

Worth Taking a Look At ...

MONICAFEST! ... A FOND FAREWELL.

Sunday January 11th will be Monica Moore's last service before she, Hazel and Brighid depart for the Far North (well, Orillia). You are invited to join with the Harcourt Church family to wish them a fond farewell and to celebrate Monica's ministry with us. Please check the bulletin board by the greeting table for detailed information and signup sheets.

To begin MonicaFest, there will be a Saturday night Coffeehouse, starting at 7 pm on January 10th in the gymnasium, for you to offer a gift of song, story, poem or dance (or just humming along). The Sunday service on January 11th will be at 10:30 am (one service only that's shortly after the Coffeehouse finishes?). This service will be a celebration of Monica's ministry - and she will be preaching (just to be sure to get the last word). After the service, we will join in a Congregational Meal, done "Saturday Night Supper Style". You are invited to sign up on the bulletin board to bring one of the two casserole recipes (posted) or a veggie platter, and/or or to help with hosting the Congregational Meal or Coffeehouse events. We know you will have messages for Monica and her family, and there will be a Harcourt album for messages, photos, drawings, poems, riddles and jokes There will be pages you can sign before or during

MonicaFest, or send your message on a letter-sized sheet of paper (or smaller) and it will be placed in the album. If you wish to make a contribution towards a gift for Monica, please send or bring it to the church office, marked "Monica's gift". (Please note that cheques can be made payable to "Harcourt Memorial United Church", with "Monica's gift" on the information line, however, these are not considered charitable gifts for tax receipt purposes.)

Despite our sadness at Monica's departure from Harcourt, we know her years with us are truly worth celebrating, and want to have a rousing farewell ... a marathon event! Please join us on January 10th and 11th - and pass the word!

SUPPLY MINISTER(S) SELECTED

The members of the committee designated to search for a full-time supply minister to begin on February 1, 2009 are delighted to announce the appointment of the team of Peter Moffat and Elizabeth Eberhart-Moffat. Many in the congregation have already met Peter and Elizabeth as they were introduced at the worship service on December 14 when Don Macaulay announced the selection. They also joined us that evening at the Christmas Dinner. They are eager to jump right in and get to know the Harcourt congregation even before their contract begins.

Peter and Elizabeth have worked for many years as a team in ministry. Their most recent position was a 15 year ministry at

Parkminster United Church in Waterloo and they retired from there in 2007. They have recently returned from a nine-month retirement trip around the perimeter of North America in an RV and are refreshed and looking forward to their first official post-retirement ministry opportunity at Harcourt. They are well-known by Jim Ball. Elizabeth was on the interview team when Jim was applying as a candidate for ministry. Also, Jim and Elizabeth worked together in a team ministry at Richmond Hill United in 1985.

Peter and Elizabeth bring a wealth of experience, gifts, interests and enthusiasm to the supply position at Harcourt, including the areas of affirming ministry, justice and outreach, Christian education and pastoral care. They will share the full-time position in coordination with Jim Ball.

Welcome to Harcourt, Peter and Elizabeth!

HARCOURT AND PARISH NURSING

In August 2007, the Ontario Government announced an 'Aging at Home Strategy' and extended an invitation to interested parties to apply for funding. The InterChurch Health Ministries (ICHM) has received funding through the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration network (LHIN) to develop Parish Nursing Ministry in congregations. In September, 2008, a small number of Harcourt people, who are interested in this initiative, met with the Executive Director of ICHM, Tom Doherty, and a Parish Nurse to learn more about the program. They are

presently looking to identify six partner congregations who would receive funding beginning April 1, 2010. ICHM believe that the synergies provided by this model of health care include (1) the treatment of the whole person as body, mind and spirit, (2) the unique roles of the Parish Nurse (interpreter of the relationship between health and faith, health educator, health counsellor, health care referral and advocacy source (healthcare system navigation) and facilitator and teacher of volunteers), and (3) the support of a faith community who becomes a partner congregation with ICHM, enabling the aging population to stay in their homes longer, and saving money within our health care system.

You may recall that a 'minister for pastoral care' was part of the vision described in the JNAC report. The report suggests that the position might be filled by a nurse. To quote Tom Doherty, "as you know, it takes time to develop congregational ownership for such a ministry", and that is why we are beginning now to generate interest in this exciting project. Harcourt Church has the opportunity to participate in this initiative and to be part of a network of Parish Nurses and partner congregations in the Waterloo Wellington LHIN. The model is one that supports the development of faith communities towards enhancing the health of our seniors, supported by a Parish Nurse who is introduced as a new member of the faith community's staff team, employed by the congregation. The word "Parish" suggests that the congregation serves people in a geographical area. Initial funding for the Parish Nurse (20 hours/week)

would be supported by the provincial government through ICHM.

An information Forum has been arranged Saturday, January 17, 2009 at Holy Rosary Church, 175 Emma St. Guelph. Registration at 8:30 a.m., session 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. There is no cost for registration but they ask that you notify ICHM (1-888-433-9422; 905-841-7619; email: info@ichm.ca) of your intent to attend on January 16, 2009. Another Forum will be Saturday, January 24, 2009 at Trinity Village, 2705-2727 Kingsway Drive, Kitchener -same times and request re registration.

I encourage you to attend one of these Forums to learn more about the vision of Parish Nursing and how such a role could fill the needs of Harcourt Church. If this initiative interests you, I would be happy to talk to you and/or send you more details about the program.

Esther Devolin
519-836-7675
ekdevolin@sympatico.ca

**FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY
FROM THE SPIRITUAL LIFE
COMMITTEE
The Intentionality Prayer and the
Awareness Examen**

Do you lead a busy life? No time to pray regularly? But, somehow, you would like to develop an intentional practice of the presence of God... Ignatius of Loyola (16th cen-

tury founder of the Jesuits and creator of the "Spiritual Exercises") often said that if you had time for only a single daily prayer, make it the "Awareness Examen."

However, I like to begin my day with a very brief "Intentionality Prayer": whom am I going to meet today? What will I be doing? How, in each of the events of my day might I incarnate God's love? How might I see in everyone I meet the Face of God? This takes five minutes, just as I wake up, and helps me situate my day's activities within the framework of God's Kingdom - a world of compassion and justice, starting right here with me.

I end my day, just as I hit the pillow, with the complementary exercise: the "Awareness Examen." In this exercise, I ask but two questions, framed differently depending on my needs. The first question asks simply where I might have encountered God during the day. This involves my reviewing the day's activities to see when I was touched, when I experienced love, when I felt most connected with Divine energy, when I felt I was most engaged in bringing about God's Kingdom. After such a review, I simply give thanks. The second question asks where I felt alone, felt God's absence, felt disconnected from the flow of Divine energy, felt out of sync with God's purposes. After such a review, I simply express sadness or regret, and invite God to heal me. This whole Examen need take no more than five minutes.

Together, these two prayers are like book-ends for the day. They are a "practice," that is, they are like the warm-up exercises of the

athlete. Their value lies in their regularity and in what they open us to. Over time, one begins to see patterns emerge, patterns of relationship with God: what activities tend to fill me with God's presence? What are the typical circumstances when I feel disconnected from God?

It's all about noticing. Not doing anything particular about anything. Simply noticing. Noticing without judging; without trying to correct anything. Noticing is already enough. Let God do the rest. Over time, we notice changes in the patterns of our activity, or at least in the way we approach them, changes in our intentionality, our deliberateness.

Andre Auger

The railing on the steps from the back pathway up to Forest Street has been repaired and doesn't wobble like it did. The graffiti on the sheds also got covered up.

Before the Christmas turkey dinner Darko replaced burned-out fluorescent bulbs in the gym. How, you ask, would he do that? Secret? Under the "nose" lies a very long stepladder that is also used to replace the tubes in the vertical lamps in the Sanctuary.

We're over budget on snowplowing for the year but it's offset by savings in natural gas because of the new west wall windows.

Dave Hume,
Property Committee Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE PROGRESS

Here's a sampling of activities. During the past two months members of the Property Committee had three work sessions. One was to mulch and clean up leaves and to re-gravel the pathway back to Forest Street. The other two were to stain the new windows on the east side of the Sanctuary. The next will be to rip out the carpets from the offices and waiting area prior to installing new carpet in January.

The new blinds in the Sanctuary were sent back and the cores were "beefed up" so the blinds wouldn't ripple when they were down. Kevin Mountford from Blinds Revived gave us excellent service to get these blinds right.

"PUTTING 'THE CHRIST' BACK INTO 'CHRISTIAN'."

So you care about Jesus, but don't quite know what to do with 'Christ'? What could Paul possibly mean by 'putting on Christ'? Interested in reflecting on the images of the 'Cosmic Christ'? Then join Andre Auger and other men for Lent 2009 on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 12. Give yourself the gift of time for yourself, to meditate, reflect and share with other men in a safe and accepting environment. If "Christian" for you implies some sort of spiritual journey, and you're already on it, come and explore that journey with us. For more information, contact Andre at 519-8245-6329 or aauger002@gmail.com

Events

CAROLINE HARCOURT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The combined Christmas luncheon and program of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship and the Margaret Rose U.C.W. welcomed over 60 women to the delicious tastes and sights of the Friendship Room. Monica Moore thanked the women for this, her eighth and last, of such Yule meals with them ... she is moving to Orillia on February 1. Conversely, Jim Ball, new minister to Harcourt since September 1, shared the meal, as did our special "reverend" of last year, John Gertridge.

The third male guest was the afternoon's speaker, the very talented and vivacious Barnaby Grant, an Australian Law and International Studies student this year at the University of Guelph. Amazingly versed in instrumental and vocal music, and many other pursuits, Barnaby gave an illustrated talk on "Christmas in Australia", and led in a few carols, Aussie and otherwise. The program, which was held in the Chapel, ended with a brief study of the Hebrew prophecies of the forthcoming Messiah, and their fulfillment in the Christian Bible.

The January 12 meeting of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship will feature Joan Charlebois on "Foot Care, with a musical interlude". All women very welcome; the

noon meeting will again be "bring your brown bag" lunch, with dessert and tea provided.

A Tribute to Glenn Miller Concert will be produced this year by our own Guelph Wellington Chapter of Stroke Recovery Canada as a fundraiser to support their Peer Support Group and the new Stroke Survivor Visiting Programs at our Guelph hospitals.

In 2007 they brought you the Gospel Jazz Group to a sold out audience at Harcourt. Your assessment - "Most fun I've had in years !!!"

Last year they produced the Benny Goodman Tribute Concert to another full house at War Memorial Hall. Your assessment - "Give us more of the same!!!"

And so, on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at War Memorial Hall they are presenting the Glenn Miller Tribute Concert with a very professional 17 piece orchestra including a boy and girl singer which, of course, was standard in those days.

Last year the concert was sold out a month in advance so don't be disappointed. Get your tickets now. Reserved seating, first come, first served.

Tickets can be purchased from Joanne in the Harcourt office 519-824-4177 or from Don Milley 519-822-0744 or Jim McKinnon 519-821-3541. They are \$ 30. each or there are a limited number of dinner/concert packages, at the Cutten Club, available @ \$ 65.

For more information - Email glennmiller-concert@sympatico.ca

MARGARET ROSE UCW

A delightful lunch for all the ladies produced with much hard work.

On January 14th a new year begins with the installation of officers and a New Year message. All ladies welcome, 1:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

With Heartfelt Thanks

How does one really express thanks for Sunday, December 14th? The morning service was both joyous, spiritual and a wonderful blessing for Christmas. Thanks Alison, the choir and the person seeing to the screens (I believe, Terry). Thank you for communion, so meaningful. In the evening our joy could be expressed in great performers, coordinated by Joan Charlebois who sang beautifully herself.

We trouped out of the Sanctuary to dinner coordinated with cooks and help coordinated by John Phelps. Happy eating and talk, the young people and men seeing to our needs. Our heartfelt thanks to all who produced such a glorious day!

Janet Gostonyi

Library Lines

As well as many genres of Adult books, the Library has some great books for children in our P and J sections. Here are some of my favourites.

J OPP Darkwing by Kenneth Oppel

One of the nominated books for the OSA Red Maple Awards in 2008. It is a story about prehistoric bats who were gliders, not fliers. Oppel's main character, Dusk, is a young chiropter who yearns to flap but he learns that being different means being shunned. Meanwhile, Carnassial, a catlike creature who eats only vegetation develops a taste for meat. This vicious predator is determined to take over as ruler of the beasts in a world that is rapidly changing. This story follows these two species in a battle for survival and for the future.

J PEA A Perfect Gentle Knight by Kit Pearson

One of the OSA Red Maple finalists for 2009, it is a story of the Bell family's six children who are struggling with the loss of their mother and a father who has retreated into his books and teaching. To cope, the children imagine themselves to be Knights of the Round Table. The main character, eleven year old Corrie, tries to hold the family together as her older brother, Sebastian,

struggles with the Round Table fantasy and reality, and her older sister escapes into a new world of friends and middle school activities. Set in 1957, it tells the tale of a gentler time in which Corrie tries to cope with her divided loyalties to her family and to her new friend Meredith.

J SAS

Butterflies Under Our Hats

by Sandy Eisenberg

Sasso is a delightful parable of how the luckless folks of Chelm discover that no hope is worse than having no luck. When a mysterious woman in a purple hat comes to town, she explains that if the villagers capture the butterflies of hope under their hats, all will be well. But then it starts to rain.... The colourful illustrations by Joani Keller Rothenberg are a "perfect compliment to this vibrant, inspiring story" of hope.

P MUN

Enemy Pie

by Derek Munson

The story of a father who teaches his son how to deal with Jeremy Ross, an enemy who is ruining the summer. Dad understands stuff like enemies so he whips up his secret Enemy Pie. Does it consist of disgusting things like garden weeds, earthworms, rocks and old, used chewing gum? " Enemy Pie is the fastest known way to get rid of enemies," Dad explains. After spending the day with Jeremy, which the father explains is the hardest part of the plan for the boy, the time arrives to eat the Enemy Pie. The results provide a surprising, poignant lesson for us all.

Submitted by Linda Stockton-Wigmore

Youth News

Opportunities to Serve

Library Lines

Recipe

Passages