

# The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

May, 2018



# Harcourt Memorial United Church

*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

*Seek | Connect | Act*

## **Our Mission:**

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

## **Our Vision Statement:**

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

## **Our Core Values:**

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

## **Our Purpose:**

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

## **Harcourt Memorial United Church**

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## **The Harcourt Herald**

*Published 10 times each year*

*by the*

*Communications Committee*

**Your contributions are welcome!**

**Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

**Sept-June**

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Printer: Anne Purkis



# The Ministers' Quill

by Jim Ball

*“People need community, leaders need clarity, churches need strategy, connection needs simplicity and processes need reality”.* So write Andy Stanley and Bill Willetts (2004). Down the years I have found each phrase of their sentence worth time and reflection. Whether we are engaged in strategic planning with a group or doing a personal audit of our involvements and practices, there is potential for learning here.



Consider the first of their convictions. *People need community.* We know that introverts and extroverts alike are relational beings. This is true even if the lengthiest conversation we have in a day is with our cat. The exchange may be a bit one sided, but the fact that it happens speaks to our heart's longing for connection - to spirit, to nature, to one another and to ourselves. Some of us are emotional deers. We need a daily drink of connection to family, friends, or more to ground us in a sense of wellbeing. Some of us are emotional camels, connecting only occasionally to experience enough to feel well. There are qualities that make healthier these relationships and ones that make them less so. But knowing our level of need, and having a better sense of our relational map, help us assess better the health of our life in community.

What do the circles of community look like for you?



If you placed your name in the centre, who is in the circle next to you? In what ways are you connected? What kind of time and energy do you invest in this relationship? Who is in the next circle out? Is it an individual, a small group, a work team, or something larger? What is the pattern of your connection to them? What do the relationships mean to you? And to them? How is the give and take of support within them? Where is Spirit and the Harcourt community

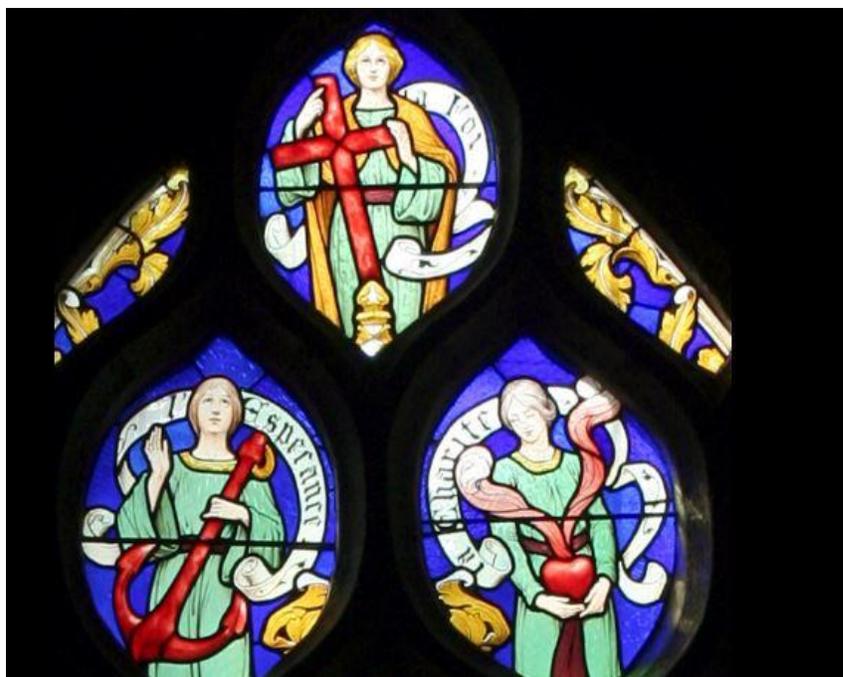
at work in the mix of these? Keep walking through the rings of circles until you have a clearer sense of your relational map. The exercise is worth your time!

If you were to create a diagram that represented these circles and connections as they were ten or fifteen years ago, what would it look like? What has changed between then and now? Who has left your map? Who has joined? Have you moved out of a circle or reduced your time in one? Is there a new circle you have joined? To what degree have the changes been your doing? To what degree have they been linked to factors beyond your control? Are the changes due to loss or growth? In what ways have you moved? Have you grown wiser, or more frail? Have you stopped driving or gained a new interest? Have you lost enthusiasm? Or reimagined your faith? When you look at your present relational map, how do you feel about it? What stands out? What piece of it invites fresh investment? What one action might you take today to strengthen your sense of connection and wellbeing, and, consequently, the sense of community and belonging in others? Who are you choosing to bless today with prayer, a smile, a note, a phone call or a visit? And in what ways does such blessing flow to you?

We spend a lifetime in the community of these circles and connections. And in the ebb and flow of them. It is good to take time to see them more clearly, and to consider ways of nurturing them more carefully. For in such rest the life and wellbeing of the world.

Spring Blessings!

Reference: Stanley, A. & Willits, B. (2005). *Creating community*. Sisters Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, Inc.



*Faith, Hope & Love. Eglise Saint-fougeres Vitrail, Ludovic (Wiki Commons)*

Cover Photo: by Dominicus Johannes Bergsma - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45705493>



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Harcourt offers three distinct regular Sunday morning services: At 9 a.m. in the Chapel, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and MANNA service at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Nursery services are available from 10:00-12 noon. Visit our website at: [www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca) for more information.

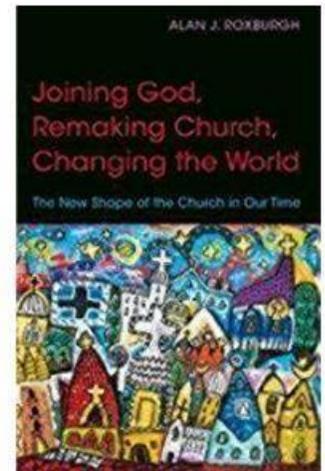
**Appreciation!** I'm writing this update during National Volunteer Week (April 15-21). By the close of our April 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, a question was posed: how or when do we show appreciation to all the people who contribute to Harcourt's many ministries and activities? An idea was posed: what about having a party for all Harcourt committees/teams and other 'quietly working' volunteers to celebrate and show appreciation? Personal, group, verbal and written recognition is shared throughout the year. While the seedling idea of a party is planted, I highlight how our collective stewardship of time, talent and energy is valued across Harcourt. THANK YOU!



Lorraine Holding

We welcome Lynn Hancock to Council as Umbrella Councillor for Christian Life. Along with Pat Martin (Ministry & Personnel Committee representative) and Rosalind Slater (Umbrella Councillor for Outreach), these new members of Council add their gifts of experience, talents and commitment to our circle.

We continue to focus on our Harcourt 20/20 journey. During May and June, we will study the book *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World*, by Alan Roxburgh (2015, Morehouse Publishing). As a leadership group, our reading and follow-up discussion in special Council meetings will discern our learnings to help plan and implement change. We anticipate opportunities for others at Harcourt to join the conversation in the fall. Stay tuned!



We took time to further discuss potential uses of the 'seed money' and additional staffing budget approved at the Annual Meeting. We will continue steps to support exploration and definition of community development and youth ministry (e.g. guest speakers; visioning by the MANNA leadership team; collaboration within GUM).

We acknowledged seedling initiatives that are growing from the small group discussion held in February, focused on intentional welcoming and building community:

- Newcomers' Coffee Corner at 11:30a.m. on Sundays, hosted by Julie Ashley and Jean Hume. Connect with them if you would like to learn more.

- Food trucks might be coming to Harcourt in the fall. Anne Parsons is checking out the possibility. Connect with her if you have interest in how this might work.
- The Greeting Area ad hoc team, led by Mark Sears, will re-convene. Their task is to determine needs and plans to enhance the Greeting Area, now that construction has finished.

Council minutes are distributed electronically to members of all committees/teams. If others are interested in reading about Council business and decisions, contact Anne Purkis to be added to the distribution list, or drop by the office to look at the Council Minutes binder.

In closing, I focus again on **appreciation** for all that we give and receive, led by the Spirit.

With faith and hope.





# New to Harcourt?

## Join us on our journey of faith

**Church office**

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**Seek – Connect - Act**

# The Latest Buzz...



- ***B.C. government strikes ‘affordable housing’ deal with United Church of Canada.***

The provincial government will spend \$12.4 million to help the B.C. Conference of the United Church of Canada redevelop some of its land in Vancouver, Coquitlam, Nanaimo and Richmond into a total of 414 new “affordable” rental homes.

<http://www.vancourier.com/real-estate/b-c-government-strikes-affordable-housing-deal-with-united-church-of-canada-1.23266451>

- ***United Church Petition Calls for Action.***

In May 2018, the United Nations will hold a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in New York in order to enhance progress toward the achievement of a nuclear weapons convention—a global treaty to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons. You are invited by the United Church of Canada to call on the Government of Canada to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. <http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/ask-federal-government-sign-treaty-ban-nuclear-arms>

- ***People in Partnership Travelling to Palestine & Israel.***

The United Church’s *People in Partnership* program invites applications for a "Come and See" Pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel. This 10-day pilgrimage, **October 12–22, 2018**, is a response to a call from global partners in Palestine and Israel inviting partner churches to “come and see” — to witness and experience the lived realities of partners on the ground including multiple perspectives on mission, ministry, and advocacy in the region. It will have a special focus on the impact of occupation on children and youth. <http://www.united-church.ca/opportunities/come-and-see-pilgrimage-encounter-palestine-and-israel>

# Committee & Group News

## **Harcourt's Four Financial Pillars: *What are They? What Should We Know About Them? Why are They Important?***

*by The Harcourt Trustees:* Murray Woods(Chair), Jim Ball, Judy Cimino, Lynn Crow, Miriam Flynn, Carol Jones, Jim McQueen, Marilyn Murray, John Phelps

These questions are being asked by members of Harcourt committees and by the congregation. As Trustees, we would like to help everyone understand the role of the four pillars in the financial health of our congregation.

One of our responsibilities as Harcourt Trustees is to manage the reserve funds of our congregation. We invest these funds prudently to provide for current and future congregational needs not covered by the budget. The funds are divided into four categories or PILLARS, covering all aspects of our church's work: Property, Outreach, Music and Arts, Spiritual Life and Education.

We have created a brochure "Understanding Harcourt's Financial Pillars" to explain this concept in more detail. **It is printed on the back page of this issue of the Herald.** We encourage you to tear off the page, fold it in thirds and read at your leisure. Why is this important for all of us?

Legacy gifts are one of the ways we can insure that the Harcourt vision will thrive in the future. When legacy gifts or bequests are received, they will be deposited within the four pillars and invested wisely and responsibly so they will be available for Harcourt's future needs. The Lunch and Learn event on June 3<sup>rd</sup> is a great opportunity to come together and learn more about Legacy Giving and the link to Harcourt's financial pillars. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you have further questions.

## **Shaking the Piggy Bank: The New Washroom Finances**

by Dave Hume, Chair, Building Committee

On April 19, Murray Woods, as treasurer of the Harcourt Trustees, wrote a cheque to Even Construction for \$21,342.87. That brought the total amount paid for the work to \$285,353.60, with three small items still to be completed and a final claim from the architect yet to come. To date the construction costs have been \$252,525.31, plus \$32,828.29 in HST. It is normal that we would get 50% of the HST returned to the Trustees. The original contract was for only \$130,271.44 but the value of Change Orders came in at \$122,253.87, which nearly doubled the costs of the construction. Most of the change orders were related to two factors:



- (1) Removal of asbestos from piping in the Boiler Room and Removal of flooring from several locations on the lower level because the flooring also contained asbestos; and
- (2) The discovery there was a broken sanitary sewer line about 12 feet under the western end of the Greeting Place.

It was like renovating an old house; when you come to something that needs to be fixed you had better fix it when you discover the defects.

In order to pay for the unanticipated extra costs, the extra money was taken mainly from the Property Pillar. The Property Pillar is a “Rainy Day” Fund established years ago at Harcourt to pay for major capital expenditures like a new roof or another major calamity. The Property Pillar has an established minimum of \$25,000 which must be maintained. The expenditures on fixing the problems encountered during the recent construction has taken the Property Pillar down to its minimum and one other Pillar is likely to be used to a small extent. It is the intent of the Building Committee to begin to rebuild the amounts in these Pillars by conducting a fund-raising Appeal, beginning in May.

## **An Old Stewardship Argument Revisited**

by Marion and Andre Auger, Spiritual Life Committee

Marion and I sat in amazement at the Annual Congregational Meeting a few months ago, as those assembled voted, by a rather large margin, a budget that would see each of us needing to increase our annual giving by an average of 10%. We were gratified by the generous response, but worried about its realism.

We couldn't quite get out of our minds the voice of an incensed parishioner who said "But I'm on a fixed income!" We had often heard that argument at many annual meetings, and had always accepted it as a fact of life for a senior. Of course, increasing a church budget will put undue strain on people who live hand-to-mouth on a fixed income.

Then we realized: Marion and I live on a fixed income as well! Pension plans, CPP, OAS, are all pretty much fixed... Then we looked a bit more closely: we also have savings – security for when we'd require care, we reasoned. We also had to acknowledge that, at the end of each month, we show a bit of a surplus, which we are able to put in savings, or spend on a fine meal, or even a brief stay at a hotel... So how fixed was our income, anyway? Could we say that we lived "hand-to-mouth"? While some of us do indeed live very close to the line, is the "fixed income" argument the universal game-changer it used to be for me?

The crunch came when we began to pay very close attention to how we made decisions about how we spent our "fixed income." Could we truly say we were depriving ourselves? So, what was the validity of the "fixed income" argument?

Could it lie in a previous, underlying and usually unspoken assumption such as "all things remaining the same"? Does the power of the "fixed income" argument lie perhaps in the fact that an increase in the church's expectation of us would force us to reconsider our spending priorities? Perhaps the "fixed income" argument is about reluctance to change anything in the way we live: the way we spend our money is just fine as it is, and such a large church budget increase would threaten that.

So this brought us to the real question: what is our relationship with our church and its mission in the world? Are we consumers of spiritual goods, paying what we think is fair, and expecting a return – in inspiration, consolation, pastoral visitation, perhaps even challenge? Or are we a part of a community trying to continue the work begun by Jesus some 2000 years ago by creating an alternative way of being human in the midst of "empire"? If we are the second, then we have an ownership in the success of our congregational project and we can experience this budget increase as an invitation to juggle our priorities a bit to help ensure that success. Maybe it is an invitation to change how we look at our church givings: our contribution should not come out of the discretionary income line in our household budget, but, like income tax, property tax, utilities, and food, it is a necessary expenditure to ensure the success of our collective endeavour. And we accept that this will have an impact on the discretionary income we have left.

We can't speak for anyone else, nor are we making a prescription for anyone. We simply can't avail ourselves any longer of the "fixed income" argument, even if it rings true for those living close to the line. If what Harcourt is really about is what we believe in, then the question is simply whether we are prepared, as they say, to put our money where our beliefs are.

## Space, the Final Frontier: De-cluttering Harcourt

by Dave Hume, Chair, Property Committee

At the April meeting of the Property Committee there was a discussion about storage space and clutter. On April 23, members of the Property Committee will be going through all the storage space and making an inventory of what is in all the cupboards. The next step will be to ask committees and activity groups to identify what they need to keep and what is expendable. The former Manna Storage Room on the lower floor (between the large women's washroom and Darko's Utility Room) is going to be equipped with storage racks that are intended to hold large plastic tubs with lids. Committees and groups will be asked to apply for storage tubs. Then the groups or committees will be asked to place their storage items in the allotted tubs, which will then be labelled with whose tub it is, the duration of the storage (tubs can be held for 3, 6, 9 or 12 months and can be renewable). The intent is to have no loose storage in the Storage Room and to tidy up the place.

## Time Away From the Everyday

by Peter Jackson, Spiritual Life



The weekend of **September 28-30** will be special. Mark it in your diary. Plan to be at the great event that Harcourt is planning.

It will be a weekend unplugged from dealing with everyday concerns, and an opportunity to gain perspective on them. In the quiet beauty of Loyola House and the Ignatian farm, there will be a variety of activities to suit every taste, such as praying, meditating, conversation, walking, arts and crafts and excellent food. And many more optional activities, such as yoga, sing-alongs, bonfire and bubbling.

The name of this event is the **Harcourt Annual Congregational** Retreat. The word 'retreat' can sound off-putting, conjuring up dour and joyless images. In fact, we will not be

retreating from fun and joy but instead from the humdrum busyness that may get in their way or block our openness to Spirit.

Nancy Ryan was a first-time retreatant in 2017. Here is how Nancy describes her experience:

*"I attended last year's retreat out of curiosity and as an experiment: to challenge myself spiritually for an entire weekend. But I was worried. I had never been to a retreat before, and quite honestly, I did not think I was "retreat material. Was I sufficiently devout to benefit from the experience? I imagined long stretches of monastic contemplation. I was not sure I was up for the challenge.*

*Happily, all my imaginings were false. I found the retreat, with its theme of Being A Beloved Child Of God, to be enriching in so many ways and for that, I thank the organizers. The weekend was structured with a variety of activities (intellectual, spiritual, artistic, musical) so there was something appealing for everyone. The weather cooperated so that free time (for me) included a walk through the beautiful grounds and in the labyrinth. In groups and singly there were opportunities for sharing, reflection and prayer. Everyone was supportive, and I met wonderful, interesting people and was blessed to hear their stories.*

*If you are an anxious retreat novice would I encourage you to attend? Yes, indeed. You'll have to turn off your phone for a few hours, but you'll be so caught up in the retreat experience, you won't even notice."*

This year, the retreat is being designed around the theme *Living in the Light*. Through readings, personal reflection and opportunities for sharing, we will consider how we flourish and let our light shine, both as individuals and as a community, despite the forces of darkness that sometimes threaten to overcome us.

The event will run from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime. Meals and accommodation are included. Plus, a one-day event on the Saturday will be offered for MANNA families, with several activities overlapping with the retreat.

Registration details will be coming. For now, mark your diary!

## Harcourt Men's Group and the Model A in the Parking Lot

by Bill Lord

The next meeting of the Harcourt Men's Group will be **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**. Mark Sears, a member at Harcourt, will speak on the topic; "My Grandpa's Model A". Mark retired from the University of Guelph 10 years ago and needed some activities to keep him busy. He has undertaken the task of restoring two Model A Fords he received from his Grandfather and his Dad. His Grandpa bought a 1928 Coupe in October of 1928 that Mark rebuilt in high school and drove to University. It then sat for the next 40+ years until he brought it to Guelph and again restored it. It is now on the road again after more than 50 years--look for it in the parking lot. He is also the President of the Model A Owners of Canada, Southern Ontario Chapter. All men are welcome to attend. You are also invited to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this session. John Phelps will have coffee and tea ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Ed Janzen will be the leader. In your date book please record the date of **June 13<sup>th</sup>** for our next meeting. The speaker will be Dan Ganesh, a member at Harcourt, and he will speak about his life story: "From Georgetown Guyana to Guelph."



## Hearing About the History of the U of G Arboretum The Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship Group

by Jean Julian

Dr. Shelley Hunt, Executive Director of the University of Guelph Arboretum, was the guest speaker at the April meeting of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship Group. The 35 women who attended the meeting thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Hunt's illustrated presentation; an overview of the Arboretum from its early beginnings to the present. The Arboretum is free to the public year round and Dr. Hunt encouraged everyone to visit the grounds to enjoy the gardens, trails or special educational events. A visit to the Trillium Woods might be a great way to celebrate our late spring!

Marilyn Murray, a Harcourt's trustee, will be our special guest at the May meeting. Marilyn will tell you "*Everything You Want to Know About Harcourt's Trustees and Were Afraid to Ask*". All women are welcome to the **Monday, May 16 meeting at 11:45 in the Friendship Room**. Bring your brown bag lunch. Tea and treats are provided.

## **Urgent Bulletin From The Property Committee: How to Lock the Bathroom Door in the Accessible Washroom!**

by Ben Fear, Property Committee

Now that the excitement of the grand opening has passed and everyone has had a chance to view the new, accessible bathrooms, we wish to review the operational technique required to open and close the cubicle doors, in order to avoid any embarrassing incidents.

There are two cubicles/rooms and each has its own door opening button; the left button operates the left side cubicle/room and the right button operates the right side cubicle/room. When the rooms/cubicles are **not in use, they are lit with a GREEN light** on the door which indicates that the cubicle is not occupied. If a button is lit **RED**, the door is locked because the cubicle/room is occupied.

Pressing the **GREEN** button on the outside of the door will automatically open it. **BEWARE:** it opens outward. The door will close automatically after you enter the cubicle, but it **WILL NOT LOCK**, so **YOU must press the 'lock button' once inside**. After the 'lock button' is pushed (a big sign is going on the lock button), the light around the button that is on the outside of the washroom door turns **RED** to show anyone coming into the washroom that the cubicle is now occupied. If you find that the cubicle door has closed and you have forgotten to lock it (and it is inconvenient to do so), we suggest that while in there you might want to *"Whistle a Happy Tune"* and thus avoid an unscheduled meeting!

Remember the doors open outward and once they start to open they are hard to stop. So an uninvited guest will find it difficult to grab the door to stop its progress... and you will become a spectacle until the door decides to close itself again. So **lock the door unless you want others to join the party**. To exit from inside the cubicle/room, **press the green button** and the door will open outward, eventually close by itself and the button light on the outside of the door will automatically turn green to show that the cubicle is now vacant. The automatic doors move at a slow speed to allow access for any person with slower mobility.

The alternative to the occupant whistling to let others know that the cubicle is in use is to suggest that any one approaching with intent should sing the opening lines of the chorus of "When the Saints Come Marching In"!! But really... it's better and easier to just **"REMEMBER TO LOCK THE DOOR " !**

## Spirituality When Optimism Fails

by Andre Auger, Spiritual Life Committee

The Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin coined the expression “diminishment” to capture his experience of gradual loss of ability - the opposite of “growth.” Typically, we are an optimistic, hopeful people, and our spirituality tends to operate on the assumption that things will always get better. After all, we love to quote Julian of Norwich's famous line “all things shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well” (Graves, n.d.).

Well, what if they're not? What if, after three years following a double lung transplant, you come to realize that all things shall not be well?

Four years ago, Harcourt covenanted with Maxine Lipinski, along with some others, to be a Spiritual Companion to the congregation. Maxine has been so debilitated by the collateral gastric damage resulting from the otherwise successful lung transplant that, from day to day, she doesn't know if she will be moaning with pain in bed or able to perform any daily tasks. Through it all, Maxine has developed a spirituality that is allowing her to learn from her debility and grow in her faith. I wanted to find out how she does it. We had coffee recently and I asked her. She has regretted not being able to contribute much to Harcourt's spiritual life. The story of her experimentation with her faithful journey with God will be her way of contributing to Harcourt as a Covenanted Spiritual Companion. I will be interviewing her over the next while to glean from her the lessons she has learned about what works and what doesn't in a pain-ridden journey with God when hope dwindles.

In our first conversation, what struck me were seven recurring themes which she named in rather quick succession: 1) Stay focused on the moment; 2) Let go of expectations, the source of all desolation; 3) Exercise your Compassionate Observer; 4) Look for the Love; 5) Discover gratitude for small moments of gift; 6) Stay connected to your community; 7) When reading and writing are no longer possible, there's always conversation with God.

Do any of these spiritual practices resonate with you? Have you had occasion to develop new spiritual practices as a result of illness or loss or debilitation? In the articles to come, we will unpack each one of Maxine's practices in turn. The path through our pain is really unknown territory for most of us. Maxine's path is her own, of course, but her experience might be of help to those of us who are beginning to realize that diminishment is real, tomorrow will likely be less than today, and what worked for us spiritually before might no longer serve us.

Reference: Graves, D. (n.d.). “All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well”: Julian of Norwich. Christian History Institute, Article 31.

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/incontext/article/julian>

## **Why I L♥ve Mission and Service**

by Ann Estill, M&S Advocacy

As some of you know, after 20 years of being in Canada and becoming citizens, Don's employer wanted him back in Iowa. I had just begun work on a M Div. and was in the process toward ordination. Skip forward 5 years, I was ordained by United Methodism and appointed to a rural three-point parish.

What does this have to do with Mission and Service you may be wondering. Well very soon it became apparent that about every other Sunday we were expected to publicize another cause for the wider church such as summer camps, justice issues, Black colleges, prison chaplaincies, jurisdictional staff training and overseas missionaries. Besides, there was usually an envelope included in the bulletin. I found that quite an onerous assignment as a newly minted (and quite shy) minister. How could I ask that of my people?

I was quite relieved when In 1982 we returned to Canada and Mission and Service; Fund our own United Church United Appeal. How simple! How efficient!

Yes! I have been a big supporter and booster of Mission and Service Fund forever it seems. How glad I am to be a part of Harcourt with its rich heritage of generosity to our United Church United Appeal, the Mission and Service Fund.

## **Flowers for the Future: A Farewell Request**

by Ann Middleton, Chair, Chancel Committee

I am retiring from chairing the Chancel Committee, a task that I have enjoyed immensely. It has been a great pleasure to work with a delightful group of people to organize Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter flowers and decorations. This very busy and dedicated committee now needs help for the future.

Members of the committee work together for the major holidays and often provide flowers from their own budgets for Sundays. It would help if some members of the congregation would be willing to take on the job of organizing flowers for a week or two each during the year. In addition, new members are needed to work with the committee, not only to decorate, but to look after purchasing flowers, collecting money and putting articles in the Harcourt Herald and Church e-bulletin at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter when we have large displays of memorial flowers in the sanctuary.

If you can help with any of these tasks, please contact me before the end of June. I can assure you that working with the *flower people* is a lot of fun!



HOCUS CROCUS

# CROKINOLE

Tournament for Campus Ministry

**SAT. MAY 5**  
**2PM-4PM**

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**  
**161 Norfolk Street, Guelph**

*A fundraiser event supporting Ecumenical  
Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph*

*Join us for a fun afternoon of non-  
competitive crokinole action, goodies, and  
a silent auction*

*Pay-what-you-can registration at the door  
(\$40 suggested). Church/community with  
highest total score wins the Crokinole Cup.*

For more info, visit  
[www.ECMguelph.org/crokinole](http://www.ECMguelph.org/crokinole)



Christmas Crokinole 2017 Champions - Dublin St. United, Guelph

# Community News

## Garage Sale, 2018... Ice Storm Style!

by Janet Webster

*"We can complain that rose bushes have thorns or ... we can be grateful because thorn bushes have roses".* This phrase on my mother-in-law's fridge magnet could describe the experience of holding a garage sale on the day of an ice storm.



Photo by Ryan Hodnett, Guelph

I am choosing to be grateful for the stalwart volunteers who braved the weather to come to the church to help run the sale, and the die-hard garage sale shoppers who came to buy! Business was brisk for the first hour or so but as the rain changed to ice, crowds dwindled. We offered those present from 10:45 on, the opportunity to fill a box for \$10 and many did so.

I am grateful to the Food Bank volunteers who arrived en masse at noon to pack up and load their vans with approximately 75% of the unsold treasures.

I am especially grateful that we have an energetic Harcourt clean-up crew who spent an hour or two to restore the gym, break down boxes and prepare leftovers for delivery to other venues.

I am also grateful for:

- ♥ The many "roses" that ventured out on Friday to donate, unpack and display those donations, and the "roses" who brought snacks!!!
- ♥ The two "roses" who spent hours organizing jewelry, always a popular sale table but only if it is easy for buyers to examine the broaches, earrings, necklaces and so on. We were able to set aside several lovely, unsold pieces for the *All Things Christmas* sale in hopes of better weather!!

- ♥ The “roses” who looked after the treasures tables.
- ♥ The guys who drove to several locations to pick up donations for those who could not deliver their treasures themselves.

I checked the weather at 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. early Saturday and was so grateful that the ice did not arrive at the forecasted time. Thus we were able to accommodate the eager buyers lined up at the door at 8 a.m.

Thorns?? Well, people being what they are, we noticed a few of those also but only a few! There was the “wit” who changed the street sign from “Garage Sale” to “Garbage Sale”! But our thanks go to the “rose” who told us about it and then changed it back! There are always some who insist that the price is too high, and a few donations that are just not appropriate for re-sale requiring a trip directly to the dump.

Smiles? Well, yes, we gave those too. We gave a big one to the lady who lives nearby who offered to come back to help clean-up. To the people who paid /donated above the asking price. We gave other smiles to the who found a special toy, the lady who wondered where our bake table was and the man who insisted we had books in the other room (“No, Sir”, we said, “that is another group, but thank you for coming today as well”)! We also gave smiles to the people who acted as chauffeurs and those who took home ‘rejects’ to add to their own garbage. And, of course, we gave smiles to those grateful for the chance to downsize.

So, you can either complain that there was an ice storm on our garage sale day OR ...you can be grateful we HAD a garage sale on a storm day!

Although funds raised were lower than last year, the cash boxes yielded \$1,815.25 by Saturday afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who made it all possible!



## What a Pile of Books! Stacking Up the Recently Read and To-be Reads

by Roz Stephenson

This might have been a review of one – or even two- interesting new books, but it's remarkable how quickly one or two books turn into a stack of books – the almost-finished, the just getting-into, and the piled-up to read next ... or someday. Get a couple started and Amazon has a list of yet more new books for your consideration!

My pile started last fall when I read **“God: A Human History”** by **Reza Aslan** (2017, Random House Publishing). He provides a very readable story about the diverse ways in which humans have understood spiritual experience and concept of God. The 170 pages of text moves along at a rapid pace, but an extensive section of footnotes covers many more interesting bits. I followed that with a book by **Harvey Cox**, **“How to Read the Bible”** (2015, HarperCollins Publishing) which, surprisingly, used a lot of recent archaeological information to probe old and new testament writings, and to ask: did it really happen that way, and if not, what are the stories trying to tell us and why?

After that, I think I was ready for the challenge of what **John Shelby Spong** says is his for-sure last book: **“Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today”** (2018, HarperCollins Publishing). He explores twelve ‘theses’ –

looking at how these beliefs became accepted as part of Christian faith and creeds. Then for each he asks, ‘is that really believable?’ That ‘Unbelievable’ aspect is the part that is challenging – but also something of a relief as well!



The last book I have been working through over Easter is, appropriately **“Resurrecting Easter”** by **John Dominic Crossan and Sarah Sexton Crossan** (2018, HarperCollins Publishing), subtitled “How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision”. This is a beautifully illustrated book, with many colour reproductions of paintings, carvings and manuscripts that have illustrated the Resurrection story. What Crossan and his wife, an artist,

noted in their travels was that there was a curious distinction in illustrations from the Eastern, Byzantine tradition and from the Western tradition. The Gospels don't have a direct narrative of the Resurrection, and Mark's gospel has that worrisome "added later" bit. So, what did the earliest art suggest was the understood story? Why were the guards at the tomb always depicted – asleep, or awake and seeing everything? The Crossans look at the evolving depiction of the Resurrection – or, in the Greek term, *Anistasis*, and note the contrasting Western forms showing the raising of Christ as an *individual*, and the Eastern versions of a *universal* resurrection, in which the raised Christ pulls Adam and Eve – all of humanity – out of the underworld, effectively emptying Hades. A complex and fascinating look at how art can be used to trace how stories have been told and how traditions have evolved.

I'd stop here, but the pile of books keeps growing with contributions from many familiar names. **Diane Butler Bass** has a new book, "**Grateful: the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks**" (2018, HarperCollins Publishing); Greta **Vosper** has "**Time or Too Late: Chasing the Dream of Progressive Christian Faith**" (2017, File 14: PostPurgical Resources Toronto Publishing). **Barbara Brown Taylor** has "**Holy Envy**" (2018, HarperCollins Publisher), and **Walter Bruggemann** has a collection of writings called "**A Gospel of Hope**" (2018, Westminster John Knox Press Publisher). So, we keep reading!

## Humour Is a Great Draw!

Used with permission

In October of 2005, a Seattle store converted their auto repair shop into an ExtraMile convenience store and suddenly they thought they might have a problem. It had always been easy to think of messages to put on their sign for things like service promotions or store specials. But with the ExtraMile store there were no more cars to fix. "So we decided to do something different," the gas station staff member explained on their website. Now to draw in customers, once a week, the business posts funny slogans on the sign. It was, as a manager explains, a way for the community "to connect with us." Although the 'Wallingford Sign' is something of local landmark, you don't have to live in Seattle to enjoy its humor. The sign has its very own Facebook and Twitter accounts, and fans have been using social media to share their favorite sign moments. For more Wallingford Signs, visit:

<http://www.seattlepropane.com/wallingfordsign>



## It's Not Too Late!

by Peter Gill

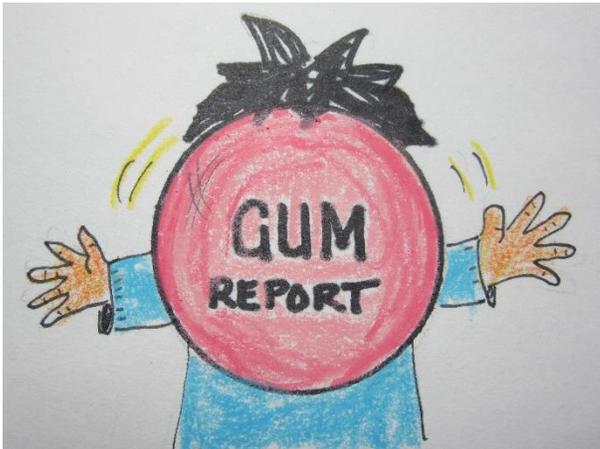
There are some things I procrastinate over and applying for a Loblaws gift card has been one of those things. As a reminder, Loblaws is offering a \$25 gift card to compensate customers for many years of bread price-fixing. I just filled out the application and it took me all of two minutes!

We are suggesting that you apply for a gift card and donate \$25.00 to Chalmers for which you will receive a tax receipt. If you have more than one e-mail address in your household, you can apply for a card under each address. You can visit [LoblawCard.ca](http://LoblawCard.ca) to fill out the form. Donations of a hundred (or more) \$25.00's would greatly help Chalmers purchase much-needed food for our guests. Thank you for your help.

## A Report On the Activities of the Guelph United Ministries (GUM)

by Roz Stevenson, Harcourt Lay Representative

The four United Churches in Guelph (Dublin, Harcourt, Three Willows, and Trinity), along with the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph and Chalmers Community Social Services, work together to be the United Church of Canada in Guelph. During Lent, for example, they collaborated on services marking Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Meetings have also been held among Communications teams and Trustees of the four congregations, and at the April meeting of the GUM Management circle, there was extensive discussion on the ways cooperation could help enhance youth ministry activities for young adults, on campus and in the city generally. Re-organization of previous Presbytery and Conference regions make this an interesting time for activities of Regional Youth Ministries.



Art work by Roz Stephenson

Finally, using the future-past-perfect tense, GUM “will-is-has” organized a ticketed event **on April 28**, providing the opportunity to hear Rev. Dr. John Pentland of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary and consider how we can best “Look Ahead with Joy”!

## Pysanky Days: Beautiful Hand-Painted Eggs that Celebrate Easter

by Alice Carey, Mary Peleschak, Sue Rosebush, Lisette Vanderkamp and Cisca Vanderkamp

This year, Harcourt's Pysanky Days started with a houseful at Elizabeth Moffat-Eberhardt's place in Waterloo. Elizabeth and her friends had hosted a social, English-teaching group for Syrian refugee woman all winter. When Easter came, she wanted to do something special for them. She remembered doing pysanky with Harcourt one year, and thought the Syrian women might be interested in that. So, one evening, at least 20 women -- and two babies -- gathered to paint the first batch of pysanky eggs and enjoy some *eggceptional* food and coffee.



In nine subsequent Guelph classes, we had about 90 people who gathered in Cisca Vanderkamp's house, ranging in age from 9 to 85, coming from Aylmer to Shelburne and many points in between. In all, we made over 100 pysanky eggs. Some were *eggsquisite* masterpieces, some beautiful, some merely rather nice to look at. Some BROKE!

Thank you to Arkell Road Poultry Research Station for the special eggs. Thanks for the delicious cookies, Alice Carey, Gillian Davis, Jean Hume, Ann Middleton, Nancy Ryan and Heather Sullivan. And we're *eggstatic* to report that Harcourt will be over \$900 richer after our *eggcellent* donation.

## Plant Your Feet in the Harcourt Communal Garden

by Jill Gill

Surely by the time this newsletter is issued we will have some spring-like weather! And we'll be thinking about getting into the garden to grow delicious edibles. If that sounds like you, please join other volunteers in the Harcourt Communal Garden on **Saturday, May 26 from 9 a.m. to noon**. We will be doing spring cleanup and preparing the on-ground and raised beds for planting this year's vegetable/fruit/herb crop. All the produce we harvest is donated to the food pantry at Chalmers Community Services Centre, providing fresh, organically-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs in addition to the regular non-perishables that guests receive. CCSC is a Harcourt-supported charity.

This wonderful and fun work that is reliant on volunteers to maintain the garden. In previous years we have enlisted the help of approximately twenty volunteers (each scheduled to tend the garden about six times during the spring/summer/fall growing season). We work

in teams of three or four and in addition to learning plenty about vegetable gardening, make many new friends along the way.



This year, we are looking to expand our volunteer base and would encourage you to check us out on **May 26<sup>th</sup>**. You don't need to be an expert in vegetable growing, just willing to learn from many of our experienced gardeners. We can also offer volunteer hour credits to high school students who might be interested. If you would like more information, please contact Jill Gill at 519.767.1244 or at [peter.gill@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.gill@sympatico.ca).

## **Cooks That Care! Saturday Night Supper**

by Jill Gill

Harcourt's next opportunity to host Saturday Night Supper at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street, is **June 2** (N.B. previously announced as June 16). We require 12 volunteers on the night, to prepare and serve dinner and many more folks to provide the food. Our menu includes pasta casserole (recipe provided and available on Harcourt's website), Caesar salad, pickles, cheese, assorted fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, milk, juice and coffee. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Greeting Place where you can indicate how you are able to help out. Or, if you prefer to volunteer online at Sign Up Genius, go to the Harcourt website; click on "Connect to Community"; scroll down and click on "Saturday Night Supper"; then scroll down to "Sign up online". Food and volunteers should be at the church (**backdoor entrance opposite the Baker Street Parking lot**) by 5 p.m. Servers will be needed until approximately 8 p.m. Be sure to sign up for this rewarding outreach opportunity. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support for this worthwhile activity, serving a nutritious, hot meal to some of Guelph's most food-insecure individuals.

## Pictures and Memories

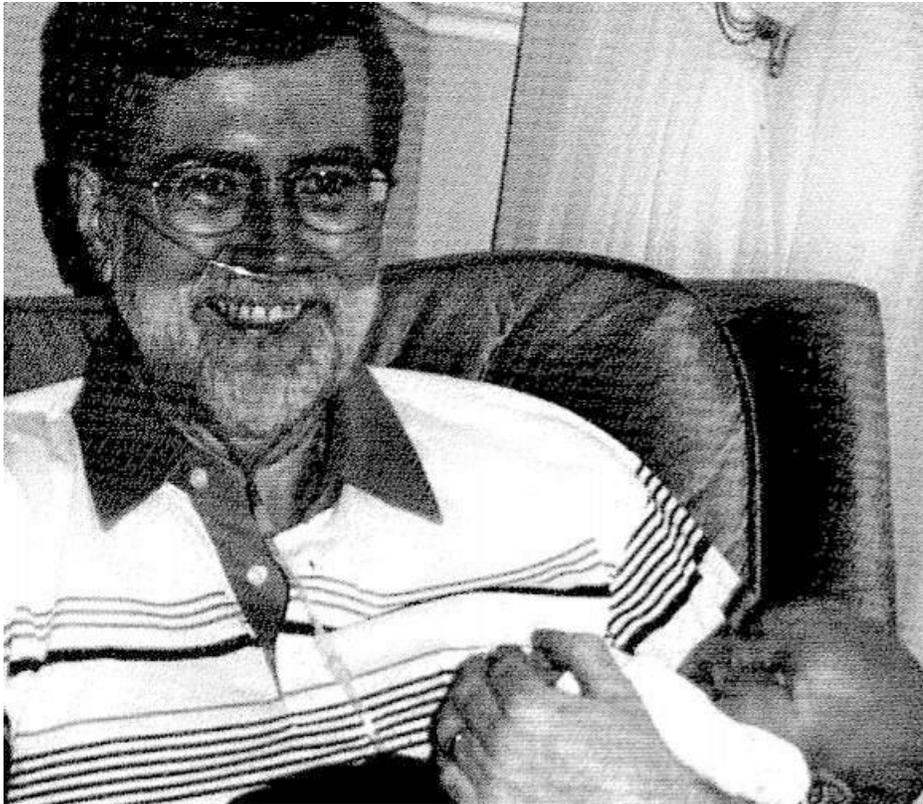
by Susanne Wilson

Originally published in *Threads of Life* Newsletter,  
Winter, 2017

[www.threadsoflife.ca](http://www.threadsoflife.ca)

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I was overwhelmed with emotion as I gazed at the picture of Bob and our first granddaughter, Skya, on the screen at the Reflections Ceremony at the Central Family Forum. The little baby girl gazing into Bob's eyes is now 17 years old. How did that happen? She is now a loving and caring young woman with an exciting future ahead of her.



Bob Auger and his granddaughter Skya

After years of pain and trouble breathing, Bob was given a diagnosis of mesothelioma, cancer of the plural sac caused by an exposure to asbestos, when he was working at a summer job. He was 17 at the time of his exposure. Doctors were very emotional when delivering the news. Bob was relieved that he finally knew the dragon that he had been fighting for many years. He was given a few months to live.

We were blessed with four more years during which we made memories with family and friends that we would hold dear after Bob was gone. It was not an easy time while we watched a once healthy man whom we all loved, be savaged by cancer. Bob often was the one who showed us how precious life was. Little problems seemed insignificant when compared to Bob's fight for his life.

We had dreamed of walking hand in hand into old age, surrounded by grandchildren. That was not meant to be. When our daughter told us that she was expecting, we were so delighted. However, in the back of my mind, I wondered if Bob would live to hold our first grandchild. His health was deteriorating quickly. I prayed for the chance to see Bob hold the new baby.

Our daughter had asked me to be at the birth, which was to take place in Toronto. We were living in Guelph. Bob said that he could be sick in Guelph or sick in Toronto. He chose Toronto to be near our daughter. In January we moved to Toronto for two weeks to await the birth. We arranged for two large tanks of oxygen and a nurse to come to stay with Bob when I had to leave for the hospital. Our beautiful baby granddaughter was born January 27th! Bob got to hold her! Bob's birthday was less than two months later, in March. He was very weak, but so fulfilled that he was able to cradle Skya. Bob died surrounded by love ten days after the picture was taken. Being and playing with Skya one day a week after Bob died kept me sane. I was exhausted. My dreams were shattered. Sometimes the tears would well up when I was suddenly aware of a precious memory. For the next year, I tried to go forward step by step, sometimes so slowly others had to hold the light for me.

That is the picture that I saw on the screen. He looks so happy as he looks into her eyes. I was hit by the realization that Skya is the same age now that Bob was when he was exposed to that sinister fibre, asbestos. In my ongoing journey of grief, sometimes thinking about her future triggers moments of distress remembering Bob's illness. As I lovingly watch her go out into the world I pray that she will be able to fulfil her dreams. I want her to be safe from all of the hazards in the workplace. My desire is that Skya and all workers are able to return home every day without contracting a disease or injury from their work.

**"I am at peace with myself"**. These are the thoughts that Bob wrote near the end of his struggle. It is both the agony and the hope that he felt. He died surrounded by love on March 28, 2000, two weeks after his 51st birthday. The picture of Bob holding his first grandchild was taken on his last birthday.

*I am a survivor. I have fought cancer for nine long and painful years. Throughout this nightmare I have loved my family, built a career and tried to keep my sanity. I sank to the depths of depression when the pain was overwhelming and I fought my way back. Throughout this ordeal I have fought for life with a passion. It has been worth the fight.*

*I have learned the humility of knowing that I have limitations. I know that I have to pace myself. Whereas once I thought I would live forever and without constraint I now know that I have limitations and that my life is finite. I have learned that doing is not everything just being is enough. We are human beings not human doings. I have learned the value of relationships and I am profoundly grateful that I have the opportunity to build relationships. I have a wonderful family. It always amazes me that I am loved. Susanne has loved and supported me through everything. We are soul mates and always will be. Rob and Catherine are mature and loving individuals and I am so proud of them. I feel that our family is complete.*

*I love being at home and the freedom that I have. I have not been this free since I was a child. I am at one with the universe and at peace with myself.*

# Announcements



## Passing:



**Willoughby, Russell Allan** loving husband of Peggy (nee Ramsey) passed peacefully on April 17, 2018 in Guelph. Born July 7, 1933 in Tilston, Manitoba to the late J.T. Wilfred and M. Christina (nee Young), Russ was raised on the family farm in Alameda, Saskatchewan. He obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Toronto (Guelph) in 1957. He established a large animal veterinary practice in Grenfell, Saskatchewan, then obtained a PhD from Cornell University in 1965 before returning to the Ontario Veterinary College where he was a

Professor, Head of Medicine, Chair of Clinical Studies and Associate Dean Research and Development. Russ established, and was the first Director of, the Equine Research Centre at the University of Guelph. He was a charter member of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, member of the Canadian and American Veterinary Medical Associations, President of the Guelph Rotary Club, Hospice Wellington, Guelph Probus and a member of Wellington County Lung Association and Guelph Wellington Men's Club. A Memorial Service will be held at **1:00 p.m. on Friday May 11, 2018 at Harcourt Memorial United Church, 87 Dean Ave, Guelph.** In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hospice Wellington. Donation cards are available at Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, Hart Chapel, Guelph (519-821-5077) or online donations and condolences may be sent at [www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com](http://www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com).

## Other Announcements:

- **UnderAWARE Campaign @ Dublin Street United Church:** Did you know that undergarments are the most requested but least donated item for those living in need? The Justice and Outreach Committee at Dublin is running a campaign to collect much needed undergarments for those in need called, UnderAWARE. There will be boxes throughout the church -- at the front door and just before entering the sanctuary,

to place NEW (NOT used) undergarments (some suggestions are underwear, bras, disposable adult briefs). We will be collecting for the next two Sundays (May 6 and May 13). Please think about making a purchase of undergarments this week to help those who need our help. The items will be distributed by Chalmers. Chalmers also accepts children's items. Please contact Jennifer Pellegrino, Office Administrator, Dublin Street United Church, 68 Suffolk Street West, Guelph N1H 2J2. Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm. Tel: 519.821.0610, ext. 221. Thank you.

- **Have YOU spotted our new defibrillator yet?** Out in the greeting place attached to the column on the west side of the church, (that's the window side) at a spot where everyone can see it and everyone can reach it is a white metal case. In that case is lifesaving equipment called an AED (automatic external defibrillator). Harcourt United Church has had one of these LIFE SAVING machines for almost ten years and it has been used with positive results on several occasions. It was kept in a plastic hamper about the size of a laundry basket in the cupboard under the desk with the MEMORIAL BOOK on it. Who knew? The new modern equipment will be visible, and useable by anyone. When the door of the case is opened an alarm will sound to alert people of the emergency. When the AED is turned on it talks to you and calmly tells you just what to do and how to save a life. You will not injure anyone by using it. Familiarize yourself with its location, it might be needed in another area of the church. For more information contact Ben Fear.
- **Change in Date for Spring Cleanup:** Spring cleanup of the Church grounds was intended to be on Saturday, April 21. Mother Nature had other ideas. Now the new date will be **Saturday, May 5 at 9am**. Please bring your rake, shovel, hoe or pruning shears. Everyone is welcome! Dave Hume, Chair of the Property Committee.
- **Don't forget the Skylight Festival July 27-29** at the Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre. If you would like to join other Harcourt members to attend this great event, please contact Merrill Pierce at [smpierce@sympatico.ca](mailto:smpierce@sympatico.ca) or 519.836.8867. Cheques will be due in May.
- Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council, **invites you to read the following online article:** *5 do's and 5 don'ts for using your church building well*, by Donna Schaper. A physical space can be at the vital center of ministry—if you don't make it an idol.  
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/opinion/5-dos-and-5-donts-using-your-church-building-well>
- **Harcourt has recently revised its rental policies.** For more information, or to read the report on new regulations, please contact Anne Purkis, Church Administrator, at [office@harcourtuc.ca](mailto:office@harcourtuc.ca) or phone [519-824-4177](tel:519-824-4177).

## Saturday Night Supper Needs You!

by Jill Gill

The Saturday Night Supper program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Church, at 50 Quebec Street. In 2008, Royal City Church requested that the program be maintained by the various churches that actually provided the meals and volunteers to serve the meals, with the venue remaining at Royal City Church. This is still ongoing, with about 20 churches and groups providing Saturday night suppers throughout the year. Harcourt folks host dinner four times per year.

These dinners serve many of the same folks that we see at the Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry. Saturday Night suppers, for many are their special night of 'dining out' and they express great appreciation for both the delicious food and fellowship that it provides. I have been coordinating the dinners that Harcourt hosts for approximately ten years and am looking for a capable person(s) to shadow me for the next few dinners to learn the drill and eventually take over this responsibility.

Responsibilities include:

- Occasionally communicating with the organiser at Royal City Church;
- Placing a notice in the Harcourt Herald in advance of dinner dates to recruit volunteers and food donations;
- Placing a sign-up sheet in the Greeting Place;
- Requesting that Anne Purkis create a Sign Up Genius posting;
- Placing notice in Harcourt bulletins in advance of dinner dates; occasional announcements in church requesting volunteers and thanking participants;
- Purchasing food that hasn't been donated;
- Preparation of 'Task Lists' for food preparation and serving as well as clean-up after the meal. The menu is set with a well-loved recipe for Pasta Casserole.

This is such a rewarding volunteer activity, especially for anyone interested in Social Justice and food security in our community. There is a solid core of repeat volunteers who regularly prep and serve dinner, so there are plenty of mentors. We meet wonderful folks and hear interesting and heart-warming stories over good food, in a non-threatening environment. I am willing to co-coordinate for a reasonable number of dinner events to allow a new person to gain some confidence and understanding of procedures. Our next date to host is June 2, followed by Sept. 22 and Dec. 22, 2018. If this sounds intriguing to you, please contact Jill Gill (519)767.1244 or at [peter.gill@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.gill@sympatico.ca) for further details.

# Who Is My Neighbour?

Are you looking for a meaningful challenge?

## Why not volunteer as the Harcourt Co-coordinator for Saturday Night Suppers!

About 20 churches and groups provide  
Saturday night suppers throughout the year.  
Harcourt hosts this dinner four times per year.

**Make a difference for  
those who appreciate it the most**

Contact Jill or Peter Gill at (519)767.1244  
or at [peter.gill@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.gill@sympatico.ca)

## Behind the Scenes

*“If an interconnected ecological network sustains our lives in this world, we are inevitably in relationship with all parts of that living web. We are ecological and planetary neighbors, in spite of species difference. Our love for our human neighbors —particularly the ecologically marginalized— is enhanced by respectful relationships with all parts of this planetary ecosystem. Additionally, as the teaching says, we love our neighbors as we love ourselves when we shift the character of our relationship with the natural world.”* Rev. Dr. Genny Rowley<sup>1</sup>

### Who Is Our Neighbour? A Bigger Picture

by Christine Boyle, BSc in Urban Agriculture and First Nations Studies (UBC), MA in Religious Leadership for Social Change (UCB)

*Director of Programs and Engagement at*

*Fossil Free Faith Canada*

*and a United Church delegate to the UN Climate Conference (COP21)*

*Posted on the United Church website: March 16, 2018*

The United Church’s “A New Creed” reminds us that we are called to live with respect in creation. Not respect “for” creation, as a separate entity. But respect “in” the creation that is all around and within us. That is our origin story, we people who were formed of soil and of one another.

As global temperatures rise, and destructive weather patterns become more frequent; as poor and vulnerable regions become more vulnerable; as the call to live into reconciliation rings out across this sacred land... How can we faithfully respond?

The United Church sent three delegates to COP21 in Paris, lifting up the church’s conviction that climate action is a moral and spiritual issue, and standing in solidarity with those most affected by climate change, particularly Indigenous people and partners in the global South.

The climate crisis is serving to highlight the interdependence of all life on earth. And the climate justice movement, globally, is growing in response. At the COP21 climate negotiations we heard clear calls to join in the struggle in defense of both future generations, and current generations. To resist notions that climate change is inevitable, to overcome nearly paralyzing despair and fear, to challenge the powers that seek to keep us reliant on unsustainable energy.

In this critical moment, remaining radically hopeful is an important act. And so is speaking truth to power – through local organizing, political advocacy, and maybe even civil disobedience.

The United Church, at GC42, voted to divest the church's treasury funds from the top 200 fossil fuel companies. While many celebrated the move, it was also lamented, particularly by members in resource dependent regions. Moderator Jordan Cantwell recently held up those concerns, in a statement "On Fossil Fuels and Living into Decisions Made," naming that "while the church is encouraging investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, we also want a 'just transition for workers and communities' affected by the shift away from oil."

Learn more about the United Church's work on climate justice:

- The 1992 'One Earth Community' statement
- The Canadian Council of Churches' 2015 statement "On Promoting Climate Justice and Ending Poverty in Canada"
- The 2015 Storforsen Appeal

Learn more about the diverse efforts by communities of faith to call attention to creation care, climate change, and global justice in the article "Faith Communities Organize to Save the Planet at COP21."

Christian climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe says that the science tells us that climate change is happening, and that we rely on our faith to tell us how to respond.

How can we faithfully respond? How is your faith community responding?

<sup>1</sup> Rowlley, G. (2014). Climate Change and Neighbor Love <https://eewc.com/climate-change-neighbor-love/>



*Dave Hume tending Harcourt's garden*

## Harcourt Calendar – May 2018

Updated April 17, 2018—[www.harcourtuc.ca](http://www.harcourtuc.ca) for most up-to-date information

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### Tuesday May 1

#### Office Closed

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

### Wednesday May 2

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

5:30pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

### Thursday May 3

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

### Friday May 4

7:00pm Junior Youth Group

### Saturday May 5

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Concert [S]

### Sunday May 6

#### *Affirming Sunday*

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

7:30pm High School Youth Group [202/203]

3:00pm Exercise and Wellness Classes for Women [G]

### Monday May 7

#### Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

### Tuesday May 8

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Worship Committee [C]

7:00pm Finance Committee [202]

7:00pm Property Committee [L]

7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

### Wednesday May 9

7:45am Men's Group [F]

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]

1:30pm GUM Website Meeting [202]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

5:30pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]

7:00pm Communications Committee [202]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

### Thursday May 10

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]

7:00pm Creative Intentions [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

### Friday May 11

7:00pm Youth Group

### Saturday May 12

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

### Sunday May 13

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

### Monday May 14

#### Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

### Tuesday May 15

11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]

1:30pm GUM Pastoral Care Meeting [C]

6:45 Cubs [G]

7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

**Wednesday May 16**

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
5:00pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]  
6:30 pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]  
6:30pm Guides [F]  
6:45pm Beavers [G]  
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]  
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

**Thursday May 17**

8:45am Mindstretch [202]  
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]  
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

**Saturday May 19**

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

**Sunday May 20**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship Service [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

**Monday May 21**

**Office Closed**

**Tuesday May 22**

6:45 Cubs [G]  
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

**Wednesday May 23**

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:30pm Guides [F]  
6:45pm Beavers [G]

**Thursday May 24**

8:45am Mindstretch [202]  
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

**Saturday May 26**

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

**Sunday May 27**

9:00am Worship [C]  
10:30am Worship [S]  
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

**Monday May 28**

**Office Closed**

9:30am Quilting Group [F]  
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]  
7:00pm Scouts [G]

**Tuesday May 29**

6:45pm Cubs [G]  
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

**Wednesday May 30**

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]  
6:30pm Guides [F]  
6:45pm Beavers [G]

**Thursday May 31**

8:45am Mindstretch [202]  
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]  
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

The Finance Committee will be responsible for receiving and allocating contributions into the Pillars. Trustees will be responsible for the financial management of the funds. Committees or individual congregational members may make recommendations for expenditures from these Pillars with Council providing approval.

- **Targeted** – contributions where the funds are targeted for a specific Pillar or cause
- **Non-targeted** – contributions where the Church decides on distribution. Yearly, Council will determine how funds will be distributed. The current recommendation is -
  - Property – 40%
  - Outreach – 40%
  - Music and Arts – 10%
  - Spiritual Life & Education – 10%

Each Pillar will have a suggested target minimum balance. Targeted balances represent a value that is seen as a minimum cushion in case of emergencies. Targeted balances include the value of endowed gifts where the principal cannot be touched.

Harcourt Memorial United Church, 87 Dean Avenue,  
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**harcourt**

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## Understanding Harcourt's FINANCIAL PILLARS



Harcourt has a strong history of generous contributions.

**How are the funds administered?**

Harcourt's reserve funds have been grouped into 4 sectors receiving financial support. Referred to as **pillars**, these are: **OUTREACH, PROPERTY, MUSIC & ARTS and SPIRITUAL LIFE & EDUCATION.**



- All donations can be non-endowed or endowed.
  - **Non-endowed** donations allow both principal and interest to be spent.
  - **Endowed** donations carry the restriction that the principal amount of the donation may not be spent, only interest accrued from the principal.
- **Congregational members or Committees may make recommendations to Council for expenditures from the Pillars.**

## IN TRUST FOR THE WORK OF HARCOURT

**Outreach Pillar Use:** This fund is used for outreach activities within the Harcourt community and world at large.

**Policy:** The Outreach Committee will provide Council with project recommendations and estimated expenditures for their approval. Expenditures can include disaster relief, refugee support, local outreach such as Chalmers, community gardens, etc.

**Property Pillar Use:** This fund is used for renovations and major repairs of the building and property. This fund will also be used to finance Memorial Committee projects.

**Policy:** Donations received as memorial gifts will be tracked by the Memorials Committee and used to finance Memorial projects approved by Council (e.g. outside metal benches). All other funds and donations will be used for renovations and major repairs of the building and property. The Property Committee will provide Council with project details and estimated expenditures for their approval.

**Music and Arts Pillar Use:** This fund is used to enhance arts in worship – drama, dance, visual arts and music.

**Policy:** Donations received in support of music and/or arts will be used to support Council-approved projects beyond the normal operating budget. These could include, but not limited to, musicals, pageants, choral events, music/arts therapy programs, liturgical dance, instrument purchases. The Music Director, through the Worship Committee, will provide Council with project details and estimated expenditures for their approval.

**Spiritual Life & Education Use:** This fund is used to enhance the spiritual life of the church through support of youth programs, staff education and adult spirituality.

**Policy:** Donations received in support of the spiritual life of the church will be used to support Council approved projects beyond those found in Harcourt's operating budget. Projects may include support of youth programs and education, ministerial and educational conferences, workshops and guest speakers.