



## Tea ball project      May 24-26, 2018



*The church kitchen is busy on Thursday evening as people come together to mix the batter. The bowls go around as each person adds an ingredient.*

*It takes lots of strong arms to mix in the flour. Steve (Ort) Bauman and Richard Bauman are old hands.*

*(Below) Lorenzo and Robert Mann wait their turn behind Leon Kehl as Howie Bauman and Merle Shantz empty the bowls into pails.*



*The finished product.*





*Doug Draper scoops batter in bowls while Rita Bauman, Chris Kehl, Bonnie and Clare Brubacher fry up the tea balls. Meanwhile (below) Mary Frey Martin and Nancy Mann roll them in sugar while Ron Martin supervises everyone. The tea ball project raised over \$13,600 for MCC.*



## Tea ball project

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale 2018

It was a beautiful weekend for the relief sale this year; the hot weather made for a great turnout! We fried and sold 11 pails of tea balls on Friday evening and sold the remaining 12 pails on Saturday morning selling out around noon. This brought us to a grand total of 23 pails of dough!

Tea Balls were sold for \$10 per dozen, allowing us to make over \$13,600 for MCC; this was up \$1,400 from last year. Overall, the sale raised over \$313,000 for MCC!

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to mix dough, pack up the trailers, set up the booth, man the booth at the sale, tear down, repack the trailers and unpack again. This project would not be successful without all the hard work of these people.

- Tea ball project committee

*Mark and Marilyn Weber*

*Merle and Rita Shantz*

*Howie and Gloria Bauman*

*Tyler and Nicole Woeschka*

## Relief Sale Quilts

*The crib quilt (right), made by Vietta Martin sold for \$425. The full quilt (below) pieced by Laura Bauman raised \$1250.*



# Goodbye, Floradale!

By Lorenzo Fellycyano

“We are so grateful to live in this country,” said many people both in and outside Floradale Mennonite Church, either in prayers or conversations. Canadians are (and must be) thankful for Canada’s natural beauty, stability, safety, econo-



*On the trail with friends from Floradale. (from left) Darrell, Florence, Richard, Norma, Lorne, Lorenzo, Nancy, Robb.*

my and all the good things that not everyone in the world can even taste.

For me it is a privilege to have participated in the program I am in—IVEP (International Volunteer Exchange Program) sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee. It is a privilege, partly because only members of Mennonite churches in Indonesia (my home country) can apply for IVEP, which is not the case for many other countries.

I was among the few brave ones to sign a one-year commitment of speaking in another language, which is usually one of the main discouraging factors for “the dreamers.” Working with Westerners or living in a savannah in Africa are almost equally terrifying for some. In Indonesia, MCC decides whether the program applicants will be in IVEP or YAMEN (Young Anabaptist Mennonite Exchange Network), which is a program to countries outside of the

U.S. and Canada. Additional challenges can be the (unhelpful) warnings from people who actually love the applicants and cynical comments from jealous people who barely know them. That’s enough to override the absolute benefits of YAMEN and IVEP.

After all the challenges I faced

before coming to Canada and these past 11 months, here I am writing for the *Focus on Floradale* in a comfortable room in the cottage of Robert and Nancy Mann (my host family) on Manitoulin Island. “Oh, the places you’ll go,” said Dr. Seuss at the IVEP orientation in Pennsylvania a year ago.

This year has been a journey of learning. The obvious things have been learning to understand Canadian family dynamics and gaining vocational skills. Living with Robb and Nancy has meant adjusting myself to a Canadian family culture that was foreign to me. As the host of the Kindred Credit Union Centre for Peace Advancement at Conrad Grebel University College, I learned, among other things, how to organize events for a broad range of participants and be involved in the work of peace startups.

Having a host family means, to some extent, being involved in their social life. And for me, this has included attending breakfast and dinner events at Bingemans

and many other places. This means attending a church where my host mom’s career is. This is about enjoying coming to Supper-at-Six and the spiritual discussion group meetings for the young adults which Nancy leads, besides helping with many other events happening at Floradale.

This year has also been a process of understanding of how a society evolves, comprehensively from people around me, through museums, movies—anything except history textbooks. Every effort to comprehend the stories, exhibits, and plots is like finding a piece for the “Canada” puzzle in my mind, which image will never stay the same as the society changes.

I have learned from those sources about the indigenous issues, Canada’s politics, gender roles, racial tensions, and the Mennonites’ place in today’s Canada. Ah! And also, the complex physics explanations from Robb!

At Floradale, I see how close agriculture is to Mennonites. One thing for sure, my view of farming has changed. Here, being a farmer can’t be a lowly and miserable job.

One day, I walked into the house of Robb and Nancy’s best friends. I saw a not uncommon



*Supper-at-six: (from left) Eleanor, Lorenzo, Johnny, Doug, Jeff, Kim, Zenas.*

wall hanging: “What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” I will ponder on how I can be a better servant of God as I come back to Indonesia and see what the future will bring.

# Ladies Progressive Supper

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

By Nicole Woeschka

The evening started out in Char Weber's backyard oasis for a windy but lovely hors d'oeuvres course. The meal included a delicious salad, bean salsa with chips, veggies and dip, pickles and a delicious homemade iced tea/lemonade.

From there we made our way across town to Nancy Martin's



*Donna Freeman and Yvonne Martin wait their turn while sharing a joke with hostess Nancy Martin.*

home for a delicious main course. Thank you, Rick, for barbecuing for us ladies! The meal included grilled chicken, grilled pineapple, asparagus and a lovely rice dish.

Our final location was just down the street at Gloria H. Bauman's home for dessert, tea and

coffee. Dessert included fresh fruit, blueberry cheesecake, a lemon dessert and mocha ice cream dessert.

Thank you to the ladies who opened their homes to us and for all the helping hands who provided for a lovely feast! It was a wonderful evening of conversation, good food and song! There were 32 people who participated.



*Marilyn Weber, Marilyn Martin and Bonnie Martin check out grilled chicken, grilled pineapple, rice and asparagus during the ladies progressive supper. (Photos by Norma Bauman)*

## Elmira thrift shop celebrates 40 years in Elmira

The very first MCC thrift shop in Elmira was in the little house at what is now the corner of Memorial and Wyatt Streets established in 1978. The first managers were Adeline Horst and Naomi Brubacher. It began slowly and in the first three months sales were \$1,477. By 1982, the store was forwarding more than \$13,000 a year to MCC and space was at a premium.

When the Jehovah Witness congregation built a new hall near Barnswallow Dr., the old Kingdom Hall was available, and it was purchased in 1982 as the new thrift store. At that time the name was changed to MCC Thrift and Gift to show that Self-Help Crafts were also for sale at the new location. For the next 22 years, the thrift store was at that location on Samuel Street.

By 2004 the amount forwarded to MCC each year was \$142,000 and again there was a lack of space. That year the old Stone Crock restaurant on

Church Street was purchased with more than 65 different volunteers helping to turn a restaurant into a thrift store. (Before it had been a restaurant, the building had been a grocery store and a chick hatchery.)

The thrift store has continued to grow and now has six paid managers and staff and gets help from more than 200 volunteers. In the 2016-2017 year, \$744,000 was forwarded to MCC Ontario.

In late 2017 the MCC rePurpose Centre opened Elmira. Some of the donated items that don't have space to be sold in the various MCC thrift shops are sent to the RePurpose Centre to be sold by the pound. This has eased some of the space pressure at the Elmira thrift store.

On July 31, the store will be having an anniversary sale to celebrate 40 years in Elmira; it will be open 7a.m. to 7 p.m. with everything sold at 40% off.

—information from the website

# Recipes from the progressive supper

## Rice Gratin

¼ cup butter  
1 small onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 cup long-grain rice  
1 tbsp all-purpose flour  
1½ cups chicken broth  
1 cup milk  
¼ cup grated Parmesan

### Crumb Topping:

¼ cup breadcrumbs  
2 tbsp grated Parmesan  
1 tbsp melted butter  
1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley (optional) or 1 tsp dried parsley

Melt butter, add onion and garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add rice and flour and cook and stir for 1 minute. Pour in chicken broth, stir and bring to a boil. Cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and add milk and parmesan. Mix well and pour into greased casserole dish. Cover and bake for 35 minutes at 350°F. Prepare crumb topping, sprinkle over the rice and bake uncovered for another 10 minutes.

*Submitted by Nancy Martin*



## Spinach Salad with Creamy Garlic Dressing

1 slice whole wheat bread  
10 cups spinach leaves  
1 ½ cups sliced mushrooms  
¼ cup alfalfa sprouts  
1 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese



### Dressing:

½ cup lower-fat plain yogurt  
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley  
1 tbsp. light mayonnaise  
1 large clove garlic, minced  
Pinch each of salt and black pepper

Cut bread into cubes; toast in preheated oven for 5 minutes or until crisp and brown.

Tear spinach leaves into bite-sized pieces. In a large salad bowl, combine toasted bread cubes, spinach, mushrooms and alfalfa sprouts and Parmesan cheese.

Dressing: Combine yogurt, parsley, mayonnaise, garlic and salt and pepper. Pour dressing over vegetables; toss until well coated.

*Submitted by Eileen Freeman*

## Iftar meal at Floradale

The Intercultural Dialogue Institute hosted an Iftar meal at our church on May 29. During Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours.



When we arrived there were plates with dates and baklava as well as salad plates and water bottles on the tables. We filled our plates before official sundown; to learn about self-discipline and self-restraint, the food and water was on the table in front of us before the word was given to partake.

Music was provided by a many-stringed instrument.

The tables in the multi-purpose room were filled with more than 70 people. As well as many Muslim families there were people from Floradale and from other Elmira churches. As well as a gift to the church (given to Jim Loepp Thiesen (left), gift bags were handed out with perfumed candles. Gift-giving and hospitality are important in Muslim cultures.



# Words of farewell and gratitude from the Manns

Moving off the homestead, downsizing, retiring, saying farewell. These are all phrases which mark the closure of a significant time in a person's life. These transitions also open a new chapter of life, in which one can choose to embrace the blessings that life's next chapter will bring. As I look back on the transitions I have made in my life, I am reminded of the value of good endings. Good endings allow us to celebrate the blessings that we have enjoyed through our experience and help us to have the closure that is needed to move on well to the next chapter. They also allow positive memories to be embedded, so that they can be celebrated again over and over as we reflect back in future years. These memories become a part of our celebration of God's blessing in our lives.

Farewells are a time to say "thank you." I will be retiring from active pastoral ministry at the end of July 2018. As Robert and I embark on this next chapter together, my retirement will allow me to accompany him on more of his work-related travel in the coming year. We look forward to this year of transition, and to the time beyond this next year, where our plans are less certain.

It has been a great joy and wonderful blessing for me to share in the pastoral ministry here at Floradale over the past three years. You welcomed Robert and me so generously into your midst and we immediately felt at home here. I have appreciated the flexibility to try new initiatives, such as Junior Church and with young adult ministries.

If my preaching or teaching has inspired your Christian walk in any way, then I give the glory to God. I am grateful for all that I have learned about rural life, agribusiness, and the life of the

church in a rural community. I feel so grateful to have served alongside other gifted pastors and congregational leaders who have offered so much to this congregation. To all who have shared a story of spiritual struggle or life challenge with me, I will continue to hold these situations in prayer in the years ahead.

*Robert writes:*

I have found Floradale to be a very warm-hearted church, and I learned a number of things from it. The congregation in Floradale is primarily a wealth-generating community, whose people understand the importance of combining hard work with a reliance and trust in God to carry them along.

I have particularly enjoyed participating in the Adult Sunday School class, and it is my sincere hope that this ministry continue and flourish. The sharing time at the end of each service is also quite valuable—keep nurturing this, since it will nurture individuals in ways that you might not expect.

The perspectives from Floradale that I have obtained on my own outlook on life and in my walk with Christ will continue with me for the rest of my life as Nancy and I move on to this next stage in our lives. Thank you for letting us be part of your community these past three years.

*Nancy continues:*

From my Muslim friends, I have learned this parting phrase: "If I have done anything which has caused offence, I ask your forgiveness." Sometimes I am aware of the places where a poorly timed comment, or an important task neglected, have caused harm to someone. Let me assure you that the remembrance of such times is truly grievous to me. Pas-

tors are human beings with faults and failings like everyone else, however much we wish it were otherwise. However, I expect that there are also some misunderstandings or neglectful actions on my part which are beyond my awareness. For your gracious, and often silent forgiveness, I give thanks.

Even as I step down from my formal position of pastoral ministry, as a Christian, I know that I have a life-long call to listen for God's prompting and to live a life of generous service. Robert and I remain open to how and where God might call us in the future. Thank you for your prayers as we remain open to this discernment. May the Lord watch between you and us when we are away from each other.

*Nancy and Robert Mann*



*Robert Mann played the role of Simon Peter at our outdoor worship service on May 27, 2018. We will miss his willingness to participate in Nancy's creative worship ideas.*

# Reflections on my time in music ministry

By Nichelle Bauman

As I write this, I am entering my final month in the music ministry role here at Floradale. It is definitely bittersweet. While I have loved serving in this position, I look forward to this next season in our family's life as well. The two years I have been in this role have flown by, and I am thankful for the opportunity that I have had to learn more about church ministry, to learn new musical skills, and to get to know people from our congregation better.

My biggest thank-you is to you, the church, for giving me the gift of your encouragement over and over again. I have been blessed to have been nurtured and challenged in my faith here, all while knowing this as a safe place to explore my faith, and to learn how to be a leader, how to serve and how to use my gifts. You encouraged me when I tried my hand at directing the choir, even though I had never done anything like that before! You encouraged me in my worship leading, song leading and in many other ways. Thank you for your kind words.

I also appreciate the way that you have supported me when I tried new things, like the worship cafés, or a flashmob song on Christmas morning. There always seems to be people who are eager to jump in and help. This church is full of people who are willing to share their time, efforts and resources, and I have been hum-

bled by witnessing firsthand the many volunteers who faithfully serve the church.

I was thinking back over the past few years and trying to come up with some highlights of my time in music ministry. It was difficult to decide, simply because I genuinely enjoy what I do here at the church. I really enjoyed leading the adult Sunday school class: hearing your perspectives, singing together, and learning from each other.

Choir is a blast (even if we're given songs in 5/4 time!). Thank-you Merri-Lee for mentoring me, and Casey for your dedication to helping us all along! The rest of you choir members, thank you, especially for bringing your enthusiasm and joy with you to practices.

I enjoyed writing and delivering the sermon for Breakfast and Worship this spring, and preparing the Worship Cafés, even though speaking in public makes me nervous (unless I'm sitting behind a piano).

I've been involved in a worship band at Floradale for about 15 years now, and leading with the worship team continues to be fun: Country Gospel Sunday, the Outdoor services, contemporary Christmas mash-ups, Breakfast and Worship and even regular Sundays. Thanks to the people who play instruments and sing with the worship team.

I also deeply appreciated being a part of the ReLearning

Community weekends through MCEC. Although not part of my role in music ministry, I probably would not have been involved if I wasn't in the role, so I am thankful for the way the two coincided. I learned so much at those weekends that I am working to apply in my everyday life; I was challenged and encouraged in my faith.

I have had the opportunity to have some great co-workers. Thanks for putting up with me and a long-distance work relationship. You've all been so flexible and accommodating, and I appreciate it! Also, thank-you to the men who faithfully do AV—you keep everything rolling so that the rest of us can do our jobs.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my husband, Greg, who has made being in this position possible for me. He had faith in me when my confidence waned, acted as a sounding board, encouraged and critiqued my ideas for worship cafés and my sermon, partnered with me in leading Junior Church and most importantly, cared for our kids while I was otherwise occupied. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor"—this is definitely true of Greg and I!

We look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months at Floradale! Have a safe and blessed summer!



*Nichelle again led the band and music at our outdoor service on May 27. From left: Brad Shoemaker, Ryan Bauman, Jeanette Towns, Richard Bauman and Nichelle Bauman.*

## Ingrid Loep Thiessen reflects on homesteads

*By Ingrid Loep Thiessen*

My first home was in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Here I occupied the middle position of five children born in just under 7 years. Our family was part of a tiny clan that spoke German or Low German depending on which side you came from. As children we spoke German to each other for the first years and, when pressed, in later years.

Less than eagerly we all went to German school on Saturday mornings. For getting there on time we were rewarded with a treat from the candy store next door.

Our family attended a large Mennonite church in downtown Winnipeg. My favourite Sundays were the ones when the church children's choir, all 40 strong, me included, sang.

I left that homestead to attend University, first studying music then Bible. I left that homestead again to do some Mennonite Voluntary Service in St. Catharines. Little did I know at the time, that my life's work would have me making a home in Ontario.

While in VS my host mom introduced me to canning, cooking, drying, and pickling anything and everything. I found it quite delightful. Since that time, I've been canning. Jim and I make Salsa together almost every year and with two huge cherry trees in our backyard we have tried making cherry salsa, cherry vinegar, cherry jelly, cherry juice and cherry sauce. We welcome all cherry recipes, although we won't need them until next year as 2018 brought less than a quart of cherries!

For a few months I made a home in Germany. Did that reluctant attendance at German school ever pay off! It was a wonderful time and I really wasn't ready to

come back. The next home for me was Indiana, where I went as a student of pastoral ministry. What a great time it was and it's where I met Jim!

Our first home together was in New Hamburg and since that first home we have moved a few times landing up in Kitchener. In these last 27 years in Ontario we have met so many fantastic people in several different churches. We've put down roots far from either of our families and yet this feels like home.

Our homestead now is in west Kitchener where we love to have guests and cook meals. I love to gather people in our home to sing and make music, I love to putter around in the garden and again and again find myself absolutely thrilled by the miraculous growth that comes from the tiniest seed. Don't let me get started on kale and all that comes from one tiny seed. (Oh, and by the way, I collect kale recipes too!)

Our children come and go from our homestead here at 18 Ripley Cr. They are creating their own homes as they study and work and move around as young adults do. It's always great when everyone manages to be home at the same time.

One of the great joys of my life is my work as a chaplain in long-term care. I love being able to hear the stories of people's lives and feel honoured to be with people as they say goodbye to their earthly homes.

I have, and Jim and I together have, left many homesteads. And there will be more such moves. But always we take heart in knowing that we are attached God, to each other and to the body of Christ in the church. Here we are truly at home.

## Jim Loep Thiessen reflects on life



*By Jim Loep Thiessen*

A mentor who was significant for me as I was considering ministry used to say to me, "Jim, if you can think of anything you'd rather do, do it!" I've never come up with a better option. But in terms of getting to know me in the context of working in a church, here are a few things important for me.

Is it joyful? Recognizing that joy and happiness aren't quite the same, and yet not completely disconnected either, I frequently ask whether what we do brings life and joy. "A joyful heart is good medicine." Proverbs 17:22. Years ago, in an international survey around what makes churches thrive, a key factor connected with health and growth were churches where laughter was a part of worship. I look almost weekly at the "Caption Contest" from the New Yorker Magazine. There's a cartoon—often absurd, with no caption, and you are invited to create a caption, and submit it, and then anyone can vote on the ones they think are the funniest. A few years ago, my caption came in third, with over five thousand submissions! (Barb said to include stuff about myself that was quirky, and I think that qualifies!) I often look for the humorous and laugh a great deal.

Is it engaging? Years ago, a colleague used to occasionally put



on costumes for sermons and do first-person narratives, describing what life would have been like for say, Mary, as she was preparing to give birth to Jesus. A senior from the church once came to her afterwards and said, “You shouldn’t be doing that. It makes it more interesting. People shouldn’t be coming to church because they want to, they should be coming because they are supposed to!” As oppressive as that may sound, I think many of us think about church, “You don’t need to enjoy it, you simply need to do it!” And we are disengaged from what is happening. We learned as children that going to church is serious business. It’s an exercise in sitting still and shutting up, as if that’s what God is also like—

stern and demanding. I’m always asking the question about our worship, “is it interesting? Is it engaging? Does it cause faith to rise in us?” It doesn’t need to entertain us, but it does need to engage us! When I was about ten years old and decided I could never be a pastor because the pastor I was listening to at camp was so boring, well, my hope is that we design services and activities that stimulate our faith and open us to new possibilities!

How does it taste? I learned to cook as a twenty-four-year-old. My mom taught me. My dad said, “Why doesn’t Jim just get married?” Turns out its been good for my marriage! I enjoy cooking. I grew up in a family of six kids that put a high priority on eating

together. We would sit around the table for hours on Sundays after church just talking. I experiment with new recipes, and new gadgets, like our “Instant Pot” which is basically a high-tech pressure cooker. Eating together is some of the best things we do as a church, and in terms of our family life, eating together around the table is some of the best community building we did as a family. Jesus was despised because he ate with the wrong people so it can be an act of radical inclusion. In my previous church I was in many homes eating with them, and I figured out that it doesn’t matter whether people are good cooks, or mediocre ones, eating together is what matters as a way of building community.



## “Homestead” experiences not all the same

*By Mary Frey Martin*

Orval and I have very different experiences in regard to our “homestead” experiences. Orval was born in the house he lived in for 67 years of his life. His parents moved onto that farm on the Fourth Line in 1940; he bought it from them, and it is where he has been most content.

To this day, even though it has been sold for several years and we have moved off the farm for four years, it is where he wants to be. He goes there every single day.

His brothers and sisters also felt a lot of nostalgia. We held a family reunion one summer before we moved away, and many of the family went through the house and barn, recounting many memories. They remembered they could see their breath on cold winter mornings in the upstairs bedrooms of that

farmhouse. They remembered where the outhouse used to stand. They remembered games of bagtlick in the barn, and hoeing turnips.

My experience is different. I grew up on a property in St. Jacobs, moved away when I was 19, and then lived in several different locations. I moved onto the farm because I married Orval, not because it was my real heart’s desire to live there.

When my parents’ house was sold, I felt no particular sadness. When we moved off the farm, I had no real emotional feelings one way or another. I was relieved to be away from the dust of the wood stove and the work of the orchard.

But it was interesting that after we had moved into our brand-new house in Elmira, I made applesauce one day. It just wasn’t right. Everything felt wrong. I missed my big old kitchen in the farmhouse with my big table. I do some canning and baking in my new house, but that is when I miss the farmhouse.

# Leaving the country takes time to adjust

By Joan Martin

Oscar and I purchased a farm north of Elmira in 1966 when we got married. We were young and energetic and ready for a challenge. As young farmers, there were many challenges and some very lean years, however we per-



*The farmhouse*

severed, and we soon realized this is where we were meant to be.

We were blessed with four sons in eight years and we made many memories on the farm. It was a wonderful place to raise boys and many of their friends enjoyed coming to the farm to play. When it came time to harvest, their cousins would come along with their father, and I would often have nine young boys and then the men for a meal.

It soon became obvious that one of the boys had a keen interest in farming. So a few years af-

ter Randy and Bonnie got married, plans were made to build a “doddy” house across the road to make room for the next generation. After 27 years on the farm we sold the property where the barn and house are situated to Randy and Bonnie so they could start farming.

We moved to our new house in 1994. And I must say it was a hard transition for me, but as I made new memories with the family I soon settled in to our new place. At that time, it did not feel like moving off

the homestead as we were still in our late forties and continued farming.

We lived there for 24 years and I managed a B&B for 20 of those years. I hosted my first guests April 6, 1997 and my last guests left the inn April 4, 2017!!! What a wonderful journey that was. I hosted people from all over the world.

In 2017 Randy and Bonnie were also looking to move off their farm to make room for the next generation. Their son

and his wife needed to be closer to the area as most of the work was at Randy’s farm and the obvious thing was for us to go to our retirement home. We purchased a house in Elmira and on Easter weekend, 2017 we did a three-generational move, Yikes!

Now it feels like moving off the “homestead.” Our transition in moving to the “city” as I call it, had its challenges. Oscar and I both lived in the country on farms for over 70 years so yes it takes time to adjust.

My biggest challenge in moving to Elmira was being so close to our neighbors. Our new home had NO flower beds, only a pen with grass as my back lawn.



*Our new home in Elmira*

This summer we changed that and are enjoying our new patio and flower beds.

We both said it took us a year to feel at home in town but we knew it was time. However, we have been so blessed and thankful that our farm is staying in the family and that the third generation is carrying on the family tradition. They will make wonderful memories!



*The “doddyhouse” across the road from the farm on Upper Woolwich Place*

# Moving to town: a fun adventure

By Eileen Freeman

Moving to a new place has been interesting, especially meeting some of the new people in our present community. One of our neighbours gave us a diagram with the names of 25 homeowners on our street. The names of some of the dogs were also included in this list. We are looking forward to developing new relationships with some of these people.

We are really pleased with our house and lot. It is newer house and there will be potentially less work related to maintenance and cleaning. We are also

enjoying the heating and cooling system. Our house is very comfortable on a hot day. However, it will take us some time to adapt to the close proximity of our neighbours.

Willis and I have also experienced adventure and fun with this transition. It has been fun to decorate the house and plant flowerbeds and garden. Willis has enjoyed purchasing a battery-powered lawn mover, hedge trimmer and edger.

It has been an adventure to go through our 35 years of “stuff.” Sometimes it was humorous as to what we had in storage. At times it was hard to part with

things—we just shut our eyes and threw the item in the garbage!

Driving to work from Elmira has been a total pleasure as I have 30 extra minutes every day to do something else. I have used Google Maps several times to determine the quickest way to get to a particular destination.

I have enjoyed walking to the Elmira Market on Saturdays. Willis and I have also enjoyed the walking trails close to our home.

It has been an interesting, fun adventure moving to Elmira. It was good to have this moving experience after 33 years on the farm on the Sixth Line in Mapleton Township.

## A glimpse into my life

By Kaleigh Bauman

As a new member of the Focus committee, I was asked to share a little bit about myself.

I am a middle child with two brothers; I come from the city but I am passionate about agriculture and country life. I am married to my better half, Eddie, and we have a little ball of energy named Sadie. We will be welcoming a sibling for Sadie this July!

*How do I like my eggs?*

Preferably in baked goods or casseroles.

*What am I passionate about?*

I am passionate about repurposing and refinishing antiques and furniture—not with as much precision as my carpenter husband, but what I lack in precision I gain through creativity. I am also passionate about creating homemade gifts and cards; I think a personalized gift speaks volumes and I really enjoy sharing that joy with others by customizing and it seems I have a knack for it.

*What are my hobbies?*

Most creative outlets catch my interest, wherever painting or drawing is involved I find myself.

*Where have I lived?*



*Sadie toddling about after the outdoor service.*

I was born in Peterborough, then the list follows: Kitchener, Baden, Waterloo, New Hamburg, Stratford, Guelph, and currently in Elmira.

*Where I would like to travel?*

I am usually a homebody. Although I would love the opportunity to see the Grand Canyon, and hike through the natural beauty God created, it would be an amazing adventure.

*My favourite meal?*

This is not a typical meal when you put it together, but I would devour it! Soft pretzel, Dill pickles, Medium rare steak, Watermelon, Tuna casserole, and iced tea.

*What do I do to relax?*

Some days I take a walk. Drawing, painting or dancing and singing classic country with my family are also relaxing.

Three things that will always bring a smile to my face:

- i) Drive-in movie theaters—making your own little nest of pillows and blankets in the back of a truck and eating too many snacks under the stars.
- ii) Fireworks.
- iii) Catching the sight of older couples dancing. I am a terrible dancer, but I enjoy watching the unfiltered love between two people dancing.

# Getting to know Onne and Betty Snip

*By Onne and Betty Snip*

As new members of the Floradale Mennonite Church, and new to this community, I would like to tell you something about us.

I (Onne) was born in March of 1928 in a small place (like Floradale) in the northern part of Holland. Betty was born in March of 1930 in a much larger city in the east central part of Holland. We grew up and were baptized, going to church, young people's clubs and publicly confessed our faith. We met at a young people's really and after a few years we were engaged.

I left in May of 1953 for Canada, arriving in Halifax eight days later; I travelled on to Toronto, arriving on Victoria Day. Betty came over a year later while I was working at the Guild Inn in Scarborough. Betty was hired on as a chambermaid, but she was not happy with that job. Her supervisor found out that she was an experienced seamstress, so she started sewing and was happier.

We had to get married because I promised to sponsor Betty and to care for her the rest of her life, so in August of 1954 we were married at the Toronto Christian Reformed Church. We celebrated with a few family members at the hotel.



In October of that year we were both laid off since business was slow. We moved to hobby farm outside of Agincourt (close to where the Toronto Zoo is now) for a brief period. We moved again as our first child (Ina) was due the following June. For four years we lived in the middle of Toronto where two more daughters were born, Alice and Wendy. In 1959 we ended up in rural Agincourt for nine years with three more daughters joining us, Michele, Catherine and Christine. During this time I was hired by the Scarborough Board of Education as a custodian and groundskeeper.

In 1968 we made the big move to Fergus where I started working for the Wellington District School Board at the Fergus High School as a custodian and we bought our first home. We lived in Fergus for five years then bought our second home in

Guelph and lived there for 43 years. We started attending First Christian Reformed Church in Guelph while we were living in Fergus.

I continued to work with the Wellington District School Board at different schools in Guelph. Betty worked at a variety of jobs in Guelph, including being a seamstress for high-end ladies' fashion stores and also had her own seamstress business.

We enjoyed camping and golfing in our retirement years. For the last couple years we volunteered at Bibles for Missions.

So the big decision was made to sell the house and find a smaller place. Leon and Christine suggested, "Why don't you have a look at Parkview Manors?" (Our daughter Christine and Leon Kehl live just down the street from there.)

After we had a look and a discussion, we moved in last August. The year 2017 was very busy for us with three of our eighteen grandchildren getting married, and with the arrival of another four great-grandchildren. This makes a total of 15 with one more on the way this fall. It was a blessed year.

Betty and I hope to be members at Floradale Mennonite Church for many years, the Lord willing.

Thank you to the congregation for the warm welcome!



*After the outdoor service on May 27, 2018, we enjoyed a catered lunch of barbecued sausage, salads and ice cream bars. Here Jerry Hesselink and Jeff Martin barbecue the sausages while Phares Bauman supervises.*

*In the afternoon people were invited to walk the Lion's Trail around the Woolwich Reservoir, but it was a very warm day and only a handful of people took on the challenge.*

# 'Peace Lab' brings important discoveries at Vacation Bible Camp

by Nancy Mann

We were off to a great start with our "Peace Lab" at Vacation Bible Camp this past Monday, July 2. How can we build peace? We can do this by helping others, by asking others to help solve problems, by speaking up for what is right, by finding peaceful ways to solve their problems, and by asking others to help when necessary. As we explore the Bible for stories of peacemaking, we discover how people like Abraham, Boaz, Jonathan, Michel, and Martha discovered peaceful solutions to the problems of their time.



*Storytellers Jim Loopp Thiessen and Jonathan Brubacher.*

And, of course, we learned what Jesus taught about peacemaking – He was all for it! Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9).



*The activity led by Kim Rempel looks like fun!*

On Tuesday, we remembered the story of Abraham and Lot and their land dispute (Genesis 13). In preschool, the children read a story called "A big kid took my ball" by Mo Willems. Children, youth and adults struggle with resolving disputes over the use of scarce resources and their sense of personal entitlement. I'm glad that we can challenge the children this week to become peacebuilders in the places where they live and play.

The children will memorize Romans 12: 16-18: "Live in harmony with one another. . .do not repay evil for evil. . .so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

This passage is a reminder of the practical advice we can find in Biblical passages.

We were pleased to have Katie Gingerich from *The Ripple Effect Education (TREE)* spend the morning with us on Wednesday. TREE brings peace education modules directly into classrooms in Waterloo Region, including Woolwich Township. Katie spent Wednesday morning doing peace-building activities



*Casey Horn's classroom*

with our Jr. Youth. She will be speaking about her work at the Men's Breakfast this fall. We are supporting TREE with our offerings at VBC this summer.

We also enjoyed a mid-week "make it and eat it" lunch orga-



*Outdoor fun*

nized by Amy Sonnenberg of Designed for you Nutrition. Parents joined in as parents, volunteers and children together made and ate a healthy lunch of taco bowls and fruit kebabs. This lunch was sponsored by the Missions Committee of Elmira Mennonite Church.

We have a great partnership with Elmira Mennonite Church to sponsor a summer Vacation Bible Camp each year. In 2019, we will offer VBC **July 22 – 26**. Why not mark your calendar now and plan to be a part of this fun-filled week?

## News bits

Leon Kehl reported to Church Council that the named **refugee sponsorship** for a Christian Syrian family has been accepted by MCC Ontario. This is one of 100 named placements that MCCO can apply for this year. It will probably have a long approval process.

The **Hidden Acres** Mennonite Camp barbecue and pie auction was held on June 12 with four people from our congregation donating pies. There were 56 pies auctioned, raising \$5,310. That's an average of almost \$95 per pie. Thank you to Lorne Bowman for bidding up some of the pies.

New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale raised \$313,000.



## Dinner theatre final report:

In April we performed the play *Family Ties Through Thick and Thin* with accompanying fund-raising dinners. Here is the breakdown of the funds raised and the costs:

Dinner ticket sales:	6120.00
Dinner costs:	<u>1659.39</u>
Net dinner proceeds	4460.61
Theatre donations:	7703.00
Theatre expenses	<u>318.01</u>
Theatre proceeds	7384.99

Net proceeds dinner and theatre:  
11,845.60

This has been divided between Woolwich Community Services (\$5,922.80) and Global Church Sharing Fund of Mennonite World Conference (\$5,922.80).

## Special Anniversaries

Congratulations to Ab and Eleanor Metzger who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 14.

Congratulations to Steve and Sheila Bauman who will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on July 9.

Roy and Barb Draper will celebrate 35 years of marriage on July 23.

Congratulations to Ross and Vernelda Weber who will celebrate their 35th anniversary on July 23.

Randy and Bonnie Martin were married 30 years ago on June 18.

Bernie and Martha Schatti will celebrate 15 years of marriage on Aug. 2, 2018.

Ryan and Romy Schill celebrated 10 years of marriage on July 2/

Nichelle Bauman and Greg McCorquodale will celebrate 5 years of marriage on Aug. 2, 2018.

## Marriages

Rebecca Martin and Jamie Gingrich were married at Floradale Menn. Church on May 5, 2018.

Jeremy Frey and Jessica Meyer were married at Floradale Mennonite Church on May 12, 2018.



Scott Bauman and Clara Walker were married on June 9, 2018 at the home of the bride.



## Special Birthdays

Kathleen Cober will celebrate her 85th birthday on July 27.

Fern Metzger will celebrate her 85th birthday on August 18.

## Update from MK College, Ethiopia

When Kiros Teka Haddis, the President of Meserete Kristos College in Ethiopia shared during a Moment in Mission on May 20, he thanked us for our contributions to the college. A week earlier, on May 12, the completed women's dormitory had been dedicated and 158 students graduated from the college.

"The work of God was not given only to males, but also to females," said Kiros as he pointed out that the new women's dorm will help them maximize the numbers of females.

The Mennonite-related church in Ethiopia was established in 1951. Today they have 1011 local congregations with 562,939 members. The MK College was begun in 1994 in Addis Ababa which later moved to a campus on Debra Zeit. Most of the graduates serve in local churches.

Finances are a challenge for the college and they have many more potential students than they can handle. Most students require some scholarship funds to allow them to study.

Kiros showed us pictures of the present kitchen and dining facilities which are below standard and inadequate. They are using wood fires to feed 720 people three times a day. The college is planning for a new kitchen and dining hall to accommodate up to 1,000 people, hoping to rent it out for large conferences and other events. The proposed cost of the building is \$693,000 in U.S. dollars.

Thank you to Darrell and Florence Jantzi for hosting Kiros and Kelbessa Muleta Demena, the Vice President of the MK Church for the week ending May 20 as the Ethiopians connected with several congregations in Ontario.