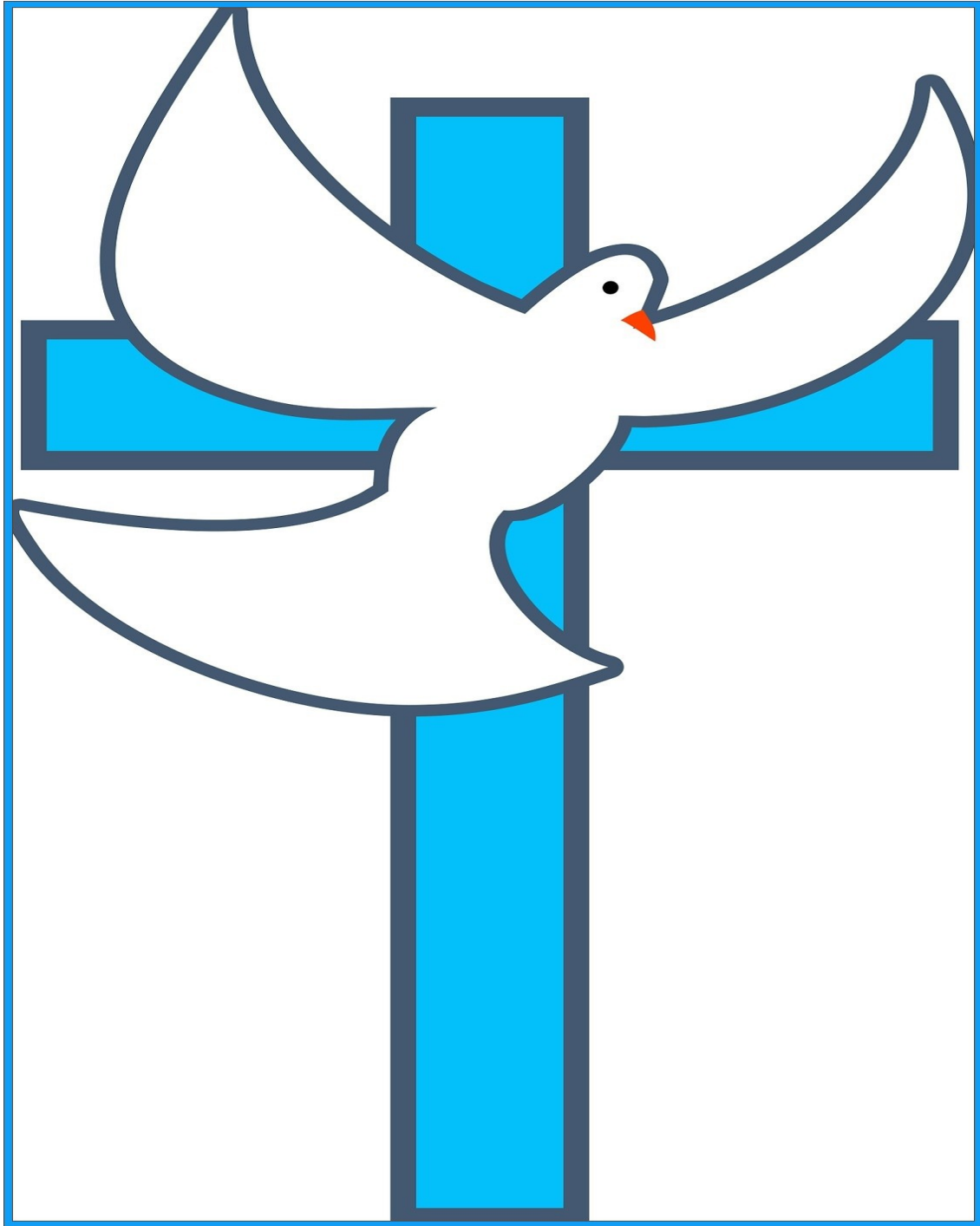


The Harcourt Herald April 2023

The Harcourt United Church Community





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

Church Administrator:
Wendy Guilmette

Worship, Communication
and Technical Support:
Casey Connor

Custodian: David Kucherepa

The Ministers:

The People with

Reverend Kate Ballagh-
Steeper,

Pamela Girardi:
Manna Lead Coordinator,

Alison MacNeill:
Director of Music Ministry.

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Table of Contents

From the Editor's Desk.....	4
Our Minister – April 2023 – Kate Ballagh-Steeper.....	4
Council News - Lorraine Holding.....	5
Harcourt's Life during the pandemic by Roz Stevenson.....	6
Council News - Kent Hoeg, Chair.....	12
Manna is exploring our watershed! - Pamela Girardi.....	13
Spaces We Love and Love to Share – Nancy Ryan.....	15
Food for the Journey: The transformational power of love - Megan Ward.....	15
Town hall meeting on Harcourt's visioning priorities - Carolyn Davidson.....	17
My Reflection on Transformation - Kent Hoeg.....	23
Formation or Transformation? - Bill Lord.....	25
Change and Continuity - Andre Auger.....	26
Metamorphosis - Julie Ashley.....	27
Metamorphosis or Pinning Wings on Caterpillars – Bill Chapman.....	28
Transformations – Lynn Hancock.....	29
Transformation - Judi Morris.....	30
Scams warning! - Jerry Daminato.....	31
The Caroline Harcourt Women's Friendship Circle.....	32
Three Act Play by Arlene Davies-Fuhr.....	33
Part II of Interview with Dr. Hugh Rose.....	33
The Garden and the Window Wall - Marilyn Whiteley.....	41
Metamorphosis: A Metaphor for Life - Lisa Browning.....	42
Metamorphosis - Arlene Davies-Fuhr.....	44
Passages.....	45

From the Editor's Desk

Transformation – or change – abounds in our Church: saying “Good Bye” to Lorraine Holding after such a long and challenging time chairing Council is one example; and to Brian Magee, who steps down from the important Finance Committee of Finances is another. Welcoming Kent Hoeg as new council Chair, Roz Stevenson as new chair of the finance committee, as well Ashley Kizis as Umbrella councillor for Stewardship will lead to some interesting changes. We celebrate that Harcourt is filled with energy to go forward in new ways.



welcome

But none of this is “metamorphosis.” It’s simply “change.” The butterfly example used in Kate’s sermons is illustrative: the caterpillar turns to “mush” in the chrysalis. There is nothing of the original caterpillar in the butterfly. An example perhaps is Manna, a very new way “being Church”. Metamorphosis is much scarier than transformation! Let’s see what our writers will point out.

Our Minister – April 2023 – Kate Ballagh-Steeper

Happy Easter! Metamorphosis and transformation have been some of the themes we’ve explored through Lent in the 9:45am service. It is a very Biblical theme – Jesus is crucified by the state, he dies and then is changed – transformed by resurrection! New Life emerges out of death.



These are the kinds of metamorphosis I would like to see - the transformation of poverty in Canada and around the world. Perhaps if we all demanded a Guaranteed Basic Income for our country we could witness the transformation of poverty to if not prosperity, at least something more than survival. Did you know one in 5 children in Canada live in poverty and food insecure households?

I would like to see the transformation of poverty across the globe. In 1988, I spent a month in El Salvador in Central America. It was my first exposure to the grinding poverty that half of the world knows and experiences. I came home



humbled and much more aware that the affluence I enjoy is built on backs of the poor around the world. Canada enjoys a high standard of living; let's transform our society to be more generous and to do more to create greater global economic equity.



I would like to see the transformation of the relationship between Indigenous communities and Settler communities (that's us!). Perhaps the Settler community could approach a conversation of just reparations for harm done with humility and openness. This would allow for greater equity.

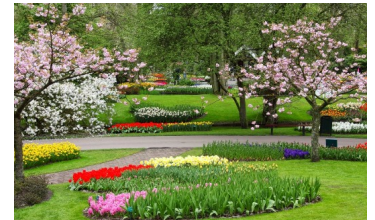
I would like to see the transformation of young people and young adults to see the value of community and the community of faith so that they might bring their energy, insights, and input to help the church transform into what they need to be the next generation of God's people.



This Easter, may we all look for transformation and do what we can to bring it about!
Peace, Kate

Council News - Lorraine Holding

Spring's arrival and Easter remind us that Nature holds many examples of metamorphosis. Besides the life cycle of butterflies, I appreciate the growth cycle of plants. Tiny seeds and bulbs that transform into colourful flowers and tasty vegetables are remarkable. Spring highlights the possibilities for hope within our surroundings.



So too, our personal life experiences and community organizations progress through cycles and transformation. During my 29-year career as an Ontario Public Servant in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, I experienced several transformations. Moving to new locations and taking on new roles provided continual learning. Being “retooled” to focus on leadership and organization development, helped to broaden our client base to include many rural organizations. A longstanding motto of rural extension education was “helping people to help themselves”. Creating new, and strengthening established, volunteer organizations have been transformative for communities. Yes, some organizations have decided that



their mission is no longer viable. Adapting to meet community challenges with available resources is constant and important.

In the weeks since Harcourt's Annual Meeting, I've been reflecting on the many aspects of transformation that have happened through the past seven years in my time as Council Chair. Some have taken decades to evolve: shifting to one paid accountable minister from two (plus a Children, Youth & Family Minister, 11-17 years ago); shifting to chairs in the Sanctuary. Some have evolved more recently: shifting to new health-related practices in response to a global pandemic; setting four visioning priorities to allow for continued experimentation and a focus on sustainability as a community of faith; shifting into a wider digital world of connection; exploratory work to understand what becoming a community hub could entail. Transformation is an ongoing process and with it comes a sense of hope – for the future of Harcourt and the community in which we live.

The commitment and contributions of many people within our Harcourt communities of the faithful will determine the future. With faith and hope, our metamorphosis and cycle of change will guide our vision "to be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service."



Harcourt's Life during the pandemic by Roz Stevenson





IN 2015, WHEN SHE WAS
RINGING IN
HER TERM AS
HARCOURT
COUNCIL CHAIR,
LORRAINE HOLDING
DIDN'T EXPECT IT
TO BE ONE OF
THOSE BIBLICAL
SEVEN-YEAR
JOBS.....



(BUT BY POPULAR DEMAND.....)



WE FOLLOWED
PUBLIC HEALTH
ORDERS.....



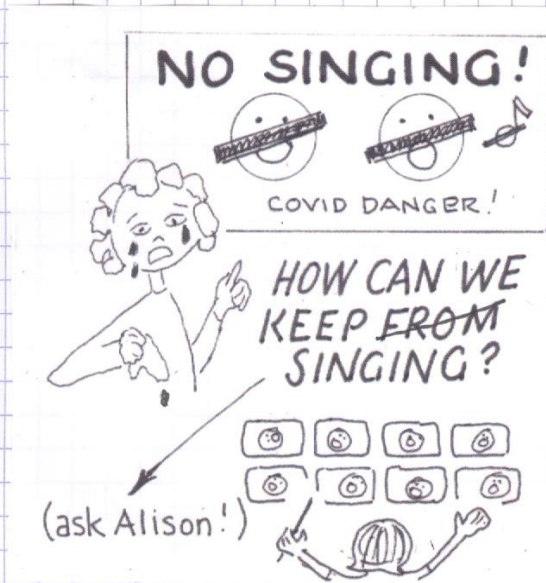
WE STAYED IN
OUR BUBBLES
...



and Harcourt
knows bubbles!

ON-LINE CHURCH HAD
DEFINITE ADVANTAGES..





WE TRIED TO IMAGINE POST-COVID CHURCH



A NUMBER RETURN TO MORE CONVENTIONAL PRACTICES, JUST WITH A FEW MORE SAINTS* IN THE PANTHEON...



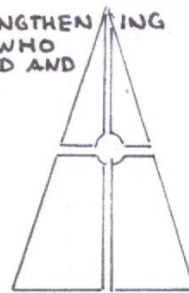
*(after all, the vaccines were a MIRACLE!)



... WELCOMING AND STRENGTHENING IN COMMUNITY ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD AND FOLLOW THE WAY OF JESUS

CORE VALUES

risk
respect
responsibility
vulnerability
trust





WE PRAY

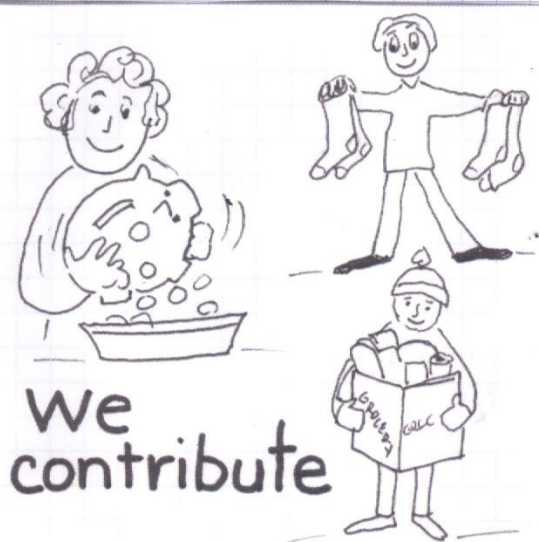


WE SING



WE SHARE





WE LISTEN



(Yeah, OK ... we talk a fair bit too)

WE CREATE



WE CARE
about the world



WE PLAN NEW THINGS



"A PINK ONE NEXT,
I THINK ..."

(...and
DO
SOME
TOO)



WE
LOOK TO
THE
FUTURE
AND
PLAN
THE
NEXT
NEAR
STEPS...

WARNING: OBJECTS IN THE FUTURE ARE
CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR!

WE WELCOME



WE EXPERIMENT

CHANGE
hybrid church
wool
circles
free range
manna

AND LEARN
BY DOING



WE LIVE
WITH
JOY



WE EMBRACE
CHANGE

(because
without it,
there would be
no butterflies!)



AND WE CONTINUE IN
APPRECIATION AND AWE
OF THE GUIDANCE AND
FAITHFULL LEADERSHIP
OF LORRAINE HOLDING
DURING CHALLENGING
AND INTERESTING TIMES.

(not all of which have been
included in this very unofficial
Harcourt History just as well!)

Council News - Kent Hoeg, Chair



I have officially been Chair of Council as of March 5 (our Annual Meeting). Already it's been a flurry of activity! Emails are coming fast and furious! This is great, and I urge anyone who has questions or wants to provide me feedback please reach out to hoeg@rogers.com. Everyone needs to have their voices heard.

As a Council, we were quite pleased with the Annual Meeting. 66 individuals attended in person or by Zoom. Updates were provided, and motions approved. Most notably we approved a 2023 Budget projecting a \$74,000 deficit. While scary and of course not sustainable, it shows transparency and the challenge before us. We are taking definitive steps to address the deficit such as our Community Hub and a focus on Stewardship. As time unfolds, we know you will see Harcourt's four visioning priorities come to life (more than they already are). As a reminder our visioning priorities are worship, spiritual life, supporting the growth of Manna and building partnerships/community hub. Something for everyone!



At the last Council Meeting (March 15) we did a “lessons learned” with respect to the logistics of the Annual Meeting. Notably:

What went well:

- *Identifying movers and seconders of prepared motions in advance helped the meeting to run smoothly and efficiently.*
- *Food/drinks were much appreciated (thanks Sandra Welch and Heather Hoeg (and others). Food is always a good incentive to encourage people to stay for fellowship.*
- *Child care, provided by Colleen Barrett and Jeff Kizis, makes it possible for parents from Manna to participate in the meeting*

What we could improve upon:

- *Remove two or three rows of chairs from the middle of the sanctuary in advance, to allow more space for circles of chairs.*
- *Have TV tables on hand in the Sanctuary, ready to place with circles of chairs.*
- *Provide more information before the meeting to newcomers who may not be familiar with our decision-making process so that everyone feels welcome to participate.*
- *Provide plenty of notice of congregational meetings and town halls to allow Manna families time to make arrangements to attend.*
- *Resolve issue with electronic polls for Zoom participants in hybrid meetings.*



Alongside working on our four visioning priorities, I am trying to push forward our relationship with GUM. While GUM has been a good vehicle for discussion, I believe we need to move forward on achieving concrete synergies. While we all have our own important identities we also share many of the same challenges. Financial struggles are real for us all. I want to ensure that we define GUM's purpose and how we can help one another. Then I want to develop formal plans that will move us all forward. Wish me luck on this.

With respect to our next shipment of flexible seating we have had a slight delay, but hope for delivery before end of March. Moving us forward!

Finally, a shout out to Ashley Kizis. She is our new Umbrella Councillor for Stewardship. I am excited to see Ashley on Council - she attends Manna which provides Council an important perspective. Ashley is showing much energy and has already organized several Harcourt members to attend a 4-week stewardship learning workshop offered by WOW Regional Council.

Harcourt truly is alive with energy and activity. I thank all of you for contributing in what ever way you are able.

Manna is exploring our watershed! - Pamela Girardi

During lent, Manna has been wondering about how to be watershed disciples. If creation is our oldest sacred text, our watershed has much to teach us about love, inter-relatedness, and resiliency. When the issue of climate change feels so daunting and huge – we can see our watershed as a place to ground, learn, and act in community.

What is our watershed? We spent one Sunday learning through facts and play about the water, forests, animals, and food plants and animals that make our Grand River Watershed. Did you know there are about 80 species at risk in our watershed? That our watershed is mostly farmland? You can learn along with us by reading the posters we made that day on the Sanctuary walls.

The following Sunday we spent time outside exploring our watershed. We were so grateful for Judi Morris' invitation to have a Manna service at the farm! We walked on a snowy trail through the forest to find a spot to gather. Here we explored the forest for a while in silence to focus all our senses on seeing, hearing, and experiencing this place in our watershed. The snow made a canvas to see the footprints of animals that had passed through that we had been learning about the week before. We broke our silence with songs (and smores!) around a campfire!



We are grateful for this time in such a beautiful place! A big thank you to the Morris' for welcoming us and for all the work Judi did to get the trail and fire ready for us!

Spaces We Love and Love to Share – Nancy Ryan



It's not too early to think about keeping the kids active and amused this summer, and for the first time in many years, Harcourt is the site of three very different programs that will appeal to all ages. Who do you know that would like to participate in these fun activities?



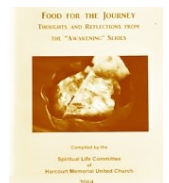
The Eramosa Learning Academy will offer a STEAM (STEM + Arts) day camp for children in SK to Grade 6 from 7am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday throughout July and August. Learn more about the summer camp and other Eramosa Learning Academy offerings by visiting www.erasosala.com.

Pedalheads is an international learn-to-ride bike camp with classes for children at every skill level, and we are so excited they will be bringing their program to our parking lot for 6 weeks this summer. To find out more, go to: Pedalheads online: www.pedalheads.com.



The Great Big Theatre Company will be at Harcourt through July and August with weekly drama camps for children aged 6 to 14. Skilled, empathetic instructors will help children of all abilities enjoy plays, mime, improvisation, theatre games, musical theatre and working with simple sets and costumes. Participants get to try out and develop new skills and capabilities through a program that aims to promote self-confidence and self-esteem. There is more information about drama classes and their benefits on the GBTC website: www.gbtc.com.

Food for the Journey: The transformational power of love - Megan Ward
(for the Spiritual Life Committee)



Not long ago, our son-in-law told us a story that shocked my husband and me. He had been standing next to his car when a stranger came up, slammed his fist on the hood, and yelled, "Go back to where you came from!" We are full of admiration for our son-in-law, his skills, his moral compass, his tender love for our daughter and their sons. This is not a new experience for him, but we

learned of it only recently. It is painful to hear him say that he hoped their sons would look like our daughter, so that they didn't experience the same racism.

My friend Saima is a Muslim woman living in Milton. For many years their mosque has been locked while they were inside so they could pray in peace. This followed attacks on mosques in Peterborough and elsewhere and a deepening sense of threat from Islamophobia. I imagine what it would be like to routinely lock the doors of Harcourt so that we could all feel safe worshipping inside.



I belong to a large, multicultural family. One branch were adopted in during the 'sixties scoop', when aboriginal children were adopted by well-meaning settler families, trying to provide a better life for children whose origins and culture they barely knew. There were some disasters for these relatives that are still being played out, for them, their children, and all of us.

These stories are personal; they belong to people I know and love. I find the sadness, frustration, and anger they provoke in me to be heart-opening and heart-changing.



I've been thinking a lot lately about the transformational power of love. It invites me to stand in the shoes of someone whose experience is so different from my own. Love is at the very heart of Christianity: it is the bedrock of our truth as a community of faith.

Like many of you, I walk alongside folks who are really struggling. Week by week there are ups and downs, wins and setbacks. But just as we are together for the journey, so have others been for me in my times of struggle. It is our common life.

The late Scottish theologian and educator Elizabeth Templeton (1945-2015) believed that truth was grounded in relationships, and above all, religious truth could only be accessed through love.

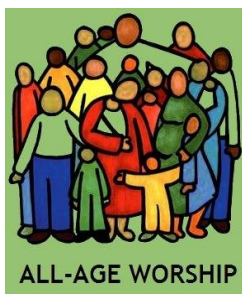
Do you agree?

Town hall meeting on Harcourt's visioning priorities - Carolyn Davidson

On Sunday, February 12, 2023, Council hosted a hybrid (in-person and Zoom) meeting at which a panel of “champions” or task group leaders gave an update on the activities of various groups who are working on “next near steps” related to Harcourt’s four visioning priorities. The presenters were: Pamela Girardi and Merrill Pierce (supporting the growth of Manna), Andre Auger (spiritual life), Dan Ganesh (worship), and Steve Pierce (building partnerships/ community hub). Kathy Magee also participated as the Council representative who is keeping an intentional focus on points of integration across the priorities.



Supporting the growth of Manna

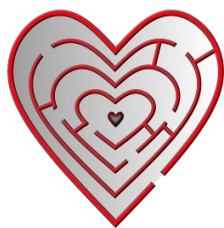


Pamela and Merrill gave an overview of Manna, which is a hands-on, experiential worship community that invites people of all ages to come together, be engaged, learn, and leave spiritually enriched. In the past year, more than 140 people have attended Manna services and events. Most do not normally attend other services at Harcourt. These include 45 children and youth, along with their parents, grandparents and caregivers, and other adults who attend on their own.

Through feedback from the congregation and Manna participants and leaders, the task group has identified seven long-term goals:

1. Work toward a sustainable model of leadership by making it easy for more people to get involved, particularly those who have busy schedules.
2. Welcome new members by communicating about Manna to the broader community, on the Harcourt website, through Guelph United Ministries (GUM), and on social media.
3. Create an inviting physical space in the Sanctuary that will make children and youth feel welcome.
4. Engage and meet the needs of children and youth, including holding special events or gatherings for youth from all of the GUM communities of faith.
5. Learn about and work together on social justice.
6. Nurture a community of care and connection.
7. Continue to experiment and grow as a church community.

Spiritual life



Andre began with a quote by Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner: “The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist.” Although many of us may not think of ourselves as mystics, a mystic is simply someone who has an intentional, ongoing personal relationship with God. In the church of the

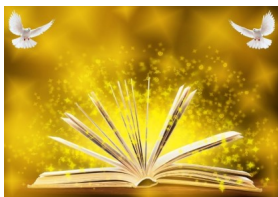
future, people won't come to church because that's what their parents did, or because that's what is expected. That kind of church isn't going to survive. We are here today because church matters to us. And so, we're already in a sense intentionally engaging in a mystic activity.

If we are all called to be mystics, how do we go about doing that as a community – or communities – of faith? We do it by paying attention to the presence of Spirit in everything we do. Originating in Celtic spirituality, “thin places” and “thin moments” are places and times that make us feel something larger than ourselves, such as when we go on a retreat or pilgrimage. According to a Celtic saying, “Heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in thin places, that distance is even shorter.”

At their retreat last summer, the Spiritual Life Committee decided to focus for the next while on “thin places” and “thin moments”. Andre explained that the approach will be intentionally general and open, allowing the Spirit to lead the way. The Committee will look for opportunities to work with groups and individuals to heighten an awareness of practices related to thin moments and thin places, recognizing that there are many different kinds of spiritualities.

This will include exploration and experimentation with new forms of digital ministry, such as Holy Listening Circle. And the Committee will also support the work of the other task groups' priorities.

Worship



Dan began by recognizing the other members of the Worship task group: Karyn Davies (co-chair of Worship committee), Stan Bunston (covenanted spiritual companion, retired minister, and member of Holy Listening Circle), Sandy Phair (member of Holy Listening Circle and long-time participant in bible study and faith discussions), Tom Auger (a musician and web designer who has studied the innovative ways in which United Church congregations across Canada worship), and our new minister, Rev. Kate Ballagh-Steeper, who brings fresh experience in worship from outside of Harcourt. The Worship task group has begun their work relatively recently, as they awaited Kate's arrival. As they develop “next near steps” over the coming three to five years, the Worship task group has identified three goals:

1. Opportunities for spiritual enrichment
1. Growing stewardship online
2. Sustainability.

Dan explained that the process going forward will be dynamic, with lots of experimentation. COVID has already brought a significant amount of change, and next near steps will focus on ideas that will be relatively easy to implement in the short term: for example, shared worship with GUM, and new ways of worship that will be enabled by flexible seating. Two-way communication will be key to building stewardship within our online community of faith.

Dan cautioned that not everything will succeed and not everything will stick. The Worship task group is counting on everyone's prayers, guidance, participation and support as they forge ahead.

Building partnerships/community hub



Harcourt is embarking on a project of revitalization through renewing our relationship with the Guelph community. As part of this, we are working in collaboration with the not-for-profit Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF) to discover how we might leverage our building as a vital community asset. We hope to sustain the mission of the Church by managing our space more effectively and producing additional revenues through developing partnerships.

Steve outlined the various parts of this large and multi-faceted project. At least a dozen people are working on the following aspects:

1. External welcome: Do people feel welcome as they enter our property?
8. Website and communication: The website has been updated and refreshed to make it easier for people to find information about rentals, in addition to church information.
9. Internal welcome: What do people experience when they walk in the front or back door?
10. Rentals: How do our rates compare to those of other churches, and can we make our booking process easier and more efficient?
11. Governance: TCF has shared a range of governance models for us to consider, beyond a landlord-tenant relationship, as we seek to share space with the community and our partners.
12. Stakeholders: TCF has identified a list of stakeholders to interview about their impressions of Harcourt, what the community needs, and what Harcourt might provide in terms of space.

Questions and Comments**

*** Questions and comments have been edited for clarity and length.*

Kathy Magee opened a question-and-answer period with two questions to the task group leaders:



1. In what ways is your area of focus connecting and supporting the other three in their next near steps?



The Spiritual Life task group is actively listening to the other three groups to find ways in which they might collaborate. The Worship task group recognizes that Harcourt is already responding to the many ways in which people worship, and sees obvious connections to Manna and Spiritual Life as it waits to see what opportunities may arise from the community hub. The community hub is focused on seeking sustainability for what we are doing, as we look forward with hope to a vibrant future.

2. In what ways do you envision strengthening our collective understanding of our next near steps?



Andre plans to keep the community informed, through articles in the Harcourt Herald, for example. Dan pointed out that our new steps in worship will not be hidden from view – we will all have an opportunity to experience them together, both within the building and beyond. Steve hopes to arrange a town hall-style meeting with Kendra Fry, one of the consultants at TCF, to share her experience of working with churches in transition. And at the end of this phase of work, Trinity Centres Foundation will present a report that will map out a pathway for moving forward.

Lorraine Holding invited additional questions and comments from attendees:

I notice that we have a new email address: @HarcourtCommunity.ca. Will we continue to be known as Harcourt Memorial United Church?



Steve clarified that Harcourt United Church will still exist, and it will be advertised as such. But there will be an additional component to what happens here that will include the community hub. Lorraine added that at last year's Annual Meeting, we changed the name of one of our Council positions from "Congregational Life" to "Harcourt Community Life". These changes are intended to reflect both internal and external community.

If community groups begin occupying certain rooms within the building, will these spaces no longer be available for anyone else to use?



Steve explained that there will be some spaces and times that are designated for church use, and other spaces and times designated for community use. Space will always be available for church purposes. An analysis of space usage at Harcourt shows that the Sanctuary is used about 25% of the time, the Friendship Room between 11% and 22%, the Chapel about 8%, and Room

202/203 about 3%. The gym is in use about 27% of the time, and that's mainly due to the preschool. Much of the time, our space is just sitting empty, and that represents an opportunity for us.

Do the terms of reference for the community hub and partnerships task group include working with partners on shared interests (e.g., social justice, LGBTQ)?

Steve responded: absolutely. This isn't just about renting space. This is about our relationship with the community, and about consulting with the community to find out how they would like to partner with us.



In what ways does Council work with, and support, each of the task groups?

As Council's representative on the leadership team, Kathy Magee reports back to Council and contributes articles to the Herald to raise awareness within the Harcourt community of faith. Council is working very closely with all members of the leadership team, and in particular on the community hub. Council remains the governing body, and there are a number of steps that would need to take place before any change is put into action.



From the outside, Harcourt's building definitely looks like a church. Is the Community Hub task group proposing any structural changes to the church building?

Steve acknowledged that churches carry some baggage when it comes to interacting with the broader community – people need to feel comfortable that they can enter the church building without fear that we will try to “convert” them. Various churches have taken different approaches to addressing that issue: for example, based on input from the community, All Saints Anglican Church in Kitchener built a community centre that is attached to, but separate from, the church building itself. However, Steve is not anticipating any major changes to Harcourt's building in the near future.



Holy Listening Circle is building an online community that is reaching people from Guelph, Ontario, North America and beyond – people from different denominations and from no church background at all. This growing edge of Harcourt's community may be invisible to those who don't take part in it. This, too, is part of spiritual life.

Andre shared that Norval United Church in Georgetown has more than 80 people who participate exclusively in online worship every week. This community of online worshippers has appointed two representatives to sit on the Search committee for a new



minister. This speaks to a different understanding of what Church is. We need to start thinking about communities of faith beyond geography.

What could the broader church family be doing now – and in the next year or two – to support Manna?



Pamela and Merrill shared that Manna feels very supported by the Harcourt community of faith, from the loving support that has allowed that little experiment to grow into what it is today, to the sacrifices people are making to enable Manna to gather in the Sanctuary after the Music and Message service. Pamela would welcome contributions from anyone who has a gift to share with children, or adults, or the whole Manna community. The more gifts that are shared, the richer and more nourished our community becomes.

We are on a journey, and we don't know where we will end up. But we need information about the process, some kind of road map.



Kathy affirmed Council's commitment to stay in touch through the Harcourt Herald and the e-weekly. The purpose of today's town hall meeting was to give everyone a snapshot of where we are now and where we're going. Similar meetings will be held in the future. Rosalind Slater noted that communication would happen more easily if some of the gaps on Council were filled. Lorraine highlighted that Communications Committee is always welcoming new members. And there are other opportunities: don't hesitate to reach out to any committee that interests you.

As we open up our facilities and reach out to the community, will we be developing a policy to ensure that we are not making space available to groups that don't share Harcourt's core values?



Steve confirmed that this is part of the community consultation process. If a community group says they'd like to do something in our space that doesn't align with our core values, that's not going to happen. Dan added that this is already addressed in our rental policy and agreement.

I hope that we will look not only at space, but also at time. I'm caught in the dilemma of wanting to participate in multiple communities that meet at the same time.

In closing...

The town hall meeting, which followed a joint worship service combining Manna and the Music and Message services, was itself an experiment. About 65 people attended in person, with another 9 online via Zoom. An interactive hybrid meeting is quite different from livestreaming, and Lorraine acknowledged with gratitude the significant efforts of Mark Sears, Jerry Daminato and Casey Connor in making it happen. Lorraine also thanked Sandra Welch and Heather Hoeg and others for organizing and serving the snacks, tea and coffee.

Finally, Lorraine thanked Kathy, Andre, Dan, Pamela, Merrill and Steve for their updates, and also the many others who are part of the various task groups. Council hopes that as more people become familiar with each of the priorities, they too will want to get involved with the next steps of our journey.

My Reflection on Transformation - Kent Hoeg

I so appreciate the Harcourt Herald Team and the work that they do to create a publication that updates and nourishes us. I, as well as many others, were asked to write an article on 'transformation'. I never knew how difficult that would be! I'm not even sure what definition I would use for transformation. Is transformation a change from one mindset to another? Is it a physical change of an object (think Monarch butterfly)? Is it more spiritual that brings increased enlightenment? I am a rather analytical, logical person. I'm not driven too much by emotion. I really go with the flow, so change doesn't bother me much. Where do I go with this?



After deliberation within my own mind (it was a hard battle) changes in mindset came to the forefront. Have my beliefs and attitudes changed through time? Certainly not all. I strongly believe in family. I always have and I always will. Family is my support lifeline, they never abandon me and I never abandon them. But I must have transformed through the years - haven't I?

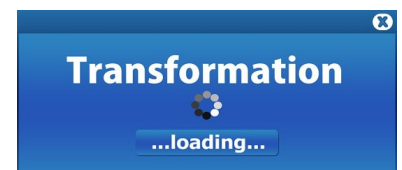
My response is a rather logical one. The experiences that I have had and my life circumstances have certainly changed me. I was married at 21, first child at 23. Clearly family was important and I was blessed to find Heather with the same ideals. In order to provide for my growing family I accepted a position that resulted in a move to Montreal. But what a contradiction that was! We left family (parents, brothers, sisters) in Ontario, to develop a life for my immediate family. While our time in Montreal was fantastic we knew we wanted to move back to Ontario so we could be with our extended family more frequently. While I had a strong belief in family, I didn't know how strong until we moved away from it.



As time passes, and as I reflect, I'm not sure that I have been "transformed". I do know that some of my beliefs have strengthened. I have always felt for those less fortunate than myself. But raising a family, I felt there was only so much that I could do. As time moves forward, I have more financial resources which I can put towards Harcourt, Chalmers, United Way, Food4Kids and others. Retirement is only a few years away, and I'll have the gift of more time to give more of myself. My belief system hasn't changed, but my circumstances are changing to allow me to enact more. Is that transformation? Maybe it's evolution.

Years ago, I never really thought about those with mental health challenges. I wasn't impacted by it. But then bang! We had to deal with the mental health of a loved one. I educated myself. My compassion, understanding and indeed sadness are now significant. As I learn of others who struggle with mental health issues - I can at minimum feel empathy and compassion - hopefully I can also provide a listening ear and support.

Have my ideals changed? Have I transformed as a person? As I reflect, I think I will say I have evolved, more than transformed. I've always believed in being a 'good' person. But as time progresses, my experiences grow and circumstances change I am able to go beyond ideals and move toward action. Evolution? Transformation? Not sure, but I think I'm going in the right direction.



Formation or Transformation? - Bill Lord

Thank you, Marion, for the invitation to address this issue of individual and communal understanding of the growth in the faith process - from formation to transformation.

As many of you are aware, most of my ministry, after six years in pastoral ministry, has been focused first on Christian Education and formation within the former Toronto Conference. In 1985 I changed to join the staff of the Toronto School of Theology as Director of Continuing Education. My task was to plan and offer courses in professional learning and development for persons in ministry, within an ecumenical context. This could be interpreted as mainly a formational ministry. However, I never lost sight of the fact that I was about helping people move one step in the journey toward transformation in their leadership style and life.

Personal transformation

In 1969 I attended a seminar on adult learning in the church led by Dr. Alan Thomas. He was at that time the Executive Secretary of the Adult Education Association in Canada. I have often described that experience as “while on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho I fell among educators”.

I left that seminar, it with a new awareness of what I had been doing in ministry which was really helping adults discover and learn new perspectives on their faith. In conversation with Alan afterwards, he suggested that I explore attending the Ontario Institute for Studies and Education, the graduate Department of Education at the University of Toronto. That fall, I entered full time study in the field of adult education and learning. When I arrived, they asked me what my theory of education was and how adults learn. I said I don't know: I'm here to discover what others have written. I was confronted for the first time with the challenge that what really mattered was the operative theory on which I based my ministry. It was suggested that I was not studying to change my experience. What I was doing was changing lenses to look at my experience and learn directly from it - transformation.



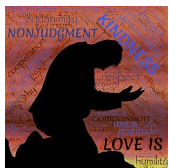
Organizational transformation

Personal transformation can happen much more easily than organizational transformation. Let me explore one possibility of transformation within the church. Harcourt, along with several other United Churches, is participating in a four-evening course to discover a new understanding of stewardship. Covid-19 and cultural challenges have presented the Christian church with a call to fresh understanding regarding its use of human and financial resources.

In the past, within the Church as I experienced it, stewardship was often equated with asking for more money. I heard the story of a student minister back in the days of student summer mission fields on the prairies. On his first Sunday he preached on money. All summer long he was plagued by that sermon. If he said it's a nice day out, the farmers thought - nice day, more crops, more money to the church. That perspective of stewardship must change. First, we must make a significant distinction between fund raising events and stewardship.



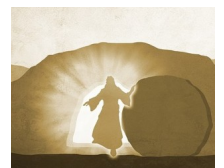
Stewardship starts with a person and their passion. It invites people to reframe their understanding of what God invites them to use their human and financial resources to support God's mission in the world. The old system tried to motivate people to give to the church but the role of stewardship in the local congregation today is to inspire people to see the possibilities available to them as they intentionally move their gifted resources of time, talent, and treasure towards achieving God's mission. That mission is clearly stated at the end of Matthew's gospel (Chapter 25:31-40). When you feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, visit the prisoner, bring hope to the hopeless, that is to make a contribution that changes people's lives. St Theresa of Avila said it this way: "Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."



So, we stand at the threshold of transformation within the communities of the faithful, that is Harcourt, as each seeks to be faithful servants to God's mission.

Change and Continuity - Andre Auger

Metamorphosis is often used as a metaphor for resurrection. In resurrection, something dies, and something entirely new and different is said to emerge. Thus the butterfly in no way resembles the caterpillar. We stress the discontinuity, and are amazed.



And so, we extend the metaphor to the Church, and expect it to resurrect entirely different from its current outdated forms. For some this is good news and they can't wait; for others, the thought of such loss grieves them sorely.

Two thousand years of history of the Christian faith offers us a different point of view. "Ecclesia semper reformanda:" we are told of a Church always reforming itself. Certain reformations did indeed feel like a death and an eventual resurrection. Think of the



Reformation and the ensuing Wars of Religion... Over the centuries, the Church has lost its way a lot, true. But it was mystics and holy people who tended to always offer some sort of return to the original simplicity and purity – albeit challenging – of Jesus’ original message: compassion, forgiveness, and distributive justice. Think of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, or the monastic movement, and, more recently, the Emerging Church.

Change and reformation are needed for sure. Christendom is over, and fewer and fewer people see the relevance of what we call “going to church.” Organs are no longer central; more and more churches are getting rid of pews; old forms of worship seem arcane and irrelevant to more and more people. But there has always been a thread of continuity. The Church’s metamorphoses have never been radical breaks with no recognizable features carried into the new life. That is the meaning of the term “tradition.” “Traditio” means to hand on – “trans” = “across” + “dare” = “to give.” One form of Church hands on to the next what is the core, despite outward changes, no matter how radical the reformation.

To the reformers among us – me included – who can hardly wait for the new butterfly to emerge from the dead chrysalis of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. Revisit experience, holding it together in the let go of, in light of contemporary to, however adapted to the times?



the old Church. I say: always remember Scripture in light of tradition and light of your best reasoning. What can we life’s exigencies? What must we hang on This requires humble discernment. Surely, we will continue to need to meet; surely we will sing and pray together; surely, children and newcomers will need to learn the heart of our belief; surely we will remember the life and teachings of Jesus through word and ritual; surely we will continue to heal this broken world through individual and collective action; surely we will keep encouraging each other and, somehow, hold each other accountable, through forms of sharing (Acts 2:43-47).

How we do all these will vary with the times and the circumstances. But the heart of our faith will always be there. That’s why we can claim to be followers of Jesus.

Metamorphosis - Julie Ashley

Metamorphosis ...represents “a change in form of a person or thing, either naturally or supernaturally.” Especially at this time of year, I immediately think of Jesus’ transformation after he died and changed form to Spirit. Adversely, I might begin by identifying one unwanted metamorphosis due to travelling the southern coast and enjoying too much breaded fried green tomatoes. Not the kind of “change in form” I had in mind!

Kidding aside, Lynn's bubbles are a wonderful example of constant changing form/transition. If only we could be so fluidly transformational! Such beauty in shape-shifting! One that awes those that look on.

Recently, a monarch butterfly came to mind as a wonderful example of metamorphosis, having observed one flying here in Georgia on my vacation. We understand the price paid for the monarch butterfly's freedom to fly. We often like to focus on the ultimate beauty of the butterfly and skip over the "gooey dark middle" of the chrysalis. The gooey dark middle is often challenging, not easy. Not unlike Harcourt Church itself, earlier, I am wrestling with the dark gooey stage, as I determine my big "P" Purpose, and little "p" practices that will transform my mind and heart towards a new shift to create legacy as I age forward. I continue to reflect and inquire to determine my gifts that I will give away, share and leave behind.



Romans 2:2 speaks about the idea of "not being conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...what is good, acceptable and perfect."

As I seek my next shift, I enjoy how expectations of others increasingly fall away in importance as I seek to get up close and personal with my Maker to become my best legacy. That small acorn that the oak tree leaves behind is perfect; the butterfly that emerges is perfectly acceptable. Neither will question themselves but know they are the emergence of the good, the acceptable, the perfect. This is my ultimate quest.



Pictured here is Lynn Hancock, early in her bubbling ministry.

Metamorphosis or Pinning Wings on Caterpillars – Bill Chapman



When I started high school I was a scrawny, leggy, uncoordinated 110 lb, shy bookworm. When we played sand lot sports I wasn't the last to be picked, but I wasn't near the front of the line either.

By grade 13, I was six feet tall, weighed 160 lbs, had gained a huge amount of self confidence and was ready, or as ready as any 18 year old, to head off to university. Oh by the way, I was still a bookworm, but a much more confident one.

Was that a metamorphosis? In one way yes. There were some drastic and relatively sudden changes physically and psychologically over those 5 years. The young boy had become a young man and the shy kid had become much more outgoing. But was that a metamorphosis or simply a transition? Was that simply “growing up”?

When I look at the Harcourt of 2023 and compare it to the Harcourt of 2018 when I started to attend, has it undergone metamorphosis or simply undergone a time of growth, change and transformation?

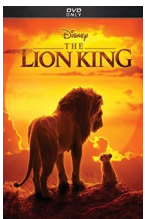


It is certainly a different church! There has certainly been transformation and change. But has the basic structure, the cultural and spiritual DNA, undergone a radical change or have we simply been “pinning wings on a caterpillar?” Is there, has there, been a radical rewriting of our willingness to risk? Is there a radical renewal in what we are prepared to give up, give away and sacrifice to truly be “a family of God” for our extended community? Are we, like seeds, prepared to die that there might be life for our children and grandchildren of faith? What, I ask myself, must I do, what must I be to undergo true metamorphosis? For the caterpillar it simply is. It’s part of what it was always meant to be and do.

Maybe that is our clue. What is it that the “Holy One” has always wanted for us as individuals and congregation to be and do? There has certainly been change! There has certainly been a revitalization of hope and commitment! There has certainly been a renewal of energy! Has there been metamorphosis? Only time will tell.

Transformations – Lynn Hancock

Since I saw the theme for April’s Harcourt Herald, I have lost count of the number of times I have heard/seen the word: “transformation”. In a variety of contexts. What transformations do I see in my life, community, church?



Movies have transformed me. I still remember a line from The Lion King: **“Remember Who You Are.”** In the movie, Evan Almighty, God (Morgan Freeman) asks Evan if someone prays for courage, does God grant courage or the opportunity to be courageous?..... I have always appreciated the power of movies to

transform. At this point in my life, I'm particularly interested in seeing movies that can transform me into a better version of myself.

Music has had the power to transform me. I have come to appreciate when I get goosebumps singing or listening to inspirational music. I still remember hearing the story of how Amazing Grace came to be. As a result of John Newton's experience at sea, he was transformed and inspired to write the words now known as "Amazing Grace"; talk about transformation.....from slave trader....

On Sunday, I was inspired by the quilts on display in the Friendship Room. I was amazed to see how donated fabric and scraps of material could be transformed into one of a kind quilts that I could only describe as the best of artistic expression and creativity by generous artists. My mother was a quilter. How much did she treasure quilts? I still remember her telling us that in the event of a fire, "grab the quilts". She knew they could not be replaced. They were a labour of love. I have a quilt in my bedroom proudly displayed and over 125 years old.

On Sunday, Kate invited us to watch a video: "It is Love that Matters"; words by Ilia Delio. We were invited to watch it for "contemplation and reflection". I was unprepared for how transformational that video would be. I subsequently created a transcript and have now watched it several times. I have been reflecting on the transformation of the Harcourt sanctuary that allowed for that sharing. The screens, the microphones, the speakers. The tech staff and volunteers know so much more than I about the "digital world" and the "tech infrastructure" required. Thanks to all who share their expertise and courage.



Transformation - Judi Morris



Seasons arrive each year by the calendar with 1000% predictability. What is not predictable is how they arrive. Each season, each year they are present in similar but never the same way twice, much like snowflakes. Spring, a season of transformation, most often carries the elements of three seasons, winter, spring and summer.

Seasons hold different meanings to farmers than to city folk, however all experience the transformation spring delivers. The cold eases off, cleaning up winter and the experience of a different greening than the one we have inside at Christmas.



As a farmer, spring makes it easier to get around outside and begin clean up. The first for me, is poop duty, beginning with the chicken house. Some winters the chickens have a lot of outside time; this one kept them inside at the later end of the season. Cold, high winds and a

late snow dump prevented mid-winter clean-up of paddocks. Those transformations will take some time, to complete, but they will happen.

Frost this year was not deep, gardens will be accessible early. Mud season should be short. The late snow dump was a gift. We needed snow to melt slowly into the ground, rather than rain to run off into creeks and away. After three summers of drought our ground water is considerably lower. A creek I have should be two and a half feet deep and flowing fast and furious. It has about six inches of water.

Last year's drought was the worst of the past three. It may have left us with chinch bugs in our fields and pastures this year, as it did fifteen years ago, along with the time and expense to replant them. I am beginning to wonder if construction around the 401 and along the Grand River has changed wind patterns and north Puslinch is entering early stages of a desert creation. Every forecasted rain last summer for our farm passed us over except two which came too late to make crops even a remote success. I watched with serious disappointment the clouds shift on their way to us and stood and watched rain fall in Guelph.



For a time, there are places where the ground is soft - horses are not allowed to walk on it and vehicles and equipment must keep off. Ultimately every year, a city person drives in and parks on a piece of grass they have always parked on during summer, fall and winter, and leaves me with rut repair and grass to replant.

It all comes together, only as weather dictates and we have been transformed from winter into spring. With our gardens planted, fields fertilized, horses on the go and the smell of summer in the air we carry the hopes of a successful hay crop. The butterfly has emerged.

Scams warning! - Jerry Daminato

Listening to CBC this a.m. and how sophisticated the scams are becoming. They referenced four or five instances on the east coast where folks (some elderly, some not) are out \$250K.



Just passing this on as I heard their example of the readily available software that the scammers are using.

They played a recording of Tom Powers (CBC host) speaking normally introducing himself. Then they played a new sentence that was run through the software where he said he had gotten in trouble and didn't know whom to turn to. I was shocked at how amazingly the new scam voice sounded authentic! Being a bit of an audio/techy person, I thought I'd pass this on to you and to take care when the phone rings.

Some deterrents are to ask the caller for their phone number and tell them you'll call them back. Often that may be the end of it. In the meantime, call the parents of the assumed caller or other relatives to find out if they know anything about their trouble.

The Caroline Harcourt Women's Friendship Circle

will be meeting for the First Time in Three Years!



Please note the time change for our meeting.

Date: Monday, April 10, 2003.

Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm.

Place: Friendship Room

All women are welcome.

Join us for tea, treats, chatter and devotion.

We have a lot of fun and fellowship to catch up.

Questions call Jean Hume 519 837-3895.

Is anyone driving close by
Wellington Park on Sundays,
181 Janefield Ave, Guelph,
to give Janet Gostoni
a lift to the Harcourt Service?
Just to be aware that she needs
her walker which folds
and fits in the trunk of even
a smaller size car quite easily.



Three Act Play by Arlene Davies-Fuhr

On Stage in June 2023 ...



Going Viral

an original three-act play by
Arlene Davies-Fuhr

with sea shanties,
mystery, and merriment

June 2 & 3, 2023, 7-8:30 pm

Reid Hall
Village by the Arboretum
221 Stone Road East

By donation for sound and light equipment

Bistro style.
Bring your own refreshments.

Ahoy, me mateys! Come. Enjoy!

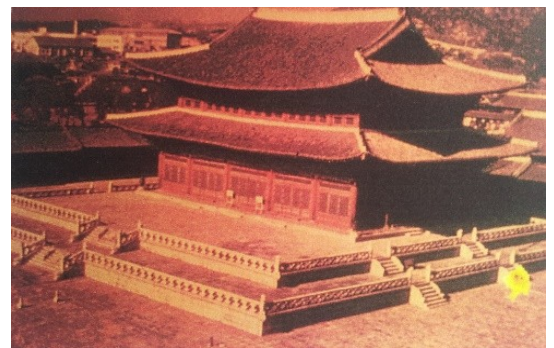
*On Thursday evening, June 2 there will be a cameo appearance by James Gordon who will sing one of his latest songs.

Part II of Interview with Dr. Hugh Rose

Korea during The Student Revolution in 1960. The Northwest Territories.

Judi: You were then sent to Korea...what area did you go to?

Hugh: We went to Seoul for language study. Marilyn was better at it than me. I have been exposed to five languages. I think I speak reasonable English. Stephen became completely bilingual and Bob, although he understood English, spoke only Korean until he was Five.



We then went to Wonju. The hospital, built by American Methodist church and the United Church of Canada, was owned by Korean Methodist and Korean Presbyterian denomination. Before going they said to me: "It would be useful to get some extra eye training" so I did. When I arrived I found they wanted me to take over the supervision of the ophthalmology department in the hospital to which I had been assigned. Funny decision to make. I was not qualified to do this. After four years, I returned to Canada and spent three years completing my residency training in Ophthalmology, then went back to Korea. Korea is beautiful and we spent six years there in the decade of 1960 – 1970.

Merely weeks after we returned, a student revolution exploded without warning on April 19th, 1960, and the government fell.

Marilyn left the children in the care of Mrs. Chai and went downtown to a British movie with Mrs. Appenzeller. On the way home they saw several open trucks roaring by, the backs filled with young men who had white cloths or scarves tied around their heads dabbed with what appeared to be red paint spots. When the taxi approached the entrance to the hospital grounds, the driver's eyes popped wide open. In front of them was a solid mass of people. The taxi could go no further. They paid the driver and got out. They didn't know if the crowd would be hostile to foreigners. Marilyn was worried sick about the children.

They were about a hundred yards or less from the hospital gates behind which was the guest house. It looked like a mile. The people wanted foreigners off the street. Marilyn and Mrs. Appenzeller, were hurried, almost shoved through the crowd and through the hospital gates to safety.

After lunch I had set out with some other students in a Land Rover for our regular afternoon language classes at Yonsei University. When we arrived, it was obvious that something was up. Our young instructors appeared to be agitated and unable to concentrate.

We had barely started our first hour of classes when an American Army officer arrived. He told us there was rioting going on in the city and that he and his men were there to escort us back to our residences. We left in a long convoy made up of Land Rovers and Jeeps.

I was dropped off at the gate of Severance Hospital compound. Outside the gates was a large square where senior students and their teachers had come out to demonstrate against the government. They hurried us into the hospital compound. I was relieved to find Marilyn was safely at home. Just about then we heard gunfire. The police had opened fire.



I went over to the hospital. On the ground floor there was a suite of three rooms which made up the Foreign Clinic where people who could not speak Korean could be looked after. Seeing the hospital's one emergency room was already overwhelmed, I opened these up for us as backup and for triage. The firing continued, increasing in frequency and soon the smell of tear gas began to drift in through an open window. The flood of casualties continued.

I never had experienced gun fire in the army, in earnest, but did in Seoul. They brought victims inside. At least 200 people were killed that afternoon in Seoul.

Medical students showing real courage, took stretchers, repeatedly ran out into the square and picked up the wounded. We admitted bullet wound casualties averaging close to one every two minutes for about six hours. The hospital had mattresses on the hall floor and IV bottles nailed to the wall.

This was battle medicine. The first patient I examined was an unconscious student with a bullet hole in the centre of his abdomen with about eight to ten inches of small intestine protruding from it. Soon an older man was carried in with part of one leg almost severed just below the knee.

A Roman Catholic nun, and J Klaussen, who later became the director of the Mennonite Central Committee of Canada, took an ambulance and, driving back and forth through all the turmoil, managed to evacuate about thirty patients to outlying hospitals.

During my short time in the Army, I had completed my infantry training. I had learned to fire a rifle, a couple of types of machine guns, mortars and anti-tank weapons. I had been exposed to tear gas and learned how to handle machine gun bullets flying over my head. I ended up feeling pretty sure that I was prepared for battle. How wrong I was! This... was real! Everything I had experienced back then was simulated. These were aimed bullets!

I found that I could function with reasonable efficiency but I was not at all prepared for the emotional stress. Our children were never close to what was going on, but Stephen, almost three, could not hear firecrackers going off for about a year without being frightened.

In spite of the revolution, the coup thirteen months later, the dictatorship and the ever-present threat of attack, people went about their daily lives. Life had to go on.

One of the less pleasant aspects of living in this war-ravaged city was the presence of rats. There appeared to be a large, well established community of them living above our ceilings. In the morning it sounded as if they were all going off to work.

We spent five days a week in intensive language study. The weekends provided a much-needed change of pace. In addition to taking my turn in Severance Hospital's Foreign Clinic, In my free time, I sometimes took a suitcase of medical samples and drive out to a rural village. These trips brought home to me, the terrible lack of medical care in this war-ravaged land.

I now read Bible stories with different eyes. They are no longer 'long ago and far away'. They are current. They are real! Mark's story tells us that the next morning Jesus went out into the wilderness to pray. I'm sure he did. I suspect he also went out into the wilderness to cry.

I had a humdinger case of Montezuma's revenge. Foolishly thinking that it was my duty to go to the village, sick or not, I set out in the morning.

It was a small community and much to my horror, I discovered that the communal outhouse was located over a wide circular pit in which was called 'night soil.' And was collected to be used later as fertilizer. It had a small roof and burlap sides. One look at this powder room frightened me so much that it cured me completely.

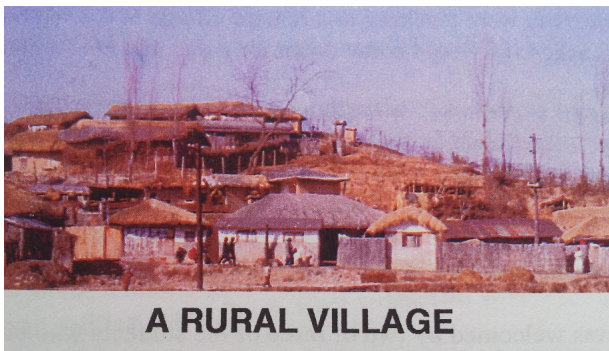
To one village, I took an overnight sleeper. At the station I was met by three students and a Canadian Mission truck. We drove several miles into the country and stopped at a path between rice paddies leading off into the distance. We were to hike the rest of the way. I had two large suitcases filled with bottles of medicine. It was all I could do to lift them. Two elderly Korean women hurried toward us. After greeting us warmly, one seized the suitcases, swung them, one at a time, onto the top of her head and strode off in the direction of the village.

I examined my patients in a tiny dark room in the back of a small church. Again, I saw conditions that I would never see in Canada. Again, I did what I could, which was not, in many cases, very much.

On the way back we stopped for the night at a small Korean inn. We were served a wonderful hot meal. There of course was soup and barley tea. There was bulgogi, rice bamboo shoots and lotus roots. We were provided with a thin mattress and I slept on a hot ondol floor. I closed my eyes and it was morning.

In Wonju The American Methodist Church and the United Church of Canada funded construction of a small modern hospital on a piece of land belonging to the Methodist Church and called Wonju Union Christian Hospital.

On Sunday we went to church, usually twice, sometimes three times. We were happy to find an English language service in the chapel of a small American military base about five miles out of town. At 11 and often again at 7, we were at the Korean church we belonged to.



A RURAL VILLAGE

Wonju was small enough for us to know our neighbour. This was the real Korea virtually unchanged for many generations. Mudbrick thatched roofed houses – farmers still used winnowing fork and the flail and the women washed their clothes at the riverside.

About 95% of the entire population suffered debilitating intestinal parasites. We had to be very careful what we ate. Our well water was unsafe.

Typhoid fever was not uncommon. We always boiled our water for a full ten minutes before using it.

Old forgotten ammunition was found by children playing on the hospital site. A woman threw some wood on her cooking fire and did not see the small dud mixed in with it. Shrapnel of rice and aluminum blew into her face. Such stories were common.

Tuberculosis was perhaps the most serious medical problem facing the nation. On the average one person died of it every twelve minutes. The government advice was to treat only those we knew we could save – there was not enough medicine to go around. How does one say, “I’m sorry, there is no medicine for you, but God bless you. I hope you get well.”

TB spared our family. Hepatitis did not. It forced Marilyn to bed for several weeks.

A minor but interesting part of my work was acting as an occasional consultant to the US Army. I saw patients from the local base and from time to time was flown to see them elsewhere.

Normally the Army would pay for such services in US Dollars. A better idea was we were given credit at the supply base to purchase laboratory and medical supplies almost at cost.

Barbara had been living in an orphanage for some months because her mother was dying of cancer and her father, an American soldier, had returned to the United States. She was three and a half years when she joined our family.

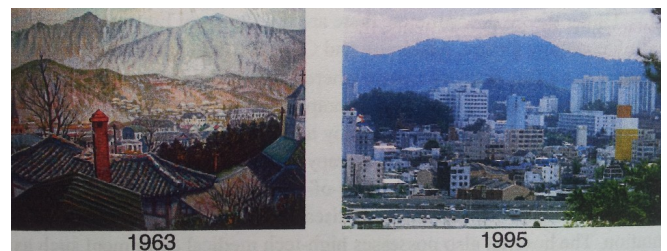
We had expected to spend the rest of our lives in Korea. Unexpectedly during the 1960's Korea began to change to – to revive – to take over its own destiny.

The new Korea was being built from the ground up by people with drive and enthusiasm. The ultimate goal of all missionaries was to work ourselves out of our job. We could see that this was happening. We returned to Canada in the spring of 1970.

In retrospect, I sometimes think of our colleagues and ourselves as representing the last of the haystack missionaries. In 1806 a group of five students from Williams College in Williamstown Massachusetts, were caught in a thunderstorm. They took shelter under a haystack and began to talk about their faith. There under that haystack, they resolved to offer their lives, in the name of Jesus Christ, to carry their faith into service into all the world.

Out of this small beginning grew the protestant mission movement, particularly in the United States and Canada.

Our departure from Korea marked a watershed in our lives. The future was anything but clear.



Judi: Backing up... ophthalmology was thrust upon you. It wasn't a choice.

Hugh: Yes...I found it interesting and I found I really liked it.

Judi: Did you use much theology in Korea?

Hugh: A minister carried a lot of weight there. In fact, more weight than a Dr. We were called Mokso (minister) it meant shepherds – protestant clergy.

Judi: Your Ministry is unlike that of ministers we know. You also served in Canada's north.

Hugh: Yes. The Northwest Territory.

Judi: Please, do tell us about the Northwest Territory

Hugh: When we left Korea, I wondered where else to go. They were building a new hospital in NWT. I saw an ad in a Canadian Medical Journal looking for an ophthalmologist in NWT. I provided eye care for the McKenzie zone - 500 sq miles and about twenty-two villages.

Judi: So, you did a lot of travelling there.

Hugh: Yes, by vehicle and air – a small charter plane. I had staff that did most of the travelling. They usually brought patients to me.

Judi: Some of us recall your telling us about a young girl with skin issues. Do you recall that?

Hugh: Oh yes, I had forgotten that. In Bella Coola. She had skin eruptions, sores and breakouts finally she told me she always loved to put bleach in bathwater. It made her skin feel soft.

Judi: If you were just starting out and had to make a choice of Ministry or Ophthalmology, which might it be?

Hugh: That's a tough one... As an early teen I had a strong desire to go into medicine not ministry. I had a call into medical missionary. Medicine was first – that was a calling. I preferred more rural or remote. In those area, when the patient went in hospital, they were still my patient. The patient was my friend. I looked after them all the way through.

Judi: I recall hearing you talk about being on a boat.

Hugh: For a few months I was on Thomas Crosby IV, a United Church boat on the west coast and visited all sorts of villages. It was like being circuit riders in rural area by boat. I was there as a minister. I did one baptism. I took supplies for the people and gave church services in native and other communities and logging camps. I brought along a projector and national film board movies. Sometimes there wasn't a real dock and I had to walk across logs holding the projector up hoping not to fall.

Judi: I recall something about a harrowing trip on a boat going from one village to another. Do you remember the one that I might be referring to? Can you tell us the story?

Hugh: We had to get a child to a hospital in the middle of the night. We didn't have radar or any navigational helps. There were always logs from logging booms and we couldn't see them in the dark. The child was quite sick and we had to go to the hospital in Bella Bella. The boat was about seventy feet long, 55 tons and went at ten knots. We had to go and did our best to watch for logs that broke off and made it.

Judi: The 9:00 a.m. service at Harcourt was where you spent a lot of time, when you came to Guelph. I recall you picking up the slack once in a while there as minister. What did you like about that service?

Hugh: We liked the hour of the day, the intimacy of it and the sacred circle after. It was a close-knit group.

Judi: Several people have mentioned to me of the talk you gave when Harcourt was going through the Affirmation Process. It has been referred to with the words, beautiful, loving, and poignant. I don't even know what question to put to that. I just have the need to have it noted in this interview. Is there any comment you can add?

Hugh: I gave the same talk at Wellington men's club & Kiwanis and the Men's Breakfast at Harcourt. We have four children. Two heterosexuals, a bisexual daughter, and a homosexual son. It was dealing with the fact I have three types of sexual orientation in my family. I believe I conducted the first 1st same sex marriage in Guelph, in Harcourt. We were worried about trouble during the ceremony. My gay son attends a Mennonite church in Toronto and is accepted. The chances are, you will never know it unless they want to tell you.

Judi: The one thing they knew was you and Marilyn loved them without judgment. And they were safe in their home.

Hugh: Our daughter had trouble in her life. Our Gay son and partner legally adopted his sister's children.

Judi: Did you ever watch MASH? How did you like it?

Hugh: Oh... I liked MASH (*he said with a grin*). Obviously not filmed in Korea. I can tell you that. There were things I saw on that show you would never see in Korea ... like the dress and hats they had on the Koreans.

Judi: If you were physically fit, where would you like to return to.

Hugh: I liked Clarksburg near Collingwood, and we were very happy in Bella Coola. Also places where I worked in Hazelton on Hwy 16, North East of Prince Rupert and near Smithers. I worked in the United Church Hospital. At one time I was a medical student there before Marilyn and I got married. Marilyn and I returned there for the last 5 years of my practice and I retired from there as an Ophthalmologist.

Judi: Having led a life of making a difference around this world. Is there any one event/incident that you can recall where your involvement influenced changes you hoped?

Hugh: I suppose ...not me in particular. The hospital in general. Wonju represented change – Korea those days was a 3rd world country. We brought them modern medicine and equipment in rural areas.

Judi: What advice would you give to a young Hugh Rose starting out today with the same aspirations that you had.

Hugh: I've asked myself that question a little bit. I have to say having a family, a happy marriage and working in a place where it was really needed. The Korea I remember compared today you wouldn't know it was the same country – they are so far ahead of us in technology now.

Judi: Do you view God today the same as you did in your early career? The December Herald had members writing about their view of God. Mine involved the energy of the earth.

Hugh: I think I fairly well view God as I always have. With regard to God being the energy of the earth, I've thought about that in a way. The message of Genesis tells us somehow God has given us power or responsibility of looking after this earth in which we live. When I think of sports teams; if the team keeps losing, they drop the manager.

Judi: Is there any prayer you favour?

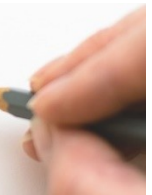
Hugh: The Lord's Prayer. Prayer is a conversation – I find I would feel very lost if I couldn't pray. I feel God is very approachable.

Judi: Is there anything you want us to know or to share with us?

Hugh: It's very lonely without Marilyn. I have been fortunate in life to do the things I wanted to do and have the chance of adventure I had. I am aware of many things I've been in life. Many things have worked out that I felt haven't deserved. My life certainly was not lacking in adventure. As far as marriage, I had everything I hoped it might be and something more.

Judi: Thank you Hugh, for a minuscule look into your life. We could fill several newsletters with your stories. Every story, every situation you were in, tells of a man who cares about humanity and a need to minister to both their spiritual and health needs.

Everyone you met and ministered to, were blessed by your care and grace. Miigwech ᑭᓄᑦ



We've been seeing snow or dreary bare ground. But soon, when we look out the windows on the west side of the sanctuary, we'll be seeing signs of spring. Aren't we fortunate to have that view? But it wasn't always so.

When the new church building opened in January of 1962, the west wall of the sanctuary was similar to the east wall: a solid wall with a row of windows along the top. There were differences. A few windows punctuated the west wall, and a door (a solid one—no window) led to the lawn outside. But the windows offered only small glimpses of the natural world beside the sanctuary.

That world outside consisted mainly of lawn with some trees and shrubs. During the 1990s, it was improved with the addition of a small garden in memory of Edna Boyce (see the November *Harcourt Herald*). Sheltered between trees, this was a restful spot, with two benches facing one another, flagstones paving the ground. It was a start toward making Harcourt's landscape a more welcoming place.



Then Mark Sears made a proposal: to transform the lawn to the west of the sanctuary into a Celebration Garden. The congregation approved the idea, and people contributed funds to the Memorials Committee to support the project. When work began in the fall of 2000, dedicated members gave more than money; they contributed their physical labour, and they laid about thirty tons of tumbled pavers to make a patio area and paths. Shrubs, flowers, and an arbour followed, and the transformation was complete—to be maintained by faithful volunteers.



The garden greatly enhanced the grounds, but only parts of it could be viewed through the windows in the sanctuary wall. In 2006, Harcourt would be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary as a congregation. What could be done as an anniversary project celebrate that and to enhance life at Harcourt? Marg Donaldson (chair of Council) and Lynn Crow (chair of the worship committee) organized a group to consider upgrades to the sanctuary. Lynn's daughter attended a church in Mississauga that had a glass wall. The committee members went to see it and were impressed. Could Harcourt's west wall become a wall of windows?

The congregation voted its approval. Bruce Donaldson and Lynn Crow co-chaired the committee to oversee the design and building, and Ken and Marilyn Murray headed a fund-

raising committee. Once the congregation gave final approval, the architect received the go-ahead and the work proceeded, for this was major construction requiring more than the labour of even the most willing volunteers. And the wonder was accomplished.



So now, as you look from the sanctuary into the garden, hoping for signs of spring, remember and give thanks. Give thanks for the beauty of nature, and also give thanks for the vision, the financial gifts, and the industry that have gone into this amazing transformation of our sacred space.



Metamorphosis: A Metaphor for Life - Lisa Browning



Since I started writing regular articles for *The Herald*, I have been amazed that, every month, the suggested theme resonates, strongly and undeniably, with me. This month's theme is definitely the most powerful example of that.

There are four statements that form the foundation of my belief system:

1. Everything happens for a reason, and that reason is our highest good.
2. Each of us comes to this earth with a lesson to learn, and to teach.
3. Our adversity is our strength, and our challenge is our opportunity.
4. We must embrace our darkness—our challenges, adversities, traumas—if we are to see the light of a new way of being in the world.

Once again, I rely on Marianne Williamson, whose words of wisdom have helped me on many occasions. In *The Gift of Change*, she said, “It is only when we embrace in the midst of the deepest, darkest night, when we feel most humbled by life, the faint shadow of our wings begins to appear.” What a lovely reference to the process of metamorphosis ... and a lovely segue into my thoughts about metamorphosis as a metaphor for life.

I have written before about the emotionally/verbally abusive relationship I was in, over a decade ago ... a relationship that damaged my sense of self to such an extent that I ended up in Homewood, dealing with the effects of PTSD. Somewhere in my recovery, I felt compelled to write a book about my experience. This book has been in the planning stages for several years now. It has taken me that amount of time to get clear on exactly what I want to say, and how I want to say it. I thought, at first, that my “problem” was the emotional abuse. But I have realized, over the years, that the abuse I suffered was a symptom of an underlying problem, not the cause. The abuse I suffered was the result of the toxic shame that began during my infancy and early childhood. Because I hadn’t dealt with that shame (not knowing that it even existed), I lived a life of hyper-vigilance, dreading the day that I’d be outed as the unworthy person I believed I was. It was that shame and core belief that led me to the abusive relationship in the first place, because it was “what I deserved.”



As I worked through the process of recognizing, confronting, and healing from that toxic shame, I made a very important and, for me, life-altering discovery. As I stated earlier, I believe that each of us has a unique purpose in this life, which is directly related to the life lesson we need to learn for our own highest good. That life lesson is, in turn, directly related to the pain or challenge we have experienced.

“Metamorphosis” comes from the Greek, and means to transform. By definition (dictionary.com), metamorphosis is “a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one” and, of course, when we think of metamorphosis, most of us think of the butterfly.

Butterflies have always been a symbol of hope for me, as they are for many. And hope, of course, is a crucial component when dealing with adversity. How fitting that I am writing this on the first day of Spring!

I love the following quote by Maya Angelou:

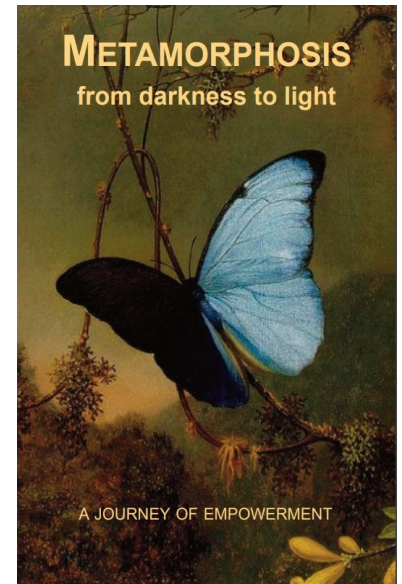
**“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly,
but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”**

The book I am writing (and believe it or not, the title of that book is *Metamorphosis: From Darkness to Light*) touches on each of the four stages of metamorphosis, but relates them to the human experience of transformation, regardless of the type of adversity we have faced.

I am excited about completing this book. It has been a long time coming. I am excited not only for the opportunity to tell my own story, but also for the opportunity to relay a message of hope, much needed in the world today.

Wayne Dyer once said, “When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.” I think a fitting response to that sentiment, and a fitting conclusion to my thoughts on this topic, comes from Richard Bach:

**“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world,
the master calls a butterfly.”**



Metamorphosis - Arlene Davies-Fuhr

Transformation is mysterious,
miraculous, and rather spiritual.
As a Quebecois, I'm partial to frog
changes - from egg to tadpole,
then tadpole with legs to froglet,
and, finally, to frog. This meta-
morphosis involves adaptation, change
strange feelings, unique ways of
swimming through the world.

I can relate. Initially, I was a
vivacious, wild, creative child.

By nine, I entered my silent, unconfident stage
but remained untamed and spontaneous at school.
Home was unsafe. Better to be quiet and guarded.



During university, I stretched and laughed.
Shared ridiculous puns. But still I was shy and reserved. Not fully the person I would become.
Are we ever? At grad school, I began to hop to it
Become more frog-like. Warts and all.

My life's journey has been meandering
like walking a labyrinth with its dizzying
twists and turns. So here I am.
One who trills and croaks as I leap from
lily pad to lily pad. Someone who
transforms, adapts, and grows.

Passages



John Batt passed away on February 20th, 2023.



Anne Piper passed away peacefully on March 19, 2023.

