



# Flatlanders Inn

EVERY VALLEY LIFTED UP,  
EVERY MOUNTAIN MADE LOW.

**Issue 2 FALL 2011**

this issue compiled by Kelly Dvorak

## Reflections on a Year of Living at Flatlanders

This past year our family had the privilege of living at Flatlanders Inn. As we look back, we are amazed and thankful for the relationships, growth and adventure gifted to us through this community living experience.

The name "Flatlanders Inn" is based on the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain".

Living on the third floor with no elevator, 3 boys (including two that required carrying), it was sometimes difficult to grasp the reality of Isaiah's barrier-free vision.

Yet God's unending faithfulness to His children is described in Deuteronomy: "There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, *as parents carry their children*. He carried you wherever you went until you came to this place".

Flatlanders is contending for something very precious at 782 Main. Like pioneering, living and working towards seeing "the rough places made smooth" is not always an easy road; but it *is* close to God's heart. **And therefore, it is worth it.**

So this past year at 782 Main Street has shown us - through many different people, experiences and ways - that God IS with us and His Glory IS being revealed on this earth today. Heaven IS breaking loose where Hell has reigned for far too long.

We love the promise of God's Kingdom coming. We think our Saviour connects with us in postures of frailty, humility and even blightedness - often showing up in places least expected. Through Flatlanders, we got to see a glimpse.

-Jocelyn Armbruster

## What is Flatlanders Inn?

We are an intentional community that focuses on welcoming people who are at risk of homelessness. We seek to create a level playing field; a place where everybody - regardless of social or economic background - can be nurtured and find belonging.



We have two new interns this year!

**Cam Tucker**, a well loved face at WCV is exploring community life and leadership.

**Nicole Vreeman**, from Rivers, MB, and an Outtatown grad, is doing a traditional internship.

We're looking forward to a wonderful year together.

Our internship program is unique every season. We are accustomed to constant adjustment and a bit of messiness. Somehow there is fruit year after year!



Did you know that the youth group from Kilcona Park Alliance Church came to build the planter boxes in our greenspace? They came once every month all winter, and we enjoyed their labors all summer!

### The Flatlanders Long Term Team

Andy & Beckie Wood  
Brendan & Kelly Dvorak  
Matt & Jaclyn Wiebe  
Amanda & Jeffrey Leighton



*Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest. Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things. Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both.*  
Ecclesiastes 11:4-6

There were once two farmers. The first farmer worried about the right soil conditions, average yearly rainfall, and the perfect crop rotation. Times were hard and he worried that the harvest wouldn't measure up. Unfortunately, because of all the worrying, evening came and he had missed getting the seed in the ground.



The second farmer was wiser. Instead of spending her time trying to avoid taking risks, she embraced them as part of her job. When the sun rose in the morning she got her seed and starting planting, sowing generously in every direction. And when evening came? Her hands were tired, but all the seed was where it belonged – in the hands of God.

The Flatlanders are one expression of WCV's commitment to a neighbourhood that does not have much value or potential in the world's eyes. In a time when others are trying hard to keep as much for themselves as they can, we are sharing space, resources – our whole selves. To others we may be wasting seed in the most unlikely of places. But to God we are the wise farmer who sees the sun has risen, feels the potential for the seeds in our hand, and risks everything for a God who is able to do all things, even in the midst of pain and loss. In Noel Isaacs' words, let's "keep on planting."

-Cam Tucker



### House Group News

We will be resuming the Flatlanders House Group on Wed. Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Our format is changing this year. We will still meet every Wednesday at 7pm, but we will only have potluck once per month. The 21<sup>st</sup> will be a potluck, come at 6:30! **See you there.**

### Jac's Summa Borscht Recipe

(adapted from Lillian Poetker)

(Summa Borscht is German for: 'Soup That Doesn't Have Cabbage or Beets')

- 2T ground peppercorns
- 8L water
- 10 Bay Leaves
- 3 handfuls of chopped chives
- 6c spinach
- 2 handfuls of parsley, chopped
- 5 handfuls of fresh dill, chopped (frozen works, too)

**BRING THESE TO A BOIL**

**THEN ADD –**

- 10-15 potatoes, cubed
- Salt to taste (don't add too much until the end because the sausage is salty)
- 2 double packs of farmer sausage, quartered
- 2c buttermilk (or 2c milk with 2T vinegar)

Cook till potatoes are soft. All measurements are approximate. Don't skimp on the meat!!

This soup is especially good with Jocelyn Armbruster's homemade bread ☺

### Flatlanders Weekly Schedule

<p><b>9 am</b> <b>9:30-12</b> <b>7:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Mon-Fri</b> <b>Tues &amp; Thurs</b> <b>Wed</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Prayers</b> <b>Drop-In</b> <b>House Grp</b></p>
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Join us for a community meal! Give us a call at 338-3528 to set it up. Really ... we want you to! We usually eat at 6pm.