

The Harcourt Herald

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
May, 2017



**Forging a Path to
Justice and Outreach**

Harcourt Memorial United Church

An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

We are a people of God called together and sent forth by Christ to

Seek | Connect | Act

Our Mission:

Inspired by the Spirit, we participate in Christian practices that strengthen us in the building of just, compassionate, and non-violent relationships

Our Vision Statement:

To be an authentic community of spiritual growth and service

Our Core Values:

Risk...Respect...Responsibility...Vulnerability...Trust

Our Purpose:

To welcome and strengthen in community all who wish to serve God and follow the way of Jesus

Harcourt Memorial United Church

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The Harcourt Herald

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by the

Communications Committee

Your contributions are welcome!

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by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

Council's agenda on April 19 included a mix of Martha-focused (church administration) and Mary-focused (development of our spiritual lives) topics. We received the good news that:

- Roz Stevenson has agreed to be Harcourt's lay representative to the G.U.M. Planning and Management Circle. We extend our sincere 'thank you' to Kathy Magee for her five years of service in this role.
- Harcourt is recognized for giving \$85,504 in 2016 for the Mission & Service of the United Church of Canada. Check out the Certificate of Thanksgiving on the bulletin board in the Greeting Area.
- Harcourt's 2017 assessments from Presbytery/Conference are \$17,909.28 (a \$1002 decrease from 2016).
- Ministry & Personnel Committee received approval to hire two summer students for seven weeks each (May/June and July/August).

We discussed 'visibility in our neighbourhood' and 'what do we need or want to signal to our neighbourhood?' We affirmed the initiative of the Justice & Outreach Committee that prompted this conversation. They plan to purchase a rainbow flag for display at our May 7th Affirming Service. Deeper discussion focused on the need to develop a broader communications strategy about what we signal to our neighbourhood and others. Work on this topic touches multiple committees/teams and will be explored in the coming months.

Attention all members of Committees/Teams! Council will host a joint meeting on Sunday, May 28, 12-2 p.m. Sharing/updating information on current projects, thinking ahead to fall budget planning, and progressing creatively along our Harcourt 20/20 journey will be the topics. Watch for more information! Another Harcourt 20/20 opportunity to tie us together! Building on last year's successful experience, we are planning to hold another round of small conversation groups in June. The focus will be on the five priorities named in the narrative budget: spiritual growth; music; community; justice; experimentation. Again, watch for more information!

Harcourt will be hosting Waterloo Presbytery's June 27th meeting. We will be recruiting a few people to help, especially to organize and provide the evening meal. If you are interested, please contact Lorraine Holding as soon as possible (519-822-5243). Spring has sprung, the flowers are colourful, and our life at Harcourt continues to blossom. We are blessed by the service, commitment and initiatives of many people. May we continue to challenge ourselves and shape our life, mission and ministry as a community of faith. With faith and hope.

Cover Photo: Young girl with sign at the Women's March on Washington's Sister March in Cincinnati. Parental permission to use photo obtained. Photo by [D. Rieselman](#). Wiki Commons.

Worship Schedule

May 7	<p>Easter 4 Three services: 9:00 AM in the Chapel, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, and all-ages MANNA 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room. Nursery Care is available at the 10:30 services</p>	<p>Affirming Service/Rainbow Chorus Guelph Speaker: Lori Hicks</p>
May 14	<p>Easter 5 Three services: 9:00 AM in the Chapel, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, and all-ages MANNA 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room. Nursery Care is available at the 10:30 services</p>	TBA
May 21	<p>Easter 6 Three services: 9:00 AM in the Chapel, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, and all-ages MANNA 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room. Nursery Care is available at the 10:30 services</p>	TBA
May 28	<p>Easter 7 Three services: 9:00 AM in the Chapel, 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, and all-ages MANNA 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room. Nursery Care is available at the 10:30 services</p>	<p>Harcourt Congregational Worship Team Jim & Miriam & Lindsay at Hamilton Conference Meeting</p>

The Latest Buzz...



- **Youth From Across Canada Plan to Gather at *Rendez-vous 2017***

Dancing, singing, praying, playing, laughing, and learning—these are all elements of *Rendez-vous* – an event which runs every three years. Hundreds of youth, young adults, and their leaders will gather at Concordia University in Montreal in August 2017 to celebrate faith. 450 young people attended the last *Rendez-vous* in Winnipeg in 2014. Check it out at: <https://youtu.be/G5gG8WgujA4>

- **Seed Grants, Continuing Education Funding, Innovative Program Awards - Grants Available**

The Youth and Young Adult Vision Fund offers grants to members and ministries of the United Church. <http://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/being-community/vision-fund>

- **Skylight Festival – Looking for Volunteers**

Planning to go to the Skylight Festival in Paris, Ontario on July 28-30th this year? Why not volunteer and save? Volunteers get a reduced registration rate of \$50, a free Skylight T-shirt, and camping is included. <https://www.skylightfestival.ca/>

- **Kairos Launch New “Blanket Exercise” to Be Held in Ottawa on June 2nd**

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is an important way to represent colonization in Canada and its impact on Indigenous peoples. This really big Blanket Exercise is a collective commitment to build reconciliation based on justice for Indigenous peoples. Kitchi means “really big” in *Anishinaabemowin*, the language of the Algonquin territory. Learn more about this amazing event. <http://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/>

New to Harcourt? Welcome!

Come Grow in Faith With Us!



To contact the Church: Office e-mail office@harcourtuc.ca or call 519 824-4177

Visit our webpage at www.harcourtuc.ca for information about services, supports, room rental, activities and outreach

Check out our videos on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoGGeM2oFBw>

Seek.Connect.Act

Committees and Groups

Books and Buildings: A Walk Down Memory Lane

by Ruth Tatham, Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship

About 30 women of the Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship were treated at the April meeting to a particularly interesting presentation on the formation of the Guelph Public Library and its special history to date. The guest speaker, Virginia Gillham, is a professional Master of Library Science and a former librarian at Wilfrid Laurier University and later, at the University of Guelph. Today, we know her as the very energetic force behind the "Friends of the Guelph Public Library".

It is interesting to note that Guelph formed the first public library in what is now known as the province of "Ontario" in 1883...not long before Toronto opened its first such library! The first library building in Guelph was completed in 1905 through a Carnegie Foundation grant (Wikipedia, 2013). Virginia traced the local history through the various buildings and functions of the Guelph Library, including its desire for



Carnegie Library in Guelph 1905-1964 - Public Domain

the community to have a core, downtown library with a multitude of resources such as reference and archival divisions, electronic and other up-to-date learning equipment and a bookmobile. In function, size and parking space Guelph has long outgrown its present main library. However, the annual October *Giant Book Sale* has already contributed purchase money for equipment to fill some gaps until a new much larger central library is built.

The Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship next meets **at noon on Monday, May 8th** in the Friendship Room at Harcourt Church. Guest speakers will be two teenaged "envoys", Lillian Carvalho and Kaitlyn Lew, who will describe their work in Colombia which took place during the March break. This most recent "Two Countries, One World" (TCOW) endeavor is the latest in a series of youth mission and learning annual trips to foreign countries each spring.

All women are most welcome to attend. Please bring your own "brown bag" lunch...and a friend if you wish. Tea and cookies will be provided.

Reference: Wikipedia (2013). Guelph Public Library.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guelph_Public_Library

Update on Harcourt's Adult Faith Formation

by Andre Auger

Since Spring 2013, Harcourt's Adult Faith Formation team has arranged over 40 Small Groups on a wide range of topics related to our lives as Christians. This spring, we're taking a Sabbath rest. We will not be planning, coordinating or leading any new small group opportunities for reflection, learning and growth. Instead, we will be honouring that most ancient of commandments and spiritual practices, which is to honour the Sabbath and keep it holy. That means standing down from our busyness long enough to give everyone and everything a rest and an opportunity for renewal. We will, in the midst of this little break, be listening. We'd like to hear more about your own faith needs. What are the issues in your faith that you are wrestling with - such as *parts of our traditional Creeds which you can no longer say without crossing your fingers, beliefs you really don't want to talk about because you're just not sure, issues you are struggling with in your life for which you would love to find a faith-related response?* Below is a tear-off sheet. Use it to let us know what you need. Drop the completed form at the Office or directly in my folder.

We in adult faith formation firmly believe that we have within our Harcourt community all the resources we need to help each other grow in our faith. No need to be an expert. All we need is to get together and talk in a safe environment. We've developed a tool we've been using for almost ten years now: "Holy Listening." It's easy and it's safe. And it allows deep conversations. Get a small group of people together who share your concern or your interest, and we'll do the legwork to set you up as a small conversation group. We can help you locate relevant resources, and even help you get started. The Fall is a great time to start a conversation. See you then!

Please tear on the line above and drop off your response noted below at one of the following locations:

1. The Church office – Dean Ave.
2. Place it in the folder labelled Adult Faith Formation (Andre Auger) located in the cabinet outside the Church office door.
3. Place it in the collection plate on Sunday.

To: Adult Faith Formation (c/o Andre Auger)

Here are some issues that challenge me, which I would love to explore with other people:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I would be willing to organize a small conversation group

NAME: _____ CONTACT INFO: _____

Consider Yourself Invited!

by Ben Fear, Property Committee



The Property Committee is generously making this offer to all members of the congregation including: home owners, apartment dwellers, condo residents, tenants, vacationers and sight seekers... and even those who are spectators and cheer leaders are welcome. We are placing in the *Gathering Place* at the Church entrance a sign-up sheet inviting you to come and enjoy an opportunity to maintain a small section of the gardens during the warm summer months. Normally these months would include June, July and August... but heeding the predictions of the Dodds Kidney and Bladder Pill Almanac, we are including September as well!

Volunteering to garden at Harcourt is a way to enjoy some of nature's beauty that sometimes we forget that we have. Here's how it works: You volunteer and then you are assigned a small part of the garden as your very own - to weed or dead-head the flowers at a time of your choosing. Then, when you are done, you sit down on a bench and listen to the birds singing. You can even close your eyes and think about the big white fluffy clouds overhead. When you wake up, it's like you had a short vacation without the driving! Families are welcome to sign up too.

Figure on 30 minutes a week. That's 15 minutes to work and 15 minutes to daydream or eat your sandwich at lunch. Even if you can't sign up, we invite you to enjoy the time spent there. There it is --- our invitation. RSVP. Please contact the Church office (office@harcourtuc.ca) or speak to Ben Fear or Dave Hume.

"Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin".
Dwight D. Eisenhower

A Place Where “Reading Texts” is Encouraged!

by Mary-Lou Findlay, Harcourt Library Committee

This month I have chosen to introduce to you six books, new to the Library, each on a different religion, faith, or expression of spirituality.

* The Birth of Christianity – Discovering what Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus

John Crossan 270CRO

In this national bestseller, John Dominic Crossan, well known leading expert on Christian history, talks about how Christianity emerged in the period following Jesus’ death.



From A Gift Book of Stories and Poems for Children, 1850. Public Domain.

* Grounded – Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution

Diana Butler Bass 277BAS

“Where is God?” is one of the most consequential questions of our times. People believe, but they perhaps believe differently than they once did.

* The Baha’i Faith

William S. Hatcher/J. Douglas Martin
297HAT/MAR

This is not a recently written book, but does explain the origin and teachings of this popular religion.

* Surfing the Himalayas – A Spiritual Adventure

Frederick Lenz Fic LEN

This author of this small paperback has chosen to talk about his adventures with Buddhism in the form of a fictional Buddhist monk with whom he travels.

* The Te of Piglet

Benjamin Hoff Fic HOF

This delightful small book continues the author’s explanation of Taoism through the A.A. Milne characters – in this case particularly Piglet. Te (Deh) is Chinese for Virtue.

And to continue the use of the Unusual to present religious ideas:--

* The Complete Idiot's Guide to Reincarnation
Hammerman/Lenard 269 Ham/Len
NUFF SAID!

And now, for some delightful fiction – on DVD yet!

* An Irish Country Village
Patrick Taylor DVD Tape 24
If you have not yet met the folk of Ballybucklebo, you have a rare treat ahead. Ballybucklebo is a community in Northern Ireland where there's always something going on. I personally highly recommend this author (who happens to be Irish/Canadian).

In the Pipes: Progress on Washrooms

by Dave Hume, Chair, Washroom Building Committee

The Call for Tenders has been sent out to a list of five local contractors. The date set for opening the tenders and deciding on a contractor is set for Monday, May 15th in order to give the contractors enough time to prepare their tenders. The date suggested for construction to begin is June 8th, but contractors include their start dates as part of their tenders.



Photo by Pierre Bachelot. Wiki Commons

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has” Margaret Mead.

You Just Never Know...

A Garage Sale Tale
by Janet Webster

A customer asked a volunteer about a doll that had fallen to the floor. She REALLY wanted the doll but couldn't reach it. She said to the volunteer "If I get down to reach it, I won't be able to get up!" The Harcourt volunteer cheerfully crawled under the table and retrieved the doll even though she was not exactly a teenager herself. The customer was SO happy and amazed. As the volunteer recounted later, "You would have thought I gave her a \$100!"

Men's Group To Hear About Habitat for Humanity

by Bill Lord

Wednesday, May 10th is the next meeting of the Men's Group. Steve Howard will be the guest speaker. He is the CEO of Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph. He will give a talk on "Beyond the bricks and mortar: Building homes Building Futures." Habitat for Humanity is a unique social enterprise. It combines fund raising activities with its ReStore network. It provides opportunity for volunteers to be involved in constructing homes for those whose situation would otherwise prevent them from ownership. Come and hear the story.

All men are welcome to attend and you are invited to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this session. John Phelps will have the coffee and tea ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Murray Woods will be the leader.

In your date book please record the date of June 14th for the next meeting. The program will be announced at the May meeting.

Whas Happenin at Harcourt?! Do you know?

by Joan Barham, Chair, Communications

Over the last few years there have been changes as to how information is sent to Harcourtians: E-Letter, website, life and work announcements, drop down screen announcements, e-mail; Harcourt Herald, Twitter, Facebook – we try our best! ***But now it's time for a check-in with you*** to find out how communication is working at Harcourt. The Communication Committee wants to hear from YOU. We want to hear your concern(s). Good communication is critical for a thriving Harcourt family life. *Please* let us know how “knowing what is happening at Harcourt” could work better for you!

Please contact Joan Barham: 519 836 0433; jfbarham@gmail.com or office@harcourtuc.ca; 519 824 4177. We look forward to connecting with you and improving communication at Harcourt.

Community

Breaking Bread Together – Saturday Night Supper

by Jill Gill

As I write this article for the Herald, we are gearing up for our first Saturday Night Supper (SNS) of the year on April 29th. I'd like to thank those who volunteered to serve and prepare food or donate money for food purchase for that night, in advance. Clearly I don't know yet how many guests will be in attendance, but I do know they will be very appreciative of our hospitality and splendid food. Next month, I'll report the stats. Because I have been asked to swap dates for the first two of our hostings of SNS this year, our next event comes hot on the heels of the first. Harcourt's next opportunity to serve and provide food for Saturday Night Supper at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street, is **June 3, 2017**. Our much

loved menu includes Pasta Casserole (recipe provided on the Harcourt website), Caesar Salad, cheese, pickles, rolls, assorted fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, juice and coffee. We require twelve volunteers to prep and serve dinner on the night and many folks to provide food or cash donations for food purchase. Volunteers and food should be at the church (entering via back door) by 5 p.m. Volunteers will be needed until 8 p.m.

A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Greeting Place outside the sanctuary or you can sign up online through Sign Up Genius. To do this, go to the Harcourt website, click on 'Connect with Community', then 'Saturday Night Suppers'. Scroll down and click on 'Sign-up Online' to pick a slot. Many thanks for your continued support of this worthwhile outreach event. For more information, contact Jill Gill 519 767-1244 or at peter.gill@sympatico.ca. Learn more about Saturday Night Suppers on Harcourt's webpage at: <http://www.harcourtuc.ca/community-connection/saturday-night-suppers/>



A Special Spiritual Journey

by Kathy Magee

I had the privilege of joining with a group of wonderful residents at Wellington Park Terrace Retirement Residence in a journey through Lent together. A faithful group of 13 to 17 people met with me at their residence for seven Tuesday afternoons. We explored our experience of prayer and the meaning of prayer to us, especially in the holy season of Lent. Scripture or sacred readings reflecting a theme and grace for each week provided the foundation for some deep and significant sharing and insight. Using the sacred listening circle, we were able to listen and hear each other's stories, share what was meaningful to us and reaffirm how our faith is a consistent source of support and courage. We used a variety of prayer forms, including Lectio Divina, the Breath Prayer, the Body Prayer, and Gospel Contemplation to move from our heads to our hearts. It was such a gift to be with a group of people who have so much life experience and whose faith has been and continues to be central to their lives. They are people of deep faith who are a blessing to those around them. They identified the opportunity to have conversations about our faith and our prayer life as an important part of their faith journey. It is one that becomes more complex as mobility and connection to home churches become more challenging. All expressed a desire for future opportunities to continue and expand the conversation.

Mark Cudney, the Chaplain at Wellington Park Terrace was wonderfully helpful. His compassionate knowledge and deep connection to the people he serves there enriched our time together. The support of Harcourt's Spiritual Life Committee was an important element of this outreach opportunity. As a Covenanted Spiritual Companion and member of the Spiritual Life Committee, it was an honour to represent Harcourt and to be part of this very special spiritual journey with those people of faith in our extended community.

The Hoop House is Open! The Hoop House is Open! **Springtime in Harcourt's Communal Garden**

by Jill Gill

Many thanks to all those who are volunteering to work in the garden this growing season and those who were able to attend the planning meeting on April 2.

This just in – yes, we have opened the hoop house placed over the far raised bed and behold! a lush crop of winter kale – ready to be picked this week. This is a full month earlier than any other year's harvest. Looks like our efforts at extending the growing season were successful. The folks at CCSC are in for a treat, which I'm sure they will appreciate. I'll report the weight of the kale crop as soon as it is picked.

Our first work 'party' to get the veggie beds in order for planting will be **Saturday, May 13th from 9-noon-ish**. Rain date will be Saturday, May 27th, 9-noon. All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship. No experience necessary, there will be tasks for all levels of expertise! We will likely be harvesting the first of our rhubarb and asparagus crops for the season shortly thereafter. And the Blessing of the Seeds/Seedlings and planting by Manna folk will be the last weekend in May or first in June.

It's not too late to volunteer to do prep, planting and harvesting this summer – May until October in the vegetable/herb/fruit garden. All produce is donated to Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry to help provide healthy options for those in need in Guelph. We have many well-seasoned gardeners as well as beginners and we don't require expertise, just a willingness to learn and dig-in!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Jill Gill 519 767-1244 or at peter.gill@sympatico.ca

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop". Confucius

Easter Pysanky Shine Once Again

by Mike Peleschak

Harcourt has received of \$840 from Cisca Vanderkamp, Susanna Rosebush, Lisette Vanderkamp and Mary Peleschak this month.

A happy bunch of people- from 5 to 85 years old- gathered once again -in Cisca's home and in Ayr United Church this year to decorate Pysanky before Easter.

Traditionally decorated eggs are called Pysanky - from the Ukrainian word "to write". It was believed by ancient peoples that in recreating and decorating this egg with many symbols of fertility, power, and life they would be able to assist the world in remaining alive, powerful and above all - good.

The egg-writers gathered from Ancaster and Georgetown, from Ayr and Kitchener and Fergus, and of course, Guelph. With Cisca organizing and Mary, Susanna and Lisette facilitating, newbies progressed through the basics and "wrote" beautifully coloured eggs. Those with previous experience went ahead and created their own exclusive designs. Everyone went home with one or two personal heirlooms.

A sincere thank you to the Arkell Poultry Research Station for their excellent quality eggs. More thanks to Marilyn Sears and Ann Middleton for their donation of many delicious cookies to sustain the hard-working artists.

This endeavor has now been offered for over a dozen years, so many Harcourt people and their neighbours from surrounding communities now have pysanky in their Easter decorating basket!



Photo by Jerry Daminato

A Safe Space

by Peter Gill

“Next to my AA meetings, this is the most important place I come to”. A quote from a guest who wasn’t talking about the food he can get every two weeks. He was talking about being in a place where he could be heard and listened to and respected.

When Chalmers opened its first café three or so years ago, more than one person wondered why we needed to do that as there were already places in town, like Sister Christine’s or Hope House which offer the same service. The answer is fairly simple. People who live with plenty, like most of us, have many choices where we can buy coffee.... Tim Horton’s, Starbucks, Second Cup etc. People who live with scarcity have far fewer choices in life so to be able to choose the place where they can have coffee, and feel safe and welcome, can make a huge difference.

A young woman had been waiting for us to open on a Wednesday evening. She and her sister had been speaking in their native language. When she got to the registration desk, she shared that someone had made a racist comment to her because she was speaking her own language. The registration volunteer asked her to identify the person who made the comment and let staff know about the incident. A staff member then spoke with the individual concerned.

The story speaks to a number of things that make CCSC unique. The guest felt comfortable telling the registration volunteer about the incident. The volunteer sees her every two weeks, makes a point of calling her by name and also knows her family well. The guest felt that she was safe to report the incident and knew that we are a place that does not tolerate racism. She knows that CCSC is her community place where she expects to be treated with respect and dignity.



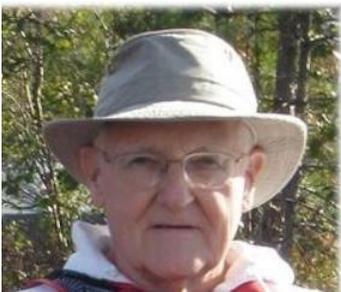
Announcements

Passing:



WHITTAKER, Charles James, on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at the age of 84. A loving and devoted husband to his childhood sweetheart Margaret for over 60 years. Doting and proud father and grandfather. Charlie attended the Royal Technical College associated with the University of Glasgow graduating in 1956 with his Associate Royal Institute of Chemistry. In 1967 Charlie he immigrated to Canada to begin a new career as the plant manager of Court Galvanizing Company in Guelph eventually becoming the general manager before his retirement. Charlie will be remembered for his winning personality and as a consummate volunteer; including a member of the

Rotary Club of Guelph since 1974 where he was President from 1990 - 1991 and District Governor in 1995 - 1996. Awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1996. Chairperson for the Board of the Guelph General Hospital. For Charlie's dedication and devotion in many aspects of his life, he was awarded a Provincial Conservation award in 1992. Volunteerism and fundraising for such notable initiatives including Conestoga College, KidsAbility, The Elliott, and ARC industries led to a well deserved Ontario Citizen award in 1998. Instrumental in the daffodil bulbs being planted on the Hanlon Expressway in memory of his mother beginning in 1995 and has grown to over 2.5+ million bulbs being planted by local high school students. Keeping true to his passion of gardening, Charlie has been a key person involved with the tulip bulbs for KidsAbility fundraiser each year.



MATHIESON, Murray. After a brief but valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Murray, in his 86th year, leaves behind his wife and best friend Fran Corner Little. Murray was a 25 year plus member and past president of the Guelph Men's Club; a member of the Guelph Wellington Seniors Association and a founding member of the Evergreen (GWSA) Canoe Club. He enjoyed singing in the Men's Club

Choir and the Harcourt Memorial United Church Choir and served on Harcourt's finance committee. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Hospice Wellington would be very appreciated by the family. A tree will be planted in memory of Murray K. Mathieson in the Wall-Custance Memorial Forest, University of Guelph Arboretum. Dedication service, Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 2:30 pm.



HARDY, Hugh Spence, on April 19, 2017 in Guelph. Hugh was a leader, a soldier, a pioneering marketer, an executive banker, an entrepreneur, a published memoirist, a passionate golfer, a story teller of great wit, an adventurer and most of all a devoted family man. He was pre-deceased by his dearly beloved wife Betty Joan, Hugh was raised in Saskatoon during the depression by his widowed mother Emma. He served in the Royal Canadian Regiment during WWII and with distinction on the front line in the Korean War as an infantry Captain (acting). With a degree in Commerce from the University of Saskatchewan, he embarked on a successful career in business that took him from Vancouver to New York, working with global corporate clients alongside of the legendary market researcher Alfred Politz. Hugh then returned to Canada with his family and turned his attention to banking with the Royal Bank of Canada. He introduced the previously staid banking industry to modern marketing and advertising practices. He rose to hold senior executive leadership roles in marketing, public and governmental affairs, introducing Chargex (Visa) to the Canadian market. He transformed how banks launch and develop new products and services. He also took on increasingly senior operational roles in the Bank, retiring as an EVP. As an entrepreneur he had a lobster export business in the Bahamas and a successful consulting practice. Late in life he wrote his memoirs, which he published in 2016 ("And Out of The West: The Checkered Life of a Prairie Boy," XLIBRIS). In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to The Foundation of Guelph General Hospital, whose staff provided him with excellent care over the years.

Other Announcements:

- Shannon Kingsbury in concert **Sunday, May 7** at Harcourt United Church. Shannon has an enchanting voice with music that has been described as beautiful, ethereal and powerful. Her new album will be released on Sunday, May 7 at the Harcourt United Church, the concert beginning at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Janus Books, or \$25 at the door. <https://www.sootoday.com/local-entertainment/bones-secrets-songs-rooted-in-myth-dream-and-emotion-591585>
- The next concert of the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony in the Baroque & Beyond series, called Bach & Vivaldi, will be presented at Harcourt church on **Friday, May 12**. Curated by KWS principal oboe player James Mason, it will feature violinist Aisslinn Nosky, formerly of Toronto's Tafelmusik, as soloist in a program that explores the connections between J.S. Bach and Vivaldi. Tickets can be bought online at kwsymphony.ca or by calling 519-745-4711 or toll-free at 888-745-4717. <https://www.guelphmercury.com/whatson-story/7205428-baroque-concert-series-returns-to-church/>



Minutes For Mission

Asian Heritage Month

Our gifts for Mission & Service support intercultural programs in The United Church of Canada. May is Asian Heritage Month.

The month provides a continuing opportunity to prayerfully reflect on the contributions of Asian Canadians to our church and Canadian society and to honour and celebrate this important aspect of Canadian history.

In church and society, Asian cultures and traditions are broad and diverse. Comprising many language groups, cultural traditions, histories, and ways of expressing faith, Asian Canadians have many ways of being.

In the United Church, there are Chinese Cantonese-, Chinese Mandarin-, Korean-, Tagalog-, and Tamil-speaking congregations; all of these are expressions of our intercultural church. One way the United Church seeks to honour Asian Heritage Month is through worship, and each year, new resources for worship are created to lift up different aspects of Asian heritages. Asian Heritage Month is not limited to the contributions of Asians in Canada. The United Church has strong ties to Mission & Service partners throughout Asia who are addressing human rights abuses wherever they occur as part of building a world of justice for all. Critical issues for the region include peace building and upholding the rights of communities to healthy environments in the context of resource extraction projects, such as mining. We sing thanksgiving that Mission & Service supports our intercultural journey.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!



Behind the Scenes

Forging a Path to Justice and Outreach:

An Interview with Arlene Davies-Fuhr and Edna Miller

by Gillian Joseph

Although Arlene Davies-Fuhr and Edna Miller are the co-chairs of the Justice and Outreach Committee, they are both relatively new to Harcourt. Yet their passion for rolling up their sleeves and meeting challenges is obvious as I catch them for a few minutes for an interview as they go about their busy lives. This quiet, but active, Harcourt committee is



Arlene Davies-Fuhr

sometimes invisible as it works behind the scenes in a very unassuming way. Being new meant that it took some time for them to find their way and to learn what was expected of them. They weren't sure of the connections, the skills or the resources that were available to them in the congregation, and their knowledge of the history of Justice and Outreach at Harcourt was spotty at best - but they have been quick learners. To start them on their journey in 2016, Arlene and Edna asked members of Harcourt Church who were interested in Justice and

Outreach to come together to guide them toward a sense of where resources and activities should be focused. Imagine how excited they were when, on a cold January morning after Church, 21 people attended the meeting, and how they were even more excited to hear a strong desire to focus on issues associated with refugees, indigenous relations and poverty. The Committee had its mandate – but still only two members. That wasn't going to stop them.



Edna Miller

This is no ordinary 'committee' in the traditional sense. No agenda, no minutes and hardly any meetings. Instead, Arlene and Edna have created a conduit through which the many Justice and Outreach activities that are already taking place independently in the Church can connect and be "raised up" for others to see. Furthermore, they see themselves as a support mechanism for linking good ideas to resources - working with others inside and outside of Harcourt to make small initiatives happen. For example, many of us are aware of the amazing and much publicized Syrian refugee program which was sponsored by Danby's CEO Jim Estill in Guelph, a man who gave \$1.5 million to bring 58 families to Canada (see: <http://torontolife.com/city/life/jim-estill-the-man-who-saved-200-syrian-refugees/>). You may recognize the surname, as his mother, Ann Estill, is a long-time Harcourt member. Arlene and Edna contacted Jim Estill's group to see if and how the Church could fill any remaining gaps in the program. What resulted was the creation of an opportunity for members of Harcourt not only to buy, donate and deliver baskets of fresh fruit and vegetables to newly arrived Syrian families in Guelph, but to collect cutlery (with the Girl Guides), dish towels and cloths (with the

Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship) and provide rugs and bedding where needed. Arlene and Edna have found that the families who receive these gifts are extremely pleased and very thankful to see the friendly Harcourt Church volunteers at their door. Furthermore, this is not only a meaningful gift for recipients, but also a joyful and rewarding experience for those who volunteer to deliver them.

The projects that the Justice and Outreach Committee connect to are very diverse. For example, through our Church community's participation in national events and local initiatives (with people like Pamela Girardi and others) the Committee has helped facilitate a better understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation process as well as helped people to learn about other important issues of concern to Indigenous people. With this knowledge Harcourt can be more effective in its outreach to Indigenous people and other marginalized groups. In the name of outreach, Harcourt members have also baked cookies and provided support for the men and women who attend *Park 'n Dance*, a program for people with Parkinson's Disease that meets regularly at Harcourt. The Committee is connected to other initiatives such as the project (initiated by Ann Middleton) that collects fresh eggs and cheese the first Sunday of each month that are then donated to people at Chalmers Community Services. They help Jill Gill facilitate Saturday Night Suppers and the collection of food and other staples for people in need there. The committee also supports the Rainbow Chorus and members of the congregation actively participate in the Gay Pride Parade each year. Furthermore, by meeting and sharing information with Guelph United Ministries (GUM), the Committee has learned about other local initiatives undertaken by churches in the city and gained a great deal from hearing different perspectives and from tapping in to new networks. Indeed, says Arlene, they have learned that when it comes to Justice and Outreach, Harcourt is an engaged and compassionate community.

I ask Arlene and Edna to clarify their definition of the terms 'outreach' and 'justice'. Arlene said that she sees 'outreach' as more like charity – an attempt to try to repair some of the inequities in society. However 'justice', from her perspective, is looking at the issues from their foundation and trying to create opportunities for marginalized people without having them fall repeatedly through the 'cracks' of society.

When Edna reflects on my question about the definition of justice, her answer gives pause for thought. 'Justice', she says, is another word like 'truth' and 'love'. Each of us has our own definition. Yet, Edna is quick to point out that her own definition of 'justice' is certainly not the same as that of American President Donald Trump! As Christians, she says, we look to Jesus for our model of justice. This was a model that gave sight to the blind, befriended the outcast lepers and tax collectors, that included women and children, gave the stranger welcome, defended the adulteress. In other words, says Edna, Jesus stood with those people that society rejected, those who had little or no voice of their own. That was Jesus'

justice then, says Edna, and it is still the kind of justice we are urgently called upon to exercise today.

I ask about some of the challenges that the two of them have faced along the way. Arlene says one such challenge has been timing - when good ideas are ready to put into practice only to find that the timing conflicts with other important Church priorities of the moment. She talked about the challenges associated with communicating and reaching the congregation with information about initiatives that is timely and inspiring, as well as the challenge of keeping up to date and in the loop about new initiatives and partnerships.

Edna suggests that some of the issues associated with justice and outreach that were traditionally handled by the Church in the past are now, in modern times, often handled by secular groups that exist outside of the Church. Because of this, Arlene emphasized the importance of keeping connected to secular interest groups and letting them know about activities that are going on at the Church that may interest them. For example, a blessing on Mother's Day around the importance of clean water might benefit from the insights of a community environment group – an opportunity that may forge a valuable partnership. Arlene also suggests that we must always be mindful of the limitations of volunteers within our congregation that may be age-, family- or employment- based, along with the limitations and responsibilities that could put a strain on Arlene and Edna's own health.

So what does the future hold for Justice and Outreach at Harcourt? Arlene says it would be great to find a way for younger families in the Church to engage in a small outreach project of their own, and they are talking to MANNA and others about some potential opportunities. In the meantime, members of Harcourt continue to be inspired by Arlene and Edna's passion as they live the words: *Seek. Connect. Act.* I say goodbye to them and thank them for their work at Harcourt. But as I reflect on what they have told me I think about what musician Simon Tam once said: "*Apathy is not compatible with love*". I'm sure that Arlene and Edna would agree.





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- ✦ 74 Vision Fund projects with youth
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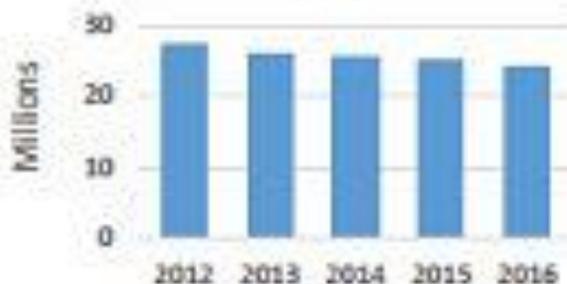
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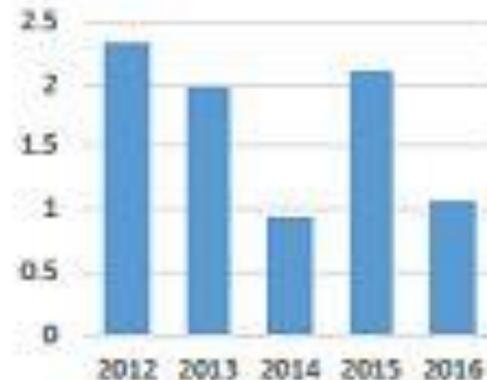
GIVING BY CONFERENCE

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Alberta and Northwest	2,489,561	2,549,575	2,557,707	2,455,214	2,498,246
All Native Circle	4,737	6,567	4,885	4,502	1,966
Bay of Quinte	2,745,660	2,684,670	2,527,910	2,476,548	2,601,270
British Columbia	2,114,010	2,013,180	2,100,454	1,929,497	1,909,626
Hamilton	3,378,922	3,160,338	3,024,070	2,943,187	2,874,101
London	2,655,883	2,496,018	2,478,632	2,394,875	2,326,359
Manitoba and NW Ontario	1,715,067	1,710,574	1,658,704	1,593,556	1,518,198
Manitou	441,288	385,442	376,378	363,289	394,962
Maritime	3,096,458	2,985,012	2,949,826	2,808,871	2,761,238
Montreal and Ottawa	1,574,028	1,522,582	1,494,600	1,435,293	1,388,553
Newfoundland and Labrador	693,645	709,991	697,245	662,353	662,398
Saskatchewan	1,570,537	1,330,008	1,348,977	1,479,355	1,264,292
Toronto	3,756,438	3,610,782	3,382,423	3,250,104	3,192,229

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The Harcourt Communications Committee encourages all members of the congregation to submit **original** articles, news items, photos, book reviews, posters, prayers, poems, cartoons, songs etc. to be published in the Harcourt Herald in physical copy and online. E-mail all material or requests for interviews by the 20th of each month to theherald@harcourtuc.ca. Please note, however, that there are some Church policies and laws that need to be considered - but we are making it easy!

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2. Harcourt has a publication policy that states that marketing or charity/business promotional material cannot be published in the Harcourt Herald unless it is for an event run by a business or charity that is renting Harcourt space for that event or is for a group otherwise supported directly by Harcourt Church.
3. If there are concerns about whether submitted material can or cannot be published in the Harcourt Herald, the Editor will bring the material to the attention of the Chair of the Harcourt Communication Committee whose decision will be final.

Monday May 1

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
6:50pm Communications Committee [L]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday May 2

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
6:45 Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday May 3

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday May 4

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
9:30am Stroke Recovery Executive [F]
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday May 5

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [offsite]

Saturday May 6

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday May 7

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Affirming Service [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]
7:00pm High School Youth Group [202]

Monday May 8

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday May 9

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Worship Committee [C]
7:00pm Finance Committee [F]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday May 10

8:00am Men's Group [F]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Creative Intentions [202]
7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]
7:00pm Property Committee [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Dress Rehearsal [S]

Thursday May 11

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday May 12

8:00pm KW Symphony [S]

Saturday May 13

10:00am Sacred Circle Dance [G]
10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
2:00pm & 7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Concert [S]

Sunday May 14

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship Service [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday May 15

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday May 16

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]
7:00pm Handbell Choir [M]

Wednesday May 17

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:00pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]
6:30pm Guides [F]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday May 18

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday May 20

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity
[202]

Sunday May 21

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday May 22

Office Closed/Church Closed

Tuesday May 23

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings
1:30pm GUM Pastoral Care Meeting [C]

Wednesday May 24

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday May 25

8:45am Mindstretch [202]
1:30pm Park'nDance [G/F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday May 26

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Dress Rehearsal [S]

Saturday May 27

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity
[202]

Sunday May 28

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday May 29**Office Closed**

9:30am Quilting Group [F]
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm ARCH Men's Social Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday May 30

11:30am Staff & Admin Meetings

Wednesday May 31

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]