



Focus on Floradale

Volume XXXV No. 2

Floradale Mennonite Church

April, 2019

Family Fun Day community outreach event

By Nancy Martin

On Monday February 18, a family fun day event was held at Floradale Mennonite Church. Lots of advertising for the event was done through posters around the community, bulletin announcements in local churches, schools and Facebook but we had no idea of how many people would actually show up! Much to our delight, just before the 10:00 a.m. start time the parking lot started to fill and families with young children began pouring through the doors. It was wonderful to see the church full of happy children!

Approximately 300 people attended the event and during the first show by children's entertainer Barry O, the auditorium had 185 adults and children enjoying the perfor-



*Tim Greenwood ties balloons (left).
Tyler does his magic (right).*



Jane and Jerry pose for a photo.

nos and serving 20 dozen mini muffins while visiting with parents.

There was a photo booth complete with props where families could capture a photo on their phones. Busy volunteers were making balloon animals for eager kids. Other families were enjoying the play area in the library and games and colouring in the board room. The gym was also a busy place with a constant



The bouncy castle was very popular.

mance. A second show by Barry O and a magic show by Tyler Kehl were also well attended. In the lobby, Jim was busy making coffee, espresso and cappucci-

flow of children in and out of the bouncy castle and lots of sticky mess as kids decorated 14 dozen cookies!

When it all ended at 2:00 p.m., many hands began cleaning up and in short order the church was back to its normal state. Thanks to all who helped to make this event such a huge success!



Barry O, the ventriloquist

Twas Now concert

On Sat. March 23, our Event Planning Committee organized a dinner and concert with proceeds going to the Elmira Development Support Corporation. The dinner, catered by the Floradale Catering Committee, was sold out but people were also invited to come just for the concert.

Mike and Diana Erb are from New Hamburg and attend Hillcrest Mennonite Church. They call themselves “Twas Now” and sing folk music and gospel songs. Many of the songs, especially the gospel songs were familiar to the audience and sometimes they were invited to sing along. There was a lot of soft foot-tapping as well.



Greg Bechard



Diana and Mike Erb in concert

During the intermission an offering was taken and Greg Bechard, the executive director of Elmira District Community Living talked about the work of the Support Corporation which works at creative not-for-profit housing. In the last 18 years they have built 48 residential units—a four-plex on Snow Goose in Elmira and another three buildings with 7 units each on McGuire Lane. The concept is to allow tenants with an intellectual disability to live in a community that provides safety and reduces social isolation. It also provides opportunities for others, such as university students, to access affordable housing if they are also committed to creating community.

Thank you to the Catering and Event Planning Committees for a successful evening.

Bring your loaves and fish to the table

On Sun. March 13, John Neufeld, the executive director of House of Friendship in Kitchener did the children’s story and the sermon. Using the story of the feeding of the 5,000, he brought some zwiwbach and two fish to illustrate the children’s story. He encouraged Christians to bring their loaves and fish to the table to see how God can use them.

During the Sunday School time he talked more about the work of House of Friendship. He said they provide about 98 percent of addiction services in Waterloo Region. He also was surprised and grateful for Floradale church’s \$50,000 donation to their Close to Home project in Cambridge. This former women’s shelter was under renovation when the opiate crisis hit the area and they decided to add a second floor, inflating the cost of the project.



House of Friendship expects negative reactions by neighbours when this type of treatment housing is planned. He welcomes the opportunity to answer questions and provide correct information. In the case of the Cambridge project, a long-time neighbour to a

treatment centre in Waterloo was able to assure people that House of Friendship is an excellent neighbour.

In Waterloo Region, House of Friendship concentrates on

- food distribution
- shelter and supportive housing
- helping children growing up in poverty through neighbourhood community centres
- addiction treatment.

John also talked about studies on poverty and the connection between trauma in childhood and how that implicates health outcomes. Although poverty is not a death sentence, individuals born in poverty have suffer long-term consequences, especially if there is not a strong community to provide support and a buffer.

A faith community is important because it can help provide a buffer.



Farewell to Kim Rempel

Although Floradale Mennonite Church offered Kim Rempel a 16-month, part-time position as associate pastor, she decided not to take the position. She had officially been our youth worker but was doing other tasks since there wasn't much activity with youth.

The congregation was thankful that she had used her gifts in music and children's ministry for the last several months and expressed that with a formal farewell on Sunday morning, Feb. 24, 2019.

Rita Bauman and Mary M. Martin, representing the Elders, presented Kim with a teapot and mug made by Wanda Kehl. Referring to the song, "Fill my cup," Rita expressed her wish that Kim's cup might be full of God's love. Mary thanked her for her thoughtful sermons and her willingness to share her musical gifts with the congregation. After a collective prayer, Mary wrapped Kim in a prayer shawl.



Community Messiah

By Barb Draper

Floradale Mennonite Church hosted a community performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday afternoon, April 14, one of four performances organized through the support of local churches. This was a non-professional event with volunteer singers and musicians. For a significant number of the choir members, this was their first experience in singing *Messiah*. There were some of the choir pieces that were sung by the more experienced singers only.

It was an amazing event, to think that so much talent can be found in our community. Leadership for this event came from Gordon Wright, the worship pastor at Woodside Bible Fellowship. He directed and sang one of the solo pieces. The orchestra was small, but amazing considering that they were volunteer musicians.

Three of the choir members were from Floradale Mennonite Church—Cliff and Mary Bauman and Florence Jantzi. It was fascinating to see how many choir members were from Midwest Fellowship churches.

There were some memorable moments during the performance. The narration was done by Dave VanderMolen who is blind. As he sang it was not clear to me if he had everything memorized, or if he was using his reading device to know what came next. He certainly could not watch the director, but there were probably other members of the choir who were looking at their music rather than at the director.

Just before the Hallelujah chorus, the soloist who had been singing stepped down to the front pew where a young man with an intellectual handicap was sitting and reached out his hand. The two of them joined the choir, the soloist sharing his music with the young man who had the privilege of singing the Hallelujah chorus with the choir.

Because there was such a crowd and the auditorium was full, we sat in the very front pew, almost in the laps of the bass player and the trumpets. I've never been that close to an orchestra before—those trumpets are loud!

All the words sung by the choir or soloists were on slides on the overhead. It helped remind the audience that all the lyrics came directly from the Bible.

It was a great event. All the performances were sold out. Tickets were priced at only \$5.00 with proceeds going to Woolwich Community Services, Hospice Waterloo Region and Sanctuary, a refugee health centre. There was also an opportunity to give extra support to the charities at their displays in the foyer.



Soup fundraiser lunch and annual meeting

By Barb Draper

On Sun. Feb. 24, we had a soup lunch before the annual meeting, prepared by the catering committee. There were four big roaster pans of soup, most of it made with leftovers from catered meals. As usual, the soup was delicious. There were donation baskets on the table and any money above the cost of the soup, cheese, bread, pumpkin cake and ice cream will go to Pastor Zudu in Ethiopia. The money will support him and his family while he studies at Meserete Kristos College.

Jim Loepp Thiessen led the devotions at the annual meeting, saying that he had three hopes for the church. He hoped we could speak the truth in love to each other, that we can ask questions about the mission of the church and that Jesus can be seen to be alive and real.

Donna Freeman presented the slate of officers for next year. There are a few open spots since we do not have an associate pastor, especially when it comes to children's ministry. The Chair of Council and Chair of the Search Committee will be looking to hire

someone, perhaps not necessarily a pastor.

Financially the congregation is in good shape. Although income was a little less than what was budgeted, our expenses were short of what we expected and we ended the year with more than \$45,000 surplus. The congregation agreed with the finance committee's decision to use about \$30,000 to help pay for the expensive upgrades in the cemetery, including the columbariums. Another \$15,000 went to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

In the Generosity Fund, \$10,000 will go to MCC refugee sponsorship support, \$10,000 to Meserete Kristos College in Ethiopia for scholarships, \$3,000 to Navigators of Canada to support Stefan Cherry and \$50,000 to House of Friendship for the Close to Home project. Willis Freeman reported that in spite of last year's disbursements, the fund grew in the past year. He also suggested we might want to look for new projects to support and not always give to the same causes year after year. Requests come from people from the congregation.

Richard Bauman, the chair, then led a discussion about the

best time for worship to start on Sunday mornings. Some people expressed their appreciation for starting at 10 a.m. so there is a relaxed time after 11 a.m. to have coffee and chat. Others expressed their disappointment that their opportunity to meet people is cut short because they go to Sunday School. The discussion was very respectful and calm as people expressed their points of view. A compromise of starting 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School time before the service was offered as suggestion. If church ended at 11:30, it might work better if there was a potluck or fundraiser lunch. The decision on this question will go back to Church Council.

Church Council also asked whether the annual meeting could be about a month later to give more time for the financial books to be completed, given to the accountant for review, okayed by the finance committee and Church Council and prepared for the annual report. This was approved.

A special thank you was extended to Willis Freeman who has served for nine years as the Chair of the Finance Commission and has done an excellent job.

Coldest night of the year walk

Thank you to Ingrid Loepp Thiessen who organized the Floradale team for the Coldest Night of the Year walk to benefit Woolwich Community Services. This is a Canada-wide organization that invites each participating community to support a local charity that provides help to those who find it a challenge to be warm and fed on cold nights.

The Floradale Walkers team had about 18 participants out of a total of 225 for the Elmira community. Together they raised over \$75,000 for Woolwich Community Services.

Across Canada this event raised more than \$5,230,000.



Derrick and Polly were among the Floradale walkers.

Glenn Wideman

Feb. 23, 1952 – Feb. 14, 2019

Glenn Wideman passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at St. Mary's General Hospital, Kitchener, at the age of 66 years.

Glenn was the beloved husband of Lorene (Weber) Wideman and loving father of Darren (Michelle), Dale (Lindsey), Dennis (Lindsay), and Tracy (Matt) Martin. Loved grandfather of Blake, Landon, Abby, Mylah, and Graham; Ryder and Ronan; Emmett, Charlotte, and Beau; Madison, Kenzie, and Hayden.

He was predeceased by his parents Menno and Salema (Gingrich) Wideman, and his siblings Earl,



Lorne, and Fern (Orvie) Brubacher. His remaining siblings are Marie (Clarence) Weber, Ella (Howard) Brubacher, Vera (Allen) Gingrich, and David Wideman, and sisters-in-law Erma Wideman and Eva Wideman.

Glenn was formerly a partner in W-S Feed & Supplies Ltd. A family visitation was held at Floradale Mennonite Church on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. An interment service was held in the

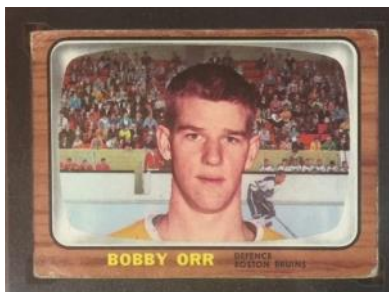
church cemetery followed by a memorial service at Floradale Mennonite Church on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

Treasure or junk

On March 17, during sharing time, Rick Martin said that when downsizing, it can be a challenge to tell the difference between treasure and junk. When they were cleaning out his father's house they came across some old hockey cards; some belonged to Lloyd himself, others were collected by Rick and his brothers. On Nancy's advice, the cards were donated to the Elmira MCC thrift store.

Randy Long and Betty Marshall at the thrift store were savvy enough to have the cards appraised and they decided to have a one-of-a-kind auction to sell the hundreds of cards.

The auction was held on Sat. March 16 at the Memorial Centre.



Participants had to buy tickets to be in the room and there was no problem in selling all 175 tickets. The auction was delayed for a while because it took longer than expected for

interested buyers to have a close look at all the items.

Rick and his father were there to watch the auction and were surprised at the money raised for Mennonite Central Committee. The total raised was \$13,845. The highest selling card was a Bobby Orr rookie card in not-very-good shape that sold for \$2,575.

Rick's words of advice were: "If you come across old hockey cards or comic books, don't throw them out. They can be worth a fortune!"

Meat canner breakfast

Neil Martin, chair of the local MCC meat canning committee, reported at the fundraising breakfast on March 16 that 26,880 cans of meat were canned in Elmira in 2018. About \$180,000 needs to be raised to make this possible, so he calculated that each can costs about \$6.70.

The meat canning project was in some doubt since MCC was short of staff to travel with the portable canner and several locations did not can meat this year. The Elmira project convinced MCC that it could handle the work even without a full contingent of "canner guys." Elmira will be canning chicken this year from Monday, April 22 to Friday, April 26 at the Elmira Produce Auction.

Wendy Martin, who grew up at the Brussels Mennonite Church and recently returned from Laos where she was serving with MCC, was the featured speaker. She talked about the after-effects of the Vietnam War in Laos where there had been such heaving bombing in the 1960s and 70s. One of MCC's projects was to deal with all the unexploded bombs that are still maiming farmers. Wendy commented that MCC has built a good deal of trust in its work with the people. One of its current projects is helping young adults to learn how to lead peace camps.



Chicken was canned in Elmira April 22-26.

From the editor: Why a church newsletter?

The *Focus on Floradale* newsletter has been around for more than 30 years. Those of us who work on the newsletter believe it plays an important role in church life; it keeps us in touch with each other. It's a kind of stone-age Facebook or Instagram. When we read what other people are thinking, it helps us to know them better.

The *Focus* was the brainchild of Allan Detweiler who got it started in 1985. At the time he was married to Yvonne, a sister to Ross Weber. For the first couple years

Allan wrote a genealogy column in which he described some of our common ancestors and said who all in the congregation was descended from a particular ancestor and thus related. Readers had various levels of enthusiasm for this genealogy column.

Barb Draper has been editing this newsletter almost from the beginning. She believes that not only does it keep people in touch with each other, it is also an important historical record.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our questions for this issue. It's great to hear from so many different people. If no one has asked you to write and you have something to say, please don't hesitate to send it in. Watch the bulletin to know when an issue is coming up.

We are working at getting bound copies of past issues into the library, just in case you would like to take a trip down memory lane.

Spring: For this issue the Focus committee asked some of the following questions:

What is your favourite part? Do you do spring housecleaning or other spring tasks such as gardening that you enjoy? Does spring bring any special recipes? What tastes like spring?

Spring on Florapine Road

By Eleanor and Zenas Buehler

Spring is the focus of this issue of the *Floradale Focus*, so my thoughts turned to memories of all the seasons of spring time that have come and gone while we have lived at our present home for the past 55 years.

Although we always had a vegetable garden, in the 1980s we fell in love with flower gardening. So during the winter months we would read numerous books on the vast array of flowers that were available. We educated ourselves on which plants are happiest planted in what places. Also which plants we should avoid because they would prove to be very invasive.

When the arrival of Spring became promising, we would get the urge to go outside and see which plants had survived the winter. It was always such an exciting time to see new growth coming through all the dead mess left from the winter. It is at that

time that God's faithfulness in bringing new life to the earth he has created, is so clearly evident.

When the springtime cleanup was finished, we would eagerly go around to various nurseries to stock up on all the beautiful plants that we wanted to have growing at our place. Of course it was a learning curve and sometimes we made good choices and other times it was disappointing and we regretted our decisions. Over the years we learned that perennials worked better for us because they filled up the beds on their own.

As Ecclesiastes says there is a season and a time for everything. At this time in our senior years we know we need to try to make it easier for ourselves to look after all our flower beds. So now as this spring season arrives, we are still enjoying the gift of new life and growth in our flowerbeds which God is giving to us. However we will not be going around to greenhouses to look for any new variety of plants!

The joy of spring

By Marilyn Weber

I really do get excited for spring to come. I love the signs of new life—the green grass, but especially the spring flowers poking through. I would say it is my favourite season.



After the long cold winter, it is such a treat to watch the bulbs poking through and the perennials show signs of new growth. I try to remember to plant a few new bulbs each fall, which adds to the anticipation—I usually forget what and where I planted them.

☺ The next thing I enjoy is cutting bouquets and bringing them indoors to enjoy.

As far as my small vegetable garden goes, I do not find it nearly as exciting, but because we do enjoy fresh vegetables, I plant some basics.

My mother enjoyed gardening and encouraged us to help out at a young age. I am thankful for this as I find it is very therapeutic.



Memories of spring tasks

By Kathleen Cober

1940s – Memories of my mother and housecleaning

When I was young, my mother would start housecleaning the upstairs—curtains, woodwork, windows and floors—all received the soap and water treatment. The mattresses were taken downstairs and outside one by one to have the dust beaten out of them. Then there was the task of taking them upstairs again. Each room of the house was cleaned before my mother started her garden.

1950:

Years later, when Don and I moved to the farm, I did not have an electric stove. Instead we had a wood-burning cookstove. The smoke and ash which escaped the fire-box each time wood was added made spring housecleaning a necessity. I learned when wood could be added to the fire without a lot of smoke and ash escaping into the room.



The curtains, windows and woodwork were washed, and any wallpapering to be done was completed in the spring.

2019:

Housecleaning now does not require the energy that it did years ago. The type of heating (in-floor heating), vacuum cleaners and the new cleaners make life easier. The only problem is age-related, so in the near future I will likely need to hire help with that task.

Spring memories and tastes

By Mary M. Martin

Spring is in the air and you have to be of a certain vintage to have memories like mine about digging out woolen blankets from an old chest and hanging them out to air with the smell of mothballs lingering. This was part of an old spring housecleaning ritual. Other memories of spring are digging for dandelion greens or eating egg cheese with fresh maple syrup. More recently I would add hot cross buns to my list of food that tastes like spring.

My mother served greens long before it was the “right” thing to do. For example, she would throw a board over where she could see plenty of dandelions coming up and this would bleach the leaves, making them more tender. I have a picture of my grandmother, harvesting the dandelion leaves and then I got to help wash the dirty dandelion leaves. I found a recipe for dandelion salad from an old cookbook which is very close to what I remember my mother’s being, although I thought mom would steam the leaves rather than serve them fresh. Maybe the warm dressing that was made from the grease of fried bacon wilted the leaves. Anyway, the final product had dandelion leaves, fried bacon and hard-boiled eggs.

As with egg cheese and maple syrup, so it is with dandelion leaves and bacon and hard-boiled eggs—I would run out of one before the other.

However, the best part of spring is how it is a metaphor of life. The bulbs or perennials that I planted in the fall will push through the dirt, leaves and other rubbish toward the light

when the temperature and the season is right. Remembering this gives me hope and faith when at times it feels like things aren’t working out like I would wish.



An old house in spring

By Tim Greenwood

This spring will be the first spring in our new house, and with it comes a whole list of things to get used to. Being an older century home, there are plenty of minor projects that the warmer weather will allow us to address, and tons of spring cleaning to do. We’ve already been doing a lot of cleaning outside of spring, as we’ve only really just moved in, and I imagine we will continue cleaning thoroughly well past spring.

One thing we’ve been steadily working on is redecorating the house, which has so far involved taking down layers of wallpaper that have been put up through the decades, and has consumed much of our time. While not cleaning in the true sense of the word, we see



Kelsey and Tim in front of their “new” house in Harriston.

Spring on the farm

it as a higher level of the typical spring clean. But where we are most excited about seeing the changes happen is outside.

We moved into our home in September, which gave us time to see the yard, but not to really enjoy it or get around to any projects or work. The winter was spent inside, and so now that the snow is all melted (I finally got rid of our snow mountain on the front lawn), I have already raked and cleaned the lawn and beds, revealing the blank slate of our property.

It's amazing to watch as bit by bit, the backyard reveals itself to us, and we can imagine more fully all the things we can do now that we have the weather on our side. Flower beds that have lain empty since before we got here are clamouring to be the first planted with new growth.

The lawn, which resembles more of a lunar landscape than a typical backyard, begs to be leveled and resown with seed that can tolerate the shade. Another big project we anticipate starting is a small garden, in the form of a raised bed or two. Growing up, both my wife and I always had mothers who set to work in the gardens as soon as they were able and reaped the rewards of a carefully tended plot. Knowing we now have a place of our own to plant a variety of vegetables and herbs is exciting, and also slightly daunting.

I've spent most of the winter getting out gardening books of all kinds from the library and trying to determine just what kinds to plant. So far I haven't got much in mind besides some salad greens and carrots. I have yet to build the raised beds, so maybe I shouldn't count my chickens before they hatch, and get on building that before I plan anything to go in them?



By Romy Schill

Spring on the farm is always exciting. Lots of changes and breaking out of the cold dull winter months.

Sunshine and warm weather, grass green-ing, robins and birds making nests and chirping.

We have new lambs born year-round on our farm so it's not as much of a spring event as on other farms. But new lambs are always exciting.



Kids holding kids: Cameron, Emerson and Adalyn.



Wonders of spring

By Jim Maurer

Well, denkst frieyaahr balle kumme? Ja, Ich glaub so. Frie-yaahr ist bissel langsam kummt! This could be the beginning of a conversation in our neighbourhood about spring. It seems that March 21 cannot come soon enough after a long, cold winter.

Usually the first signs of are when you feel the warmth of the sun's rays when you are "behind the wind." Also, spring sale signs in store windows and at implement dealers offering 10% to 50% off. This is usually a good drawing card to get you to come in. The purchase of seeds and fertilizer, and then their delivery to the farm gets anticipation going.

Planning and getting excited for planting and the cropping season happens on all farms. There's always hope that there will be a good crop and lots of feed for the critters.

My favourite part about spring is getting outside more and the fresh spring air. Trimming apple trees and watching the flower beds wake up. I also plant a garden with too much enthusiasm. Lots of ideas in the spring lead to lots of work in later months.

It's the little things like puddles and not having to wear winter coats for the kids that makes it fun. Longer days and playing outside for the kids. Digging in the sand-box, finding all the treasures they forgot last year. They also all need bigger bikes again!

Getting farm machinery ready with repairs and hook-up also arouses spring fever. The shedding of winter clothes for lighter spring clothes is also a sign that the weather has changed to be milder and warmer.

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!’” said Robin Williams. With slippery roads and icy sidewalks gone, it is more inviting to get out and about, to go visiting and socializing. Outside sports and games can also be undertaken.

“Spring shows what Goo can do with a drab and dirty world.” (Virgil A Kraft). Flowers sprouting and the early blossoms of the snowdrops, daffodils and tulips brighten the yard. The greening of the grass and wheat fields lighten the countryside. Lawn-rolling and raking also lets you know that spring is here. Birds arriving back from their winter homes, with the chirping and singing brighten the day.

Tapping trees and boiling maple syrup helps put a sweetness in the air. The sprouting of garlic, jack-in-the-pulpits, ferns and trilliums in the bush are also another reminder that spring is here. Then, all of a sudden, the land is dry and tractors and cultivators are out tilling the fields.

Then the smells of spring come along. The dust of the ground and newly worked soil oozes a smell all of its own. Manure hauling takes place, making the countryside smell like a countryside.

Then the planting of crops takes place, and then the first crop comes along. The picking of stones, which is usually enjoyed by all. Ha!! Spring brings the birth of animals, both wild and domestic. What joy to see new life abound!

“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.” (Doug Larson) The first snow melting and the riverlets of water are drawing cards for children to run and jump in, splashing themselves. Birds like to splash also to wash off the winter’s dirt. Adults

like to go for a walk, leaving boots at home, thus getting wet feet.

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” (Audrey Hepburn)

Myself, I do not plant a garden or keep flowerbeds. A renter at my place, Randy Kreutzer, does these things and keeps a wonderful picturesque garden. He plants a vast number of flowers. He even had a picture of one of his flowerbeds in the *K-W Record* with a caption of “beautiful, just beautiful.” The garden is planted with tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, beans, corn and numerous other veggies.

“I can’t believe it’s already time to put off my spring cleaning until next year!” (unknown)

Spring cleaning at my house gets done, but you’ll never see lines of clothes or blankets and things draped over the porch railings, airing out. Weekly cleaning is done by my two stalwart cleaning ladies, Ruth and Verna Gingrich.

My favourite part of spring is the newness of everything. Just like anew start in life. Most of all it is the arrival of Easter and the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection.

Spring usually means homemade doughnuts and bread, pancakes and hard-boiled eggs, all drowned in maple syrup. Perhaps made and served with love, following one’s own recipes. These would be my tastes of spring.

Some old quotes or sayings about spring or farming:

1. If you bring a hoe into the house, you must back out with it so as to take the bad luck out with you.
2. Frost on Good Friday morning may mean 40 more frosts will follow. Some say it means no more frosts.
3. Plant crops when the moon is heading towards full moon to expect a good yield.
4. Plant garden rows north and south for best germination and yield.
5. When planting potatoes, make sure the eyes face up.

6. If March come in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.
7. If it thunders on All Fools Day, it brings a good crop of corn and hay.
8. A cool May and a windy April makes a full barn.
9. April cold and wet fills the barn and barrel.
10. Hoar frost on the first of May indicates a good harvest.
11. A dewy morning brings a good haying day.
12. A cold and moist April fills the cellar and fattens the cow.
13. April showers bring May flowers.
14. This was my father’s favourite saying and it often holds true: Watch the weather on the first day of the new season and that will be the prominent weather for that season. Others say the day before, the day of, and the day following will be the weather of the three months of that season.

“Ah, how wonderful is the advent of spring—the great annual miracle. . . which no force can stay, no violence restrain, like love that wins its way and cannot be withstood by any human power, because itself is divine power. If spring came but once in a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectations would there be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change! . . . We are all like children who are astonished and delighted only by the second hand of the clock, not by the hour hand.” (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)



WMCEC Ladies Spring Enrichment Day

By Karen Bender

Over 200 women raised their voices in worship here at Floradale for WMCEC Annual Spring Enrichment Day on April 13. Marilyn Rudy-Froese, MCEC church leadership minister, carefully wove together the Biblical story, her own story, spiritual practices and conversation focused on discernment. Ingrid, Florence, Jeannette, Barb and Eileen lead us with inspiring music and worship throughout the day.



Florence, Barb, Jeanette and Ingrid led the music.

MCEC by noting that this is a moment of change. Women of faith have long adapted to their environments. While we grieve the loss of something meaningful and familiar, we also remain faithful to God's leading. Through this change we honour those who have come before us, carrying their hopes with us. A motion was passed stating that WMCEC would dissolve their official structure as of Dec 31, 2019 and an ad hoc working group would be set up to organize future events.

Travelling Companions: "We don't know where



Martha and Mary talked about life's journey and the importance of companions.

we're going but we know how to get there" was the theme that framed the day. Mary Frey-Martin, Martha Brubacher, Rita Bauman and Gloria H Bauman shared their personal stories of difficult circumstances they were faced with and how

Through the discussion and discernment of the group, it became evident that there was a deep desire to see the continuation of some form of women's ministry emphasis in Eastern Canada.



Karen Sauder and Carmen Brubacher led the discussion about the future of WMCEC.

WMCEC will officially dissolve as of Dec 31, 2019. Over the next eight months, donations

this affected their journey in life.

Shirley Redekop, President of Mennonite Women Canada gave her greetings.

Enrichment Day offering: Women were given an opportunity to give to WMCEC, Days for Girls or Hidden Acres Single Mom's Camp.

We took a break for a delicious lunch served by Shirley Shoemaker and several ladies from our church.

Carmen Brubacher, Program Coordinator of WMCEC, introduced our discussion around the future of Women of



Thank you to Karen and Bonnie and the rest of the women from Floradale who helped us host this event.

will continue to support WMCEC projects and conversations for moving forward with an ad hoc women's working group will begin.

Women engaged the day with seriousness, gratitude and hope. The theme was around discernment. We gave ourselves the space to express our gratitude and laments as well as celebrate what this organization meant to so many.

To end the worship time, we invited the women to participate in holy communion.

New chairs in the foyer



You may have noticed some changes in the foyer recently. Some new tub chairs have replaced the previous chairs that had been in the nook outside the office. The intent is to make this space inviting for conversation.

Before church on Sundays you will find many of them in use—especially by men. After worship, during coffee time, this is a good place for those who find it easier to sit down while managing a coffee cup.

Floradale Mennonite goes green

The trustees have begun replacing many of the light fixtures in the church, installing LED lights. When a Mennonite church in Saskatchewan was installing a solar panel to express their concern for creation care, an expert told them, “Solar panels are the sexy side of [environmental sustainability]. The hard work is done by LED lights, and by making sure you have good weather stripping.”

The lights in the board room, and the office corridor have been replaced. The plan is to do the rest of the foyer and the outside lights.

Because the sanctuary is hooked up to the light board, replacing those lights is more complicated. In the gym, all the ballasts will need to be replaced at significant cost, so that is a project for the future.



A few groaners:

I just got hit by a rented car. It Hertz.
I went shopping for some camouflage trousers, but I couldn't find any.
I have a new theory about inertia, but it doesn't seem to be gaining momentum.
Slept like a log last night... woke up in the fireplace.
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

The *Focus on Floradale* newsletter is published five times each year.

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Editorial committee:

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Sharon Cressman
Delphine Burkhart



This issue of *Focus on Floradale* has many photos. To see them in colour, go the website, Floramc.org where you can find past issues of the Focus under "media."

We love babies! *These four babies from Floradale Mennonite Church were born in 2018: Riley, son of Eddie and Kaleigh Bauman; Brielle, daughter of Cal and Jenn Shantz; Liam, son of Nicole and Tyler Woeschka; Rory, son of Tony and Char Martin.*



Special Anniversaries

Congratulations to Elsie and Bert Springer who will be married 55 years on May 23, 2019.



The Easter Bunny came to Floradale on Easter Sunday morning.

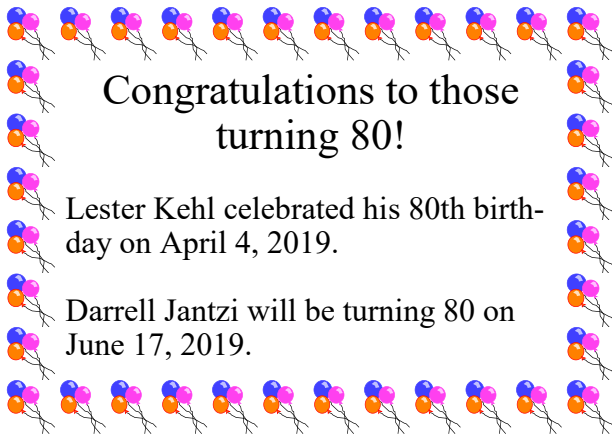
Congratulations to Howie and Gloria Bauman who will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on May 14, 2019.



Ron and Sherrin Clemmer will be married 45 years on June 22, 2019. Congratulations!

James and Susan Martin will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on June 9, 2019.

Congratulations to Laurel and Gerry Martin who will celebrate 30 years of marriage on May 12, 2019.



Congratulations to those turning 80!

 Lester Kehl celebrated his 80th birthday on April 4, 2019.

 Darrell Jantzi will be turning 80 on June 17, 2019.

