



Focus on Floradale

Volume XXXII, No. 4

Floradale Mennonite Church

August, 2016



Pauline's memories

By Pauline Martin

Oh my! Where have the years gone? It's hard to believe it's been 25 years since we helped bring the Redekops to live in Canada. Caleb was just a month old and now look at him at 25 years old!

On a bright early morning, Oscar and Jane Clemmer and Allen and I left Floradale in our van and headed to Pennsylvania to help pack up the Redekop family and help them move to Floradale. When we got there the U-Haul truck sat in their driveway ready to be loaded. We worked hard and had it packed tight. But there was one thing they'd hoped to bring—but it just wouldn't fit in the truck. It was their picnic table. Allen said, "No problem." So we turned it upside down and tied it on top of our van roof and brought it to Floradale that way.

We left early in the morning with Oscar and Jane in the U-Haul, Redekops in their van, Pauline in their car and Allen in our van. Up and down the mountains and hills we went and when we arrived at the border, all went well. Fred had everything on a list and all details were in order.

We got to Floradale that evening to be greeted by some people from church and a big "Welcome" sign on the garage door which was made by Elmeta Bowman. The truck was unloaded the next morning and many people helped unpack things into the house. This began the Redekops' life in Floradale.

At a young age, Lucas and Jared loved sports, especially baseball and hockey. They were



Caleb enjoys a treat at "Grandma" Pauline's house.

really good at sports too—Jared wound up and threw a ball like a pro! Since both their grandmothers were living at a distance (Niagara-on-the-Lake and Pa.) I had the awesome opportunity to be their "pretend Grandma." As my grandchildren weren't born yet, I got to practice on the Redekop kids. What a great reason to have popsicles and snacks around the house. Our daughters Sherri and Tammy also enjoyed good times with the Redekop family.

Caleb, in his car seat, enjoyed going along with me on many school bus runs. All the kids liked



Scott shares his popsicle with Hannah.

our hammock in our backyard and since Scott Bauman lived nearby, he would often come over to play with the Redekop kids when they were at our house. Scott and Hannah were close in age and they loved to blow bubbles and share popsicles with each other. I also kept the kids if Fred and Shirley had plans and things to do. Early in the evening, Lucas would say he was tired and ready for bed—but not Jared and Hannah! Oh well, each to their own!

We also got to know Shirley's family quite well and travelled to PA a number of times to visit them. In March break 1993 our whole family traveled to PA and we were stranded there by a bad snowstorm. We had driven all night as forecasters anticipated that by morning all the roads would be closed—they were right! Lucas joined our family for that trip so he could visit his grandparents. It was a long drive but Lucas had us rolling with laughter, especially when he sang, "If I Had a Million Dollars." It was so much fun watching the kids grow up and it helped me be a better grandma for my own grandchildren later on. The Redekop kids were my "trial and error," I guess.

The times we spent together as families were great and I will always treasure these memories. Now when I see Lucas and his son Levi, I do realize that many years have gone by. I have grown to love and appreciate all of the Redekop family and we'll truly miss them at Floradale. I am glad they are still in the area and will hope to see them from time to time. My thoughts and prayers go with each of them wherever their journey takes them.

A special welcome in Sept. 1991

The following report appeared in the Oct. 1991 issue of Focus on Floradale, written by Marj Metzger:

“In the afternoon the planned welcome program took place. Jim Maurer gave a humorous talk as an introduction to the community. Allen Martin put verses to a chorus we’ve sung during the past few months and this song served to introduce various committees and organized groups of our congregation. The first letter of each verse then spelled WELCOME.

“Brent Bauman combined history and humour as he read us another of his stories. Fred, Shirley and their family had a part in the program too as they “took us to the ballgame” between the Phillies and the Blue Jays.

This Sunday was so fitting to welcome Fred, Shirley, Lucas, Jared, Hannah and Caleb and to celebrate a new beginning at a time when there are many other new beginnings.”

Welcome for the Redekop family

A welcome song written by Allen D. Martin, 1991

Chorus:

All grown-ups all children, all mothers, all fathers
Are sisters and brothers in the family of God.

We are the wee folks, we bid you welcome,
Lucas and Jared, Hannah and Caleb as well.
You will soon know us, as we get together,
In Sunday School classes our stories to tell.

(Sung by the children)

Elderly people have lots to offer,
We have been blessed with so many good times.
When you have problems, feel free to call us,
A prayer line to Jesus, we’ll see what it brings.

(Sung by seniors)

Leadership persons, serving the people,
Planning for programs and worship and fun.
Council and Elders, finding solutions,
Spending long hours, we’re glad when we’re done.

(Sung by Elders and Council)



Committees are useful, to plan service projects
We get together to quilt and to make—
Tea balls and goodies to sell at New Hamburg;
Fruit pies and shoo fly are some that we bake.
(Sung by WMSC women’s groups)

Organizations, of these we have plenty,
Candlelight, Starlight and Children’s Club too.
We plan for socials, getting together;
Every so often and we’ll include you.
(Candlelight, Starlight, Boys and Girls club)

Mennonite young folks are very active,
Baseball and hockey and headshop add spice.
We like discussions on most any topic,
If you will join us, that would be so nice.
(MYF and Young Adults)

Everyone present, we all wish to welcome,
Shirley and Fred and their whole family.
Let’s stand together in symbolic gesture,
Joining our hands we will show unity. *(Everyone)*



Caleb, Fred and Lucas enjoy Allen and Pauline’s hammock.

Walking down Memory Lane

By Shirley Redekop

Thinking back over 25 years I have so many memories it would take a book to write them all. Starting in 1991, when Pauline, Allen, Oscar and Jane came to Lancaster PA to pack up all our belongings, (including our big picnic table upside down on top of their van), and bring our family of six to Floradale. What a wonderful welcome we received!

How do I put all those memories in a few paragraphs? I remember all the “Grandmas” and “Grandpas” who supported us with our colicky baby, and with our children in Sunday morning services. I remember Sunday School programs, teaching Sunday School, and Moms and Tots.

I remember laughing together over my American accent and actions, and changing my allegiance from the Philadelphia Phillies (the 1993 World Series), and the Flyers, to the Blue Jays and Maple Leafs. I remember Candlelighters, Valentine’s banquets, Vespers and a shopping trip to Michigan with Pauline

driving the bus, when the border guards gave Marie Brubacher and myself a hard time. I remember committee meetings and the change from Vespers and Seniors WMCEC to Women’s Fellowship, and a bus trip to Ottawa. I remember Bible Studies for Tuesday Sewing Circles, women’s morning Bible Studies with Kendra, and evening Bible Studies. I remember small groups, two times. And church retreats at Hidden Acres with children playing, and late night, rowdy card games.

I remember youth pastoring for three years, great and fun youth and youth sponsors, weekend retreats, youth mentors and mentoring, and prayer partners.

I remember baby dedications, baptisms and weddings. I remember funerals and tears. I remember you supporting us through the illnesses and deaths of my dad, my sister-in-law, Fred’s mom and dad, and sister. I remember the outpouring of prayers and support after Fred’s heart attack: through the firemen, through the community, during his hospital stay, surgery, and recovery. What a bless-

ing and gift of God to have you walk with us.

I remember our 25th anniversary celebration and all the great plays we performed. I remember you celebrating with us when Lucas and Alison were married, and when Levi was born. I remember your love and prayers and support for all our children as they ventured into the world, finding their way, sometimes into dangerous situations. And I thank you for that.

I remember all the help with our second move to Elmira where we can continually see most of you. And the memories go on. And I will have new memories.

I remember when our children were young, Fred and I said we want to find a church where our children can call home (like Fred and I had when we grew up), and that’s what you here at Floradale have been. It’s like a warm blanket of blessing has been wrapped around us these 25 years. And as you continue to follow Jesus’ teaching you will continue being a blessing to others.

When we moved here we sang a song with our kids that we will sing again: “Make new friends, but keep the old; one is silver and the other gold.”



The wedding of Jenn Snyder and Calvin Shantz, Sept. 6, 2014, was one of the many events led by Fred.

Thank you very much

By Fred Redekop

Thank you for calling me to be the pastor here in 1991. I was only 32 years old at the time, and it took great courage on the part of the search committee, and the whole congregation, to have the wisdom to invite me to come to be pastor here.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to preach on a regular basis here on Sunday mornings. It is great to have the time to think, prepare and pray for the sermons that you have come to hear on a weekly basis.

Thank you for inviting me into your most intimate moments of life. I have been there just after birth, and just after death. You have shared your hopes and dreams for your children, as you have brought them for dedication. You have come to share your faith in baptism and new membership classes. You have allowed me to be there, as we have grieved together the loss of your spouse, your brothers, and your other loved family members. Thank you for sharing your lives with me.



Fred and Carson Towns explore the world together as they peer into a shoebox.

Thank you for forgiving my sins as a pastor and a human being. Your graciousness and love has been inspiring and overwhelming. We have worked together through issues when I have messed up. Thank you for the leadership of the Elders and Council throughout the years to make this a great congregation.

Thank you for putting up with my messy office.

Thank you for thinking of my health, and making me heart healthy meals, and your openness to bringing fruit and other less sugary desserts to potlucks. Thank you also for fueling my addiction to coffee over these 25 years.

Thank you for loving our family; Shirley, Lucas, Alison and Levi, Jared, Hannah and



A familiar sight: Fred in his office with a candle on one side and coffee mug on the other.

Caleb. Thank you for the way that you have mentored them while they grew up here. Thank you to those who provided them with summer employment.

Thank you for granting me three sabbaticals so that I could become a better person and a better pastor. You allowed me to travel to important places for our family, and the sabbaticals allowed me space to explore my soul and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for giving me opportunity to explore silence at Loyola House. It is not part of Floradale's DNA, but I was deeply nurtured by my time there. Thank you for being so open.

Thank you for the opportunities that you gave me to find my faith in new ways through writing. I actually stumbled INTO it through my writing in the *Independent* and the *Observer*, and the weekly blog.

Thanks for everything. It has been a great ride of, and for, faith. Shalom and strength for the next journey.

Fred Redekop

25 years with the Redekops, - a Timeline

1991:

Caleb was born a few weeks before the Redekop family moved to Floradale. A party on Sept. 8, planned by the Family Life committee welcomed the Redekops.

That year there were three deaths: Mel Shantz; Allen Diefenbacher; and Elmer Brubacher. There were also 13 new members, including Fred and Shirley. Seven babies born that year and there were four weddings.

In Sunday School, there were 34 children from preschool to grade four. The seniors class was meeting at the home of Myrtle Weitzel who lived across the street from Hillcrest because she was unable to come to church.

We still had a Sunday evening committee planning programs for Sunday evenings and after 40-some years, Floradale was still organizing programs at Wellington Terrace (long-term care home in Elora) once a month.

In 1991 the MYF created the "Refuge," turning the lower basement into an MYF room. They caught chickens to raise money to buy furniture and a new carpet.

We had two women's groups, the Seniors who met during the day on the first Tuesday of each month and the Vespers who met on a weekday evening.

1992:

We bought new hymnals called *Hymnal: A Worship Book*. We hired Vernelda Weber to do administrative/secretarial work on Tuesday and Friday mornings. We also introduced the prayer chain to contact all members by telephone.

A church-sponsored learning tour group visited

Rick and Louise Cober Bauman in Labrador. We discussed whether or not to have Sunday School in the summer and decided to continue but no Sunday School on long weekends in the summer.

1993:

Zenas Buehler was Church Council chair. A pictorial church directory was published. A facilities committee came up with a plan for major renovations but there wasn't enough support to proceed. Church Council reported that, "Council feels the present building will stifle growth, doesn't allow for decent funeral or wedding meals, is hopelessly inadequate in entry accommodation and hinders the worship experience. However, Church Council values the opinions of the congregation and accepts the decision reluctantly."

1994:

Fred Redekop was among a team of twelve people who served as part of a mission-and-service project in Brownsville, Texas. The MYF also participated in TOOLS (Toronto Ontario Opportunities for Learning and Service) tour.



Wayne Weber and Fred in Brownsville, Texas.

The Floradale Sharks hockey team placed first in the Elmira District Church Hockey League. The softball team also came in first during the regular season but lost in the league playoffs. We did not meet the budget by about \$2,500.

1995:

We hired Rebecca Seiling as a youth worker after several years without a youth pastor.

1996:

Fred took a four-month sabbatical and took his family to southeast Asia, working for MCC, while Art Byer served as interim pastor. Fred looked after the children while Shirley worked for MCC. "A highlight of the time in Hanoi was putting all four children on a 70cc Honda motorcycle and exploring all parts of the city," wrote Fred.

A group of ten people served in Guatemala from Feb. 10-23. The fall meetings featured Michael King, Oct. 26-28.

We hosted a large anniversary celebration Oct. 4-6 to celebrate 100 years since the official beginning of Floradale Mennonite Church. A history of the congregation, written by Brent Bauman, came out that weekend.

1997:

The church decided to buy a computer for the church office for the use of the secretary and the pastor. This was the first year of MCC meat canning in Guelph. It was also the beginning of the Junior Youth

program with the first event held in March.

In June we had a goods and services auction to support the MYF who attended the youth convention in Orlando, Florida, July 29 to Aug. 1. There had not been a tradition of having youth attend this type of event. They also fundraised with the play, "The Carpenter." Rebecca Seiling ended her term and Shirley Redekop took over as youth worker.

In December we held a comforter knotting blitz and knotted 19 comforters in one day.

1998:

We began supporting Steve Wiebe-Johnson and his wife who were missionaries in Ghana as part of the Mennonite Board of Missions. In February and March we held a singing school during adult Sunday School time with Linda Finlay and Chuck Kruger.

1999:

The Elmira raceway planned to put slot machines in their facility, but the community was divided. The local churches and pastors took a stand against slot machines in town.

In March, a group participated in a learning and service tour to Costa Rica. The MYF was involved in lots of fundraising for their trip to the youth convention in St. Louis.

The first Canadian Foodgrains Bank project was very successful as a joint project of three churches in Floradale.

2000:

In May the Elders hosted a meeting to discuss card-playing in the basement. We hired Vicky Roeder Martin as our youth

worker and also moved the nursery from the basement to the balcony. The Easter choir was a combined choir with Riverdale, our exchange congregation. We also revised the constitution.

Eight youth went to Toronto in July as part of the TOOLS program. The Woolwich-Bruce cluster of congregations began singing through the hymnal on Sunday evenings.

2001:

The MYF were fundraising again to attend youth convention in Nashville including a goods and services auction held at Parkview Manors. The MYF organized the first Floradale Bible quiz team in a very long time. Eleanor Buehler directed an inter-generational Easter drama.

The church basement flooded in February in which most rooms in the basement had water damage. Church Council called a congregational meeting to discuss our facilities. In September they organized a pastor appreciation day to celebrate 10 years of Fred's ministry.

2002:

Shirley Redekop began working for Mennonite Church Canada. The job lasted only a short time as MC Canada had miscalculated its income. When Vicky went on maternity leave, Jeanette Weber filled in on a quarter-time basis from May to November. Eleven MYFers went to Canton, Ohio, for a week of working in the inner city. The MYF Bible quiz team, coached by Veg Weber, studied I Corinthians.

We lost six members by death in one year: Violet Bauman, Elmata Bowman, Irvine Brubacher, Isabelle Bauman, Selina Frey and Delton Martin.

Church Council held four congregational meetings to discuss the future of our facilities. In November we purchased the neighbouring lot from Howard Reist for \$165,000.



Howard Reist's house was torn down in December, 2004, to provide more room for our new church.

2003:

While Fred was on sabbatical in Europe, Vicky Roeder Martin increased her time to three-quarter. Vicky was licensed as a pastor on May 18.

This year the tea ball project officially became a church project. The congregation made the decision to build a completely new structure rather than renovate the old one. Ninety-six people voted in favour, four said "no." The canvassing committee gathered pledges for \$1.5 million over 5 years.

Five people from the congregation attended Mennonite World Conference in Zimbabwe. The play, "The Least of These" was a big project to raise money for the building fund.

2004:

Fifteen people participated in a work-and-learning trip to Ecuador in February through Rosedale Mennonite Missions. While Vicky was on maternity leave, Rosie Martin filled in as youth worker.

On the last Sunday of December the Clarence Diefenbacher, chair of finance, invited people to contribute to the organization/charity of their choice for the final offering.

2005:

Stefan Cherry began as associate pastor with responsibility for youth. Leon Kehl began as Church Council Chair. The youth Bible quiz team of Doug Draper, Bair and Julia Freeman, Nicole Martin, Hannah Redekop and Liz Weber made it to the semi-final round. The Elmira thrift shop moved to its new location on Church Street. Floradale Mennonite Church officially became incorporated.

The church approved a plan for a \$3.3 million building project and groundbreaking was held on April 10. Fundraising included a fish fry, meat sales of beef and sausage, plate and cup souvenirs, a strawberry social, catering, metal recycling, etc.

Nine youth attended the Mennonite Youth Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Junior Youth presented the musical "Sam" in June, telling the story of the Good Samaritan.

Sunday School days in the summer were reduced. Wellington Terrace programs were reduced to four times a year.

2006:

We purchased *Sing the Journey* books which meant retiring



Fred and Shirley at Cape Croker at the Family Life camping event.

the old *Life Songs #2*. A date stone ceremony was held in April.

Floradale's youth Bible quiz team finally won the MCEC tournament. Volunteers from the church moved the park's baseball diamond farther away from the new building. The church's first website appeared on the internet, thanks to Leon Kehl and his sons.

The last service in the old building was held on April 30. The following Sunday, worship was held at Parkview Manors and the first service in the new building was held May 14. The MYF did another trip to Toronto for TOOLS. Stefan Cherry married Pascale Tranchemontagne on July 1. A Homecoming weekend, Sept. 23-24, invited people to remember our history and see the new building. A goods and services auction in the new building raised \$17,685. The building costs were covered through a line of credit rather than a mortgage.

2007:

The Family Life committee held the winter retreat in our new building rather than going to Hidden Acres. They also organized a

summer camping event at Cape Croker. The MYF travelled to Abbotsford, B.C. to attend the Mennonite Church Canada youth assembly.

Three performances of the play, "What Shall we do with the Family Farm?" along with two dinners raised \$17,491 toward the building project.

Fred and Shirley Redekop celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in July. In November, Fred challenged the congregation to put together 151 school kits for MCC. When he had a heart attack in the following week, Steve Bauman suggested that bringing school kits would be a good way to show support and in the end 209 school kits were under the Christmas tree in the foyer.



School kits under the Christmas tree showed support after Fred's heart attack.

2008:

Stefan Cherry left to plant a new church in Ottawa. We hosted MCC's International Visitor Exchange Program conference with young people from all around the

world. We hired Kendra Whitfield Ellis as associate pastor with responsibility for youth. We decided not to have Sunday School in the summer and to move the worship service to 10 a.m. in the summer.

2009:

We purchased the *Sing the Story* songbooks. A large wooden dove appeared in the sanctuary. We worked with the Drayton Reformed Church to perform "He's Alive!" an Easter Cantata.

Noah Ishaka arrived in Floradale and began attending our church. We decided to sponsor a refugee family. A group of MY-Fers attended Mennonite Youth Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

2010:

Dana Honderich served as a youth worker while Kendra was on maternity leave. The play "Those Shoes of Peace," again written by Barb Draper and directed by Eleanor Buehler, got many people in the congregation involved. The money raised from the project went to support the refugee family, who arrived in March, and to Christian Peacemaker Teams.

The tea ball project was injected with new life and the price was raised to \$8 per dozen, considerably increasing the amount raised for MCC. The *Focus on Floradale* committee published a collection of recipes from the past 25 years of the newsletter, and also published a book about the history of the village of Floradale.

2011:

Fred had another short sabbatical from August to November. He spent some time in Europe and three weeks at the MCC Wash-

ington D.C. office while Brian Lavery served as interim pastor. Kendra came back from maternity leave in May. Fifteen youth and three sponsors attended the Mennonite Youth Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. in July.



Shirley Redekop played Granny in the children's Christmas musical program "It All Happened in the Country" on Dec. 18, 2011.

2012:

Hopping Thursdays presented the children's musical "It Happened in the City." We began video-taping our worship services and making them available on our website.

2013:

Kendra led a group of eight youth on a summer service trip to Montreal. In November we hosted almost 600 people at a Malcolm Gladwell book launch. In April we hosted another dinner theatre with the play, "Mom, It's Time to Sell the House." We had some excitement due to an ice storm and had to postpone Friday's dinner to Sunday noon.

2014:

Kendra led a group of youth on a summer service trip to Chicago. We began a discussion about hiring someone for worship and music ministry on a part-time basis. We also considered having Sunday School during worship. We began a drawing class during adult Sunday School.

2015:

On April 19 we celebrated that our building was finally paid off. We used the 2014 budget surplus to make the final payment. We established the Floradale Generosity Fund using bequest money. The first disbursement went to help delegates from India and Nepal attend Mennonite World Conference in Pa.

We hired Angela Ishaka on a quarter-time basis to work at music and worship ministry. We also hired Nancy Mann as a half-time associate pastor and Katie Gerber as a quarter-time youth worker. Fred and Shirley moved from the village of Floradale to Elmira.

2016:

Angela organized a talent show, held Feb. 29, 2016. We hosted the Theatre of the Beat with their play, "This Will Lead to Dancing" in April. We hired Erin Miles to replace Veg Weber as Administrative Assistant, working four mornings a week. We revamped our website.

We said farewell to Angela as her family was moving to Flin Flon, Manitoba and we hired Nichelle Bauman for music and worship ministry.

On Aug. 28 we said farewell to the Redekop family.

*-compiled by Barb Draper,
Focus on Floradale editor*

Reflecting on 25 years

By Veg Weber

There are many memories that come to mind as I reflect on the past 25 years with the Redekops.

I remember teaching the children in Sunday School. I also helped coach them in Bible Quizzing. Hannah, it wasn't the third watch of the night, but the fourth. Of course they had to take your first answer! I will always remember the look on your face. Caleb, you answered the winning question at the quizzing finals to win Floradale the trophy, even though you buzzed in way too early in the question. Weekly Bible quizzing practices from January to April consisted of popcorn and lots of hot chocolate.

Then there's Shirley who has shared so many gifts at Floradale. We started the Moms & Tots program when our kids were small. She was the Youth Worker and gave lots of energy to the MYF. Shirley also willingly led the ladies Bible study and devotions for the women's programs. She really

tried to be "young" by playing the role of teenager in one of our church dramas.

I had the great privilege of working in the church office for almost 24 years with Fred. I was always amazed at Fred's creativity in planning his children's stories, sermons and in writing his blog and articles. He was always able to bring fresh and new ideas to the church and found ways to challenge us.

Fred also has an incredible memory. He remembers family connections, details of events, etc. I was always amazed at how many of the details he remembered when I could not.

Fred's caring and compassion was evident as he ministered to the sick and walked with those who were grieving. Besides doing his job as Pastor, Fred was not afraid to try anything and helped out in all aspects of the church. Fred was a junior youth sponsor, went on campouts, helped with tea balls, corn husking, bean picking, etc.

He was not afraid to get his hands dirty!

My, how we have changed in 25 years. When I first started working in the office the order of the service was handwritten by Fred then I in turn would hand-write the bulletin so a volunteer typist could come in to type, photocopy and fold the bulletin each week. It was then decided I could type it myself.

After some years a computer was purchased and a printer. All the office staff had to share that one computer (pastor, youth worker and myself). Emails all had to be checked on that same computer. Now each staff has their own computer, email and office and order of services and announcements get emailed! We have come a long way in 25 years!

Thank you Fred, Shirley, Lucas, Jared, Hannah, and Caleb for your part in shaping who Floradale church is today.

Many blessings to all of you as you continue serving Him.

-Veg Weber

Twenty-five years...Fred & Shirley

In looking back at your ministry at Floradale Mennonite church, memories come flooding in. When you first came, it was exciting to have a young family as part of our church. During those early years Zenas was a youth advocate for Lucas and a strong bond formed between them. Also Zenas and Fred enjoyed going out for lunch on a monthly basis for many years.

One of the first connections that Eleanor made with Fred was co-teaching a young adult Sunday School class on the book of Genesis. Throughout that time Fred and Eleanor had some profound theological discussions. These discussions continued throughout the years.

Fred was involved in some of the very special occasions in the life of our family. It meant a lot to have him participate in these because the words he

shared were always very appropriate and just right for the occasions. These included Cheryl's wedding, the funerals of Zenas' mother as well as his two sisters, Lena and Naomi. The meditation Fred shared at the special occasion of Zenas and Eleanor's 50th wedding anniversary was another blessing to our family .

Eleanor especially appreciated the support that Fred gave her during the journey with her friend Nadine while she was dying of cancer. His involvement in the funeral was very helpful and meaningful for Nadine's family as well as for Eleanor.

We thank both Fred and Shirley for using their varied gifts for these many years to serve God at Floradale Mennonite Church. Our prayer for you is that you will continue to be blessed as you share these gifts, wherever you serve, in the future.

-Zenas & Eleanor Buehler

Shirley Redekop: An active participant in women's ministries

By Florence Jantzi

It wasn't until the spring of 2005, after retiring from full-time work, that I was able to attend our daytime Women's Fellowship. This group of women meets once a month to quilt and knot comforters. At noon they take a break and gather around the table to eat their bag lunches, share in a devotional and have a short business session. Over the years, whenever possible, Shirley joined us for lunch and then led us in our devotional meditation. We were all blessed by her input and leading us in our sharing together. This past year her work schedule conflicted so she wasn't able to meet with us on a regular basis. We were privileged, however, to share in a noon meal that was prepared by Shirley's Low German cooking group. I still re-

member the delicious soups, Tamales, Tweeback buns and delicious desserts.

Shirley has also been active with the Women's Fellowship that meets in the evening. She has served on the Planning Committee and frequently led in a devotional, assisted with a skit or drama presentation, etc. We appreciate her creativity and are thankful for her willingness to share with us so unselfishly.

I was privileged to work with Shirley for several years when she served as Coordinator on the Executive of Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (WMCEC). At that time I was on the Executive as Program Coordinator and appreciated Shirley's encouragement and good suggestions in planning for meaningful Enrichment Days and Fall programs. Shirley was a joy to work with and I'm thankful for her

passion for women's ministry across the church.

This passion for women's ministry has led Shirley to her most recent assignment. Shirley was installed as the new President of Mennonite Women Canada at their July meeting which was held during the MC Canada Assembly in Saskatoon. This assignment comes with many challenges as women's ministry today has a different look than in the past. Let's pray for Shirley as she leads MW Canada in this time of transition and change.

Thank you Shirley for your faithfulness in sharing your gifts and creativity with us at Floradale. We also thank you for the leadership you have given in the past and continue to give to women's ministry in the boarder church community. May God bless you and give you wisdom and guidance for the task ahead.

Shirley and Fred checked out the police cruiser on the day the first responders came to Floradale Mennonite Church after the outdoor service on May 29, 2016.



Robb Martin and Shirley Redekop played young people in "What Shall we Do with the Family Farm?"



A recent Facebook post

After 25 years at Floradale Mennonite Church, I am leaving at the end of August. It has been a great church for me to be their pastor. Floradale is a conservative and entrepreneurial community that has tried to live up to their calling of Jesus Christ. They have changed the world through their sponsorship of refugees, their community growing projects, their short-term trips to many places in the world. I

believe that I am a good pastor because this has been such an extraordinary congregation of which to be a part. I will miss the people here very much, but it is now time for me to have deep faith, so that when the next door opens, I will be ready for it.

Thanks again for everything and everybody at Floradale Mennonite.

Shalom and strength,

Fred

Remembering Fred and Shirley

On Sept. 1991, Fred Redekop was called to serve as pastor. One of the first pastoral responsibilities was to be in charge of a funeral for my father, Allen Diefenbacher, a man who Fred had never met and didn't know. The MCEC leadership strongly encouraged new pastors to take charge of events like funerals and weddings immediately upon arrival at their new pastorate, so that congregations would see new pastors as being in charge right from the beginning. While Fred had never met the man whose funeral he was conducting, he did a responsible and sensitive job, just as he has so many times in conducting funerals at Floradale over the last 25 years.

I first met Shirley Redekop the spring of 1991 when she came to Floradale to look for a new home for her family. Fred was not able to come with her. The real

estate situation was quite different in the Floradale and Elmria area at that time; there were only a couple homes listed and available. However Shirley was able to purchase Laura and Phares Bauman's house. This became their home for the next 24 years. Shirley had one of her girlfriends from Pennsylvania with her. At the time she was eight months pregnant with Caleb, her youngest child. I remember thinking, "Wow, what a gutsy young woman we're getting as our new pastor's wife." Shirley, we will miss your outgoing friendly smile and your willingness to get involved. We will never forget our motorcycle-driving pastor's wife with her infectious bouts of laughter.

Fred and Shirley raised four children among us in the Floradale community. They modelled the importance of Christ and the church, not only to their own chil-

dren but also to many others. Fred had a way of recognizing little things people did and affirming them such as thanking me on a Sunday morning for praying for him during opening worship.

Fred, Marilyn and I have appreciated the many timely notes of thanksgiving and affirmations over the years. Many of them were cards you made, sharing with us some of the scenes of your travels. I always look forward to your attendance as my pastor at the annual Ontario Mennonite Heifer Relief Sale. You always kept us informed of the conference happenings and goings-on which is a key role for a pastor to play.

Fred and Shirley, blessings to you thank you for leading our congregation over the past 25 years. We wish you God's blessing and success in your future endeavors.

*-Clarence and Marilyn
Diefenbacher*



Orval Martin, Fred Redekop and Allen Martin enjoy roast pig as a celebration of Mary M. Martin's 60th birthday in 2001. Mary wonders how Fred's thoughts about turning 60 are changing, and says, "I'll bet it doesn't seem as old now as you thought it was then."