



Advent Greetings from Rev. Ted



The Advent (ad-before, vent-light) season is upon us. The countdown to the time of new light with winter solstice and Christ-mas – the light of the world. This great mashup of pagan (rural) rituals and our Christian celebrations added on top are a good way to get through these darker days.

I don't know about you but I do find the dwindling light at this time of year harder to take. I can find the evenings long and crave the sun when it shines on these often-gloomy days. I guess that is why we pile on all the extra activities at this time of year to keep

us going. When December 21st arrives, it is like a switch is flipped for me and I begin to feel less lethargic. It is not that days get instantly lighter, just the knowledge that we are again moving in that direction. No wonder peoples of the north have long celebrated this change of season and we Christians added our Jesus birth stories into the mix.

As you will see in the Advent services, I'd like to embrace some older Indigenous ways of appreciating this season along with our Christian new year (Advent) celebrations. For the folks who have lived on this land for millennia this has been a time of slowing down, gathering around the fire, and telling stories. It is a teaching time when the Elders told the stories of their spiritual tradition and how their clans lived in the world with the other clans. The children learned these teachings and everyone enjoyed hearing the stories again. Also, they gave thanks for the year gone by: the harvests, the gifts of life, and remembrances of those who returned to the spirit world. They prayed that they would make it through the winter and again see the new life of spring.

I think we too should gather around the fire, at least in our imaginations, and tell stories of the year past and our hopes for the new year.

For me it has been an interesting fall getting to know folks at Humber Valley. I'm thankful for the kindnesses offered to me and the opportunities to worship together. I think there are many good things for you to explore in 2026 and to continue this wondrous journey of life and faith offered each one of us and together as HVUC. Blessings on this Season of Seeking the Light.

Reverend Ted Reeve

Happy Hour with Ted Reeve

Tuesday nights December 2, 9, 16, 23, at 5pm (on Zoom). Bring your questions and tune in on Zoom! This is a great opportunity to talk back with an extraordinary human who has an

amazing amount of knowledge in his brain - and who happens to be our Supply Minister, Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve! For Zoom link go to the Nov. 21 issue of KIT: <https://anglesey76.wixsite.com/so/3bPgeE06O?languageTag=en>

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Rev. Anne Hines to join HVUC. Story on page 2.



Rev. Anne Hines joins HVUC on Jan. 26 — *Belonging*



Rev. Anne Hines is "wildly excited" to join Humber Valley United Church as lead minister.

"Every time I walk in to Humber Valley, I feel a lot of warmth in the people there. I'm committed to ensuring great things continue to happen.

"My impression is that there is the opportunity to use

absolutely everything that widens how we see worship. There is such a variety of activities.

"I love seeing people find ways to be more than they thought they could be — more creative, valued, encouraged — whatever they bring to it."

Rev. Anne Hines grew up in Markham and attended the University of Toronto, graduating with a Bachelors in Fine Arts with a theatre major. She worked for many years as a director, playwright (receiving a Dora Mavor Moore award for "Best New Play for Young Audiences) and eventually Artistic Director of a theatre company.

Anne left the theatre world and became a humour/lifestyle columnist first for *Canadian Living* magazine and also had

a weekly spot on *Canadian Living* TV where she presented humorous insights into everyday life. She then became a columnist and contributing editor at *Chatelaine* magazine. Her work also appeared in publications such as *Cottage Life*, *Today's Parent* and *Readers Digest*. Anne has had five books published; three novels and two non-fiction.

After ordination, Anne was settled to Saskatchewan where she continued to write for the *Toronto Star*, sharing stories of life of a big-city minister living in and serving three tiny rural towns of farmers and ranchers. She returned to Toronto in 2012 and has been serving Roncesvalles United Church ever since. Innovative programs such as hosting a two day celebration of Indigenous Lacrosse (culminating in a game played in the church sanctuary) have helped build a sense of mission and community involvement there.

Anne has been married to Liz for twenty years. Liz was a professional golfer, who won the 2002 Canadian Women's PGA Championship. "I got to walk some beautiful golf courses," said Anne, who is not a golfer.

Liz and Anne like to travel. They have been to Japan, among other places, and have a trip planned to the Turks and Caicos.

She has two adult daughters who both live in Toronto. And, she is so very pleased to be coming to serve and be with the people of Humber Valley UC.

"God is there; preach where you are. That's church," she says.

Colleen Isherwood

Welcome Nora Cutcliffe

We are very pleased that Nora has joined HVUC as short-term Church Administrator.

Be sure to say hello: she is in the church office Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Susanne Hynes



Seeking Your Stories!

Editor Colleen Isherwood would love to hear from you. Contact her at 416-844-1519 or colleen.isherwood26@gmail.com.





Rocking and Rolling at Ladies' Night Out

Well, the Ladies came, they laughed and they DANCED! That floor in Steed Hall was literally moving as the music had everyone up and hopping. Of course they enjoyed the wine reception and delicious food, bought bargains at the Silent Auction, wiped the Bake Sale table clean, and many went home with a new jewellery piece from our favourite vendor, Joanne (who is unfortunately retiring).



Special thanks to all our sponsors, who generously supported the evening with ads in our event booklet. Please keep these local supporters in mind and use their facilities when you have an opportunity to do so: Beaulieu Vision Care, Casual Affairs Clothing, Chartwell, Delmanor Prince Edward and Delmanor West Village - Inspired Retirement Living, Dineen Construction Corporation, Duca Financial Services, Farquhar Advantage Real Estate, Ken Shaw Lexus, Kings-way Village Custom Homes, Life Force Physiotherapy, Tartistry Bakery, Turner & Porter Funeral Directors, and Venvi-Kingsway Retirement Living.

Thanks to all those who came and who donated generously. We raised \$12,000, our best result in many years.

Carolyn Whiteside



Erin Billowits Resigns as Chair

Erin Billowits has resigned as Chair of the Board at HVUC. We hope she will stay on the Board as Past Chair and continue to lead our support for refugees. Erin, your hard work and service are appreciated by the members of the church. Please see Erin's [video message](#):



UCW AGM Dec 7, after 10:30am Service



Celebration of the Past and Finding the Way Forward; also Honouring a Lifetime UCW Award Recipient. Get your coffee from Steed Hall and come join us in the Hearth Room. Contact [Sharon Dowdall](#)



Special Guests at Art Church

Art Church attracted many special guests, as Humber Valley continued to enjoy these special services throughout the Fall.

Linda Kash (right), the Philly cream cheese angel and Second City Alumnus who performed on Seinfeld, came to teach an improv class about staying present. And how it helps with grief.

Britta Johnson was one of the guest artists on Sunday November 16th for The Gospel according to Poetry. She sang the title track from her show "Life After" that opened at Mirvish this year. It's aptly titled "poetry!" It is based on the true story of her losing her dad in a car accident. But he was supposed to have been on a plane somewhere else. And after he was gone, she realized he was having an affair. And it's her metabolizing the loss of him. And also that he isn't perfect.

RH Thomson (second from top), a Canadian television, film, and stage actor with a career spanning five decades, was our special guest at Art Church on October 26.

On Nov. 14, RH shared with us information on his passion project: "The World Remembers" (www.the.worldremembers.org). Canada and 28 countries are participating in this project to honour those who lost their lives during WWI and RH Thomson is one of the leads in this project. RH will also be joining us on Sunday, December 21, to read a play called *To Everything There is a Season* by Alistair MacLeod, accompanied by music from Valley Voices.

Miyanda Kasapu (with Kate, third from top) has preached regularly over the last six months on the teaching team at Art Church. I have a story saying that one night I couldn't reach Miyanda to find out the passage she was teaching, so I could finish the Art Church program. It turns out the reason Miyanda couldn't reply was that she was leading a team to clean the church the night before she preached. She couldn't get back to me about what her scripture passage was because she was mopping the church! Could anything be more Christ-like?

The photo of everyone smiling in the pews was just one I candidly took when I turned back to smile at everyone on a Sunday morning and then they all smiled back so I snapped a shot!

(As an aside, Kevin Curnock-Brown hasn't recovered from the loss of the World Series by the Jays; he still has a broken heart about this).

Kate Curnock-Brown





Valley Voices is a Family Affair! — *Belonging*



Valley Voices is a Family Affair! Shown above from left, Gemma Files (mother), Elva Mae Hoover (grandmother) and Cal Barringer (son and grandson). Griffin Hurst and Shelley Scarrow are mother and son. And (below, right) Jenny, Heather and eight-month-old Lucy Graydon are mother, grandmother, mother and grandddaughter. Great Grandmother Sue Hanson sang with the choir at Kipling Acres on November 27th. And that's not all: we have several other mother and daughter duos, couples teams, and junior singers and dogs who attend with their parents.

It's been a busy fall for Valley Voices as we learned many new songs by Canadian singers. Some of these will be featured in our Concert to be held on Sunday May 3, 2026 — please circle the date in your calendars!

We have now switched over to Christmas Carols, and had our first Retirement Home Singalong at Kipling Acres on November 27th. We had a record 35 singers turn out for the Kipling Acres performance! About 150 residents filled the auditorium and watched through windows from the

hallway Our next retirement home gig is at Delmanor on November 6.

Please join us for our annual Carolling in the Neighbourhood night on Wednesday, Dec. 10. Bundle up and belt out some Christmas Favourites. We will also be leading some Carols at Daytimers on December 15. And I hear someone from the North Pole may make an appearance!

Colleen Isherwood

Join us for
Carolling in the Neighbourhood
with Valley Voices



Wednesday
Dec. 10
6:30pm

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

Enjoy
warm drinks
&
Christmas
cheer
afterwards!



Sue Hanson from choir (not shown) turned 90 and her daughter Heather, granddaughter Jenny and great granddaughter Lucy were all in attendance.



Advent Services at HVUC...

Please join us for the many activities planned for the special season of Advent and beyond.

Advent Services: Sundays Nov 30, and Dec 7, 14, and 21, 10:30am. HVUC will hold a single service at 10:30am, beginning Sunday Nov 30.

Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve, our Supply Minister, and Kate Brown, Creative Director of Art Church over the last six months and Director of Valley Voices Choir, will join forces for a creative, interactive interpretation of the Advent Story.

Children's Sunday School will be held for all Sunday services during Advent.

2026 Events

February 14, 2026: Valentine's Day Dance with Tom Trottier's band, the Humbertones. Beginning at 6:30pm. Light dinner, snacks, drinks and dancing.

March 1, 2026: The Welshmen's Choir fundraiser for the church. Tickets to be sold

May 3, 2026: Valley Voices Choir concert and Silent Auction

If anyone has any ideas for fundraisers, please contact [Deb Turnbull](#), as she is chair of this team.



Welcomes All

We are an active, affirming, church
and a very busy community centre in central Etobicoke.
We serve all who wish to participate in our spiritual life and
our community-building and community-supporting programs.

Our Minister is Rev. Dr. Ted Reeve.

OUR SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS INCLUDE
Sunday Services at 10:30 am.
Daily Bread Prayer time and Meditative Walks.
Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals

OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, UNDER THE AEGIS OF 55+ INCLUDE
Daytimers Lunches, Drum Fit and Line Dancing
Discussion Groups, Tai Chi and Chair Yoga
and much more.

OUR NORTH STAR
In the same way that Jesus embodies the divine dream for the world, together,
Humber Valley United Church is seeking to be a living expression of
justice, compassion, and belonging now and into the future.

Our sanctuary is open daily for prayer and meditation.
Our stunning stained glass windows are an art treasure in Etobicoke.
Designed by Hungarian artist, Eric Wesselow,
they bring inspiration and a sacred light into our church.
In addition to its beauty and spaciousness, our sanctuary has excellent acoustics.
It is the go-to venue for many wonderful musical events.

Call us at 416-321-2263. Email at info@hvuc.ca. Website hvuc.ca
View our services at <https://www.youtube.com/@HVUC>

Pew Cards

Take a peek at our new pew cards, pictured above, which let everyone know about the many events happening at Humber Valley.

All welcome!

Christmas in the Valley

2025



Friday Nov. 28 (4 - 6pm) and
Saturday Nov. 29 (10am - noon)
Decorating the Sanctuary, with Muffins & Coffee/Tea served

Sunday Nov. 30 - First of Advent
10:30am Service, with Tree Lighting & Gifts with Love
11:30am - 1:30 pm Fair Trade & Craft Christmas Market

Tuesdays in December (Dec 2, 9, 16, 23)
5 pm (on Zoom): Happy Hour with Ted

Sunday Dec. 7 - Second of Advent
10:30am Service

Wednesday Dec. 10
6:30pm Neighbourhood Carolling with Valley Voices

Saturday Dec. 13
1:00pm The Messiah Concert with sparkling reception

Sunday Dec. 14 - Third of Advent
10:30am Service
7:00pm Light in the Night Gathering

Monday Dec. 15
11:30am Daytimers Christmas Luncheon

Sunday Dec. 21 - Fourth of Advent
10:30am Service
with Play "To Everything There is a Season"

Wednesday Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
5:00pm Family Christmas Service
10:00pm Candlelight Christmas Service,
with Communion

Sunday Dec. 28
10:30am Service
Sharing the Good News Through Song

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH
76 Anglesey Blvd. Etobicoke
DETAILS + UPDATES AT hvuc.ca



Handel's Messiah



Saturday, Dec. 13, 1:00pm

Dr. Anton Yeretky conducts a transcendent musical experience of Handel's Messiah with full orchestra, soloists and choir.

Musicians include the Great Lakes Philharmonic and Robert Hennig expertly playing Humber Valley's magnificent organ.

During intermission, enjoy a sparkling reception with Christmas treats and refreshments. \$40 adult; \$20 Children 12 and under; \$60 VIP tickets for first 7 rows. Tickets at the door, through the ticket line 416-231-2263 Ext. 39, or go to www.HVUC.ca to purchase tickets through Eventbrite.




Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH
76 Anglesey Blvd, Etobicoke | www.hvuc.ca



UFOs

(UnFinished Objects)

NEW TIME AND PLACE!

Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm

Meet up in person or online with a welcoming group of people as we work on our different projects together.

Details in "Keeping in Touch" newsletter at www.hvuc.ca



Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

• Sobey's • Instacart • Chalo! FreshCo Staples • Simons • Victoria's Secret • Gap • H&M • Old Navy • Roots • Toys R Us • Build-A-Bear • Amazon • Giant Tiger • Hudson's Bay • Marshalls • Winners • Best Buy • Chapters • Cineplex • Famous Players • Esso • Shell • Petro-Canada • Imperial • Metro • Loblaw • HomeSense • Canadian Tire • The Home Depot • Second Cup • Boston Pizza • Elephant & Sparrow • Starbucks • Montana's • Doordash • Canoe • New York Fries • East Side Mario's • Original Joe's • R&D

For gifts or daily purchases, buy Fund Scrip Gift Cards

to provide a donation towards our fundraising goals at no extra cost to you.

Contact [Kathy Kitchen](#) re next orders deadline.

[CLICK HERE FOR ORDER FORM](#) or copies in the church lobby

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH
FUNDRAISER



Come, Sing.

Valley Voices

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Wednesdays 7:00-9:00pm

Fun, Uplifting Music

Do you love to sing? Everyone is welcome to join Valley Voices Community Choir! No audition is required. Just show up and you will be warmly welcomed. We have loads of fun performing locally under the professional direction of Kate Brown.

Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke hvuc.ca
Contact Colleen.Isherwood26@gmail.com



Sanderson Centre's

the Celtic Tenors



A Celtic Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 9:00am-6:30pm

World-Class Artists Performing Holiday Classics with Uplifting Harmonies!

- A full-day outing with convenient departure by private coach from Humber Valley United Church.
- A scrumptious buffet is included in the ticket price of \$155.00 per person.

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH
hvuc.ca

Please purchase tickets directly from Mary Morton Tours at 416-488-2674. Questions?... jenny@hvuc.ca 416-231-2263 X31.



Advent Outreach at HVUC

The congregation is committed to sharing during this season of Advent. Our mission of Justice, Compassion and Belonging is shown in these ways:

Jane Finch Mission. Gifts of Love — Items are provided for children who otherwise might not receive Christmas gifts.

Water for Life. Donations are collected for these two charities, local and international:

- Wells in Africa with GAIN.
- Water First — Education and training of Canadian Indigenous youth.

Youth Without Shelter

- Monthly donations to support meals for the 55 youth living in the local shelter.
- Food donations for the youth who now live independently but need help with groceries.

Volunteers are welcome. If you would like to help with these or other outreach activities, please contact Outreach Committee members, Sylvia Cohen, Cheryl Drake, Lynn Manning or [Sally Jo Martin](#).

Sally Jo Martin



Claire Hatje and her daughter Maddie with some of the Gifts of Love collected by Sunday, Nov. 30. The gifts go to Jane-Finch Mission for children who would not otherwise receive gifts.

Light
in the
Night

Feeling depressed?
Mourning a loss?
Illness, Injury, Conflict?
Whatever your reason...

You Are
Not Alone

a contemplative worship service
of remembrance and reflection

Humber Valley
UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 14
Refreshments: 7:00 pm
Service: 7:30 pm

Light in the Night

The Christmas season can be a time for socializing, celebration and joy. But for those who have experienced a loss or are struggling with health, financial or family problems, Christmas can be an especially difficult time. On Sunday Dec. 14 at 7:30pm, Humber Valley United Church will hold the "Light in the Night" service for those in our church family and our community who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason.

The "Light in the Night" worship service is a soothing, contemplative time of remembrance and reflection in the calm of our candlelit sanctuary. You will be invited to light a candle amidst the darkness and find comfort and rest, wherever you are.

Refreshments will be served at 7pm with the service beginning at 7:30pm.



Unit 6 Helps Out of the Cold



On Wednesday Nov. 5, 14 members of Unit 6 gathered to put our donations to Out of the Cold in "Baskets of Blessings". Another 10 people sent donations to purchase additional hats, socks, gloves and candy. We were able to



pack seven baskets with messages of hope and a blessing for each recipient. On Friday, I brought those baskets to All Saints Anglican church. Nina Arsenault, who is the director of OOTC, was very grateful for our generous support. She said she will wait to give out the winter items until it is colder but she knew that the candy would be well received that night!

I was overwhelmed by the support from our Unit and was reminded of the important work that we do in our community. As always, we enjoyed conversation and laughs as we put together these blessings.

We are indeed blessed!

Wendy Oliver

Friends in Faith Learn About UCW and Undivided Love

On Thursday, Nov. 27th, we had a very interesting meeting of Friends in Faith.

Friends in Faith has been around for about a year and has become a very new and happy part of UCW. We are a small group of about 16 people, many of whom are newcomers to Humber Valley and unaware of what UCW really does. We asked Sharon Dowdall to come and speak about her involvement with UCW and UCW's involvement with HVUC over the years. She couldn't remember how long she has been president but it is between 15 and 20 years! Sharon is an interesting speaker and we thank her for an interesting session.

Rev. Ted Reeve was our main speaker. He shared some UCW history, informing us that women's groups, who had started before UCW, led the reform movement within the church. He mentioned that in the '60s and '70s women started dropping out of UCW to form women's groups for particular social reform advocacy.

Rev. Ted introduced us to a book written by Janet Gear who was once his student, *Undivided Love: Navigating landscapes of Living Faith*. Janet is a minister in Vancouver, and in a YouTube video she analyses different ways of living your faith. This provoked a lot of conversation afterwards.

Gear reframed some of the challenges that face our church with understanding different approaches to faith. It was a very thoughtful and loving analysis which I think would be useful to anyone, particularly to enable people to see different points of view as a reflection of different ways of living the Christian faith. Thank you so much to Rev. Ted for staying so late and giving such an interesting speech.

Friends in Faith welcomes new members to share in the warmth and collegiality of our group.

We usually meet the fourth Thursday of every month. Please let me know if you are interested in coming to a meeting. I can be reached at ccrosby@croslaw.com.

Constance Crosby



Stories show why we remember



The Bells played at the Humber Valley Church Remembrance Day Service on November 9th.

We remember because we tell the stories, we share the music, and we hold the silence.

The wars of the 20th century took a huge toll but also brought out the best in so many and led so many people to Canada to live in communities of peace and prosperity. In 2025 Humber Valley honoured those who sacrificed and those who died in the two great wars of the twentieth century. And, in the knowledge that there are still so many armed conflicts in the world, we told personal stories about survival and death during other armed conflicts.

We did this in the hope that telling the stories would bring peace to the world.

Great Lakes Philharmonic

The Great Lakes Philharmonic's concert on Friday, November 14 featured music of deep sadness as well as of victory. The orchestra was under the baton of Dr. Anton Yeretsky. Rob Hennig was the emcee and raised the roof with his rendition of the *The Old 100th*. Anton brought tears to our eyes with his violin solo.

Remembrance Day Service

Our Remembrance Service was held on November 9. Four stories were told.

Irina Romaneeva and Marina Krul spoke about having to leave their homeland, Ukraine.

The Bomber in the Basement, Colleen Isherwood's story about Scottie Bronson, a US draft dodger, who with his brother and close friend blew up a munitions plant in the

US to protest the war in Vietnam reminded us of the consequences and serious costs of that unjust conflict.

The Vietnam War affected a whole generation: the draft dodgers who came to Canada, the veterans who served tours in Vietnam, and the families of the fallen as well as the returned. Further, and most importantly in Vietnam, this war had devastating effects on civilians, and combatants: millions of deaths, widespread injuries, millions of people displaced, and long-lasting environmental damage from toxic chemicals like Agent Orange.

The story was told of a young family in Germany during WWII. They were separated for months, living in uncertainty, but their hopes for survival were fulfilled and they ultimately made it to Canada.

The fourth was the story of Cyril Gardner, a young man from a small Newfoundland outport. He served in Gallipoli, survived Beaumont Hamel and fell in combat less than a year later. Cyril was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in action. You can watch this service online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t10VjeByHAc&t=3068s>

Unit 7 Meeting

At their November 11 meeting, UCW Unit 7 heard from David Dallimore and his grandson Joshua Jinkinson. David, a young boy living in Portsmouth, England during WWII, told about conditions in that strategic port. Joshua brought his grandmother, Judith's, brown bear and told the story of how it brought her comfort as a child.

Lest we forget.

Susanne Hynes



Irina Romaneeva and Marina Krul spoke about Ukraine.



Getting to Know Ina and Bill Anthony — *Belonging*



Bill and Ina Anthony.

Ina and Bill Anthony were attending a Russian Orthodox church, but it was not meeting their spiritual needs. They were curling friends with the Kitchens, the Grasses and the Carscaddens, all members of Humber Valley. Kathy invited them to visit our church. That was 12 years ago and the Anthony's are now much-loved, long-term members of Humber Valley. This is their story.

Ina's parents lived in Ukraine. Their extended family was disbanded during the 1930's when Stalin took over all the family farms leaving people penniless and searching for work. Ina's Dad became a tool and die maker and then worked in munitions in Odessa during the war. The German Nazis sent Ina's Mom and Gramma to Germany to work in 1944 after Ina's maternal grandfather was purged by Stalin. After the war, Ina's parents met in a Displaced Person's Camp and moved to Liege, Belgium. Ina was born in 1948. She speaks both Russian and French due to her heritage.

Ina's Dad wanted to leave Europe due to all the unpredict-

ability there. They applied to both Canada and the USA. Ina says, "Thankfully, our Canadian paperwork came back first". Ina remembers travelling to Canada via Paris and LeHavre, then sailing on a large ship landing at Pier 21 in Halifax. They travelled to Toronto via train the next day.

Ina's Dad firmly believed in investing in real estate and was able to move his family upwards from a rooming house at Front and Bathurst, to a home in Roncesvalles, then a larger home near High Park in quick succession. Ina attended Fern Avenue Public School and Parkdale Collegiate, where she met Bill, who was two years her senior.

Bill went to the same schools as Ina. He played hockey on the duck pond at High Park. He loved playing baseball and at age 12, he even went to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He liked music and at High School he was invited to all the parties because he had a great collection of popular records. He even has the original copy of the record for Stand by Me, sung by Muhammad Ali.

Bill did his Chemical Engineering degree at U of T, graduating in 1968. Ina studied French and Russian at U of T, followed by Teacher's' College, graduating in 1971. They were married right after Ina graduated and moved into their first home on Van Dusen Blvd, just south of the Islington Subway station.

Bill and Ina's daughter, Kira, is 50 this year. Twelve years ago, she moved to Vienna with her husband, Tom. Kira is doing A.I. Research at Modul University. Tom runs the electron microscopy lab at Vienna Biocentre. Their son, Max, who is 11 years old, likes to play soccer and do math problems.

(Continued on next page)



Peter, Natalie, Bill, Ina, Tom, Kira and Max a few years ago.



Getting to Know Ina and Bill Anthony — *Belonging*

(Continued from previous page)



Ina and her grandson, Max.

Bill and Ina's second daughter, Natalie, is 47 this year. She lives in Ottawa with her husband Peter. Natalie initially worked in finance at Bank of Montreal and now works at Chartwell Senior's home as Director of Communications. Peter is a transportation consultant.

Ina taught Russian and French at Etobicoke Collegiate as a newlywed. While raising her girls, she did some part time consulting with the U of T Faculty of Education about teaching Russian, some "English as a Second Language" (ESL) work at the Mimico Adult Centre and in private industry. Once the girls were teenagers, Ina did a long term supply teacher contract at Bloorlea Middle School and then full time work at Kipling Collegiate. Ina took courses in ESL in the evenings and in the summer and landed the job as head of ESL at Richview Collegiate where she worked for 11 years. She finished her career as head of "Student Services" at Etobicoke School of the Arts for 5 years. She worked on timetables, auditions for new students, and guidance to help students plan their post-secondary education.

Meanwhile, Bill did his MBA at night school right after he graduated from Chemical Engineering. He then did busi-

ness roles at CIL Paints, Campbell's Soups, Ontario Hydro, and the Financial Services Commission of Ontario where he oversaw the insurance industry.

The family bought a cottage on Lake Simcoe while the girls were young and spent summers there, enjoying boating, windsurfing, sailing, golf, tennis, pickleball and the outdoor pool. Ina still visits today.

Bill and Ina enjoyed travelling and have visited Europe several times including Greece, Croatia and the D-Day beaches in Normandy. They have been to all the Canadian provinces, parts of the USA and even South America. They have skied in Jasper, Banff, Whistler, Mont Tremblant, Mont St Anne, Jay Peaks in the USA and Chamonix in France.

Bill enjoyed curling at St Georges for many years – he loved the camaraderie and the competition. Bill often assisted with ushering and greeting at church.

Ina is very involved at the church as a member of UCW Unit 7, as an usher/greeter, serving Sunday coffee, baking cookies for various events and singing in the Valley Voices choir. Outside the church, she attends Probus at Lambton Golf Club and a neighbourhood book club. She used to volunteer as a fundraiser for the Russian Cultural Aid Organization, arranging gala balls etc. She also did fundraising for Arts Etobicoke. Ina enjoys reading, walking, gardening and attending shows at Mirvish.

Ina lives in the family home on Lynngrove Avenue near Memorial Pool. Bill lives at West Park and Ina visits him almost daily. They have been married for 54 years.

Thank you to Bill and Ina for sharing your stories.

Nancy Roper



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.



Get Ready for a Wide Range of Options at 55+ Central Etobicoke!

There are so many benefits to staying active and engaged as we age, not just during Winter, but all year long!

Get ready for a wide range of options at 55+In Central Etobicoke – from yoga, dance and Tai Chi to Mah Jong games, bus trips and cooking classes to keep you connected and moving. And 2026 has even more in store!

The ever-popular Daytimers presentations are lined up for January, February and March – you won't want to miss them.

- Trusted policy strategist, educator and advocate within the field of healthy aging and caregiving, Sue Lantz, will be or guest speaker in January.
- In February, Well Seasoned Productions, a Toronto based theatre company led, and performed by older adults will entertain and inspire us.
- March is our chance to talk with a computer expert, who will help us troubleshoot and understand our personal devices.

Square Dancing, Zumba and Folk Dance are being added to the calendar, all facilitated by leaders experienced in working with seniors. These classes have benefits for our physical and mental well being.

Trips to Shaw and Stratford offer a stress-free experience. It's a convenient way to relax, enjoy the scenery and watch



Kathy Kitchen and Deb Turnbull at Daytimers' Halloween meeting on Oct. 27. Daytimers featured a very special guest, Sandy McIntyre, partner at McMaster, McIntyre & Smith LLP. Participants learned about importance of preparing for the future. Sandy guided them through wills and estate planning after a delicious lunch.

world class productions of theatre favourites. Funny Girl and Guys & Dolls are taking place in June and September.

If you have ideas for additional programming, or feedback, reach out to Jenny anytime at jenny@hvuc.ca.

Jenny Terwoord

Come to Square Dancing!

Monday Dec. 1

1:00 - 2:00pm

EVERYONE WELCOME!

We will learn a simple square dance together.

Please register with Jenny at jenny@hvuc.ca

Humber Valley UNITED CHURCH
www.hvuc.ca

Monthly Square Dancing at HVUC

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! Beginner Square Dancing at Humber Valley United Church. This engaging activity provides numerous physical, mental and social benefits, including improved balance, coordination and cardiovascular functioning. It's also GREAT for mental health, stress reduction and cognitive function. Learning and remembering steps is good for our brains! Best of all...IT'S FUN! First dance was held on Monday, December at 1pm in Steed Hall. After that, it will be held once a month on January 12 (2026), February 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11.

Space is limited, please contact Jenny Terwoord at jenny@hvuc.ca to register.



A Special Brownie

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.



Did you know that there was a Brownie Pack at Sick Children’s Hospital? Long time Girl Guide leaders, Marg Leet and Rosemary Seston, who attend Daytimers at Humber Valley, ran it for many years in the 1980s. Nancy and Jim Roper helped during the summer in 1988.

We would pick up the children on the wards and bring them to the large playroom on the 7th floor. Some children came on foot, some came in wheelchairs, some came in hospital beds. One little girl was upside down in a hospital bed to minimize bedsores and we lay UNDER her bed to talk to her and help with her activities. Any child who wanted to come was welcome: boys and girls of all ages.

The pack had Brownie uniforms with buttons on the back that the children could wear over their pajamas and hospital gowns if they chose.

The program varied with the age of the children who arrived each week, but usually included songs, simple games and a craft. Craft kits were provided by regular Guiding units as a service project – each came in a Ziploc bag with a sample of the completed craft and smaller ziplocs, each with the supplies for one participant.

One of our regular Brownies was a little pre-school girl named Julie. She came from the oncology ward with her IV pole. Her Mom told us that Julie LOVED being in hospital because she was allowed to come to Brownies just like her big sister, whereas when she was at home, she was too young for Brownies.

Sadly, one week, Julie’s Mom told us that it was their last time at Brownies. The hospital had told them that they had no further treatments to help Julie. Julie’s Mom said that they were considering going to Mexico to see if there were any other possible treatments there. We were so sad about this terrible news.

Fast forward nine years for some joyous news. I arranged a service project with some work friends whereby we helped Camp Oochigeas, a camp for kids with cancer, to prepare for the summer camp season in Muskoka. One of the tasks was to stick address labels on the postcards that the children would send home to their families. Four or five of us

worked on this task for the 120 children who were coming to camp that summer. To my sheer delight, my stack of address labels included one for Julie! Something miraculous had happened and Julie was alive and coming to camp. It was lucky that Julie’s label was in my stack, because the other volunteers wouldn’t have known why it was special. Julie would have been 12 years old then.

Fast forward another four to six years and I happened to flip through the Etobicoke Guardian one week. To my absolute delight, there was an article congratulating some girls who had earned their Canada Cords in Guiding: and Julie’s name was there! She was thriving at age 16 or so and she was still involved in Guiding.

Fast forward another 20 years or so for another surprise in this story. We had a new member at Humber Valley. In conversation one day, she told me about a magazine article she had written and she sent me a copy. The article included her maiden name: it was unusual, and it was the same last name as Julie! What was the chance of all the pieces falling into place that I discovered that my new church friend was the “big sister” that Julie’s mom had talked about 34 years earlier.

Unfortunately, we got sad news in September this year. Julie had contracted another type of cancer and had passed away at age 38. Julie had loved nature, and birdwatching, and drawing, and spending time at her cottage. Numerous memorial notes confirmed what a kind and loving person Julie had been.

At Julie’s funeral, another coincidence occurred. I was enjoying the displays of Julie’s artwork and her memorabilia from Guiding and Camp Oochigeas and chatted with the lady next to me. We eventually realized that we knew one another. The lady’s name is Carolyn and she is a long time dog walker to both Julie’s family and one of my neighbours. We have talked several times when she was picking up our neighbour’s dog: what a surprise that she also knows Julie’s family.

So there you have it:

Three lucky coincidences that let me follow Julie’s life from age 3 to 38 years and also meet her sister and her dog walker. As we say at Camp Oochigeas: “Forever Friends, Julie”.



Julie and her big sister.

Nancy Roper



Daria Tsygankova

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Daria Tsygankova died on November 11, 2025, from colon cancer at the age of 35, at Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada, with her beloved husband, Anton Yeretsky, at her side. She suffered a great deal of pain during the last weeks of her life, but despite that was always filled with grace, warmth and love for others in her heart. Daria also leaves behind her beloved parents Ludmilla and Sergei Tsygankov, and sisters Aoksana and Elena. Daria was an inspiration and muse for her adored Anton, and gave him the strength to move forward in a new country.

Born in Ukraine, Daria studied piano, conducting and opera at Dnipro College of Music and Odessa Music Academy, the top music school in Ukraine. She met Anton in China where she worked for seven years as a voice and piano teacher, and a choral conductor. An excellent musician and a fantastic teacher, she was beloved by her students and everyone she worked with.

Daria and Anton were kept apart by COVID, she in China, and he in Vienna. They waited three long years to be together again. Arriving in Canada in 2023, Daria fell ill to cancer one month later. Despite her illness she loved working at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Malton, Ontario as its music director.

Daria and Anton married in Toronto on Oct 1, 2024, tragically having a mere one year of marriage together.

"She taught me so much," said Anton in an entry on his FaceBook page. "She showed me what love is. Her love warmed me all the time, especially during the three long years when COVID happened and I couldn't enter China and she couldn't come to me in Vienna. We waited three long years to meet again. She gave me the strength to move forward in a new country. She inspired me, she was my muse, my everything.

"I believe she's somewhere out there in a better world. There's no more pain now. Please don't forget her!!! Remember her light, her warmth, her love..."

A Memorial service for Daria Tsygankova will be held at Humber Valley United Church, 76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke, Ontario, on Saturday December 6th, at 11 A.M., with Rev. Germain Lovelace of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church presiding. A reception will be held afterwards. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, for those who would like to, donations can be made to <https://gofund.me/fac3640ce>



Gayle is now a Great Grandma

Gayle Taylor is now a great grandmother to little Delilah, daughter of Rebecca.



Merry Christmas HVUC

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this season.


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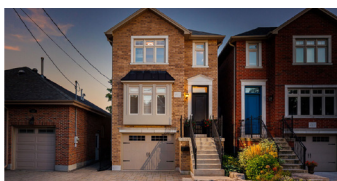
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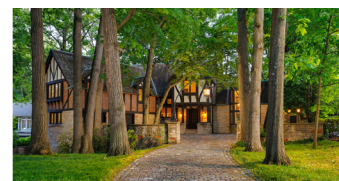
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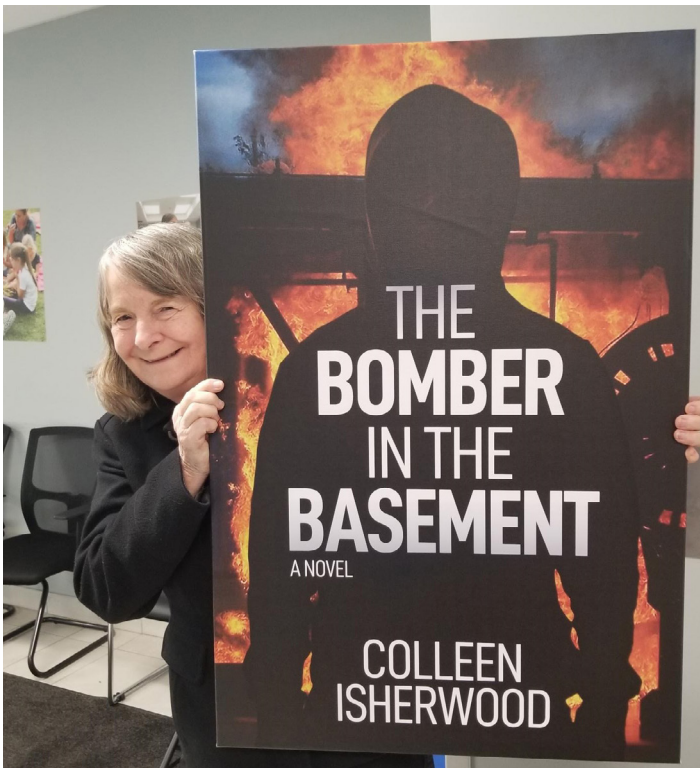
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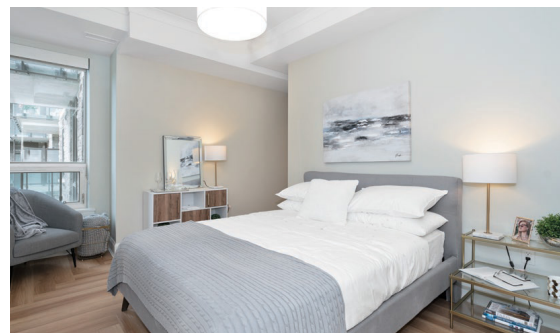


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A middle-aged man with grey hair and a blue button-down shirt stands with his hands raised in a shrug, looking directly at the camera with a confused or overwhelmed expression. He is wearing a yellow watch on his left wrist. The background is a collage of legal and financial documents. Visible text on the documents includes "ATTORNEY", "PROPERTY", "PHYSICIAN'S DIRECT", "ON LIFE SUPP", "Last Will", "the Trust", "size of", "en years", "s of", "STE", "of", "d", "PO". A silver pen lies diagonally across the top left of the image.

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God's Love

*The love of God, relentless
through the rooftops
of the temples and the jails
the churches and the shops*

*Like the neutrino
fired from the sun
and passing through
everything in its path*

*It doesn't matter
where you stand
or how well you hide
it will reach you*

*And even right now
seated in these pews
bathed in this light
you are filled with God's love*

Kevin Curnock

**HUMBER VALLEY HIT PARADE/
HUMBER VALLEY HYMN PARADE**

Rev. Anne Hines, who will be joining us as Lead Minister on January 26, is eager to know about our favourite hymns and other popular songs we would like to sing during our services.

Send your ideas to Brian Thomson at natalia.brian.thomson@gmail.com.



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[Colleen Isherwood](#)

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