



A Trip That's Worth Packing For

What do you remember when you go on a trip, Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin asks in "Our North Star," a video that explains Humber Valley's new vocation, arrived at through a series of workshops and board discussions last October.

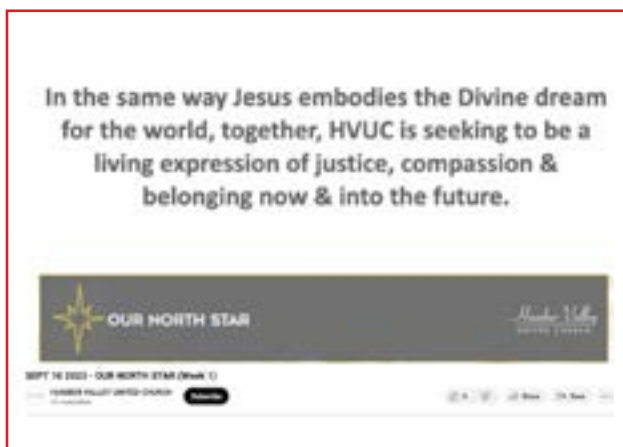


"I'm willing to bet that people remember the experiences, sights and sounds of the trip, not the packing and preparing," Trevor notes. "There is so much to do from packing everything for a week into a carry on, and putting our toiletries in a zip lock bag."

Getting ready to travel takes a lot of work. "But when we do it, we're excited, we want to do it... because the tedious errands help us get somewhere better," Trevor says.

Churches are a lot of work too — including services, fundraisers, budget reports, and sometimes stressful interpersonal dynamics. But when we do all this, we are packing the right things to get where we want to go, he adds.

In October, Humber Valley looked at what it means to be a church in this post-pandemic world. There was a lot of time, work, and listening to Spirit to make sure we were hearing right. What emerged was Our North Star. "It's not a mission," Trevor said, "because a mission implies that completion is possible. It's more of a vocation we live with, a directional commitment. We are committed to living the gospel right here where we are."



Throughout history, people have used the North Star to chart their course. So what is our North Star? The words at left are pretty straightforward. They say that HVUC is all in when it comes to following Jesus. Jesus exemplifies who we are — it all originates in Jesus. If you want to know what God cares about, Jesus is where you begin to look, Trevor said.

Continued on page 2

FEBRUARY 2024 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our North Star	1-2
Chair's Message	3
Communications	e
Calendar of Events	4
Line Dancing	5
Meditative Walks	6
Supporting Refugees	7
Community Recognition	8
Valley Voices	9
Lorraine Pearsall	10
Colleen Isherwood	11
Financial Report	12
Bids 'N Bites	13
Ellen Moorhouse	14
Charities	14
Chocolate Making	15
Stephen Ministry	16
Concert & Silent Auction	17
Outreach	18
Prayer Group	18
Fred Van der Vliet Award	19
Laptops	19
Life Events	20
Our Sponsors	21-25
Romantic Favourites	26



Our North Star — A Trip Worth Packing for

(Continued from page 1)

“What’s the scariest thing you’ve ever done?” Trevor asks. And even though he sky dived for his 30th birthday, and has been bungee jumping twice, the scariest moment was on a recent Tuesday, and it involved his son’s hockey team. For a number of years, Trevor has been manager of the team, handling all the off-ice things but never venturing onto the ice in his role. This year, he is still managing, but he is also one of the coaches, running drills and setting up power plays for the Under 16 A team (U16A).

Trevor admits that he has never played organized hockey! So last summer, he started reading books about hockey, immersing himself in a study of all things hockey.

“You can embrace and study a sport, but once you get on the ice, the experience is totally different. You have these massive players flying by at Mach 3. The energy and physicality of the game, the intensity is felt in your very bones.

“Jesus very quickly brings us physicality. Once you step into a life with Jesus, there is a mandate to make every decision in the way and heart of Jesus — and that hits differently. We had life with God and spirituality, but Jesus makes spiritual life a physical, tangible reality. What Jesus invites us into is inherently risky, and actually kind of dangerous.”



With Our North Star, Humber Valley will live out the same values Jesus has. “Think of it. He was a guy born homeless, who was so committed to Justice and Compassion that his own religion and his own country conspired to get him killed,” Trevor said.

North Star is not an organizational statement because it’s scary. In the same way, Jesus embodies the divine dream for the world, Humber Valley United Church is seeking to be a living expression of Justice, Compassion and Belonging, now and into the future.

View the Full Video...



The “North Star” is the direction that Humber Valley United Church is aspiring to. The core of the North Star is: Justice, Compassion and Belonging. Have a look at the video to hear from our minister Trevor about what the North Star is and what it could mean for you.

<https://youtu.be/uOCFaEtSqol?si=DZMr7uHIER4N-daWg>

“After the hockey practice, I went for a walk with Marisol and our dog. She asked me about my first day on the ice. I didn’t just have imposter syndrome — I was legitimately an imposter. But it was the right thing to do for our son. And on that Thursday night, our team won 8 to 5.”

The hardest things in life often turn out to be the most rewarding things in life, Trevor says. “They bring us closer to a better version of ourselves.

“Our North Star will change many of the conversations that swirl around Humber Valley,” he noted. “If we’re doing it right, it’s risky, not safe. We will be moving from ‘what I want’ to what really matters to live the life of Jesus. That’s scary. Denying ourselves is a kind of crucifixion. Maybe with the right amount of faith and a certain degree of abandonment, Our North Star can lead us closer to the best versions of ourselves, now and into the future.

“Now that’s a trip I’m willing to pack for.”

*Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin
(with Colleen Isherwood)*



Debt Turnbull

Fundraising Committee 2024 Event Calendar		
Date	Event	Time
Ongoing	Fundscrip Gift Card Program Use the gift cards at your usual stores, HVUC gets 3+% at no extra cost to you.	Watch KIT for submission dates
Apr. 13 Saturday	Guys and Dolls: The Concert Version Briar Boake and Company sing all the hits from the original Broadway musical comedy. "Roll the Dice" game for prizes.	7:00 PM Doors open at 6
Apr. 24 Wednesday	Bids N Bites Get tickets early for the UCW's popular annual bridge/card game event.	11:30 AM – 3:00 PM
June 9 Sunday	Valley Voices CC Concert, Sparkling Reception, and Silent Auction Sing along with Kate and Valley Voices Community Choir; then support our refugee families & church ministries via the Silent Auction.	7:00 PM Doors open at 6
Sept. 20-22 Fri.-Sun.	One-Time Fine Art Inventory & Sale Judy Smith shares some treasures at this once-in-a-lifetime sale.	Throughout the weekend; exact times TBD.
Oct. 5 Saturday	Shredding Day Back by popular demand. Start saving your sensitive documents now.	9-12 AM
Oct. 23 Wednesday	Ladies Night Out The UCW's 2023 LNO sold out. Save this date for another great evening.	6:00 PM
Nov. 16 Saturday	Saturday Night Dance Keys Entertainment: Trish and Paul. All ages, all styles. Fun for everyone.	7:00 -9:00 PM
Oct-Dec.	Cheese Sale The perfect present or hostess gift.	Early December delivery
TBD	Movie Nights Gather the whole family for these fun times. If you have a movie suggestion, let Kathy Kitchen know.	Watch KIT for dates

Events at Humber Valley

Line Dancing is a Hit! — *Belonging*

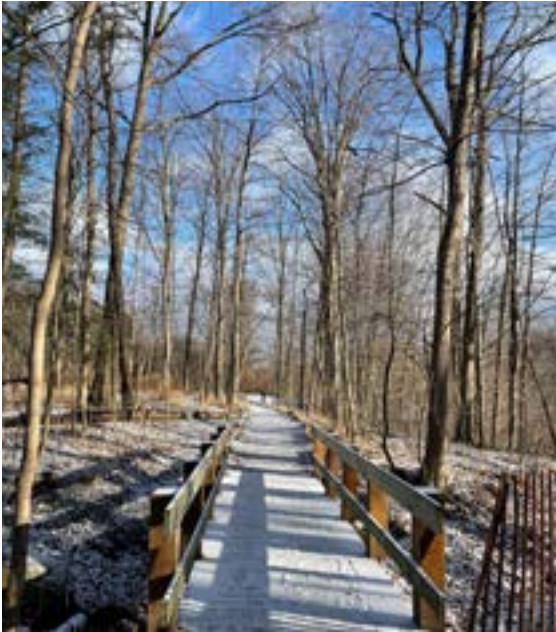
Line Dancing – Where else would you rather be at 5 p.m. on Thursdays?

Line dancing is being offered through our 55+ program – but people of all ages are welcome as we celebrate dance and community. George Turnbull (below, centre) is our teacher and makes it easy for everyone, no matter if you are new or experienced in line dancing, to catch on to the steps and turns.

We thought only a few might come to this program, but more than 50-60 from across our community have been coming each week. Many have come because they saw the notice on the electronic signs or read about it on the posters posted in stores, shops, and bus shelters throughout Etobicoke (thank you, Carolyn Whiteside). What a great way to get some exercise and meet new people!

Deb Turnbull; Photos from Nancy Roper





Meditative Walks — *Belonging*

Walking meditation is an initiative begun by Anne Pietropaolo for the 55+ program.

Meeting at James Gardens every Tuesday morning, the group starts with a reading to inspire and centre our thoughts for the 30 minute silent walk. We walk rain, snow, blow, or shine. We meditate on the sights, sounds, smells and beauty of the Humber River Valley and we share our thoughts as we gather again after our walks.

Many of the participants are Humber Valley members but we are delighted to welcome others who have seen a notice online or at a neighbouring sign post. If you would like to join us, just come to James Gardens by 9:30 on any Tuesday morning.

Sally Jo Martin; Photos from Susanne Hynes



Outreach at Humber Valley

Supporting Refugees — *Justice*



The Humber Valley Refugee Team has been busy! We have spent some time thinking through the scope of our work to try to find a balance between how we can be most helpful to newcomers and not burn out.

Following the example of Mary's Aunt Elizabeth, Humber Valley United Church becomes an extended family to newcomers. We hope to surround them with love, acceptance and the practical needs of their everyday lives

- o Employment support
- o Help determining which school is best if children are in the family
- o Shared meals
- Once the family is settled and stable for a month we take on another family.

What we are looking for

- An agency to partner with to give us families to support in a slow organized way so our Aunt Liz group doesn't get burned out.
- Volunteers that can help with searching for apartments for newcomers and sourcing furniture donations.
- Support from other churches in our fundraising efforts.

Erin Billowitz

How do we structure our support?

- We take on one family at a time — a family who does not have support in Canada and is struggling.
- We access their current needs and different members of the team take action:
 - o Filling out government forms
 - o Looking for housing
 - o Furnishing a home



Annual General Meeting

Justice Compassion Belonging

Save the Date
Sunday, April 28th

HVUC's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28th (in-person and online) right after the Sunday service beginning at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. The online link will be shared closer to the date. All welcome. Hope to see you there.

Deb Turnbull

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Presentation

Compassion

NEW DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1:00 p.m. in person at Humber Valley United Church in the Hearth Room. An information session by Dr. Konia Trouton, President of the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers. Come to this educational and informative talk.

[Register Here](#)

Our Community Recognition Award Winners



Yvan Baker Community Recognition Awards for 2023 — *Belonging*

Yvan Baker, our Federal Member of Parliament for the Etobicoke Centre Riding, presents Community Recognition Awards at his New Years Levee in late January each year. Humber Valley is extremely proud of our award recipients who were honoured on January 28, 2024. A big THANK YOU to all the guests who came out to celebrate with us — three rows of people cheering our winners on.

Nancy Roper



Continued on next page

Our Community Recognition Award Winners

Yvan Baker Award for 2023

Valley Voices Community Choir - Musical & Technical Team

Kate Brown, Kevin Curnock, Jonah Schwartz, Jeff Kahl

The Valley Voices Community Choir is an Etobicoke success story. In September 2022 as the pandemic was lifting, it began with eight members from the former church choir. It grew rapidly to 70 members within just a few months, thanks to the enthusiastic musical direction of Kate Brown, assisted by Technical Director, Kevin Curnock (AV & Coordination) and Accompanists Jonah Schwartz (Piano) and Jeff Kahl (Guitar).

Choir members repeatedly say how much they enjoy attending, thanks to Kate's vivacious personality, the talented Accompanist/AV team and the wonderful supportive community provided by the other choir members. The choir brings the gift of music to the community via frequent performances at senior's homes, church events, Christmas carolling in the neighbourhood and our annual concert in June.

We would also like to thank the volunteer committee that supports the Musical and Technical team: Colleen Isherwood, Joan Belford, Ruth Johnson, Deb Turnbull, Judy Smith and Constance Crosby, many of whom are prior Community Recognition Award Winners.



Award Winners Kevin Curnock, Kate Brown, Colleen Isherwood, Jeff Kahl and Jonah Schwartz at a recent Valley Voices practice.

Top: Kate Brown, Kevin Curnock and Jeff Kahl. Bottom: Jonah Schwartz on the piano.

Continued on next page

Our Community Recognition Award Winners



How does she do it? Lorraine stays in the know about the many events at the church and keeps a discriminating eye out for effective props. She uses fabrics, gift bags, posters, themed supplies, paper, flowers ... whatever she spots on her forays to local stores. Her budget is shoestring, so she also donates many of the items.

Lorraine can often be found at the church quietly taking down a theme and putting up another one. She is there when it is time to set up for an event. She has a large, organized cupboard where nothing is wasted; many items are recombined and brought out again. She works quietly and independently and always has a smile. She shows her love through creating gorgeous visual atmospheres for her community. Our church always looks fresh and loved because of Lorraine's work.

Lorraine is an active member of United Church Women and was awarded the Fred Van der Vliet Award for Innovation in 2019.

We nominated Lorraine Pearsall for the Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community Award because, in her quiet and unassuming way, she has greatly enhanced the life and work of Humber Valley United Church. She is an unsung hero in our community.

Susanne Hynes

Yvan Baker Award for 2023 Lorraine Pearsall

Lorraine Pearsall is a wonderful example of a person sharing a special gift (and a lot of her time and resources) to enhance the life of her church and church community. For at least a decade she has used her imagination and decorator skills to make our "neutral" church hall pop.

Lorraine makes sure the hall is themed for winter, spring, Valentines, Easter, St. Patrick's, Christmas -- the list goes on. Special events like the monthly Daytimers luncheons, Remembrance Day, the Queen's Jubilee Tea, baby showers, are her inspiration. Her creations provide an atmosphere that strengthens and builds friendships, creating a welcoming environment where everyone knows they belong.



Continued on next page

Our Community Recognition Award Winners



Yvan Baker Award for 2023 Colleen Isherwood

We nominated Colleen Isherwood for the Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community Award. Colleen raised a family of three boys (!!!) and a dog in Etobicoke Centre while working as a magazine editor and still finding the time to volunteer at school and church. She is an excellent example of a modern woman with the old fashioned values of caring and commitment. She used those values to their maximum to enhance the life of her family and her community.

Colleen has put her musical and writing talents to excellent use at home, at work, and in the community. She is co-editor of the Humber Valley United Church newsletter, *Connections*. In this capacity she encourages people to write, edits their work, designs the layout, and contributes reports and creative articles. Colleen recently started a beautifully designed newsletter for her church women's group, Unit 7. Colleen is a member of the 55+ Memoir Group and has written a novel, currently with an agent. Colleen also co-wrote, with Jean Conquergood, a history of the Humber Valley UCW.

Colleen has the title Stage Manager for Valley Voices, a new Etobicoke community choir of about seventy members. Valley Voices has sung to great acclaim in many local senior's residences, at church events and at our Seasons of Love concert in June 2023. Colleen chairs the organizing committee in support of the paid choir director. She is the organizing force that keeps the choir together.

Colleen is an active member of United Church Women at Humber Valley. She has twice taken on leadership of Unit 7, as president in the 1990s and again during COVID. Colleen leads the Unit 7 ladies in song at Christmas parties and cottage retreats. Under her leadership the group stayed strong, meeting on Zoom when it wasn't possible to be together in person. Colleen has hosted the group at her home and ensures that shut-ins participate by including a Zoom portion for each meeting.

Colleen never says a discouraging word. She works very hard, is entirely dependable, very kind, and caring. It is people like Colleen that keep us together and we are thrilled to nominate her as an Outstanding Volunteer.

Susanne Hynes



Isherwood family: Belinda, Steve, Colleen and Michael.

Results for the full year ended Dec. 31, 2023 — *Belonging*

The table at right shows the financial results for HVUC for the full year ended December 31, 2023, with results to the end of December 2022 included for comparison purposes.

The church finished the full year of 2023 with a deficit of \$10,776. This compares to a deficit of \$133,072 in 2022, a positive swing of \$122,296 year over year. The deficit of \$10,776 is also better than the budget which forecasted a full year deficit of \$50,000.

The reduction in the deficit, year over year, was mainly achieved due to a reduction in expenses. Operating Revenue compared to prior year was lower by \$4,449 or 1%. While givings were down year over year, this was covered by stronger Fundraising and Use of church.

Expenses compared to prior year are lower by \$140,362 mainly due to savings in property with bringing custodian services back in house, offset by an increase in payroll costs for the custodians. Office and payroll expenses were also lower in 2023.

A lot of effort has gone into reducing the deficit year over year, with significant reductions in expenses.

Now we need to increase our givings for 2024. If you have not updated your PAR givings for 2024, it is not too late. You can still send an updated 2024 PAR to Finance.

If you are not physically at church, remember to send your cheques either by mail or by dropping them into the office. You can also e-transfer your donations to Humber Valley United Church using the email address finance@hvuc.ca.

As always, sincere thanks to all of you for your continued support of HVUC.

Sources of Funds	2023	2022
Par Givings	150,868	153,794
Envelopes/Stock Donations	121,869	135,764
Use of Church	172,954	155,876
Trustees	36,191	46,041
Other	71,288	66,145
Subtotal Operating Revenues	553,171	557,620
Government Subsidies	22,445	36,062
Subtotal Funds available for Church Operations	575,616	593,682
Receipts for Grants and Special Holdings	169,716	199,137
Total Sources of Funds	745,332	792,819
Expenditures		
Payroll	422,470	453,324
Worship and Music	1,639	2,007
Building Expenses	76,586	180,210
Office	18,344	27,853
Insurance and Bank Charges	20,536	21,817
Regional Assessment	23,138	21,036
Other	23,677	20,507
Total Expenditures	586,392	726,754
Grant spending and Transfers of HF	169,716	199,137
Total Uses of Funds	756,107	925,891
Operating Deficit	(10,775)	(133,072)

Other	17,050	5,411
Total Expenditures	451,730	559,160
Grant spending and Transfers of HF	108,709	127,105
Total Uses of Funds	560,439	686,265
Operating Deficit	(75,022)	(172,958)

*Allan Orr, Chair,
Stewardship & Finance Committee*

Humber Valley UCW

You are invited
to a talk by Canadian author

CINDA GAULT

Tuesday March 12, 2024
7:00 pm in the Hearth Room

This is the March joint meeting of UCW Units 6 and 7 and we'd like to share this experience with all who may be interested.

Cinda teaches at York University and has written romance novels as well as two historical novels about early Canadian women.

"My stories envision tenacious women who will have their adventures, whether in the 19th-century wilderness or contemporary urban settings. Interest in female lives is taking a new turn as my spouse and I expand our tribe from two sons to two granddaughters!"

Cinda's latest book "A Small Compass" is based on a true story of two strangers in 1806 on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean. They set out on different journeys that land them, fighting for their lives, together in the Canadian wilderness. The first two non-indigenous women to venture into the Canadian northwest, Isobel Gunn and Marie-Anne Gaboury, give birth within a week of each other and must combine forces to battle dangers of the wilderness to defend all they love."

Please RSVP to susanne@hyneslegal.ca.
Contact Susanne if you'd like to purchase a copy of "A Small Compass"
or order it from Grey Goose Press at <https://store.greygoosepress.com/products/a-small-compass>



Bids 'N Bites Luncheon and Cards set for April 24 — *Belonging*

A sure sign that spring is coming, is the arrival of Bids 'N Bites, the annual spring luncheon and card playing event hosted by the women of Humber Valley United Church. This longstanding community tradition resumes on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 76 Anglesey Blvd.

From noon to 3:00 p.m., there will be fancy sandwiches and sweets, an afternoon of card playing, a chance to snag bargains at the Silent Auction, and perhaps win a lucky door prize.

Tickets are \$30 and available at 416-231-2263 ext. 39.

Grab a deck of cards or your game board and round up your friends (ladies and gentlemen both welcome) for an afternoon of food, fun, fellowship and games. Bids 'N Bites started decades ago with bridge and lunch but now many play euchre, rummy, cribbage or even come with their Scrabble boards... whatever your table of four prefers.

All good fun and proceeds support United Church Women projects and charities.

Carolyn Whiteside

Bids 'n Bites

Luncheon & Cards

Wednesday, April 24 • 12-3:00pm • \$30
Ticket line: 416-231-2263 X39

- Fancy sandwich lunch
- Bridge, euchre or card game of choice
- Door prizes • Silent auction
- Gentlemen and ladies welcome



Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH
76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke
Masking protocols in place
Proceeds to benefit UCU supported charities



Ellen Moorhouse

UCW Speaker Ellen Moorhouse

— *Belonging*

The women of Humber Valley continue to enjoy fellowship with monthly meetings and service by way of serving Sunday coffee and charitable fundraising.

The February meeting shared by Units 6 & 7 and other women of the community enjoyed a presentation by Ellen Moorhouse of Back Lane Studios in Roncesvalles.

She told us about a number of initiatives that encourage the involvement of seniors: video interviews with people sharing memories of growing up in the mid 1900's; a cook-book relating family favourites, "We Are What We Ate"; and a mapping project that connects to archived photographs.

Many in the audience were encouraged to write personal memoirs for posterity.

These meetings help to develop new friendships and connections with HVUC activities.

All women of the community are welcome to attend.

Sally Jo Martin



UCW Charities — *Compassion*

The UCW runs two or three activities each year to fund-raise. The two held every year are 1) The Bids & Bites Luncheon in April and 2) the Ladies Night Out in October. Other activities have been "A Royal Tea" and "Our Christmas Bake and Vintage Sale".

The charities we support are C.A.N.E.S., The Distress Centre of Toronto, The Dorothy Ley Hospice, Ernestine's Women's Shelter, Etobicoke Services for Seniors, The Fred Victor Mission, LAMP, The Gatehouse, The Mission and Service Fund, Safehaven, Sleeping Children Around the World, Youth Without Shelter, Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief, The Christian Blind Mission, Massey Center re named "the Abiona Centre", Camp Scugog and Sparrow Lake Camp. In addition we try to do a Special Focus Charity each year.

Past recipients include Youth without Shelter, The Etobicoke Women's Habitat and The Toronto Red Door Society. In 2023, we supported The Salvation Army's Kettle campaign.

Linda Grass

Daytimers

Lunch & Speaker

Monday, Feb. 26, 11:30am

"Physician to Photographer"

with Dr. Peeter Poldre

Dr. Poldre had an illustrious medical career and is a former professor of medicine and executive of the college of physicians and surgeons. He took up photography in retirement and has had his photos published in several media outlets.

His presentation will include some of his photos and:

- compare being a physician to a photographer
- discuss photography as a retirement hobby
- give tips on how to take photos

M E N U

- Cottage pie (known as shepherd's pie when made with lamb)
- Salad
- Irish scones
- Shamrock cupcakes



Bring a friend! Call if you need a ride.

Register at hvuc.ca
or Contact George Turnbull,
 Seniors Program Registrar, or Jenny Tenenord, Seniors Program Coordinator | 416-231-2263 x31 | george@hvuc.ca | jenny@hvuc.ca

Humber Valley
UNITED CANADA

55+ Program Updates



Chocolate Making Demo! — *Belonging*

Chocolatier Gail Burdett led Humber Valley 55+ members in a chocolate-making demo in the church kitchen, just in time for Valentine's Day, on Thursday, Feb. 8. Organized by 55+ Coordinator Jenny Terwoord (bottom left, holding box), the event was well-attended and a good time was had by all!



The Work of Stephen Ministry at Humber Valley — *Compassion*

Since 2017, Humber Valley United Church has been providing spiritual help and compassion to many people in our congregation and beyond through the work of a team of trained lay volunteers called Stephen Ministers. The impetus to bring Stephen Ministry to Humber Valley was led by Joanne Stenerson in 2016. Joanne, Lynn Manning, Mary Moffat Johansson and Rev. Mark Winger attended a Stephen Leaders training session in Pittsburgh that year led by full-time Stephen Ministry staff.

Following their return to Toronto, our Humber Valley Stephen Leaders led an in-house fifty-hour training program for four members of our congregation who became volunteer Stephen Ministers in 2017. They were Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet, Deborah Turnbull, Judith and David Dallimore. Later, Barbara Clarke and, Genvieve Bailey received Stephen Minister training and, more recently, Anne Pietropaolo, Brian Goodman and Licia Meldrum have received training sessions led by our in-house Stephen Leaders. We are also pleased that David Lang, a previously trained and seasoned Stephen Leader, has joined our Humber Valley Stephen Ministry team. Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet, Brian Goodman, David Dallimore, David Lang, Deborah Turnbull, Licia Bryden and Lynn Manning are currently active Stephen Ministers.

Over the course of the program being available at Humber Valley, 20 people have been positively helped by our Stephen Ministers through this program, which provides one-on-one in-depth pastoral care. Stephen Ministers are assigned to care receivers. Typically, care receivers are people who are feeling rather overwhelmed by a particular situation who need caring support and may be referred by the Minister or through contact with our two Stephen Leaders, Lynn Manning or David Lang.

Most Stephen Ministers meet once a week, one-on-one, with their carer receivers for about an hour at a time, often at the care receiver's home. They may also check in with the care receiver by phone or e-mail particularly when the care receiver may be going through a difficult time. There is no pre-set time limit on the care received from a Stephen Minister. Some caring relationships might last a month, others might last a year or more depending on the needs of the care receiver.

Stephen Ministers care by listening, supporting and encouraging, praying, being dependable and trustworthy while

maintaining strict confidentiality. Stephen Ministers keep personal information confidential so that care receivers can feel free to share with their Stephen Minister without worrying that anyone else will know about it.

Examples of the kinds of situations through which members of our congregation have received care include loss of a spouse or close friend, long-term illness of a family member, the impact of a partner developing dementia, family-related tensions impacting negatively on the care receiver, work related issues, adverse financial situations.

In all situations Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, to be empathetic, not to make rash judgements and to walk with their care receivers in an unhurried way to fully understand their particular and unique situations. They provide a compassionate non-judgemental listening ear. When appropriate, Stephen Ministers may offer prayer and sometimes encourage their care receiver to pray with them.

While confidentiality is a critical part of the program, the Stephen Ministry team does meet regularly as a peer supervision review group whereby each Stephen Minister reports on their activities and gains the benefit of input and suggestions from fellow Stephen Ministers. However, names of care receivers are not shared in order to maintain full confidentiality.



"Walking Together," a short video about Stephen Ministry at Humber Valley, can be found on the Humber Valley United Church website, www.hvuc.ca/stephen-ministry.

Should you feel the need for compassionate Stephen Ministry caregiving or know someone who might benefit, please contact our Minister, Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin, Kate Brown or one of our Stephen Leaders: David Lang or Lynn Manning.

David Dallimore

News from Humber Valley Groups

Requesting Items for Concert & Silent Auction, Sun, June 9th

— *Belonging*

We are having a spring concert, led by Kate Brown and the Valley Voices Community Choir, and a fundraiser at church on Sunday, June 9th.

The fundraiser will include a silent auction and we hope it will be our biggest fundraiser of the year. Auction ideas could include: weekends at cottages; progressive dinners; swimming parties; personal shopping; lessons to learn how to make perogies; tickets to a sporting or entertainment event; coupons for dinners out; offers to help people wash a car or babysit a child or help with spring cleaning, or bake a cake or goodies for someone, etc.

We do not want to compete with silent auction items for “Bids and Bites” (happening in April) so would prefer items that are experiences or offers of support to others (e.g., car washing, babysitting, planting, etc.).

If you have something you would like to contribute, please contact Deb Turnbull at dtgbc01@gmail.com. If you have



One of last year's auction items was a four-course dinner for six prepared by Executive Chef Kevin Isherwood (centre) and won by Michael Orr (left).

an item, or items to contribute, please bring them to the church office.

The proceeds will be split among the Valley Voices Community Choir, church ministries, and our support for the refugees and homeless in the Toronto area.

Deb Turnbull

BEGINNER LINE DANCING

with George Turnbull

Thursdays 5:00-5:30pm



It's fun! It's social!

Come out and learn some new moves at Line Dancing class.

This free class is for beginners and all levels.



55+ in
Central Etobicoke

76 Anglesy Blvd., Etobicoke
416-231-2263 Ext. 31



Details & Register at
www.hvuc.ca

Join *Humber Valley* on a Mary Morton Tour
UNITED CHURCH

to see

MY FAIR LADY



Friday, June 14, 9:30am-7:15pm
Shaw Festival, Niagara on the Lake

Reserve by April 29 to experience a full-day excursion to scenic Niagara on the Lake to see “My Fair Lady” with a delicious lunch at Betty’s Restaurant in Chippawa.

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE: chicken parmesan, roast beef, fish & chips, or a vegetarian option.

The cost of \$188 per person includes HST, bus, lunch, the show (at 2:00pm in the Orchestra section), plus snacks and beverages on the return trip home.

FOR TICKETS: Call and pay Mary Morton directly at 416-488-2674 specifying the Humber Valley United Church, Friday, June 14 tour to see “My Fair Lady”. The total number of spots offered on our private bus is 47.

Questions? Email jenny@hvuc.ca



Outreach Opportunities included Water, Gifts & Soup — *Justice*

HVUC Outreach continues to share opportunities for the congregation to learn about and contribute to local and international charities. We are a generous church.

Our Advent focus on Water for Life resulted in donations of \$1,300 to GAIN International for building wells in Africa. Humber Valley has contributed to more than 20 wells in Tanzania and Benin over the past 15 years.

Water First, based in Ontario, received \$1,475 to support their work with indigenous youth internship programs. These young people will be employed in water treatment plants on reserves as well as teaching elementary school students the importance of stream and wetland conservation.

Jane Finch Ministry received many gifts for their children's Christmas party and \$755 from our Gifts of Love initiative.

Super Bowl Sunday is for football fans but at Humber Valley we called it Souper Bowl Sunday with a collection of soup cans to be shared with those in need. A local food bank and Youth Without Shelter appreciated our generosity.

All of this sharing emphasizes the church's commitment to justice at home and internationally.

Sally Jo Martin

Did you know that Humber Valley has a Prayer Group? — *Compassion*

We have a group of approximately 40 people who are alerted via email when someone has requested prayers due to illness or other hardships or difficult life events. This can bring hope and comfort to people who are traveling through a difficult time in their lives.

The Prayer Group includes our Ministers, our Elders and Pastoral Care team members, and other church-goers who have offered their assistance via prayer.

If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Group so you are alerted to people in need, please contact Nancy Roper to be added to the email list.

If you would like to request prayers for yourself, your family or a friend, please draft the information you would like to share with the Prayer Group. Some people opt for anonymous entries with very little detail while others include the names and more detail about the situation that requires prayer. If the request is for someone other than yourself, please ensure the person reviews the text and gives their permission to share it with the Prayer Group. Then forward the information to Nancy Roper for distribution.

Although the entries are not marked confidential, the Prayer Group members know that the information is only to be used for prayer and caring.

We follow-up every few months to check how the person is doing and inquire whether they still need our prayers.

Nancy Roper
Nancy.roper@sympatico.ca
Cell: 416-573-5522



News From Humber Valley Groups

The Fred Van der Vliet Award for Innovation & Creativity 2024

— *Belonging*

This award was created in 2014 to recognize members or adherents of HVUC who have proposed innovative/creative ideas and solutions during the past year, which have or could make a significant contribution to advancing the work of the church. Recipients to date have been: Joanne Stenerson, Bill Cahoon, Jim Koziak, Judith Dallimore, Lorraine Pearsall, Lynn Manning, Joan Belford, Alanna Goodman, Susanne Hynes, Valerie Wood, and Nancy Roper.

Fred Van der Vliet was a man brimming with new ideas and alternative solutions to issues and activities in the church. Examples included an improved way of measuring weekly church attendance, designs for making the lobby area much more welcoming, organizing a fall hike, developing the concept for an outdoor community nativity and caroling celebration, and the Robbie Burns event.

Recipients will be lay members or adherents of HVUC. Nominations should detail how the nominee has been involved in projects, programs, or activities that focus or focused on new thinking or concepts or has been involved in building on an existing program in an innovative way.

Given our North Star Guiding Principle, relating the actions of the nominee to our North Star would be welcome. Innovative and creative ideas could be in Christian education and youth, music, outreach, communications, worship, spiritual transformation, fundraising, creative projects, our buildings, furnishings and/or equipment, seniors, membership growth, governance, or in any other way that affects our faith community.

Written nominations (by email or handwritten) should be submitted to Gary Halpenny at manorgroup@rogers.com or to the church office on or before Friday, March 22. The recipient will receive the award at the HVUC Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 28th.

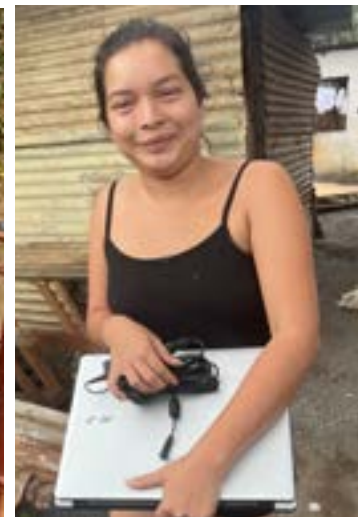
Deb Turnbull



Laptops from Humber Valley Appreciated — *Compassion*

Our CASA Relief contact, Suzy Campbell, who is now doing humanitarian work in Nicaragua, sent us a note to let us know that the laptop computers we donated in 2022 are now being used by some of the university students she supervises. Thank you, Humber Valley.

Sally Jo Martin



Barbara Horton

November 13, 1930 - December 23, 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Barbara Margaret Horton (née Taylor), 93, of Etobicoke, Ontario, on December 23, 2023 at the Village of Humber Heights. Barbara is survived by her husband Elgin; her two sons and their wives, Lorne Horton and Costanza Maggi, Ross and Karen Horton; her daughter Florence Horton; seven grandchildren (Celeste, Evan, Drew, Brianna, Alessandra, Owen and Anna), and her many nephews and nieces.

In 1956, Barbara became one of the few women who earned the distinction of becoming a Chartered Accountant. She worked as a Chartered Accountant for the Canadian Tax Department and for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (AECL), where she met Elgin. Barbara subsequently spent most of her time raising their children, returning to the workforce as an accountant for a few years once the children were teenagers.

Throughout Barbara's careers and into retirement, she spent time singing in community and church choirs, knitting and sewing, and she continued to focus on her family.

Judith Overland

February 9, 1939 - January 20, 2024



It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Judith Overland, a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, friend and bridge partner who peacefully left this world on Saturday, January 20th.

Judy's legacy lives on through her surviving family members, including her husband of 61 years, Charles Overland; and her daughters, Heather (Peter Bonk), Carolyn, and Laurel (Rob Lindsay); and her brother Bill Barbour (June Barbour). She will be missed by her grandchildren: Riley and Sam Lindsay, William Bonk and Lenore Doran-Bonk (Lindsay Doran-Bonk) and will also be missed by the rest of her extended family. Her memory will forever be cherished by those whose lives she touched with her warmth, zest for life and resilience.

Doreen E. Huffman (nee Oliver)

June 30, 1924 - December 24, 2023



Peacefully on December 24, 2023 in her 100th year. Predeceased in 2007 by her beloved husband of 59 years, M. John (Jack) Huffman. Loving and generous Mom to Ken (Julia), Bob (Ona), and Jane Chaban (Mark). Loving and proud Grammy of Tom (Katie) and Jack (Nicole), Nancy (Josh) and Alanna (Kyle), and Will (Ashleigh) and Mike (Sarah), and great Grammy to Eddie, Jack and Lucy, and Everett and Milo.

Doreen loved to bake and was also artistically creative, sewing, crafting, weaving, knitting and crocheting. She treasured time with her grand and great grandchildren, baking cookies together, teaching them card games and being a big part of their lives. Doreen was an active member and volunteer at St Luke's and Humber Valley United Churches.

Peter Wright

We are saddened to announce the passing of Peter Wright, son of Mary Anne Wright. The funeral took place Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Bloor and Bathurst.

***Congratulations to everyone
who celebrated their
birthday in January or
February, including
Rose McLean,
who turned 90 years old
on February 8.***

OUR SPONSORS

Online	ERT – First Aid & CPR Training		Online
Workplace Certification Training Need WSIB compliance: Onsite staff certification anytime 7 days a week.	Public Certification Courses All levels of First Aid & CPR courses available in Toronto and the GTA.	On-Line Blended Certification Courses Online Blended First Aid & CPR/AED	Baby / Child First Aid & CPR Workshop Specially designed by ERT for new parents, grandparents, family members and caregivers.

ERT is a proud Canadian Red Cross Training Partner since 2006.

All Courses offered are New Canadian Red Cross Guidelines, WSIB Approved, in compliance with Child Care Early Years Act and Occupational Health & Safety Regulations

Certification upon course completion. AED / Defibrillation Certification included in all First Aid and CPR Courses

Valerie Wood 416-937-8576 valerie@ert-cpr.com Mike Wood 647-883-1999 mike@ert-cpr.com
Book Your ONLINE Training Today 416-937-8576 info@ert-cpr.com

Faibish & Ferrier

— Real Estate —



HEATHER FERRIER ALLY JERICHO-FAIBISH BERT FAIBISH

Sales Representatives

*A Lifetime in
Humber Valley,
Part of a
Great
Neighbourhood!*

**T (416) 319-4888 | O (416) 236-1871 | hferrier@gmail.com | ferrier.ca
 Royal LePage RES Ltd., Brokerage | 3031 Bloor St. West, Toronto ON**

JUST LIKE FAMILY HOME CARE

— justlikefamily.ca —

Etobicoke

(416) 480-7254

southetobicoke@justlikefamily.ca



Quality care when you need it.
No wait lists.

NO-TERM CONTRACTS. FLEXIBILITY TO WORK WITH YOUR BUDGET.



Our Services

Private home care is a preventative support option that respects your family values, providing the same care and concern as a family member. We ensure you are safe, comfortable, and receive dignified non-medical care and support.

- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Companionship
- Housekeeping/Laundry/Pet Care
- Personal Care: Bathing, Dressing, Toileting
- Post-Hospitalization
- Natal/New-Mom Care
- Meal Planning & Preparation
- Overnight Care
- 24/7 Care
- Medication Reminders
- Lifts & Transfers
- Transportation Assistance
- Palliative & Cancer Care
- Parkinson's & Chronic Illness Care
- Stroke Recovery

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT QUALITY CARE

Our care services are personalized and designed to match the unique needs of you and your family. Our valued caregivers are the heart of Just Like Family Home Care, ensuring the highest quality of support.

We offer a complimentary care assessment. Reach out to us.
We promise to connect within 24 hrs.

AREAS WE SERVICE

Etobicoke



Your Perfect Day Awaits

At Parkland on Eglinton West, you'll discover a vibrant community that promises quality, service and choice. From welcoming amenity spaces to daily activities, menu options and more. Thoughtfully designed, expertly constructed, and beautifully decorated, Parkland is a place you will be proud to call home. With a full continuum of Independent and Supportive Lifestyle Options, you can live your best life among friends.

**Lifestyle Apartments | All-Inclusive Lifestyle | Assisted Living
Memory Care | Enriched Care**

Book a tour with us today!

Contact Abigail or Pawan at **416-997-2647**

4650 Eglinton Ave West, Etobicoke, Ontario
experienceparkland.com/oneglintonwest




Parkland[™]
LIFESTYLE RESIDENCES
ON EGLINTON WEST

Turner & Porter

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Don't know where to start?
Seems overwhelming?

A middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, stands with his hands raised in a gesture of confusion or overwhelm. He has a pouting, uncertain expression on his face. The background is a close-up of legal documents. A silver pen lies diagonally across the top left. Visible text on the documents includes "ATTORNEY", "PROPERTY", "PHYSICIAN'S ORDER ON LIFE SUPPORT", "Last Will", "the Trust", "size of", "years", "of", "STE", "of", "d", "PO".

It is our pleasure and privilege
to help you with Your Estate Planning.

Let's start a conversation 416-767-3153
turnerporter.ca

A PLACE TO *live well.*

CHOOSE YOUR LIFESTYLE.
INDEPENDENT LIVING, SUPPORTIVE LIVING
& SHORT TERM STAYS.

Call today!
Limited two bedroom suites available

DELMANOR

Prince Edward

Inspired Retirement Living™

4180 DUNDAS STREET WEST, ETOBICOKE

416-233-0725

DelmanorPrinceEdward.com



David L. Hynes

B.Sc., B.Ed., J.D.

Barrister, Solicitor & Notary

Specializing in
Wills, estates and real estate transactions

Suite 602
10 Four Seasons Place
Etobicoke, M9B 2B1

Tel. 416 639-1905
Fax. 416 639-1470
david@hyneslegal.ca

Kelly Wells Sales Representative

16 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- Tailored Transaction Packages
- Customised Advertising
- Highest Standards of Practise

ROYAL LEPAGE

MOBILE:

905.464.7309

kellywells@me.com

Page Me/Office 905.845.4267



www.kellywells.realtor

Philippa Van der Vliet

Sales Representative

Sotheby's International Realty Canada, Brokerage
3901 Bloor Street West, Unit 1, Toronto ON M8X 1E2
C 416.574.9601 416.916.3931
philippa.vandervliet@sothebysrealty.ca
sothebysrealty.ca

Sotheby's | Canada
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Place your Business Card Here.

If you would like to advertise in
Humber Valley's newsletter, *Connections*,
contact susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Romantic Favourites — *Belonging*



Rob Hennig

Just in time for Valentines Day Humber Valley was treated to a great concert by master violinist, Anton Yeretsky and superb pianist and story teller, Robert Hennig.

The sun was streaming into the sanctuary in the late afternoon of February 4. It warmed our hearts and so did the music. The audience was blown away by Anton and Rob's musicianship and was in love with the songs they played.

It is a rare privilege to hear a violin played with such skill, sensitivity, and joy.

Anton Yeretsky, born and trained in Ukraine, has 20 years experience in the classical music industry. He conducted orchestras in Austria, China, Germany, Ukraine, and Russia. He has played in the Wiener Konzerthaus, Wiener Musikverein, and the Shanghai Oriental Art Centre.

Robert Hennig graduated in music from the University of Toronto, attended the Banff School of Fine Arts, and undertook advanced choral studies with Elmer Iseler. He

has performed in Haydn Hall in the Esterhazy palace in Vienna, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and conducted a Mass choir in Rome at St. Peter's Basilica. Mr. Hennig led the Great Lakes' Touring Chorus at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Mr. Hennig made our piano sing in accompaniment to Anton's violin. We loved his stories and humour. You should have heard music from the "Phantom of the Opera" played on Humber Valley's organ. And who would ever finish a concert with "What Should We do with a Drunken Sailor?"

Don't despair -- if you missed this wonderful concert you can hear Mr. Hennig play our piano and organ again when he leads the music at our St. Patrick's Day Vesper Service on March 17 (see ad on page 5). Plans are underway for another concert by this amazing duo in late summer.

Thank you to the Fundraising Committee for bringing this amazing concert to Humber Valley. Proceeds support the work of the church.



Anton Yeretsky

Susanne Hynes



76 Anglesey Blvd.,
Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 3C1
Telephone: 416-231-2263

Website: hvuc.ca

Email: info@hvuc.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/humbervalleyunitedchurch/



Managing Editors

Susanne Hynes and Colleen Isherwood

Published by Humber Valley United Church

Minister: Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin
Director of Worship Arts: Drew Brown
Director of Inclusion and Engagement: Kate Brown
Church Administrator: Kelly Wells
Church School Leader: Claire Hatje
Church School Leader: Michelle Madill
Director of Youth and Young Adults: Licia Meldrum
Seniors' Program Coordinator: Jenny Terwoord
Finance Officer: Anita Wakeman
Room Bookings: Janet McColeman
Lead Custodian: Zoran Mrkovic
Custodian: Miyanda Kasapu
Custodian: Amalia Mangos
Custodian: Hakim Dawary
Custodian (when needed) Dragan Mrkovic