

The Harcourt Herald

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

**Passion, Patience and
Pastoral Care:
GUM's Emmy Beauchamp**

**What do YOU
Think About
Sanctuary
Changes? Take
the Survey!**

**Emergency Planning
for local Churches:
Harcourt Becomes
Guelph's First
Initiative**

**And MUCH
more...**

March 2019



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

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am-noon; 1pm-4pm

Phone: 519-824-4177

Fax: 519-824-9448

Email: office@harcourtuc.ca

Web: www.harcourtuc.ca

Ministers: The People with
Reverend Miriam Flynn (ext. 222)
Miriam@harcourtuc.ca
Reverend Jim Ball (ext. 223)
Jim@harcourtuc.ca

Director of Music Ministry:
Alison MacNeill (ext. 225)
alison@harcourtuc.ca

Church Administrator: Anne Purkis
Worship, Communication & Technical Support: Shaina Ensing
Custodian: Darko Cikovic

The Harcourt Herald

*Published 10 times each year
by the*

Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome!

**Deadline: 20th of each month
Sept-June**

Editor: Gillian Joseph
theherald@harcourtuc.ca
Printing: Anne Purkis



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 to 12 noon. Visit our website at: www.harcourtuc.ca for more information

Communion at Harcourt



We celebrate communion at Harcourt at least six times a year. We tend to hold these special communal events once a season. The sacrament is shared at all three of our worship services - the 9 a.m. chapel service, the 10:30 a.m. sanctuary service and the 10:30 a.m. MANNA gathering in the Friendship Room.

We include here the proposed communion dates for 2019 for those wishing to know in advance.

17th Century pewter Communion cup and paten. Photo by Jim Ball

Easter season.	Sunday May 5
After Pentecost season.	Sunday June 16
Creation season.	Sunday October 6
Advent season.	Sunday December 1
Christmas Eve.	Tuesday December 24

by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

Council's February 20th meeting focused on reflections about 2018 learnings and decisions to set the stage for progress in 2019.



- Sonya Wu-Winter reported on her six months' work with Harcourt to explore what community development and engagement could entail within the context of radical change. She identified three interwoven threads that can shape and inform our work as a community of faith.

1. Congregational/social innovation supported by regional networks/leaders (e.g. EDGE Network of United Church of Canada): We decided to accept EDGE's offer to test some of their new resources and provide feedback. How might our learnings from experimentation help guide others in their initiatives?

2. Local community partnerships: Harcourt has applied to become an organizational member of 10 Carden (Guelph), a hub/circle of vibrant community engagement conversation and workshops. Two upcoming meetings are other examples of potential partnerships for us: exploration of a GUM collaboration for refugee sponsorship and support (March 5); exploration of Harcourt's possible role in a City of Guelph Emergency Response Plan (March 4).

3. Places of genuine/authentic encounter: There are opportunities to meet our neighbours (geographical and more broadly) for deeper engagement and understanding. (E.g. Bridging Group potluck; community conversations hosted by the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition; the SWESH program).

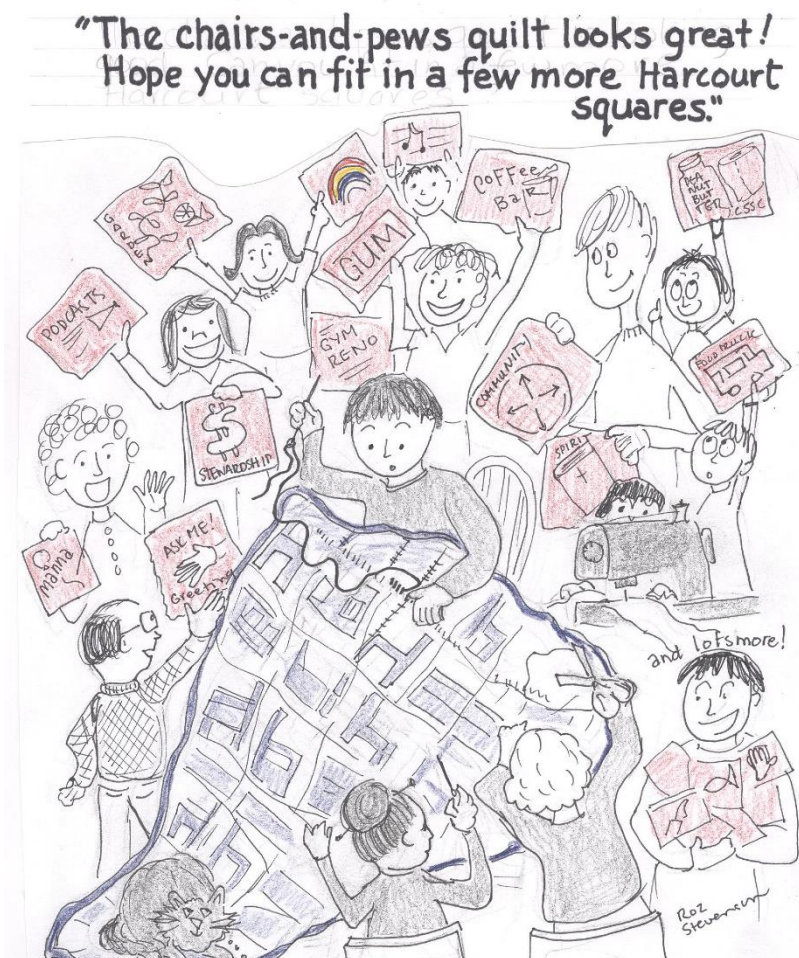
We thanked Sonya for her conscientious work, leading to discussion at the Annual Meeting about the proposed Community Engagement Animator.

- Lynn Hancock summarized the debriefing conversations about our successful experiment to host Food Trucks. The vendors are keen to return for a longer period of time. We decided to support Lynn in her negotiation with the vendors for Food Truck Mondays, potentially from May to September. Once confirmed, Lynn will lead a team to coordinate the project.

- We reflected on the January 29th gathering of GUM Conversations for Change. Participants are challenged to try something new/different before the next gathering to increase our familiarity with the other churches.
- Pat Martin presented the coverage plan for Jim Ball's sabbatical, April 1 to June 30. Rev. Mary Savage (retired) will provide a part-time Ministry of Companionship & Presence (pastoral care and worship leadership) and Judy Steers will assist with MANNA leadership. Lay liturgists and some guest speakers complete the calendar. We thank the Sabbatical Coordinating Team for their diligent and timely work.

We concluded our meeting by thanking Lindsay Lennox for her ten years as Harcourt's lay representative to Waterloo Presbytery. Her commitment and experience within the wider church have been valued contributions to our Council and the Presbytery Education & Students Committee.

The Congregation's input and endorsement at our Annual Meeting on February 24 will help determine our 2019 achievements as we continue our Harcourt 20/20 journey. With faith and hope.



Cartoon by Roz Stephenson

New to Harcourt?



Church office

Tel: 519-824-4177

E-mail: office@harcourtuc.ca

Web Site: www.harcourtuc.ca

Seek – Connect – Act

The Neighbourhood Lens



What Is Love? A Story Night Tour

by Parish Collective - Edge - ReImagine (United Church of Canada)

We search for it every day. We look for it in relationships with our friends and families, our coworkers. We search for it through sports, the arts, spiritual community. What if what we are searching for could be found right where we are? **What if what we are looking for is in our neighbourhoods?** There is inherent value to be **seen** to **belong** right where we are and there is a gold mine of wonder, giftedness and love to be discovered in the places we live. **March 6 Planet Bean Cafe on Gordon St, Guelph at 7:00 PM.** Contact the Church Office for more information (see poster below).

An Urgent Call from the United Church to Sponsor LGBTQIA Refugees

Did you know that the United Church of Canada is one of the few faith based sponsorship agreement holders within Canada's LGBTQIA Refugee Program? Did you know that there are more LGBTQIA people seeking refuge than there are sponsors? Being gay is still a crime in 70 countries. Add your voice to the conversation through the new United Church LGBTQIA refugee web resource. <https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/sponsoring-lgbtq2-refugee>

Guelph mayor's homelessness task force releases report

A report submitted by Mayor Cam Guthrie's task force on homelessness lays out top five priorities and financial commitments needed to tackle homelessness and addictions in Guelph. Some of these issues, such as the recovery room, Welcoming Streets and the court support worker, have been identified as immediate priorities, with discussions now underway to secure funding. <https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/9184712-guelph-mayor-s-homelessness-task-force-releases-report/>

Committee and Group News

The HST on the Washroom Construction has arrived!

by Dave Hume, Chair of Property Committee

On Feb. 6th a welcome cheque arrived that is the partial repayment of the PST and HST paid on items that Harcourt purchased during the construction of the Accessible Washrooms. The amount of the repayment was \$24,128.45. That amount now helps to rebuild the Property Pillar to \$60,366. With the amount held back for catastrophes and the market reserve against drops in the financial markets, there are only \$31,740 in available funds that can be applied to building-related emergencies. I thank members of the Congregation who contributed this past year to rebuilding the Property Pillar.

I also thank Marilyn Parr for applying for and getting the PST and HST rebate. In addition, I would also like to thank the members of the Washroom Building Committee, Joan Barham, Jean Julian, Lynda Jessop-Lew, Michael Hofer, Mark Sears, Kent Hoeg and Murray Woods (treasurer) for bringing the construction of the washrooms to a successful completion.

Caroline Harcourt Women To Talk About Proposed Sanctuary Changes

by Lynn Hancock

At February's meeting, Ruth Tatham braved the wintry elements to help us relate to the life of Mary, mother of Jesus. With her Bible by her side and notes to prompt her, Ruth reminded us that: "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." Ruth left us with much to ponder in our hearts.

On March 11th at 11:45 a.m. Lynn Hancock will be inviting questions and/or feedback on behalf of the Ad Hoc Seating Committee. With the aid of Elizabeth Bone's remarkable sanctuary model, Lynn will be encouraging women to imagine how the sanctuary space could reflect Harcourt's evolving community of faith. All women are welcome so come and join us downstairs in the Friendship Room. Please bring your bag lunch and be prepared for warm hospitality and sweet treats.

Guelph Wellington Seniors Association Feeling Better Move Well Program



What: A gentle group fitness class

Where: Harcourt United Church, 87 Dean Ave. Guelph
(in the gymnasium)

When: Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Who: Adults age 55+, any fitness level, join anytime!

A donation of \$2.00 a class is gratefully appreciated

The trained volunteer leader will adapt the class program to accommodate any fitness level,
seated or standing versions.

Classes have aerobic, strength, balance and stretching components.

VIEW THE 2018 HARCOURT ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE AT:
<HTTPS://WWW.HARCOURTUC.CA/ASSETS/UPLOADS/2019/02/ANNUAL-REPORT-2018-FINAL-REV-FEB-15.2019.PDF>

Honour a Loved One This Easter

by Barb Friend, Chair of Chancel

Would you like to continue our tradition of honouring loved ones or to celebrate a special event by donating towards the purchase of an Easter plant? If so, please contact Barbara Friend at barfriend52@gmail.com; cell: 519-803-5032 or home: 519-763-5032 by April 15th.



Sanctuary Seating Consultation Update

by Steve Pierce, Committee Chair

The consultation process is well underway in a number of areas. Two of the three scheduled focus groups have met. One of the groups was cancelled due to weather. Consideration is being given to scheduling another group. The number of people who attended the two focus groups was low; however, the discussions were helpful to the Committee as it gathers information about the idea of having chairs in the sanctuary instead of pews.

Stan Bunston, who is not a committee member and is a Spiritual Companion at Harcourt, is available as a resource for people who may wish to have some support during this process.

A survey is now in place and people can access it at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLNYCGN>.

A paper copy of the survey is also available in the greeting area. We are asking that surveys be completed **by Feb. 28, 2019.**

Visits to churches which have made the change from pews to chairs are underway. The following churches have been visited: Westminster United in Orangeville, St. James Anglican and Three Willows United in Guelph, St. John's United in Georgetown. Additional visits are planned for Eglinton-St. George's in Toronto, St. David's United in Woodstock and Riverside United in London. Each church is asked various questions about their experiences in making the change and pictures are taken as well.

Consultation has begun with those groups who rent/use the sanctuary for their activities. Current users/renters of the sanctuary will be asked for feedback regarding any impact having chairs might have regarding their use of the space.

The Committee continues to collect information regarding types of chairs, the cost of the chairs, costs related to pew removal and any additional operational costs. Items such as flooring and storage will also be considered.

Feel free to contact any of the Committee members who are available to receive feedback and to answer any questions. The members of the Committee are Alison MacNeill, Dave Hume, Sandy Middleton, Lynn Hancock, Roz Stevenson, Elizabeth Bone, Carolyn Davidson and Steve Pierce.

Some Ash Wednesday Reading for the Family

by Mary-Lou Funston, Library Committee

Since Ash Wednesday is coming up very soon, I have included some suggestions for Lenten reading, as well as two other volumes that will, hopefully, appeal to others in the congregation.

FOR LENT:

* What's in A Word 40: Words of Jesus for the 40 Days of Lent David Winter 242.34 WIN

Each day includes a suggested Bible verse, a homily on the topic for the day, a short (one sentence) reflection, a one-sentence prayer and a question for discussion or thought.



- * There's No ATM in the Wilderness Daily Reflections for Lent 242 UNI

This small book "invites you into a spiritual journey that explores your relationship with money and its impact on your faith life."

- * Easter From The Backside J. Ellsworth Kalas 242.3 KAL

This volume has 7 chapters, each of which approaches Easter from a different perspective. The author says, "I begin in the Garden of Eden and end in heaven, which seems to me to be a pretty good Lenten trip."

FOR GENERAL READING:

- * Grandparenting as a Sacred Gift The United Church of Canada 248.8 HUN

This small volume is divided into 3 Parts: Faith Reflection, Grandparenting Experiences, and Resources to Support Spiritual Grandparenting.

If this catches your interest and you want to know more, check with Ellice Oliver who donated the book to the library.

- * The Evolution of God Robert Wright 200 WRI

This is a "weighty" work in every sense. The author explores the development of religion from earliest times to the present day. In his words, "...I contend that the history of religion presented in this book, materialist though it is, actually affirms the validity of a religious worldview...that is in some meaningful sense religious."

FOCUS ON YOUTH:

- * Never Ask Delilah for a Trim...And Other Good Advice

Devotions for Young People YP 242 BOL

"Focusing on the Gospel of Matthew, [the author] helps teens think about how their choices reflect God's priorities."

- * The Wing Ray Buckley J BUC

A lovely tale of loss and healing, in a most unexpected way, with wonderful results

A Call from the Worship Committee

by Sandy Middleton, Chair

*Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
(Hymn 509 in Voices United)*

After six years of devoted service, for which we are all most grateful, Jean Hartmans has indicated that she will step down from her responsibilities as Ushering Coordinator on 31 August, 2019. Accordingly, the Worship Committee is looking for a new coordinator to take over from Jean. If you have an interest in undertaking this responsibility, the Worship Committee would love to hear from you. Jean has kindly offered to share her expertise and knowledge of what is required with whoever feels called to fill this role on behalf of the congregation. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Sandy Middleton, either by e-mail: smiddlet@uoguelph.ca or by telephone at 519 836-3033.

Further, we are always looking for new lay readers and worship leaders who can assist the ministers from time to time. If you would like to share your talents in this way you can contact Sandy either by e-mail or phone (see above).

Community News



Elizabeth Bone Builds a Sanctuary

Harcourt member Elizabeth Bone has built a model of the Harcourt sanctuary which can be viewed in the Greeting Area of the church. Harcourt is currently in conversation about the possibility of changing from pews to chairs and Elizabeth has created a scale model of the sanctuary as

a visible representation of this potential change. To see the process involved in building the model, check out the video on Harcourt's Youtube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik7uROndD8o>

The Sanctuary Seating Consultation Continues – Take the Survey

The following dates and times have been scheduled for anyone in the Harcourt community wanting to join a focus group to discuss the proposal to remove the pews and replace them with chairs. The video “Places of Worship” will be shown a half hour before each focus group and a short survey will be administered. The survey, which needs to be submitted by February 28th, is also available in paper format in the Greeting Area or it can be completed online at: <https://harcourtuc.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=69adb24e5d872f3639b4ca837&id=aa91ea645f&e=1adf853151>

The United Church “Observer” magazine is undergoing changes to its format, opening its space to articles and readership from a wider denominational and non-denominational group of people. For more information visit: https://ucobserver.org/editorials/2019/02/observer_changes/

Your Harcourt Kitchen Gets a Good Wipe Down

by Carol Jones

Your Harcourt kitchen is a much used space both as a rental facility and for the many Harcourt activities that it regularly supports. It always needs to be in top condition. During



February, with the help of Cisca Vanderkamp, Alice Carey, Fran Holden, and Judy Cimino we have been busy cleaning out cupboards, polishing the surfaces and generally putting a shine to the place. And...we enjoyed some great fellowship while tending to a much needed task. MANY THANKS to a wonderful crew!

It's Coming! It's Coming! The Annual Harcourt Garage Sale is Coming!

by Janet Webster

The days are getting longer and that brings spring cleaning right? Several Harcourt members have started setting things aside for the annual sale on April 27, from 8:30 until 12 in the Harcourt gym. Buyers like our selection of dishes, books, records, games, artwork, decorative items, costume jewelry, crafts, garden supplies, small appliances, tools, toys and small furniture. Sorry, we do not have room for car parts, clothing or computers.

Bring your donations of treasures to the gym on **Friday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.** If your items are too large or heavy, we can arrange pick-up. This sale raises substantial funding for Harcourt projects and is a great way to spend time with fun people. Watch for information on volunteer times and opportunities or contact the Websters at fwebst0953@rogers.com or call 519 821-0953. Any students looking for volunteer hours are also very welcome. See Sign-up Genius on the Harcourt website closer to April 1. Now, start that de-cluttering before you need to work in the garden!



HARCOURT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
SECOND TIME OF ASKING
COMPLETING A ROBOT CALL FORM
MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS
REQUEST ALREADY!

The Communication Committee is developing a Harcourt Emergency Preparedness Plan. We are currently working on a Protocol for informing people when there is a crisis and consequently Harcourt has to be closed (bad weather, fire, power shut down).

While we can put a message on the Harcourt website, Harcourt and MANNA Facebooks, E-Mail list, Radio Station, Office Telephone message and a poster on the doors of the church, this may not reach those who do not have computers, cell phones, i-pads etc.

To address this and because it is good to receive a Harcourt crisis message in more than one way, we wish to send out a ***Robot Call message*** in a crisis. However, ***we do need you to confirm what phone number you want this Robot Call message to come to.***

Please let the Office know which phone number you wish to have used for a Robot call.

- E-Mail office@harcourtuc.ca
- Phone 519 824 4177
- Drop a note with name and Robot Call phone number in the Office door
- Robot Call Phone Information Form (On table in the Greeting Area.) Please complete and place in the box labelled Robot Call Information.

THANK YOU
Joan Barham, Chair
Communication & Marketing

Join MANNA for a Pancake Supper



When:

Shrove Tuesday

March 5th, 2019, with 5 pm and 6 pm sittings

Plan to come and enjoy a variety of pancake
flavours (including gluten-free) with
bacon, tea, coffee and juice

Cost: \$5.00 each or Family price \$10.00

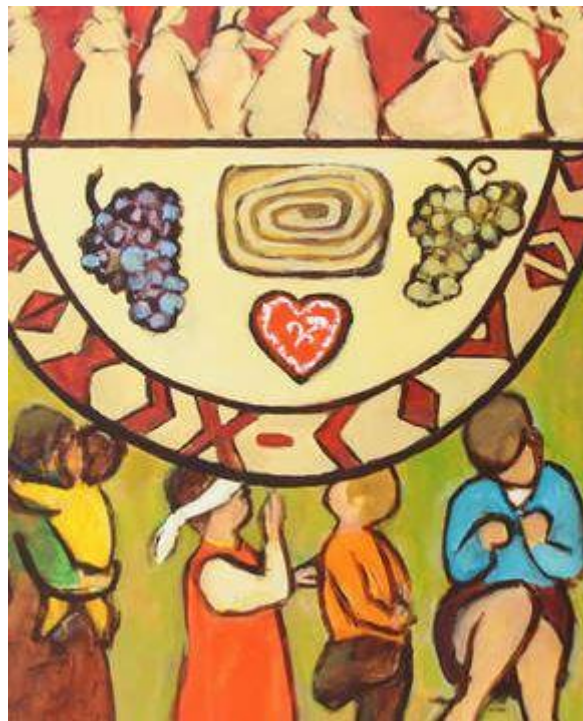
Children 12 and under FREE

Contact the Church Office for Tickets

Proceeds to Charity

Guelph United Ministries World Day of Prayer

March 1st, 2 p.m.
Three Willows United Church
577 Willow Rd.
Guelph



The World Day of Prayer service this year was prepared by the women of Slovenia. Join us as we learn about their country and their faith as we worship together. Members of all churches in Guelph are invited to gather.

Thank you, Thank you!

by Leslie Pipes, for the Saturday Night Supper Committee

Thank you to all who helped make Harcourt's first Saturday night supper for 2019 a success. Just over a hundred people were served at Royal City Church and there were smiles all around the room. Many people came over to offer their personal thanks, so the efforts of folks from Harcourt were appreciated. The casseroles were delicious, the pie choices equally as tasty and varied, and all of the other food items helped to make the meal very special. There was a hard-working and cheerful group to help prepare, serve, and clean up on the night of the dinner, but all of the folks who helped beforehand were equally a part of how well the evening turned out.

A simple 'thank you' might not seem like much, but those two little words are filled with a huge amount of gratitude. People cooked, shopped, served, washed dishes, brought food, offered funds, picked up food items from those who could not drive, prepared food, wrote their names down on the sign-up sheet or SignUp Genius, helped from the church office ... the list is even longer and we are grateful to each individual who was part of this dinner. A special thank you to Jill and Peter Gill who have organized and taken responsibility for the dinners for 15 years. It took a committee of Harcourt people to fill their shoes, but with the help of so many of you, we will do our best to carry on this important outreach initiative.





Last fall, nine people from Harcourt attended the ReImagine Conference in Hamilton. Sponsored by the EDGE Network of the United Church and the Parish Collective, the conference explored new ways that faith communities are discovering to be church in connection to and in partnership with the neighbourhoods around them. This was one experiment in exploring community engagement at Harcourt, consistent with the narrative of radical change. The Conference organizers and presenters have planned a series of follow-up Story Nights to continue to share stories of what churches and individuals are discovering in their communities. The event for Guelph is happening Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00pm at the Planet Bean on Gordon. All are welcome.

Register at

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/what-is-love-a-story-night-tour-tickets-54607990971>

A HARCOURT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019
7:00pm in the Friendship Room

Dave Elloway, Deputy Chief of Emergency Services at the City of Guelph, has invited Harcourt to be the **first community group to engage with him** in preparing an Emergency Response Plan, one which will be in synch with the **Guelph Emergency Plan**.

Harcourt people, those who use Harcourt's space, and people in the surrounding community are invited to this meeting.



DESIGNING PHYSICAL SPACE THAT SUPPORTS COMMUNITY:

Chapter 14 in "COMMUNITY" by Peter Block (2009)

"Choose Chairs that swivel and have wheels and low backs"

"If designed well, a chair can encourage movement from one small group to another. It can facilitate moving our attention back and forth from our small group to the larger forum. ... If there are wheels on the chair they ask to be used and serve to convince us that we are at every moment connected and willing to travel to all else that is happening in the room."



Page 155, in "Community – The Structure of Belonging" Peter Block Berrett-Koehler Publishers, San Francisco ISBN978-1-60509-277-5 (pbk.)

Days for Girls Donates Quilt Pieces to Harcourt

by Anne Parsons, Days for Girls

Jean Hume and I are co-leaders of a sewing group in the Village by the Arboretum. Our group sews feminine hygiene kits for an international charitable organization called Days for Girls (www.daysforgirls.org). We use lots of cotton fabrics in our kits and have many scraps leftover. Some of our group are quilters so the fabric scraps are made into quilts that we're donating to the Harcourt Quilting Group. The Harcourt quilters are making quilts for foster children who 'graduate out' of Children and Family Services' foster homes at age 18. Attached is a picture that Jean took of the quilts we're donating to Harcourt.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passing:



BOOK, Lucy passed away February 17, 2019. She was the loving and loved wife for 75 years of Bill. Beloved mother of David (Wendy), Margaret (Bruce) and Kathy (Brian). She was a cherished grandma and great-grandmother. Her family will receive friends at the **Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home, Hart Chapel**, 1099 Gordon St., Guelph for a service to commemorate her life on Friday, March 1, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation 1 hour prior. If so desired, memorial donations made to Harcourt Memorial United Church, Sleeping Children around the world or the MS Society of Canada would be appreciated.

Baptism:

Emily Isobel Hofer

Other Announcements:

PD Day Trinity FUN Friday Camps - Fri Feb 1 & Fri Apr 5, Program from 9-3 pm with before and after care from 8-5 pm. Trinity United Church, 400 Stevenson St N, Guelph. \$25/day. Games, art, music, sports, science experiments & food fun. Preregistration required. info@trinityunitedguelph.ca.

March Break Trinity FUN Camp - March 11-15, Program from 9-3 pm with before and after care from 8-5 pm. Trinity United Church, 400 Stevenson St N, Guelph. \$125/week. Games, art, music, sports, science experiments & food fun. Preregistration required. info@trinityunitedguelph.ca.

If you want to explore the connection between evolution and the Body of Christ, or our Christian faith, then why not feed your soul this coming March Break 2019? Father Bernie Carroll, SJ and I will team up again to offer **two back-to-back retreats at Loyola House**. These retreats will be of particular interest to those who enjoy such thinkers as Richard Rohr,

Teilhard de Chardin, Louis Savary, Brian Swimme, Ilia Delio, Ched Myers, Harvey Cox and John Dominic Crossan, theologians and scholars on whom we have based our retreat material. Spaces are limited, and people are already signing up. If you're interested, don't put registration off too long. If you want more information, just talk to Andre Auger (or click one of the following links: **Teilhard de Chardin Weekend - March 8-10** <https://ignatiusguelph.ca/event/teilhard-de-chardin-weekend-retreat/> ; **Teilhard de Chardin 5-Day Retreat - March 10-15** <https://ignatiusguelph.ca/event/teilhard-de-chardin-5-day-retreat/>

Harcourt Communal Garden

by Jill Gill

With the wildly changing weather patterns this winter you might well be longing for the return of spring with warmer temperatures and thoughts of spending more time outside – perhaps in the garden. I happen to know of an excellent project to capture those daydreams and turn them into productive (or should I say produce!?!) activity. It's the Harcourt Communal Garden. The Communal Garden is entirely maintained by volunteers who plant, water, weed and harvest from June till late October. This will be our ninth season of harvesting edibles from several on-ground and raised beds on the western perimeter of the parking lot and a bed adjacent to the Memorial Garden. So far we have harvested almost 4,800 lbs of fresh, organically-grown vegetables, herbs and fruit for donation to the Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) food pantry in downtown Guelph. They are distributed to CCSC guests (some of the most food-insecure folks in our community) and supplement the regular food offerings that they receive. CCSC is a Harcourt supported charity.

Families from Manna help with planting of seed and seedlings when the ground has warmed sufficiently. Last season we had a dozen dedicated volunteers who worked in teams of four for 2-3 hours on the weeks when they were scheduled. Each team gardened an average of six times between June and the end of October.

We would like to increase our number of volunteers, so if helping in the Harcourt Communal Garden is an activity that interest you, please join us for a short planning meeting (approx. 1 hour) following the 10:30 a.m. service on April 7. You do not need to be an expert in vegetable growing, just be willing to learn and get your hands dirty! If you would like to volunteer to help with the garden, but are unable to attend the planning meeting, or if you have any questions, please contact Jill Gill at 519.767.1244 or email me at peter.gill@sympatico.ca

Behind The Scenes

Passion, Patience and Pastoral Care: A Conversation with GUM's Emmy Beauchamp

by Gillian Joseph



It has been nearly 20 years since my father's death but I remember that day very well. He had been clinging to life day after day, week by week, in a semi-coma at the Guelph General Hospital. I could only think that he was waiting for something, anything, to bring him peace. My father had attended the United Church his whole married life and we had often worshiped together as a family in Burlington and in Guelph. That day, perhaps subconsciously as a parting gift, I had called the church to ask if a minister could visit him. The chaplain who came was a gentle younger man who I did not know. He sat with my father, talked to him and prayed with him for some time. Then, just after that visit ended and just before I returned to the hospital, my father passed. I rushed into the room, lifted and held his body in my arms and kissed his cool and now peaceful face. It was a moment of profound gratefulness that enveloped me. Gratefulness for my father and the joy of having known him and gratefulness for the chaplain who sat with my father and prayed with him just before he died. Flash forward from that long-ago memory, I now had the honour of interviewing the Rev. Emmy Beauchamp for the Harcourt Herald. No stranger to Harcourt Church, Emmy is someone who has been visiting, talking and praying with patients, families and healthcare providers as a hospital chaplain for many, many years.

I started by asking Emmy about how she became involved with hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care. She told me that she, her husband Eric and their family were members of Trinity United Church in Guelph for over 21 years. During that time she was active as a lay person in pastoral care and other supportive initiatives. Trinity had a pastoral care team that visited members of the congregation. Emmy visited those in hospital and felt comfortable there. Then a single event changed her path. In September of 1990, at the age of 52, Emmy had an unmistakable call to the Ministry. So strong was this calling that she felt compelled to follow it.

She remembers telling her husband about the call and her deep, passionate desire to answer it. She thought Eric would be shocked ... but instead he said, "I'm not surprised. I've been expecting this." And that is how the journey started.

Nevertheless, it had been 30 years since Emmy had graduated from University and she wondered what lay ahead for her as a student. Initially thrilled to be at Emmanuel College in Toronto, Emmy was concerned that her 52-year old brain wouldn't work the way it once had when she was a younger student. She had gone from being a volunteer, a wife, mother and grandmother to suddenly commuting to Toronto and studying for ministry. There were also family emergencies that sprang up - a baby granddaughter had a brain tumour and a lot of chemotherapy was needed. Days and nights at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto meant many hours of waiting and worrying. Her granddaughter pulled through, but the experience let Emmy see the huge gap that needed to be filled in spiritual care and support for families and clinical staff at hospitals, particularly for patients experiencing chemotherapy and their families.

As part of her Field Education course at Emmanuel College she spent time at the Guelph General where she obtained further knowledge about caring for people who are in crisis. Where better to find families in crisis than at a hospital? The Rev. Nancy Collett was the staff person she worked with there. Nancy is still at the General part-time. Emmy also took training in Clinical and Pastoral Education at the Interfaith Pastoral Counselling Centre in Kitchener and further courses at Emmanuel.

From 1993 to 1994 Emmy came to Harcourt as a student intern with then Ministers John Buttars and Jean Wright. Once she graduated from Emmanuel College at the wise age of 57, Emmy was called to Dublin Street United Church. At the same time, however, she remained as an on-call multi-faith chaplain at the Guelph General for 20 years. "I love it", she says, "and feel so privileged to make a contribution - to be able to help people." Some weeks though she asks herself. "Is it going to make any difference if I'm here or not?" as she goes to the General to volunteer. Then she sees the faces of those she talks to and the answer is a resounding, "Yes!" which makes her feel good.

In 2006, Emmy and the other volunteer chaplain at Guelph General, the Rev. Irene Walback, began doing baby blessings. These were not baptisms, which are a more personal and special event left to the patient's faith community. But rather Emmy and her colleague Irene, offer a sweet blessing for the baby, wishing her/him a happy life. The blessing, on a card with the Guelph General logo says:

*May you always see beauty in the world
And hear music every day
May you know the touch of gentle hands
And walk the peaceful way
May the words you speak be loving
May laughter see you through
May you be blessed with hope and joy
These gifts I ask for you*

Emmy says that the parents almost always agree to have the blessing for their child. Sometimes as the blessing is given, there are tears in the eyes of the parents, or the nurses, or both. Although it is a generic blessing for any child of any faith, Emmy tells me that on the blessing card there is a space for the baby's name next to the words, "God bless you." The wording can be adjusted, however. When Emmy asks the parents of a Muslim child if they would like her to change the name on the card from "God" to "Allah" out of respect for the Muslim faith, the parents invariably decline saying "We all have the same God." Such an inclusive sentiment. Emmy describes the hospital's family birthing unit as a little United Nations. Some families can hardly speak English. However, when Emmy holds her hand above the baby and says the blessing - the parents happily understand. Furthermore, in a time when so many people are not going to church, Emmy thinks that it is important to encourage parents to stop and think about the miracle they have in their hands. Amazingly, she has calculated that since 2006 she and her colleague Irene have blessed 8,655 babies. I gasp at the thought.

After retiring from Dublin Street in 2004, Emmy and her family attended Three Willows United Church for a few years. Then the Dublin United Church Council wrote to ask if they would please come back. They were missed. Ironically, Eric had just been diagnosed with cancer, but he missed singing in the choir. The family also missed the Dublin congregation. They returned with joy. There had been two ministers at Dublin during Emmy's time there, but now there was only one and Emmy soon cheerfully became involved again with pastoral care. Meanwhile, she continued her involvement with the chemo clinic and ironically Eric became a patient. "The staff were so good with him," she remembers, "but he was not able to recover in spite of best efforts." Eric died in the spring of 2012.

Emmy still reports to the Rev. Nancy Collett in her work as a part-time hospital chaplain, along with the Rev. Irene Walback who also volunteers one morning a week through the Anglican church. Although Emmy still participates in an emergency on the on-call roster, since celebrating her 80th. birthday she realizes that she needs to give up her middle-of-the-night calls to very capable younger people. Yet she still turns up at the hospital every Thursday morning to provide comfort not only to the patients, but also to the healthcare staff.

I ask her how a family in need might tap into the services provided by a hospital chaplain. Emmy replies, "They can tap into it just by being there. No appointments needed. If they are in-patients or out-patients we follow up the requests of social workers, or Nancy, and try to support them". She spends part of her time on Thursday mornings in the chemo clinic of the Ambulatory Care department, remembering her experiences with her granddaughter at Sick Kids and also with Eric at the General. "I have a soft spot for people there." She might bring them cookies and juice or a warm blanket, or just have a chat or a prayer. Other volunteers from Hospice provide Therapeutic Touch. But Emmy's prayers and support are not just for patients and their families. They are also for healthcare staff. For example, during Nurses' Week, Emmy and Rev. Nancy Collett provide hand blessings to the nurses who come to the chapel on their lunch hour. Emmy thinks it's important to bless the work the healthcare staff do and to let them know they are treasured and valued for their work. It means so much to the nurses to have someone say, "thank you". It also means so much to Emmy, whose family members have benefited from such caring hands while at the hospital. Sometimes Emmy is called in to the hospital to support staff members, nurses and doctors or groups of workers who have experienced personal loss or tragedy. She gets to know them, forming bonds with them. Christmas can also be a hard time for nurses. Often they get so fond of patients that they grieve almost like family members when the patient dies. Each year before Christmas, Emmy offers a small service of remembering and thanksgiving to the Ambulatory Care nurses before they start work. It acknowledges how hard it is to be nursing in their department and stresses how much their work is appreciated.

These days Emmy is also part of the GUM pastoral care team, working with all the Guelph United Churches together on pastoral care initiatives. They meet every three months at Harcourt to talk about pastoral care issues and are currently working on a program to give caregivers a break and an opportunity to meet with others in the same situation.

I ask her what gives her the strength to constantly be faced with other peoples' sorrows and tragedies. She says it is her faith that gives her strength. "My brother used to tease me that I was so sensitive that I cried at commercials," she says. Not true. But ever since being involved in ministry, she finds strength that comes from somewhere inside, from God. "I see myself as a vessel or a drain pipe" she laughs. "The strength comes and I try to pass it on, to show genuine concern and love for people. I use the words of scripture that we believe - the things that help hold us all together every day. And I do a lot of praying, on my own and with people."

She says that she is always learning, growing and striving to be more effective. She quotes a line from the hymn 'The Servant Song': "*We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*" As long as she is blessed with good health, Emmy plans to continue to be at the hospital every Thursday morning, doing what she can - blessing babies, talking and praying with people and helping them to find a path that leads from darkness into light.

Please join Rev. Miriam Flynn and other interested members of the Harcourt Community to talk about Eco-Practices at Harcourt and beyond. This is an initial meeting to plan direction and to talk about community partners and resources that might make this initiative fun, informative and effective. **March 30th at 2:00 p.m.** Please contact the Church office for more information

Harcourt Calendar – March 2019

Updated February 20, 2018 – www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Friday March 1

1:30pm Seating Committee Meeting [L]
7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday March 2

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday March 3

9:00am Worship Service [C]
10:30am Worship Service [S]
10:30am MANNA Service [F]
3:00pm SWESH [G]
3:00pm Guelph Symphony Orchestra [S,F]
7:00pm High School Youth Group [202]

Monday March 4

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]
7:00pm Scouts [F]
7:00pm Emergency Preparedness Planning [F]

Tuesday March 5

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]
5:00pm Pancake Supper [G,K]
6:45pm Cubs [F]
7:00pm Bell Choir [M]
7:00pm Refugee Sponsorship Meeting [C]

Wednesday March 6

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
5:30pm Meditation Group [202]
6:30pm Guides [Off-site]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service [C]
7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 7

8:45am MindStretch [C]
1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday March 9

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday March 10

9:00am Worship Service [C]
10:30am Worship Service [S]
10:30am MANNA Service [F]
3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday March 11

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt [F]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday March 12

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting [202]
7:00pm Property Committee Meeting [L]
7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting [C]
7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday March 13

7:45am Men's Group [F]
9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
5:30pm Meditation Group [C]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm M&P Meeting [L]
7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 14

8:45am MindStretch [C]
1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday March 16

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday March 17

9:00am Worship Service [C]
10:30am Worship Service [S]
10:30am MANNA Service [F]
3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday March 18**Office Closed**

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]

7:00pm Scouts [F]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality

Tuesday March 19

8:00am UGEMTA Music Festival [S,C,G]

11:00am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F/K]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday March 20

8:00am UGEMTA Music Festival [S,C,G]

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]

1:30pm Tai Chi [202]

5:30pm Meditation Group [C]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Council Meeting [C]

7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 21

8:00am UGEMTA Music Festival [S,C,G]

8:45am MindStretch [C]

7:00pm Sharing Evening [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday March 22

8:00am UGEMTA Music Festival [S,C,G]

Saturday March 23

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

1:00pm U of G Choir Concert [S]

Sunday March 24

9:00am Worship Service [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am MANNA Service [F]

3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday March 25**Office Closed**

8:30am Kiwanis Festival [S]

9:30am Quilting Group [F]

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday March 26

8:30am Kiwanis Festival [S]

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday March 27

8:30am Kiwanis Festival [S]

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

5:30pm Meditation Group [C]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday March 28

8:30am Kiwanis Festival [S]

8:45am MindStretch [C]

1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday March 29

8:00am UGEMTA Music Festival [S,C,G]

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday March 30

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday March 31

9:00am Worship Service [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am MANNA Service [F]

3:00pm SWESH [G]

7:00pm High School Youth Group [202]