

Me, my family, and Melville

Donald Tosh What drew me to Melville in my early years was the fact that my Mother's Family "**Skeoch**" had gone to the first Melville Church in the late 1800's. I believe over the years all this family attended the Methodist Church, now United.

Marlene and I were married at Melville and our two sons were baptized at Melville. I became an active member helping with several maintenance projects. I find the congregation at Melville to be very friendly and inclusive. I am very proud of the years of benefit the United Church has been to the Town of Fergus and its citizens.

My Mother, **Lena Tosh** was a very active member as were her two sisters. I remember every family had a special pew where they always sat. There was a very active group of women U.C.W. who worshiped together, becoming great friends. I believe they were active in the Temperance Movement. **Mrs. Beattie** being a driving force, the members of the church had to follow her lead. At that time the Church was always full, and they sometimes had to bring in more chairs, set up in the aisles. Gradually over the years with discussions over the "Old Town Hall" the congregation became embroiled in controversy and half of Melville's members left to join other churches. Melville and St. Andrews always joined for a month in the summer but after the division that never happened again. Our congregation was dealing with a lot of division at that time.

Gertrude Martin (Mrs. Cecil), Fred and Norma's mother joined Melville U.C. on Oct. 10, 1930

1936 **Fred and Norma Martin** have attended here at Melville U.C. all their lives. Their parents Cecil and Gertrude also attended for many years

The Martin's Story

Cecil was a Trustee, at Melville, for a long time. His served through the time of all the kerfuffle about the Town Hall. Cecil also served on the Manse Committee.

Cecil died July 29, 1984. He was in the hospital for a year. Rev. Hurlehee did the funeral, at Lorne Patterson's Funeral Home. There was an older group in the UCW, which catered the luncheon. (Melville had several UCW groups then.)

Norma Margaret Martin was born at home, Dec. 21, 1934, baptized Jan. 16, 1936, by Rev. Charles W. Bishop, and Confirmed at 14 years, in 1948, along with 5 others. (Norma was supposed to have a third name of "Edna", but her Grandma said "No".) Frederick Thomas James Martin was born Nov. 20, 1936. He was baptized and then Confirmed at 14 years.

And John Stanley George Martin was born Apr. 11, 1948. He was baptized and Confirmed at 14 years. John attended The Young People's Group. John married Lexie, has 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren, and resides in Miramichi, N.B.. He has remained on Melville's Historical Roll.

Norma never married. She worked for 43 years (July 5, 1954-Apr 30, 1997) for Mutual Life, which became Clarica, and is now Sunlife, in Kitchener. She worked in the Mortgage Dept. with 60 employees. Five retired at the same time, and now there are only 2 living. Norma wondered what she was going to do after she retired, but in no time, she was needed to care for her mother full-time, after she took a stroke.

Gertrude, was cared for at home by Norma, for 5 years. The VON came in twice a day. After she fell, she was in the hospital (Aug 10, 2001-Sept 27, 2001), then in Wellington Terrace (Sept 27, 2001-Apr 25, 2002), when she passed away. Rev. Stephen Huntley performed the funeral service.

Norma served on the Session Committee, as an Elder. She had to deliver Communion Cards and then, be there on Sunday, to help serve the Communion elements. Norma helped out on Sundays as an Usher, or by Counting the Offering, and also served on the Pastoral Care Committee since 2002, and is presently

still active on it.

Fred also served on the Session Committee for 3 years. He would have 12 Communion cards to deliver to people at the door. But, he especially enjoyed visiting the farmers, where he would have a good visit and talk to them for 2 hours.

Fred remembers:

- when Melville used to rent out rooms upstairs. Archie Anderson, a bachelor, who was the janitor of the church for years, had a bedroom in the basement.

- when CKNX Barn Dance went around each municipality and put it on the radio. The power was shut way down because the Americans had control of the air waves. You could hardly hear the music and Fred used to get provoked!

- The Ranch Boys, from Wingham, played music in the Old Town Hall once, and Fred went to see them.

- the Old Town Hall was never used for anything, but the old-timers didn't like it being torn down. He remembers one man standing up on St. George St. W, protesting, in front of the Manse, when the wreckers were tearing it down.

- there used to be a building or old shed at the south end of the church building, for horses, for when people came to church in horse and buggies.

At Melville, there used to be: the Stewards (ie: Finance, Property, etc.), the Session (the Elders looked after delivering the Communion Cards, and being there on Sunday to serve Communion), and the Official Board (which was over everything and met once a month). At Communion, there were extra chairs brought in, filling up the aisles. The balcony was also packed.

At one time, there used to be a New Years' Eve Party at Melville, for all the churches around the area. It was put on by The Young People's Group.

Both Fred and Norma enjoy: musical performances included in the Sunday service, Concerts, Suppers, and the Annual Congregational Meetings with a Luncheon before.

Norma enjoys the Friday Morning Coffee Hours, Sunday Coffee-time after the service, and especially the Concert that was put on by Marion last year, which included a number of other church singers from other churches, etc..

The Martin family were always loyal to Melville United Church, and attended faithfully and regularly.

1940s **Marlene Tosh** Some of my memories growing up in Fergus and attending Melville Church: My parents moved from the Orangeville area to Fergus around 1928. My father worked at Beatty Brothers and as you know the Beatty's were great supporters of Melville. It was the reason a lot of families were drawn to Melville United Church.

I have 4 sisters and 1 brother. (6) The 3 older girls sang in the choir over the years so I presume they went to Sunday School. I started to go to Sunday School around the age of 4. It was great fun to be around children my own age. We had a very large group and the teachers told us stories about the Bible. It was a happy way to start the new week. We had wonderful Christmas Concerts. Every summer we had a "Sunday School Picnic" where we had games and ice cream and the parents went too. I sang with the Junior Choir. I think there were around 20 girls and boys. We had Explorers and C.G.I.T. some of our leaders were **Janet McFadzean, Elizabeth Templin** and **Lois Chambers**, maybe **Peggie Dickie**.

Don and I were married at Melville and our 2 sons baptized there.

My father was on the Board of Stewards and I went to Melville with him on a regular basis. After he died, for a long time I could not return to religion or church, but gradually all the joy I had felt from my attachment at Melville found me coming out feeling comfortable again.

I remember so many wonderful people from Melville who now are no longer with us and the ones that are here and so many others work so hard to keep Melville United Church alive.

Lois Dobbie I remember as a child the great times we had at Sunday school. We were divided into age groups and had lots of good teachers. One of my favorite was Mrs. W.G. Beattie who was a great

teacher but also lots of fun. We had each year a sleigh ride for all kids in our church and all the kids went to this. After we came back to the church basement and had a hot dinner. I remember most of the teenage boys had 4 to 5 pies of home-made pie. I also remember my father Fred Matthews was an usher for years and when communion Sunday came he and the other ushers had to bring in chairs and put them in the aisles to hold all the people as the rest of the church was full. The upstairs was also full, and they brought in chairs to fill the upstairs. We also had great ministers and a large choir and a junior choir. We had a group of men and women put on plays in the upstairs of the church but I can't remember the name of the group but I am sure there are lots of pictures of them.

Karen Ibbotson Banu came in late 40s to Sunday School and Mission Band after school. Loved it.

Peggie and Bill Dickie transferred to Melville U.C. from Colbourne U.C. in Brantford Peggie Dickie's memories Our first connection with Melville was in September 1949 was when **Mrs. George Beattie** introduced us to **Kay and Bruce Oldfield** who invited us to come to lunch with them. They had just been married a few weeks before. We had our daughter Ginni with us who was just 18 months old. After lunch, we played bridge while Ginni played with the pots and pans.

We made a life here at Melville. Both of us taught Sunday School. I was in the choir. We led the youth group for a few years. We were both elders, I only after women were allowed! I have been a member of the UCW all through the years beginning as the Women's Auxiliary. I met **Janet McFadzean** at the first meeting. She drove me home. From there, we had a wonderful friendship with Janet and Barrie.

Norma & Sam Harrop came in the early 1960's

Robert Zirk In September 1963, my wife **Barbara** and I and our two children Laurie, three years old and Robbie two years old, moved to Fergus for me to begin my teaching career at James McQueen Public School. As Barbara and I had been members of Erskine United Church in London, Ontario we soon began attending Melville United Church. In 1968 our daughter, Jennifer was born and was baptized at Melville. A fond memory that Barbara and I have is the joy and fun we had when we joined the former Melville Couples Club.

Ron Antiicknap moved to Fergus in 1972 from Atwood Ontario. He got a job working in the barns at Gencor, now known as Semex Canada on Hwy 6 north of Guelph He was invited to attend Melville church by a neighbour. He transferred his membership in 1973. **Bev** grew up in Fergus, but attended St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. I lived during the week in KW but came home on weekends. I worked in the Bank of Montreal in Waterloo. I met Ron in 1976 through friends that we both knew. We got married on October 7 1977 at St Andrew's Church. We lived on Colquhoun St where all our three daughters were born. In 1978 I transferred my membership to Melville Church. In 1983, when Amy was 8 months old we moved to our present home on Breadalbane Street where we still live. All our daughters were baptized, confirmed and married at Melville. We have three grandsons: Landon age 12, Brennan age 10, and Johnathon age 9. Ron and I have been involved in many ways at Melville, and have made many friends over the years.

1974 Marg and Les Frayne arrived at Melville as a young couple and sat in the "Beatty" pew – we were told after the fact

1975 May 31 Brad and Heather Halls married at Melville

1976 Deb Bodiam states that -her Uncle Ed (**Richard Samuel Edgar Large**) and his wife **Rena** (Katrina) who was a teacher and daughter of a missionary attended Melville 1926-1930 Deb and her husband and four young sons moved to Fergus and started attending Melville in 1976; they moved to Fergus because it was a better commute for her husband's work. They chose Melville because she had always attended the United Church. Deb was a Sunday School teacher, and belonged to UCW Unit H.

Rainford's arrived (3) Ralph, Alison and baby Lisa first attended Melville in September 1976.

1978 Sharon was born and baptized, **1980** Michelle was born and baptized, and in **1978** Shannon was born and baptized.

It was September **1976** and we had 3 month old Lisa on the pew between us. She was certainly an ice breaker for conversation! **Reverend George Slater** was in the pulpit and we decided to make Melville our church family. Our own family grew by three more daughters by 1982 who were each baptized at Melville.

We have memories of some fun times: a Halloween Howl, Pew nights, Irish Suppers, many Pancake suppers and Fall Festivals. At one silent auction we purchased a flight offered by Don Brown. We flew over some of south western Ontario with great views and time to get to know each other. The Halloween Howl was sponsored by the youth group. There were games on all levels of the church but under the sanctuary were the gruesome events. Play Eat Worship, PEW nights were great for getting to know people. The meals were pot luck and games were played. After the years of annual church picnics, we also remember changing to camping days and weekends in several different locations. Because of horses to look after, we never stayed overnight but this was a highlight for many youth and families.

Christmas Eve services are always very meaningful. When we first arrived at Melville there were no special Christmas services. The last few years there's been an early evening service where it's great to see the children take part with such excitement. The later candlelight service is contemplative with communion served in a circle. I also remember the years of getting up before daylight to attend the Easter sunrise service held outside. Some years it was at the Shand Dam and then in Templin Gardens. Easter breakfast was welcome afterwards joined by those who would be attending the regular service. One very fancy celebration was when Reverend Steve Huntley after 15 years left Melville for another church. The fine linens were brought out with wonderful entertainment and speeches. A wonderful time was had by all as we wished Steve blessings on his next journey. People make up so many great memories. We have to remember that the church is the people. Thanks for the memories with our faith community. **Ralph and Alison Rainford**

Ruth Sproule writes: In 1978 **Gary** was offered a job with The Fergus Police Service. So in September of that year we moved to Belsyde apartments and we were pleased to be in small town Ontario, after a year in Toronto. What a beautiful wee town and being a country kid I knew the one way to make friends was to find a church. I was raised in The United Church (Midland) and thought I would give it a go. I started about the same time that Rev. James Young came to Melville. He was new and so was I.

Rev. Slater had just left and the congregation was heartbroken....they just thought so highly of him and his family. It was a tough go for Rev. Young, trying to fill Rev. Slater's shoes and it was also the era of the demolition of the old town hall that sat in our current parking lot. A decision was made that it would be demolished and Rev. Young took the blame. Rev. and Mrs. Young were at Melville for a few years and they were well thought of, but when Rev. Young took the blame with him when they left, it freed up the congregation to move ahead.

It was a different time. As a child everyone went to church, it was what every family did. We were now in the era of families choosing other distractions on Sunday mornings. Early morning hockey practice on Sundays, stores opening on Sundays, more women in the work force, household jobs to do on weekends etc. Lots of excuses to not attend church.

The congregation changed. We had the seniors who still packed the church, and a few young families. The United Church of Canada changed as well. They knew they had to try to keep families involved. Now 40+ years later, we are still at Melville. As other churches, small congregations seem to be the style. My thoughts are I am so glad I choose to attend Melville that first Sunday in September 1978 because if I had not, I wouldn't have met my church family!!

1979 I came to Melville with my two sons. I've been here for 41 years. **Lorna Bevcar, Glen and Jason**

Lorna Bevcar's Story

On Apr. 9, 1979, we moved to Fergus, after owning two farms in the Conn area, for 10 years. I had attended the Baptist church in my area, with my 2 preschooler boys, not that I was Baptist, but because it was just down the road from our farms.

When we moved to Fergus, I checked out the United Church here, and started attending Melville with

my sons, Glen and Jason. My husband used to work on Sundays.

In the fall of that year, we found out, through changing doctors, that Glen had a hole in the heart (Atrial Septal Defect), since birth and would need surgery. To us, that was devastating! He had only ever had chicken pox! That was when I found my faith and going to church, was really necessary for me/us. We had not had the boys baptized, and in fact I had not been baptized. And this became very important to me at this time, so with Rev. Jim Young, both boys were baptized in Dec and I became a member of Melville in March 1980. At the age of 14, Glen was confirmed.

In 2002, I became active in the church, and joined the Pastoral Care Committee. Within a month or two, the Chair of the Committee stepped down, and I took her place. I really enjoyed that, and stayed on for about 7 years.

In June 2002, Rev. Stephen Huntley asked the congregation to go home and think of ideas of how we could raise some funds. It was then that the idea of the "Memory Angels" came to me. A 5" Angel, made of card stock, and written in the skirt was "In Memory of/and from", and they would adorn Melville's Christmas Tree and Sanctuary, for a donation. This has been a very meaningful and achievable goal! And appreciated by the Congregation!

I moved to the Fun, Funds and Fellowship Committee in 2009, and soon became the Chair, and I am that presently. It seems to be my niche, raising funds through: Pancake Suppers, Spring & Fall Garage & Bake Sales, Melville's Fall Festival, Concerts, Fri. Morning Coffee Hours, etc..

I have enjoyed: participating a few times in Melville's Proclamation of the Bible, and helping create our 2017 Photo Directory.

Some of my best memories of Melville are: having Sun. Service and Pot Luck Luncheon at Highland Camp Ground Pavilion, Camping at Camp Edgewood, BBQ's and campfires at The Fraynes, Camp Day at The Duncans, Wii Bowling, making Angels at our Unit Meetings, helping make Melville's Meat Pies or doing luncheons, and the latest: having our Covid19 Fri. Morning Coffee Hour in the Garden or the Parking Lot from Aug to Nov.

We have seen many changes at Melville, and hopefully will carve out our future there also!

Marg Frayne – I was a teacher in Melville Sunday School which had 100 in attendance during 1980's

1986 Mary, Melissa & Christopher Lloyd began attending.

1988 Elmer & Ioan Shortt arrived at Melville and have enjoyed attending ever since.

1988 Rawn family (Barry, Rossie, Cody) Kaillie arrived **1989**. We arrived at Melville in 1988, after moving to Fergus. Our son, Cody, was just a few weeks old. Kaillie was born in 1989, and Shannon was born in 1991. Cody and his wife Rebecca now live in Stoney Creek, and Kaillie and Shannon both live in Fergus. Cody was baptized at the church that Barry was raised in, and where his parents attended, Trinity United in Holstein, Ontario. Kaillie and Shannon were both baptized at Melville.

The kids liked sitting up in the balcony, in the front pew, where they could see well, so that is where we usually sat as a family. Often the bulletin would be sitting on the top of the railing, and sometimes one or more hymn books were as well. We recall during one service, or perhaps it was an evening concert, that at least one of our little kids were moving around and not sitting still of course, when a hymn book fell off the railing and landed on the floor below with a bang. We all looked down over the edge, and smiled; being glad it did not hit anybody.

All three kids attended Sunday School, and Kid's Church as it has more recently been called. Sunday School often had 20 to 30 or more children attending in the 90's, although the numbers had already reduced a bit from years before that. Barry and Rossie taught Sunday School sometimes, and Barry was Sunday School superintendent for 5 years in the 1990's. **Nancy Miner** had been the superintendent for the 5 years before that. Barry would regularly play his guitar and sing in Sunday School with the kids. In later years, Cody led the youth classes of Kids Church.

Our family has enjoyed participating in the entertainment and various social evenings held in the Fellowship Hall. When they were fairly young, Cody, Kaillie and Shannon all played pieces on the piano. Cody also sang, with Barry accompanying on guitar, on several occasions.

One of the other socials (probably 20 years ago) was a mock fashion show where several of the men of the congregation (including Barry) were given the theme of their "new seasonal outfit" and they were to put it together and strut their stuff at the show, with the "new look for this year". Barry's fashion statement included rubber boots rather than high heels. A couple of the other "models" were **Ted Ecclestone** and **Elmer Shortt**.

A while after **Rev. Stephen Huntley** arrived at Melville, he asked Barry to join him playing the guitar during some church services. Steve had frequently been playing his guitar and singing a song at the children's time in the services. This developed over time into Melville's Band, along with **Matthias Schmidt** on the piano.

Other folks who were regularly in the band over the years were **Susanne Schmidt, Jen Auger** and **Leanne MacLean**. **Bob** and **Joanne Mitchell** have more recently joined the band (now Spirit Sings), along with **Suzanne Flewelling** on piano. Barry has really enjoyed singing with his guitar in the church services, and on other occasions.

Cody, Kaillie and Shannon participated in the Kids Church plays and Christmas pageants. Cody also sang with the band sometimes. Cody has played trombone and Kaillie has played trumpet for some programs. Kaillie has also played the trumpet during the Remembrance Day church service a few times. Shannon has played the piano a few times during church services. A highlight of other Melville music was the musical production of *Joseph* in 2010. Cody played the part of Joseph, sang several solos and acted extremely well, if we might say so ourselves. Barry participated as one of the brothers in the chorus. Our family also enjoyed the good times while attending Melville's Family Camp Weekends. We, along with everyone who attended, participated in the meals, games, skits, outdoor worship service and music. We and several other families tented for the weekend, and other folks stayed in cabins at the camp.

Also, a few years ago, Kaillie became Melville's Treasurer. Barry was on the Stewardship Committee, and has been on the Property Committee for several years. Last winter, Shannon offered to do the seasonal decorating of the Sanctuary, but has not done much yet in 2020 due to the pandemic and limited building use.

Thanks **Barry & Rossie Rawn**

From **Joanne Mitchell** On this Anniversary Sunday, *Spirit Sings* would like to take a moment to remember how we began. Melville's Praise Team began with one voice and one guitar, those of **Rev. Stephen Huntley**. Soon **Barry Rawn** was inspired to join Steve and became the second of the founding members. The melody of life changes over time, and so have the hands and voices involved in Melville's Praise Team. But from that one voice and one guitar, until today, the Spirit Sings on. In Light and Love, Joanne

George & Dorothy Collin came to Fergus in 1992– confirmation of **Lisa & Sharon**. They joined the church in 1999. Dorothy served on the Outreach Committee and George on Ministry and Personnel.

Neil and I first came to Fergus and to Melville United in 1993, shortly after we were married. I remember officially transferring my membership to Melville when I was 9 months pregnant with our first son, Jeremy. Our boys (**Jeremy, Timothy and Graham**) were all baptised and confirmed at Melville and participated in Kids' Church and youth groups. Our favorite time of the year was Melville church camp, starting out at Highland Pines (when Graham was only 2 years old) then many years at Edgewood before the last camp at Everton (where Graham was confirmed). The boys were always so excited for those camp weekends, spent exploring, learning and worshipping with friends. Sunday School Christmas concerts, **Matthias'** musicals and **Jenn's** PEW nights were also among the church activities we enjoyed as a family. Neil and I have participated in numerous committees and events over the years. We feel blessed to have made life-long friends through our time at Melville. **Shawna & Neil Dunsmore**

1994 Rhonda Hurst

1994 Susan Longe

1994 Philip, Evelyn, & Ellen Brown move to Fergus and joined Melville. **Rachel Brown** born, 1997 and baptized at Melville (**Rev. D. Fairweather**)

1998 Bunny Russell. been here 22-1/2 years.

1998 Amy Anticknap

1999 Ken McManus and Susan Barth came to Melville.

I (**Elizabeth Stinson**) arrived in Fergus, newly retired and on my own, in the summer of **1999**. One of the first things I did was join Melville United Church. I was born, "United Church" in 1927 and had been a faithful member and "attender" all my life. – no matter where I lived.

"How should I be involved at Melville was the current question. I decided to join the choir. I had sung in choirs while growing up, and at University in Edmonton. I loved singing. Always an Alto, by now my singing was going lower and I was most comfortable in the Tenor section. At the first choir practice I sat by a man called "Jim". (**Jim Maguire**, I learned later.) In a break in the practice Jim and I talked, and somehow the word "bicycle" got into the conversation. Jim said, "Oh, do you ride a bike?" I said, "YES, I do!" He said, "You should ride with **Mary** and me." I thought, "Oh sure! That's easy for you to say, but what is SHE going to say?" Not long after that I met Mary!!!! She became one of my BEST friends, and we are STILL friends!!!! Nowadays we phone each other – she from Highland Manor in Fergus, and I from Fairwinds Residence, in Sarnia (where one of my daughters lives).

MELVILLE UNITED: Worshiping there every Sunday, attending Study groups, going to Church Dinners, Bazaars, and other fun activities... The PEOPLE: Devoted, caring, generous, fun-loving Melville was the "heart" of my living happily in Fergus for almost twenty years.

God Bless the people of Melville United – past, present and future. Amen.

We (**Norm and Linda Porrit**) joined Melville in **2000** after moving to Fergus from Guelph. There we belonged to Harcourt United. **Myrtle Black** was a long-time family friend so she soon had us involved at Melville. She often phoned late Saturday night to enlist us to greet or count. She had a great skill for getting members involved.(she knew them all).

We met **Peggy and Bill Dickie** before we actually moved here. My father was a long time patient at Groves and they came there regularly to conduct a worship time for the patients. They were very dedicated and we remember them as "Melville People"

The first Fall Festival was great! All of the congregation were involved in a 2 day event. So much going on: a concert, dinner, kid's activities, bake sale, crafts, attic treasures, sewing etc. Plus lots of good food! For example, **Dr Armstrong** brought a big box of homemade preserves he had made to sell. Everyone contributed. It was an amazing boost for our congregation and a community event for all. We all felt a sense of pride and accomplishment (and some fatigue)

We arrived at Melville in 2000 Y2K during a time of uncertainty, thinking the world would lose power. internet, heat etc. Now 20 years later, we are back to uncertainty again. We have anxiety because of Covid 19, global unrest, smaller congregations at church etc. etc. Despite all Melville is still here. Keep calm and carry on. Stay safe. **Norm and Linda Porrit**

2001 Ogilvie Family – Dave, Linda Mae, Liam and Ella.

2003 Lillian & David Gohn started attending Melville in October. David: Served as Chair of Council – twice. Currently serving on the Finance Committee. Lillian: from time to time sings in the choir. Served on Worship & Music Committee. Currently serving as Chair.

2008 Graeme Chalmers & Millie Cumming moved to Fergus in the summer of 2008. On our first Sunday we walked to Melville. Millie had a life-long connection with the United Church; Graeme's background was more varied, so we decided to try several churches before making a decision. We enjoyed the service. Millie was particularly pleased by the organ music played by **Matthias**. We felt brave enough to accept an invitation to coffee in the parlour. We met several interesting people and made connections with a few who shared some common experience, such as **Wilf and Myrtle Baker** and **Janet McFadzean**. We were introduced to **Stephen Huntley**, who later came to meet us at home. It

wasn't long before Millie transferred her membership and Graeme became a member –in a few weeks he was co-chairing the JNAC for a new minister and Millie was involved with pastoral care. Other than attend an occasional Anglican service, we never did go anywhere else.

Lynne and David Lamb David and I first came to Melville United Church the summer of **2009** in response to an ad in the local newspaper indicating that Lynda Goy-Flint was leading worship that Sunday. I knew Lynda from Emmanuel College and wanted to hear her preach. Everyone at Melville was so welcoming even after they learned that we were cottagers on Belwood Lake. We returned the following Sunday to the same friendly atmosphere and decided that Melville would be our second church home when we were at our home at the lake. The longer we have attended and become involved in the various activities the more we appreciate all that Melville has to offer.

We moved to Fergus in June **2010** and by the fall we joined this church. We had attended Melville occasionally with one of our daughters, particularly when the grandchildren were taking part in a special service. We had moved a few times and found Melville to be one of the most welcoming churches that we have ever attended. **Larry & Doreen Broome**

2011 Evelyn Sulley was baptized. June Sulley joined the church

Allan Hons: I set up a table on the roof of the education wing to surprise my wife on our anniversary. We had the finest Indian Food Fergus provides along with a favorite bottle of wine. We were enjoying our meal when out of nowhere, **Ron Anticknap** pokes his head through the window and asks, "What's for dinner?" He saw the open window doing his rounds of closing-up the building and thought he would check it out. We joked around for a bit and then Ron took his leave. We enjoyed the rest of our meal as the sun set over Fergus for a perfect anniversary.

I was fortunate enough to have my daughters baptized in the same church where I was baptized, which made for **four generations of my family** attending Melville.

2014 Marion Loree started ministry at Melville in February.

2017 Chris Hopewell joined (confirmed in **2018**)

2018 Ilse Jakelski: I found connections from my hometown right away. Also from my new living quarters. I came from St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury to Melville United Church in Fergus in 2018. I found a warm welcome and was happy to join the choir, since I was a choir member my whole life long. I also enjoyed other activities, but especially the Lenten and advent studies that the Minister, **Marion Lorree** provided. The Spirituality Circle helps me to grow in my understanding of our faith and to each other. The care the church provides for the elderly and people in need is heartwarming. I wish the church a continued presence in the community and my heartfelt congratulations to this wonderful Anniversary!