



When Life Doesn't Go As Planned...

~ Paul & Sharon Penner

Annual General Meeting 2017

March 2nd at 7pm

Please join us on Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm for our Annual General Meeting at the Morden Pembina Counselling Centre office at 400 Stephen St.

Fundraising Banquet

Our banquet will be on April 20th. Location to be determined so stay tuned for more details.

PCC Locations

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Yesterday Sharon and I paid a visit to our friend Ed Gerbrandt at Boundary Trails Hospital. He is fighting cancer - a journey he has been on for awhile.

We go way back to college days. Ed was the first person I met on registration day and since that time our lives have continued to intersect. Long term friendships effect not only us but also our kids.

I was eager to talk with Ed & Mavis about this unplanned journey they are on. I had some questions to ask because suddenly our paths are meeting again around a shared battle with cancer. It was not the path Sharon and I were planning but suddenly we find ourselves here... in unfamiliar territory full of unknowns and uncertainty.

As we talked together, Ed and Mavis observed that there were times when they felt solid in their faith and peace was there, and then there were times when they were distressed and fearful of the many unknowns. Yet, they were most eager to share the best part of their journey... the places where they looked to God and experienced Him. The God stories... the ones that speak about His love for us, right now in the midst of our troubles. Sharon and I listened intently to their stories and were encouraged because this is the same God we want to follow. Our God... who is the same yesterday, today and forever!

“Suddenly our paths are meeting again around a shared battle with cancer”

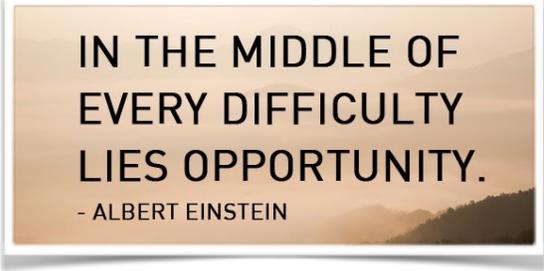
I look forward to hearing more of Ed's God stories and I need God encounters myself. I expect that will happen. My journal is ready for new entries. We prayed together before I left and then I slipped into the next room where another friend is travelling a similar road.

Our journeys are very individual even if we pass by some common landmarks on life's road. Sometimes life is scary because of all the unknowns which challenge our faith. At other times, life offers us a taste of heaven and we would just like to camp there for awhile.

My reflections leave me with a few things I want to hold onto. First, although the road has different scenery, we have been at this place of 'unknowns' before and God has been with us. That is comforting. Second, in our individual journeys through life (the rocky roads and the smooth ones) the one thing that is most important, is to seek God and discover Him and then share what we have discovered with others. It is in the journey that we find and know God (again). That's my prayer for you and for us.

I will be glad to have your prayers for Sharon and myself as we seek answers and make decisions. And I value your continued prayers for the work at PCC, and as God moves you, to find joy in partnering with PCC financially. The rest of the team here – Judi (*who will be retiring at the end of April*), Wayne, Angela, Dennis, Danita, Irma, Joyce, Sharon, Patricia and Barb – will carry on with their roles in counselling and support. As for me, I will continue in my role as my health allows.

Looking to God... Paul and Sharon



IN THE MIDDLE OF
EVERY DIFFICULTY
LIES OPPORTUNITY.

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

Celebrating Time In Ministry ~ Danita Janzen

This year, as staff, we decided to celebrate the years we've been working with Pembina Counselling Centre. There are 4 of us who have just finished our 5th year working with PCC and it's amazing how much has happened in that time.

I remember my first day, just 3 weeks after becoming a newlywed and moving from Winnipeg to Morden. Culture shock was happening, to say the least. Something as simple as getting to work could be done in a 7 minute walk instead of my usual 45 minute transit ride in the city. I was excited to be working in ministry again, but I wasn't sure what to expect or who I would be working with... it was just going to be an adventure.

In that time, getting to know the compassionate and caring people who work at our office, and meeting new people who've partnered with us or used our services, has been incredibly rewarding. I've been allowed to journey with over 3,000 people in ways I never would have imagined possible. God has been so good in providing this office for me, not only professionally but also personally. My husband and I have walked through our own journey of being married, my husband's kidney failure and potential future transplant, an adoption process, and many more of life's issues, so working with counsellors has been a perk & a healthy journey for me.

Overall, our staff have been in ministry many years. It's been 5 years for; Dennis Fehr, Sharon Heinrichs, myself and Angela Lussier; 7 years for Irma Harms; 11 years for Wayne Banman; 20 years for Paul Penner and 24 years for Judi Heide. Change will definitely be happening this year as Judi will be retiring April 28th. Our office will not be the same but we are so thankful for the amazing work she has done and continues to do at PCC. With a grateful heart we look forward to the ways God provides for our ministry together.

Help Us Serve You Better

In 10 questions, let us know what you think about the job we're doing at PCC and where we can improve.

Please go to our website www.pembinacounsellingcentre.ca and click on the survey link.