

Outdoor service, May 28



The band led us in worship: Brad Shoemaker, Ryan Bauman, Jeanette Towns, Ron Martin, Rosie Martin, Alina Kehl and Nichelle Bauman. Barb Draper (corn) and Rita Bauman (weed) portrayed the scripture passage.



Tony and Char Martin provided some animals for everyone to enjoy. Here A.J. Martin and his friend help Adelyn Schill pet the rabbit. The rabbits and goats came from A.J.'s grandpa's farm.



Four different colours of tractors were on display.



Children and adults enjoyed the tractor-and-wagon rides.

Addictions presentation by Brice Balmer

By Barb Draper

During adult Sunday School on June 4, Brice Balmer talked about addictions and its implications. He commented that our society “doesn’t know how to deal with pain and suffering and said that in Waterloo Region, between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2017, there were 26 deaths from overdoses. Each month, there is an average of 5 deaths in the Region out of 75 overdoses.

This is not just about homeless people and those with low incomes, it affects people across the spectrum and sometimes is a result of Oxycontin or Percocet prescriptions.

An addiction happens when your body wants more and more and more. If you stop taking the drug, your body responds negatively with headaches and other reactions. People who are addicted also regularly deny that they are addicted and that it is affecting their families. Addiction results in loss of will power and a distortion of intention so that the person plans their day focusing on dealing with the addiction.

Brice suggested that the causes of addiction often stem back to early trauma. If a child experiences emotional distress, sometimes due to family addiction or family violence, they may turn to an addiction to deal with the pain. Other get addicted as a result of mental health issues. Sixty percent of those in treatment for addiction also have mental health issues.

Brice recommends Al-Anon for friends and family members. This can help family members



hear stories from others and learn how to deal with making the home safe for everyone.

Society has only begun to understand addiction and recovery since the 1930s with the beginning of 12-step programs. The House of Friendship in Kitchener has many programs to work at addictions. The focus is to let them slow down, to try to reduce the harm and let the addicts consider recovery.

Brice also commented that eighty percent of the money our society spends on addictions goes to the criminal justice system and 50 to 80 percent of all crimes have alcohol and drugs at the core. In family violence, about 80-90 percent is alcohol-related.

Harm reduction is a new approach to addiction. This approach recommends trying to understand addicts rather than just arresting them. The premise is that maybe the addict won’t go into recovery today, but if maybe they will tomorrow and in the meantime we should try to keep them as healthy as possible. This involves supportive housing so that people don’t become homeless. If kids begin living on the streets, if they are not housed

within two weeks, they will get used to their dysfunctional lifestyle and probably cycle downward. Of course, recovery only works if the addict is willing to work at it.

Brice compared homelessness in the Region today as compared to the 1990s. Some of the causes of homelessness are due to cuts to welfare and affordable housing. He said that today families are better off than in the 1990s, but single adults can be in dire straits. He hopes that when marijuana is legalized, some of the profits go toward recovery programs.

Eighty percent of us know someone who suffers from an addiction and three percent are seriously affected by addiction.

Brice Balmer is a former pastor at First Mennonite and worked for House of Friendship for many years. He is an Assistant Professor in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy at Wilfrid Laurier University. During the sermon he commented that “following Jesus has led me to work at this.”

Focus on Floradale is published five times each year.

Editor: Barb Draper

Editorial Committee:

Mary M. Martin
Nicole Woeschka

Women's mystery bus tour

By Eileen Freeman

On May 13, 2017 I had the good fortune of boarding a bus full of ladies to travel to a mystery location. None of us knew where we were going. As we drove towards Hamilton there were some interesting guessing games as to our destination.

Dundurn Castle in Hamilton was the first stop on the Mystery Bus Tour. This impressive mansion was built in the 1800 by a Canadian politician Sir Allan Napier Macnab, 1st Baronet. A tour guide in period costume led us through the many rooms explaining daily living at this time. The house included upscale servants quarters with windows. I was impressed by the outstanding treatment of Macnab servants. Becoming a Macnab servant was a desired position. For me this treatment of under-privileged people was a gratifying historical Canadian moment.

Early on in the mystery tour, Norma announced that the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton would be our second stop. The Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) is the largest botanical garden in Canada, and a National Historic Site. It is my understanding that the original Rock Garden dates back to the 1930s.



Since my last visit in the early 90's the gardens have undergone significant revitalization. The garden variety has been enhanced. There are the Hendrie Park, Laking Gardens, Rock Gardens, Arboretum, and Walking Trials. It was impossible to see all gardens in the designated time. We therefore chose the Arboretum. This area is like an English landscape park. It consists of a variety of trees and woody plants. This area is home to the Katie Osborn lilac collection, magnolia collection and flowering cherry collection.



The aroma of the lilacs was exhilarating. It is my hope that later in the summer we will have the good fortune to visit /tour the gardens further.

Many thanks to the organizers for this great day.

End of school year recognitions:

On June 18, Katie Gerber presented a blanket to Jocelyn Martin with the words "surrounded by God's love" embroidered on it. Owen Read was not able to be there that day, but his was presented at another time. These blankets are presented to young people graduating from high school.

The same day, Nancy Mann presented Kate Bauman with a Bible, telling her that as she moves towards adulthood it is good to be grounded in God's Word. Kate is turning 12 years old this year.

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to the following people who recently graduated:

- Lisa Bauman, Culinary Skills at Conestoga College
- Julia Bowman, Bachelor of Social Work at University of Waterloo
- Aaron Burkhardt, Electrical Engineering at Conestoga College
- Katie Gerber, Child, Youth and Family Studies at University of Guelph
- Maddy Greenwood, Practical Nursing at Georgian College
- Taylor Holst, Practical Nursing at Conestoga College
- Tori Martin, Early Childhood Education at Conestoga College
- Brendan Metzger, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at University of Guelph

The church is run by volunteers

The Gift Discernment Committee regularly ponders the number of volunteers required to run a church. In this issue we want to consider the importance of volunteering and highlight a few of the volunteers who work hard, sometimes without much recognition.

Some volunteers get good exposure. Those who lead in worship do work that everyone recognizes, but others do regular tasks that no one sees. Often these tasks are done so routinely and so well that we don't

really realize that someone needs to put time and thought into making sure that things run smoothly.

In the next few pages there are a few comments about or by these volunteers. I'm sure you can think of many others who have again been overlooked. We invite you to sit down and write about the person or task that you think should be recognized and submit it to be included in the next issue of *Focus on Floradale*.

Who is a Volunteer?

By Nancy Mann

Who is a volunteer? A dictionary definition states that a volunteer is "a person who freely offers to undertake a task." According to this definition, many of us are volunteering all the time: at home, at church and beyond.

We volunteer at home whenever we "freely offer" to help out in any way beyond our "assigned tasks." Helping out at home and in our extended families is often our primary place of volunteering. Sometimes we are tempted to volunteer outside the home at the expense of becoming over-extended and we bring our tired and grumpy selves home to those we love the most. Each person is responsible for determining the right "home-other" balance that will help them maintain a happy, healthy disposition.

Many of us also "volunteer" at work. We freely offer to extend our working day to complete an urgent task; we help organize the retirement lunch for a valued employee, we volunteer to take on a difficult task that others are avoiding. These simple acts of service where we work are part of our call to be "salt and light" in

the places where we are planted. Sometimes we can be witnesses for the gospel through these simple acts of extended service.

Here at Floradale, of course, many people volunteer to support the ongoing ministries of the church. I would be remiss in this article if I did not express my deepest thanks to everyone who carries a volunteer role here. Churches only function when people serve together to fulfill the needs of the various programs that we offer. You don't have to be the minister to make a significant contribution! Every gift of service is valued and appreciated. As a pastor here, my heart has been encouraged so many times to see the willingness of people who step forward and say, "Yes, I can help with that."

Finally, many of us volunteer beyond our homes, our jobs and at our churches. We volunteer at the local school, we coach a children's sports team, or we help out in one of the many other community organizations which help make our community a better place for everyone.

Personally, I have always tried to organize my time so that I have room for some level of vol-

unteering at my church and beyond. At times, perhaps, I have over-extended myself. I am still careful to try and find the right balance. At this time in my life, I do not work full-time and I am not raising young children at home, so there is a bit more time for volunteering. At the current time, I have the following volunteer commitments: Fairview/Parkwood (Board Member), MEDA Waterloo Chapter (Board Member), Women Empowering Women Waterloo (MEDA – founding member). From September-June, I also make dinner once a week with a disabled friend, and then we share the meal that we make together.

These volunteer commitments, which have changed over the years, have helped me to sharpen my skills and make a positive contribution to the community along the way. I have also been blessed to meet many other people with deep hearts for supporting their church and community. "The bread that we cast upon the waters..."

May all your volunteer opportunities be joyful and fruitful.

Many volunteers for the tea ball project

By Mary M. Martin

Floradale Mennonite Church has had fifty years of experience doing the annual “Tea Ball Project. How could the Focus committee report on this event in a different and interesting new way? Aside from the facts, such as how many pails of batter were made, how many dozen of tea balls were sold and how much money was raised, we decided to look at how many volunteers it took to make it happen. There is an African saying, “It takes a village to raise a child” but we are asking, “How many volunteers does it take to do this project?”

Marilyn Weber graciously broke it down for me. This is not about how many volunteer hours were worked, which would be difficult to track after the fact, but interesting to know but rather how many pairs of hands helped were needed. Here is the break-



Scrubbing screens must be one of the least desirable tasks. Thank you Howie.



Eddie Bauman and Ryan Bauman trim the hot tea balls and check for quality. Marilyn Weber and Howie Bauman, members of the committee, pitch in to see that everything runs smoothly.

down of volunteers as provided by Marilyn:

Thursday mixing night 18 volunteers plus the committee.

Friday and Saturday 14 – 15 volunteers plus the committee two shifts each day for a total of 4 shifts. This comes to a total of 60 spots to fill in addition to the ones the committee covers. Seventeen people who are not on the committee did double shifts. Nor do the sixty spots include the setting up and taking down by several committee members

Please note how many times it states “plus committee.” I am not naming all of the volunteers for fear I will miss someone, but I believe the committee deserves an honorable mention. I also believe that without these people the tea ball project would have died several years ago.

My hat goes off to:

Rick Cressman
Howie and Gloria Bauman
Merle and Rita Shantz
Mark and Marilyn Weber
Tyler and Niocle Woeshka

I asked several committee members why they volunteer all these many long hours and they modestly gave reasons such as:

“a church the size of Floradale should be able to continue”

“not everyone can do overseas missions”

“it’s a worthwhile project”

“someone needed to step up to the plate”

I have been more specific about the tea ball project but in no way am I negating all the other projects that people are involved in, beans and corn for House of Friendship is an example that comes to mind as I write. The right hand may not know what the left hand does but if the intend is to be helpful and kind God will bless our efforts.

A look inside the relief sale committee

Members of this committee in 2017 were: Mark and Marilyn Weber, Howard and Gloria Bauman, Merle and Rita Shantz, Tyler and Nicole Woeschka, Rick Cressman.

In April, representatives from the committee attended the Conveners' Meeting at the MCC Ontario office and ordered the oil, confirmed the tent size and location, and filled out the health inspector forms, etc.

Before the sale members of the committee contacted regular suppliers who make donations and ordered other supplies including the eggs, flour, sugar and dairy ingredients.

On the Wednesday before the sale the committee met at the church and gathered all the supplies and equipment—fryers, tables, bowls, racks, pails, etc. Things that were stored and would be used for food were carefully washed.

On the Thursday before the sale the committee set up the kitchen and tables in the gym for mixing the batter. There were between 12 and 15 people working on an assembly line in the kitchen and another 8 to 10 people were stirring in the flour at tables in the gym. They transferred the batter into pails.

On Friday, Rick Cressman and Tyler Woeschka installed the floor in the tent. By early afternoon the committee was there unloading the trailer and setting up the tables, fryers and other stations inside the tent. When the electricians finished hooking up the power, the committee turned on the fryers, getting ready for the first shift to start.

Through the afternoon and evening, 12 people at a time plus the committee were filling bowls, frying tea balls, trimming, sugaring, packaging and selling tea balls. Everything is then cleaned up to be ready for the next day.

On Saturday the committee arrives early to turn on the fryers so that the first shift can start by 6:00 a.m. Another two shifts of 12 people plus the committee again prepare and sell tea balls. When the last ones are sold, clean-up and tear-down begins. Usually about 6-8 people help the committee wash up everything, clean up the fryers, take down the tables, pull up the floor and load up everything.

Thanks to Ron Martin who helps to unload the trailer at his shop and provides space in his shop to store the tables and plywood.

When asked about why she serves, Nicole Woeschka said, "I find the Tea Ball project committee to be a fun committee to be on. It's only one weekend a year of hard work, so it doesn't take much time but it's so rewarding! You get to spend the weekend with a lot of great people while raising money for MCC—it's a win-win!"



Karen Gingrich, Richard Bauman, Laurel Martin, and Pauline Martin are busy making tea balls while Donna Freeman waits for customers at the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale on May 28. This year the project raised \$12,300 with the tea balls selling for \$10 for a bakers' dozen. On the whole the weather was good and we were sold out around 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Lorne Bowman - Church Volunteer

By Lester Kehl

I was asked by the Focus Committee to write a tribute to Lorne Bowman for all the times he has been the door keeper in our church.

I was immediately taken back to the verse in Psalm 84:10, "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the House of God than live in the tents of wickedness."

I began to understand all that Lorne does in his volunteer work as door keeper when I was asked to be coordinator of Outside Bookings after we built our new church. This meant arranging with groups that desired to use the church outside of the regular church activities of each Sunday Service.

I consented to do this since I was close to the church and did not need to drive to open and close the building. I saw this as an opportunity to serve the church at this time in my life. I soon became aware of this involvement and the time commitment necessary to do my part. Lorne was still employed at Stoltz Equipment so I made many calls to him to clarify bookings. We were able to share together with a common calendar at church and with the help of the church secretary.

I averaged at least one outside booking a week for recreation and other community and family events. This meant making sure the church was open or being there to help groups set up. The church was designed very well to allow groups to come in for volleyball and other sports but only have access to the gym and washrooms. The rest of the building including the kitchen can be

locked off. So I often left the door open by the gym and a lot of groups would put the nets away, turn off the lights, and lock when they were finished. This meant that I didn't need to check the building at 11:00 p.m.

If the gym was used for other special functions like weddings or family gatherings, arrangements needed to be made with the group. Often times this meant several phone calls or meeting people at the church to discuss what the group wanted and whether our church facility could accommodate this event.

If we were asked to set up tables and chairs this usually was done in the morning before the event. It takes about 1 hour with four men to do this. There were several local men who I could call to help set this up usually after my school run in the morning.

As I got older and my bus run changed about five years ago, and Lorne was slowly moving to retiring from Stoltz Equipment, Lorne added the Outside Bookings to the volunteer work he does for the church.

I now can drive past the church at various times during the day or night and feel relaxed that I no longer am responsible to plan for this event, or wonder if everything is looked after. I am glad that I had the opportunity to serve the church in this way for a few years. I learned to know and understand many groups and businesses that use our church facility during the week. I have always felt good and appreciated the work of the Building Committee who planned this fine facility that can be shared with the larger community.

When I asked Lorne why he does all the many things that help to keep the church building usable for many different activities. His response was "*These are things that need to be done, someone needs to do them, and at this time I am able to help support the church community with my time as volunteer.*" I have not listed all the things that Lorne does from opening doors, turning off lights and making sure the garbage bags and bins are at the road.

Thanks Lorne for being a **Faithful Doorkeeper** in the House of the Lord. We can all join together as we come to church in saying "Well Done Lorne, Thou Good and Faithful Servant!"

Together we anticipate some day when we will enter into the new joy with God and our Community of Faith after we leave this world. We can only think and dream about what that experience will be as we remember the many faithful servants who have been part of the fellowship of Floradale Mennonite Church.



Editor's Note: Have you ever wondered who opens the church in good time and then turns off the lights and locks up after each Sunday morning service? This is another task that Lorne has done for more years than I care to count. Although he receives a small honorarium for this, his faithful door keeping has been a real blessing.

WMCEC volunteers - quilting and comforter knotting

By Marilyn Diefenbacher

The quilting and comforter knotting women's group that meets on Tuesdays each month had an attendance this past year of approximately 14. The group quilted three bed quilts, two crib quilts and knotted 40 comforters.

Cotton and cotton blends are preferred for comforters for MCC, but good quality material can be a challenge to find. We have many people who have served to put together the comforters over the years. They arrive at the church with no name attached, either by the box or by the bag. The quilt committee spends a lot of time buying, cutting and sewing the linings together for comforters. After the comforters are knotted, volunteers also sew a binding around the edge to finish them off.

The quilt committee also sees that batting is cut to fit as a liner for the quilts and comforters. The quilts are not as plentiful and are also made by volunteers.

The comforters are triple knotted with crochet thread and it doesn't take long with 4-6 people knotting.

Last, but not least, we need to thank our co-chairs for their involvement in planning the events and also those who make the coffee and muffins etc. for our coffee break time.

These are the ladies at work, ready to begin quilting the 2017 relief sale quilt. They miss Laura Bauman who pieced this quilt top. We thank God for their faithful work!



The large quilt above, in a Squares and Stars pattern, was pieced by Laura Bauman and quilted by the Floradale ladies raised \$6,250 at the sale. The lap quilt below was pieced and quilted by Irene Freeman and sold for \$125.



Volunteer driving

By Mahlon Martin

One of the ways I have volunteered over the years is by driving. I have driven for Community Living and for the Food Bank in the past, but most of the time I have provided rides to church for people who don't drive themselves.

I have always enjoyed driving, so this was a natural fit for me. I've been giving people rides to church since 1994, when Norene and I brought Solomon and Grace Bowman and Violet Bauman with us. We provided Solomon and Grace Bowman with a ride for many years until they moved into long-term care.

After this we began bringing Homer and Sylvia Schwindt to church, along with Paul Quennville. Bringing Homer and Sylvia brought something new to providing rides. They enjoyed going out for lunch after church. The only issue was that they each had different preferences. Homer liked going to KFC for lunch, Paul preferred MacDonald's, and Sylvia preferred Tim Horton's. In typical Mennonite fashion we resolved the dilemma by switching locations week by week.

Sylvia also greatly enjoyed a scenic drive. We quite enjoyed this routine for several years, until Homer and Sylvia also moved into long-term care. I continued to bring Paul to church and he was joined by Andrew Martin. When Paul moved, Richard and Donna Freeman began providing his ride.

Now I provide a ride for Mildred Martin, since she gave up her license. Occasionally we stop and pick up Mel and Martha Eby and bring them along.

I consider it a true blessing that God has allowed me to help

people by providing rides for them. It is an easy way for me to show my love for my church family. I hope that I am able to continue helping people in this way for years to come.



Flower Arrangements

Have you ever wondered who provides the flowers at the front of the sanctuary? Our long-time volunteers are Marilyn Weber and Susan Martin. They make sure that there is an arrangement at the front of the church each Sunday morning.

When asked why she does it, Marilyn Weber said, "someone needs to do it, and I enjoy arranging fresh flowers."

Cemetery Committee:

The current cemetery committee involves: Ron Martin, Oscar JB Martin, Robb Martin, Rod Martin.

Some of the tasks done by the cemetery committee are to coordinate grave digging, top-up settled graves, maintain graveyard including weeds, planting grass, etc.

When asked why he serves on the cemetery committee and the board of trustees, Ron Martin said: "I believe in doing my part as a member of the congregation. I am in close proximity to the graveyard and have a small tractor and loader that works very well for the work needed."

Trustees

Our current trustees are Rick Cressman, Ron Martin, Eddie Bauman and Dennis Brubacher.

Their responsibility involves basic building maintenance including changing light bulbs, unclogging drains, cleaning light fixtures, minor fixture repairs. For example, the clock in the foyer recently fell and broke into bits. It was the trustees who had to notify the donor who had given it in remembrance of her father.

The trustees also coordinate any third-party trades who need to look after such things as plumbing, electrical, pest control, window cleaning, floor polishing, etc.

Catering Committee

By Susan Martin

The catering volunteers work together like a well-oiled machine. Everyone has their area of specialty and when they are all put together they are amazing! The kitchen volunteers have clean up and running the dishwasher down to a science.

We have a lot of fun cooking for folks. Through the committee we have deepened friendships and fostered many more within the church and community.

There is something about breaking bread around a table that warms the heart.

Library Volunteers

In the library we purchase new books, usually in the spring and fall. They then need to be carded, labeled and entered into the computer.

We try to help people find books that are of interest to them, and on Sunday mornings put the returned books back on the shelves. There is still a comfort to holding a book!

Gloria H. Bauman, Sharon Cressman, Norma Bauman, Rosie Martin, Marilyn Martin

Volunteering for Hopping Thursdays

By Veg Weber

When Fred first talked about starting a program on Thursday evenings I had an idea that we could start something for kids. For the first few years my daughters and I organized the evening. We did not know if anyone would come or if it would succeed. We asked Floradale School if they would allow us to send flyers home with each family and they agreed.

It was a full evening for us as we ran the program in the multipurpose room and also supervised the children in the gym. The numbers kept increasing and we now have two groups. After a few years Merri-Lee Metzger and Chris Kehl came on board and helped with the Senior Kindergarten to Grade 5s. Steve (Ort) Bauman stepped in to supervise the gym time. Each evening includes time in the gym, circle time, craft and snack. Every year we have a theme that we focus on.

Then we introduced the idea of a musical. This is a way for the children to use their gifts but it also gives them opportunity to work together in a group. Now this is something the children ask about each year.

Merri-Lee organizes the craft while I do the snacks. It is a time commitment but when you see the enthusiasm of the children each week it is all worthwhile. Since the program began 10 years ago we have seen many kids come through our church doors. This has become a safe place for them to meet new friends, care for each other and enjoy the evening together. Each child that comes

wants to be here and they look forward to each week.

It has also become a safe place for the children to share with us as well. Sometimes they share a prayer request, other times they will tell us they might be feeling sad that evening because of a situation at home, etc. We feel privileged that they are willing to share this with us. For some children they do not attend church on a regular basis so this evening introduces them to at least being inside a church, Bible stories and portions of scripture. One child wondered what the drums, podium, etc. were used for at the front of the church. This allowed us to have the conversation with them and hopefully plant the seed.

For me it has been an enriching experience and I'm so thankful to have this opportunity to work with all the children as well as Merri-Lee and Chris. Because of their commitment it encourages me to stay committed as I could not do it on my own like I did when the program was started. By the end of each evening I leave invigorated by the enthusiasm of the children.

The Treasurer: Model of Accountability

By Roy Draper

Many people may be unaware of exactly what a treasurer does at Floradale, as her job is usually done quietly behind the scenes. She no longer actually handles any "real" money: counting and depositing offering money and other funds is done by the assistant treasurers. Her job deals more with using computer programs; the last two treasurers have used the software from their places of work to

track church income and bill-paying.

The treasurer spends quite a bit of time each week keeping her data bank up to date, entering up all donations which are then credited to assigned offering numbers for tax receipt purposes. She has to remit funds to various organizations that we may fundraise for, or for missions the church supports.

Incidentally, when donations made payable to Floradale are designated for other charitable organizations, she then has to write a cheque and print off a letter to send on the donation; it is often preferable that people mail donations directly to these charities, so it is less work for the treasurer!

A very important function she performs is paying the salaries of the seven church employees, as well as various honoraria to people who perform important tasks for the church on an on-going basis. (Some are paid through electronic transfer, while others receive "old-fashioned" cheques.) As part of this process she must send funds to Mennonite Church Canada for retirement and health care plans, as well as remitting money to MCEC.

She also pays bills so that the lights stay on and the heat stays on. There are many regular maintenance contracts to pay for, as well as the charge accounts at Foodland and Hillcrest. She provides monthly updates for the Finance Chair to take to Council, and of course, at the end of the year she has to make sure the accounts make cents...er sense... and present them to the accountants for review.

Then she must attend Finance Committee meetings to help go over the year's expenditures and try to come up with a budget that will meet our needs without breaking our wallets. Following ap-

proval of the accounts from the accountants, she presents the proposed budget to Council—and she issues the charitable receipts that make it easier for us to give money to the church the following year! She then attends the Annual Meeting—as every FMC member should endeavour to do—to explain the previous year’s expenditures, and present the next year’s budget.

Following input from the Staff Relations Committee and Finance Chair, plus Church Council, she calculates the new year’s staff pay cheques, including all deductions. Her remaining task for the year is to fill in a “lovely” government form to report on our financial affairs as a charitable organization.

Of course there are other things that crop up during the year which require her time and atten-

tion: shortfalls in offerings compared to the budget, reviewing salaries and how they are paid, huddling with the Finance Chair to deal with policy matters and financial concerns, etc. You might say that the job requires someone who will be accountable and well-balanced.

Hannah’s reflections on soccer in Palestine

Earlier this year Hannah Redekop had the opportunity to spend some weeks in Palestine as part of her work with Christian Peacemaker Teams. She wrote this poem as a reflection of the situation there.

Run

By Hannah Redekop

Who knew a soccer ball had so much power.
 A few dozen patches, some thread, and compressed air
 Suddenly opened the doors
 Into Palestinian homes, where
 I become one of the family.

Our dust-covered pant legs and
 Scuffed shoes translate more than
 my
 Broken Arabic ever will.
 I’ve learned the three words I
 need to know,
 The three words her son repeats
 all day
 With a contagious grin that
 spreads across the room:
 Tomorrow. Football. Seven
 o’clock.

This time I bring the ball.
 The first one was torn on the
 razor wire
 The second one punctured by the
 soldiers.
 The air in my chest escapes
 Slowly.

Spit.
 That’s how you find the leak
 from the puncture
 wound.
 But
 It’s best not to dwell on that.

Two, five, ten shekels.
 New ball, new breath.
 Life goes on.

One touch.
 Two. Three.
 Goal.

Freedom is a precarious thing
 Here.

One touch.
 Two. Three.
 Goal.

Chain on metal.
 Boots. Dust.

One touch.
 Two. Three.
 Gone.

The boys are gone before the dust
 settles.
 Run. For survival.
 To stay and play would mean
 risking

Arrest.
 Up to twenty years in Israeli
 prisons
 For throwing a stone.
 For resisting occupation.
 For existing.

Teenage bodies
 A battle ground,
 To uphold an apartheid system.
 The soldiers don’t even need a
 reason
 to drag them off by the neck.
 They’ll fabricate the charge later.
 Israeli military court in the
 Palestine
 Has a conviction rate of 99.7%.

They took five boys
 In the last four weeks.
 Arrested
 For existing.

And you ask why they throw
 stones.

They’re kids.
 Who just want to play soccer.



Yellow Bellies

By Barb Draper

On Saturday, June 17, Theatre of the Beat presented two performances of *Yellow Bellies*, a play that portrayed the experiences of Mennonite conscientious objectors during World War II. These young men did not have an easy experience. Partly the government wanted them to have a difficult time because they didn't want alternative service to be an easy way to avoid serving in the military.



One scene showed the COs at Montreal River boxing. It seems that over time the alternative service camps became more regimented, almost more "militarized."

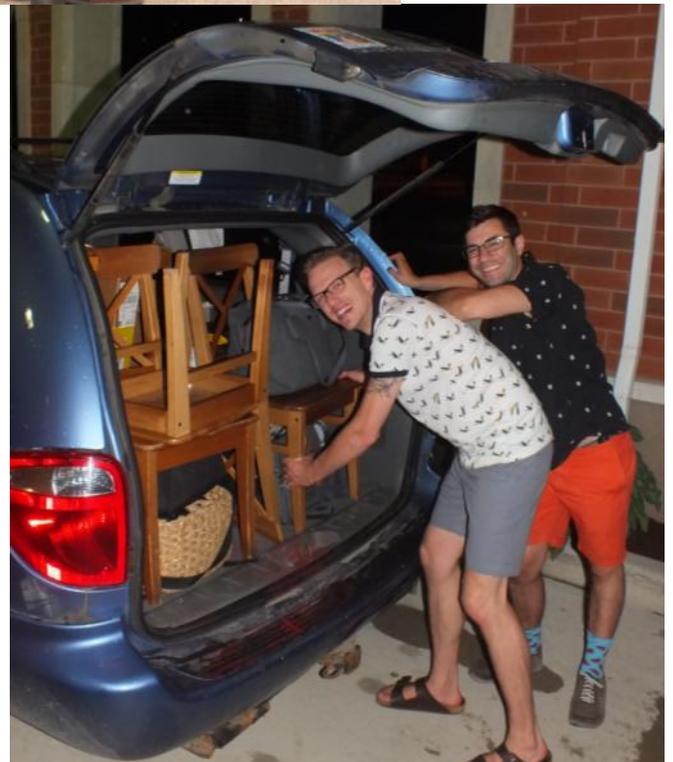
The play has several scenes presumably at the Montreal River Alternative Service Camp. From the menu (beans) to the work (picking rocks) it made the men ask themselves over and over again why they were there. One scene showed the hatred directed toward COs who were sometimes called "Yellow Bellies." People respected those who wore a military uniform, and looked down on COs.

The play poses the challenges that COs faced. It does not say that alternative service was the better way to go; it simply shows how difficult that choice was. A significant number of young men from Mennonite Churches chose to put on military uniforms.

This experience changed the Mennonite Church. The young men who left often came from self-contained Mennonite communities and they returned seeing the world differently. The 1950s were a time of urbanization of Mennonite families, a time of greater education and more involvement in society.



When Alvin Bender (played by Johnny Wideman) returns from Montreal River, Mary Lichty (played by Kim Walker) who he thought was his sweetheart, walks away with someone in uniform.



After their two performances at Floradale Mennonite Church, the Theatre of the Beat troupe packed up their equipment and headed home. Here Johnny Wideman and Ben Wert squeeze in the last chairs. They didn't want to carry the chairs on the roof as they did earlier in the day because it was raining and the chairs were borrowed.

Packing required some finesse.

Historical plaque for Montreal River



Montreal River Alternative Service camp as it appeared in the 1940s. (Mennonite Archives of Ont. photo)

The first Alternative Service camp was established in Ontario at Montreal River, at the end of the road north of Sault Ste. Marie. The first COs arrived in July of 1941 and seven groups of men worked there until it closed in 1943. The young men were building the road virtually by hand. After this camp was closed, COs served in agriculture (especially in the Leamington area), fought forest fires and built parks in western Canada.

Today the original buildings at Montreal River are virtually all gone and the site is a tourist

camp. There is one wall that hasn't fallen down which has carved into it the following names: Wilmer Wagler (Shakespeare), Emerson Wagler (Shakespeare), Moses G. Martin and Joe Martin (Wallenstein).



Fred shows the wall where the names are carved in the last crumbling building.



Fred W. Martin shows the last remaining walls at Montreal River camp. They won't last long.

The Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario is planning to erect a plaque on the highway at Montreal River so people driving by can see where it was. The last wall is crumbling and won't last very much longer. Perhaps you would like to join us next spring (or maybe 2019) for the plaque unveiling! In the meantime, you might like to contribute to this project. Tax-receiptable donations can be made to: Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, c/o Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Rd. N., Waterloo, ON N2L 3G6.



Today the site of the Montreal River CO camp is a tourist lodge on the shore of Lake Superior. The Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario is hoping to recognize this site with a historical plaque.

Special Anniversaries:



Mel and Martha Eby celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 19, 2017. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mervin and Edna Bauman who will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on September 20, 2017.

Congratulations to Lloyd and Brenda Martin who will celebrate 45 years of marriage on Sept. 9, 2017.

Glen and Lorene Wideman were married 45 years ago as of June 21, 2017.

Mark and Marilyn Weber celebrated 40 years of marriage on June 28, 2017. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Merle and Rita Shantz who will celebrate their 40th anniversary on July 28, 2017.

Congratulations to Rick and Nancy Martin who will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on Sept. 18, 2017.

Fred and Shirley Redekop will celebrate 35 years of marriage on July 24, 2017.

Richard and Brenda Good will be married 35 years on Aug. 21, 2017. Congratulations!

Births:

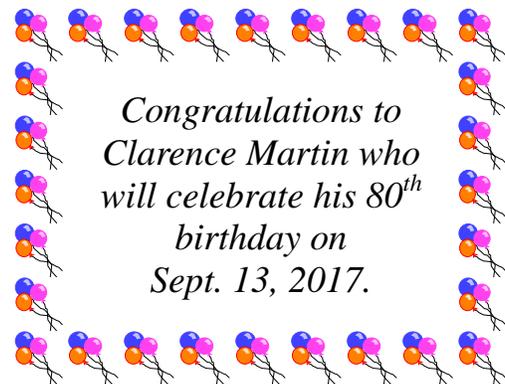


Aubrey Madelyn was born to Casey and Bryan Horn on May 17. She is a grandchild for Rick and Sharon Cressman.

Ava Rose was born June 13 to Bobby-Jo and Justin Martin. She is a grandchild for Randy and Bonnie Martin and a great-grandchild for Vera and Sylvan Martin.



Floradale hosted an Iftar meal on June 1 at 8:00 p.m. This was an opportunity to learn about Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours. The plate at right shows the food served, after sundown.



Congratulations to Clarence Martin who will celebrate his 80th birthday on Sept. 13, 2017.



Nancy Martin's small group had the opportunity to visit Arts Abound in St. Jacobs for ukulele lessons on April 30. Kathleen Cober, Eileen Freeman, Joan Martin, Rick Martin, Shirley Redekop, Oscar J. B. Martin and Fred Redekop.