



AUGUST 2023

“Dipping my Toe into a Deeper Pool of Ministry”

This summer has been a season of learning and growth for me! From getting my driver’s license, to beginning to preach occasionally under the guidance of Trevor and Kate, so much change is afoot! I am so humbled by the support and encouragement I’ve been receiving from the congregation. Thank you for your grace as I begin to find my footing. Though I am new at this, and still have much to learn, I have so enjoyed dipping my toe into a deeper pool of ministry and hope to continue pursuing every opportunity to build on what I have learned so far.

My position with HVUC has evolved over the years and I believe this shift is a prompting from the Holy Spirit. While this step into teaching from the pulpit is exciting and enjoyable, my commitment to Youth and Young Adults is still steadfast. I am excited by the number of new young adults that are beginning to think of Humber Valley as their home and I have a full schedule of activities to roll out in the fall. Our youth group, small but mighty, will join in with some of the Young Adult events, and will continue meeting once a week with a curriculum that follows Trevor’s sermons as we explore them in more depth and determine the practical applications for our own lives.

As I sit here and reflect on what the Spirit of Love has been teaching me lately, I feel it may be helpful for more than just me! I’m feeling compelled to let go of control and just lean into what God is already doing. The spirit has plans and dreams that are far bigger than can fit on my radar and, if I am open to hear, far more than I hope for will grow from it. I believe this to be true, not only for me personally, but for my beloved church community as well! I am learning to let go of my plan and make room for God to surprise me. This can be difficult if, like mine, many of the surprises in life have been unpleasant. The painful things had me asking: “God, are you even up there?” It’s at these times that I know “Be still and know that I am God” was written for me. It’s okay if things don’t go to plan. It’s okay if life throws a curveball or two. God sees every possible outcome and I don’t weather the storms alone. All of us are on this journey together and each of you brings something fundamental to the culture and family of Humber Valley United Church. I hope you know how very valued and loved you are!

I appreciate your prayers friends, as I balance these new responsibilities with a search for a second job and the ever changing pace of a young family. I so look forward to the year ahead and all the surprises and changes that God will guide us through.

Licia Meldrum (She/Her)

Director of Youth and Young Adults

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SPECIAL POINTS of INTEREST

Rev. Trevor will preach a four part series on "Our North Star":
1) Like Jesus, 2) Justice,
3) Compassion, 4) Belonging.

Valley Voices resumes Sept.13.

BBQ and Carnival, Sept. 17.

Watch Saint Judy, and support homeless refugees, Sept. 28.

Ladies Night Out, Oct. 25.

New Words for Old Songs: From the Editor's Desk

A headline in today's Sunday edition of the New York Times caught my eye: "A Newsy Spin on Popular Songs and Poems." Satirical and "politically incorrect" they help make light of the trying times our neighbours to the south are finding themselves in. Examples:

DeSantis Claus is Runnin' this Town

Oh! You better watch out!
You better not pry
Hang on to your hats!
I'm tellin' you why
DeSantis Claus is runnin' this town.

He's made up a list, You're on it, it's true
He's gonna find out who's red and who's blue
DeSantis Claus is runnin' this town.

ChatGPT

I think that I shall never see a wonder like ChatGPT.
Type "write a sonnet", out it churns
A work on par with Robert Burns.
Type "write an ode", and in two shakes
Results to rival William Blakes.

...

Poems were made by fools like me,
But now we use ChatGPT.

Our own Joan Belford has entertained us several times with new words all about Humber Valley written to familiar tunes.

A positive and non-satirical approach has been used for a number of years by the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette whom we met at Chautauqua. While waiting to have our church basement dinner, Catherine Ireland struck up a conversation with Rev. Gillette's husband, also waiting. He invited her to come to a hymn sing that evening. "Why not?" and four of us went along with Catherine to the chapel at Presbyterian House. There were only two people when we arrived, but the room soon filled with more singers.

The hymns in the song sheets we were given were all unfamiliar and we worried about singing them until we noticed they were almost all new words written to old tunes — tunes that we knew. After the service we chatted with Carolyn who told us that the original lyrics for many of the familiar hymns are just not very meaningful or understandable for young people. So, early in her ministry she started writing new words for old hymns. She now has

quite a following and has published a number of books of revised hymns. Examples:

She Came to Jesus

(Be Thou My Vision) (teaching a story)

She came to Jesus from outside the fold—
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.

God of All Learning

(Morning Has Broken) (A hymn for the blessing of the backpacks)

God of all learning, God of all knowing,
We bring these backpacks filled with supplies.
Bless all these tools of learning and growing.
Use them, we pray, to change many lives.

Bless all the students, young ones and old ones —
Walking or riding, traveling by bus.
May they remember that you go with them,
And that they all are precious to us.

We were charmed.

Our summer series of *Lectionary and Lemonade* services has been well attended both in person and online. We've enjoyed the music and been challenged and inspired by the messages delivered by Trevor, Kate and Licia. We have also continued, very successfully, to have lay people lead the Prayers of the People.

I hope you enjoy the *Coincidences* stories Nancy Roper is writing for us. There are so many wonderful coincidences in our lives, and, of course, they happen because we have been building so many *Connections*. If you have one to share, contact nancy.roper@sympatico.ca.

The CNE has opened, the days are shorter, gardens are at their climax, the light is less intense, and the air seems to have a nip in it. Summer is drawing to a close. And now we look forward to the busy fall ahead. You can read all about the summer of 2023 and what's coming up in the fall in this edition of *Connections*.

We love to hear from you. Please send your comments and suggestions to [Susanne](#) or [Colleen](#).

Susanne Hynes



From the Desk of the Chair of the Board

"Where has the summer gone?" It seems to have passed by so quickly. I hope each of you has had a wonderful summer, while at the same time holding in our hearts all who are suffering from natural disasters and all those who are helping them through these trials.

At HVUC, we have tried in our own way to help those who are in need this summer. We have been providing food and clothing to homeless refugees sheltering in local Etobicoke churches. I am sure this ministry will continue well into the future as well as our other outreach ministries to Youth Without Shelter, Out of the Cold, Mabelle Arts, local food banks, and other community outreach programs.

Thank you to our summer students, Alexandra, Ethan, Augustus, and Shanecia for all your efforts on behalf of the church this summer. Best wishes in your future pursuits. We would love to have you back next summer.

Thank you to Ruth Johnson and Ron Crago for your service to the Board for so many years. We look forward to having you continue to support the church in other ways. Welcome to Sara McCallum and Wilma Crago who joined the Board as of July 1st. We look forward to your guidance and contributions as we move forward with our launching of our North Star.

Thank you to Brian Goodman for his years of service as our Clerk of Session and Chair of our Elders. Welcome to Brian Thomson who took on this position. We look forward to supporting you as you help lead us forward.

The Fall will be a busy one. Please invite all your family, friends, and neighbours to our Welcome BBQ on Sunday, September 17th beginning right after church – dunk tank, games, and BBQ – what a way to launch the fall.

If you love to sing – or even just like to sing – come and join Valley Voices. I think the first practice will be on Wednesday, September 13th, but watch the notices in KIT to confirm.

Congrats to Kate and Kevin who became engaged during the summer. What fun we are going to have celebrating their love with them.

And our deepest sympathies to the Findlay, Wilkes, and Stuart families at the passing of their loved ones and beloved members of our church family. We are there to support you in any way we can.

As we enter into the Fall season, please keep in mind Psalm 126: 5-6:

Know that though your soul may feel parched and barren, you can enter into this harvest season with the promise of showers of blessings and armloads of joy.

Deb Turnbull



Afternoon Vespers—Remembrance Day

Plans are underway for an Afternoon Vesper Service in November to observe Remembrance Day.

Watch *Keeping in Touch* for details.

The November service will be in the afternoon of either the fifth or the twelfth and will follow the same format as the popular spring and summer services. There will be stories, prayers, and lots of opportunities to sing familiar hymns.

If you have requests please contact susanne@hyneslegal.ca.

The earlier services are still available to be viewed. Click on the links to view. [March service](#). [May service](#).



Kate and Kevin are Engaged

On July 9, 2023, Kate based her sermon on *Song of Solomon* also known as *Song of Songs*. When Kate asked the congregation what they already knew about that book of the Bible, it was described as “spicy” and “kind of erotic: who spiked my Bible?”.

Kate explained that this book of the Bible is the only book that has no mention of God. Instead, it is a passionate story of two lovers - one who lies awake in bed restless, longing for the other, and eventually goes out to search the city for them. It is interpreted as being a metaphor for how God loves us. The verse from the lectionary that Sunday was chapter 3 verse 4:

“I have found the one my soul loves”.

Kate noted that the lectionary has often mapped to what was happening in her own life, and it turned out the same had been true that week:

She told us about officiating her first same-sex wedding the night before and using the *Song of Songs* passage for the blessing to offer a theme of love rather than a religious theme.

She told us about a friend who has been struggling and how she used the *Song of Songs* ideas, as she promised him that God loved him no matter what. She sent him a link to a song called “Rescue” that she thought he would find meaningful – and she played the song for us on the piano at the service as she sang.

Then Kate told us that she had been struggling to think of a closing for the sermon. When she got home from the wedding, the condo was lovely and clean and there were lit candles and fresh flowers. She thought *how nice* as she started to ponder the closing, but then noticed that Kevin was looking very thoughtful. So she asked him what was on his mind.



[View the service online.](#)

Kevin said “I really want to get married to you, but wanted to make sure I got the right ring. So I wondered how it would be if I just went out and got a ring and if it wasn’t the right one, then you could change it, but at least then I would be engaged to you?”.

Kate replied “what a lovely idea” ... and then Kevin pulled out a ring box.

Cheers of jubilation erupted in the church as Kate shared the news. The cameras cut over to Kevin who was beaming from ear to ear in the AV Booth. People could barely wait for the service to end before rushing to congratulate this beautiful couple.

Humber Valley was honoured to know that the only people who heard the engagement news before us, were their parents. Kate and Kevin truly DO consider us their family! And Kate noted that we have been with them since the very beginning of their relationship.

And as an added fun note: A week or so after Kate posted the engagement news on Facebook, they received a package from Tayla, their friend from the Boston Marathon. It was a decorative copy of the Song of Songs passage: “I have found the one whom my soul loves”

Congratulations Kate and Kevin – we couldn’t be more thrilled for you!



Getting to Know Kate and Kevin and their Families

Kevin Curnock

Kevin was born in St Catharines, the youngest of 3 boys. His Mom is named Dawn.

Kevin says he was lucky to have two Dads who loved him. He would spend alternate weekends with his birth dad, Garry, who introduced him to long distance running. The two of them trained together and traveled to out-of-town competitions.

The Browns and the Curnocks



Kevin's step Dad, Bill, came into his life when he was 5 years old. The two of them loved to go camping, initially in tents and gradually moving up to trailers and cabins. They also watched sports together, particularly baseball. Sadly, both of Kevin's Dads have died.

Kevin's oldest brother, Craig, has two sons and a grandson. Kevin's next brother, Glen also has two sons. Kevin also has a step sister, Margo, Bill's daughter.

Kevin attended Governor Simcoe Secondary School in St Catharines, and then completed a co-op degree in Economics and Finance at Wilfred Laurier University. His degree included a 6-month school term in Mexico City and co-op terms at Public Works and at Canadian Tire.

Since graduation, Kevin has worked in the newspaper industry, with career jobs at the *Toronto Sun* and the *Toronto Star*. Along the way, he has completed three additional degrees: a post-grad International Business Diploma, a CMA and an MBA. He also lived in Japan for 2 1/2 years where he taught English.

Kevin is currently the general manager of a firm called Delivery Ink. A joint venture of the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail* it makes home delivery more affordable by using the same delivery staff to deliver all the newspapers on each street. They also take on 3rd party product deliveries.

Kevin's main hobby is running. He trains five evenings a week with his running group and then competes in various marathons, including two entries in the Boston Marathon so far. He also enjoys reading everything from newspapers to poetry to novels to non-fiction.

In April 2022, Kate and Kevin both happened to create profiles on dating apps. To their delight, they met very quickly thereafter and felt an instant connection. Kevin started coming to church, and is now a much-appreciated member of the AV team, for both Sunday services and choir. Kevin made a major contribution to the *Seasons of Love* concert this past spring as Technical Director – he was Kate's right-hand man ensuring everything ran smoothly.

Kevin has a smokey-gray cat named Pogo and received Wally, our church dog, from Kate for Christmas in 2022. Both Kate and Kevin had lost their long-time family dogs in the fall of 2022 so Wally filled a big gap in their lives.

In our next edition, we'll feature Kevin's Mom, Dawn. Welcome to the Humber Valley family, Kevin.

Kate's Family – Foster, Martha, Kate, David, and Jayne

Kate's Dad, Foster Brown, is a familiar face around HVUC. If he looks a little disheveled or slips in a little late, it's because he comes directly from his Sunday morning 50+ hockey game!



Foster is also a member of the choir, after Kate tricked her Dad and Kevin into attending by telling them that "the church needed help from some men at 7 pm on Wednesday". The gents assumed they were coming to move some heavy furniture – they didn't realize Kate needed male voices for the choir! Foster said he'd only join the choir if there was wine, so Kate told him to bring it along and the choir has been smiling ever since.

Foster was born in Montreal, but moved to the Village of Ancaster when he was two or three years old. His Dad had fought in WWII and landed a job in the growing textile industry after the war. Foster has an older sister who still lives in Quebec and a younger brother who lives in a small town near Peterborough.

Foster went to the Ancaster High School and then attained his degree in Economics at University of Western Ontario. Foster joined the UWO marching band as a tenor drummer and became good friends with his future wife, Martha, who was in the colour guard (flags). The UWO football team was strong so the marching band got some excel-



Kate and her Family

lent trips to various other universities. The team won the College Bowl that was held in Halifax.

Foster and Martha fell in love and were married after university.

Foster's career started in public accounting, and moved to human resources, management, and labour relations. He worked for firms like Babcock and Wilcox, Whitman Goldman books, CCM, Boots Drugstores (now Pharma Plus), Coca Cola and the Beer Store. In October he will retire after 12 years as Chief of Human Resources and Labour Relations Officer at Ornge Air Ambulance.

Both Kate, and her younger brother David, were born while the family was living in Cambridge. They later moved to Lorne Park. Foster now lives in Port Credit.

Martha earned a degree in psychology and was a psychological social worker at a family health clinic at the Cambridge hospital. Later, she became a counsellor in the Burlington school system. Martha did her Masters of Social Work when Kate was a baby and received it just before David arrived. She became a full time homemaker when her children were five and eight and stayed home till they were teenagers. Martha loved tennis, hikes, walking the dogs, and visiting Tim Hortons. She loved conversation and she was a great neighbour. She loved the magnolia tree the family planted in their back yard for her last birthday/Mother's day.

The children were very active keeping both parents busy coaching teams and shuttling to practices and games. David did hockey, baseball, football, soccer and lacrosse. Kate was great at soccer and also did a bit of baseball, but her passion was piano, singing and dance – she earned her accreditations in each. Kate performed at the Clarkson Musical Theatre and Opera Mississauga as a child and teen. At school, she was on the cheerleading team and did musical theatre. She also joined the rowing team, since it was considered "hard core" with 5 am practices on Lake Ontario as early as March each year. Kate recalls fun family vacations, visiting a rented cottage every summer and attending Ontario Pioneer Camp in Huntsville as a camper and Camp Mini-Yo-We in Port Sydney for her LIT year and beyond.

The family attended an Anglican church initially, but Fol-

lowing a change of minister, many of the members, including the Browns, moved to the Meeting House, to regain the depth in their weekly worship and the strong relationships among the church members. At their new church, Foster and Martha led a "Home Church" discussion group for adults and hosted a similar group for teens that was led by a church leader – these were similar to Lobby Talk, but they were held in people's homes. The church members did activities together (like hockey) and went on trips. Over time, many of the members, including the Browns, moved to the Meeting House, looking for more depth in their weekly worship.

Sadly, Martha was diagnosed with breast cancer when the children were five and eight years old. The outlook was grim, but miraculously, Martha recovered and lived another 18 years, which let her see her children reach adulthood, although her life was still taken far too soon

The family had been saving to buy a cottage and as they struggled with Martha's loss, they decided it might be time to buy. To their delight, they found two properties side by side on an island on Lake Muskoka. Their cottages have become their haven, especially during the pandemic.

Foster's prized possession is a 1956 Peterborough Cedar Strip boat that he inherited from his Dad. He maintains it with care and drives it with pride.



David had just graduated with an Honours Business Degree from WLU and rushed home to be with his Mother during her final days. Thereafter, he embarked on his career, working at Telus, MyThum, Blackberry and Google / YouTube Canada. He moved to California to join a startup with some of his ex-Google friends and then accepted an appointment as CEO of a print production company there.

Early in his new role, David was diagnosed with two brain tumours. With the support of his family, his future bride, Rosie, and his amazing doctors, combined with his own courageous determination, David is five years post op and celebrates living each day.

Kate and her Family

David poured some of that energy back into the community and launched the inaugural LA Chapter of the Terry Fox Run in Santa Monica where he lives. The event celebrated its 5th anniversary in October 2022. Terry Fox's brother, Fred, was in attendance as a special guest, in addition to the entire Brown family who flew down to volunteer.



David married the love of his life, Rosie, in November 2019. Rosie is a seasoned and accomplished business ex-



ecutive who is an incredible cook and delights in preparing wonderful meals for the people she loves. She also likes to sing. Rosie is a top-notch Mom to Rowan and Ryder who are mid-way through their university degrees in the USA. They affectionally call David "Step Rad" or "Rad" for short.

When you see Foster at church, he may be accompanied by his friend Jayne Hamel. Foster tells a fun story of how they became partners. Foster was sitting on his dock at the cottage. Suddenly his phone starting binging with an onslaught of new messages. When he checked, the messages were all from ladies on a dating site. He called his son immediately! Unbeknownst to Foster, David had created a profile for his Dad and selected a number of women of interest. Unbeknownst to David and to Foster's horror,



one of the women was the ex of one of Foster's best friends! One of the other texts was from Jayne – they had known one another in Ancaster because Foster babysat Jayne's younger siblings when he was 16. They got together for coffee and the rest is history. Jayne lives in Oakville and she is a retired nurse. She had 3 sons, but one passed away in a tragic boating accident. Jayne has 4 grandchildren, 3 boys and a girl, who are babies and toddlers at present. Jayne loves to take care of her grandkids and is also very creative, doing craftwork with beads and gemstones.

We welcome the entire Brown, Hamel, Curnock, Hall family to our circle of friends at Humber Valley.

Nancy Roper

Want to become a member at HVUC?

Kate Brown would be delighted to discuss this with you!

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

Honorary Elders

This is the second in a Series of two articles about our Honorary Elders, who were celebrated at the church service on Sunday, June 25. This month, we feature Sally Jo Martin and Dennis Schettler (posthumously).

Sally Jo Martin

I remember the time that Sally Jo and I talked about her becoming an honorary elder. She, in her humble way, confessed that she didn't know if she was really worthy of this title. I didn't want to argue with her, and thus went about researching the meaning of the word *elder*.

I used two resources for this task — the Bible and Google. In the New Testament, Peter, when he speaks to the Ephesians in Peter, Book 5, tells the elders to “shepherd the flock of God that is among you ... exercising oversight not under compulsion, but willingly — not for shameful gain, but eagerly — being examples to the flock.”

Sally Jo has displayed this eagerness to serve in countless ways:

- ... when our garden needs tending she is there;
- ... when Camp Scugog needs leadership and hard work she is there; and
- ... when our church needs financial support, she is there.

She has been there many, many times, working in the kitchen, leading fundraising campaigns and supporting refugee families.

Sally Jo is one that Peter refers to as being among those who are willing and able to lead. Peter goes on to say to the Ephesians “do not pursue dishonest gain, but be eager to serve.” Service to our church ... to our Lord ... and to people is the hallmark of Sally Jo's commitment.

Now Google says right away that an elder is not an old person. I certainly agree with that. And elder in the indigenous community and in our Christian community shares “the strength, grace, wisdom, and love needed to lead others to a God-filled life.”

Leadership has always been a quality that Sally Jo exhibits in a thoughtful and quiet way. Her work as a teacher and guidance counsellor gave her the skills and tools to work with others and see all sides of a debate.

Sally Jo does countless acts of kindness for friends and church family members. If you are recovering from some medical procedure she is there with muffins or a plant or a

prayer. If you need a ride to appointments she is always available. If we need a church speaker about one of her favorite activities, working with Sleeping Children around the World... she is there with photos and real life stories.

Today Sally Jo is joining the company of our new Honorary Elders and the many others who have been our leaders in the past. They have served the Lord and his people in such meaningful ways. The hymn “How Firm a Foundation” reminds us of the firm foundation upon which Humber Valley United Church was built. It was thanks to the commitment of many who have listened to the Lord and demonstrated their faith in service to him.

I'm also reminded of the lyrics of a hymn “we have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and deep while the billows roll.” Our church has had many challenges and the billows certainly have rolled at times. Yet we continued to keep our faith grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love. With God's grace and the wisdom and leadership of our elders we cannot fail.

I want to thank Trevor for giving us this opportunity to pray for our new Honorary Elders, and remember those who helped build our firm foundation.

It is now a great honor for me to humbly present this honorary elder distinction to Sally Jo Martin.

Wendy Oliver



Sally Jo Martin, second from left, at the Honorary Elder Breakfast with three of her friends.



Honorary Elders

Dennis Schettler

My friend - Dennis Schettler was born in Winnipeg in 1941 and died this year. He attended a local school where he was a good student and a better athlete and where he started wearing his signature crew cut hairstyle. He attended a local church that had been founded and developed by his extended family.

At university Dennis majored in the accounting and actuarial disciplines, graduating in 1963. His work-life included long stretches at Excelsior life and at Mercer, and after retiring, he was a consultant until he was 75.

On July 3rd, 1955, he settled down and married the lovely Joan Scott. In the early 70s the couple moved to Eto-bicoke, and raised three really fine children, namely Jason, Joel and Jacquie who are in attendance today. That's also when Dennis and Joan discovered and joined HVUC.

All through those years, Dennis was known as a 'people person.' Always friendly he was invariably witty and had 100s of positive one-liners. Because he was always helping or driving people, he was often described as having a heart of gold. This was truly exemplified throughout the over 50 years that Dennis and Joan were mainstays here at HVUC. They were very active mentors of the HVUC bride and groom school; they helped with church youth groups, and took them on overnight camping trips. Dennis served on the Official Board for ten years and was chairman for 2. Dennis was an Elder for almost 40 years. He was on the Humber Valley Foundation for 22 years and he was chairman for the last 18 years. He was an steadfast member of the Ushers, Team 4.

At his Funeral/Celebration of Life, he specifically requested a Scottish bag piper, and for Valley Voices to sing.

While always happy and helpful, Dennis was probably happiest at his lakeside cottage, where he enjoyed hosting BBQs, entertaining friends, trading jokes and tall tales. But most of all Dennis loved to fish -- although, in truth, fishing really meant sitting in his tin boat with a hat, a scotch whiskey, a cigar, and a friend discussing politics, business, the weather, world affairs, sports, and HVUC. If a fish bit it was almost an interruption. One time, he and Bob Watt were fishing when a big trout hit his bait, - and caused Dennis to drop his lit cigar into a box of papers in the bottom of the boat. Bob was laughing too much to be of

any help but Dennis -- true to form -- retrieved his cigar from the smoking papers, and still landed his trout.

Now I have attended HVUC for 49 years, -- and can think of no one more deserving of the title Honourary Elder than Dennis Schettler, thank you.

Murray Smith



Rob Kitchen, standing in for his father, David, who was ill, Kathy Kitchen, Sally Jo Martin, and Joan Schettler who received the award for her late husband, Dennis.

Chautauqua Highs

A group of seventeen people (mostly from HVUC) attended week 8, August 13 to 19, at the Chautauqua Institution grounds in upstate New York. The four of us who attended last year came away enthused and inspired. We spread the word, Anne Pietropaolo did the organizing with Bev Conners' help, and off we drove to an amazing week in 2023.

"What is Chautauqua?" you may ask. I tell people it is cultural summer camp for senior people. But it is much more. It happens in a gated community that feels like a small town in 1910. People walk on the streets because there are very few cars allowed (pretty much deliveries only). Doors are not locked. Houses have verandas that are occupied for breakfast, happy hour, people watching and just sitting back. There are church services, lectures, concerts, ballet, classes, art galleries, crafts for sale, restaurants, swimming, sailing, meditation. You can do as much or as little as you like. To learn more visit the [Chautauqua web site](#).

We all stayed in a house and in rooms at a small hotel next door. Most of us walked more than 8000 steps each day. We shared making meals and cleaning up. We went off to events in large and small groups or alone. At happy hour on the veranda we shared what we had experienced. We BONDED. We LEARNED.

August 13, 2023 was the one year anniversary of the stabbing of Salman Rushdie on the stage of the Chautauqua Amphitheater. It was a huge shock to the community of peaceful and peace loving people who are committed to sharing ideas and promoting understanding. So, this year the Institution presented an amazing program on the theme: "The Resilience of Democracy and Freedom of Expression." Well known speakers gave lectures and offered their thoughts on this vital topic in the current atmosphere of distrust in the USA.

Talk to any of us and we'll share our stories and insights. We are looking at attending next year for either or both of Weeks 6 (Music) and Week 9 (Creativity). The price is right and it is an opportunity not to be missed.



Susanne Hynes

For Anne Pietropaolo, Beverley Conner, Sally Jo Martin, Judy Smith, Murray Smith, Lynn Manning, Janine Murray, Catherine Ireland, Elaine Dulmage, Roy Dulmage, Joan Belford, Ursula Kostiw, Gail Cook-Bennett, Ann Cremisio, Constance Crosby, and Marnie Bradshaw



Chautauqua Highs

From the moment we drove through the gates onto the Chautauqua property, my eyes were open as wide as they could be as I took in the immaculate gardens and colourful, gingerbread-adorned houses along the winding, hilly, forested campus. Little did I know how much my thinking and actions would also expand.

The Reverend William H. Lamar IV is pastor of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church right across the street from the White House in Washington DC. As chaplain for Week 8, Rev. Lamar preached daily in the huge amphitheater. His sermons were based on The Book of Revelation and they were better than a cold shower to wake and shake us up each morning. The 6 sermon titles were "An Open Door", "Take up your Scroll", "We've got Some Difficult Days Ahead", "Universalism?", "The Fall" and "The New Jerusalem".

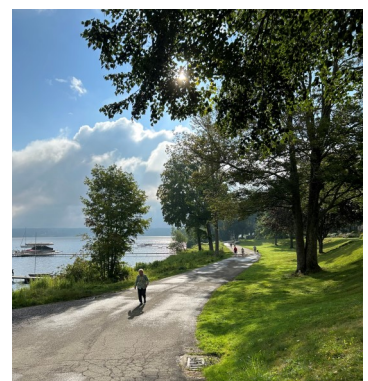
Powerful is the word I would choose to describe both his presentation and message. Hopefully, we will be able to share some of Rev. Lamar's words with our friends at Humber Valley. I was fortunate enough to meet Rev. Lamar twice and felt that he saw right into my soul and hugged my heart. This was a special gift for me to bring back to Etobicoke.

A chance encounter on Sunday afternoon led to a weeklong experience that left me with determination to renew my interest in playing the guitar. I happened to meet a recently retired high school music teacher from New Jersey who was offering daily guitar lessons. She reassured me that even with a gimpy hand I could participate in the group class. We started with the folk rock classic from the 1970s – "A Horse with No Name" and although it certainly wasn't my usual genre or style, I knew that this was going to be another amazing Chautauqua experience.

Attending Chautauqua for the first time has opened my mind to a different world. I look forward to many future explorations.

Thank you to Anne, Beverley, and Lynn for their supportive leadership; and to my fellow attendees - we will find ways to "Keep the Chautauqua Feeling" alive and growing.

Catherine Ireland



Where Were You on 9/11?

Editor's Note: Joan Belford and I belong to a 55+ sponsored Memoir Class that meets on Zoom every Monday at 12:45. Donna McCorquodale is our leader. This class is a legacy of COVID; we have been writing and sharing our words with each other since early days of the pandemic. It has been a real gift for all of us. One of the stories I wrote, *Bottled Sunshine*, has just been published as a [First Person column](#) in the Globe and Mail. After a summer off we will resume on Monday, September 11, 2023 with the topic *Where were You on 9/11?* Two of our stories are below.

My geographic location on September 11, 2001, profoundly affected my perception of that event, and in fact has affected my perception of life in general.

On 9/11, we were in Greece. Eight of us had been sailing in the Greek Islands in a chartered 46-foot *Oceanis* for ten days. We were enjoying a couple of days on the island of Mykonos before completing our planned two-week sojourn. We were three Canadian couples, plus the skipper's English sister-in-law, whom we knew, and her partner Peter, who became a new friend. As Peter's name was the same as my husband, he became known as "English Peter".

We were docked at a marina just outside the city, and had taken a bus into town. Three of the couples had gone off that morning to find Shirley Valentine beach. "My Peter" and I, not being sunworshippers, were on our own. On the bus, we had struck up a conversation with an American couple, who were just behind us as we were walking towards the main square – the Agora. A Greek boy came running up to us, asking if we were American. We said we were not, but pointed him toward our new acquaintances. Watching his excited interchange with them, we knew that something major had happened, but did not know what.

We did immediately notice that the Agora was deserted, absent the usual clusters of people drinking coffee in the sunshine. We soon discovered those citizens packed into the bars and restaurants, staring at the televisions. Watching over their shoulders, we could not understand enough Greek to comprehend what we were seeing. Finally, we found a yogurt stand where a young Greek man was translating the newscast for his English-speaking girlfriend. Slowly, the enormity of the event began to hit us.

The next thing we noticed was the tenders speeding back and forth from the two huge American cruise ships in the port. We learned later that the ships had immediately brought as many of their passengers as possible back on board. The ships had set up command centres, where they had deployed all their staff and every communication device on board, to help passengers try to reach their loved ones in the US.

We, of course, rushed to find our friends. With all the confusion in the streets, that took some time. "English Peter" had a daughter who worked in the Pentagon. It was three days before he was able to contact her - three very anxious days, during which none of us knew what to do with ourselves. Sightseeing seemed frivolous, but, apart from trying to reach his family, what else could we do to keep ourselves sane? And we still had to get the boat back to Athens on schedule, so we had to proceed with our trip.

Thus it was that we found ourselves, on the 12th of September, on a pre-booked tour of the Island of Delos. Delos is an uninhabited island full of precious and rare antiquities; the place where, according to legend, Leto gave birth to Apollo and Artemis. Though I have stunning photos of Delos, what I remember most is the shell-shocked faces of the American tourists on the ferry. They were caught in a netherworld, unable to get home, and unable to be truly present in Greece either.

On Sept. 13, "English Peter" was finally able to reach his daughter, who was safe. Reassured, we carried on to the island of Kea, and then across the remaining stretch of the Aegean Sea to Lavrio, at the very southernmost tip of Greece, where we surrendered our boat. From there, "English Peter" and Diane went off in a cab to get their return flight to England, while a couple of reluctant taxis

Where Were You on 9/11?

took the remaining six of us to nearby Sounio, to the Hotel Aegaeon.

Peter and I were fortunate, as we had booked a few more days in Athens before returning to Canada. Though we had to be at the airport 6 hours early, and had to battle throngs of people trying to usurp our seats, our Sept. 18 flight was the first scheduled flight from Athens that was allowed to land in Canada. Our friends, who had originally been set to leave 3 days prior to us, spent another ten days and a few hundred phone calls before they were finally able to come home.

I said at the beginning that being in Greece changed my view of 9/11. That is because we observed, in Greece, 9/11 was not perceived the way it was in North America. There was a sincere compassion for those killed and injured in the attacks, but there was also a sense that "It's about time somebody gave the USA a punch in the nose." We heard repeatedly that the Greek people thought the US had been interfering in their political and economic life for a long time, and that America probably deserved what it got.

This reaction shocked us, but it certainly opened our eyes. Perhaps we are more skeptical than we were before 9/11; perhaps we are simply more realistic. Whichever way you look at it, we are forever changed.

Joan Belford, August 22, 2023

Something Terrible has Happened in New York

It was a beautiful September morning. That clear blue sky and everything green and blooming in the gardens. Our daughter, Eden, was back at school for her final year, attending the Harbour Front C School. I was still working at Legislative Research at Queen's Park so we drove to town together. Easy conversation as we enjoyed the route along Bloor Street, over the Humber River Bridge, down the South Kingsway, and east on the Gardener Expressway. My car knew the way almost as well as I did and the traffic was typical.

Exiting at Spadina, I dropped Eden off at school at 8:30 and made it to my desk at Queen's Park by 8:45. Just did the usual opening routine. And then my phone rang.

Eden: "Mom, go turn on the TV. Something terrible has happened in New York!"

The TV in the staff room showed the first tower billowing smoke with an aircraft stuck in it 2/3 of the way up. Running back to my desk, I sent an email to all staff and returned to the TV. As people came in to work we all gathered in front of the screen and watched, amazed and terrified, as the second airplane hit and the two towers each collapsed. No work was done. We were speechless. An airplane crashed into the Pentagon and another into a field in Pennsylvania. Dear Lord! I still see the [image](#) of President Bush in a primary school classroom, looking up as someone whispered the news in his ear.

At about eleven, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly sent us all home. There was concern that there might be further attacks and Toronto and Ottawa would be prime Canadian targets. We were advised to take the subway: don't be above ground in downtown Toronto especially near the Legislative Building.

I called Eden's cell phone and told her to get home as best she could because I couldn't use my car.

At work we all said good-bye to each other and proceeded to the tunnel under the government buildings to the Queen's Park subway stop.

I remember the subway car was about two thirds full and I got a seat. People were not looking at each other or talking, heads were down. But I spoke to the woman next to me. She was working at the Canada Life Building and they were also all told to get home underground if possible. Downtown Toronto was being emptied. I didn't feel fear, just a sort of suspended apprehension.

I must have taken the Anglesey bus home from Royal York Station. Eden got home very soon after I did. We were glued to the TV, switching between the major US networks. Finally, we decided to tear ourselves away and make some cookies.

I don't remember when Dave got home or what we had for dinner. I just remember those images of the towers collapsing, people trying to outrun the billowing smoke,

Where Were You on 9/11?

and the images of the firemen in the building.

The attack by the four hijacked aircraft sent a massive shockwave through the United States and around the world. The consequences played out in the airline industry, the US military and government, world alliances, Iraq, and, of course, among the families and friends of the 2,996 people (including the hijackers) who died as a direct result. It was a cold war on terror.

It took more than a decade to clear the wreckage and complete the stunning memorial at the site of the World Trade Centre in New York. Dave, my sister, and I visited it in April 2017. In February I had managed to get three tickets (online) to *Come From Away* playing on Broadway at the Schoenfeld Theater as soon as they were being sold – before the previews had even begun. *Come From Away* is about the people of Gander, Newfoundland who went far above and beyond in caring for the passengers who were stranded there for days because the airways over North America had all been shut down. Our tickets were in the third row and we saw the production just about three weeks after it opened.

Sitting next to us were two women from Seattle who had

travelled to New York specifically to see the play. We, and the whole audience, were blown away. It was all still fresh enough and there were obviously family and friends of 9/11 victims in the audience. You could hear the sobs. And at the end of the show everyone leapt to their feet in a spontaneous standing ovation.

The visit to the Memorial was also very emotional but much more subdued. People lined up for hours to get in. The very tasteful displays included pictures of all the victims. And deep down we were able to see and touch what little remained of the foundations.

The shock of 9/11 unified the people of the United States.

Twenty-two years later so much about our perceptions of the United States has changed. The 9/11 attack was a huge challenge for that country. But today, the attacks on the fundamental institutions of their system of justice and government and the inability of the two sides to talk to and hear each other provide a much greater and more existential threat to the United States of America. That country needs our prayers.

Susanne Hynes,



Jam Jar Mystery

Carol Bruce, who many of us know from the various church and 55+ Zoom programs, enjoys a number of foods that come in lovely jars. Carol kindly saves the jars for Lynn Manning and Nancy Roper to use in their various cooking endeavours. The jars have been used for things like:



Lynn and Nancy at the Bring & Buy sale in 2022 with bread and jam for sale

- Bread and Jam for the “Bring and Buy” fundraiser in 2022;
- Bread and Jam for end of year gifts for the Choir Volunteers in 2023;
- Tiny spice jar vases for Lily of the Valley for friends in need of a smile;
- Large applesauce vases for Peonies for friends in need of a smile;
- Various meals taken to congregation members in need.

Bruce Boyd, Carol’s cousin, kindly picks up the jars from Carol and delivers them to Lynn and Nancy, usually via the church. Nancy and Lynn soak the labels off the jars and get them ready for use.

Carol had a set of jars ready at the start of the summer. Bruce was a sweetheart and delivered them directly to Nancy’s house, or so he thought! Thankfully, he emailed to say “I dropped off the jam jars to your porch on the way to my baseball tournament today”. The only problem was that there were no jam jars on Nancy’s porch!

So a summer scavenger hunt began! Nancy caught Bruce briefly by phone and learned that he hadn’t been able to see any house numbers, so counted houses in from the start of the street. As we chatted, he began to worry that he may have been on the wrong street. That gave Nancy an enjoyable mission chatting with neighbours on her street and the next street over looking for the jars.

It was great fun!

I caught up with my neighbours

I met some folks on the next street who I had talked to via email but had never met in person. One lady went to her basement and brought her spare jam jars to see if they would be helpful.

I heard a fun story about the Whitecroft “Trash Talkers” a group of ladies who visited at the curb while taking their trash bins out each week and now get together INDOORS for wine!

But I didn’t find the jars

So the next day, Bruce kindly came by again and located the house where he had dropped the jars ... it was just beyond the houses I had checked! They had moved the jars to their recycle bin, but thankfully the recycling hadn’t gone out yet.



The missing jam jars when we found them

I’m happy to say that the jars are all washed and de-labelled and ready to be refilled as the year progresses. A big THANK YOU to Carol and Bruce for sharing them.

Nancy Roper

2023 Summer Students Update

We appreciate the excellent work of all our fine summer-students. We wish Ethan good luck as he returns to college in September. Good bye and good luck to Alexandra as she leaves us to go back to university. We have enjoyed her cheery and capable assistance. Augustus, in his second year with us, continues to team up with the property team and custodians to facilitate many various tasks. Shanicia continues to happily assist Anne and all the participants of the 55+ programs. You can reach Shanicia, while Anne is on holiday, at hvucseniors@gmail.com

For Those Who Love Singing ...

Valley Voices

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Fun, Uplifting Music
Inspired by Broadway Theatre.

Valley Voices Community Choir is entering its second year. Once again, we are looking for anyone who loves singing. We take our fun, uplifting music into the community, performing locally under the professional direction of Kate Brown.

No auditions needed. Just come out and sing on Wednesday nights starting on September 13, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. in the Humber Valley United Church Sanctuary.

This Fall we will be working on some new songs which we plan to share in at least five retirement home gigs. Later in the season, we will practice our Christmas repertoire, and we plan to follow last spring's successful "Seasons of Love" with another musical production in June 2024. Our choir offers the opportunity to sing at Humber Valley Church services, and Afternoon Vespers services as well.

For more information contact Colleen Isherwood at 416-844-1519 or colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com.

Colleen Isherwood

Online with 55+ - Drop In Book Club

Taking a covid pivot, 55+ coordinator, Anne Pietropaolo launched this online book club in the spring of 2020.

We meet on zoom from 2-3 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month from January to November. In December we host a BYOBB (bring your own books and beverage) party to look back on our year of reading and to select fiction and non-fiction titles for the coming year. In the past 3 months we have read these great books:

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Tolles, **Red Notice** by Bill Browder, and **Daughters of the Deer** by Danielle Daniel.

Upcoming plans for 2023 are:

September 28: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict

October 26: The Yellow House by Sarah Broom

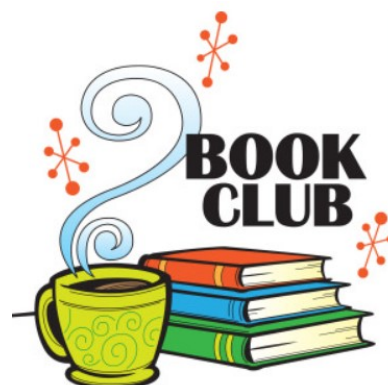
November 23: The Apollo Murders by Chris Hadfield

December 14: BYOBB

The zoom meeting is always managed by 55+ but participants who have recommended the book are invited to facilitate the conversation. Drop-in means that you can come whenever you want, even if you haven't read the book. Check us out: [55+ Book Club Registration](#)

Beverley Conner

55+ volunteer



Stewardship and Finance

The table at right shows the detailed financials results for HVUC to the end of July 2023 with results to the end of July 2022 included for comparison purposes.

At the Annual General Meeting 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 July has already exceeded the full year forecast, with a deficit of \$65,000.

As stated above, overall the deficit at the end of July is \$65,000 compared to a deficit as at July 2022 of \$129,000.

The deficit has been reduced by half compared to the prior year for the 7 months ended July 31, 2023.

The reduction in the deficit, year over year, was achieved due to:

- Operating Revenue compared to prior year is higher by \$17,000 or 6%, mainly due to higher fundraising, use of church, and trustees funds, offset by lower envelope/stock donations.
- Expenses compared to prior year are lower by \$59,000 mainly due to savings in property with bringing custodian services back in house.
- Office expenses are also lower in 2023.

The higher "Other" expenses are related to the refugee family which is offset by revenue in 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 we return from our vacations and cottages please remember to keep giving levels up.

Humber Valley United Church Financial Statements for the seven months ending July 31, 2023

Sources of Funds	2023	2022
Par Givings	88,260	90,106
Envelopes/Stock Donations	49,039	57,108
Use of Church	101,074	95,208
Trustees	17,546	11,081
Other	33,330	18,715
Subtotal Operating Revenues	289,249	272,217
Government Subsidies	16,275	28,187
Subtotal Funds available for Church Operations	305,524	300,403
Receipts for Grants and Special Holdings	96,069	109,992
Total Sources of Funds	401,592	410,395
Expenditures		
Payroll	262,976	267,629
Worship and Music	2,349	8,738
Building Expenses	52,124	108,855
Office	11,487	20,114
Insurance and Bank Charges	12,612	9,904
Regional Assessment	12,620	10,518
Other	16,595	4,006
Total Expenditures	370,764	429,765
Grant spending and Transfers of HF	96,069	109,992
Total Uses of Funds	466,832	539,757
Operating Deficit	(65,240)	(129,362)

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.

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

Allan Orr

Chair, Stewardship & Finance Committee



Join us on Thursday, September 28th at 7 pm for a movie showing of *Saint Judy* starring Michelle Monaghan as immigration attorney Judy Wood.

Saint Judy is based on the true story of the woman who was instrumental in changing immigration laws in the United States to make it easier for women to seek asylum.

Rev. Trevor & Marisol Brisbin were co-producers for this film.

Hope you will join us.

For admission

Please bring a piece of winter clothing or a food item to support homeless refugees. (suggested items: rice, lentils, dry noodles, canned stew or soup).

Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Helping Homeless Refugees

We've had two collections of items so far for the homeless refugees sheltering in the Apostles Continuation Church in Rexdale.

Thank you to everyone for their contributions.

Thank you to Alexandra for taking the pictures. Thank you to Brian Goodman and Brian Thomson for delivering the items.



Silent Auction Items for Ladies Night Out

We are looking for treasures you no longer need or treasures that might be happier in another home. Crystal, china, jewelry, appliances, paintings, rugs, mirrors, vases ...



If you have items to donate to the UCW sponsored Silent Auction on Ladies' Night Out, please contact carolynbooth@rogers.com or susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Or leave items at the church.



Summer Stories

A Rainbow Flag Story

This is written with apologies to the real story telling writers in Anne's 55+ writing group here at HVUC.

It was a just-right, warm, calm and all-together pleasant Saturday evening in August. Our HVUC community was pleasingly serene and quiet. I guess all the summer fun-loving crowd and excitement was downtown.

I was at the church, tending to the deep watering of our new plantings around our electronic signs and front doors. We have a sizeable investment in those plantings. We want them to survive and thrive in the summer heat. After all, they are a small but important part in saying to our community "we are a relevant-for-the-times church where you are welcome, where you belong."

I was lost in my own thoughts, the cool watering spraying in front of me, when I became aware of an interesting group of people in our circular driveway. The group was proudly led by a blond haired, white, gender fluid three-year-old to whom I cheerily said, "you are doing a great job of driving your tricycle." The reply came quickly, "I'm Maxie and I'm driving my car."

Maxie was being followed closely by a middle-aged white woman with a broad and welcoming demeanour. She too was heaping encouraging praise on Maxie, while pulling a high sided wagon. I never did come to know her name but I will call her Mary.

Following closely behind the wagon was a tall, young, confident looking, reserved black woman who never said a word. In the wagon were three infants, two black and one white.

By this time, Maxie had driven the tricycle, excuse me, the car, up our front steps and, motioning to our flower planters, said, "Look mommy, these people have rainbow flags in their flowers."

Mary said, "Yes Maxie, they understand special families, families just like ours."

With that, Mary turned to me with "Thank you for watering the flowers and plants" and the little group continued along our circular driveway, led by Maxie.

Ron Crago

Super Moon

One of the highlights of the summer was seeing the Super-moon from our street in Etobicoke. George took this amazing photo.



Deb Turnbull

Meditative Walkers

Our group was a bit smaller this summer as people were on vacations and at cottages. But we continued to walk in **James Gardens**, glorying in the subtly changing scene of the Humber River, wild flowers, formal gardens, birds, dog walkers, trees, and paths as summer progressed. We opened many walks with a familiar hymn, contemplated a favourite line as we walked, and closed together in a gazebo sharing our experiences and singing the hymn. All are welcome, rain, shine, snow or blow. **Tuesdays 9:30am.**



(Part 8 in our Coincidences 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 summer 2023 stories from cottage country and Chautauqua:

Humber Valley Meetup at Shoppers Drug Mart in Muskoka

The ministers and some congregation members had an unexpected meetup at Shoppers Drug Mart in Muskoka (Bracebridge) in August:

Nancy stopped by to pick up some prescriptions.

While waiting, she noticed Trevor and his daughter, Grace, at the opposite end of the pharmacy desk, which is 30 feet away in this huge store.

Grace came down to visit while her Dad took care of business. As we chatted, a non-HVUC acquaintance joined the line right behind Nancy – an amazing Bell Canada service employee named Tasha who did a phenomenal job solving a long-standing telephone problem at Roper’s cottage pre-pandemic. Tasha was notable due to her orange uniform and her bright red hair, not to mention her incredibly friendly demeanor – a Kate Brown clone!

As we finished introductions to Tasha, someone came around the corner of the aisle – to our surprise, it was Karen Ashforth and her hubby, Blair Brubacher! Particularly interesting, Grace and Nancy were talking about medical school volunteering at the time, so Karen was able to chime in about her son Cameron’s great experience there! Perfect timing!

We laughed as we headed to the checkout together, after sharing suggestions about where Karen could get a pill-cutter for her cat, and after Trevor grabbed a package of cookies from the shelf, claiming they were “for a friend” and later explaining that he was in charge of dinner that night and was going to serve them for dessert.

Trevor got a little ahead of Nancy, and headed to the parking lot first. Sally was waiting in the Roper car and saw him, so rolled down the window for a visit.

The Ropers and the Ashforth/Brubachers then headed out.

The following day, we learned that Kate Brown arrived at Shoppers a few minutes later. As she walked toward the drugstore, she realized that she was standing beside Trevor’s car ... so she jumped in the back seat and they had a great chat while consuming all the cookies! Hopefully there was something else at Brisbin cottage for dessert!



This might not be a huge coincidence had it been at Shoppers Humbertown on a week-day in the winter. But up north, the 4 cottages are not close together - it would take 45-60 mins to drive a car among them, so it was crazy that we were even all in Bracebridge at the same time, let alone all in the Shoppers Store. And Shoppers Bracebridge is so big, that we could



easily have all been in the store at once and not seen one another.

Uncanny! And what fun!

Nancy Roper

Coincidences – Summer Stories

Chautauqua 2023 Hillcrest Christian Church Daycare

In July 2022, the 55+ program led HVUC's first visit to the Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York, about an hour southwest of Buffalo. Susanne Hynes described it as a cultural Summer Camp for adults. Our four attendees, Anne, Beverley, Susanne and Sally Jo, had four wonderful days. They had 2 chance meetings with other visitors that involved coincidences: one couple from a suburb of Chicago who had close friends in common with Sally Jo and a Dad/daughter, Rev. Robert and Erika from Toronto, who realized that Susanne and Erika had both worked as legislative librarians, Susanne in Toronto, Erika in Ottawa. They discovered they had mutual friends. Erika's close friend was a colleague of Susanne's at work. Rev Robert was scheduled to guest preach at Hillcrest Christian Church near St Clair and Bathurst in September. Susanne and Sally Jo decided to attend. They really enjoyed reconnecting with Robert and Erika.

In August 2023, the 55+ program organized a much larger group of 17 friends to go to Chautauqua for a week. Lynn Manning was a member of the group. The original foursome was delighted to introduce the larger group to Robert and Erika who were visiting again. As the conversation flowed, Lynn Manning realized that she had worked at the daycare in the basement of Rev Robert's church while she was doing her Early Childhood Education training in the late 1970's. To her delight, she learned that the daycare had been run by the same family until it closed 10 years ago.

I wonder what coincidence will pop up at Chautauqua 2024!

Nancy Roper



There is even more to the story, of course. Hillcrest Christian Church is close to the neighbourhood where Sally Jo spent a number of years in her youth. So on the way to the service, we toured her old neighbourhood. We were very warmly welcomed by Rev. Robert and the small summertime congregation.



So we were thrilled when we spotted Rev. Robert again this year in the congregation at the Chautauqua Amphitheater. Our first question: "Is Erika here with you?" was answered: "Yes, indeed." Erika had auditioned for the Motet Choir and was singing in it every day for two weeks.



Erika is the red head at the far left in the back row. The young organist at right played the Massey Memorial organ brilliantly. By coincidence, the organ was donated to Chautauqua in 1907 by Eliza A. Massey, wife of Canadian Hart Massey. For more information about this splendid instrument see [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massey_Memorial_Organ).

Susanne Hynes

Summer Stories

Take Us Out to the Ball Game 55+ Attend a Blue Jays Game

On August 3rd, a happy group of 55+ friends met at the church to board a bus for the Rogers Centre: Blue Jays against the Baltimore Orioles. For some of the group this was a return to enjoying the game, for others it was the first time. Would we have beer, hot dogs and popcorn? Of course we would! Anne organized us in the manner of a preschool outing without the rope to hang onto. But we lost no one in the maze of security check in and finding our seats.

The Jays were no match for the Orioles so we didn't see a winning game but fun was had by all. Thanks to Anne and Shanecia for their careful planning.



Summer Memories

In mid-August I joined 16 HVUC friends for a week in Chautauqua, New York. Inspired preaching, hymn sings, concerts and communal meals all contributed to a time of fellowship and an ongoing appreciation of shared experiences.



My summer of 2023 began in July with an eight day vacation to Haida Gwaii, the home of the Haida indigenous nation off the west coast of British Columbia. We learned about Haida culture and history. Understanding ancient practices of that tradition will help me to appreciate current issues faced by the diverse first nations groups.

The text on the plaque reads:

I AM NATURE AND A LESSON OF
THE HAIDA CULTURE. LOOK AFTER
EACH OTHER AND BE GENEROUS.
NEVER TAKE MORE THAN YOU NEED.
ENJOY, SHARE, AND RESPECT THE
LANDS AND WATERS THAT SUSTAIN YOU.
EVERYTHING I HAVE HAS A PURPOSE.
LOOK AFTER ME, AND I IN TURN WILL
ALWAYS LOOK AFTER YOU.
DO NOT LOOK BACK.
THERE IS MUCH MORE TO SEE,
FEEL, AND LOVE.

Sally Jo Martin



Soccer Coaching Session

Seasons of Love Online Auction Creates Lasting Memories

An extremely unique auction item was organized by Erin Billowits to support the fundraising efforts of the recent *Seasons of Love* concert. The auction item was a soccer coaching session provided by a professional soccer player. And, **Kosi Thompson**, a Canadian soccer player who plays as a midfielder for Toronto Football Club in Major League Soccer was the player who generously donated his time, talent and expertise.

Lucky enough to win this very special auction item was Carolyn Booth and the outcome was an extraordinary event which made a lasting impact on young female soccer players. Carolyn's granddaughter, Kelsey, who plays on the Under 14 Dixie rep team in Mississauga, along with her teammates and Carolyn's other granddaughter, Josie (11),

had the opportunity to participate in this incredible experience. Their excitement was overwhelming, and the coaching session Kosi provided was a resounding success.

As well as an exceptional soccer star, Kosi is a remarkable young man and he also took the time to connect with each player on a personal level. In addition to providing inspiration for their soccer dreams, he let them take countless photos and selfies and signed numerous shirts and shoes, as well as the team's banner.

In the end, Humber Valley's *Seasons of Love* online auction not only raised funds for a worthy cause, but provided a profound experience for these young female soccer players and reminds us all of the enduring power of sports, community and the joy of giving.

Carolyn Booth



Carolyn has her hand on her granddaughter Kelsey's shoulder in the upper left photo.



Our Sympathies

Over the last three month we have lost three men who were pillars in our congregation. They lived close to each other in Humber Valley Village. They worshipped with us and brought their talents to making our church a flourishing Christian community. Dennis Schettler died in May and was posthumously awarded an Honorary Eldership. You can see [his obituary](#) and read about him on page 9.

David Howard Wilkes

December 26, 1944 - July 2, 2023

It is with great sorrow we announce the death of David, the beloved sweet-heart and spouse for 60 years of Cathy (Nee Keele); dearly loved father of Andrew (Claudia) and Julia (Rob). He was over the moon about his two grandsons, Howie and Davey Wilkes, each of whom carries his name.



He loved his job, his friends and most of all he loved us. He was President and COO of Moss, Lawson and Co Ltd; Vice Chair and Director of Research Capital Corporation; a director of the Investment Dealers Association and the Canadian Depository for Securities. He was the IDA Distinction winner for Ontario in 1993. He served as Chair of the Board, Foundation Director and Trustee of his church, Humber Valley United. He was a Board member of the Trillium Hospital Foundation, A Director of Big Sisters of Metro Toronto and a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. He was a quiet philanthropist for many causes.

In the early 1970's David volunteered to teach a course he called "Intelligent Investing" for the Etobicoke Board of Education's night school program. He felt that he could democratize and demystify investing and encourage participants to think about value investing. Often there was a waiting list to attend his course which ran for almost 25 years. He also taught his family about the pillars of a good life: save, spend, invest and share.

David loved two sports. One was swimming; the other golf. He swam at lunch time during his Bay St. career and in the early mornings when he delivered his children to their swim team practices. He started golf as a junior, at his father's course, St. George's GC, and golfed there until he was diagnosed with fronto-temporal dementia. He also loved his winter course and his golfing buddies at Mission Inn Golf Club in Florida.

David and Cathy traveled enthusiastically and he was proud to say that he had been to all the continents including a trip to the Antarctic in 1996.

But David was happiest at home when there were friends and family gathered for dinners, brunches and good times. He loved to plan events. One of them included a birthday party for Cathy on the Mariposa Belle in Toronto Harbour. His laughter was spontaneous and could fill a room. He loved to dance. A lot.

It has been a long goodbye and the family has been helped by so many during the years. We would like to thank the Baycrest team led by David's neurologist, Dr. Bill Reichman. The 4th floor PSWs, nurses, recreation staff, Dr. Sara Wainberg and his 6E team including Donna, Isaac, Ankita, Celia, Teresa, Selvi and Drs Malek and Ott gave us their very best care. Two very special people were his private caregivers, Iona Davis and Cherie Rosario. They treated David like family and we will never forget their kindness and love.

The Funeral/Celebration of Life was held at Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd, Toronto, on Tuesday, July 25th 2023 at 3pm.

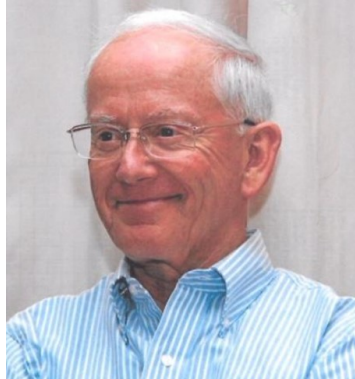
If desired, the family would appreciate donations to the Humber Valley Foundation, 76 Anglesey Blvd, Toronto, Ont. M9A 3C1 or to Baycrest's concert program % Baycrest Foundation (416-785-2875) or www.baycrestfoundation.org

Source: [Turner and Porter](#)

Title

William M. "Bill" Stuart

With sadness, his family announces the death of William M. "Bill" Stuart on Friday, July 28 at Cawthra Gardens Long Term Care. Devoted husband of 59 years to Faye (Shouldice), loving father to Valerie (Peter Shepherd) and Tracey (Sean Turriff), and proud Grandpa to Elizabeth, Andrew, Jacob, and Joshua.



A dedicated educator for 34 years with Etobicoke and Toronto District School Boards, in retirement, Bill was able to devote more time to the volunteer work he so enjoyed. A member of Humber Valley United Church since 1966, Bill served as usher, elder, and Clerk of Session. A 42 year Kiwanian with the Humber Valley and Kingsway Humber Clubs, Bill held positions as President, Lieutenant-Governor, and Governor of the Eastern Canada & Caribbean District. Bill enjoyed his time as Board Member of the Volunteer Centre of Toronto

and the Kiwanis Music Festival. Bill and Faye travelled extensively allowing Bill to indulge in his love of exploring new and historic sites, golf, and scuba diving. Bill spent many happy hours sailing, golfing, and cross-country skiing at the family cottage in Haliburton.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the compassionate staff on the Willow Way wing of Cawthra Gardens for their gentle care and support over 7 1/2 years. Many thanks also go to Ligaya (Grace) Nacpil who provided 8 years of excellent care for Bill and became like another daughter to him.

Cremation (following Bill's wishes) and a private service with the immediate family have taken place. For those who wish, donations in Bill's memory may be made to Sleeping Children Around the World.

A devoted family man, we will miss Bill's generous and caring nature, wise counsel, gifts with language, and spirit of adventure. We have so many wonderful memories to cherish.

Source: [Turner and Porter](#)

Humber Valley United Church 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 to all people, respecting differences,
honouring uniqueness, seeking social justice, and growing in mutual love.*

*In Christ, persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, economic status,
races, 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 services.*

Something Missing?

The birch trees on the church's front lawn have reached the end of their life expectancy. They were probably planted in the 1950s and fifty or seventy years is a good long life for a birch.

Under Peter Clemens' direction, and using his forester's tools, our dear old, now-unightly, birches were taken down last week. Allan Orr and Augustus, one of our summer students, helped. The other trees on the semi-circle were also trimmed. Luckily a truck stopped while they were cutting the trees, and the driver asked if he could take large tree branches. The answer, of course, was "Yes!"

The smaller branches were delivered to the Toronto dump using Peter Clements trailer.

Did you notice the birches are gone?



Mark Your Calendars Christmas Concerts to Watch For

November 28 and December 1
Christmas Pageant
Kingsway Lambton United Church

December 3
Lighting the Christmas Tree and Concert
Humber Valley United Church, Valley Voices

December 15 at 8 pm
HO! HO! HO! EPO
Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra at Humber Valley United Church

Sunday December 17th at 3pm
Martin Grove United Church
Christmas Concert with Jill Diane Fillion

More details to follow closer to the dates.

Why do you have a Building?

"So why does your community of faith have a building? What would you lose if you didn't have one? Is it a home for spiritual growth and faith formation? A vessel for hospitality and welcome? If you have recently done some upgrades or renovations, was it just because ramps and elevators are fun or was it to make your sacred space more welcoming and inclusive? What story are you telling?"

If you feel your community of faith could use some support translating your expenses into a compelling, inspiring story of ministry, consider signing up for the next round of [Stewardship Best Practices](#) this September. Following it, your team will receive a year of coaching to help you meet your goals.

The Rev. Brenna Baker invites us to tell a new story about our church buildings and what communities would lose if we didn't have them. " Source: [United Church of Canada](#)



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