

THE MUSTARD SEED

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Faith Mennonite High School

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How We Met at FMH: A Teacher Love Story

Renita (Glick) Harrison began teaching business courses at FMH during the '98-'99 term. The next year Mr. Paul started his career in Room 105 teaching Math and Physics. Here is their story about how Miss Glick became Mrs. Harrison.

Renita: I don't have many memories of Paul during those early days. I loved teaching and loved the students. Paul was simply a coworker. Mostly he irritated me over small talk in the faculty lunch room with his smart comments. I could never keep up.

One day Paul was giving me a hard time about my new Honda Accord. In exasperation, I said, "Okay then, you can drive my car whenever you want!" Not in my wildest dreams did I think that would come true someday. Eleven years later we were still driving that car with three car seats in the back.

Paul: My first few years of teaching didn't involve Renita at all. I was busy with getting my degree from Millersville University.

And if I did think about Renita, I quickly dismissed the idea; she went to Mine Road and I didn't think I would ever date a Beachy.

Renita: Paul did something really kind for me on the 2001 Baltimore Christmas caroling trip. I was yearbook advisor and desperately needed a roll of film developed to meet a deadline. Somehow he had that film developed at one of the malls and handed me the pack of photos on the bus ride home. I was shocked and that was the first time I thought of Paul as a real friend.

Paul: Renita and I were put on a committee together with another single male teacher to brainstorm some ideas for chapel. I think that was when I started to think she was interesting. I was naïve and thought she liked the other guy on the committee.

I confided in one of my friends about her, but never had the nerve to do anything about it. As a joke my friend had flowers delivered to school, anonymously. Renita had no idea what they were about. By that time I was spending practically ev-



ery afternoon after school in Miss Glick's room – "using the computers" for hours.

Renita: Towards the end of the school year I was having arguments with God and myself about Paul. God kept saying one word to me - LET. It was easy to be in denial about the amount of time we spent together talking after school because I did not hang out with Mr. Paul outside of school.

It suddenly hit me the night of graduation that I was really going to miss seeing this smart guy every day. I'm not sure how it happened, but I did give him my email address that night.

Paul: I emailed Renita sometime soon after graduation to meet at a bookstore. We looked at books and I bought her coffee. I remember awkwardly telling her "I got it" meaning I wanted to buy her coffee.

Renita: We both attended Faith Builders Summer Term and that's where Paul asked me out. By that time God had taken my heart so far towards Paul that I had no questions about my answer.

Paul: So we dated through the next school term.

Apparently we were quite intentional about not showing how much we were actually in love at school, because in November a student asked me if we were still dating. We sure were!

Renita: When Paul proposed in February of 2002, he had definitely won my heart. Again I had no questions about my answer!

Our wedding was in August and three weeks later we were back teaching at Faith, and that is how we spent the first two years of marriage.

We thank God for the mystery of our marriage! It's been 15 happily-ever-after years and God has given us four children. We are grateful for the years He's allowed us to be a part of Faith High School.

Mr. Paul is in his 20th year of teaching at FMH, where he works as Dean of Education. He teaches Algebra II, Physics, Pre-Calc, Worldviews, Health, Photography, and Yearbook (all the while patiently answering endless tech questions from students and staff!). We are grateful for the expertise and leadership he so generously gives to our school.

Students Speak Out

What animal would you use to describe yourself and why?



John Stoltzfus Sophomore

Wolverine, because Wolverines take things on that are much bigger than themselves.



Erica Beiler Senior

Golden retriever, because Golden Retrievers are kind, loving, want to be friends with everyone, and loyal.



Douglas Stoltzfus Freshman

A mix breed between a chimpanzee and a Rhinoceros because Rhinos are strong, and chimpanzee are fast.



Becca Stoltzfus Senior

Dolphin, because dolphins are noisy, helpful, and kind.



CJ Lapp Senior

Cow, because my name is Cowvan.

Calendar

Feb	7	Regional Quiz-a-thon
	11	Open House 6-9 PM
	15	Progress Reports Due
	21	Quiz-a-thon
	23	Pancake Breakfast 7-10 AM
Mar	1-2	StuCo Volleyball Tournament
	6-8	Quiz Retreat (Black Rock)
	12	Fine Arts Festival
	20	Last day of Third Quarter
	21	Choral Festival
	22	Reach Convention
	23	Choral Concert 7:30 PM
	27	Report Cards Due

Benefits of A Capella Singing

One of the most amazing parts of the human body is the voice. With our voices we communicate our feelings and thoughts in several different ways including talking, shouting, and singing. With singing, we can either bring glory to God or we can tear down God's name. There are many types of music, but one that offers special benefits is a capella singing. A capella singing provides benefits in several areas of our lives including physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual benefits.

First, singing improves your health.

It is a workout for your lungs and strengthens them, which lengthens your life span. Singing also makes your immune system stronger. In addition to these benefits, "experts believe singing can help strengthen throat and palate muscles" (takelessons.com). A capella singing is a greater workout than instrumental singing because a capella choirs are responsible for the full volume of sound; they do not rely on instruments.

Next, singing improves you mentally. When singing, more oxygen is being drawn into your body which is good for the brain. This benefits your memory, concentration, and alertness. And these benefits are improved even more by a capella singing, specifically.

Singing also improves you emotionally. It can take your mind off depressing things and help you think more positive thoughts. Teachers at takeles-

sons.com quote the following positive emotional effects, "Singing is known to release endorphins, the feel-good brain chemical that makes you feel uplifted and happy. In addition, scientists have identified a tiny organ in the ear called the sacculus, which responds to the frequencies created by singing. The response creates an immediate sense of pleasure, regardless of what the singing sounds like." With a capella singing, it is important to listen to the singing around you as you yourself engage in song.

Not only does a capella singing benefit you physically, mentally and emotionally, it benefits you spiritually as well. When singing Christian songs,

it draws you closer to God. There are also many songs that can relate to us and can encourage us in our Christian walk. We can also praise God and glorify Him for what He has done for us. A capella singing deepens our level of communication with God.

Here at FMH we offer several music classes that teach students to sing a capella: Music Theory, Music Rudiments, Sight Singing, Chorale, Class Voice, and Large Chorus. These are incredible opportunities to learn how to sing, read music, and perform for an audience while at the same time reap the benefits of strengthening your lungs and immune system. Let us remember to use our voices and talents for God's glory.

Maria Groff, Assistant Editor



Concert News

You are invited to FMH's 5th semi-annual Choral Festival Concert on Saturday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m. The Choral Festival will include performances by choirs from FMH, Terre Hill Mennonite High School, Ephrata Mennonite School, Schaefferstown Mennonite High School, Faith Builders Christian Academy (Guys Mills, PA), Valley View Christian School (Belleville, PA), and Calvary Christian Academy (Harrisonburg, VA). A guest conductor, Wendell Nisly (Oasis Chorale), will direct the mass choir, which will feature all seven schools.

Alumni Feature

After graduating in '07, Rita (Delp) Classen, enrolled at the University of Baltimore, fairly certain she wanted to do Accounting as a career because of her experience in Accounting courses at FMH. During the winter session of her sophomore year, she enrolled at Rosedale Bible College in Ohio to further her Bible knowledge and exposure to Christian history and current issues, but she soon returned to UB to keep working on her bachelor's degree and to continue running a small engine repair shop that her brother and she had started the summer after her high school graduation (yes, he & she



both had experiences with FMH Small Engines courses!). Rita completed her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and also enrolled in UB's Master's program, which she completed in Dec. 2013. During this time she became further engaged in the work and ministry of Wilkens Avenue Mennonite Church, the church where she had grown up in southwest Baltimore. The church is in a drug-ridden neighborhood, and Rita felt called to stay plugged in and to continue to serve the population there. Rita's Accounting experience enabled her to step into the church treasurer position, where

she has been serving for 9 years now. In August 2013, Rita married Ryan Classen from rural Florida, who was willing to move to the city and plug into ministry and life in Baltimore. They have one child and are looking forward to welcoming another in May 2019! Rita currently holds a part-time Accounting position at University of Maryland - Baltimore County. She says: "I have many fond memories of my time at FMH, as the friends and experiences that I gained there brought a richness of relationship and skills into my life that are still very valuable to me. I also look back fondly on the teachers who were willing to sacrifice their own time, schedules, and energy (even outside of the classroom) for my benefit."

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