

LIFE TOGETHER



St. Jacobs Mennonite Church

www.sjmc.on.ca

Spring 2023

Pastor's Pen Kevin Derksen

Packing Up Memories

This is the last Pastor's Pen I will write for Life Together before our family packs up and moves to Manitoba this summer. Actually, the packing has already started. The pile of boxes is growing in the basement – one at a time, bit by bit. Hopefully by the time the end of June rolls around there won't be too much left to do! But the emotional packing has been underway for even longer. This is a big transition, and it takes a while to process. Try as we might to do this packing well, we'll be leaving much of our hearts behind. As tough as that can be, however, we keep reminding ourselves that this is a gift to be so thankful for. The leaving wouldn't be so hard if our time in St. Jacobs hadn't been so good.

So along with the boxes of shoes and toys, we have been slowly packing our memories. And these boxes are full to bursting. Fourteen years is a long time, and already I struggle to keep straight what happened when! There is probably something healthy about doing this kind of "housekeeping of the heart" – sifting through forgotten corners and reminding ourselves of what we have experienced and how God has been present. Just like a deep clean and organization of our closets and basements at home, it's something that should happen on a regular basis. But moving has a way of pushing us to do this work whether we want to or not. So in this farewell edition of the Pastor's Pen, I will share a few of the treasures that have come to mind over the past few months – in no particular order. Perhaps you'll find some of your own memories to dust off in the meantime as well.

- One of the early memories that returns with vivid clarity is walking into the Calvary United Church on the Monday morning of Vacation Bible School during our first summer in St. Jacobs. We had been travelling on vacation the week before, and arrived home just that Sunday night. I was blown away by how amazing and elaborate and energetic the whole VBS experience felt. It was like walking into another world. I spent a lot of time working with the VBS planning committee in the years that followed, hosting and

participating in this wonderful week with the kids in our community. What a gift this long-standing tradition was in the village of St. Jacobs. It was sad to let it go a few years ago, but the time had come. And the Spirit does continue to move between our St. Jacobs congregations and in the lives of our children.

- Another early memory also takes place at the Calvary United Church – this time at one of the annual Adult Fellowship Christmas banquets. Someone had thought fit to entrust the program portion of the evening to masters of mischief Ruth Martin and Pat Weber. The result, as you might recall, was a fashion show featuring an assortment of Santa's elves on vacation! I don't recall exactly what I wore, but I'm pretty sure tights and boas were involved. Fortunately I was not alone in the act, and found myself frankly impressed that this church had the depth of character to be so silly and irreverent for an evening! SJMC knows how to be serious, but it also knows how to have fun.
- Christmas, of course, leads into many more memories for the box. I think with a special poignancy of the year just before Lucy was born. Pam was 8 months pregnant and the obvious choice to be Mary for the children's pageant. So down the aisle we went to Bethlehem, pushing the wheeled donkey in our best bible-time housecoats. After that, it was our own children in the Christmas programs – wearing their halos, fidgeting in the choir, and delivering carefully rehearsed lines. And of course I can't help but remember two major Christmas productions – Amahl and the Night Visitors and The Worst Best Christmas Pageant Ever. High water marks of fun and hard work that brought people together.
- Our time at St. Jacobs will always be connected in memory with our kids' early years. All three were born here and saw the church as an extension of their home. It's a season of life that is both challenging and delightful, but our enduring memory will be of how gracious the congregation was with our family drama as it landed on full display Sunday mornings and elsewhere. During one of my pastoral reviews, I recall someone saying: "Don't worry if your family life pulls you away from things at church. You can offer leadership by your example as a parent too." What

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Writers & Contributors



Brent Horst • Editor



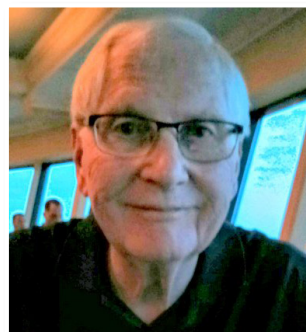
Kevin Derksen



Karen Sauder



Janice Cressman



Nelson Scheifele

Editorial

A Fond Farewell...

This issue is one of the ways we are saying farewell to Kevin, Pam, Charlie, Lucy and Caroline Derksen. Kevin wrote two articles and Janice coordinated another with the other family members. It is clear that we have all been impacted by the Derksens over these past fourteen years and we will miss them in many ways. Thanks be to God for having so many blessings and for the many good memories in our life together.

Karen interviewed Antje Zielinsky for our Getting to Know You feature. Try your hand on the Klassen family crossword and see how you did on the last issue's Metzger family crossword. Nelson updates us on an interesting project to create an Anabaptist Study Bible for the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025.

Life includes welcomes and goodbyes and everything in between. We continue to experience our lives as we say farewell to the Derksens and welcome new people among us today and those who will come in the future.

May God be with us all in these transitions and in our life together.

Brent

Thank You!

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Memories ...Continued

a gift, and it came with so many concrete examples of assistance and support as we stumbled through those early childhood years. We will remember that our kids were loved and cared for here.

- One of the things that emerged from our family life at St. Jacobs was the Sunday Supper tradition that carried on for many years. It started because we felt the need for connection with other families, and so began a weekly informal potluck on Sunday evenings at the church. It caught, and was an important hub of church community for a long time. We'd often have 4, 5 or 6+ households come out, including kids, teenagers, adults and others. The kids would run free and the adults would talk and laugh and slowly do dishes. Occasionally the meal was a little slim, as on the evening that the total main course contributions consisted of three broccoli salads. And once or twice our family shared a sad solo-potluck with ourselves. But so often it was a highlight of the week and a reminder of what a faith community can be. I'm thrilled that the spirit of Sunday Supper is being revived this spring in the "Sunday Lunch" potlucks that have happened a few times already after church.
- Another set of memory highlights are the June church camping weekends at Riverstone – and especially the

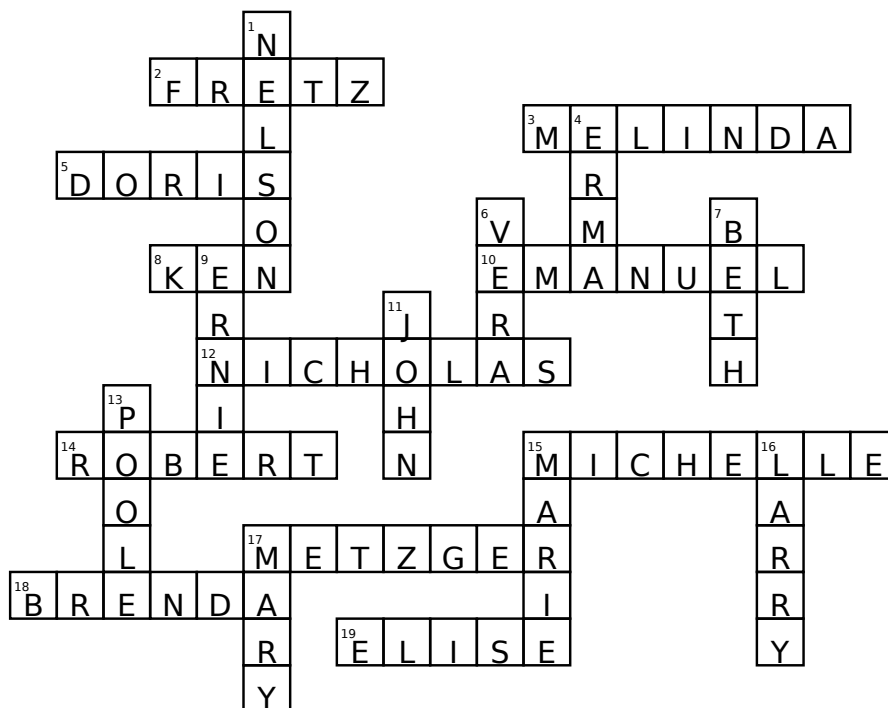
tradition of baptisms that took place in the Saugeen river over a number of years. I have been privileged to be part of many baptisms here – both young and old, in the river and in the sanctuary. It has been a joy to walk with individuals in their faith, to hear their stories, to share the touch of water that offers its gifts of God's blessing and affirmation.

- But for all those baptisms, I have been part of many more funerals together with my colleagues at St. Jacobs. This too has been precious and holy ground, and these memories I tuck into their box with special care. Being present at times of death and loss is a great privilege of the pastor's role. It's where we discover the rich and interesting histories of people who have lived whole lives before we came to know them. It's where we meet extended families come to grieve and celebrate together. It's where we are able to weave a life story into the gospel story of God's faithfulness to us in Jesus.

These memories and so much more we will take with us to Winnipeg. This has been so good, and we are so grateful. We trust that our paths may yet find occasions to cross again. There are many farewells yet ahead, but for now thank you to all who have filled our St. Jacobs memory boxes so beautifully!

Metzger Family

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS



Down:

1. Husband of Vera, last name Martin
4. Sister to John and wife of Ken
6. Heidelberg sister of Erma and Marie
7. Married to Larry, mother of Melinda
9. Geocacher and husband of Marie
11. Hobby painter and father to Larry
13. Brenda and Robert's last name
15. Sister of John and leader of SJMC Women
16. Son of John and retired from Toyota
17. Played ringette into her 80's, her license plate is RSHEEP

Across:

2. Last name of Marie and Ernie
3. Song Leader, soloist, teacher and daughter of Larry
5. Married to John and mother of Larry
8. Husband of Erma and Baker by name
10. Late husband of the "sheep whisperer"
12. Husband of Michelle, father of Elise
14. HH Truck driver married to Brenda
15. Daughter of Brenda, granddaughter of Mary
17. This SJMC family clan
18. Social Committee Coordinator and daughter of Emanuel
19. Great granddaughter of Emanuel and Mary

Life & Times



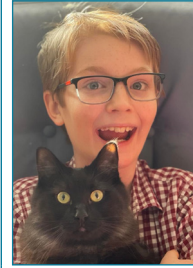
Akiie Ninomiya, 76
Retired Executive Director of APCD (Asia and the Pacific Development Center on Disability) in 2017. Presently is the Chief Advisor for APCD and resident of the Meadows Residential Community.

Childhood Home: Tokyo, Japan
 Present Home: St. Jacobs



Erma Baker, 82
Retired from doing childcare for 30 years.
 Maiden Name: Metzger

Childhood Home: Heidelberg, Ontario
 Present Home: St. Jacobs



Patrick Cain, 11
I am going to N.A. MacEachern French Immersion Public School in Grade 5. After Grade 5, I will go into Grade 6. After Grade 6, I will start going to MacGregor Public School.

Childhood Home: Blue house in Kitchener
 Present Home: Huntingdon Cr. with CATS!

Some of my favourite smells, sounds, tastes:

- Sound of ocean waves • Smell of incense
- Sound of the wind blowing through the trees
- Japanese tsukemono (pickles) • Onsen smell (Natural hot spring) • Chocolate

- Fresh cut grass • Bread baking • Laundry dried outside • Train whistle • Popcorn popping
- Ham dinner • Chocolate • Pecan pie • Fresh baked Chelsea buns • Spring flowers • Thunder

- Cats meowing at me to be fed
- The wonderful taste of a French crêpe
- Daddy's baked oats in the oven

Some things you may not know about me:

- I climbed Mount Fuji • I established 60+ Plus Bakery and Chocolate Factory in Bangkok • I published several books in Japanese including "Theology of Social work", "Persons with Disability in Asia and International NGOs" • I established AAN (ASEAN Autism Network) in Asia.

- When I was 11/12 years old I worked my summer holidays for \$3.00 per week
- I came from a family of 10 children
- Did childcare for 30 years
- I went on voluntary trip to West Virginia for a week, painting and repairing homes

- My parents say I look like Clark Kent when I put on my reading glasses
- I love cheese, but hate cheese sauce
- I like games but I hardly ever get my sister to play them
- I don't know how to write in cursive

Personality traits others would say I have:

- Cheerful • Visionary • Storyteller
- Passionate about food
- History buff • Social justice oriented

- Hardworking
- Caring • Helpful
- Deferent: I put others first

- Silly
- Kind • Fun
- Helpful • Nice

My interests include:

- International cooking • Promotion for international Accessible Tourism in Asia • Asian history in Turkey, China, Vietnam and central Asia • ASEAN Autism Network (AAN) In Asia • Disability movement and human rights in Asia • Bird watching

- Playing games
- Watching Toronto Blue Jays
- Watch grandchildren playing sports
- Travel
- Sew comforter tops for family and MCC
- Socialize with friends and family

- Build things
- Reading
- Making my sister laugh
- Messing around with my computer
- Climbing trees

Some favourite lifetime memories:

- Travelling in the Okanagan and Kootenay Valleys • Volunteer work in Pleiku, in the central highlands in Vietnam during the war
- Working with Asia and the Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) with over 30 countries • Habitat for Humanity works in the Philippines • Chief Advisor for Disabled People's International (DPI), Asia and the Pacific region • Working with Kobe Seiren Community Service in Kobe, Japan.

- Our wedding, children's births
- Our trips to Europe
- Travelling West and East with our children
- Camping with our children
- Fun times growing up on the farm
- Birth of grandchildren

- My dinosaur eighth birthday
- My awesome domino run
- Walking with Grandma in the wheelchair, Mommy, Daddy, Uncle Anthony, Kyle, my sister Ruth and Farley the dog
- Adopting Fluffy & Franky the cats
- Picking Farley the dog
- Going to the Jays game with Grandpa

Where I like to play or ponder:

- Cooking for the family and friends
- To promote inclusive community development
- To seek Quality of Life for an aging population

- At Cheryl and Rob's cottage
- Sitting on deck or out front
- On my recliner

- My room
- Outside
- Playing a game at the kitchen table

Some items on my "Bucket List":

- Trip to Izmir, Turkey and visit early Seven Christian churches remaining • Visit my brothers and their families in Japan and to have an onsen bath in Japan • Learn about bird watching in Ontario • To develop Japanese traditional Kaiseki cuisine.

- Watch grandchildren choose their vocations
- Go on another boat cruise
- See the grandchildren choose life partners
- Keep good health

- Go to Canada's Wonderland
- Learn how to play the recorder
- Learn how to play the piano

Reading Scripture Together for the Anabaptist Bible Project

Nelson Scheifele

In 2025, the global Anabaptist church will celebrate its five-hundredth anniversary. Various celebratory events and activities are planned to acknowledge this milestone occasion. Among them, Menno Media, under the guidance of Project Director John D. Roth and Managing Editor Mollee Moua is planning publishing of an Anabaptist Study Bible featuring notes and commentary from an anticipated five hundred Bible study groups from congregations across North America and around the world. Hopefully these groups will be comprised of different cultural contexts, backgrounds, ethnicities and ages.

The afternoon study group at SJMC decided to participate in the invitation for this unique project. Participants in the study group, meeting every other week from February through mid-April, included pastors Mark, Kevin and Janet, Bruce Kleinknecht, Don Penner, Brent Horst, Murray Buehler, Lydia Harder, Leah Boehm, Nelson Scheifele and several other occasional participants.

Applying to participate in this historic global project, the SJMC group was assigned six random scripture passages, from the Old and New Testaments, to study and respond to, guided by five provocative leading questions: What does the passage suggest about God? What might/does Jesus have to say about it? What does the passage suggest about humans – our possibilities and mistakes? How do you live differently because of this passage? What questions remain for you?

The assigned scriptures were most challenging including the following passages: Psalm 47; Luke 18: 1-30; Deuteronomy 28: 15-68; Ezra 2:68 -4:5; Revelation 9:13 through chapter 10; and Proverbs 30: 24-33.

Life Together readers are encouraged to read these passages and think about how they would use them to respond to the five questions noted above. We were encouraged to use the Common English Bible (CEB) translation for the discussions. During each session, participants, from 6 to 10 in number, struggled valiantly with the Biblical texts and a scribe (Kevin Derksen mainly) would record the discussion and prepare an abbreviated ten-point summary to be submitted to Menno Media. Hopefully some of our comments and observations will appear as notes in the 2025 Anabaptist Study Bible.

The underlying assumption of the Anabaptist Study Bible project is that central to the Anabaptist movement was the conviction that the Bible is to be read and interpreted by ordinary people in the common language of the day. Scripture, read in and by the community has sustained Anabaptist congregations for 500 years, convicting, encouraging and transforming believers. Biblical interpretation should be the task of every member, not just the scholarly experts. It is hoped this project can re-stimulate and nurture this tradition

In spite of the sometimes obscure Biblical passages we were assigned, discussion was always stimulating and each session ended with the gift of discovering more richness, meaning and linkages in each scripture passage than we could have imagined on our own. Our experience verified the importance of reading and studying scripture in community.



ANABAPTISM
at FIVE HUNDRED

The Gifts of the Broader Church



**Mennonite
Church**
Eastern Canada

Kevin Derksen

For the past 5 ½ years I have worked part-time for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) alongside my role as a pastor at St. Jacobs. My job title with MCEC is “Regional Ministry Associate.” Basically, I connect with other pastors and offer them pastoral care and support as they minister in their settings. Kind of like a pastor to pastors. There are three of us doing this work in different geographies across MCEC. My region has included Kitchener-Waterloo, congregations like St. Jacobs around the perimeter of the cities, those to the north in Woolwich and Grey, and those to the west in Wilmot township. There are 40-50 pastors on my list in these areas.

A big part of my job is attending the cluster ministerials where pastors in these regions get together. I connect with four of these clusters, and they each try to meet monthly. So I generally have one of these meetings every week. This is where pastors share what’s happening in their congregations, in their personal lives, and often have great conversations about important issues in the life of the church. I learn a whole lot from being around these circles.

The other part of my job is following up with individual pastors directly. That means a lot of coffees, a lot of lunches, and a lot of walks together. I have gotten very used to praying with people in public spaces! It’s been a real gift to walk alongside colleagues and hear what life is like in their contexts.

Working for MCEC has given me a valuable window into the broader church that we are part of at SJMC. Our vision sometimes ends at the edges of our community or even our building, but we are only a single congregation within a much bigger church. Here are a few things that I have noticed and learned over the years:

- Whatever we might be facing as a local congregation, we can be sure that we’re not the only ones! There is great comfort in realizing that we are not alone, but also great practical benefit in sharing experience and resources with each other as we’re able. But this means being connected enough to know what is happening elsewhere and where common themes are playing out.

- Many congregations don’t look the way they did 10, 20 or 30 years ago. Change is a feature of our experience across the board. And for many congregations, part of this change has been in ways that can feel like decline – fewer members, aging populations, reduced programs or activities. The pandemic accelerated many of these trends, and raised big questions in lots of places.
- I certainly hear grief and concern as I listen to others pastors, but I also hear remarkable creativity being sparked. Covid may have pushed some troubling trends, but it also reminded congregations that there are other ways of doing things! Church doesn’t have to look the way it always has. And maybe as scary as these times can sometimes feel, they give us a needed window to re-evaluate what we’re doing.
- A number of MCEC congregations have heard the call to be less concerned about how many people are coming to their sanctuaries for worship and more concerned about reaching out and making disciples in their neighbourhoods and communities. There are many new and creative expressions of church taking shape around us, including our partners at Burning Bush Forest Church.
- Some have begun to recognize that the church buildings which have served them well for so long are now more of a burden than an asset. There are a bunch of Mennonite churches exploring creative uses for their buildings and properties moving forward. A remarkable number are considering some version of a plan to remove their buildings to make space for affordable housing projects that might include a smaller meeting-space for the congregation to use for worship.
- There are also many MCEC congregations exploring various kinds of partnership with each other. Sharing services, sharing programs, sharing resources, even sharing pastors. One of the effects of the changes we are experiencing is a greater push to do things together – and this is exciting!

- But there are new things bubbling up in MCEC alongside these experiences of established congregations as well. Our regional church continues to receive and welcome vibrant communities of believers with ethnic roots all across the world. MCEC congregations now worship in over 20 languages! We are a church of many cultures, and a major call upon our life together at this time is learning to become intercultural. Not just making space for the different groups within our body, but actually knowing one another, learning from each other and depending on each other. Becoming one body in Christ. And these new-Canadian congregations bring with them enormous gifts. Many are bubbling over with children and youth, including some that struggle to find spaces big enough for them to gather for worship! And they often bring experience of struggle or unrest in their countries of origin that make them deeply and concretely committed to an Anabaptist gospel of peace.
- I have also been regularly reminded that our regional church is not just Ontario! It also includes commu-

nities in Quebec and New Brunswick, and there are some exciting things happening to the east of us. New church plants and initiatives with energetic communities of young people, and hearts tuned to serve the needs of their neighbourhoods. More and more of what MCEC does is happening in French!

- Finally, I have had an inside look at what our denominational leaders and staff do as the work of our congregations together. These are difficult jobs, but there are amazingly committed people doing them. We share our resources together to do what we cannot do alone. And this is good! SJMC has been a strong supporter of our regional and nation-wide church, and I'm very glad for this.

As we move on to Winnipeg, I will also be leaving my Regional Ministry Associate role. I look forward to getting to know a new part of our family of faith in Manitoba, but I will miss much that has shaped me here in MCEC. Thanks be to God for the gifts of the broader church.



Getting to Know...



Karen Sauder

One of the newest members of our St. Jacobs Mennonite Church (SJMC) congregation is Antje (Agema) Zielinsky. Sitting with Antje in her King Street home family room to interview her for this story, you can't help but notice the creative abilities of this woman. Beautiful pieces of pottery, many featuring intricate paintings of nature, are displayed with pride throughout this room and her home. She is a very gifted artist. How appropriate that a potter is being interviewed during SJMC's Lent theme of "Shaped and Called".

Antje was born December 31, 1950 to Douwe and Sjewke Agema in Leeuwarden (Friesland) Netherlands – a very special way for her parents to ring in the new year. Antje is the second oldest of 4 children. She has an older brother, Peter, and two younger sisters, Ellie and Rita. Peter and Rita reside in the Netherlands and Ellie lives in Africa.

Antje's father was in the military so the family moved around from base to base in and around the Netherlands where Antje spent the first four years of her life. At ten years of age the family moved to New Guinea on the island of Biak, then back to Steenwyk, Netherlands and finally to Schöppingen, Germany. Her early years were a real-life lesson in geography.

As a child, Antje's favourite memories include beginning her participation in her local church, enjoying school and learning the languages of the countries she was living in – Dutch, German and Malaise. She enjoyed swimming and swam competitively during her school days.

Antje enjoyed elementary school and was encouraged to remain enrolled past the normal graduation time because of her aptitude for mathematics. When she completed her additional studies and graduated, the only career options that were available to young women at the time were nursing or teaching. She chose nursing and spent 3 ½ years in training before working in the area of pediatrics. At that time, she lived in Germany and worked in the Netherlands, a 2 ½ hour commute. She enjoyed her work at the hospital but always felt she wanted to do something else for her life's work.

Antje had an interest in creating things and producing artwork. Her friend's father was a potter and owned a pottery studio. He became her mentor and under his guidance, she spent three years learning the fundamentals of pottery and becoming a potter. After the initial three years, she was referred to another studio to study with an instructor who was credentialed to mentor students through a master's program. Antje is a master potter and her pottery pieces attest to her talent.

When Antje was 15 years of age, she began her faith exploration journey. At first her involvement with the local church and its programs was an excuse to be away from her house. At the time, Antje was looking for a place where she could get away from a complicated home life for a few hours each week. A neighbour had suggested that she go to church, the only building open on a Sunday. Being at church gave her the opportunity to listen to the stories, participate in the singing and provided a safe place to be. She began to ask questions, a lot of questions. As her questions were answered, she started to believe. She was a part of this congregation for five years. When she was 17, she met her future husband, Manfred, at one of the church socials where members of the air force joined members of the church for a potluck style social. Antje was working as a nurse at the time and their two-year courtship often had Manfred transporting Antje on her 2 ½ hour commute between the Netherlands and Germany on the back of his motorcycle.

Antje's late husband, Manfred Zielinsky was born and raised in east Germany. He became a Major in the German Air Force specializing in the field of technology. Manfred and Antje were married on December 19, 1969 by a justice of the peace in the presence of 20-30 guests. At the time of their marriage, Antje was given the choice to become a German national as an element of their wedding ceremony. She chose Germany as her new nationality. Following their marriage there was more moving involved because of Manfred's military career, including Denver, Colorado and more locations in Europe. During their

early married years, Antje and Manfred discussed and questioned things about faith together. They continued attending church until the birth of their daughter, Sonja. After discussing the baptism of their daughter, they made the decision to create “church” in their own home – taking turns leading the weekly readings. This practice continued until Sonja was 12 and she started asking questions of her own. Because of Sonja’s questioning, they began searching for a church and faith community. They were unsuccessful so they continued to hold church at home. After their move to Canada in 1989, they continued the practice of worshipping in their home.

In 1978, because of growing unrest in Germany, Manfred and Antje decided to move their family to Canada. They had visited a few times to see if they would like to immigrate to Ontario specifically. Antje remembers going through an extensive screening process when they flew into Toronto. In 1989 they moved to St. Jacobs after residing in Waterloo for a few years. Initially, Antje rented retail space for “Antje’s Pottery”, her studio and retail store, in a building that was then located between Hachborn and Cedar Streets. When the rent for that space was dramatically increased, she decided to relocate the studio and business to the workshop located behind her home on High Crest Lane. Antje’s studio and business continues in that location to this day.

Antje and Manfred’s only daughter, Sonja, was born in Germany in 1972. Following their move to Canada and St. Jacobs, Sonja attended St. Jacobs Public School, Waterloo Collegiate Institute and the Sudbury campus of Lakehead University in the field of aviation. Presently, Sonja lives in Montreal with her husband Mark, and 10-year-old son, Max, where she works as a salesperson for Bombardier Aircraft. She assists customers who are ordering fleets of airplanes with electronic specifications and décor options. She often flies world-wide as these planes are delivered to their new owners. Sonja and her family are anticipating moving back to St. Jacobs this summer as her employment head office is being relocated to Toronto from Montreal. They will be sharing Antje’s home with her.

Antje has been supporting herself as a master potter since 1989. She offers classes in design, “throwing” pottery pieces, painting and finishing. She maintains that any art is always very subjective and her goal is to have her students



create their own pieces – not ones she instructs them to. She has 4 kilns that she uses and has sold her work across Canada and into the States. She was a frequent participant at the “One of a Kind” Craft show and sale in Toronto.

In addition to managing her pottery studio, she has been a crossing guard in St. Jacobs at the corner of King Street and High Crest Lane since 1991. Many children in the village have met Antje in her roll as a crossing guard. She is “dog mom” to Maya, her American Shepherd canine companion. Maya is also the dog that many village residents like to walk!

Antje’s interests are varied and some surprising. Besides being creative in her pottery pieces, she has done some quilt piecing and sewing. She enjoys reading and loves to research things that she wants to learn more about. When Antje and Manfred first established their home in St. Jacobs, she would regularly travel to Arthur, ON to go skydiving. Manfred questioned her interest, and her sanity, in pursuing this past-time. Sonja, who joined her for one sky diving session,

declared she wasn’t going to do that again since it made no sense to jump out of a perfectly good aircraft. Antje has earned a Kung Fu black belt after taking instructions at a gym in Waterloo. Her favourite foods are Nasi Goreng and Bami Goreng. She does have an allergy to eggs so she needs to be careful at our SJMC potlucks.

After Antje and Manfred’s daughter moved away from home, and the sudden and unexpected death of Manfred on December 26, 2017, she realized that she didn’t want to worship alone anymore. She began looking for a church. She literally looked across the street and began attending services at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church. She discovered the SJMC congregation to be welcoming and supportive. She has made SJMC her faith community, formalizing that commitment last year by sharing her faith story and being welcomed into membership by the congregation.

These past few months, Antje has been on a complicated health journey. She is looking forward to being able to worship with us again in person. Antje, we wish you all the best and hope for a good recovery in the months to come. We, too, are looking forward to having you back with us in person.

Departing Words from the rest of the Derksens



Janice Cressman



This is Janice Cressman reporting from station SJMC in St. Jacobs, Ontario, for the widely read, popular magazine, "Life Together".

As most of you are aware, a famous family from town, the Derksens, will be moving to our neighbouring province of Manitoba in the near future. I had the privilege of interviewing four of the family and the following is a brief summary. Charlie (13), Lucy (11) and Caroline (7) and their mother Pam, graciously responded to some pre-arranged questions and also were very spontaneous with their own comments.

"What are you most looking forward to as you think of moving to Manitoba?"

Charlie was quick to respond that he will now be living in the city which is home to the hockey team of the "Winnipeg Jets". He is hoping to be able to have input into the paint colour of his bedroom and I think he will also be willing to help paint! Playing soccer is high on his list of things to look forward to and he also wants to take violin lessons. Also high on the culinary list of great foods from all three children is Manitoba farmer's sausage.

Lucy's first response was eating the famous sausage. Very close behind was living near her grandparents and visiting her "old oma" who drives a red car. She is also looking forward to taking pottery lessons from her grandpa Derksen and hopefully her creations will not fly off the wheel! Also having two bathrooms in their new home will be VERY much appreciated. I reminded her that then she would have twice as many bathrooms to clean but she said, "Oh no, there are still the same number of persons using them so the dirt would still be the same, just spread over two rooms." I am not sure of the logic of that statement. Does that happen in real life?

Caroline is looking forward to taking piano lessons from her grandma. She will have her own bedroom in the attic but will not be alone because Charlie's bedroom will also be up there.

"Where will you be going to school, and do you know any children in your new church?"

Charlie will be attending Westgate Mennonite Collegiate (WMC) where he will be entering Grade 8 in September. He knows one person his age who will be going to their new church.

Lucy will also be attending WMC, entering Grade 6. She thinks she will know a few persons in her new school. Both Charlie and Lucy will have about an 18-minute walk to school.

Caroline will be going to a public school where she will be entering Grade 3 in September. She will have about a 6-minute walk to school.

"What are some of your best memories of living in St. Jacobs and attending SJMC all of your lives?"

Charlie will miss his school, friends and going to our church. Lucy and Caroline will miss their present home, ice cream from EcoCafe and the candy store downtown. They will miss their big back lawn to play in and having their school and church so close to home.

"Any last words to share with your church community before you leave?"

Charlie and I came to the conclusion that we grow as we live in new places, meet new people, and experience new situations in our lives.

Lucy and Caroline will miss their friends (most of them) and also have great memories of "The Best/Worst Christmas Pageant Ever". Shazam, Shazam, SHAZAM!

It is hard for me to imagine how busy and stressed Pam must be feeling right about now with mothering, her job, packing, supporting Kevin and moving a family and

belongings to a new province. However, she so graciously gave of her time to let me interview her.

"Looking Ahead"

Their new house will be considerably larger with a total of five bedrooms. Also, there will be a brand new kitchen. Not only is Pam excited about this, but Lucy and Caroline as budding little chefs, are also looking forward to enjoying it. There will also be some reconfigurations of rooms which will mean that some walls need to come down. The whole family is looking forward to having TWO bathrooms. Their new house was built in 1909 so it is considerably newer than their present one!

A slight downside is that the back lawn will be smaller but there is a park nearby for the children to play in. The whole family expressed how great it will be to have family nearby. Pam is planning to eventually work outside the home as an educational assistant. I am sure she will have no difficulty finding a meaningful job in that field.

"Concerns?"

It will be a BIG move! There is always the fear of the unknown. Also, finding a job is a bit of a concern. Hopefully the children will have no problems finding new friends and fitting easily into their new school and environment.

Leaving her sister and her family and all the friends they have made over the past years will be a tug. There are also the "housekeeping" issues of new dentist, doctor, bank, garage, etc..

"Some fond memories"

Pam was so appreciative of the care the congregation showed to her children, especially when they were little. She remembers how people would whisk baby Lucy from her after church and return her to Pam's arms later, thoroughly spoiled. Thank you!

She also remembers the countless meals and childcare we all so freely gave to the "Derksen kids". Also remembered were the performances given at the church – Amahl and the Night Visitors, The Best/Worst Christmas Pageant Ever, Messiah Sing-alongs and many more.

"Some words of wisdom"

Pam shared how she feels that it is so important for every church to nurture its youth. She encourages everyone to continue to find ways to connect with young people in the congregation, whether that is volunteering to help with a program, mentoring or just saying "hello" on Sunday mornings. Everyone has something to share.

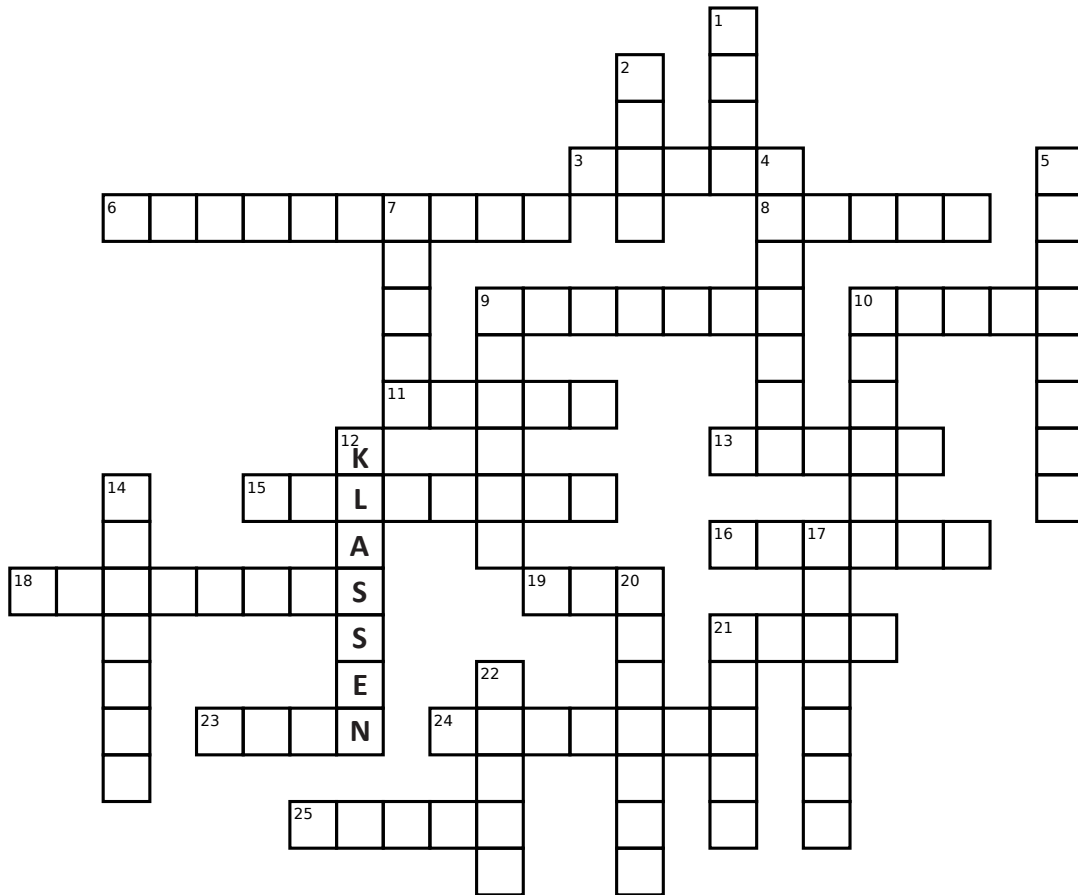
Thank you so much Charlie, Lucy, Caroline and Pam for your time and sharing. From all of us at station SJMC and the surrounding area, we wish the entire Derksen family the best of God's blessings as you move to Manitoba.

**WE
WILL
MISS
YOU!**



Klassen Clan

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Down:

1. Spouse of Hermann
2. husband of Doris
4. First name of the mother of Hermann or spouse of Karl
5. Last name of participant on Wall of Bakers TV show
7. Sister to Suzanne Ens
9. First name of Medical Officer of Health for Huron Perth Public Health
10. Matriarch and late spouse of Peter
12. Family name of this SJMC family group
14. First name of most recent past Chair of SJMC Council
17. Father to Sarah and Steven
20. Last name of Jacqueline and Lucas
21. Daughter of Suzanne and Abram

Across:

3. Spouse of Jacqueline and neighbour to Stew Sauder
6. Daughter of Miriam and regular song leader at SJMC
8. Last name of Johann and Lydia
9. Daughter of Karin and Wolfgang
10. Married name of Walli
11. Late husband of Suzanne
13. Patriarch of Klassen family of SJMC
15. Spouse of Karin and Staff Relations member
16. Spouse of Lydia
18. Son of Karin and Wolfgang
19. Last name of Suzanne and Abram
21. Son of Peter and Frieda
23. Last name Paul and Doris
24. Last name of Wolfgang