

## Worth Taking a Look At ...

### COUNCIL NEWS -- SUMMER 2009

As the reconstructed Harcourt Church Council (smaller, "nimble") now replaces the functions of the former Coordinating Committee, it met three times during the summer to consider specific items of business. In July, Council recruited and appointed a search committee for the Children, Youth and Family Minister, as instructed by the Congregational meeting in June. Waterloo Presbytery has written to Council to confirm that this is a Congregational Search Committee, and the committee has met and begun its work with advertising the position (see the Harcourt website for a copy). Council also approved proceeding with the installation of screens and a projector system at the back of the church sanctuary. The approval of Council was required as quotes received were over-budget by more than \$500. Council recognized that the installation would be needed eventually and so should proceed now, rather than later. The ministers and choir will appreciate participating in worship services without the extra neck-twisting. In August, Council met to plan support for Sunday School and youth activities in the fall, as the Children, Youth and Family Ministry undergoes transition to a new form.

At a second August meeting, Council considered practical matters of how the new gover-

nance structure can help Harcourt move towards its vision and mission. We are continuing to discuss how Council can best interact with the various church committees - and how we can encourage conversation among those groups and with the congregation. We are considering how plans for the coming year and more (and budgets!) can be developed to meet the priorities of the congregation. To move forward with this, we ask your assistance in identifying people who would be willing help with the work towards Harcourt's vision and mission. In particular, Council still needs a Vice-Chair of Council and a Council Member for Congregational Life, and there are committee responsibilities in Christian Development and Stewardship to be filled.

Council arranged for the "Adios Amigos" celebration with Elizabeth and Peter Moffat on July 26th, thanking them for their tremendous energy and contributions as interim ministers at Harcourt over the last 6 months. Council appreciates the work of John Phelps, the Harcourt Independents, and the many sandwich makers (crusts and no-crusts!) for this event. More celebrations are coming - We will first greet Wendy Brown at September 13th services (the first two-service Sunday of the fall - 9:00 and 10:30 am), with a larger welcoming event to follow in late October or early November when we get the warrant for a covenanting service. On September 27, we will celebrate the children and youth ministry of Cindy Verrall and the growth of that work to children, youth and family ministry. We like parties!

Coming events for Council: Regular meetings of Council will be on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 pm. (September 16th for the next meeting.) A special orientation meeting of Council and Chairs of Standing Committees is planned for Wednesday September 30th at 7:00 pm.

Finally, THANK YOU to all the Council members and others who have been so very active in Harcourt activities during the "lazy, hazy" days of summer - and the chilly wet days as well.

Harcourt may still be "in transition" - but that means we are alive and moving! We all look forward to a busy fall with enthusiasm and energy.

### **FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY From the Spiritual Life Committee**

It's All About Waking Up

If you are in love,  
then why are you asleep?

Wake up, wake up!

Why not wake up this morning?

(Kabir, 15th cent)

Contemporary spiritual writer Barbara Brown Taylor in her recent book *An Altar in the World*, writes: "Prayer... is waking up to the presence of God no matter where I am or what I am doing."

Too often we go through life in a bit of a daze, preoccupied with our job, our family, our pains and our joys. Too rarely do we

"wake up" to the awesome presence of the Divine all around us. All the great mystics from virtually every tradition invite us to "wake up," to take notice. Awe and wonder are rare commodities in our busy life.

Earth is crammed with Heaven.

And every bush aflame with God.

But only those who see take off their shoes.

(Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*, book vii, 1857)

Over the next ten months, the Spiritual Life Committee invites you on a journey to enrich your faith. We will tell some of our stories of awakening in the hope that our stories will provoke your stories. Each month, we will produce an article on one aspect of awakening; we will share a brief story of awakening during one service a month, and we will invite you to join us after that service to share a story of your own.

Gradually, each of us on this journey may come to cultivate the deeper awareness needed to see "every bush aflame with God," develop or deepen skills of "noticing" God in the ordinariness of life, and develop or enhance our everyday awareness of the presence of the Divine.

During September, Bill Lord will share an experience of an encounter with the mystery of life. He will reflect on the unexpectedness of the encounter. For this is the paradox about God's presence: we can't make it happen; it's grace, gift. But it happens all the time! God is already here among us, here in the midst of the ordinariness of our lives. It's

up to us to be present, to be aware, to be awake.

And when it happens, it's up to us to decide whether we experience God or just see a bush.

Why not start practising waking up? We invite you to try an experiment. Read of Moses's encounter with God in the burning bush (Exodus 3: 1-6); read the text slowly; notice the details. Then spend some time - in your garden, on the porch, in your favourite chair - and remember a "burning bush" moment in your life - a moment when, suddenly, the ordinary became transparent, when an event became fuller of meaning than before, an "aha!" moment. Try to remember the circumstances, the unexpectedness, the impact, the afterglow, the fading... What did you learn about God in that moment? What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about life?

**THE CONGREGATIONAL SEARCH COMMITTEE** has begun the process of searching for a Designated Lay Minister (DLM) for the expanded position of Child, Youth and Family Minister (CYFM). This search is a result of the United Church of Canada re-designating the position from Staff Associate to DLM and necessitates the declaration of a vacancy, search and subsequent hiring of a person to fill this position. The contract of our current Children and Youth Staff Associate, Cindy Verrall, has been extended until September 30th to facilitate the time it will take to go through the

process. Details of the posting are on the Harcourt website, including the job description and contact information. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions of potential candidates, please see a member of the search committee: Joe or Judy Cimino, Laura Hofer (Corresponding Secretary), Mary Jimenez, Brenda Kelly, Faye Lund (Personnel), Laurie McDonald (Chair) or Jonathan Welch (Recording Secretary).

## **THE GREENING OF HARCOURT**

Since its inception and Council approval in June 2009, the "Harcourt Greening Team", a subcommittee of the Property Committee, has undertaken three major initiatives.

1. The team has been working with a Guelph company with expertise in Solar Photo-Voltaic Systems. The plan is to install a solar array on the gymnasium roof. This will produce electricity for Harcourt's use, and the excess electricity will be sold to Guelph Hydro. To purchase the system, Harcourt will be applying for a grant from the Ontario Government, and the remainder of the cost will be borne by interested church members and those in the neighbourhood who want to support this greening initiative. Work is progressing; details and costs are being determined.

2. The Greening Team is arranging for a comprehensive audit of all the energy consuming systems in the church. The objective is to reduce energy consumption where possible.

3. The third initiative has been partially completed. It involved Harcourt taking part in the Guelph Hydro "Power Savings Blitz" program. In July, high efficiency electronic lights were put into the office area and in rooms 202 and 203. This work was completed at minimal cost because of the hydro incentive. More fixtures will be changed in the near future if there is a cost benefit.

More updates will follow.

## **UPDATE ON THE UGANDA PROJECT**

September is the time to go back to school in Uganda as it is in Canada, but for the 6 secondary school students it is back to the final term of their year after a three week break.

Of the students who completed their secondary school last November, three are entering college to begin Diploma courses. One is at the Islamic University in Mbale taking a course in Business Studies, one is attending the Uganda Christian University in Mbale taking a course in Population Studies and the third one will be starting a course at the School of Nursing in Jinja at the end of September. A young woman who has worked with little pay in a Child Care School is returning to school in Mbale to upgrade to Diploma level in hopes that she will then receive enough pay to support herself.

Two other students completed Sr. 6 last year but their marks were borderline passes so we have decided to have them wait a year to continue and in the meantime we are providing

funds for mini " Micro-Financing Projects" - one chicken raising and one raising goats. Funds for these two projects are coming from a separate Administration account totally funded by Norma and Ben Fear. This was decided because college expenses have gone up about 25% this year and we were not sure the funds would be there for them.

Returning to their Diploma Courses are two young women in Catering and Hotel Management at Crane Institute in Jinja and one in Nursing also in Jinja, a young man in Business Studies in Soroti, a young woman in Business Studies in Tororo, as well as 4 students at the Islamic University in Mbale for diplomas in Law, Information Technology, Education and Public Administration.

Two students are now completing courses, one in Auto Repair(Certificate level)in Tororo and one in Plumbing (Diploma level) in Kampala.

The student who completed his Degree Course in Social Administration at the Islamic University in Mbale is currently upgrading some of his marks and will graduate with his BA degree in February 2010.

Students who have completed their courses this year include 2 young men one who completed Diploma level courses, one in Business Studies in Soroti, one in Electrical Repair in Tororo and another who completed a Certificate level Teacher Training Course. Two young women completed Certificate level courses, one in Nursing in Tororo and

one a Beautician and Hair Dressing course in Mbale.

Most students who have graduated after receiving assistance from the project are now working, including two primary level teachers, a forestry worker, a lab. technician and a young woman who is working at a large resort hotel in Kampala after completing her Diploma level course in Catering and Hotel Management in 2008. The young man who completed the course in Electrical Repair is working for a Canadian Company in Kampala (we have not heard the name of the company yet)The student who received an Honours Degree in Social Management from Makere University in February of this year is working in a government office in Mbale District.

Uganda appears to us to have a reasonably good education system for an African country, but the cost of educating students beyond the primary level has escalated continuously since the project was started. Helping the young people of the country improve their lives by assisting them with an education, benefits not only the students but also their families. It enables them to develop pride in their ability and in their performance and to find employment and achieve some independence. In a developing country the education of the youth, especially the young women is the most certain way to raise it from "third world status". The Uganda project fills a very tiny part of a very large need. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Ben and Norma Fear.

## With Heartfelt Thanks

### SATURDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

The Saturday Night Supper program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Evangelical Church. There are currently 18 churches that participate in this program. It offers a really good hot meal to all in need, in the company and fellowship of others. Supper is served every Saturday from 6 pm to 7 pm at Royal City Evangelical Church, 50 Quebec St, Guelph.

Saturday, August 15th was Harcourt's last evening to provide and serve dinner. We served 134 hungry folk who thoroughly enjoyed our menu which included pasta casserole, Caesar salad, pickles, cheese, rolls/bread, assorted fruit pies and vanilla ice cream with juice, milk and coffee. With repeat servings, we filled more than 200 plates. The folks, who ate their fill, were extremely thankful and many stressed how much they LOVE the food we provide.

Thanks you so much to everyone who provided food, prepared and volunteered to serve the meal, as well as those who donated money to purchase food for the supper. Our next opportunity to serve will be Saturday, November 7th. I'll keep you posted!

Jill Gill

## ZEHRS TAPES

First, I want to thank all of you who save grocery tapes from Zehrs for us. We usually get over \$ 700.00 each year, and it gets spent in various places throughout the church. Also if there seems to be no current need, we donate the cash to the "Chalmers" or "Uganda "projects. ( rather then have the cash sit unused.)

I've just taken three packages into the store, \$135,00. worth of tapes, and expect to receive \$ 300.00 from them shortly. BUT they have now changed their priorities, and RELIGIOUS groups are NO LONGER GOING TO BE ABLE TO ACCESS THESE FUNDS, UNLESS THEY ARE TO Be USED FOR A "SHELTER, OR FOOD BANK, OR A SECULAR COMMUNITY PROJECT". The local store manager will have to ok these projects.

I suspect the U.C. W. will still collect tapes, as we donate regularly to these kind of projects and the Income we receive will be directed to these worthwhile projects. So this notice will to to advice the Church com. and groups, that cabinets, books, kitchen equipment, etc. will no longer receive any funds from this source... Sorry about that! The U. C. W. have not discussed this yet. Thanks again, to the congregation for saving tapes, and thus helping us these so many years.

Ruth Kaufman  
824-1672.

## Opportunities to Serve

### HARCOURT FAMILIES FOR FAMILIES, LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER!

While it seems a little early to be contemplating autumn, take a moment to share with your friends and family what comes to mind when you hear the word "October". Thanksgiving...Halloween...The Run for the Cure. That's right, the Run for the Cure is Canada's biggest volunteer-led fundraising event dedicated to breast cancer research, education, and awareness. Each year thousands of Canadians of all ages unite to participate in the run. This year, for the first time, our church family is going to walk and run together as "Team Harcourt".

This is a fantastic opportunity for Harcourt to share our deep compassion and generosity with other families in our community on a Sunday morning by giving legs to our faith and celebrating God's presence beyond our sanctuary walls.

Families of all shapes and sizes are encouraged to join Team Harcourt and participate in the Run for the Cure on the morning of Sunday, October 4th. You can learn more about the run and join Team Harcourt at [www.cibcrunfortheure.com](http://www.cibcrunfortheure.com) . For those in the Harcourt Family who are less active but want to participate in our Families for Families event, there will be fun-filled

opportunities during the month of September where you can make a contribution to support our team of walkers and runners. After the Run, our team will be gathering back at the church for a time of celebration. Everyone is invited to attend.

For more details about this event contact Cindy: cindy@harcourtuc.ca , (519)824-4177. Wed.-Fri.

Blessings,  
Cindy

## **USHERING**

During July and August we have experimented with a reduced number of ushers which appears to have worked very well.

For the 2009-2010 year we are also going to have less ushers per Sunday and we are also going to assign committees and groups to perform ushering duties. We have identified seventeen groups which we believe have enough 'manpower' to handle this task so we calculate that each group will be responsible for ushering twice a year from September to the end of June. We are going to leave one Sunday a month free for volunteers to sign up.

We plan to have two ushers plus a head usher per Sunday which we believe is sufficient. Some sanctuary entrances will have folded bulletins placed on a bench.

The first four groups we have designated to usher are as follows:

13th Sep: Mens' Breakfast  
20th Sep: Fellowship & Communications Committee  
27th Sep: Justice & Outreach Committee  
4th Oct: Property Committee

Cynthia Moseley will contact each group prior to their particular Sunday to confirm arrangements.

Peter Gill  
Worship Committee

## **CHALMERS COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE (CCSC)**

Chalmers Community Services Centre was established in 1997. It is a registered charity helping the poor and vulnerable from any area of Guelph. Food, clothing, bedding, sundry household items and mending of clothes are offered at no cost to the recipient in need. CCSC offers two locations: Chalmers Downtown at 40 Baker Street - open Friday mornings from 10-12 noon offering food, clothing, household items and mending of clothes; and Chalmers West - 577 Willow Road (located in a portable building behind Three Willows United Church) - open Thursday mornings from 10-12 noon, offering food and clothing.

In 2008, 3545 guests were served emergency food at CCSC, or 295 guests per month. In 2009, from January to July, Chalmers Downtown and Chalmers West served 2735 guests, an average of 391 guests per month - an increase of 33%. When Chalmers West

opened last November, the volunteers served 2-5 guests per week. In July, 92 guests were served at this new location.

Currently, Harcourt (via Justice and Outreach budget) contributes \$2,000 annually, which is very appreciated by the folks at CCSC. However, the weekly donations of non-perishable foods have been less than stellar. How can you help? How about bringing one non-perishable canned food product or dry pasta, or small peanut butter per week or even once a month to Harcourt and place it in the grocery cart kept in the Greeting Place? You may donate on any Sunday in the month. The donated items will then be brought forward with the offering, to be blessed and acknowledged, each week before being taken to Chalmers Downtown. The Justice and Outreach Committee hopes that eventually, with continued exposure, this practice of donating will become part of everyone's routine and greatly aid those in need of our help. Cash donations are always welcome and can be sent to CCSC at 40 Baker Street, Guelph, ON, N1H 4G1. PAR is also available. For more information call the CCSC office at 519-822-8778.

Thanks you for your continued support of this worthy cause.

Jill Gill

## Groups & Events

### **MARGARET ROSE U.C.W.**

Our first fall meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9. We welcome women to join us at 1:30pm in the Friendship Room. We will be sharing summer memories.

Please remember to bring your Least Coin Offerings for the Women's Interchurch Council and school supplies for Canadian Food for Children.

We wish everyone a beautiful fall.

### **CAROLINE HARCOURT WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Monday, September 14, sharp at noon, all women are invited to meet in the Friendship Room with their sandwich lunch. Cathy Lord, one of Harcourt's very experienced nurses, will share with us her memories of "What I Learned from my Patients!" Dessert and tea supplied.

Come along and start off the fall season of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship with your friends old and new ... being a "member" of this group means you came once and wanted to come again!





## Passages

### Deaths

**June 26, 2009:** Bruce McCallum, beloved husband of Janet

### Weddings

**June 20, 2009:** Stephanie Copeland & Alain Turcotte

**July 5, 2009:** Annie Chow & Robert Steels

**July 25, 2009:** Allison Wells & Patrick Neomytka

### Baptism on June 21, 2009

Maryn Ellen, daughter of Scott & Cara Gilfillan  
Benjamin Andrew, son of Andrew & Mandy Orphanos

Brady Colton Lawrence, son of David & Gwen teBoekhorst

Luca Matthew, son of Heather Broome & Michael Zadro

### Births

**Thursday August 6th,** Isaac Charters, son for Owen and Sarah Charters, first grandchild for Kathy and Brian Magee

## Library Lines

Karen Armstrong is a highly regarded writer and speaker - a former nun who left the convent and has gone on to become a key figure in Christian writing. The Spiral Staircase is about her search for medical help within her religious community, and Through the Narrow Gate tells of her decision to leave the shelter of convent

life and re-enter the wider world. Her writings on religions - Christian and others - are careful, thoughtful analyses of the central theology of each, and help the reader to understand and appreciate them. The following books are available in the Harcourt Library:

Spiral Staircase

Through the Narrow Gate

The Battle for God

The History of God

Islam: A Short History

Holy War

Buddha

Muhammad: a prophet for our time

The Great Transformation: the beginning of our religious traditions

The Bible: the biography

## Message from the Editor ...

I find it very difficult to believe that it has been 18 years since I first started working on the Herald, just one year after I transferred my membership to Harcourt. A lot has happened in those 18 years (oh, my, where would I start!!), and I have some very wonderful memories.

My life has changed dramatically, especially in the last couple of years, and will continue to change as Jerry and I move to Breslau this December. It is, therefore, with very mixed feelings that I announce my decision to submit my resignation as Harcourt Herald editor, effective whenever a replacement is found. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility, please contact me by phone at 519-837-2520 (until September 25), or by email at lbrowning@rogers.com (ongoing).

Lisa Browning