaning, I never knew when I would use it. Another woman came with her daughter, and was interested in the lamp. We had put it out for free because the shade had gotten wet. She said that the wood was driftwood from Florida. When we talked I said my grandfather was from PA and would have gone to Florida at times. She said she really liked it and wanted it for her cottage in Georgian Bay! Just the place it

needed to be. Heartwarming; I knew she would share the story.

Later, along came two young men. The one picked up and wanted to buy the *Time* and *Look* magazines that my father had saved from JFK's assassination. I wasn't sure about selling them, but felt so much better as we talked and he was so excited because he was going to give them to his grandmother for her birthday, and said she would love them. Heartwarming.

The day continued in this way. A couple came by from Barrie

and she was interested in Fred's books by Mennonites. They were touring and had gone to St. Jacobs, but wanted to hear more about Mennonite theology. I told them a Mennonite pastor lives here, and we had a great conversation, which led them to coming to Floradale church the next day. Heartwarming.

Change can be hard, but it also can be heartwarming if we watch for the gifts that God gives us during the journey.

Coping with change

By Fred Redekop

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body or what you will wear." Jesus said these words to the disciples during a sermon.

I have experienced much change over the summer. New beginnings always include losses or endings. I worked very closely with Kendra over the last seven years, and it has been stressful to say goodbye to her here at Floradale. I believe that we worked well together, and I have to acknowledge that change to you, and to myself. I am grieving the loss of this working relationship.

We also moved to a new house and home. This also means giving up our old home and the community here in the village of Floradale. It is a great town, and we had really great neighbours. I could walk to work or ride my bicycle (I could still do that), and I miss that.

So, we have hired three very good staff people, Katie, Angela and Nancy, and we are new to

one another. Psychologists say that we arrange ourselves in groups of three, or triangles. With five people on staff, we have the possibility of 12, I think, work triangles. With now five staff, the relationships are more complex, and how does it affect the whole, when one of the triangles is not working. Church Council has set up a good system of accountability, but these are large changes for me, and how I work here. Pray for our team.

We have a new/old house in Elmira, a new beginning. It is smaller, so we had to get rid of stuff we had had for decades. It is a quiet street where we live, and we have met some of the neighbours, and it all seems good. We are sleeping well, and we seem comfortable in the new place, but it is a big change for us.

So Jesus invites his disciples, that is us, not to worry when we change things or change is decided for us. I say, "good luck with that!" Actually, the fact that Jesus says do not worry, means that he understands that we will worry about change. We must be

Focus on Floradale has now turned 30!

By Barb Draper

The very first issue of *Focus on Floradale* was published 30 years ago, in Sept/ 1985. Doug was a tiny baby and I wonder why I was working on this newsletter project. But somehow I've been editing the newsletter ever since. I assumed I'd edit a few issues then turn it over to someone else, but I learned that I enjoyed editing and writing. In those early years we used a typewriter and photos could not be re-sized. We were literally cutting and pasting. We did have a photocopier, thankfully, but it was primitive compared to what we have today. It took hours and hours to make copies. To date we have published more than 150 issues.

aware of how change affects us, and how we then act in our lives. If we take it out on others, that is sin, and that is wrong.

What is changing in your life this September? I am teaching adult Sunday School for the first time here at Floradale. Come out to study the Bible, if you have never done so before. What is God inviting you to change this September? How does that make you feel? And how does it make you feel when change is forced upon you? What is God then saying to you/us? What other changes does Floradale need to make in the next year to follow the calling of God here?

Change, and new beginnings, are a constant in our lives. Bring them all to God and the community of faith, and see what these new things can do for our faith, together.

Adeline L. Martin

June 18, 1924 - June 24, 2015

By Phyllis Martin-Neufeld

On June 24, 2015 Adeline Martin joined her family and friends in the presence of her Lord. She was predeceased by her parents Anson Martin and Lydia Ann (Lichty) and her six siblings: Lincoln (Mary); Clayton (Lila); Edna (Mrs. Emerson Weber); Amos; Ervin (Beatrice); and George who died in infancy. She is survived by her sister-in-law Velina Martin (Mrs. Amos L. Martin) of Parkhill, Ont.

Adeline grew up on a farm on the 4th of Peel, now Mapleton Township. From 1954 to 1992 the farm was owned by Ervin and Beatrice. Adeline walked about a mile-and-a-half to S.S. # 13, a one-room school on the 4th. She was a good student.

Adeline also enjoyed learning about the Bible and nurturing her Christian faith. While she was an Old Order girl, she enjoyed attending Vacation Bible School at the Floradale Mennonite Church on the hill. Her family left the Old Order Church in 1936 and joined Floradale Mennonite. In 1939 Adeline was baptized at Floradale Mennonite Church by Reuben Dettweiler.

Adeline's faith shaped her life. As a young adult she took time off work in the winter to study at the Ontario Mennonite Bible School in Kitchener. She taught VBS at Floradale Mennonite. In 1946 and 1947 Adeline spent two years in Mennonite Voluntary Service, working with at the London (Ont.) Psychiatric Hospital. She also worked in a mental hospital in Brandon Manitoba.



Adeline was quiet and reserved but confidently supported herself financially and lived her life in service to others. After working as a mother's helper, she worked for Dan Horst for six years, helping with market gardening and selling eggs and poultry. She also worked at the Great West Felt Co and the Elmira shirt factory.

Around 1955 Adeline began working in the kitchen at the Elmira Nursing Home. She was interested in working directly with patients and began work as a nurse's aide. Later at Green Gables Nursing Home in Kitchener she studied on her own and passed the R.N.A exams in 1970. When Green Gables closed, Adeline worked at Pinehaven Nursing Home.

Adeline also cared for family members, sometimes decreasing her work schedule. She lived with and looked after her parents in their later years. Adeline took special interest in keeping in contact with her nieces and nephews and their families. She was the family communication link. In her final years when she had difficulty walking, seeing or hearing and felt she could no longer do anything to help anyone else, we reminded her that she was the family matriarch and that she could still pray for us.

Adeline enjoyed relationships with many friends. She was part of a single women's group of women from Floradale and Elmira. She was also part of "Club 42," a group of women who at-

tended elementary school together at Floradale. The group met regularly and invited Adeline to join when she moved to Floradale.

As well as caring for people, Adeline cared for plants. Like her mother and her maternal grandmother, she was a great gardener. Her flowerbeds were always picture-perfect and she enjoyed providing flowers for church on Sundays.

Adeline moved from Floradale to an apartment at 17 Snyder Ave. in Elmira where she lived from 1992 to 2005. Due to failing eyesight, Adeline moved to Chateau Gardens Assisted Living Centre (now Chartwell Elmira).

In May 2013, Adeline was diagnosed with cancer in her liver and she prepared herself to say goodbye. She enjoyed another year of relatively good health, but after her 90th birthday party her health rapidly declined.

After a few months of living at Forest Heights Long Term Care in Kitchener, Adeline was thankful when an opening came up at Heritage House in St. Jacobs in Feb. 2015. It felt like coming home for Adeline to be in a nursing home where the staff shared her faith and her values of caring and service for others.

Thank you Aunt Adeline for your caring faithful spirit and your life dedicated to service to God and your neighbor.

Phyllis Martin-Neufeld is a niece of Adeline. She got some information from an article about Adeline written by Barb Draper, published in *Focus on Floradale* in 1989.

Church family camping

After several years of family camping at Point Farms Provincial Park, no one was ready to pick up the responsibility of organizing this summer event. But thankfully Howie Bauman agreed to do so if he could choose a different park. Several families spent the weekend of Aug. 21-23 at Cedar Rail park near Scone, Ont. (north of Hanover). It was a relaxing time of being outdoors, swimming, chatting and playing games.

Angela was brave enough to bring her family while Noah was travelling overseas. She also brought her mother and we

passed baby Jesse around. The weather was wonderful and we had good times around the campfire.



Elijah enjoyed his bike (above). Lorne and Elaine took their turn babysitting (left). Howie led the worship service on Sunday a.m. (below).



Worship in the fellowship hall

On two occasions this summer we came for breakfast on Sunday morning and then had worship in the fellowship hall. Organized by the Worship Committee, they wanted to try something different. Eileen Freeman organized the kitchen volunteers to serve breakfast.

On Aug. 9 she prepared food for 100 people, but then had to scramble to make a bit more food since more hungry people than expected turned up. On Sept. 13 she made sure there was lots of eggs and bacon.

The worship band led the singing and Fred read scripture during the service. On Aug. 9 he read the book of James and on Sept. 13 he read several parables. Several people responded with personal reflections. It can be scary to try something new, but on the whole things went well.

Thank you to those who prepared the meal, especially Eileen Freeman, Karen Bender and Vernelda Weber. Thank you to those who set up all the electronic equipment, especially Roy Draper, Lorne Bowman and Willis Freeman.

Ryan and Romy Schill

By Romy Schill

My parents are Hans and Margreth Signer from just outside of Moorefield. Ryan's parents are James and Carolyn Schill, from the 4th of Peel. Ryan's grandparents are John and Betty Schill and Albert and Ruby Martin. My parents emigrated from Switzerland in the 1980's.

I grew up near Moorefield on a dairy farm, which my brother now runs. Ryan grew up on a mixed farm with beef, chickens and pigs. Growing up we were both involved in 4H which is how we met! I went to high school in Palmerston and then to the University of Guelph and have an agricultural science degree. Ryan went to high school in Elmira and studied agriculture at Lakeland College in Alberta.

Farming goes back many generations in both families. Growing up, I didn't want anything to do with the farm and now that's my life. We enjoy farming because it's something different every day. I'm my own boss and get to feed the world!

It's also great to be able to raise our kids on the farm. We have about 300 ewes and 1200 layer-breeder chickens. We raise lambs for meat and produce about 700 lambs a year right now. We plan to grow our sheep flock to about 500 ewes soon so that we can both stay home full-time.

It takes an optimistic person to be a farmer. You definitely need to see the glass as half full. There are a lot of hats we wear to make our farm work—from vet and mechanic to nutritionist and sheep wrestler. I think the more experience and education you have, the



Emerson, Ryan, Adalyn, Cameron, Romy

better farmer you can be; whether that means working on other farms, going on farm tours or going to school. With my education I find it so helpful to know biology, physiology, reproduction, etc. Knowing how an animal/plant works in every aspect helps you manage and care for them more effectively and productively.

Since we have young kids, a farm to run and Ryan works off-farm right now, we don't have too much time for hobbies. Ryan works on a custom farming operation and can have flexible hours so he can be home if we have a busy day. I worked in feed sales before having kids, but now stay home so we don't have to pay for daycare.

I like to garden in the summer, if the weeds don't take over too much. My veggies usually end up in jars or hungry bellies before it gets to the house!

As a farmer it's important to be involved in the industry to make sure we can do better. I sit as chair for the district board of the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency so that the industry can thrive.

Ryan and I were married in 2008. Cameron was born in June 2011, Emerson in April 2013 and Adalyn in June 2015. Cameron just started school so that is his

new adventure. The boys both enjoy being on the farm and anything farming themed ... as you may notice in church with the "farming" that happens on the pew during the service!

Having a baby around is lots of fun; I enjoy watching her grow and change and develop her own special personality. I wonder what we did before babies! The kids are very involved with the farm, I just hope what they

think is fun and games now is just as fun when they get older! We usually get the important chores done in the morning before they wake up and before Ryan goes to work. This makes the rest of the day a little more flexible.

It's nice with a baby, if she's not napping in the house. I just take her in the stroller or the baby carrier and get my chores done. It's when they start walking that you have to make sure they don't get into anything. It's amazing that after only such a short time that I'm so used to dealing with three kids! It's such a neat change to the family dynamic which the boys have dealt with really well. I really look forward to what the future holds for the kids and our family, watching their personalities develop is definitely interesting!

This fall is definitely going to bring some changes. Cameron starts school and Ryan is going back to work after taking time off this summer for paternity leave. Getting into a good schedule and rhythm will take some time but I look forward to it after a summer of "vacation".

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Tony and Char Martin

By Char Martin

Tony was born and raised in St. Jacobs, the second oldest out of four siblings—two brothers and two sisters. Tony has loved the farm since he was a young boy growing up on a dairy and potato farm gave him a variety of work. Here he developed a love for farm life and especially an interest in dairy cows! He is the son of Stuart and Fern (Brubacher) Martin. Tony's oldest brother Chris is married with 5 children, Charmaine is married with 4 children, Jared is living on Tony's parents' farm and is married with 3 children and his youngest sister Lisa is married with one child.

I was born and raised near Drayton, the second youngest child with four brothers. My parents are Gordon and Marlene Frey. My brother Glen passed away in 1998 at age 19 as the result of a farm accident. My brother Dwayne is married with 4 boys, Dennis is also married with 4 girls, and my youngest brother is still living at home with my parents. We raised beef and pigs on our farm and also did cash cropping. I enjoyed working on our family farm.

Tony and I met in our church youth group, where our friendship began. In 2005 we married and began our own dream, dairy farming! Our farm is in Mapleton Township on the corner of the Centre sideroad (Rd. 12) and the sixth Line.

As for hobbies, Tony enjoys a variety of sports—hockey, baseball and golf. I enjoy playing an

occasional round of golf with Tony. Family fun for us country folks happens mostly at home these days, but it might be a night out at a county cow show, a fall fair, a barn tour or a night at the arena. Yes, we do escape farm



Char, Nash, AJ and Tony

life for a week in the summer, somewhere in Ontario to create some fun, new memories.

In July we welcomed our second son, Nash, to our family. It has been a very exciting and precious time and a time of change in our home the past few months. Nash has been doing great; thankfully he has been a happy little guy so far, although I'm sure there will be some days it may not be so.

As for AJ, he loves his new baby brother, and Nash is quite smothered by all his hugs and kisses. It took a few weeks into all the change before AJ was affected by it. He is doing well and we are all learning how to share our time and love with both our boys, so their needs can both be met.

Another change for us has been hiring a student to help us out on the farm this summer as I've taken six weeks off. We've managed the farm on our own for the last three years after ending our partnership with Tony's brother. We had farmed together for the first six years. We've realized how nice it is to have some extra help, something I'm sure we'll plan to continue with for the next few years. I've been starting to help out with the milking part-time again. It's nice having more flexibility, having a third person in the barn.

As for me, and I'm sure I can say this on behalf of Tony as well, we feel richly blessed to be the parents to our two sweet boys and couldn't be happier. They bring us much joy and laughter each day. Motherhood really has completed me; I love working alongside my husband on our dairy farm, while being home to care for our two boys. Tony and I are living our dream together farming and raising our two sons. It's a wonderful life!



Special anniversaries:

Congratulations to Lloyd and Tracey Diehl who will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on September 30, 2015.



Nevin and April Martin will be married 20 years on October 21, 2015. Congratulations!

Births:

Congratulations to Brad and Krysten Shoemaker on the birth of Jase Bradley on June 28, 2015. A baby brother for Peyton.



Congratulations to Char and Tony Martin on the birth of Nash Reid on July 26, 2015. A baby brother for A.J.

Baptisms



Alina Kehl, Meghan Martin, Danielle Kehl and Jocelyn Martin were baptized on Sunday, August 30, 2015.

Engagements:

Casey Cressman and Bryan Horn plan to be married June 18, 2016 .



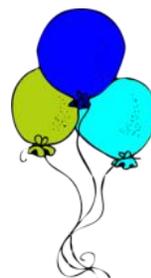
Christina Martin and Jeremy Bowman have announced their engagement. They plan to be married September 10, 2016.



Ashley Bauman and Jake Albrecht are engaged to be married. Their special day will be on October 15, 2016.

Special birthdays:

Alice Weber will celebrate her 85th birthday on November 9, 2015. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Mel Eby who will celebrate his 85th birthday on November 26, 2015.