



This Year

2,393 Appointments
257 New Clients
414 Returning Clients

New Team Members



Melissa Wieler
Bookkeeper



Lana Alencar
Counsellor

By Chris Derksen



FROM BUSYNESS TO TIME WELL SPENT

Life is busy. This is the most common statement I hear from people in the Fall, and as I reflect on my own reality, I'd have to agree that life is busy. Whether its kids returning to school, sports, piano lessons, church ministry kickoffs.....you get the picture.

These are all important things, but what can be sacrificed on the altar of busyness and activity is our time with the Lord. However, if we look at the example of Jesus we see that he frequently retreated to spend time with his Father. Luke 5:15-16 "Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

From this passage we can see that there was great demand on Jesus' time, but that regardless of the legitimate needs of the people and the importance of His ministry, Jesus always prioritized spending time with his Father.

Taking our lessons from our Lord Jesus, I encourage us all to take time in the busyness of life to get our noses in the word of God, and to spend time in prayer with our Heavenly Father. It is time well spent.

Speaking of being busy, we continue to be incredibly busy here at Pembina Counselling Centre. So much so that we've expanded our team again to meet the growing demands for our services. It gives me great joy to introduce our new team members;

Melissa Wieler is our new bookkeeper and recently completed her maternity leave and wanted to return to the workforce part-time. We are happy to welcome her to our PCC family, and grateful for her financial skills and abilities, as well as her joyous laughter in the office.

Lana Marinho Bezerra Alencar is our newest counsellor. She and her family immigrated to Canada from Brazil in 2018 to complete her counselling degree at Providence Theological Seminary. We are thankful they decided to stay after graduation and grateful Lana is continuing her practice at PCC. She is a very gifted counsellor and has a heart for newcomers to our community.

Finally, I'd like to introduce to you our newest PCC Board Member. Daren Redekopp pastors at Hillside Community Church in Morden, MB, in addition to serving as an occasional writer, speaker, and adjunct professor at Steinbach Bible College.



By Daren Redekopp

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

When I hear those six words, I'm ready. I'm invested. I want to see where things will go. All because of the promise of a story.

Why do we tell stories? One reason we tell them is to bring the people around us into our life and experience. We tell stories to let them see what we see, and feel what we feel from a firsthand perspective. Because if they can do that, if they can experience what we've experienced by means of a story, then they will come to know us that much better. And we will feel less alone.

What this means is that listening to someone's story is a gift. It is a statement that the person who is telling you their story actually matters, that they are worth listening to, that who they are and what they've experienced is worth your attention.

Every day at PCC, our counsellors are giving this gift. They are giving this gift because they understand its life-giving power.

But there's a flip-side to this gift, and here's what it is: In the very listening to a story, the listener himself is being given something. He is being given the chance to be drawn out of himself, to see things that otherwise, he might never have seen. He is lifted out of his finite experience and given a view to something bigger.

Which is where the gospel comes in, because the gospel is, in essence, God telling us His story. And when we listen to that, when we open ourselves to that, we are lifted into the vast goodness of His holy heart. This is why the apostle Paul tells us that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Being a pastor and writer, my life's work is to be telling God's story. And I'm always on the lookout for others who are not only listening to those around them, but are in some sense giving them God's story, Jesus' story, as a gift in return. That two-sided gift of listening and telling is the beating heart of this organization, and the reason I'm here.

Lemonade Stands and Boot Drives

This summer was eventful with festivals and community support. Over \$12,000 was raised for PCC through a refreshing lemonade stand hosted by Nixon and Avaya Janzen, and the Fire Fighter's Boot Drive at the parades from both the Winkler Harvest Festival and the Sunflower Festival.

\$12,000



Tim Guenther, Winkler Fire Department

Nixon and Avaya Janzen





By Paul Penner

REFLECTIONS OF 25 YEARS WITH PCC

At some point in the story of Pembina Counselling Centre, my role was just an idea. When we first opened in January 1993, the Board believed the PCC Brand was needed. Because we started so small, the Board assumed an operational role which they hoped they wouldn't have to bear long. If the community responded, and PCC grew, they would hire an Executive Director. The community did accept the PCC brand and the time soon came to recruit.

Four years later on September 2, 1997, I started as Exec Director, and at that time, PCC could only afford four days a week. When activity levels warranted, hours would be expanded, which happened quickly. From our humble beginnings of 400 filled appointments in 1997, PCC has grown by nearly 1000 percent. The Board let me run with their vision and it has worked well. I, alongside others, have gotten to be a part of a mission to walk alongside others, not just for the moment but for the long term and this has been good.

When I look at my life, I see how experiences and academic training were not insignificant, but helped prepare me for counselling as a career. In the big picture, I can see that God has helped me and helped PCC help others. Over the years, so many 'coincidences' have occurred and made a difference... God has had His fingerprints in my life.

When people see me in the counselling office, the first thing I want to know is what troubles them, what brought you here? People need to feel acceptance and hope no matter their situation. That's where I (and you) can come in. I want to feel with people, I don't want them to feel alone, it bothers me when they are in distress. And I look for hope (I believe there is hope) and choices (I believe there are choices) that they can make in their circumstances which are good for them.

I am so grateful that PCC branded itself around a vision and mission to restore individuals and relationships and offer a faith-based context for helping. Being a Christian not-for-profit ministry rather than a business, we have faced a lot of challenges such as no government core funding. This would have to come from clients, the community, and God's help as we sought to grow within the community. It is with gratitude that I have gotten to be a part of all the ups and downs involved in building trust in the community and offering help alongside my team that empowers people. What a journey! Hopefully clients have experienced what we aimed for... being a safe place to gain direction and find hope.

Thanks to the many volunteers in the office and at the Board level who supported PCC and give their time because they believed in what we are doing. Thanks to the staff who value being a team on a mission. Thanks to the community for investing into the lives of others through what we do. And thanks to those who have given us the privilege of walking with them on their journeys.

I am very thankful to be part of this worthy mission for 25 years... it has been a venture of faith from the beginning, and yes, I would do it again!

***“At some point
in the story
of Pembina
Counselling
Centre, my role
was just an idea.”***

Friday, November 18, 7:30pm

In Concert



Steve Bell

Winkler MB Church

120 Pineview Dr., Winkler

Tickets

Pembina Counselling Centre, 204-822-6622
Stevebell.com, 1-800-854-3499



pembinacounsellingcentre.ca
reception@pccmb.ca



Make A Donation or
Become a Monthly Partner

Give our office a call, send us an email or visit our website to make a donation or to become a partner.



Making An Appointment

P: 204.822.6622 | 204.331.3930
E: reception@pccmb.ca



Locations

MORDEN: 205-30 Stephen St.
WINKLER: 2B-915 Navigator Rd.
ALTONA: 100-125 Centre Ave. E.