



Focus on Floradale

Volume XXXII, No. 5

Floradale Mennonite Church

October, 2016

Redekop Farewell, Aug. 27-28

On Saturday evening, as the family watched from front and centre, we watched an old video from 1991, saw slides from the past 25 years, saw a skit by Roy and Barb Draper and Mary



Frey-Martin, watched the staff (Katie Gerber, Nichelle Bauman, Nancy Mann, Veg Weber and Erin Miles) express their appreciation of Fred, participated in a quiz show, and sang along with the group who sang Veg Weber's song called "Pastor Fred," sung to the tune of Clementine. There was also open mic time. It was a good time of laughter and fun.



Saying 'farewell' with gifts

The worship service on Aug. 28 was special with Shirley leading worship and Fred preaching. Also included was a new song by Nichelle Bauman and a recording of Angela Ishaka, Ryan Bauman and others singing the Bruce Cockburn's "Lord of the Starfields," a favourite of Fred's.

Lunch was based on a Russian Mennonite theme with lots of *Zwiebach* (rolls) and *Platz* (fruit squares) for dessert. Many years ago Fred's mother taught Barb Draper how to make platz. For this occasion we gave the recipe to the Hillcrest bakery and they made all the platz for lunch.

After the meal it was time for presentations. Dale Martin (right) presented the meditation bench built by Ron Metzger and stained by Jerry Hesselink. It is designed for their backyard.

We were honoured that all the Redekop children came for the event. On behalf of the church, Veg Weber gave each of them a Bible verse while their mentors presented them with prayer shawls. Jared's mentor was Cliff Bauman, Hannah's was Joan Martin, Caleb's was Steve Bauman and Lucas had Zenas Buehler as a mentor.



Nancy Martin presented a scrapbook with photos from the last 25 years. Everyone in the congregation was invited to write a message to Fred and Shirley and Nancy had so many items she needed to put them into a second scrapbook. Photos from the farewell will also be added. The final gift was a "stained glass" window made of fabric (see page 3).

Thank you

It has been a busy time at the church since Fred's official farewell but I do want to take the opportunity to thank those who put hours and hours into planning and creating a memorable event. It would be preferable to thank each person individually but my fear is that I would miss someone so I will say thank you to all the people who participated in the different well-planned events, to those who planned it and to those who attended, for all were needed.

It was enjoyable to witness and experience the sharing of people's various gifts and talents.

Mary M. Martin



Fabric art in a special frame

Jane Hesselink, who made this lovely piece of art, read the following explanation as she presented the gift to Fred and Shirley at their farewell on Aug. 28, 2016.

To Fred,

This fabric version of a stained glass window represents the many lives you and Shirley have been a part of during the years you served at Floradale. Each piece of fabric tells its own story—speaking of joy, hard work, relationships, service, sacrifice, pain, death and hope.

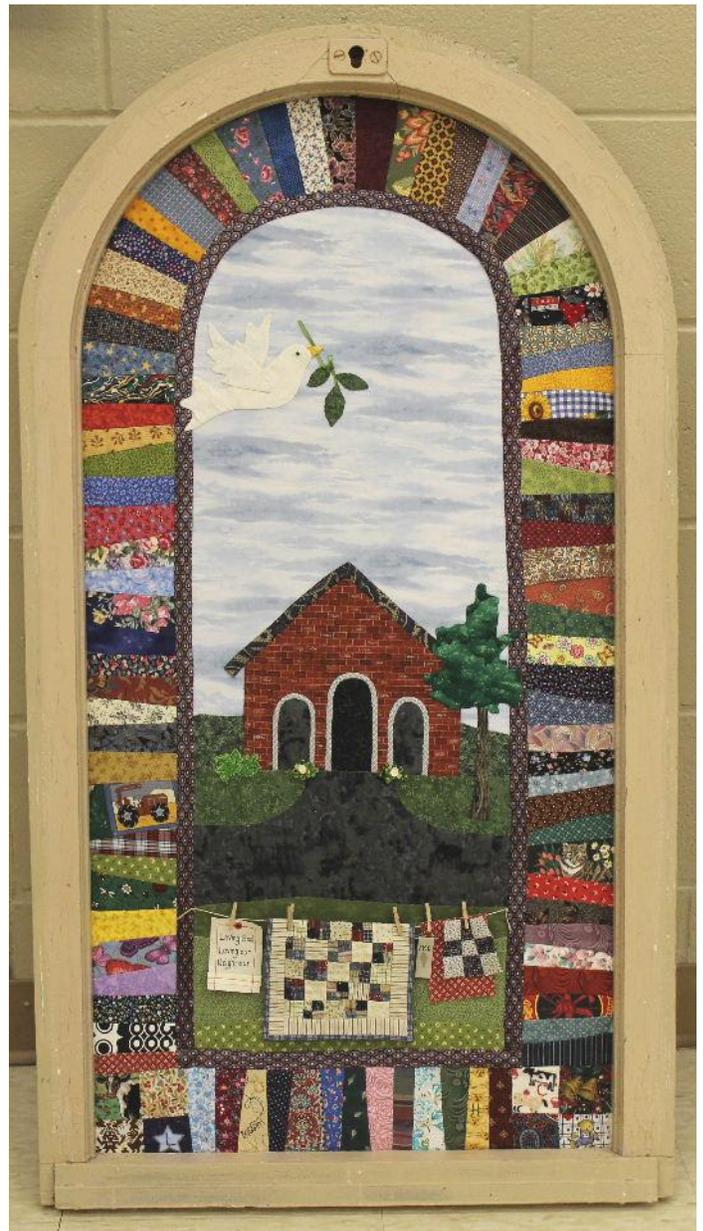
Some of the pieces were donated by Phares Bauman from Laura's scraps and many of these were left over from one of the last quilts she made for Kendra Whitfield Ellis. There is fabric from a quilt made by Fern Metzger in memory of her granddaughter, Becky Frey, and some from Barb Gray. There is fabric from previous quilts made by the Vesper ladies for the relief sales and the many other pieces represent individuals and families of the present congregation.

You will find: cows and a tractor; birds and butterflies; a cat and a firefighter's hat; a medium-sized heart that beats with yours; a sheep that's not lost; wedding bells and an African bird; plaids and stripes; dots and stars. Can you match each one to a face or a name?

There is something of you included as well. Your own tie encircles and touches each piece, just as you have touched each life. A little piece of your travels to Turkey adorns the bottom centre and Shirley's part is played out in the fabric left over from the quilt she started when she was eight. Look for an L, a J, an H and a C, to represent each of your children.

The original design had a cross over the roof as depicted in the church's logo. In the end, the cross became a tree to represent the hope of new growth and life. The church itself has an open door to welcome all and the dove holds its olive branch as a vine, a life-line to hold on to. The frame you might recognize with its original paint and worn edges. Was it from your office in the "old" church?

The miniature quilt represents the generosity and gifts this church community has shared across the street and around the world, as we, with your help, have strived to love God and love our



neighbours. The scrap of fabric, the single quilt block and the small cloth bag are in the quilts, school and relief kits to come, the hope for a future of continued sharing with those in need. You have helped to build and shape this witness to others and this will be your lasting legacy at Floradale Mennonite.

Fern Metzger added the quilting stitches to finish off this window of memories and love. May you be blessed as you look at it and "through" it in the years to come.



Meet the Interim Pastor, Gary Knarr



I am very thankful for the privilege of serving God with the Floradale Mennonite congregation during this interim time, and look forward to getting to know you and joining in the life, fellowship and mission of this community of faith.

I grew up in the Erb Street Mennonite congregation in Waterloo, and after attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, lived in Elmira from 1980 to 1990 while serving with the Elmira and Hawkesville congregations. After completing doctoral studies in history at Queen's University in Kingston, I taught history at Montana State University. In 2002 I returned to pastoral ministry at First Mennonite Church in Kitchener until

2012. Since then I have served in interim ministry at the Harrow Mennonite and Erb Street Mennonite congregations.

My favourite activities include reading, walking and cycling in the woods and countryside, swimming and kayaking. In the 1980s I enjoyed cycling the roads around Elmira and Floradale, hiking the Lion's Club Trail and walking around the Woolwich Dam, and am glad to be back in this beautiful part of the world again!

I look forward to getting to know all of you, and discovering your interests and stories!

Gary Knarr

Launching Sunday School and Children's Ministries

By Florence Jantzi

Our Welcome Back potluck breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 11, was a big success and launched our fall Sunday School and Junior Church programs. While some wondered what they could bring to a potluck breakfast, the amazing variety of dishes showed our creativity when it comes to preparing food. We've heard many positive comments so I suspect this won't be our last potluck breakfast.

After a scrumptious meal together, children, teachers and parents of young children were invited to the church foyer. They formed a large circle where Nancy Mann and Jane Hesselink gave an introduction to the children's programs for the fall.

Meanwhile the adults remained seated around the tables in the fellowship hall as Adult SS Superintendents, Mary Bauman and Richard Bauman, gave an introduction to the class options for adults. Two classes will use the Uniform Bible studies and one class will discuss contemporary issues; keep tuned for topics

throughout the year. Youth and Jr. Youth classes will be combined this fall and there will be one drawing class.

Last fall, on a trial basis for one year, a decision was made to hold Sunday School for the children during our worship service. While this was appreciated by some, it didn't provide anything for children of parents who wanted to attend Sunday School. Hearing these concerns, we decided that in order to be a more welcoming church, we would like to offer an option for children during both Sunday School and the worship hour.

Jane Hesselink is giving leadership to the graded Sunday School classes offered at 9:45 for children of all ages. We want to create an interesting program and encourage parents to bring their children on a regular basis so that age appropriate classes can be formed and enjoyed by all.

A new initiative this fall is the Junior Church program during the worship service. Nancy Mann is developing a creative program and we encourage all families to take

advantage of this. (See her article on page 5.)

Passing on our faith from one generation to the next is an important responsibility. As a congregation, we want to do our part in sharing God's love with our children through the ministries that we provide.



The food at our potluck breakfast had lots of variety—hot dishes, sweet buns and lots of fruit.

Let the children come and joyfully discover God



By Nancy Mann

We are excited to be offering a new ministry for children during our worship time at Floradale. Junior Church is a model which allows children an opportunity to worship together, to learn Bible stories and to experience God's love for them in a child-friendly way.

Jr. Church takes place following the children's story in Sunday morning worship. Children of all ages are invited to the multi-purpose room where they gather for a time of singing. Children of all ages respond well to music. We find that young children may need an accompanying adult for a while, until they feel comfortable attending. Older children who attend play natural roles as helpers.

After the singing time, the team leaders share a Bible story with the children using a creative presentation. They may do a simple drama, share a monologue, or offer some other creative presen-

tation. They may use the scripture passage from the adult worship if it seems suitable, or they may choose a different passage. Children of all ages can engage in a Bible story which is presented in this way.

Children are then invited to respond to the story in open play. They may choose to visit one of five centres: colouring and drawing, building with blocks and Lego, creative play with play-dough, snack or quiet reading corner. Children have about 20 minutes to enjoy open play. Each centre is monitored by an adult helper, who has the opportunity to connect with the children and share in their discovery. Around noon, the children put away the play centres and move to the hallway for a circle prayer. We pray with our "eyes wide open" so that we can see who had stepped forward to offer a prayer. We respond together, "*Lord, hear our prayer*" so that we all remain engaged with each prayer that is offered. Once we conclude our prayers, the children share a sim-

ple closing together and then they go back to the sanctuary to join their families for the remainder of the service.

A formal adult worship service can feel long for a young child. But children have a great capacity to learn Bible stories and share simple worship songs together. They love free play in a positive atmosphere. Above all, we want the children to feel that they are welcome at church and that it is a positive place to come every Sunday. We often speak of teaching children of the "knowledge and love of God." We cannot do this effectively with words alone. We also need actions which show that we care about them and understand their needs.

May God richly bless all the children who are part of our church family.

(On behalf of the Children's Ministry Team – Florence Jantzi, Jane Hesselink and Nancy Mann)



Pastor's Column

By Gary Knarr

Perhaps you have seen the movie, "The King's Speech" which focuses on King George VI's struggle to overcome his stammer and speak effectively in public. Apparently the king overcame his anxiety about public speaking very well, and was able to encourage the British people with his addresses during the dark days of the Second World War.

For his New Year's Eve speech in 1939, King George said: "I stood at the doorway of the opening year. I asked the Keeper of the Door to give me a light so that I could see my way into the unknown future of the coming year. The Keeper of the Door replied, 'Better than that, give me your hand, and I will lead you into the coming year.'"

In her sermon on Sept. 4, Barb Draper spoke of the Floradale congregation going through a door into the future during this interim time. An interim is a time of change and wondering about new beginnings. King George's 1939 speech also reminds us that God goes with us into the unknown future, and that we can trust and rest in God's promise to be with us, and lead us as we walk together through the unknown into the future that God plans for us. With God's help and with trust in God and one another, we will move toward God's plan for us. As the prophet Isaiah assured the people of ancient Israel, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare...to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)



New Doorways

The Focus Committee asked a few people to reflect on new doorways that they have gone through recently.



A familiar new door

By Nichelle Bauman

Taking the Music Ministry position here at Floradale feels like walking through a familiar new door, where the surroundings have remained the same, but my perspective has shifted slightly. I've been attending Floradale since I was 12, and have been involved in music almost since I started attending. I remember being involved with musicals and plays, being a part of the Junior Youth worship band, fundraising for the drum set, singing with the Christmas choir, doing special music and helping with music at VBS. One of my most cherished memories was when I would sing "O Holy Night" with my sister Lindsey and Jessica (Martin) Shoemaker each Christmas. I want to thank this congregation for encouraging me in my singing, playing and songwriting over the years. Through the opportunities and encouragement you have given, you have shaped me, and I feel blessed to now serve the congregation in music ministry.

I find it amazing how life twists and turns. Even a year ago, I would have never pictured myself in this role, and yet I am excited to be here. For the past two years, I have been at home with Reuben, navigating parenting, and going to lots of doctor and therapist appointments. Greg and I have been so blessed to have such a wonderful support network, from family and friends, the medical community and you,

our church community. Without this support, walking through this familiar new door at Floradale would have been a lot more daunting. I will admit that it is still scary sometimes, and that I let insecurities creep in. I am most scared to lead choirs! It is something totally new for me, but I am determined to give it my best shot. However, even in this there are people like Merri-Lee and Casey stepping in to help and to offer their support.

Along with my fears, there are plenty of joys that I have from participating in music at Floradale. For example, receiving feedback from people on how a song spoke to them is incredibly fulfilling for me. I love seeing people engaged in worship. It makes my heart smile.

One of the challenges here at Floradale is finding a balance in the styles of worship so that everyone is able to engage in meaningful worship. I love hymns. Both old hymns, and the new hymns featured in the *Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story* song books. But I also love the contemporary worship music. My goal is to work towards having a music program at Floradale that balances both, because I have seen and heard of your desires for a blend. My heart desires for the people of Floradale, and anyone who comes to a worship service, to be able to meet God in that space and to praise and worship Him in a way that is meaningful to them. I know it will never be perfect, but that is what I will work towards.

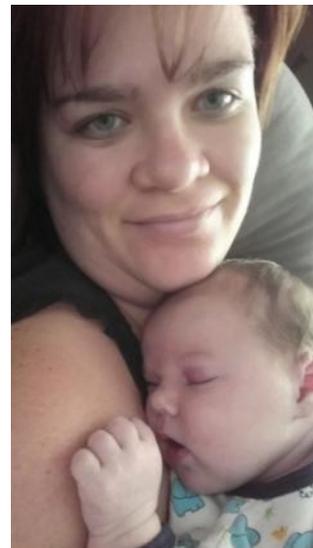
I'm looking forward to trying out a Worship Café in November, Advent, the Christmas choir, and perhaps even to things like Country Gospel music Sunday, and of course more Breakfast & Worship. We'll see what this new door leads us to!!

So as I walk through this familiar new door, I ask for your prayers for me in my new position. I am so excited to be involved in music at Floradale, and look forward to the coming months. I welcome any suggestions, input and feedback that you may have. Please feel free to talk to me at any time.

New Doorways into Parenthood

By Nicole Woeschka

Everyone tells you it is the best adventure you'll ever have. They tell you that no matter how much you think you will love this new baby, you'll love them more. Life will change enormously, for the



better of course. It's so true; I really had no idea how much I could love someone in a moment. I thought I had pre-

Yearning for peace in Colombia

By *Hannah Redekop*

pared myself; I'll get no sleep, I'll be in a lot of pain, I'll be emotional, but I'll get to go home with a beautiful baby. Ok... I've got this. I'm ready... I had no idea.

There are no words to describe the love I have for our precious Everly Rose! She is the light in my life and my own gift from God. She is our miracle! I thank God every day for her safe arrival, for her little smirks, for the feel of her in my arms. I am even thanking God for the time we get to share at 3:30 in the morning, which I never thought I would say!

Parenthood... it's only been six weeks and yet I cannot remember my life without her in it. At the same time, I find myself reveling in the fact that she is mine and I am a mother several times a day! Parenthood is one doorway that I am so glad was opened to me. I pray everyone who would like the opportunity is blessed with the same good fortune.



Nicole and Tyler Woeschka with Everly Rose.

On Monday, September 26 I flew back to Colombia more excited than usual. After four years of negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Colombia had finally reached a deal, which they would officially ratify that very day. As I began boarding the plane I saw a cameraman from the CBC news, and my heart fluttered with expectation. Upon landing in Bogotá, I could feel the energy buzzing through the exceptionally long line at customs. I quickly ran downtown to catch the festivities in the main square.

Although the official signing was taking place in Cartagena, a historic walled city on the Caribbean coast where Colombia gained its independence, there were tens of thousands of people gathered in the capital to watch the live feed on big screens set up in the square. I wasn't prepared for the emotions that overcame me (and the goosebumps!) as I watched a parade of diverse Colombians celebrating this historic day. My friend Carolina turned to me to tell me that I will tell my kids and grandkids about this day.

I cried tears of joy when the FARC commander asked for forgiveness from all of the victims and when the president of Colombia declared that the 52-year war was finally over. It was a day filled with hope, and an excitement to continue to work for a just peace on the horizon.

But this peace agreement was negotiated with the understanding that it must then be approved by means of a national referendum. So on Sunday, October 2, Colom-

bians were asked to vote to answer this question: "Do you support the final agreement to end the conflict and the construction of a stable and long-lasting peace?" Yes or No?

The agreement, it has been said, is the best of its kind. It has taken notes from the peace negotiations in Ireland and South Africa, and it has held the victims of the conflict at the centre of the debate. Leading up to the vote on Sunday, the answer seemed obvious to me. Of course there are some concerns with the agreement, as no peace deal could ever be perfect, but both sides have made compromises over these past four years to come to a solution that will best benefit all sides of the conflict. The vast majority of Colombians I work with are more than ready to leave the war behind them and work towards a lasting peace for the generations to come.

As with all conflict, there's always another side to the story. Over the past month, ex-president Uribe led a strong campaign to vote "No." In his terms as president from 2002-2010, he fought a dirty war against the FARC, and left millions of victims in his wake, using paramilitary forces to carry out massacres and forced disappearances, and killing innocent Colombians to dress them up in FARC uniforms as a claim that he was winning the war.

Now Uribe has come to oppose the peace agreements. He disagrees with the political participation point, which allows for the FARC to obtain 10 seats in Congress and Senate for the next two periods of government. He is

Continued on page 8

also against the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, a type of Truth and Reconciliation commission that will allow amnesty for lower ranking guerrilla fighters, and shorter sentences for those who tell the truth.

These are valid reasons to oppose the agreements. What frustrates me is that Uribe carried out yet another dirty war with his campaign strategy, where he saturated the media with misinformation, fear-mongering, and outright lies about the content of the agreements.

On Sunday October 2, Colombia voted “No.” President Santos had taken a risk by calling

the country together to approve the agreement, since average voter turnout in Colombia is remarkably low. Ex-President Uribe capitalized on that and won by a mere 55,000 votes. Not surprising though, was the resounding “Yes” vote from the rural sector, where communities have historically been hit hardest by the conflict. The grudge of the elite city dweller has won out over the forgiveness of the humble citizen.

It was a very sad day for me and my friends and colleagues. We are not sure about what lies ahead. There is still a lot of uncertainty and instability across

the country, reeling from an unexpected outcome. There was no Plan B.

We mourn for the Colombians who have been working so hard for peace, and who were already celebrating the achievements so far. We will continue to walk with the victims of this seemingly endless war, in hopes that future dialogues will lead to a stronger agreement that all Colombians can support.

Hannah Redekop has been working in Colombia for Christian Peacemaker Teams since 2013. We were very happy to see her home for a visit last month.

Ermina Martin

Dec. 23, 1925 – Sept. 3, 2016



Ermina passed away at the age of 90 years. She was the wife of the late Harvey S. Martin (2005). She was predeceased by her parents, Amos B. and Elvina (Bauman) Martin. She was the mother of Keith and Deb of Arthur, Karen and Bill Moore of Listowel, Gloria and Leon Martin of West Montrose, Glen and Beth of Elmira, Collin and Marie of Goldstone, Carol and Steve Weber of Moorefield, Roger of Kitchener, Reta and Randy Sauder of Monetville, Tim and Kelly of Elmira, Tracey Martin and Lloyd Diehl of Floradale. She had 25 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Ermina was a kind and gentle person and a happy mother. She enjoyed her involvement with her friends in “Club 42,” a group of women who attended elementary school together at Floradale.

Ermina was a farm girl and milked cows until she was nearly 70 years old. She raised ten children, growing most of their food on the farm which meant lots of preserving and canning. She wasn’t afraid of hard work and used a wringer washer for most of those years. She didn’t get an automatic washer until her youngest child was in college.

“She lived her life with love, acceptance and patience,” said her son, Glen. He also pointed out



Harvey and Ermina Martin wash beans raised on their farm for House of Friendship in the 1980s.

that she was very hospitable and warmly welcomed guests. She was active in volunteering and their farm hosted the church’s beans and corn projects for many years in the 1980s.

In her later years, Ermina cared for Harvey until his death in 2005. She lived alone in the small house on the farm until she moved to Chartwell in Elmira in 2011. She was at Wellington Terrace only a few weeks before her death.

One of her grand-daughters said the grandkids will always remember her as fun-loving, kind and gentle. She never forgot a birthday and “always made you feel special.”

Angela Martin

Oct. 1, 1969 – Aug. 4, 2016



Angie Martin, wife of Robb Martin, died tragically in a drowning accident on Aug. 4 at the age of 46. She was the mother of Erik and Ashly Martin and Brittany Martin and her partner Jonathan Grande. She was the grandmother of Natalie and Wolfgang.

She is also survived by her mother, Rosemary Draper, her

father, Harold Thomas, and her brother Kirk Thomas.

When Angie was a teenager she spent many weekends and then lived with Edna and Newt Diefenbacher so that the family considered her a stepdaughter.

Angie had an artistic touch and was involved in interior decorating and design work. She worked with Robb as a design consultant and did marketing for Thak Ironworks.

Her funeral was held at Floradale Mennonite Church on Aug. 9, 2016.



Relearning Community



By Leon Kehl

Sometimes I find it hard to explain the Relearning Community initiative from MCEC that Floradale is participating in. Nancy Mann, Katie Gerber, Nichelle Bauman, Greg McCorquodale, Alina Kehl and myself have attended two weekend workshops so far and are looking forward to third in November. This initiative isn't intended to directly lead to new programs in our churches, rather the intention is to help churches find new ways to reinvigorate faithful communities.

The books and resource people come from Europe where relatively few people now attend church. This has forced churches to re-examine who they are and what their purpose is. There isn't a cookie cutter solution, each church and community is unique.

As followers of Christ, there are common themes and approaches and we can learn from others. 3DM is the name of the group that emerged out of church planting and missional communities in Sheffield England. 3DM stands for three dimensions. The first is our individual relationship with God, the second with our family, friends and church and the third dimension is our relationship to those outside our faith community. Each person and church has their own strengths and weaknesses in those dimensions. The idea is to work at grow-

ing in each of those areas and to do that with others in a community.

If you were asked to rank yourself and our church in those three different dimensions what would be the strengths and where would there be areas for growth?

One of the statements from 3DM is if you build a church you won't necessarily get disciples, but if you create disciples you will always get a church. What do they mean by that and what is a disciple? Well basically a disciple is a follower of Christ who has learned to be a disciple from others and in turn is then able to disciple others. Perhaps this sounds formal or disciple sounds too much like discipline but it's not intended to be. If you are going to church, it's probably because of the influence of people in your life that you respect and supported you. Their faithful example of discipleship became something that you wanted to emulate.

In previous generations, including mine, this happened quite naturally. Church was a central part of our life, with friends and social events centered around the life of the church. Now many younger people don't remember a time when you couldn't go shopping on Sunday. So our world has changed and continues to change and those discipling relationships aren't as common now. So this initiative challenges us to think about how we can

be more intentional about this in our own lives.

How do we create space in our lives to grow in each of these dimensions? How do we walk with each other in the church, encouraging each other and sharing what we have learned in our own walk of faith.

One of the vehicles for doing this is called a huddle. Our group plus Dan Bender and Mary Martin are going to meet every couple of weeks over the coming year. We will talk about how we are working at growing in these different dimensions and encourage and challenge each other. We are all learning in this together, but our hope is that from this we can expand this to additional huddles in the church.

This type of approach isn't for everyone; it requires a significant commitment and will-

ingness to consider the possibility of helping provide leadership and direction to new huddles.

Where might this initiative lead? We honestly don't know, but already we have found the process has opened conversations that otherwise wouldn't have happened. The format of the huddle forces each of us to reflect on where we have experienced God in our lives since we last met. In what ways might God be challenging or inviting each of us to change?

We were asked, as a group, to identify two-year goals at our last weekend retreat. We identified creating spaces where mature Christians can mentor others especially our young adults and youth, where mature Christians are able to share about their whole lives, including the broken parts. We especially wanted to

create a rich and discipling culture for our young adults and youth. We also identified that as we transition staff we need to find ways to align with those goals.

If you have questions or thoughts on any of these I would invite you to talk to any of us. As mentioned previously, the purpose of this initiative is to build a discipling culture and that can only happen through conversations and relationships.

In many respects none of this is new; much of the teaching focuses on what Jesus did with his disciples and we can also look to the example of the early Anabaptists as well for inspiration. So who has discipled you in your faith journey and where have you been able to disciple others?

Wonderful Wiarton wonderings—fall youth retreat

By Katie Gerber

On the weekend of Sept. 16-18 a group of youth and youth-at-heart braved the rain and “rustic charms” of a cottage weekend in Wiarton. “What happened at this retreat” you may be asking. Well, to name a few of the weekend’s happenings, there were campfires, journaling, rain hikes, pier jump-

ing and rock skipping...ice cream eating, event planning, cooking, dish washing and bathroom cleaning...reflecting, kebab eating, water pipe fixing, bike touring and glow stick hunting. So, we've begun this year of youth a little smelly and tired, but confident that we have people here at Floradale to call great friends in Christ.

Last Tuesday evening, the youth met for the first time at Orval and Mary Martin's home to kick off our Life on Life group. In our biweekly meetings, we will be carrying that same attitude, of having confidence in each other as fellow believers, and will be spending time sharing life with each other in a vulnerable and supportive way! It's my prayer that we can grow closer to Christ as we seek to walk alongside each other. Our retreat this fall has only been the beginning of a wonderful adventure!



‘When we all work together, how happy we’ll be

By Darrell Jantzi

Forty-four people from Floradale Church and community began arriving shortly after 8 a.m. to husk, clean, cut and then move the corn to the kitchen for processing the freezer ready sweet corn...540 lbs in all. It was like an assembly line, made possible by those who tilled the soil, planted the seed and hoed the weeds before 14 pickers gathered it in bins the night before and delivered in to the church lawn. In saying thank you, one of the older ladies from Parkwood Manors said, “Oh, we just like this, it’s something we can do together and its fun.” And that is just how it felt...such a happy spirit.

Although we were tired, things were all cleaned up and the corn delivered to the House of Friendship



It was great to have lots of people out to pick.

by 1:30 p.m. The volunteers were able to take a dozen or two cobs home for dinner. In addition, well over 50 dozen freshly picked cobs were shared with the Elmira Food Bank and the House of Friendship for its various inner city mission ministries over a four-week period.

A similar experience was had just three weeks before when 46 persons gathered to clean, *shnibbel*, process and package 455lbs of green beans to be shared in a similar way as the corn. Seven bushels of fresh green beans were also shared with the local Food Bank, the House of Friendship and assisted other local families in need.

The majority of costs, apart from the seed, were met through the sale of excess corn that the Lord provided even in a year with early summer drought. A special thanks to Jim Maurer who again donated the land and to his Old Order neighbour, Allen Gin-



Lloyd Martin and Erma Wideman’s grandson, Wade, wash beans with enthusiasm.

grich, who tilled the soil and planted, fertilized and sprayed the sweet corn. In addition, we were able to donate \$400 to the Jane Finch Faith Community and \$200 to the Elmira Food Bank to bless their work in the community.

Again, many thanks for a beautiful spirit of cooperation and goodwill to make all this possible.

On behalf of the Urban Ministries Committee



Our neighbours from Parkview Manors kindly help with the many beans that need to be processed.



Dave Metzger, Glenn Martin and Jane Hesselink cut corn from the cobs.

Special Anniversaries

Congratulations to Orval and Mary Martin who will celebrate 30 years of marriage on Oct. 18, 2016.



Steve and Dana Bauman celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on Oct. 12, 2016. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Reg and Brenda Martin who were married 20 years on Sept. 28, 2016.

Tyler and Nicole Woeschka were married 5 years on Oct. 1, 2016.



New Baby! *Everly Rose was born to Nicole and Tyler Woeschka on August 16, 2016. Here she is pictured with Nicole Woeschka (centre) and her grandparents, Rosie and Ron Martin.*

Marriages



Jeremy Bowman and Christina Martin were married at Floradale Mennonite Church on Sept. 10, 2016.

Justin Martin and Bobbi-Jo Hirschberger were married on Sept. 3, 2016 in Prince Edward Island.



On July 31, 2016 we said farewell to Noah and Angela Ishaka and the children, Elijah, Safi and Jesse. The children were given books and bags of surprises to open on their way to Flin Flon. The family moved to northern Manitoba where Noah will be teaching.

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

Editor: Barb Draper

Editorial Committee: Mary M. Martin,
Tim Greenwood, Nicole Woeschka



The family camping group was small this year. Sitting around the campfire at the Cedar Rail are Lloyd Martin, Howie Bauman, Lorne Bowman, Gloria Bauman, Barb Draper and Vietta Martin.