

CONGREGATIONAL LETTER

Is Our Iceberg Melting?

Dear Friends of Humber Valley United,

At Humber Valley United the image of the melting iceberg has resonance. It reminds us of a special time when we were all together. The words harken back to fun, friends and events that make our church so special. "Our Iceberg is Melting" also reminds us of the uncomfortable reality that our church and our world is changing rapidly and the implications for Humber Valley are consequential.

A recent article stated:

The UCC (United Church of Canada) is the country's second-largest Canadian Christian denomination. It accounted for 14.6 per cent of Canadian Christians in 1985. In 1996, that number declined to 9.7 per cent and to just 3.8 per cent in 2019.

[Global News](#), January 8, 2022

It is estimated that the United Church of Canada closes roughly a church a week. And that isn't expected to slow down.

LEADERSHIP

One way to understand leadership is to recognize leaders are those who see the world as it is and insist "it doesn't have to be this way."

At the HVUC Board Retreat in November, there emerged a clear consensus that now is HVUC's time to lead. We don't have to sit back and accept extinction as our fate. Perhaps now more than ever, this moment is pregnant with potential.

We (Deb & Trevor) are excited to share with you a future about which the Board is excited.

TRANSFORMATION

There has been a lot of talk at HVUC about *transformation*. The reason this has become such a focus is be-

cause *transformation* is what's required if we are to continue in our inspiring tradition of impacting lives.

WHO

The obvious question that needs answering is 'who' are we going to impact? This is where the reality of our melting iceberg becomes very relevant. The truth is fewer and fewer people have any inclination toward church. As demonstrated by declining UCC membership, people are running from churches not to them.

BUT ...

While many churches are facing closure, there are other churches in the GTA that are thriving. Week after week, packed with 20, 30, 40, 50-somethings, excited about their faith, longing for community, desperate to make a difference in the world. Committed to engaging worship, relevant liturgy and authentic teaching, these churches show us there is hope.

REALITY CHECK

As exciting as it is to imagine hundreds (sometimes thousands) of people filling a church week after week, the sad reality is most of the growing churches in the city are theologically conservative, enforcing a narrow view of God, faith, and human sexuality and relationships. They are churches that promise "all are welcome" - yet refuse participation to those who don't fit a narrow ideal of gender or sexual identity.

SO?

Increasingly, more people who once found meaning in these conservative churches are realizing the harm being inflicted onto LGBTQ2S+ people. Church attenders are beginning to question the morality of belonging to hetero-exclusive communities. Many are beginning to leave.

Their iceberg is melting.

Continued on page 2

THE NEED

The hardest part for the disenfranchised demographic leaving conservative churches is they aren't done with God or even Christian community. They love the church; they've invested so much into the church. They are best described as *not wanting to leave God or church, but needing to leave the small-minded church that once pointed them toward God.*

THE PILL TO SWALLOW

For most leaving conservative churches a United Church would not be considered an option. The cultural and liturgical gap is simply too great. It feels too foreign.

SUPERPOWER

This is our superpower at Humber Valley United. We are uniquely situated to speak directly to these people in ways that resonate. We are a space of theological generosity, inclusion and acceptance, where those looking for an affirming faith community can feel at home.

THE HVUC DIFFERENCE

The Board believes a deliberate connection with this demographic is a way to make a real impact on lives. As icebergs melt around us, we have the opportunity to be a *lifeboat*, inviting the disenfranchised to help us create a more generous space of faith where all gender expressions and sexual identities, can worship, belong and grow in relevant ways.

This will be a new adventure with lots to be discovered.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN THE SHORT TERM?

Building Our Team

To begin to accomplish all that we want to accomplish, we need to build our team, as this is our time to grow and we need the human resources to help us do just that.

The Board is considering contracting (part-time) a person (we have an outstanding candidate on our radar) as our Director of Inclusion and Engagement to work with Trevor, the Board, the staff, the volunteers and our wider congregation who has the qualifications and experience to help us attract the disenfranchised and those who will find a welcoming home at HVUC.

Worship

Trevor and Deb will curate worship that is relevant and engaging with those with whom we're seeking to connect.

The first Saturday of each month, a traditional hymn sing will be held for those for whom traditional music styles resonate.

Faith Formation

Small groups (aka. Possibly to be called "Valley Groups") will be developed where people can gather in homes and third spaces to discuss Sunday's teaching and connect with each other in meaningful ways.

Seminars on progressive theology will be developed.

Youth group has moved to an evening time slot (Mondays 7:30PM) becoming more accessible to a greater number of teens.

Existing Ministries

Continue to build and expand our existing ministries to make them welcoming and interesting to the disenfranchised.

Exposure

Creative and targeted messaging will be employed ensuring word gets out about the innovative and unique space Humber Valley is seeking to become.

THE ASK

Lifeboats are never fancy. Their value is not in their complexity but in their proximity and timeliness. This is the time for Humber Valley to reimagine ourselves as a refuge for those seeking exactly what we're good at: dynamic Christianity: radical acceptance: and life-changing community. The trick is, as the world has changed, we too need to change our expectations for how these things can look at HVUC. But maybe that's not too much to ask, because when you're a lifeboat, what matters most are the lives coming aboard.

Trevor and Deb



After the Storm — From the Editor's Desk

Page 3

Toronto experienced quite a snowstorm on January 17. When we looked out our window on the 28th floor near Islington and Dundas we could not see the ground – all we could see was white. A couple of hours later, it started to clear and we watched the transportation struggles below with fascination. That storm made it very difficult for people to get around: the TTC was barely able to operate, cars were not getting up hills, air traffic at Pearson was severely curtailed, schools were closed.

And the next morning: a completely clear blue sky, brilliant white snow, and people everywhere emerging to assess and shovel out. A small, intrepid, group of Meditative Walkers trudged through the snow at James Gardens, struck by the magic of it all.

Perhaps you remember examples of the calm after the storm, the glorious sun on towns in the Bahamas decimated by hurricane Dorian that hit it the day before. How can that sun shine on such destruction, you ask yourself.



stormy weather and the consequences of storms, mainly those a lot more serious than Toronto's blizzard last week. There is an very wise old saying: every crisis is an opportunity. There are lots of hymns and songs about getting through storms of life.

We Have an Anchor: "Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life"

When You Walk Through a Storm Hold Your Head Up High . . . At the end of the storm is a golden sky.

*A Hard Rain 's Gonna Fall
Stormy Weather*

*Been in the Storm so Long
Riders on the Storm
Here Comes the Sun*

I guess to get through those storms we have to know to anticipate them, work very hard during them, don't give up, pull in and use all our assets, and pray for that sunny sky and rainbow.

There are plenty of storms we are being asked to navigate, not the least of which are the pandemic, climate change, crazy politics where people no longer can talk to each other, churches in decline . . .

Thank goodness we have this worshipping community and that we live in a stable and prosperous part of the world.

The Congregational Letter from Trevor and Deb reflects what our church is doing to navigate a time of massive decline in church attendance. We will all work very hard to support them as they and the Board lead us.

The theme of this issue of *Connections* is *Where were you in '72?* Thank you to all who sent in great stories.

We love to hear from you. Please send your comments and suggestions.
Susanne@hyneslegal.ca or
colleen.isherwood26@gmail.ca



Susanne Hynes

It made me think about whether we are prepared for

LIFE EVENTS



Mary Jean Affleck May 10, 1938 - December 14, 2021

Mary Jean was a long-time member of Humber Valley. She sang in the Chancel Choir, participated in the Festival of Song and many concerts and was an active member of Unit 9. Our prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to her children, Deborah and Donald, and to her family and many friends.

View her funeral on [YouTube](#). View her [obituary](#)

*In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone*



Wilma Ruth Sager (Gowland, nee Johnston) November 10, 1931 - December 3, 2021

On Friday, December 3, Wilma died peacefully at Highview Residences Kitchener with her granddaughter, Leigh, by her side. Wilma was a member of Humber Valley United and was on the Carillon Team for a number of years. Our prayers and heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends. *View her [obituary](#)*.

*In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone*

*Our best wishes
and congratulations
to all the people celebrating
birthdays and anniversaries
in January and February.*

*Special birthday Wishes to
Rose Maclean who will be 88
and
Cheryl Drake who will be 75
On February 8*



Colourful Restoration

One of the glories of actually worshipping inside the sanctuary of Humber Valley United Church is experiencing the “glance into the heavens” provided by the nine magnificent windows (and the chancel screen) created by Montreal artist Eric Wesselow 40 years ago.

Each window contains 14 individual panels – rectangles, triangles and squares (two of which open). These 126 panels are not pieces of flat painted glass held together by lead in the historical stained glass tradition. Rather, each panel is composed of large pieces of 5 mm thick flat coloured glass upon which are arranged two layers of many different antique glass pieces from France, West Germany, and England. These older pieces vary in thickness, weight, texture, colour and shape and were attached with an epoxy adhesive resin (a 2-part chemically reactive glue). This process was named the “Wesselow System of Coloured Glass Relief”. The unique nature of the Wesselow windows make HVUC easily recognized in print or film.

Unfortunately the integrity of these layers has been affected by heat from the sun over the years, the original epoxy has lost its adhesion, and pieces of glass have fallen off many window panels onto the windowsills and floor.

Much research and expert consultation took place in the past, but since 2018, Sally Jo Martin and Bill Ireland have met regularly to replace the fallen pieces in the style of the original artist. Sally Jo collects pieces according to window number. She scrapes off the old epoxy which has turned brown and washes years of grime off the glass pieces. Bill sourced a specialized modern US epoxy used in museum ceramic repair and large glass sculptures. This epoxy is very tolerant of temperature extremes and is extremely strong. Bill mixes the two ingredients by volume using an electronic scale and applies tiny drops to flat surfaces of the antique pieces of glass using a small plastic syringe. After strategi-

cally placing the piece in the desired location on a panel, he and Sally Jo use masking tape to hold the layered piece in place so gravity won’t impact its position during the 24 hour “curing” time. Bill also inspects neighbouring pieces of glass still attached and puts new epoxy in visible cracks and crevices to reinforce the old glue as this new epoxy dries and stays clear.

This ongoing restoration project has been halted by the COVID 19 pandemic but the four windows on the south-facing Anglesey Boulevard side have been completed (except for the very top panels above the upper opening windows, which will require very specialized scaffolding). In addition, three of the five north-facing windows have also been completed. The chancel screen does not require this extensive restoration as it is not exposed to extreme temperature fluctuations, being set inside the wall and backlit with recessed fluorescent lights.

Bill and Sally Jo plan to return to this slow but steady task as soon as pandemic conditions permit. We thank them for their diligence and skill in restoring our beautiful windows to their original glory.

Hopefully we can soon return to in-person services in our sanctuary and be uplifted and inspired in our faith by the design and colours of our windows once again.

Copies of the book *“A Glance into the Heavens,”* by Susanne Hynes and George Turnbull Sr., 2010, are still available to view or purchase. Contact the church office.

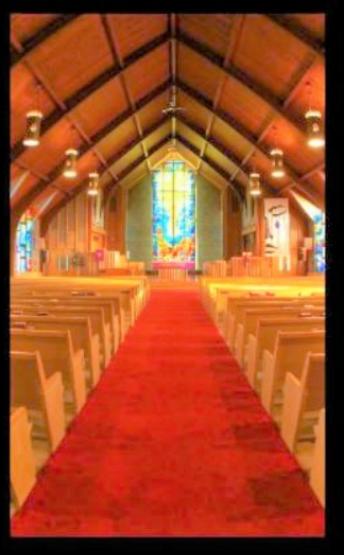
Catherine Ireland



*A
Glance
into
the
Heavens*

*Stained Glass Windows
Humber Valley
United Church*

*George Turnbull
and
Susanne Hynes*



Vision Statement

The REDI (Racial Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Committee has created an Affirming Vision Statement for Humber Valley United Church. Creating this Vision Statement is one of the steps to our congregation becoming an Affirming church. This Vision Statement has been approved by Affirm United and the Board of HVUC.

The Congregation will be asked to approve this Vision Statement during the AGM held in the springtime.

Vision Statement

Humber Valley United Church is a place where everyone belongs.

Just as God rejoices in the goodness and diversity of creation,
we celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church.

We open our hearts and community, respecting differences,
honouring uniqueness, seeking social justice,
and growing in mutual love, to all people.

In Christ, persons of all sexual orientation, gender identities,
economic status, racialized groups, ages, cultures and abilities
are welcomed to participate in the full life of the church
including membership, leadership, the Lord's Supper,
baptism, marriage and funeral.

If you have any questions about the Vision Statement, please do not hesitate to reach out
to any member of the REDI committee. REDI Committee Members: Allan Orr Co-chair, Anne Pietropaolo,
Barbara Clarke, Catherine Clemens, Constance Crosby, George Turnbull, Karen Ashforth,
Mary Moffat Johannson Co-Chair, Pippa Van der Vliet, Trevor Brisbin

Valentine Treat Bag

What a cute way to say "Thank you" or "I think you are special"!!

home made chocolate hearts • chocolate pretzels
shortbread cookies • pink popcorn
\$5 Starbucks gift card

\$15

Please Order before Feb. 2

SEE DETAILS in "Keeping in Touch"



Unexpected Visitors

Humber Valley United Church has a wonderful tradition of playing the carillon during the early evenings of Advent. No one is usually listening in the sanctuary but we hope that the neighbours enjoy the carols and other Christmas music played from the very small keyboard hidden behind the chancel. That instrument was installed in the 1950s and although some of the keys are a bit "off", we do our best to send good music outside through the speaker in the steeple. We can thank Susanne Hynes who used to live just around the corner from the church for this idea of Advent musical sharing. She thought that people returning home from work or out walking the dog would enjoy hearing it.

With COVID restrictions this year, the sanctuary was closed for services but our team of four players made a schedule to take turns playing. On the last evening it was Allan Jones at the keyboard, so his wife Carol joined me and David Dalimore to listen and appreciate the music in the warm comfort of the pews.

Allan had almost finished his playlist when I heard sounds of conversation in the narthex and got up to see who it could be. Only Dragan, the sexton, was in the building as far as we knew.

But right at the doors to the sanctuary was a man and two small girls. Wearing masks and cozy hats, they had been walking outside and came in to find out where the music was coming from. After introducing myself and learning their names - Ted, Emilia and Lauren - I invited them to come in and sit for a few minutes. The father explained that he was sure that the music was recorded but I wanted them to actually see the keyboard and meet the musician.

The chancel screen was fully lit, as were the two tall Christmas trees covered in sparkling white lights. With the Nativity figures in front of the communion table, it was a truly magical setting. The girls sat with their father very quietly and I wondered if they had ever been inside a church.

When Allan finished playing I took them through the side door to see where that music had come from. The dad was especially intrigued, so Allan flipped one switch to play a scale just within the space, not outside.

Then with greetings of *Merry Christmas* and *Come Again*, these unexpected visitors went on their way. Not quite like the visits of shepherds and wise men so long ago but that brief experience will stay with me for a very long time.

Welcome to Humber Valley United Church!



Sally Jo Martin

written December 26, 2021

Community Recognition Awards

Every year, as part of his New Year's Levee, the MP for Etobicoke Centre gives awards to exceptional people. A number of Humber Valley United Church people have received these awards in the past. This year we are very pleased that four HVUC volunteers have been selected to receive this honour on January 30 from 2-4 pm.

You are invited to [join the event via Zoom](#).

Here are highlights from the nomination letters:

Barbara Clarke COVID Hero

Barbara Clarke is one of the most outstanding volunteers at Humber Valley United Church. She is always at the church helping in any way she can. She has helped organize and implement our COVID protocols. She has taken the lead and is tireless in ensuring everyone who is now coming back to in-person services does so safely. Humber Valley would not have achieved what it has without her. Barbara is there to manage and lead the team of volunteers or every event the church has had since people were allowed to return to church. She is the first person to arrive and the last to leave. She manages her teams with precision and competence with a friendly smile and word of encouragement for all.

Throughout COVID, she has connected with the lonely and those in need via email and telephone. She is a Stephen Minister at Humber Valley and has worked for many years providing one-on-one care to individuals in great need. This has been exacerbated by COVID, but this has not deterred Barbara who has been there for other congregants in their greatest times of need.

During COVID, the church has continued to provide meals to seniors once a month and presentations on Zoom. Barbara has worked every month with the teams to prepare the food and fill the individual lunch bags with items of support. She has not let COVID deter her from her community service.

Before COVID, Barbara was always at the church helping in the office, calling people in need, and supporting all the events by providing organization and hospitality support.



No event has been held without Barbara being there to help.

Barbara has supported Youth Without Shelter for more than 15 years. Barbara and another volunteer purchase the food, cook it (if necessary), and deliver it to Youth Without Shelter. Barbara has also spearheaded outreach programs at the church to provide support to many local groups including: the Dorothy Ley Hospice; the Jane Finch Community Ministry; Ernestine's Women's Shelter; Sistering; and the Women's Habitat Shelter.

Barbara Clarke is the Co-chair of Humber Valley's Outreach and Action Committee which focuses on both international and domestic humanitarian support. She co-manages the annual fundraising event to finance the building of wells in Africa in partnership with a Canadian not-for profit, GAIN through their *Water for Life* program. In addition, she supports the annual Leprosy campaign helping to provide the necessary medicines so that leprosy victims can have a safe and speedy recovery. Also, she has co-led the campaigns at the church to provide funding to *Indspire*, a Canadian charity devoted to the support of Indigenous youth through scholarships and workshops and *Water First*, an Ontario-based charity that works with First Nations communities and individuals to improve water quality, fish habitat and education among both native and non-native communities and schools.

Barbara is well deserving of either the COVID Hero Award.

Dr. Ron Crago Outstanding Volunteer Service to Seniors 2021

Dr. Ron Crago, a retired anesthesiologist, has lived in Etobicoke for many years. Throughout those years he has been an active member and faithful supporter of the work of Humber Valley United Church (HVUC). When Ron retired, he decided he would focus on care for people on their end-of-life journeys. So, for the past seven years Ron has spent four hours most weeks as part of the team taking care of these people at the Dorothy Ley Hospice (DLH), and working on fund raising for this facility which is only partly funded by



Community Recognition Awards

the government.

Ron's three reasons for volunteering at DLH are: he actually knew Dr. Dorothy Ley; he was struck by the contrast in end-of-life experiences for his father in a nursing home and his mother in a Hospice; and the community connection between DLH and HVUC.

Dr. Dorothy Ley was one of his professors in medical school. "She was one of the original movers and shakers in the palliative care movement in Canada. She became an advocate for her patients, because in those days, the prognosis for haematology patients with malignant disease was very poor. She felt end-of-life care could be done better."

Although HVUC has supported the work of DLH from its earliest days thirty or more years ago, Ron was one of the team that decided more could be done by raising the donating bar at HVUC. Ron was on the team creating the annual hike around the church by Margo's Marchers; he is its main spokesperson, and he is the one seen carrying the flag. The circuit around the church was deemed to match the 5-mile DLH Hike for the Hospice and has raised in the vicinity of \$10,000 a year since its inception in 2017. The lap around the church also makes it possible for people at all stages of life, including the elderly, to participate actively. Ron wears the t-shirt, promotes the walk by talking to the congregation, writing in the newsletter, and generally encouraging everyone to participate and give. During the COVID pandemic, Ron and his team innovated by encouraging people to walk anywhere and donate by the number of steps they took and then held a socially distanced (by a hockey stick length) lap around the church.

While he was still a practicing physician, Ron served for several years on HVUC's Ministry and Personnel Committee. Since his retirement he has served on the church's Transition Team, on the committee searching for a new minister, and as a Member-at-Large of the HVUC Board. Ron is currently very active on the team caring and planning for the property around the church. He was the one who provided all the orange ribbons for the HVUC service on July 7, 2021, "Honour, Grieve, Mourn the Indigenous Children."

Dr. Ron Crago is giving back to his community and working hard to ensure that there is quality end-of-life care in Etobicoke. I am very pleased to nominate him for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Seniors.

Lynn Manning Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community

Lynn was a long-time member of St. Luke's United Church. After it closed, she moved her membership to Humber Valley United Church and is currently an Elder, our Voluntary Building Manager, a member of the fundraising team, a Stephen Ministry Leader, a member of the Pastoral Care team, a member of the Hospitality Team, consistently helps with our seniors' programs, and is a member of our United Church Family group. She leads our craft program for seniors called the UFOs (unfinished objects) and co-leads our FundScrip program that raises funds for the church.



Lynn has made a tremendous contribution to the church, participating in almost every volunteer job. She has made exceptional contributions to the life of our church and to the local community.

Lynn participates and leads or co-leads many of our small groups including the Daily Bread Prayer Group which operated on weekdays and now three days a week since the beginning of COVID in March 2020. This group provides personal and spiritual support to about 25 members of our congregation. She has also led or co-led our Week of Guided Prayer and our Evenings of Comfort and Joy (aimed at those who have lost loved ones or find the Christmas season all too overwhelming).

Lynn, along with Barbara Clarke (another nominee), has been making one Sunday dinner a month for the local Etobicoke Youth Without Shelter facility for more than 15 years. Lynn and Barbara plan, cook, and deliver the meals to feed more than 50 youth at any one time. They also raise the funds to support these meals, and when the church has events, provide unused food and supplies to the Shelter.

Before COVID, Lynn could be found in the kitchen on most days preparing meals for our seniors' program, Daytimers, for funeral receptions, congregational lunches and dinners, Pancake suppers, receptions for all our annual events and fundraisers, outdoor carol sings, and Sunday coffee

Community Recognition Awards

hours.

Lynn personifies a community volunteer who works tirelessly, never expecting a thank you or acknowledgement. She is a sensitive listener and checks in regularly with people at the church to make sure they are okay and up-to-date on what is happening at the church. Lynn also set up our Elders' database to create reports and keep track of the contacts with our congregants.

While most of what Lynn does is behind the scenes, her work has been noticed and formally appreciated. In 2017, she was the recipient of the church's Fred Van Der Vliet Innovation Award for all her work at the church.

In the broader community, she has worked with the Girl Guides of Canada (2001-2016), and she has been active in community issues representing the Girl Guides on the Toronto District School Board on the Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee.

In summary, Lynn has contributed very positively to her local community over the years and because of her positive, friendly, and caring nature, plus her interest in people's well being, has been able, almost single-handedly, to help members of our church community feel connected to their friends and church through her initiatives and activities.

Judy Smith Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community

Judy Smith has lived most of her adult life in central Etobicoke. She raised her family here, ran the well-known Westmount Art Gallery here, and is a major supporter of a local church. Hers has been a successful life of innovation, hard work, caring for and about people, commitment to her community, the appreciation of beauty in art and life, and significant support for artists and the arts.



Perhaps Judy's greatest gift to the Etobicoke community is through the arts. For more than forty years she has fostered relationships with Canadian artists and has raised awareness of the value and importance of contemporary Canadian art. Judy's unique approach to supporting artists involved identifying artists with potential, mentoring them, and educating them about art that sells and then often supporting them by paying outright for their paintings rather than taking them on consignment. Her objective was always to see the artist thrive.

Judy is well known in Etobicoke because she takes the time to get to know people, to understand who they are, and what they are about. That is how she has been able to help people choose art for their homes, but that is also how she has worked to enlarge the circle of giving in Etobicoke. Judy has, through her personality, charm, and commitment, encouraged many people to volunteer their time and money for the charities she supports and believes they should support.

Judy has also been a major supporter of many non-art charities. Perhaps most significant for us, of Sleeping Children Around the World and of Read for the Cure, both charities based in Etobicoke. She very rarely turns down a request from a good cause.

Judy has for many years been a member of Humber Valley United Church. She sings in the soprano section of the choir and, by organizing and sponsoring musical events has raised funds for the church while also supporting the singers performing in the concerts. She is a major supporter of the church not just through her regular givings but also through its many charitable events. She can always be counted on to donate items, provide funds, sell tickets, and be in attendance.

But perhaps the best thing about Judy is her big and sympathetic heart. She can be counted on to listen, to encourage, and to help heal, as well as to provide financial support.

Judy Smith is a significant community benefactor who is very deserving of the award for service to the community.

Thank you Anders and Bengt!

In a world where the headlines have been loaded with bad news about gun violence, fires, car crashes and COVID, we need a little uplifting news. Thanks to Anders and Bengt for providing it.

An elderly neighbour of mine has been out of the country and missed the giant blizzard. Her family asked if I could introduce them to some students who could clear her driveway before she returned. That started a string of events that warmed my heart.

Anders replied within minutes and said he would be happy to do the job. What a relief!

The elderly woman's family picked 8 pm as the start time but they didn't arrive till much later. That meant that Anders arrived on a cold, dark night and was met with an overwhelming icy 5 foot snowplow drift at the base of the driveway and at least 2 feet of heavy snow all the way up to the house. Many people would have bailed out at that point, but Anders got to work.

A few minutes later, I could see 2 people shoveling. Bengt had realized that it was an overwhelming job and went home for his shovel and snow clothes. That's what really great Dads do: my Dad would have done the same.

I finished my meeting and went over to help. Anders said all the appropriate hellos: not everyone in his age group is able to do that with folks from a different generation. Good for you, Anders!

Anders and Bengt worked non-stop for an hour and three quarters: WOW! Not many folks have that level of stamina!

Thank you, Anders and Bengt for really helping this family out, and also for providing a GOOD NEWS story for those of us who were watching (and shovelling!).

Nancy Roper



THIS OLD CHURCH New Year's Reflections

As one sits down to draw together the varied facets of the past year into a coherent picture, there emerge several themes.

TRANSFORMATION

As the church develops and redevelops itself to serve both the existing and the potential parishioners, it is incumbent on the Property team and volunteers to adapt and maintain physical equipment and space to accommodate all possible uses and options in our life within the Church.

We find ourselves in a whirlwind that is the use of electronic devices used for so many aspects of our lives. The Church has needed to develop its IT capabilities from simple word processing to complex tasks like the compilation of our financial picture and the maintenance of solar output from our roof top panels. Add to that the fundamental change as we began to record and now transmit our services via a conduit to the world. The development of our messages requires that we can broadcast beyond the direct visual impact of being there in the pews. We need to balance the value of the words that guide our faith with the reality of a digitized world and be flexible and deliberate in presenting our messages in a digestible form for the intended audiences.

Physical changes within our overall structure, changes in



Peter and Dale Smith, part of the crew digging the trench for the electrical wires to the new signs.

users and uses, improvements in quality, comfort and security have all played a part over the last two years. They bring us to the point of being a church serving our immediate neighbours to one emblazoned with a new purpose, goal, and approach.

The physical plant must be able to assist and house these new elements adopted by HVUC.

Our AV section is being challenged to train personnel to operate our equipment to aid in the quality of the message to our audience. We have budgeted to purchase

better quality optical components and are examining additional light controls to assist in visualizing each element of the services and events within the Sanctuary.

Some of you will remember that our entire basement was flooded a few years ago. We have repaired, redesigned, and established new facilities. These accommodate expansions of our staff and programs as well as three schools that use our building during the school year and two that run summer programs. We now have a nucleus of future parishioners who already see the good that occurs within our structure.

The leadership of our Board fully recognizes that the structure, while important, must be managed to serve the programs we advocate. Repairs are necessary as elements wear down. Thus there is a yearly need for repair and upgrading not to make it glorious but to allow it to serve the demands of a vibrant church. Thus, the focus for property is not to expand the physical building but to ensure that we can accommodate the future growth and new beginnings of a transformed and refocused group of dynamic Christians serving their community.

COMMITMENT

To be involved and aid the transformation of HVUC.

One element of that is that we have undertaken a major maintenance task of clearing, waxing and polishing the entire church — from rafters high in the ceilings to toilets in the basement. As a result of the expertise and hard work of our custodial team, you can see your face in every polished surface; slide your hand down every sparkling banister; and be assured that the disinfection and maintenance of Covid-free air can be found at Humber Valley. Our church is clean and safe and thus ready for the new year and new paths for us to follow.

Peter White

Lead- Property and IT Teams



Youth with a Cause

This is an exciting time for the Humber Valley Youth!

Recently we applied for and received a generous grant from the Seeds of Hope fund via The United Church of Canada Foundation! The grant has been given to form a group called Youth With A Cause. This group is a coalition of Youth not only in our church but the wider Toronto community, committed to changing our community through social justice education and radical service. The opportunities for our youth are vast with this monetary support and we plan to take full advantage! From feeding unhoused people in Toronto's underprivileged areas, to museum trips, guest speakers and immersive education experiences from Indigenous, LGBTQA+, and community activist organizations, the possibilities are endless!

We are so looking forward to bringing all of you along on this journey and sharing all the exciting things we learn along the way!

A huge thank you to The United Church of Canada Foundation and the Board of HVUC for their support in this new chapter of Youth involvement!

Licia Meldrum- (she/her)

Youth and Young Families Coordinator.

SKATING



WHERE WERE YOU IN '72 ?

Introduction

To support the coffee house on February 27 we requested articles about peoples' experiences in 1972.

The response, as you will see on the following pages, was great. We hope you enjoy these stories. And that they bring back memories of your own.

When asked to submit something, Rev. Trevor replied: "I wasn't born yet." Oh, to be so young!

Ahhh 1972

That was a great year for our family as there were many notable activities that shaped our lives.

We went to Buttonwood Hill School – a fabulous little school 2 blocks north of James Gardens with the BEST teachers around. I finished grade 3 and started grade 4 in 1972 – they were idyllic years at school.

Miss Wells was my grade 3 teacher — she was also the school music teacher. Our class got to go to Kiwanis twice that year — once with the regular choir and once as a "classroom choir". Our classroom choir sang a song about the constellation Orion. The words still run through my head anytime I'm on the dock looking up at the stars:

*"I look out at bright Orion with his belt stars in a row.
For of all the Constellations he's the only one I know".*

We also loved the weekly "Math Champ" competitions and "Bonus Week" where we got prizes for being extra enthusiastic and well behaved.

A few of the kids at school had been to the newly opened Disney World and came back with unbelievable tales of talking birds and jungle cruises. Our dream was to be wealthy and get to go there ourselves. To our utter delight, Mom talked to friends who had driven to Florida for Spring Break for many years and they wrote down the names of all the hotels on Treasure Island



Scott, Nancy, Jim, Sally and Boo Bear
at "The Sands" hotel
on Treasure Island, Florida



Where Were You in '72?

Afternoon Coffee House with pop music & culture of the 70s

Briar Boake & Friends

Sunday Feb. 27
2-4pm

[REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE](#)

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

(there was no Travelocity in those days!). Mom then hand-wrote letters to each hotel (there were no word processors in those days!) asking if they had any openings. To our delight, 6 weeks later we started getting letters back from the hotels and one of them had space for us. Mom rushed to get a cheque in the mail to secure the spot for us!



[Click here](#) for a 1972 movie reel about Disney World

We had the most magical trip, complete with a day at the beach, a day at Busch Gardens, a day ocean fishing with family friends who we bumped into while there, and a day at Disney. There were only 6 major rides at Disney at that time: Small World, Jungle Cruise, 20,000 Leagues under the Sea, Country Bear Jamboree, Hall of the Presidents and the newly opened Haunted House. Our tickets only allowed us to go on 4 of them and a handful of the smaller rides, but that was amazing compared to the Exhibition where we were allowed to go on 2 rides each year. We also noted that the Small World ride was 12 minutes long, compared with 30 seconds or so at the Ex! We had the time of our lives!

We had bought our family cottage property in 1970 and a builder put up the shell cottage in 1971. 1972 was spent doing all the finishing: we sanded and stained every board, laid carpet throughout the cottage ourselves, gradually

WHERE WERE YOU IN '72 ?

chose appliances as finances allowed, built rock retaining walls, planted flowers etc. My Dad built the kitchen and bathroom cupboards, all the bedroom furniture, and even a tiny dock and raft. Mom made all the curtains. Mom and Dode (her Mom) had a glorious time choosing all new pots and pans, dishes and utensils for the kitchen. Poppa (Sally's step-Dad) bought us our first boat – a 16' blue canoe that is still in our fleet today. The cottage is our paradise and we have our best family times there since everyone LIVES together for an entire weekend, not just a rushed evening meal in the city.



Roper Family checking out the site for our first dock

'72 was also the year that my Mom agreed to come help out "for 6 weeks" at Brownies in the spring to "finish out the year". Little did she know she would be "Brown Owl" by fall and would run the Brownie group masterfully for the next 11 years and then continue in other Guiding roles forever after. Guiding has been one of the most valuable organizations we've ever been part of – everything useful that I know, I learned in Guiding. No one has ever asked me to integrate a set of equations outside of school, but every day I use the skills I learned in Girl Guides. One of my best memories of the year was the magical Brownie camp that we got to attend in October at Piper's Hill – we had been invited to the "Pumpkin Palace" to keep "Goblin" company after the "bears" ate his "honeyberry house", or so the camp story went. "Wise Owl" led us through all the activities to earn our "Pack Holiday" badge

that weekend, including morning "wake up walks", night time "flashlight walks", copious decorating, camp chores, crafts, frolics in the forest, and games and songs that I still use today.

Norm learned to cook that weekend in order to feed the boys in the city – we could smell the burned pizza when we got home! However, his famous French Toast from the "Betty Crocker Children's Cook Book" eventually became a fan favourite when he somehow became camp cook for the Mighty 4th Scout troop some years later.

In September, I moved to grade 4 with Miss Martin as my teacher – she was the school art teacher and had been a game changer in my brother's life 3 years earlier (in grade 3) when she identified his artistic talent and encouraged him to come out of his shell and draw. Scott is an architect now, thanks to Miss Martin. I had a fun year with her too and have re-used all her games that help kids to learn their number facts – the Clock and the Dungeon Escape were great! Our Christmas activity books were also memorable, really getting us into the spirit of the season. That was the year that we began health class and I loved it – too bad I wasn't smart enough to realize that meant I should go into medicine.

Jimmy started JK in September and had another fabulous teacher – Mrs. Topper. He had 2 outfits that we will always remember – his purple pants with a purple tie-dyed t-shirt and his navy pants with red "car-cars" on them. His 4th birthday party was pancakes and games in the backyard – he LOVED pancakes, and was lucky enough to have a Mom that would make them for a crowd! When Sally took him to school the morning after Brownie camp in October, he turned and buried his face in Sally's lap, something definitely out of character. Mrs. Topper was wise enough to send him home to bake cookies for the day instead of going to class – he had really missed his Mom!

Scott expanded our family's horizons in Sept when he moved to grade 6 at Hilltop – it seemed so big and far away at the time! He had another life-changing teacher, Mr. (Jim) Robinson. Mom went to parent's night and visited the Unified Arts (UA) room and got to visit with her long-time teaching friend, Miss (Jean) Beckley. "JB" as we eventually called her, invited Mom to come volunteer to see how a UA room worked, with woodshop, arts & crafts, and sewing running simultaneously. Mom continued to volunteer there for at least a decade, and along the way, JB encouraged her to start supply teaching, initially a day

Elvis Stojko
figure skater, Olympic silver medalist
and World Champion was born on
March 22

WHERE WERE YOU IN '72 ?

at a time, then building up to long-term supply contracts and eventually going back on staff. JB became a life-long friend of the entire family, but sadly died in 2021.

1972 was also the time when our extra-curricular activities were in full swing. In addition to Brownies, I had swimming, skating and piano lessons, which I continued with for many years. As a matter of fact, I hope to head over to the outdoor rink by Buttonwood this week and test out my jumps and spins and dance patterns. Jim and Scott had activities too, and Mom was a miracle worker as head chef, activity coordinator and chauffeur, somehow getting everyone to their events on time!

So all in all, '72 was a fabulous year for our family, with great memories and so many important activities that built our lives to what they are today. A great trip down memory lane.

Nancy Roper

The Rest is History Bill and Catherine

In 1972 I was between "studying" English and Drama at Queen's and starting my BEd at UofT. I lived with university friends and others in a large rooming house on Madison Avenue in the Annex.

I worked in administration at the McLaughlin Planetarium, which is where I met Bill, who was the scientific Illustrator. I had broken my foot and my cast needed some "cover up" before I went to some function with my father-so I searched out the Planetarium artist. The rest is history and we've been together now for 50 years.

Catherine Ireland

Teaching and Learning Gombe, Nigeria

In the summer of 1972 after graduating from the Faculty of Education, I applied to teach with CUSO for two years and was assigned to a secondary school in northern Nigeria. There was brief orientation programme in Canada and numerous vaccines before we went (no vaccination hesitation).

Our group then spent two weeks together for some basic cultural and language training after which we went to our



Three CUSO teachers, David in the middle.

assigned placements. At that time only a relatively few students in northern Nigeria went to secondary school and students had to write an entrance exam to get in. School fees were based on family income. I was assigned to Government Secondary School Gombe where I would teach Math and English. This school was one where students would board during the term and return to their homes and villages on the holidays.

I must honestly admit that I learned a lot more than I ever taught. The students were eager learners but we had the very basics in terms of supplies, audiovisual aids. The students were instructed in English, which for many was their second or third language. English was the language of instruction partly because of history and the government did not want to decide on one tribal language over another. The school was a combination of both Christian and Muslim students and that was not an issue. It was an interesting time to be in Nigeria as the Biafra conflict had ended two years earlier. The students asked many questions about Canada and I guess I got to know some of the students better through the extracurricular activities.

At the school I was provided housing and paid a salary similar to what a Nigerian teacher would earn. I was able to travel during the school holidays and enjoyed seeing other parts of the country. Because of the heat we taught from 7:30 to 9:30 am., had a break for breakfast and then taught until 2:00 pm. Any extracurricular actives wouldn't start until after 4:00 in the afternoon.

One of the extracurricular activities I was involved with was basketball. Although I did not play in Canada, it was a sport I knew about and there was a basic outdoor court at the school. One of the students on the school team was Kwatri Yusuf. Many years after leaving the school I heard his son, Danjuma, was enrolled at the University of

WHERE WERE YOU IN '72 ?



Kwatri, Martina, Sarah and Dan in Muskoka



Our fancy Nigerian outfits

were able to spend a few days at our cottage. Many stories were exchanged and Kwatri and Martina were gracious enough to give us some Nigerian clothing, which we have modelled in the photo above. Both Kwatri and Martina enjoyed seeing the fall colours, but always found it cold as they are used to plus 25 C temperatures.

With this recent visit, 1972 seemed to come full circle.

David Kitchen

Davisville Rent: \$218

In 1972 Ken and I were living in the apartment building at 111 Davisville Ave., saving our money for a down payment

on a house (which eventually resulted in our moving onto Hilldowntree Rd. in 1974).

It was the first - and only high-rise on the street for many years, and a proud accomplishment for its



Toronto. I contacted Danjuma and arranged to meet him and try and help him if I could. Dan graduated from U of T in 2010 and is now working for TD bank and he became a Canadian citizen a couple of years ago. Dan has adjusted very well, met a loving partner Sarah, and got married this last September. Kathy and I were invited to the wedding in Toronto and I had a chance to reconnect with Kwatri after not seeing him for over 45 years. After the wedding, Kwatri and his wife, Martina, along with Dan and Sarah,

builders. They even installed a Henry Moore sculpture in the front courtyard. A few steps from the Davisville subway stop, it was a perfect location.

The fact that we occupied suite 2001 at a time when '2001: A Space Odyssey' was still all the rage in the movie theatres, gave us a bit of caché at parties. Quiz question: Can you remember the name of the computer?

Situated at the far end of the hall on the 20th floor, it was spacious with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and a generous living/dining area and little kitchen.

A double balcony ran the whole length of the suite and offered options for planters (we bought 4 concrete ones that turned out to be brutes to take out when we moved) and an hibachi.

Ken shared this apartment in an 'Odd Couple' sort of arrangement (Ken was a 'Felix') for a few years before we took it over and his friend Calvin moved into a newer building down the street.

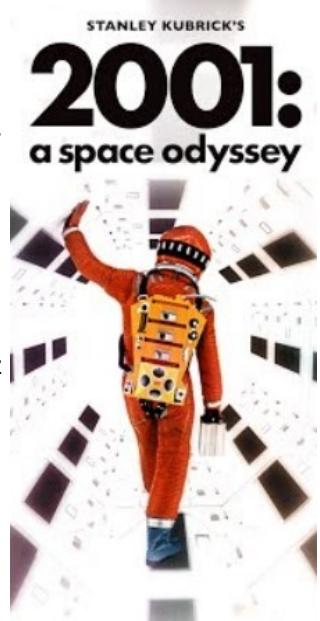
Among other hijinks, they were famous for waiting forever to get rid of their Christmas trees. They once decided, when they were too embarrassed to try to get it down to the garbage bins in March, that, devoid of all its needles, they tossed it over the balcony railings, assuming it would land on the ground and someone would get it in to the dumpsters.

The wind happened to gust in the wrong direction and it blew onto another balcony several stories below. They never confessed.

Stumbling across our lease agreement a few weeks ago, I note our rent was \$218 plus \$24 for parking a month.

Now, Davisville is a long stretch of tall apartment buildings. I wonder what the rent on the place might be now?

Carolyn Whiteside



WHERE WERE YOU IN '72 ?

GLUED TO THE NEWS IN '72 The Watergate Pillow

In July of 1972 my husband and I purchased a two level condo at the foot of South Kingsway. We were on the corner of the 10th floor so our balcony overlooked both Lake Ontario and the Humber River. I could almost touch the wings of Canada geese as they followed the flyway. Watching the sailboats was fun too.

This was our first home ownership, having rented an apartment in The Beaches of East Toronto the first year of marriage, so we had fun decorating according to the fashion of the day. To me that meant wallpapering! Metallic silver and black on the dining room wall and colourful floral on the two level stairway that required a ladder, steady hands and careful matching of the pattern changed the bland beige walls into our own home. The mantra warning that "Married couples should never work together on wallpaper hanging" kept us working independently most of the time. The results were pleasing and we enjoyed the two years in that condo before moving to Humber Valley in 1974.

But the thing I remember most about the summer of 1972 was watching the Watergate hearings for hours at a time on TV. The Washington Post, Woodward and Bernstein, Gordon Liddy, James Baker, John Dean and John Ehrlichman all became household names. Nixon was disgraced and eventually had to resign over the bungled burglary and "dirty tricks".



So what did I do while the hours of hearings continued? I worked on a colourful needlepoint sampler which eventually became a cushion design! The photo shown here is the result of those hours. Each square used a different type of stitch — cross, half-cross, basketweave, continental, feather, French knot, and blanket were some that I learned.



For many years the yellow pillow decorated a couch but eventually it became soiled, hard to clean and was put away. When I found it recently, those hours of watching Watergate, enjoying our new home and learning a new craft brought back warm memories.

Sally Jo Martin

Clara Hughes,
cyclist, speed skater
and Olympic medalist
was born on September 27

Hair Cut for \$1.50

I have now read through my 1972 diary!

1972 was a leap year.

There is nothing about Canada, politics, world news, but these tidbits might be of interest!

There was an Air Canada strike in January (was it called Air Canada at that point??)

Anyway, Roger was to give a talk in Regina and we had to get there. We ended up going by train, 3 days travel with Kevin 5 months old!! on CP Rail, leaving at 5:15pm. We'd be arriving Friday in the afternoon!!

My hair cut in January cost \$1.50, but by December \$2.50.

Roger's new glasses frames cost \$17.

At the dentist my filling, a "large one" \$23.

To have the tires rotated \$5.

That's it !

Marg Wallis

The Boston Bruins
won the Stanley Cup
playing the New York Rangers,
4 games to 2.
Bobby Orr was the MVP

WHERE WERE YOU IN '72 ?

Next-Door Neighbour

It was early September, 1972. I'd been lugging boxes and clothes from the car to my new home in Renfrew Co-Ed Residence at Ottawa's Carleton University all morning. There was one more thing to cart up the stairs to my fourth-floor dorm room, and it was daunting. My IBM Selectric typewriter, state-of-the-art and highly necessary for my second year Journalism course, weighed a ton. I was about to bend down and pick it up, when a guy who was about my age asked if I needed help. And, of course, I said, "Yes."



He was scruffy looking with heavy-framed glasses, long, badly cut curly hair and the scraggly beginnings of a beard. But his smile was engaging, he had a friendly face, and he carried that behemoth of a typewriter up to the fourth floor in no time flat. "Thanks," I said, with what I thought was a grateful smile, as he set it down on my desktop.

"By the way, I'm your next-door neighbour," he said, pointing to the room on the right.

"Good to meet you," I said, politely and nicely, I thought. "I'm sure we'll be seeing each other a lot."

That was the end of our exchange. I was in a bit of a rush, since I had to park the car I'd borrowed from my parents, and then go to lunch with my friend, Peggy.

Sure enough, I did see the guy next door quite a bit. I learned he and his roommate had a dog in their room. A big brown and white dog, part German Shepherd, one ear standing up and the other down, with a loud bark that scared me a lot. "Want to take Fango for a walk," my neighbour would say over the weeks that followed.

"Um, I think I have homework," I'd say. I was terrified of dogs — especially bigger ones. Mine had been a cat-loving family. And I wasn't sure it was entirely legal to have a dog in Carleton University Residence.

One day, I heard that my cousin, Ian Tamblyn, the singer and songwriter, would be playing guitar and singing at Pestalozzi, a trendy coffee house in downtown Ottawa. I spread the news on the floor, inviting everyone to come.

Only one person could come. My next-door neighbour.

That neighbour's name was Steve Isherwood, and Ian's concert was our first date. I got to know and love Fango, who turned out to be the first in a long line of German-Shepherd-mix dogs we have owned. Almost 50 years later — married for 47 of those — we are still together. And there was a bonus — once he shaved off the beard and got his hair trimmed, Steve turned out to be quite nice-looking!

Steve's version of our first meeting is quite different from mine. "I saw a cute girl, lugged her friggin' typewriter all the way up four flights of stairs, and she slammed the door in my face," he says.

Go figure!

Colleen Isherwood

Best Selling Books
Jonathan Livingston Seagull.
 Richard Bach.
Watership Down, Richard Adams

William Dennison
 was Mayor of Toronto,
 soon to be replaced by
David Crombie

Top Two Songs
 Don McLean "**American Pie**"

Roberta Flack's
"The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" reached the top spot for six weeks and became the #1 song at year's end.

Memorial Squares for the Murdered Children

Editor's Note:

Lynn Manning asked her friend, Lori, to submit this article.

*Lucky stars above you
Sunshine on your way
Many friends to love you
Joy in work and play
Laughter to outweigh each care
In your heart a song
And gladness waiting everywhere
All your whole life long*
--Irish Blessing

My Mother used to say these words to me when I was a child. I in turn used to whisper them to my sleeping children. It was the least I wanted for them. The least I expected they would receive.

For those of you who know me, even as an acquaintance, know that the most important aspect of my life is, and has always been my children. The very best and magical days of my life are each of the days that my four children were born. They are a blessing and nothing short of miraculous to me and my heart.

My children are grown now, my daughters are mothers themselves. My astonishment that I was gifted those four hearts has never diminished. I speak to each of them in some manner every day. They have filled my heart, busied my hands and simply made me happy. I can't imagine it being any other way.

As I and the rest of the world listened to reports of 215 unmarked graves being found on the grounds of a former Residential School in Kamloops, British Columbia, I felt physically ill. As I listened to Chief Cadmus Delorme of Cowessess First Nations Saskatchewan, inform the world that they had found 750 graves near the site of another Former Residential School, I sat at my desk at work and openly wept. The cold comfort for me that day was that had my boss been there, I know she would have wept with me. As a long time employee of Harvey Kalles Real Estate, we seem to be aligned with matters of the heart.

I felt ashamed. I felt incredibly sorry. I could only think of how horrible it must have been for those mothers to never have known what happened to their children. I can't imagine how those beautiful children must have screamed for their mothers. The thought of having your children removed from your home and sent away never to be

heard from again sits in my chest pressing on my own heart. I am not the only mother whose children are her sun and stars.

I knew I could say I was sorry with every other breath for the rest of my life. I would not make a difference. I could pray that each of those precious gifts are safe and happy now, some having been reunited with their mothers as the rotations of the earth around the sun continue. I would not make a difference. I had to do something. I had to acknowledge what horrors had happened in this place I call my home.

I spend a lot of my time knitting. My mother taught me to knit when I was quite young. My children often ask me knit for them and their friends. My eldest grandson wanted rainbow slippers last winter. My youngest grandson wears knitted handwarmers rather than mittens which he finds restrictive. I spend most evenings knitting and drinking wine and listening to top 40 radio stations. (For those who are not familiar Shawn Mendes and The Weeknd are both Canadian singers who do us proud.)

On a sun-filled early evening as I sat on the deck, needles in hand and Merlot within arms-reach, again feeling that horrible pressure on my heart to somehow do something for all those mothers who did not know what had become of their children. I had an idea. An offering of peace for those mothers. An act of acknowledgement for those children.

I cannot fix this horrible, disgusting part of our history. I cannot change the damage done to the First Nations peoples. I cannot right a wrong I am ashamed to say is now my burden also. And yet I can, in some small way help those mothers and those children.

I decided to create a square, a knitted square because that is my specialty, for each of the children in those graves. Hopefully one by one as their identities become known their names can be added to their square. They will no longer be unknown children; they will again be themselves. I thought about size. I chose 10" x 10", which I know is large, but its big enough for the name to be legible, for the child to be acknowledged. For the Mother to see clearly, even through her tears.

I contacted The Honourable Sol Mamakwa MPP and told him of my plan. I asked him if he would be able to donate to this project, he very quickly said yes, he could. I felt the

Memorial Squares for the Murdered Children

pressure on my heart ease just a little. My shame and guilt lessen just a smidgen.

My next decision was to ask others to join in the creation. I, after all, am not the only mother who cannot fathom the life-altering act of having your children taken. I put out notices on my social media. The outpouring of agreement was staggering. Within hours I had 75 square creators, and many more willing to sew the creation together. I reached out to more and more places, hoping to have a square for each murdered child within a matter of months. Everyone seemed willing to partake.

As the weeks went by and the number of graves increased almost daily, I knit and created. I received some squares



from others who as I thought were just as eager as I to honour those beautiful children and acknowledge their mothers. But like all bright lights the flame of interest waned in many of my friends, colleagues and acquaintances. When I sent the notice at Thanksgiving

to forward me the creations, only 7 people had participated. Many forgot, some felt the issue had become political, others just simply were not as shocked and saddened as I was.

The creation will be smaller than I had hoped. I am in the process of sewing it together and as promised I will gift it to Mr. Mamakwa for donation. I have also created a Red Dress Day memorial which I will be donating to Curve Lake First Nation in the spring. I have frequently been a guest at Curve Lake First Nation over the years. I have attended Powwows and had the fried bannock and home-made jam on many occasions each summer.

I am not defeated though. My next plan, which I believe will be my legacy, is to rather than make one huge memorial quilt, make one for each Former Residential School. That should work out to 150 quilts with various numbers of squares. My children, who are far more technical than I, are committed in assisting me in creating social media accounts for this part of my vision. My Beloved, Joe, will donate his never-ending creations of Italian cuisine for those many days (almost everyday) when, after a full day of work, I would rather knit than cook. I have decided I will make this happen. My conscience, my heart and my all-encompassing empathy for those mothers will not let me

stop.

Diena Jules, a residential school survivor herself from Kamloops, is the self-appointed guardian of the children in the graves. She tells them not be afraid, that they are found and will be safe. I would like to add my tiny voice and say they will also be known for who they were, for being their mother's children.

Lori Catalano

P.S. Anyone interested in becoming part of this journey with me, please contact me at loricatalano@hotmail.com. I can also be found on Twitter @Loricatalano04, on Instagram @lori_poulton_catalano and on Facebook.

United Church of Canada

Honour Children Who Attended Residential Schools

View resources on the [UCC website](#).

Bringing the Children Home

"The United Church of Canada is committed to reconciliation and to transparency in our efforts to support Indigenous leadership, communities, survivors, and families in bringing these children the honour we denied them in life." -Richard Bott

[Read more.](#)

General Council 44 Begins February 13

Asking Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" General Council 44 is meeting online this year starting February 13. The commissioners for GC44 were elected from the 16 regional councils and the National Indigenous Council in 2021.



Nominations for Moderator close on June 16, and the election of the Moderator will take place July 22. The new Moderator will serve a three-year term.

For further details and to stay up to date on the latest news, please see the [General Council 44 website](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING

START YOUR DAY WITH FRIENDSHIPS AND PRAYER

Daily Bread

PRAYER GROUP

Mon, Wed and Fri, 8:30am

To join this Zoom gathering please [contact the church office](#)

Humber Valley
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Let's meet at

Youth Group

for games, Bible learning and just hanging out!

• Mondays at 7:30pm • Grades 7-12 • Meet online/outside

Contact licia@hvuc.ca

BRIAN D. MCLAREN
Author of *A New Kind of Christian* and *A Generous Orthodoxy*

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

A Year-long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation and Activation
A clear and compelling guide to walking the Jesus path together...
this book is going to help so many people! ROB BELL

JESUS & JAVA
Weekly on Thursdays
Jan. 6 - Feb. 10, 7:00pm

To join these
Zoom meetings
[REGISTER HERE](#)

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Daytimers

Hawaiian Anniversary with Simon Dallimore
Monday, Jan 31, 12noon

MENU

- Pineapple chicken and rice
- Tropical juice
- Macadamia nut and white chocolate cookies
- Coconut treat

[DETAILS & REGISTER HERE](#)

HVUC Men's
DISCUSSION GROUP

Welcoming back
MURRAY MORTON
Monday, Jan. 31, 7pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

"Following in my father's footsteps in WWII"
DIEPPE • DUNKIRK • JONO BEACH + MORE

Gift Card FUNDRAISER

Groceries, Gas, Home & Garden, Entertainment, Restaurants + more

[ORDER FORM & DETAILS](#)

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UNITED CHURCH

Orders Due Tues Feb 1

TEAM and GROUP NEWS

Outreach

WATER FOR LIFE at HVUC 2021/2022

"This holiday season our buckets are filled with gratitude" - Water First - Canada

"Your gift has provided tangible help in the provision of safe water through the building of deep capped wells" - GAIN in Africa

We received these expressions of thanks from the two charities that our 2021 Advent Water for Life campaign has helped. Cheques have been sent as follows:

Water First - \$3,203 plus \$1500 from Capital Outreach towards training indigenous youth in the maintenance of water treatment plants in Canada.

Global Aid International - \$2,007 plus \$1,500 from Capital Outreach towards the provision of wells in Africa.

Thank you to all who continue to support HVUC's Water For Life campaign.

HVUC Outreach Committee

Barbara Clarke, Sally Jo Martin
co-chairs of Outreach & Action

Outreach is "All Souped Up"!

Have you ever:

found yourself "in the soup"?

Seen a fog "as thick as pea soup"?

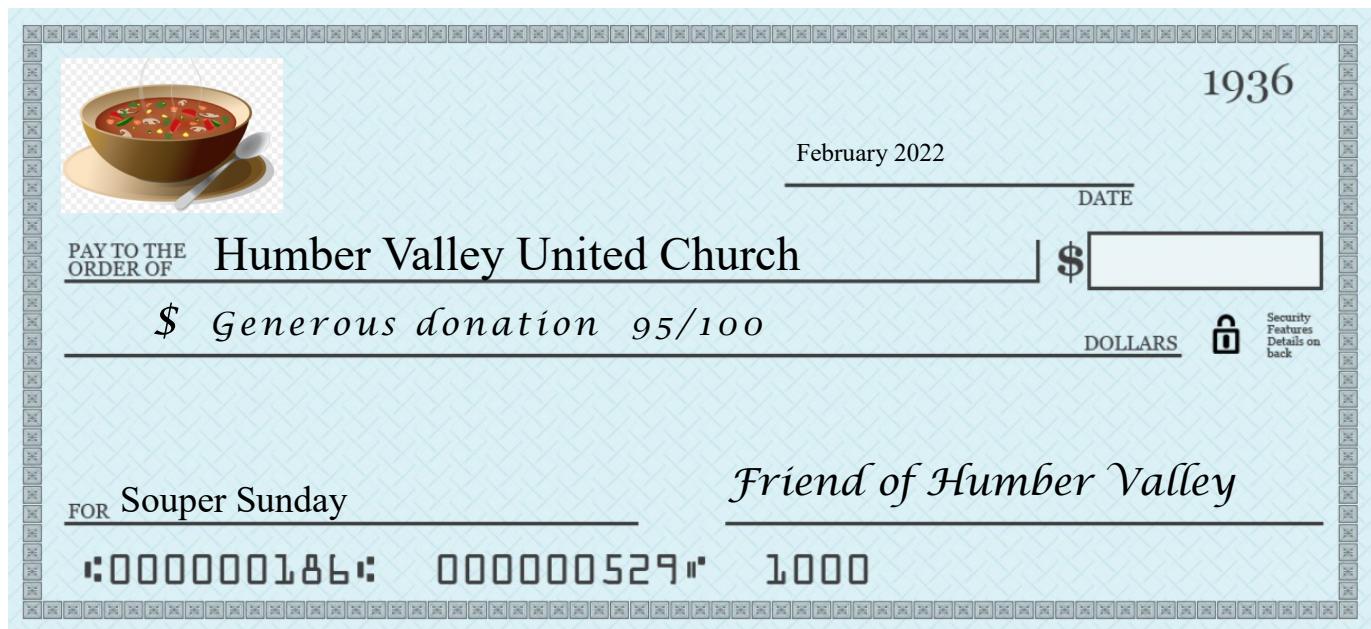
Made a list from "soup to nuts"?

There are many expressions in English which refer to soup and during the winter months I often find myself thinking about soup. I frequently make soup, lots of different kinds: butternut squash and apple with a hint of curry, hearty beef and barley with carrots and of course, classic chicken soup, a favorite of my granddaughters. Soup is comfort food and there is nothing better on a cold day than a steaming hot bowl of soup.

"Souper Sunday" or SuperBowl Sunday, which is February 13, 2022, has always been a day for Humber Valley Church to give that comfort to those in our community who are suffering from food insecurity.

This year, instead of asking for cans of soup, we are suggesting donations to HVUC using the words, "Souper Sunday" on your cheque or online donation.

The amount collected will be used to purchase grocery gift cards for both Youth Without Shelter and Westway Food-bank.



TEAM and GROUP NEWS

(These gift cards will be purchased through the Fundscrip program at HVUC which benefits the church by returning a portion of the sales of gift cards to the church.)

Thank you from HVUC Outreach committee!

Sylvia Cohen

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee met on January 14, 2022.

There is some good news regarding fundraising, that during this past year, in spite of challenges the total amount raised was just over \$15,000.

Plans have been made for several events in 2022, including a cabaret-style musical performance in February, a magic show in May, Shredding Day in October, and a concert featuring Valerie Wood with a silent auction the same evening.

A Fundscrip gift card order will be placed the first week of February. Time to think of those little Valentine's gifts, maybe a Starbucks card?

We will again do the Lenten can fundraiser with a suggestion that people donate a minimum amount of the price of a cup of coffee a day, about \$1.50.

There was a discussion of a garden party and also a garden tour at a different time during the summer.

It was suggested that the garden party be in June in conjunction with the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth (June 5th) and that the Fundraising Committee discuss with the UCW the possibility that this be a joint fundraising venture.

The car rally and another wine tasting are other possibilities. It was strongly suggested that we need a fundraiser that will extend to the wider community such as the sale of gourmet cheese. Several cheese producers in Ontario make gift boxes of premium cheeses and this would be a nice item that we could sell just before the Christmas season. Some research is being conducted about this project.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Friday, February 11, 2022. Contact person for Fundraising is Joan Belford at jbelford@pathcom.com.

Sylvia Cohen

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Committee met by Zoom on January 13, 2022.

The team sent 52 Christmas cards in December to those members who are living in seniors' residences and long term care facilities. Many of these folks do not have the internet, so this is a good way of keeping in touch with them and letting them know HVUC has not forgotten them.

With regard to birthday cards, it was suggested that Elders could take over this responsibility to create another way for Elders to keep in touch with their "flock".

The "Gift of Hope" service on December 16th was attended in person by 25 – 30 people and people expressed their thanks for the service also being made available online.

There are Stephen Ministers available at this time to help anyone who might benefit from their services.

Contact the Office

A congregational dinner by Zoom was held on Sunday, January 23, 2022 as a way for us to connect and lift each others' spirits. This is not a fundraiser but it is a way we can support local restaurants that are still struggling.

Kathy Kitchen

55+ and Seniors Programs

- Virtual programs continue with a 12 week program Jan - March
- Grant application for \$25,000 submitted in December to federal government New Horizons for Seniors
- Grant application to United Church, Embracing the Spirit \$75,000 New Ministry grant due April 15
- Anne was interviewed about 55+ on United Church Community innovation hub podcast, with Peter Miller
- Anne to present on Mental health and Wellness and 55+ programs at MP Yvan Baker's online Seniors Community meeting Jan 25th
- Daytimers will continue to be by Zoom for at least the

next 3 months. January will feature a Hawaiian theme, so get out that Hawaiian shirt or muumuu. There will be a travelogue by Simon Dallimore and a menu featuring pineapple! Every month between 80 and 100 lunches are packed and delivered by volunteers. We have many "guests" who are not members of HVUC and this is a very popular program.

Anne Pietropaolo and Beverly Conner

UCW Unit 6

Thirty Unit Six women enjoyed a fabulous Christmas Concert and Luncheon on Dec. 7. Jill Fillion played our magnificent organ and grand piano in the sanctuary with a selection of carols and songs. She helped to put us all into the Christmas spirit.



Afterwards we adjourned to Steed Hall for a delightful luncheon and home made goodies. Our Christmas donation will go to the Outreach committee's Water First Initiative. We were able to thank Carolyn Whiteside for ensuring that our sanctuary was decorated to perfection. The meeting was planned by Doris Messer, Judie McMillan, Judy Smith, Carolyn Whiteside and Wendy Oliver. It was a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship and fun with our friends and look forward to a healthy 2022.

A message Ruth and Sally Jo of Unit 6 would like to share with us all:

Welcome to Flight 2022

We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destruct devices; pity, anger, selfishness and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity,

hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith. There will BE NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our captain has cleared us for take-off. Destination - GREATNESS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR and wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY and new BEGINNINGS! Stay Blessed! And welcome in 2022.

UCW Unit 7

A Hybrid Christmas Party, YWS, and a trip to Antarctica

To Zoom or not to Zoom. That was the question in early December, as Unit 7 members decided whether it was safe to meet in person at Colleen's home, or online. The resulting hybrid meeting turned out well, with the in-person attendees enjoying a feast that consisted entirely of appetizers and desserts. (We have our priorities straight!) Then we joined our online members for a meeting and a Carol Sing. The best carol to sing on Zoom is "The 12 Days of Christmas." We had one member sing each time an item was mentioned: for example, Sharon Dowdall was the Partridge in a Pear Tree. It was fun watching as one Zoomer after another sang their part.

The emails were flying over the New Year's weekend, as Unit 7 members responded to Kathy Kitchen's and Jennifer Brown's call for volunteers to provide items for Youth Without Shelter lunches. It wasn't long before people had said they would bring all the required items. What an enthusiastic group!

People dropped off their contributions for the YWS lunches, plus any other donations, to the narthex at the church on Tuesday, January 11.

Gayle Taylor, Susanne Hynes, Linda Grass, Robin Stewart, and Kathy Kitchen then put the lunches together, and Kathy delivered them after our Unit 7 meeting.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered, and thanks again

TEAM and GROUP NEWS

to Kathy for organizing and to Jennifer for putting all the information in one of her famous spreadsheets. BTW – this event was so successful that we have decided to do it more often!

Our January meeting included a trip to Antarctica, on Zoom of course, courtesy of Mary Ferguson, who travelled there not too long ago. We learned several things about Antarctica. First, penguins are adorable, but in huge groups they smell terrible! And in Antarctica they show little fear of humans, and certainly not of Mary (see picture at right).

Second, it is possible to enjoy sunbathing on a ship in Antarctica. And third, Mary Ferguson and her daughter are brave! They donned their bathing suits and went for a dip in the Antarctic Ocean. Brrrrr!



Colleen Isherwood

Unit 7 Leader

UCW to learn about The Modern Farmer

Units 6 and 7 will be holding a joint meeting on **Tuesday, February 1** beginning at 7:15. The subject is The Modern Farmer, with guests Amy and Patrick Kitchen, owners of Sideroad Farm in the Markdale, Ontario area. During our Zoom meeting, we will hear about their business, the growing and delivery of organic produce, and the store where they sell their flowers and vegetables. Hopefully, we will be inspired to start thinking about our own gardens!

Communications

This Committee met on January 18. Deb Turnbull was an invited guest. She talked about the importance of this committee to the work of the church. We thanked Deb for her continuing support for this committee and all she has done for it including vetting and editing *KIT* and *Connections*, the sign ministry and emailing congregants about services and events. Deb asked Susanne to remain as chair for the time being as the Board is weighing options about the structure of the church's governance.

Drew Brown is taking the lead on the church's social media presence. There was some discussion about our social media presence especially with regard to how much we post and to vetting what goes up on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. An important point was made: we

have to ensure that we remain consistent with our branding (faith and visual) on our own social media presence.

This committee has set policy and procedures for many of the aspects of communications at HVUC. Staff members are now performing many of its functions using those guidelines (web site, *KIT*, social media, posters, slides for services, bulletin boards).

For the time being *KIT* will continue to be published weekly. *Connections* will be published monthly till the end of April to honour our commitment to our advertisers. The deadline for the February edition, which Colleen Isherwood will be editing, is Friday, February 18.

Susanne Hynes

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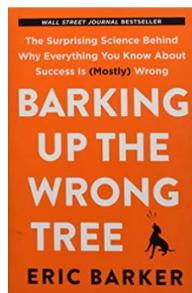
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OF NOTE

Vision Statement for approval at next Annual General Meeting — page 6

Sunday Worship is being live-streamed on YouTube and all of our recent services are available any time.

Please join us for Lobby Talk directly after worship. Visit hvuc.ca for details

Order Valentine Treat Bags before February 2 — see page 6

Daytimers and Men's Discussion Group, January 31 —see page 22

Souper Sunday is February 13 —see page 23



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Congregational Letter 1,2

Editor's Desk 3

Life Events 4

Vision Statement 6

Colourful Restoration 5

Unexpected Visitors 7

Community Recognition Awards

Barbara Clarke 8

Ron Crago 8

Lynn Manning 9

Judy Smith 10

Thank you—Driveway clean 11

This Old Church 12

Youth 13

Where Were You in '72

Nancy Roper 14

Catherine Ireland 16

David Kitchen 16

Carolyn Whiteside 17

Sally Jo Martin 18

Marg Wallis 19

Colleen Isherwood 19

Memorial Squares 20-21

What's Happening 22

Team and Group News

Outreach 23

Fundraising 24

Pastoral Care 24

55+ 24

Unit 6 and Unit 7 25

Communications 26

Sponsors 27-29

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