

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person standing on a rocky shore, silhouetted against a vibrant sunset. The person's arms are outstretched horizontally. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds, and the horizon line is visible in the lower third of the image.

The Harcourt Herald

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

November 2018

Remember and Rejoice!

**Environmental Stewardship:
Are You Up For It?**

**Report on the
Harcourt Retreat**

**All Things Christmas Gears
Up for Another Great Year!**

And much, much more!!

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

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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 MacNeil (ext. 225)
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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
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The Ministers' Quill

by Jim Ball



The following picture is of a recent gathering of ministry personnel who attend Harcourt. We have 19 or more such folk, depending on how you count. Thirteen gathered for lunch and conversation at Harcourt on October 17th. Some couldn't make it. Each has served well and faithfully over the years. And each contributes in quiet but important ways to the life and wellbeing of the Harcourt community and its ministries.

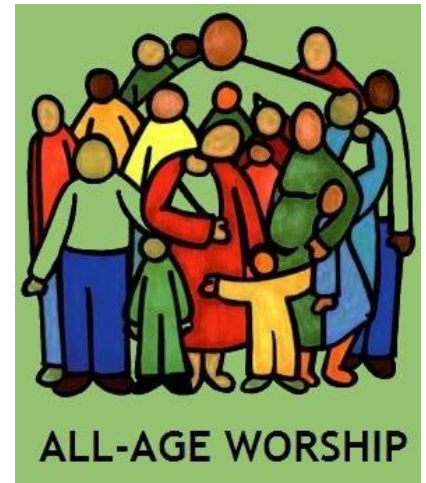


Worship Schedule



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



THE SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

November 4, 2018 **Remembrance 2 – *All Saints Sunday***
Psalm 146. Mark 12.28-34 **The Book of Remembrance**

November 11, 2018 **Remembrance 3 – *Peace Sunday***
Ruth **Baptism**

November 18, 2018 **Remembrance 4 - *Community Sunday***
Various Texts **Joining of New Members**
This Sunday usually focuses on GUM, outreach, stewardship or legacy giving

November 25, 2018 **Remembrance 5 - *Reign of Christ Sunday***
Various Texts **Celebration of the Church Year**
(And an after Church Legacy Gifts Lunch & Learn)

Following a busy week that included Council's meeting and the two-day Relmage Conference in Hamilton, my mind is drawn to focus on the various ways in which Harcourt is investing in our many ministries and our community.



Investing in our people (leadership):

- The late-September retreat provided opportunity for individual and group reflection on Seeing, Living in, and Being the Light. Taking time to explore God in creation and to listen to the Spirit helps replenish us personally and as a church.
- Nine of us participated in the Relmage Conference, organized by the Parish Collective; the United Church of Canada's EDGE Network was a partner. A few of the conversations we joined: Reimagining Hospitality + the Neighbourhood; The Little Things Matter: Stories That Shape Us; Postures & Practices to Love Across Difference; Contemplation as the Gift of Burn Out; Teach Us to Want Place; Linking In and Across Neighbourhoods; Reimagining Liturgy (Worship); Reimagining Church Buildings; Reimagining How We Gather; Listening to the Echo: A Study of Nones and Dones in Post Christian Canada; and more. We'll have a debriefing conversation to glean our learnings to be shared with Harcourt.

Investing in our internal community:

- Our September 26th Volunteer Appreciation evening, coordinated by Lynn Hancock, Rosalind Slater, Joan Barham and Patrick Milligan, provided opportunity for Council to say "thank you" to every-day people who contribute so much to Harcourt. Many who attended contribute their time, talents and energy in more than one way and represented at least thirty different parts of Harcourt's ministries.
- Sonya Wu-Winter's written report on her contract with Harcourt since late August highlights her conversations internally and with community groups to explore current and broader community engagement.
- Council approved a Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Leadership Team – Pews to Flexible Seating Proposal. Recruitment of team members is in progress, for work from November to May/June. Watch for updates.
- Council approved two motions presented by Murray Woods, on behalf of the Harcourt Trustees, to adjust management of the Pillars in case of market correction. The Trustees' next Lunch & Learn about Legacy Giving will be on November 25.

Investing in our connection to our neighbourhood and community:

- Our experiment to host Food Trucks and our neighbourhood was a success. We thank Anne Parsons, Lynn Hancock and their group of volunteers for organizing this hospitality experiment. A debriefing conversation will glean our learnings before a decision is made about next year.
- We met new Guelph friends at the ReImagine Conference from New Life Christian Reform Church and Two Rivers Church. Some of them live in our neighbourhood and enjoyed our Food Truck evenings. "Harcourt – hard core", said one person.
- Council representatives will participate in another GUM conversation as the churches and ministries seek to move from collaboration to greater cooperation as the United Church presence in Guelph. Watch for updates in the coming months.

God is up to a lot in our community. Are you experiencing the presence of the Spirit among us? With faith and hope.



AMAZING! The Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day Poppy **just became digital**, for an online fundraising campaign that is the first of its kind in the world! To complement the traditional lapel Poppy, a new "Digital Poppy" will be available at www.MyPoppy.ca **from October 26, 2018 to November 11, 2018**. Canadians will be able to personalize it, dedicate it and share it online – and add their own family stories and images – as their pledge to never forget those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

Justin Bieber, Margaret Atwood, Don Cherry, Sandra Oh, Joannie Rochette, *and others join the Royal Canadian Legion in introducing Canada's new lapel Poppy partner: the "Digital Poppy". For more information visit:* <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/a-historic-first-canadas-remembrance-day-poppy-goes-digital-698221151.html>



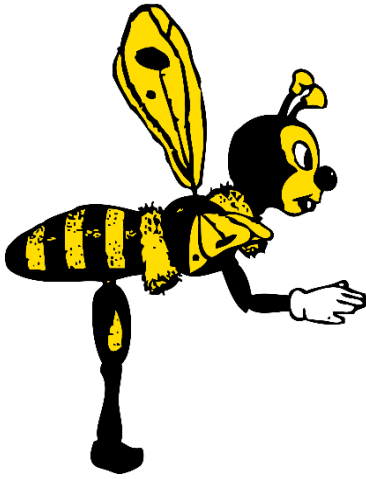
What Do YOU L♥ve about Harcourt???

Find out on our
Harcourt Church YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBF55CS32UM>

Church office
Tel: 519-824-4177
E-mail: office@harcourtuc.ca
Web Site: www.harcourtuc.ca
Seek – Connect - Act

The Latest Buzz...



- **B.C. church asks parishioners to turn on mobile devices during Sunday services**

Pastor Jeff Germon calls it a blessing when he sees parishioners in the pews staring down at their mobile device screens rather than up at him at the pulpit. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/b-c-church-asks-parishioners-to-turn-on-mobile-devices-during-sunday-services-1.4113305>

- **United Church terminates sign contract over refusal to post gay-positive message**

A Scarborough church has terminated its more than three-year-old contract with a Toronto sign company over the sign company's refusal to post "gay-positive" and other messages on the church's behalf. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/st-pauls-united-church-archer-signs-gay-positive-messages-human-rights-complaint-1.4841088>

- **Church wins praise for sculpture of 'homeless Jesus' in Canada**

A life-size statue of Jesus reclining on a park bench draped in rags and bearing the marks of the stigmata on its feet in Ottawa has won praise for drawing attention to the plight of the homeless. The bronze statue, part of a series by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz called Homeless Jesus, has reportedly attracted considerable sympathy from the public, with passersby leaving flowers, coins and blankets on it. <https://international.la-croix.com/news/church-wins-praise-for-sculpture-of-homeless-jesus-in-canada/8613#>

- ***Run and Read* Guelph program seeking student volunteers**

Run and Read is an after-school physical education and literacy program, now run out of three elementary schools in Guelph: Willow Road, Ottawa Cres and Brant Ave. The children involved in the program come from low income families or are often recent immigrants to Canada. Student volunteers help the children develop their reading skills and get them ready for a 5km run. The Willow Road program happens on Tuesdays; Ottawa Cres, Wednesdays; and Brant Ave, Thursdays. There are carpools running from campus for each. If you are interested in volunteering, talk to Sara (gcm@uoguelph.ca).

Committee & Group News

Wrap Yourself in Our Prayers

by Shaina Ensing

The Prayer Shawl Circle has been busy over the summer! Prayer shawls are always available to give to relatives and friends who may need the peace and comfort they provide. Therapeutic Muffs are also available for anyone with Alzheimer's who can't keep their hands still. These muffs also keep hands warm. Shawls and muffs are all donated to the church and to your friends. Please contact Anne in the office at office@harcourtuc.ca if you would like one.



Make a Point with Poinsettias

by Barb Friend, Chair of the Chancel Committee

Little known fact: Dec 12th is Poinsettia Day! This date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett (1851) who introduced the poinsettia plant to the United States from Mexico. Poinsett was a botanist, physician and the first United States Ambassador to Mexico.

The Chancel Committee will be adding poinsettias to our Advent décor for the Sundays December 16th and 23rd. If you would like to place flowers in remembrance of a loved one or to commemorate a special event, please contact Barbara Friend by **Dec 10th** at home: 519-763-5032 or by cell: 519-803-5032 or by email: barfriend52@gmail.com.



Background Planning – The Worship Committee Calls

by Sandy Middleton, Chair of Worship

Your work, O God, needs many hands--- (Hymn 537 in Voices United)

As a worshiper at Harcourt have you ever thought what lies behind each service? Most, I suspect, simply expect that the service will flow smoothly, in a familiar and orderly fashion, leaving us free to become engaged in whatever way the spirit moves us. Worship, however, does not just happen. Rather it is the product of diligent and careful planning and commitment by many individuals, whether for the Chapel service at 9:00, or the sanctuary and MANNA services at 10:30. As we pass through the seasons of the church year, each of our three services has its own requirements: music, prayers, readers, special guests, audio assist, visual screens, ushers, communion elements and servers, seasonal decoration, and candles for special occasions. In addition, there are unique requirements that must be met for baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is the role of the Worship Committee, working closely with our ministerial and office staff to oversee and coordinate these varied activities. At present our committee is few in number. Thus we would welcome new members to share in our work. If you feel you would like to contribute to this vital part of Harcourt's life, or would like to know more about us, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Sandy Middleton by e-mail at: smiddlet@uoguelph.ca , or by phone at 519 836-3033.

Harcourt Men's Group – Lest We Forget

by Bill Lord



The next meeting of the Harcourt Men's Group will be **Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

The speaker will be **Henk Dykman**, an active member of Harcourt Congregation, and choir member. He has spoken to the group in the past on his research into the stories of Canadian soldiers who served in Holland during the second world war. His topic will be "**Lest we forget.**"

All men are welcome to attend. You are invited to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this session closest to Remembrance Day. Sandy Middleton has signed up to have coffee and tea ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Bryan Fuhr will be the leader. In your date book please record the date of **December 12th** for our next meeting.

A Police Visit to Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship Circle

by Jean Hume

Detective Constable Jackie Egger of the Fraud Unit, Guelph Police Services' spent a good hour answering questions about the nasty contacts and threatening calls that are being made by cruel fraudsters. She talked about awareness and gave suggestions to the ladies on how to prevent being preyed upon. Many of the women told of their experiences. Jackie then told the members about the tactics that are used to frighten unsuspecting victims into following the instructions given. Nearly all victims are very embarrassed that they fell for the fraud as they later realize and can't believe how "stupid" they had been to allow this coercion. The thirty-five members and friends who attended left the meeting feeling a little more armed with understanding and methods to protect themselves.

The meeting was running a little late so Pat Kandel offered to forward her devotional presentation to the Christmas Meeting. We look forward to her message at that time. The Next meeting will be on **Monday, Nov. 12, at 12 noon** in the Friendship Room. Bring your Bag lunch. Tea and treats will be served. The topic for this meeting is "Remembering" through Canadian Peace Memorials and Monuments. All women are welcome so come and join us.

Oh My, It's got to be a Sign From Above!

by Ben Fear, Property Committee

This photo below shows Frank Webster and Gary Parsons offering directions to Mark Sears as he secures the Harcourt Memorial United Church sign back on top. The sign had been



Photo by Ben Fear

the victim of an early summer gale and after various estimates about its weight and the abilities of Property committee members to press, snatch, jerk or whatever. It remained for Darko, who dickered, and Dave Hume, who handled the financial arrangements to everyone's satisfaction, to enable the restoration of our name to the sign. We are no longer the anonymous church on Dean Ave!!

While the “musclemen” were working, Sarah Lowe, Anne Parsons, Cisca Vanderkamp, Carol and Laurie Jones did the Fall cleanup in the borders and gardens of

the church, carefully preserving any material of value for the “All Things Christmas” sale. Dave Hume supervised all the work and pulled the odd weed leaving the even ones for Spring 2019. The highlight of the morning was the dissemination of the grass seed into the freshly raked furrows. This precision will be appreciated at the Spring clean-up when there will be more work than we can handle...so we will be sure to invite you all..



Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15).

Photo Wiki Commons

Community News



Dear Supporters,

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and the Christmas Gift Bag Campaign is getting underway. We hope you will consider supporting this valuable program. Each year we hear from CCSC guests how grateful they are to receive this gift and that, for many, it is the ONLY gift they receive. For this reason, we ask that you include new, good quality items in their original packages. Please note that there is no need for the items to be gift wrapped. Christmas Gift Bags can be delivered in new, reusable shopping bags.

One pair of warm gloves

One pair of thick socks

Regular size shampoo (not conditioner)

Toothbrush

Toothpaste and/or dental floss

Shaving cream for men/box of tampons or pads for women

Shower gel, body wash, or soap

Antiperspirant/deodorant

Package of 5-10 disposable razors

Boxed candy or boxed chocolate (not homemade)

Small jar of instant coffee, box of tea bags, or tin/box of hot chocolate (no coffee pods)

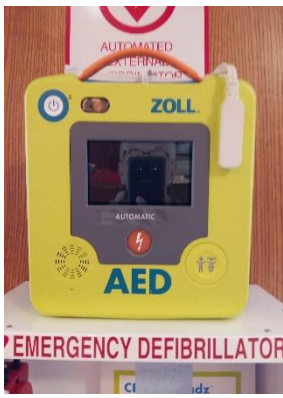
Please contact me if you wish to participate in this year's Christmas Gift Bag Campaign and let me know how many Christmas bags you wish to provide. This year's final delivery date is **Friday December 14th**. Deliveries can be made to Chalmers Downtown (41 Macdonell Street) on Tuesdays between 9 am and 3 pm, Wednesdays between 5 and 8 pm and Fridays between 8 am and 3 pm. **New this year:** Deliveries can also be made to our Chalmers West location (the portable behind Three Willows Church – 577 Willow Road) on Tuesday December 11th between 9 am and 12 pm and Wednesday December 12th between 5 pm and 7 pm. Please note that there is plenty of parking at our Chalmers West location. Please feel free to call me with any questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dermer, Program and Volunteer Coordinator

volunteer@chalmerscentre.ca

519-822-8778



AED Education Event

January 19, 2019

9-11 a.m.

Harcourt Gym

As a Member of Harcourt...

Familiarize yourself with the
Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Learn from a Paramedic

You could save a life

Register with Esther Devolin

519-836-7675 or ekdevolin@sympatico.ca

Refreshments



Photos by E. Devolin



Thanksgiving at Harcourt. Photo by E. Devolin

Medium Salsa Wins the Day!

by Jill Gill

This has been another fruitful (pun intended) year in the Harcourt Communal Garden. Our final harvest for the season was on October 18th with a grand total of 220 kgs. of delicious organically grown vegetables and herbs which are donated entirely to Chalmers Community Services Centre in downtown Guelph. We have been very consistent in our yields for the past three years and the previous year, when we took a break from cultivating tomatoes to allow the soil to repair, we were down about 70 kgs. (approximately equal to the quantity of tomatoes we typically harvest).

All this is to say what a marvelous way to share a small portion of the church property to provide healthful food for many folks in Guelph who regularly experience food insecurity. None of this could happen without the faithful, continuous dedication of our eleven volunteers. Special thanks to Lisa Mactaggart who has provided us with yearly crop rotation schemes, expert knowledge in vegetable growing and has grown (from seed), all the seedlings needed to make our garden flourish. Each spring, families from Manna plant the seedlings and seeds to start our production. Many thanks to all of you.

This year, several of our volunteers prepared three batches of Tomato Salsa using ingredients grown in the garden. The only additions were a few tablespoons of lime juice and a couple of pinches of ground cumin! On Thanksgiving morning, we presented bowls of Mild, Medium and Hot-ish Salsa for everyone to taste (and vote for their favourite) at coffee time, in the gym. This year, your most enjoyed Salsa was (drum roll please) - Medium (1 chili pepper), followed by Hot-ish (2 chili peppers). We also had bundles of fresh herbs – parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, lavender and bay for folks to take home for their Thanksgiving dinner.

The Harcourt Communal Garden has been in production since 2011, fully maintained by volunteers. **Our total harvest has been more than 2-1/2 tons of organically grown vegetables** and herbs donated to Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry to add to the non-perishables the guests receive. Pretty remarkable!



so, one size doesn't fit all
but was it wise to say
'bring your own'?

pew rent for the
balcony is worth it!

Just meditate and
Levitate!

what would
Jesus
sit
on?



Cartoon by Roz Stephenson

Riddle:

Seven men go to a church in a car. Seven men get out of the car, it starts to rain. Six men walk to the church and get wet, one stays still and stays dry. Why? Answer on page 23.

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 from 10-11 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.



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin



Helping Seniors Age Successfully

Annual Congregational Retreat 2018

by Andre Auger

Well, another Congregational Retreat has come and gone. Thirty members of Harcourt attended – mostly returnees, and some new folk. As a member of the planning team, I find it hard not to just jump up and exclaim how totally wonderful it was! Well, it was! Comments from participants ranged from appreciating quiet time to renewing a spiritual practice, to valuing time to deepen friendships with other Harcourt members. The food was excellent, and the pace seemed just right. Not to mention the bonfire on Saturday night! With camp songs of course.

The theme for the retreat was *“Living in the Light,”* and light certainly featured prominently throughout the weekend. Friday evening began by exploring the darkness in our world. A large wooden cross lay in the middle of the chapel at Loyola House, surrounded by



Photo by Andre Auger

about fifty images of death, destruction, degradation, destitution and despair. We were asked to pick an image that broke our heart open, and to re-write Psalm 6 in our own words. We shared the fruit of our effort in our small groups. Depressing? Not necessarily. Psalm 6 starts with grief but ends in a form of hopeful peace. Our writing efforts reflected that path, and it was possible to carry with us into

the night a small light in the midst of all that darkness. Some stayed around to enjoy some relaxing Yoga with Joanne Hill.

Saturday morning we began reflecting on the dawning of new light. We reflected on the familiar song “Spirit of Life” which includes the verse “roots hold me close; wings set me free.” We shared with each other what constituted roots that held us close and wings that set us free. We also explored the Old Growth Forest on the Jesuit property, guided by a deeply spiritual ecologist who easily convinced us that we needed to attend to living at one with the natural world.

In the afternoon, after a copious lunch, we focused on the Beatitudes as a way to live in God’s light. In small groups we wrestled with the text, and came up with brief statements

which represented as best we could the heart of our faith, which we shared in a plenary session. In the evening, we were invited to share with others in our small groups ways in which we had been light to others. The evening ended with a delightful bonfire, expertly set up by Brian Magee.

On Sunday, we each engaged in a quiet Awareness Examen, in which we discerned where God had been for us over the weekend – what insights, what comfort, what breakthroughs might have occurred. We then shared in the large group, in a process that has become a trademark of our retreats.

We realized that, in these dark times, what we already do – in these retreats and elsewhere in our life, in the church and out – is the alternative community that Jesus talked about: a community based on compassion and justice rather than competitiveness and judgment.

The congregational retreat is an annual event held the same weekend each year – the last weekend in September. Book your calendars now for 2019! We've already begun the planning process for the next one!

Women in the Pulpit: A Memoire

by Ann Estill

Although the United Church of Canada had ordained women starting in 1937, women clergy were as scarce as hen's teeth when I began my journey toward ordination in the early seventies. At the time I was forty-five, our youngest son was fifteen, and I had been volunteering in every phase of church work for years. I had never heard a woman preach, but I had heard a woman minister give an address at a UCW conference.

The first glitch was with the Presbytery committee. The chairman never looked at me but spent the whole time, about forty-five minutes, digging in his brief case. One of the questions asked by the all-male clergy committee was, "What will your husband do while you are out at evening meetings and appointments?" My answer was, "The same thing he is doing now while I am busy with church work."

Because we had moved back to the States in the midst of this process, my first parish was in rural Iowa. There the chairman of the Board did not come to church, although his wife did, but never failed to bring up church business with my husband if Don answered the phone. When the roof or furnace or sidewalk were an issue, he wanted to talk to a man. Of

course, Don always immediately said, "I think you want to talk to Ann." It was a momentous day when this man got up the courage to come to meet me at the church office in person.

When it was Ice Cream Social time, Don took over the man's role of dealing with the heavy soft ice cream machine while I wore my minister's wife hat and made ten pounds of baked beans. Together we would chuckle over the Christmas cards '*To the Minister*' always referred to by Hallmark and Carlton as male.

The first time I attended a district ministerial meeting, I was introduced very formally to the all male members. Unexpectedly, another woman arrived late and introduced herself. "Now," said the flabbergasted chairman, "we have another... (gasp!) woman minister."

At one parish in Ontario I was warned ahead of time that one faithful worshipper had already declared she would never sit under a woman minister. She was a sprightly and well-liked former schoolteacher in her eighties. I had no trouble winning her back to her favourite pew on a regular basis.

Without fail, right up to retirement, I would have someone who would come up to me after a funeral to tell me they had never known a woman could be a minister.

Needless to say, times have changed greatly. Now women often outnumber men in seminary classes. Harcourt has been a role model for acceptance of women in ministry and to that I say *Praise the Lord*. I have two favourite jokes about women ministers:

The Chairman of the Board was disgusted when the church was assigned a woman minister. However, there was a tradition that the new minister would be taken fishing by the Board chair. So he went through with the invitation. After they were out in the boat a ways she commented that it was quite chilly and she had left her sweater on the dock. He sighed and was about to reluctantly turn the boat around when she calmly stepped out and walked across the water to get her sweater and returned to the boat. When reporting back to the next Board meeting he told them: "And she can't even swim!"

A grieving widow called the church to arrange for her husband's funeral. As they set the date, spoke of the music, made an appointment to meet the caller asked about the minister. "Well that will be me," said the woman who had answered the phone. "What?" gasped the widow. "Oh no, my husband would die!"

Indigenous Veterans

Veterans Affairs Canada



<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/indigenous-veterans>

Although we celebrated First Nations Sunday on October 28, 2018 at Harcourt, National Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated each year on June 21, while Aboriginal Veterans Day is commemorated on November 8. Indigenous people in Canada have reason to be proud of their wartime contributions. More than 7,000 First Nations members served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, and an unknown number of Inuit, Métis and other Indigenous people also participated. One Veterans group estimates that 12,000 Indigenous men and women served in the three wars.



Remember: Lunch, Learn & Legacy

by Harcourt Trustees

Murray Woods (Chair) John Phelps, Carol Jones, Jim McQueen,
Judy Cimino, Lynn Crow, Marilyn Murray, Miriam Flynn, Jim Ball

Following the successful ***Lunch and Learn*** session last June, your Harcourt Trustees are hosting a second event on **Sunday November 25, following the 10:30 am service**. We invite you to join us for lunch and to learn more about legacy giving, how it contributes to the life and ministry of our congregation and why it is an important part of stewardship. These events are planned for your information and education; you will not be solicited for gifts.

Guiding our discussion will be Rev. Herb Gale, retired Presbyterian minister who has twenty years' experience in congregational ministry in Ontario and eleven years as Associate Secretary for Planned Giving, plus a term as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Rev. Gale will be sharing his experience leading a legacy giving program at Knox Presbyterian Church in Guelph where he currently serves as part time Minister of Generosity and Stewardship.

To help us plan for lunch, please let us know you are coming by contacting the church office or a trustee. We look forward to seeing you on the 25th.

Yum! Saturday Night Supper Fills Hungry Bellies

by Jill Gill

Harcourt's last opportunity for the year, to host Saturday Night Supper will be December 22, 2018 at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street. So close to Christmas and a wonderful way to share our generosity with others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

As always, we will require twelve volunteers on the night to prepare and serve the dinner and many more folks to provide food for our much loved menu of Pasta Casserole, Caesar Salad, rolls, pickles, cheese, juice, coffee, assorted fruit pies and (our Christmas special) Candy Cane crackle ice cream.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the desk in the Greeting Place in early November or you can volunteer online at Sign up Genius. To sign up online, go to the Harcourt website, click on "Connect with Community", then "Saturday Night Supper, scroll down and click on "Sign up Online" to pick a slot.

Volunteers and food should be at Royal City Church (enter via back door) by 5 p.m. Volunteer servers will be needed until 8 p.m.

Many thanks, in advance, for your continued generous support for this worthwhile outreach project. For more details, contact Jill Gill - at peter.gill@sympatico.ca

Breaking Open the Notion of "Spiritual Practice"

by Andre Auger

In last month's Harcourt Herald article on Lynn Hancock, she lists four criteria for an activity to be considered a "spiritual practice." Almost anything can be considered a spiritual practice if it a) quiets the mind; b) give a sense of peace; c) shuts out external noise; d) and makes one receptive to inspiration.

Many of us still live off the more traditional belief that a spiritual practice is an exotic form of ascetism, requiring training and hours of practice, and usually involves silence, some form of abstinence or “purgation,” and training under a “master” in the practice.

Well, that too is probably right... Perhaps both approaches are right in a way. After all, what is the ultimate purpose of a spiritual practice? To open us to God and to render us compassionately mindful of others. Well, who is to say that walking your dog or running or, for heaven’s sake, bubbling, don’t do just that?

A wise teacher once said to me “pray as you can, not as you can’t.” So you find out what activities you do best which put you in touch with what really matters, and you make that your prayer! The Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh (1991) in the book Peace is Every Step notes that one can pray with virtually every activity. He provides prayers while brushing one’s teeth, washing dishes, even defecating! The 18th century mystic Brother Lawrence was known to use doing dishes or cobbling shoes as his way of praying.

The key is probably intentionality. There is walking the dog and then there is walking the dog... When asked what changed after enlightenment, the Buddhist master said “Before enlightenment I chopped wood and carried water. After enlightenment I chop wood and carry water.” Once you see a that a practice you love and do regularly quiets your mind, gives you a sense of peace, opens a space of stillness in the midst of business, and allows your heart to break open or be open to Spirit, then you’ve got a spiritual practice.

So what’s yours? Share a practice with us that grounds you in the Spirit in ways we have described. Tell us what works! Drop me a note at aauger002@gmail.com (And you know what? I'd especially love to hear from you men who are reading this!)

Reference:

Thuch Nhat Hanh (1991). *Peace is every step: The path of mindfulness in everyday life*. New York: Bantam.

Answer to the Riddle on page 16:

It was a funeral!

Attention all Harcourt bakers!!!

by Heather Hoeg



The **All Things Christmas sale** will be here before we know it! And once again we will need your help to have our Bake Table a success. So pull out those secret family recipes for pies, cookies, shortbread, squares, cinnamon buns, butter tarts, shortbread, jams, or just simply your favourite dessert to share! Baked goods can be dropped off in the kitchen on Friday **November 23rd**. Or **Saturday November 24th** before 9:00 am. Any questions, please contact Heather Hoeg at hoeg@rogers.com or 519-265-5956. And THANK YOU for your continued support!

Peter's Fragments : Bits and Pieces of Wisdom

by Peter Jackson

*"There were enemies without to destroy him,
And spies and self-seekers within,
When he and his men laid their hands to rebuilding the wall.
So they built as men must build
with the sword in one hand and the trowel in the other."*

That's how T.S. Eliot describes how Nehemiah and his men went about rebuilding the Jerusalem temple. Words for us to think about as a group of good people at a time when the Premier of Ontario and the President of the United States take actions that many people consider to defy common sense and offend decency.

Perhaps our sword is our faith in God - our loving, non-violent God whose kingdom is one of justice and compassion. These values we can uphold in opposition to actions that trample the rights of the poor, that encourage climate change, and that beggar democracy. But what can we use as our trowel, to help build the society we long for?

A trowel builds one brick at a time, and must have seemed like a trivial effort in face of a devastated Jerusalem that lay in ruins. Perhaps we too are called to do the little things that are within our power, trusting that this will be enough. For example, in the face of climate change, we might sign petitions which arrive in our inboxes from Avaaz, SumofUs, Council Of

Canadians, 350.org, forourgrandchildren.ca and suchlike. We might support such organizations with our money and time. And we might reduce our personal and household carbon footprint by simple if demanding steps such as eliminating discretionary vacation travel, eating locally-grown, in-season produce, and reducing consumption of all kinds.¹

A friend who is part of a letter-writing team for Amnesty International tells me that none of the dozens of letters he has written has changed anything, but the cumulative weight of all the letters written by his team has made a difference. This seems like a good attitude as we seek to shape the world as we'd like it to be and as we'd hope to bequeath it to future generations.

References & Footnotes:

Elliott, T.S. (1963). Choruses From 'The Rock', Collected Poems 1909-1962, London: Faber and Faber Limited.

¹ United Church partner *Faith And The Common Good* publishes a free carbon footprint calculator at <http://offsets.greeningsacredspaces.org>

The *All Things Christmas* sale is Coming ... Sooner than you think!!

by Janet Webster



This annual sale will take place on **Saturday November 24**. Please consider being a part of it. Planning is well under way and it looks amazing so far, but the more the merrier! Here are some ways to contribute to the fun and fund raising:

- 🌲 Donate your leftover potting soil for the outdoor arrangements
- 🌲 Donate (clean) plastic pots 8-12 " in diameter
- 🌲 Donate any items for arrangements such as planters, vases, small decorations
- 🌲 Gather dried plant material such as teasels and milkweed pods, driftwood, birch, English oak branches,
- 🌲 Stock up on ingredients to bake your special treats
- 🌲 De-clutter your jewellery box (as soon as possible so we can organize and price)
- 🌲 Down size extra serving pieces, china, "crystal", decorations, new or nearly new items
- 🌲 etc. for the treasure table (no garage sale items please)
- 🌲 Help cut greenery in the woods the week prior to the sale

- 🌲 Prepare, trim and bunch greenery for the arrangers and the public on Thursday and Friday November 22 and 23
- 🌲 Assist customers on Saturday
- 🌲 Restore the gym and Friendship Room after 1:30 on the 24th
- 🌲 Answer the call for Elves as we identify a need!!!

Volunteering is easy; check the Harcourt's web site for Sign up Genius or contact Janet Webster at fwebst0953@rogers.com or 519 821-0953. Watch the weekly announcements for continued updates.

Dare to Be Digital!

by Shaina Ensing

Keep informed with the e-harcourt Weekly Update! Every week the office sends out a digital newsletter with information about the church and upcoming events. Along with the weekly newsletter, you may receive occasional notices about congregational news, including notifications pertaining to any service cancellations. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, please contact the office at office@harcourtuc.ca or 519.824.4177 to have your name and email added.

Minute for Mission

Drought in Kenya

Submitted by Ann Estill, Mission & Service, Harcourt Church

Our gifts for Mission & Service support global partners in their day-today work through long-term change and emergencies.



Our global partner the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) works on gender justice, microcredit, sustainable agriculture, and programs to address the extreme hunger caused by drought. Listen to this reflection from a participant in the Mission & Service Global Pilgrimage to Kenya on the visit to an area hardest hit by extreme hunger:

“We left the office of William Lokira, Minister of Agriculture, and made our way up a winding mountain road. The minister’s words were still fresh on our minds: ‘Please help my people.’ We saw dry lands, sparse and skinny livestock, and we saw the hardship in people’s eyes. After driving through dry riverbeds, we saw a lot of people running toward a large truck. This was a government water truck delivering water each day.

“OAIC is working in this arid region to support agriculture and food security, including empowering female small holder farmers to advocate on their behalf to impact legislation. Indicators show that when women are at the centre of projects and decisions there is significant progress toward food security. Dry riverbeds, the plea to ‘help my people,’ the daily water truck, the hope shared by the farmers—these images stay with us. Our gifts for Mission & Service make this hope of a better tomorrow possible.”

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Meet our Director of Music Ministries!

Alison MacNeill is a graduate of the University of Guelph and of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. Born in Guelph, she returned to live and work following her graduate work at the University of Western Ontario. She is the Director of Music Ministries here at Harcourt, a position she has held since 1988.



Alison also maintains a large teaching studio in Guelph and is a busy freelance accompanist and chamber musician. Through the years, she has been a pianist for the University of Guelph Choir, the Elora Festival Singers, Guelph Youth Singers and the Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo-Wellington.

She has been the accompanist for the Guelph Chamber Choir for twenty years and performs and tours with them frequently. Alison is featured on two of the choir’s CDs.

Aⁿⁿouncements

Passing:



MILLER, Ian Scott passed away surrounded by family at home on September 25, 2018. Ian is survived by his wife of 54 years, Edna, his children Heather, Kyle (Laurel) and Drew (Christina), his 7 grandchildren. Ian was raised in Montreal. He worked for 4 years as an accountant before leaping into the computer field. He spent the rest of his career as either the systems guy in the finance department or the finance guy in the systems department. After moving from Ottawa to Toronto, Ian became a charter member of Toastmasters Bay Street Breakfast Club, where he remained active for over 20 years. He continued to use his accounting skills as auditor for the Eagle Lake

Property Owners Association (ELPOA) for his favourite retreat at the family cottage and Treasurer for the Village by the Arboretum Residents' Association (VBARA) in Guelph. Church was important to Ian and he was active in congregations wherever he lived, particularly reveling in his alter ego of "Stew Ward", whom he introduced to several churches. If you would like, please share your memories of Ian at ian-scott-miller.forevermissed.com for the family. In lieu of flowers, donations to Chalmers Community Services (chalmerscentre.ca) or a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Other Announcements:

- ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS **Volunteers** can sign up for various tasks by going to the Harcourt Sign Up Genius page. There are opportunities to help in the days leading up to the sale as well as the sale day itself. If you prefer, you may contact Janet Webster to volunteer your energy, skills and/or time by emailing fwebst0953@rogers.com or calling 519 821-0953
- ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS **donations** --Place your extra decorations, New and Nearly New, "treasures", jewellery in the plastic tote box located by the coat rack in the Greeting Area.

From the Archives



Anniversary Celebration



Blessing of the Tortoise



Special day



Gardening with love

Behind the Scenes

Creation Waits with Eager Longing...

by Miriam Flynn

...the creation waits with eager longing for the children of God.... We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for...redemption.... Romans 8: 19-23

Sometimes *the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words*. I imagine the Spirit must have been sighing deeply this past month, when the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report warning that urgent changes were needed to cut the risk of extreme heat, drought, floods and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. The report advised urgent action to keep global warming to a critical 1.5 C maximum, predicting we now have only 12 years to reverse trends that will otherwise lead to extreme and irreversible warming.

This news came as we, at Harcourt, were observing that time on the worship calendar known as Season of Creation. It has led many of us to reflect on *what more* people of faith, might do to respond to the earth's deep and immediate need for care. As individuals, and as a community of faith, Harcourt has long demonstrated a commitment to environmental concerns. The solar panels on the church roof, the community orchard and garden on the property and the involvement of many members in local initiatives like tree planting and river clean up, all testify to the commitment of our people to care for the environment.

Yet, sometimes we may wonder whether our small, concerted actions are truly having an impact? The scope of the problem can seem very large and our individual capacity to influence outcomes can seem small. At such times it may be helpful to consider the words from Paul's letter to the Romans that remind us the whole of the Creation is held within the Divine plan of redemption. The Spirit *knows our weakness* and *intercedes* in our prayers. We are not alone in this and strategies that allow us to come together in solidarity and response reflect our faith and hope.

Mary Robinson heads a Climate Change foundation in Dublin. As a former president of Ireland and a U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights, Robinson recalls that climate justice

became her *raison d'être* the day she stood in a Dublin maternity ward holding her grandson, Rory, for the first time. Her sense of time altered in that moment, as Rory's future became her present. "The abstract data on climate change I had skirted around for so long became deeply personal," Robinson said.

Robinson encourages us to resist getting stuck in the feeling that the problem of climate change "is too big for me" because that takes away our energy to do *what we can do*. And *what we can do* as individuals and community is significant. Robinson points out that the U.S. could actually meet international emission reduction targets, notwithstanding a lack of formal ratification of the Paris accord, because a coalition of mayors, governors, tribal leaders, colleges, business leaders, faith groups and investors are continuing to follow the terms of the agreement and are not waiting for their governments to make it happen. "The evidence suggests we have the capacity and means to do all that is necessary, if we have the.... will."

Recalling our identity as those who *have the first fruits of the Spirit*, we may ask how we can best align our will with the redemptive force that calls us into faithful action to reverse the course of climate change. How can we encourage one another to take on deeper, or as yet untried, acts of conservation and stewardship? How might a congregation of about 500 people begin to see more clearly the ways their individual and collective efforts make a difference? And how can we invite others to join us, while becoming effective collaborators and allies with those already engaged in committed action toward healing and renewal of this good earth?

Several of you have expressed interest in exploring these questions further and I hope, in the months ahead, to continue the conversations begun within the Season of Creation. What kind of eco-practice might we, at Harcourt, adopt to reduce our carbon footprint as individuals and as a collective? Can we share the practices we already engage in, with one another and support each other in our commitment to find new ways of living more gently on the planet? I look forward to exploring these questions with you, as we pursue the way of reflection and practice that a shared life of faith calls us to.

Harcourt Calendar – November 2018

Updated October 18, 2018 – www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Thursday November 1

8:45am MindStretch [C]
1:30pm Park 'n' Dance [F/G/K]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday November 2

7:45am Level Up PD Camp [F]

Saturday November 3

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday November 4

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

Monday November 5

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:00pm Scouts [F]
7:00pm Communications Committee Meeting [L]

Tuesday November 6

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday November 7

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday November 8

8:45am MindStretch [C]
10:10am Spiritual Director's Peer Supervision [C]
1:30pm Park 'n' Dance [F/G/K]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday November 9

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday November 10

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday November 11

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]

Monday November 12

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Group [F]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday November 13

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 November 14

7:45am Men's Group [F]
9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday November 15

8:45am MindStretch [C]
1:30pm Park 'n' Dance [F/G/K]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday November 16

8:00pm KW Symphony [S]

Saturday November 17

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]
10:00am Holiday Boutique [G]

Sunday November 18

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

Monday November 19**Office Closed**

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:00pm Scouts [F]
7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

Tuesday November 20

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]
11:00am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F/K]
6:30pm Preschool General Meeting [F]
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday November 21

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday November 22

8:45am MindStretch [C]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday November 24

9:30am All Things Christmas [G]
10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday November 25

9:00am Worship Service [C]
10:30am Worship Service [S]
10:30am MANNA Service [F]
11:30am Lunch and Learn [K, F, G]
3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday November 26**Office Closed**

9:30am Quilting Group [F]
1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]
5:00pm Level Up [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday November 27

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday November 28

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [Offsite]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:30pm Rainbow Rehearsal [S]

Thursday November 29

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

Friday November 30

7:45am Level Up PD Camp [F]
7:00pm Junior Youth Group [S]