



Humber Valley Star Points North



It has been said, there are two types of people in this world; 1) those who love spending time at the mall, 2) the rest of us.

Perhaps it's a deep subconscious response to working at the Sherway Garden's Eddie Bauer during college, but I despise malls. From tracking down a parking spot (why is the parking lot always busy?), to navigating store directories, to feeling like the place sucks every

bit of animal energy out of me, I'm not a fan of the mall.

I have always envied those who can spend an afternoon meandering in and out of shops, getting lost amongst the display racks. However, that's not me. When I go to the mall, I am committed to one direction only. Finding the exit as quickly as possible. I don't have time to wander down endless corridors hoping I stumble into a great buy.

Similarly, I think there are two types of churches in this world; 1) churches who are content to meander along, hoping to stumble into a meaningful future, 2) churches who sense Spirit is leading them and giving themselves to that Divine call. I see Humber Valley as the latter.

This is what has been captured with our North Star.

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.

I am very hopeful for what the articulation of this North Star could mean for us at HVUC:

Unity: An articulated direction animated by Christ aligns our hearts and minds. It allows us to move with purpose in a spirit of togetherness. When we commit to a shared direction, we become a catalyst for the good God wants to do in us and through us.

Inspiration: A shared direction reminds us that we are a part of something larger than ourselves. It rekindles a commitment to Christ and motivates us to look beyond ourselves. Knowing that together we are seeking to embody justice, compassion and belonging infuses our daily lives with something more than the mundane.

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Our Workhorse Dishwasher a Reminder of Joy of Volunteering



In the late 1980s, Humber Valley bought a dishwasher, and I was part of the process. It is the same workhorse Hobart dishwasher that we have in the Humber Valley kitchen today.

The reason I remember the approximate date of purchase is that my son Kevin was still a baby. If we didn't have our three-day-a-week babysitter, I would bring Kevin with me in his carseat.

Son David was at Humber Valley School, and Michael was in the nursery school at HVUC run by Judith Dallimore.

I was on the committee because I had contacts in the foodservice industry, and could get a friends and family discount on the dishwasher. I think we paid \$5,000 which was a good deal at the time. We have an industry friend who told us that such a dishwasher would normally have cost \$6,000 or \$7,000 in the late '80s.

It's hard to believe that getting a dishwasher could be contentious. But there were those who looked nostalgically at their days washing and drying dishes in the Humber Valley kitchen. "We have some of our best chats when we're doing the dishes by hand," some people said. Others were more practical, looking at the time we would save if we

could use the dishwasher for all the big loads involved in running the church. I was on the side of the more practical people, but I think we still do have some good conversations when we are running the dishwasher!

There was some in-church political manoeuvring as well. Heather Cartwright was on our committee and her husband Dennis was on the Stewards. The Humber Valley UCW couldn't afford to pay the whole price. We needed help from the Stewards. I remember being on the phone with Heather one night talking about dishwasher financing. "Is that a work call?" my husband Steve asked.

Phyllis Conquergood, another of the committee members, was a master negotiator who could talk anyone into anything.

Sadly, some of the committee members have passed away, but that dishwasher remains, a 35-year-old reminder of the long-term rewards of volunteerism.

Colleen Isherwood



This month's theme is The Joy of Volunteering. As co-editors, Susanne and I love to hear from you. Contact us at colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com or susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Humber Valley Star Points North (cont'd from page 1)

Accountability: Our North Star dares us to live for something bold. Justice, compassion and belonging, may begin with my own life, but it can't stop there. We need each other to live into this call. We must work together to accelerate this dream of God.

Impact: Chaos theory suggests a butterfly can flutter its wings in Toronto, setting off a chain reaction generating a typhoon in Taiwan. When we all focus our energy in a common direction, our efforts are not isolated flutters, but a wind of hope and grace. We create a ripple effect of positive transformation that extends far beyond ourselves.

Resilience: A shared direction provides a solid foundation in the face of challenges and setbacks. By setting our focus on the North Star, we move into the future knowing that whatever may come, God has called us toward something noble and good. Something worth giving ourselves to, even when it's difficult and draining.

You are an important part of Humber Valley's future. I am so excited where this journey will lead us.

Rev. Dr. Trevor Brisbin

Welcome Back Barbecue in Pictures

Humber Valley celebrated a new church season with much madness and mayhem on Sunday, September 17th. The Dunk Tank was back by popular demand. The weather cooperated and a good time was had by all.



Dorothy Ley Hospice

Many readers of this edition of *Connections* will be familiar with HVUC's strong support of The Dorothy Ley Hospice. Since 2005 when we raised funds to help build the Hospice Residence, and for the past seven years as Margo Marchers in the annual fundraising Hike for Hospice, HVUC has been there for the Hospice and the individuals who are supported on their end-of-life journeys.

For the past nine years, I have been privileged and constantly grateful, and joyful, for the opportunity to be part of the Care Team, as a volunteer, at the Hospice. As you read this you might well be saying, "The joy of volunteering at DLH? Surely that is a counterintuitive statement." But that's not so. Certainly, there is sadness and loss at the Hospice but a daily, overriding emotion is always joy as well. As a volunteer, I feel the subtle joy in the words of the Hospice founder, Dr. Dorothy Ley: "We will not leave you. We will watch with you. We will be there."

For this edition of *Connections*, I would like to share, with her permission, a poem by Andrea who is a fellow volunteer at DLH. In this poem, Andrea experiences



and feels and expresses the very special kind of joy that is constantly present at the Hospice. As you read Andrea's poem, picture yourself with Andrea and the dying individual in the peace of her room at the Hospice. Read slowly and calmly and absorb the joy for yourself.

Ron Crago

The Napkin

The napkin on the formica food tray
Was the flimsy paper kind.
Folded in a triangle.
Not linen or cotton or even thick paper towel.
Just thin and flimsy,
There beside the small round plate
Holding the crustless peanut butter sandwich
Cut in 4 triangles
And the plastic glass carrying the creamy white milk.

I sat bedside for her meal, silent, nervous on my first shift alone.
Aileen, dressed in her sheer blouse with large blue flowers,
Lay propped and heavily leaning to the right, body softly splayed,
Seemingly directionless,
I, feet firmly planted, sat erect and stiff.

And so began the meal.

A plaid tea towel tucked around her collar,
With unblinking and determined eyes
Aileen gummed her first sticky bite.
Long, bony, shaking fingers gripped the milk glass,
Brought it to her dry lips without a single spill.
But one teardrop of milk glistened
On her chin
Wiped with the napkin
After each bite. And each sip.

Lifted, wiped, folded, smoothed. Replaced on the tray.
Carefully tucked. Slow motion moves.
And I, transfixed and transformed,
From a silent witness of a singular meal
To one invited to her table.

A lifetime of dignity in each fold
Of that paper napkin.

Andrea, Volunteer at DLH

SCAW, Plant World and more

In June 1999, I officially retired from teaching after 32 years in Toronto schools. The first four years were at my alma mater, Oakwood Collegiate, where I taught Physical Education and English. After a year of travel and a term teaching in Australia, I resumed my career in Toronto that was marked by many new experiences: Head of Girls Physical Education at a vocational school for those with learning disabilities and teacher of English as a Second Language. Through summer school courses over three years, I earned

my guidance counsellor qualifications. I transferred to an adult re-entry school with many international students, worked part time while Scott and Laura Jean were young and finally was Head of Guidance at a very large composite school with special education for the deaf, programs in technology, enrichment, learning disabled, drama, music and visual arts. I love challenges and change.

Once I had retired, how would I spend my newfound "free" time?

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The Joy of Volunteering

SCAW Celebrates 53 Years



In 1970 Murray Dryden, a member of Humber Valley United Church, embarked on a mission to provide children in developing countries with “the comfort of a good night’s sleep.” He had experienced

much discomfort as a travelling salesman in the prairies during the depression of the 1930s. Having established a successful business selling concrete blocks in the Toronto area in the ‘50s and ‘60s, he was ready to retire and share his good fortune. Many of the homes in Humber Valley were built using that concrete material, including the sanctuary of our church. Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet’s father was the architect and builder for this project.

Murray’s wife Margaret, a long time member of the church choir, was very instrumental in the success of Sleeping Children and invited her HVUC friends to help with the office work. In 1970, Margaret and Murray gave 50 bedkits to children in an orphanage in Pune, India. The charity grew over the years using partnerships with local groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis.

2023 marks the 53rd anniversary of Sleeping Children with a total of 1,762,823 children receiving bedkits so far. Recently there were distributions in Rwanda and Tanzania so that number is climbing.

Humber Valley UC continues to support SCAW and on Saturday October 14 hosted more than 80 volunteers for a celebration of this ongoing charity.

For more information visit www.scaw.org.

Sally Jo Martin

Together Bill and I joined the Humber Valley Intrepids begun by Cathy Wilkes with a trip to Egypt. Later excursions included China and Russia. Independently we took a month long cruise from Brazil, across the Atlantic to Africa and the Mediterranean. Retirement was good!

Part time guidance work and travel were big parts of my early retirement, but that was not all. One day I was shopping at Plant World, the local garden nursery. The manager, Andrew Jinkinson, knew me through his marriage to Grace Dallimore and he greeted me with this proposal.

“Sally Jo, we are looking for ‘mature help’ at Plant World, someone who knows gardening.”

My response was, “Well Andrew, I certainly qualify as mature and I can learn.” Thus began six wonderful years of part time work at the garden centre. I worked Seniors and Ladies Days helping customers find their way around and trying to answer their many questions. When I needed confirmation of details, I used the walkie talkies to get accurate information from the staff who really were the experts. Bill joked that my biggest asset to the store was that I knew so many of the customers.

What did I offer to the business with my maturity? I knew many of the part time young staff who worked the busy Christmas and Spring seasons. Kids from the church and my own daughter, Laura Jean, all worked there. My experience as a teacher continued to be useful as we interacted and helped each other on the job.

People think that my own garden must be really wonderful but it is not. I do enjoy planting and pruning but don’t spend a lot of time to make it spectacular. My garden is my personal bit of nature to admire and enjoy.

When involvement with Sleeping Children became my main volunteer focus, I was able to connect Plant World during their sale of Christmas evergreen trees. A percentage of sales went to sponsor more than 100 bedkits to offer the comfort of a good night’s sleep. I travelled to Uganda in 2006 with five other volunteers and brought back photos of the children who benefitted from the sale of the trees. Plant World posted those photos which helped the charity gain recognition. SCAW is 100 per cent charity, no money is spent on marketing or fundraising.

Retail and charity cooperation. That’s what I call community. It seems that I have retired from a variety of occupations — teacher, counsellor and retail salesperson.

What’s next remains to unfold.

Sally Jo Martin

SCAW, Plant World and More

Continued from page 5

I was able to work at the adult school when extra staff was needed and that income helped when I had the chance to travel with Sleeping Children Around the World distributions. Volunteering with SCAW became a large part of my post retirement, something I continue to do 24 years later.

The Joy of Volunteering



The Urban Garden

The joy of volunteering is strong throughout the hours spent tending to our HVUC urban community crate garden and the YWS garden.

Planting, nurturing, and harvesting what we grow, not only brings us together, the sun just seems to shine brighter when we are there getting our hands dirty.

Each time we leave, we take a piece of that infectious joy with us. As our growing season comes to an end, we all say thank you. Thank you HVUC for this wonderful opportunity you have

given to the church, the community, and to YWS. All are welcome to come grow and learn. We are so grateful.

Valerie Wood



The Joy of Gardening

Nasturtiums in the Fall



Humber Valley Nasturtiums

I was thrilled today to see that the nasturtiums in Valerie's container gardens along HVUC's playground fence are blooming merrily. They echo the colours of fall: the orange, red, and yellow that are just now starting on maples, oaks, and birches in Toronto. In fact, the nasturtiums glow.

I love the lowly nasturtium and have always had them in my garden. When we moved into our Pinehurst Crescent house in late October 1975, they were still blooming in the former owner's vegetable patch and I got a great little posy for my kitchen table. Now, they bloom on my balcony on the 28th floor high above Etobicoke.

Dr. Lockhart, (a former moderator of the United Church of Canada), who lived next to us on Pinehurst, had a fine display cascading down his stone wall and together we happily picked the seeds at the end of the summer to start a new nasturtium patch in the coming spring. My Mom had a patch in our cottage garden and one under the front windows of our house in Corner Brook.

About ten years ago Dave and I visited the mid-Atlantic island of Madeira. I was amazed to see that nasturtiums

are the local dandelions: they are a prolific weed bringing cheerful colours to ditches, around fences, and all along the banks of the hills. This fall we visited Ketchikan and Dutch Harbour in Alaska. They have had a few cool and wet weeks but the nasturtiums are still blooming, a little bedraggled, but happily adding colour to the otherwise fading gardens.

Did you know that nasturtiums are edible? They are quite peppery in a sweet way. You can eat the leaves as well as the blossoms (one by one or in your salads). I am sure they are very good for you, filled with vitamins and antioxidants.

Just be careful. When you pick the leaf, check the stem and the back for aphids. And before you chew on that bloom, check for ants and other bugs who love the sugary nectar and hide in the tail of the flower.

Today I ate two of them from Valerie's garden. I nipped a couple in Ketchikan and one in Dutch Harbour. And I found one still blooming on my balcony this weekend. Another gift from God's wondrous world.



Ketchikan Nasturtiums

Susanne Hynes



Outreach at HVUC — Youth Without Shelter

Youth Without Shelter in North Etobicoke is a resource for young people in need of safe shelter, encouragement to continue schooling and counselling to ensure a positive future.

Humber Valley is pleased to support this work in a number of ways:

- Financial assistance for monthly meals - \$250 per month
- Fresh lunches provided by UCW groups as part of their outreach activities
- Sharing of food "leftovers" from church events
- Delivery of Cobs bread - our prize from Dorothy Ley Hospice fundraising

Donations in support of the monthly meals are appreciated. Give a cheque in any amount or send an e-transfer to finance@hvuc.ca with the notation of YWS meals.

The photo shows Richelle, the chef at YWS, accepting the Cobs bread donation.

A Festive Tea Party to Bid Farewell to Barbara

A lovely tea party was held on Thursday October 19 to send off our much-loved Barbara Clarke to her new home in Winnipeg.

Thanks to Deb Turnbull for coordinating the program. Kudos to Lorraine Pearsall for the beautiful decorations. High Fives to Lynn Manning, Cheryl Drake and their kitchen team for the yummy treats. Thanks to Claire Hatje for locating the fun Dr Seuss guest book.

Special thanks to the following folks who entertained us with their heartfelt words and song:

- Deb Turnbull with thanks to Barbara
- Joan Belford and Ruth Johnson, singing "What will we do without Barbara?"
- Frank Kershaw describing the Parks & Forestry Advisory Committee Trip to compete in the "Communities in Bloom" World championships in Japan - and Toronto / Etobicoke won!!
- Barbara's remarks
- Rev Trevor with thanks and a blessing for Barbara
- Murray Smith telling the story of the all-afternoon Coffee Meeting at Java Joes
- Sally Jo enlightening us regarding the "Welcome St Lukes" Serviceberry tree that is on Anglesey between the exit to the turning circle and the electronic signs. Barbara helped select and plant it, so we will always think of her when we admire it.

If you missed the party but would like to see the videos of the speeches, please contact Nancy Roper at nancy.roper@sympatico.ca

Nancy Roper



Getting to Know Barbara Clarke

Barbara Clarke is moving to Winnipeg to live next-door to her daughter and son-in-law. Although we will miss her tremendously at Humber Valley, there is some lucky little church in Winnipeg that is going to be very, very happy to have her in their congregation. As part of our au revoir for Barbara, we are including a biography, so people will know her well when she joins in on Humber Valley Zoom programs from afar.

Barbara was born in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England to parents David and Winifred Martin. Barbara had one sibling: a brother named Derrick who is two years older and lives in the USA.

Barbara's Mom was very shy. In contrast, her Dad was outgoing and rarely sat still.

Barbara's Dad did the first section of his career in the Merchant Navy, starting as a cabin boy when he was around 14 years old and continuing until he was captain of a ship. This job had him away from home a lot. In order to spend time with his young family, he switched careers when Barbara was about seven years old, but he always wanted to live in sight of the water.

When Barbara was nine or ten years old, her Dad took a job to build a bunkering station to refuel ships in Freeport, Bahamas, although Freeport was too tiny to be widely known at the time.



Barbara with son-in-law Lindsay and daughter Suzanne.

Barb's father had taken the exams to become a "local preacher" with the Methodist Church in England. He served a number of small churches in England who couldn't afford their own minister, taking Barbara along with him to many of the services giving her many fond memories of travel with him. In Freeport he was asked to start Sunday services at a small schoolhouse since there was no church building.

Barbara's Dad felt strongly that men and women should be treated equally – both needed a good education and both should be allowed to choose their subjects. He also believed that children should participate in the decision-making process, weighing the pros and cons in coming up with a plan. Barbara says that she has continued these strategies throughout her life.

Barbara initially attended school in a two-room school house

in Freeport. However, the minister for the Nassau region suggested that she might get a better education at a school in Nassau. Over the next few weeks, Barbara and her Dad considered the options and opted for her to move to Nassau, returning home during the holidays.

When Barbara was 14, the family moved to Trinidad for her Dad's next project. Barbara did her schooling there until she completed her "O levels", which are a set of exams for students who are around the grade 12 level. Trinidad had limited postsecondary options, so Barbara and her Dad had another decision-making discussion and decided she should move to England to complete her education and write her "A level" exams. Barbara is still close to some of her friends in Trinidad.

Barbara loved living in so many different countries. The most important thing she learned is that there's really no difference among countries: everyone is working to achieve the same thing for their people.

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Getting to Know Barbara Clarke



Barbara initially wanted to be a school teacher, but she did a BSc in Accounting, Business Management and Hotel Management at the University of Surrey in London instead.

While Barbara was at University, her family moved to New York City. After graduation, Barbara's Dad asked her to come home and "be a daughter" for a while so they could spend time together. Barbara didn't enjoy living in New York, and she decided to move to Canada.

Barbara's career spanned almost 50 years. Initially she worked in the accounting department at Inn on the Park at Eglinton and Leslie. Next she became Controller of a smaller hotel in Etobicoke. She started her own management company and spent the next 40 years as business manager, primarily at an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon's group. Throughout her career, she did bookkeeping for several veterinarians and other small businesses part time, retiring just recently.

Along the way, Barbara was married and lived on Princess Anne Crescent, where her daughter, Suzanne was born. Suzanne attended daycare at Islington United Church and then moved to Broadacres for the gifted program, before continuing on at John G. Althouse and Martin Grove Collegiate.

Barbara's longtime friendship with Cheryl Drake, Lynn Manning, Dale Smith, and their children began through St. Luke's Church.

Barbara and Suzanne moved to Barbara's current house on Martin Grove Road when Suzanne was seven years old. They further developed a wonderful friendship with their across-the-street-neighbours, Meta and Ken Gilbert, who became like grandparents to Suzanne. Meta and Ken had known Barbara from both St. Luke's and the Etobicoke

Horticultural Society.

Barbara loves gardening. When she moved to Martin Grove, she and Suzanne gradually replaced all the lawn with gardens, both front and back.

Barbara is a member and was an active volunteer at the Etobicoke Horticultural Society, and the Canadian Rose Society as well as many others. She's helped for their plant sales, judged at their competitions and served on their board of directors and is past president of the Horticultural Society.

Barbara is also a member of the Etobicoke Parks and Forestry Advisory Committee. She was involved in the annual garden contests to encourage people to keep their properties looking beautiful. Barbara herself won the award for the Best Environmental Garden one year.

Over time, Etobicoke won the award for Communities in Bloom among cities of our size in Canada. A small group of delegates, including Barbara and Suzanne, was invited to go to Japan to present the gardens at the world competition. Our own Frank Kershaw was selected to do the presentation in Tokyo. To their delight, Etobicoke/Toronto won the top prize!

Suzanne embarked on a medical career at Dalhousie with an undergraduate degree in Sociology, Immunology, Microbiology and a minor in Environmental Studies. She then completed a Masters in Epidemiology, and her medical doctorate. She proceeded to complete residency in Pediatrics in Manitoba and additional training in Child Maltreatment Pediatrics at UBC.

Along the way, Suzanne did some travelling, with three months in Guelph and six months in Australia, to build skill in social sciences and epidemiology. She went to Zanzibar to volunteer as part of Youth Challenge International and soon discovered that there was a water shortage due to a mechanical problem with the water pipes. St. Luke's Church and others kindly donated money to the region to help bring water in to keep the community safe until the pipes could be repaired.



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Getting to Know Barbara Clarke



Barbara attempts to dunk Rev. Trevor Brisbin.

Suzanne went on a trip to Cuba and while there, met Lindsay, who was from Winnipeg. Lindsay is an engineer specializing in mechanical engineering. He initially worked in aerospace engineering and in recent years has transitioned to sustainable building engineering. He works for Efficiency Manitoba and is an active member in the community related to sustainability programming and policy work. Suzanne arrived home from her trip and learned that she had been awarded her first choice pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg as part of the CARMS match. She called Lindsay to ask for help finding accommodation, and the rest is history. They were married in Winnipeg at their favourite brunch spot, Clementine, over a planned family dinner five years ago this past week.

Four years ago, the bungalow next-door to Suzanne and Lindsay's house went on the market. Suzanne and Lindsay wisely purchased it after reviewing the photos posted online with her mother, who described it saying, "isn't that a quaint little spot". They knew Barbara would one day need to downsize her space and wanted Winnipeg to be a possible option. This house would allow her to live near by, independently in her home, but close to family. Friends of Suzanne's from her workplace rented it in the meantime.

Barbara's voice trembles when she talks about her time at Humber Valley. She was on the committee at St Luke's that visited many churches when they were deciding what to do after their church closed. Barbara can't speak highly enough of Humber Valley for the warm welcome we provided with greeters at the door, ushers in the sanctuary, the Passing of the Peace, invitations to coffee time and many, many people coming to say hello and make the newcomers feel welcome.

She chuckles when she tells the story of Murray Smith inviting her to coffee at Java Joe's to discuss the merits of Humber Valley as a new home for the St Luke's folks. Barbara was terrified that she might inadvertently make a commitment on behalf of her committee so she brought a friend, Doris Charteris, along to the meeting. The trio chatted and drank coffee for three hours that afternoon and are still chuckling about it today.

Barbara recounts a Wednesday evening meeting where all the different committees at Humber Valley talked about their projects and really made the St. Luke's people feel welcome.

Barbara jumped in as a volunteer at Humber Valley and many of us think she was the first to arrive at the church each morning and the last to leave seven days a week.

Barbara is a Stephen Minister, she's on the Finance Committee, the Pastoral Care Committee, the Refugee Committee, the Outreach Committee and the Daytimers group. She and Diane Imber have co-led the Greeters and the Ushers for many years. Youth Without Shelter has always had a special place in Barbara's heart and she never missed a chance to offer to drive any leftover food up to the shelter for the students to enjoy some varied meals and special treats. Barbara also watched for any other jobs that needed to be done to ensure the church ran smoothly, and she did them. Take, for example, a church guest who arrived from a shelter at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning. Barbara made him tea and found him some breakfast to enjoy while they chatted prior to the service.

Barbara and her family would like to thank everyone for their limitless kindness, friendship and all the memories shared over the past years together. They will miss this community, but have every intention of staying in touch with you all. With sincerest thanks, they wish everyone all the best in the coming years.

Clearly, it's going to take us a dozen volunteers to replace Barbara when she moves to Winnipeg, but we are SO THANKFUL that she is going to keep in touch via 55+ and other Zoom events. Barbara: we wish you all the best in your new home and we look forward to visiting in the years to come.



The "Getting to Know Our Church Friends" series of articles are written by Nancy Roper in memory of her Dad, Norm Roper, who died in June 2020. Norm loved visiting with people and hearing their stories. He never forgot the things that people told him, always remembering to ask how a special event had gone or checking in on people's children and grandchildren, etc.

Results for period ending Sept. 30, 2023

The table at right shows the detailed financial results for HVUC for the nine month period ended September 30, 2023 with results of the same period ended Sept. 30, 2022 included for comparison purposes.

At the AGM in May 2023, the congregation approved the 2023 operating budget which forecasted an annual operating deficit of \$50,000. You will note that the deficit as at September has already exceeded the full year forecast, with a deficit of \$75,000.

As stated above overall the deficit at the end of September is \$75,000 compared to a deficit as at September 2022 of \$173,000. We are happy to see the deficit at the end of September 2023 is \$100,000 less than at September 2022.

The reduction in the deficit, year over year, was mainly achieved due to a reduction in expenses. Operating Revenue compared to prior year is higher by \$5,000 or 1%.

Expenses compared to prior year are lower by \$107,000 mainly due to savings in property with bringing custodian services back in house. Office and payroll expenses are also lower in 2023.

The higher Other expenses are related to the refugee family which is offset by higher Other revenue which includes fundraising for the refugee family.

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. As the end of the year is approaching, please remember to keep giving levels up.

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

Humber Valley United Church Financial Statements for nine months ended September 30, 2023		
Sources of Funds	2023	2022
Par Givings	113,353	115,754
Envelopes/Stock Donations	63,588	65,073
Use of Church	123,548	112,023
Trustees	17,548	36,710
Other	36,601	20,580
Subtotal Operating Revenues	354,638	350,140
Government Subsidies	22,073	36,062
Subtotal Funds available for Church Operations	376,708	386,202
Receipts for Grants and Special Holdings	108,708	127,105
Total Sources of Funds	485,417	513,307
Expenditures		
Payroll	326,156	344,621
Worship and Music	3,849	9,831
Building Expenses	57,211	144,713
Office	14,350	23,423
Insurance and Bank Charges	15,238	15,382
Regional Assessment	17,878	15,777
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)

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

*Allan Orr, Chair,
Stewardship & Finance Committee*

Kudos for Drew Brown's Hymns from the Architect



Great news! Drew Brown's alter ego, Hymns For The Architect, has been nominated for the Covenant Award for Instrumental Artist of the Year. The Canadian Gospel Music Association is responsible for these awards, and Drew is no stranger to them, having won in previous years for Best Male Vocalist and Producer of the Year, among other categories.

Hymns for the Architect is a project that focuses on creating art based on spiritual practices. Many listeners use the music for devotional times, prayer walks, meditation, yoga, journaling, studying, and more. The new album, "Everything Will Be Fine?" is available on popular streaming platforms such as iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify, and YouTube.

*Drew Brown
Director of Worship Arts, HVUC*

Shredding Day Coming Nov. 4

Back by popular demand! Community Shredding Event for Confidential Documents

When: Saturday, November 4, 9-12 AM.

Where: Parking lot of Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke

What to Shred: Documents containing identifying information that might lead to identity theft, such as credit card receipts, old tax forms, invoices, health records, old passports or licences, e-mail showing your or your friends' email addresses, or any items you do not feel comfortable discarding in a public recycling bin.

How: Drive in off Hartfield Road, pop your trunk and our crew will empty your boxes and feed them directly into professional shredding truck on premises.

Price: Per banker's box or equivalent (25-30 pounds)

Boxes 1 and 2:	\$15.00 each
Boxes 3-5:	\$12.00 each
Boxes 6 or more	\$10.00 each

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Proceeds: Support the church's community projects for seniors and youth

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Joan Belford



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Afternoon Vespers Hymn Sing

**Sunday November 12
at 4:00 pm**

You are invited to a service featuring favourite hymns and stories specially selected for Remembrance Day

Sing along with us.

Refreshments & fellowship follow the service.

John Derksen on piano and organ.
Singing led by members of Valley Voices.
Stories by Susanne Hynes.

Join us in person in the Sanctuary or online on Humber Valley's YouTube channel

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www.hvuc.ca Ample free parking



Changes at HVUC's 55+ Program

Happy Fall! At 55+ we are well into our fall program and are excited to be offering several new opportunities this season. We welcome Steve Yee who is teaching a Tai Chi class on Fridays in person in Steed Hall, Nancy Angus who is hosting our Ageing Well series on Zoom, and Emma Rooney who is running the 5 Senses Nature School on Zoom with a bonus session in High Park in November. All of these new programs help to provide older adults in our community with a variety of ways to stay connected, be creative and find belonging in a caring environment. We are thrilled that so many new folks are continuing to join our programs!

Another ongoing and very important part of our 55+ project is our outreach to seniors who are marginalized and at risk, experiencing food insecurity, isolation, health challenges and loneliness. Through our community partners Mabelle Arts and Room to Grow foodbank at Westway United Church, we are able to reach hundreds of seniors living in our local community with practical supports every month. This past month we donated fresh chicken for distribution at the Food pantry as part of the Thanksgiving gift bag. We also donated 50 pairs of new reading glasses, a small but important gift of comfort and care. We work collaboratively with our partners to respond to needs as they arise and to find creative ways to show caring and extend love to our senior neighbours.

The 55+ program has been going strong for over three years with funding from the federal government New Horizons for Seniors Project, The United Church of Canada Foundation and individual donations. Under the leadership of the Seniors Advisory Committee (Roger Wallis, Deb Turnbull, David Dallimore, Ruth Johnson) we have developed core programs and are now well established in the community.

We would like to thank Roger Wallis for his tireless energy and leadership as Chair of the Seniors Advisory committee, as he retires from this role. Roger devoted many hours to ensuring the smooth operation and growth of the program even through the most challenging time of COVID 19. We all appreciate Roger's wisdom, dedication and humour! We

welcome Brian Goodman as a new member of the Committee as Brian helps to oversee the program budget and finance. Great to have you aboard Brian!

Welcome, Jenny Terwoord!



We also want to welcome our new Seniors Program Coordinator, Jenny Terwoord, who is joining the team! Jenny brings a wealth of experience in developing older adult programs and a passion for work in the field of mental health and wellness. Jenny will be working with our new Program Registrar, George Turnbull, to ensure that the 55+ program continues to grow and flourish.

As our program enters its fourth year, Jenny and the team will continue to seek funding opportunities and innovative solutions for a sustainable future. We're excited to see what the next season will bring for 55+!

A note from Anne

It has been a joy and a blessing to have worked in this community for the past 3 ½ years. I have deeply appreciated the support, encouragement, and friendships I have found with you all. I have been amazed at the faithfulness and resilience of this community. It has been a creative opportunity of a lifetime to collaborate with you in building the 55+ program.



I trust in God's abundant provision for each of you and I'm excited to see what the future has in store for Humber Valley and the 55+ program. I'm thankful to be able to remain connected to the life of this community and look forward to sharing in many future events.

Anne Pietropaolo
Seniors Program Coordinator

Getting to Know Dawn Hall, Kevin's Curnock's Mom



Dawn Hall with her dog, Farrah.

In the August newsletter, in honour of Kate and Kevin's engagement, we introduced the congregation to their families. In this second part, we introduce Dawn Hall, Kevin Curnock's Mom.

Kevin's Mom, Dawn Hall, lives in St. Catharines, but she comes to church at Humber Valley when she is in town visiting Kate and Kevin, so many folks have already been lucky enough to meet her.

Dawn was born in Welland and is one of five children: she has three brothers and a sister. All live in Niagara except for her oldest brother, who lives in Kentucky.

Dawn trained as a nurse and worked in several Niagara hospitals before switching to CCAC (LHIN) work in home-care where she was a case manager for 18 years: she visited each patient every few months to decide the various services they required: nursing, physiotherapy, OT, speech pathology, PSW etc. She has now been retired for 20 years.

Dawn has three sons and a step-daughter. Kevin is the youngest. She also has four grandsons and a great grandson.

Dawn has a fun story of how she met her long-time husband, Bill. Bill had moved out from his family's home and was living in a shared home with three ladies who were 11 years younger than he was. One of the ladies was Dawn's sister. Dawn was single at the time, with three young boys. Her sister and her room mates made her a deal that if she would go to Art Park, a cultural centre for live and visual arts in Niagara Falls, USA with Bill, they would each give Dawn a day of free babysitting. Dawn took the deal and the rest is history.

Dawn has fond memories of a four-couple "Supper Club" that would rotate among the four homes for themed dinners. People went crazy with the decorations and meals. There was a beach dinner in November where everyone wore beach clothes and there was a kiddie swimming pool in the middle of the living room. They also did Hallowe'en in February, etc.

Dawn's hobbies are reading, gardening, hiking and travelling. She travelled a lot with Bill, but he passed away in October 2020. She recalls her grandchildren's excitement when she and Bill took them camping. She now travels with friends and family: Trips this year include Halifax, Killarney, Port Dover, and Elora/Fergus.

Dawn always had dogs in her life. When Dawn and Bill's last dog passed away, a friend asked if they could dog-sit. It went well and thereafter, Dawn and Bill almost always had a guest dog in the house that they were watching for someone. When Bill got dementia, they had to stop because he kept letting the dogs out. After Bill died, Dawn got a rescue dog named Farrah who is a Havanese dog that is retired from a breeder. Farrah is seven years old now. Dawn loves taking Farrah for walks and hikes.

Dawn recently purchased a new home that is much closer to her sons and grandsons in St. Catharines. She has lovely neighbours and a perfect-sized garden. It's a short trip for Dawn and Farrah to enjoy Lake Ontario on their daily walks.

Humber Valley welcomes Dawn to our community.

Nancy Roper

Stockings for Youth Without Shelter

Carolyn McGowan (aka Mrs. Claus) has been very busy in her workshop sewing 53 Christmas stockings and knitting 53 scarfs for Youth Without Shelter. Some of the youth have never had a stocking before.

Thank you Carolyn for helping make the holidays so special for them.

Unit 7 is making plans to organize a collection of items to fill these stockings.

Kathy Kitchen



Unit 7 kickoff BBQ & Barbie Night

Unit 7 UCW has held their first two events of the 2023/24 year with a barbecue at Joan Belford's place on September 12, and a night watching The Barbie Movie and going to Beertown on October 17. The photo above shows the group at Beertown.

Kathy Kitchen has joined Colleen Isherwood as Co-Leader of Unit 7. We have planned three events that will be open to all UCW members and friends. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

- **Nov. 14, 7 p.m.:** Movie Night for all UCW units! "On the Basis of Sex" is a biographical legal drama film based on the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- **Feb. 6:** All-unit meeting, possibly on Zoom led by Unit 6. Speaker: Ellen Moorehouse, Back Lane Studios.
- **March 12:** All UCW invited to meet author Cinda Gault, whose latest book, Small Compass, deals with a woman fur trader. HVUC Sanctuary.

We are also planning a Christmas Party at Susanne Hynes' home and will be making lunches for Youth Without Shelter at our January meeting.

For more information, please contact Colleen Isherwood at colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com or Kathy Kitchen at ka_kitchen@rogers.com.

Colleen Isherwood

Men's Discussion Group Mon., Oct 30 — Electric Vehicles

Have you considered purchasing an electric car? If so, are you trying to save money and/or the planet? While in operation, they emit zero CO2 emissions, but do they provide an overall positive net emission result? What are the "pros and cons"? Are they more prone to "catch fire" in a collision?

Our friend, Mike Yelavich (owner of Altech Security Systems), whose mind-opening presentation on Security we enjoyed in 2022, will discuss what we have now learned after 20 years of development. So please join us in-person at Humber Valley United Church on Monday, October 30, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Hearth Room.

LIFE EVENTS

Doris Maynard will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 6



Our long time HVUC member Doris Maynard will turn 100 years old on November 6, 2023. Doris now lives in Sherwood Park, Alberta, close to her daughter Sherry. If you would like to send a birthday card, please contact Diane Imber at dimber@sympatico.ca.

Congratulations, Doris, from all your friends at Humber Valley United Church!

Diane Imber

Grace Margaret Lancaster (nee Brydon)

September 5, 1925 - August 23, 2023



Grace will be deeply missed by all who have known her. Her calendar was always full. She enjoyed many years of bowling and bridge and was a contributing member to many service organizations and charities. She loved to keep up with the news and she never turned down an opportunity to travel or dance. Her children and grandchildren always anticipated her cookies and pies, especially at the cottage. Grace shared her love of her cottage in Muskoka with her children, extended family and friends. Her gentle nature, endless optimism and enthusiasm for life made lives richer.

- Celebration of Life - In person or via live stream
- Date: Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023
- Location - Port Nelson United Church, 3132 South Dr., Burlington, Ontario
- Time - 1:00 p.m. A light lunch to follow the service at the church

For those who wish, a donation may be made in Grace's name to Covenant House in Toronto, Salvation Army Canada, or a charity of your choice.

Anthony Frederick (Tony) Hamblin

August 9, 1939 - October 2, 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Tony Hamblin, the husband of Gail Hamblin on October 2, 2023. Tony Hamblin was born in Centerville, New Brunswick on August 9, 1939 and died at Humber River Hospital following a brief illness on October 2, 2023.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 54 years, Gail, his sons Drew (Erika) and Geoff (Eryn) his grandchildren Alex, Paige, William and Jack.

Tony was an avid adventurer and aviation enthusiast since his teenage years, receiving his private pilot's license

through the Air Cadet Program. He started his career as an Investment Analyst with Confederation Life and worked there for eighteen years, reaching a pinnacle role as President of Confed Investment Counsel. An entrepreneur at heart he left Confederation life in 1984 to co-found Hamblin Watsa Investment Counsel with Prem Watsa.

Tony was always on the move, enjoying his property and cottage on Lake of Bays where he was constantly involved in projects. Generous to a fault, he never hesitated to take those in need under his wing.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to support the Alzheimer Society or any other charity of your choice. A Celebration of Life for family will take place at a later date.



Bobby Alexander Pearsall

March 28, 1968 - July 20, 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Bobby Pearsall, the son and best friend of Lorraine Pearsall, on July 20, 2023.

Bobby leaves behind his loving mother Lorraine, his grandmother Grace, his Aunt Pat

and Uncle Phil, Aunt Anne, Andrea Pearsall and a host of Scottish and American cousins with many, many, wonderful friends.

Bobby had a way of making friends with everyone he met. He was an incredibly kind-hearted individual, and was always ready to fight against unfairness to others, including supporting and marching along side the nurses of Toronto for better wages and treatment.

He loved Sci-Fi, fantasy, action movies and gaming. He also loved reading, live theatre and their trips to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a week every September.

Bobby had great integrity, was fiercely loyal and had respect for everyone. Bobby brought lots of laughter and joy to the Pearsall home.

As per family tradition and Bobby's wishes, a private gathering has taken place.

Palma Pietropaolo (nee Riga)

November 9, 1936 - Saturday, September 16, 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Palma Pietropaolo, mother-in-law to Anne Pietropaolo on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 at the age of 86. We offer our sincere condolences to Anne and her family.

Just as throughout life, her last days were spent surrounded by love and the presence of her beloved family. She is now reunited with her parents, Margherita and Francesco, her late brothers Giacomo and Gregorio. She will be dearly missed by her loving husband and partner in life Francesco, cherished sons Vincenzo (Anne), Giacomo (Vincenza), and her adoring grandchildren Emma, Alex, Francesco and Sara. Palma will be lovingly remembered by her devoted

sister Rosa Riga, dear sister in law Vincenza Riga and all her nieces and nephews.

In 1960 she married Francesco Pietropaolo and they had two boys Vincenzo and Giacomo. In 1966 they made the decision to move to Toronto, Canada where they joined other family members. Over the years they built their lives around providing a home and a good life for their young family.



Save the Date!

**Afternoon of Scrabble playing
in honour of Beryl Finlay.**

Wednesday, November 22

@ 1:30 p.m.

See *Keeping in Touch* for more details.

Coincidences — Part 9 in the Series

Have you ever witnessed an event where you said “What was the chance of that happening”? If so, then this series of articles is for you! Send us your stories (via nancy.roper@sympatico.ca), and we’ll print them in an upcoming newsletter. This month, we’ll share some fun stories where people had been in the same place together long before they became friends.

Sally Roper & her Future Principal



Sally Roper worked in the office at Fairmont Railway Motors during the summer and school holidays while she was in high school and university, in the 1951-1956 era. The company was located on Mabelle Ave, just south of the Mabelle Arts group that the church assists. Fairmont made railway “jiggers” - small hand-propelled railway vehicles that staff used to get to a site for track and equipment repairs.

One summer day, there was a terrible train crash nearby and all the office staff went out to see if they could help.

Many decades later, Sally was working at Smithfield school under principal Bob Blackburn. Through some sort of lunch time conversation, they discovered that Bob had been in the crowd that day too.

I wonder if they were ever standing side by side that day, oblivious that they would be friends 40 years later?

HVUC & the Robinson Family

Scott Roper, Sally’s eldest son, had a fabulous teacher in grade 6 at Hilltop named Jim Robinson. Jim shared an interest in tropical fish and really brought Scott out of his shell. Nancy was in Jim’s class two years later. In November that year, Jim took Scott and Nancy to the Royal Winter Fair to set up an aquarium for the student section of the competition. Jim had a long visit with the family when he delivered the kids home late at night and over time, the families became friends.

Jim’s family lived in Lorne Park and their kids attended Lorne Park Secondary School.

Jim’s wife attended a Baptist church nearby. As their kids became young adults, the kids moved to a satellite church with a younger demographic in the congregation. The minister there was named Trevor Brisbin!

In 2012, Sally and Norm attended a wedding for one of the Robinson kids in Prince Edward County — they didn’t know it was significant at the time, but Trevor led the service.

In January 2021, Trevor came to Humber Valley. The Ropers called the Robinsons periodically during the pandemic to catch up and talked about all the neat initiatives at our church, including our new minister who did “sermons with substance”. To our surprise, we discovered the connection. Better still, as Nancy got to know Kate better in 2023, she learned that Trevor, Kate and Jeff Kahl (our guest guitarist at church and our frequent guitarist at choir) all attended Lorne Park Collegiate and all knew the Robinson kids. What a string of coincidences!

Continued on page 20

Play Dates with Grandparents

Four children and their grandparents visited the green house at Centennial park in September on a Saturday morning. The plants are so perfect that some of the children thought they were artificial. It is a beautiful oasis and well worth a visit.

After the visit to the greenhouse the children had fun playing in the park.

Play dates are planned for on a monthly basis and other grandparents are welcome to join us. If interested please contact Kathy Kitchen 416-236-3139 or Cheryl Drake 416- 209-0041 for more details.





From left: Marilyn Shoemaker, Pippa Van de Vliet and Sarah Dickson.

Pippa Van der Vliet & her teachers at Humber Valley Village School

When Pippa was ready to start JK, she and her Mom (Andrea) visited the school the week before school started. Pippa's new teacher, Miss Shoemaker, was in the classroom making it beautiful for when the students arrived. There was a lady helping her. Pippa and Andrea later learned that Miss Shoemaker was a brand new teacher, and her helper was her Mom: so there was a Mom/daughter excited about the start of a teaching career and another Mom/daughter excited about starting school.

Pippa had a fabulous JK year with Miss Shoemaker, and was ecstatic when Miss Shoemaker moved up to grade 1 and Pippa was in her class for another year.

Pippa went by the name "Pippi" in those days since she was named Philippa in memory of Andrea's brother, Philip, who had passed away before Pippa was born. "Pippi" was delighted when Hallowe'en came along in grade 1 and Miss Shoemaker arrived in a Pippi Longstocking costume, complete with red pig tails sticking straight out. When Pippa told her Mom, Andrea was also thrilled because she had

loved the Pippi Longstocking series when she was a kid and had read every book in the set.

Roll forward to 2022: Diane Imber knew Marilyn Shoemaker from Probus Club and knew that she was very lonely after the sudden death of her husband. Diane invited Marilyn to Humber Valley Church. Marilyn's daughter, Rebecca, aka "Miss Shoemaker" saw Pippa's name in something from the church and asked Marilyn

to see if it was the same Pippa who had been in her class almost two decades back. It was, and thanks to Marilyn, Pippa was able to say hello over FaceTime. Rebecca is still teaching at Humber Valley Village School but now uses her married name.

As an added fun note: Earlier in the year, a string of conversations led Pippa and Sarah Dickson, from our musical team, to find another fun connection. Sarah's Dad was also a teacher at Humber Valley Village School. He saw Pippa's name on some sort of church item and asked Sarah whether it could be the same Pippa who was in his grade 5 class many years back. Sarah remembers that she had helped her Dad with his marking a few times and had seen the name. The next time Pippa and Sarah chatted, they confirmed the connection. Pippa has fond memories of grade 5 with Mr Dickson too. What a small world!



Pippa's grade 1 Hallowe'en: Miss Shoemaker is Pippi Longstocking and Pippa is a Hallowe'en witch.

Nancy Roper



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From the Desk of the Chair of the Board



We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
Romans 12: 6-8

each ponder our own North Star and our community's North Star, may one of our individual and collective action points rest upon volunteerism.

For as it says in *Hebrews 13:16* - *Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.*

Deb Turnbull



We may not appreciate the mess geese make of our circular driveway at Humber Valley Church, but you have to admit this goose looks spectacular — standing on one leg with the plants in the garden looking for all the world like a plumed tail!
Photo courtesy of Bill Cahoon.

We all have different gifts and one of the greatest gifts of all, is the gift of giving your time. Churches and all community organizations are made up of volunteers working in concert with paid staff – or no paid staff in organizations like Sleeping Children Around the World.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers, in any capacity, in our church, in our local communities and in organizations that serve the vulnerable in any part of the world. As we

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