

The Harcourt Herald

In the Long
Run:
An Interview
with Anne Ball

Preaching to
Save the
Climate

Check Out An
Exciting
Volunteer
Opportunity

The life and work of Harcourt Memorial United Church
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
February, 2018

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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The Ministers' Quill



Make a Vow at Harcourt

by Jim Ball

Everyone knows that Harcourt sees its share of funerals. And baptisms. But less is said around here about weddings.

Harcourt is one of the most wonderful places to hold a wedding ceremony. The sanctuary is beautiful. Its dimensions are just right for such gatherings. Its wood and vaulted construction creates a space with breathing room and character. It offers marvelous light and amazing views to the gardens. Its acoustics are excellent, projecting sound with warmth and clarity. Add to it people and musicians and good words old and new, and a couple in love in the very heart of it, and you have, well, something quite special. Add the fact that Harcourt is such a progressive and welcoming place and you have a ministry that is quite important.



It is a joy to preside over these occasions where love is celebrated and hope embraced, where two individuals freely tether themselves to an adventure in companionship, compassion and compromise, launching themselves forward into an unknown future, trusting that the years will be kind, that strength and support will come in moments of adversity, and that time will prove their promises true. Each couple begins hoping that decades hence they will be able to look back and see the ways in which they learned to grow in love, to seek each other's welfare, and to insist on their own way never. Each begins hoping that pathways will be found through brokenness and loss, that mutual respect will always be their hearts' common ground, and that their love will always feel to each other like fresh air and morning light. Each begins hoping that such love will last, and that, in the twilight of their lives, the poet will be proven right: *"though lovers die, love shall not, and death shall have no dominion."*

More rare at Harcourt are weddings held in the chapel, which is an equally beautiful space. Only a week ago, on a bright and cold winter's day, a small group of family and friends gathered to celebrate the marriage of Stephanie Van Ryswyk and Andrew Cataford. Stephanie grew up at Harcourt and is a familiar presence at our early morning services. Andrew is new to

Harcourt, having come from Sarnia. Together they made public what had long been a private reality - that they loved one another, wanted the best for each other, and intended to make this truth the forever kind. We wish them well on the journey. And pray that God's peace will always be upon them. Upon them and all whose weddings and journeys in love we celebrate at Harcourt. Blessings!

**Caroline Harcourt Women
Monday February 12, 11:45
All Women Welcome!**

by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

Council's meeting on January 17 focused on the mesh of 'nuts and bolts and seeds' with Harcourt's narratives of revitalization and radical change. Providing technical support to worship and communication tasks, supporting our Harcourt 20/20 journey that includes experimentation and exploration of what community development could embrace, and presenting a 2018 budget to the Congregation are all important tasks. The results of our discussion? Come and participate in two upcoming opportunities: **February 25** for Kent Hoeg's budget information session and **March 4** for our Annual Meeting. The Congregation's input and endorsement will help determine our 2018 achievements. Our core values are constantly present: Risk - Respect - Responsibility - Vulnerability - Trust.

'Seeds' provide the base for experimentation and the birth of new ideas or ways of doing things. Our Harcourt 20/20 journey depends on the ideas and leadership that sprout from the Congregation. We depend on involvement and commitment by many people – through committees/teams, through Council, and through individual contributions for tasks.

'Nuts and bolts' provide the base to get things done. We depend on sufficient financial resources to provide our staff team, program support for lay leaders, and a well-maintained facility. All of this helps us to carry out our mission and purpose.

Our narratives of revitalization and radical change provide a path that guides Harcourt towards a healthy future. Taking risks, accepting vulnerability, and working responsibly with respect and trust are important values that underlie all that we do. Are we prepared to blend 'nuts and bolts and seeds' into a resource-full budget for 2018?

Every time that we sing "Here I Am, Lord", I think about our call for people to fill vacant positions. It would bring great joy to have no vacancies on the list of Council, committees and teams that will be presented for approval at our Annual Meeting. Please consider these opportunities to serve: Vice- or Co-Chair of Council; Umbrella Councilors for Christian Life or Congregational Life; Stewardship Committee Chair; Christian Formation coordination. Any member of Council would welcome a chat with you! Guided by the Spirit, our community of faith will challenge ourselves as we continue to shape and strengthen our ministry together. With faith and hope.

Worship Schedule

Season of Lent

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 14 | Ash Wednesday service (noon/ chapel) |
| February 18 | Lent 1 Celebration of Building Project |
| February 25 | Lent 2 Guest speaker - Elaine Weir |

Harcourt offers three distinct Sunday morning services: At 9 a.m. in the Chapel, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and MANNA service at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

Chapel Service

The Chapel service features prayers, readings, singing, and a message. It is quiet and meditative. There is no choir or special children's program. Tea and coffee are served following the service, and some participants gather for additional guided reflection.

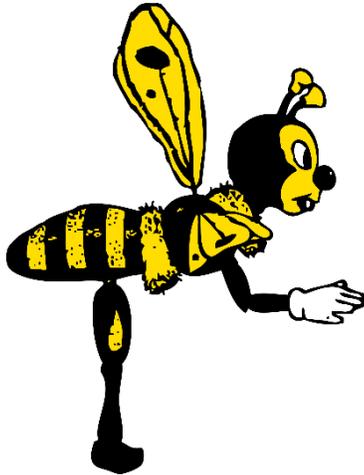
Sanctuary Service

The Sanctuary service closely follows the Chapel service, but also includes the Harcourt choir with piano and guitar accompaniment, and occasionally the handbell choir and flutes. Nursery support is provided in the nursery from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Tea and coffee are served in the gym after the service.

MANNA

Is a friendly, all-ages, interactive, alternative worship experience that involves hands-on activities and sharing. It takes place in the Friendship Room, also at 10:30 a.m.

The Latest Buzz...



- **Alydia Smith editor of the new United Church Lenten devotional, calls readers to daily spiritual practice.**

Check out the United Church of Canada interview with lent book editor Alydia Smith. <http://www.united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/interview-lent-book-editor-alydia-smith>

- **UC Moderator praises government for new position: Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Business Enterprise.**

The Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell stated: “Individuals and communities impacted by Canadian mining operations around the world are counting on the ombudsperson’s office to prevent and redress human rights abuse by Canadian companies” <http://www.united-church.ca/news/human-rights-extractive-sector-ombudsperson-announced>

- **RCMP to use KAIROS Blanket Exercise in all future cadet training.**

Training of all RCMP cadets in Canada will now feature the Blanket Exercise, a teaching tool in Indigenous history developed by ecumenical social justice group KAIROS Canada, the RCMP announced earlier this month. <http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/rcmp-use-kairos-blanket-exercise-cadet-training/>

- **The Canada Summer Jobs program attestation sparks controversy about religious freedom.**

Several religious groups are protesting the government’s statement that it will not process any application that does not include the new attestation spelling out a recognition that “women’s rights are human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights — and the right to access safe and legal abortions. These rights are at the core of the Government of Canada’s foreign and domestic policies.” <http://nationalpost.com/news/politics/how-the-canada-summer-jobs-program-became-a-freedom-of-religion-controversy>

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

Don't Forget the Annual Harcourt Congregational Meeting!



*Sunday, March 4
11:45a.m. to 1:45p.m.
In the gym,
with snacks provided before
the meeting
Child care will be available
Join us!*

Committees and Groups

Harcourt Men's Group Learn About Small Group Practices

by John Fessenden

This article is a summary of a presentation to the Harcourt Men's Group on Wednesday the 8th of November 2017. That presentation arose following conversations at a Harcourt discussion session in June 2017. It is a discussion of small group Adult Christian learning experiences that I have had in recent years.

Classic Small Group Practices

The denominational textbooks recommend that a church organize a number of small groups, of 8 to 12 persons each, with differing topics. Then annually shuffle the membership to give people the opportunity to meet new people and study new topics. Leadership is to be short term, up to a year. The assumption is that most people will take their turns at leading. The topics tend to be either selected by the volunteer leaders, or set out by the church leadership.

To do this requires large church, with many active members. It is a very good way to integrate new members, and it does help broaden acquaintances within the church. But I haven't seen it work very often. I hear it works in some very large mega-churches in the US, but the only one I know of in Guelph is Kortright Presbyterian where it does seem to be operational.

My Experience: Example Number One:

Green Valley Baptist Church in Arizona: Southern Baptist, All Seniors

I attended their Men's Group Bible study in the winter of 2016 for 11 consecutive weeks. They meet at 8.00am Thursday mornings and enjoy a full breakfast prepared by the men. No ladies, and no pastor, were ever in attendance. We studied the Book of Daniel through a 45 minute video from Dr. David Jeremiah from California. The video very well done, partially illustrated, and very scriptural. Much of it was good old fashioned Southern Baptist preaching. During the weeks it covered the Lion's Den, the Fiery Furnace and much more including King Nebuchadnezzar, the exile, elite students, the Medes invasion of Babylon, King Darius, the kings' dreams, and Daniel as the chief administrator of the empire. The minister did not attend. The men's group leader was a coordinator, not a teacher. Despite his brief attempts, there was little discussion, but very good learning, all from the video.

My Experience: Example Number Two: St Andrew's Presbyterian Kitchener: Discussion Group

I have been participating in this discussion group for over 4 years. There are 12 sessions per year, weekly on Tuesdays, with 6 in the spring and 6 more in the fall. It is run twice, morning and evening, for 2 different sets of 20 participants each. Each session consists of a 30 minute discussion, a 30 minute video, and another 30 minute discussion. Each session is led by the Minister. Almost all discussion is back and forth with the minister, not often between attendees. We frequently touch on some deep issues, such as "What is God?", "Is there life beyond this time on earth, and if so where and what?", "Is there a heaven, and who gets to go?" "How much of the scriptures is absolute detailed truth and how much is allegory?" "Are there such things as miracles, and did Jesus perform any real miracles or are they all explainable?" "What is the Trinity and how do you explain it?" "Is Christianity the only way to God, or is it just one of many paths, or, are Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, animists and other indigenous peoples all worshipping the same God as Christians do?" "The 3 sets of videos have been: The History of the Church from Christ to Now, Astronomy and the Universe, and Comparative Religions. Each has had 24 lessons, which have been spread over 2 years, spring and fall. This discussion has challenged my beliefs, and forced me to think deeply. Out of it I have also gained a few good friends. I will continue to attend.

My Experience: Example Number Three: Highland Baptist Church in Kitchener

This group was started in September 1991 by an Assistant Minister. She left after 3 years in June 1994 and I took over as teacher. I'm still the teacher, spelled off at times by one other person. The group has averaged about 15 people, mostly couples, and peaked at 24 members. We meet alternate Sunday evenings, 14 times a year, plus a spring BBQ. We are all now over 60, mostly late 70s or 80s, have had no new members in more than 10 years, and are now down to 14 members. Average attendance is about 12, as everyone comes almost every time. We have achieved that state where everybody participates (it took close to 15 years to attain that). This group has become very close, all very good friends.

The minister who was there 10 years ago attended on occasion and participated rather than led. The minister for the past 15 years has never attended. The church has 2 or 3 other smaller groups and the minister participates in one of those. There is no coordination between groups, although there has been communication of the topics of study on occasion. There used to be some suggestion that the groups should mix, or that our group should split in half. The members of our group actively opposed both ideas, wanting to stay all together.

We meet in members' homes, starting about 7.30pm with desert. Then the study for the evening goes from 8.00pm to 9.00pm, followed by a devotional. Originally, I led the devotional as an open prayer session, with maybe 5 members participating. It has now evolved into a designated member doing a personally selected inspirational reading followed by prayer. Everyone now takes their turn doing the devotional. Afterward we just chat, often for as much as another hour. We have studied specific books of the bible, books about Jesus, even a novel, and a text on Science & Religion. Specific studies last anywhere from 6 months to 18 months.

Some examples of our study books are:

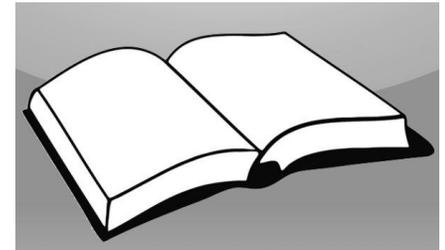
- 1st Timothy and Titus, by John Stott
- The Book of Romans, by Jack Kuhatschek
- Encounters with God in the book of Mark, by the Blackabys
- Mere Christianity, by C S Lewis
- The Bible Jesus Read, by Philip Yancey
- What's So Amazing About Grace, by Philip Yancey
- Outlive Your Life, by Max Lucado
- The Shack, by William Paul Young

“Caught My Eye” Books from the Library Shelves

by Mary-Lou Funston

* Understanding JESUS Cultural Insights into the Words and Deeds of Christ Joe Amaral 232 AMA

On a trip to Israel the author had a sudden and illuminating realization: "Jesus was a Jew!" From that realization came his need to explore the historic Jesus. This book is the "product of his ongoing quest..."



* Playing God Overcoming the Torment of Unforgiveness
In order to receive forgiveness, we must extend it.

Norman Willis 269 WIL

* Fulfilled How the Science of Spirituality Can Help You Live a Happier, More Meaningful Life Anna Yusim MD 269 YUS

Anna

And just in case the above suggestions are a little too serious for you, I have chosen the following:

* The Complete Idiot's Guide to Reincarnation

David Hammerman, Ed.D., 269 HAM/LEN

Difficult to describe, this book looks like a very interesting one to explore.

For the young people in the congregation:

* A Wind in the Door Madeleine L'Engle YP FIC L'EN

In which 3 youngsters have had adventure that leads them "out into galactic space, and then into the unimaginably small world of a mitochondrion."

As usual, these books will be placed on the book supports on the display shelves. I hope you enjoy them!



“Fishing” ... GUM is 5 Years Young

by Roz Stephenson

Guelph United Ministries (GUM) is the cooperative association of United Church ministries in Guelph (Dublin Street, Harcourt, Three Willows and Trinity churches, with Chalmers Social Services Centre and the Ecumenical Campus Ministry). Five years ago, GUM formed with the aim of promoting the United Church of Canada in Guelph, with the support of the funds from the sale of the Norfolk United Church building. At the end of 2017, the Norfolk Trust formally ended, but its creation, GUM, continues. A GUM celebration is being planned and you are invited! Mark **Saturday May 5, 2018** on your calendar! You will be hearing more about the plans for a gathering, for fellowship and singing, hearing about renewal and re-imagining our faith in Guelph and beyond, and a chance to learn, talk and rejoice at the GUM Spring Festival! We hope to have Rev. John Pentland, of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary with us that day (*See the United Church Observer, November 2015*). He is the author of the book “Fishing Tips” ... which is a story of church renewal rather than a day out with rod and reel!

The Ecumenical Week of Guided Prayer

Andre Auger, Spiritual Life Committee

Looking for a way to kick-start your New Year's resolutions around your spiritual life? Wondering what you might do differently this year for Lent? Curious about what it means to have a regular spiritual practice?

Then why not think of taking part in the Ecumenical Week of Guided Prayer? Harcourt's Covenanted Spiritual Companions have been involved in this annual event since its inception in 1983, here at Harcourt! John Buttars was instrumental in creating this unique event, along with John Veltri, SJ.

The Week is an opportunity for people to learn more about prayer and to explore their spirituality. Guided prayer is an experiential activity in which we develop, deepen, and explore a relationship with God. Listening, reflection, and awareness are at the heart of this week. During the week you will be paired with an experienced guide, with whom you will meet daily for about 30 minutes. Your guide will suggest Scripture passages, texts, poems, stories, art activities, and/or meditations to explore and pray with, according to your interests and preferences. Each day you will experiment with ways to encounter God and share the fruit of that experience with your guide.

This year, the week is **Sunday February 25 to Saturday March 3**. For more information, speak to any of Harcourt's Covenanted Spiritual Companions. Space is limited, so register early. To register, fill out a form, available in the Greeting Area and the Waiting Area, or visit the website.

A Jolt That Can Save a Life – Our New Defibrillator

by Ben Fear, Property Committee

Have YOU spotted our new defibrillator yet? Out in the greeting place attached to the column on the west side of the church, (that's the window side) at a spot where everyone can see it and everyone can reach it is a white metal case.

**IN THAT CASE IS LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT
CALLED AN *AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR* (AED)**

Harcourt United Church has had one of these LIFE SAVING machines for almost ten years and it has been used with positive results on several occasions. It was kept in a plastic hamper about the size of a laundry basket in the cupboard under the desk with the MEMORIAL BOOK

on it. Who knew?

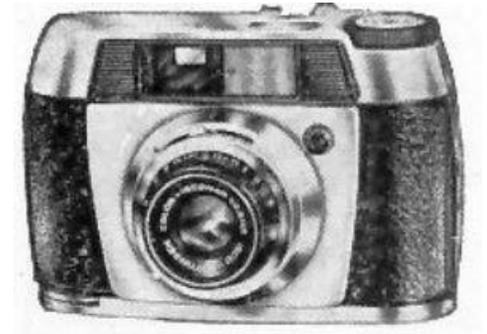
The new modern equipment will be visible, and useable by anyone. When the door of the case is opened an alarm will sound to alert people of the emergency. When the AED is turned on it talks to you and calmly tells you just what to do and how to save a life. You will not injure anyone by using it. Familiarize yourself with its location, it might be needed in another area of the church.

Photographs for Harcourt: Share Your Photos With Us!!

by Joan Barham, Communication Committee

“A picture is worth a thousand words”. This is the reality when people view our Harcourt website, Facebook, twitter, Herald, Sunday worship material on the sanctuary screens, archives, flyers and bulletin boards.

We need your help in building our collection of photographs for use across these seven different avenues where we tell people about the heart and soul of Harcourt.



If you decide to share your photos with Harcourt:

If you have a lot, sort/eliminate some of them and break them down into groups of 10-15. (Or less than 25Mb per batch if you know how to figure that out.) File size depends on who you are using as an internet mail provider.

Also, it is requested that you date and name the pics. (eg Christmas 2017-1, Christmas 2017-2 etc.)

Send to: nate79plan68already@photos.flickr.com

In sending us your personal photos you are agreeing that they may be used for the Harcourt website, Facebook, Twitter, Herald, Sunday worship material on the sanctuary screens, archives, flyers and bulletin boards.

MANNA Flips for Shrove Tuesday

by Merrill Pierce, MANNA Coordinator

Want a night to get out of the kitchen and not have to decide what is for dinner? Manna is once again hosting a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, **February 13th**, with two sittings at 5:00 and 6:00 pm. Come and enjoy fellowship and good food: plain, blueberry or chocolate chip pancakes, juice, tea or coffee, sausage or bacon, and real maple syrup!



There will also be gluten-free pancakes available. After the costs of the food have been covered, all extra funds will go to support Chalmers Community Services and the purchase of some “living food boxes” from the Julien Project to help our gardening committee continue to provide guests at Chalmers with organic fresh produce.

Tickets will be available after church on January 28th, February 4th and 11th and from the office or Manna leaders. The cost is \$5.00 per ticket, with children under 12 free and families \$10. We would appreciate the use of any griddles you may have, and also would love to have some help in the kitchen, either flipping pancakes, or cooking bacon or sausages, or serving people. Please contact Merrill Pierce if you are able to help. (smpierce@sympatico.ca) Mark the date on your calendar!

Harcourt Men's Group

Next Meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2018

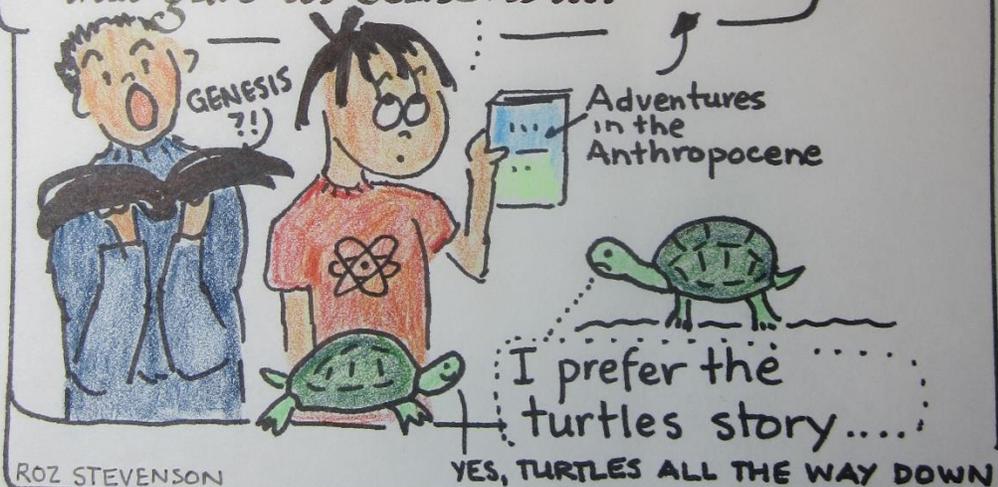
Ed Janzen, one of our own members, will be the guest speaker. He will give a talk on "Writing for the old car hobby." Ed has spoken on several occasions to the group and always has a unique perspective on the subject. All men are welcome to attend. You are invited to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this session.

Bill Higgins will have coffee and tea ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. Bryan Fuhr will be the leader.

In your date book please record the date of **March 14** for the next meeting. The speaker for the March meeting will be announced at the February meeting.

Science and Stories

"four and a half billion years ago, out of the dirty halo of cosmic dust left over from the creation of our sun, a spinning clump of minerals coalesced.... Soon after, a big rock crashed into our planet, shaving a big chunk off, forming the moon and knocking our world on to a tilted axis that gave us seasons...."



Science and Stories

by Roz Stevenson

This week I was talking with some students at the University of Guelph, which wouldn't be that surprising, except that I was there to talk about "Matters of Faith", at the invitation of Andrew Hyde, of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry. He told me that the aim was to allow interested students to meet faculty (even retired faculty) who would share something about their faith and work. Now, the term "sharing" always makes me nervous, and even worse was the idea that I would have to try to explain how I dealt with my Science and Faith "split personality". I'd have said "No-ooo – not me!" but Andrew is a nice guy, so there I was. I began with the "full disclosure" that I'd grown up in a United Church – when the Baby Boom

was turning up in packed Sunday School classes, because that's what you did on Sunday morning. And I noted that I now turn up regularly here at Harcourt. But I really did have a lot of "gap years"! In university and at work in a "science world", it becomes harder and harder to make the stretch between science and faith. It's hard to have the "religion" conversations with a mind that is firmly trained to say: 'But where's the proof?!' There is even sense a concern that any scientist who acknowledges a faith life, especially anywhere near a lab, is prone to sloppy, irrational thinking, and praying over experiments. The world of science demands data, evidence, rationale thought. Even assessments of the morality of applications of science (gene cloning, environmental manipulations, CRISPR gene editing) are considered on evidence-based criteria of impact ... and with recognition that new discoveries, new techniques, may change how we think about things. "Science world" does have its spiritual side ... amazement at a wonderful observation or experimental result or a testable theory that reveals a new way of looking at something.

The students asked me what had led to wander back into church after so many years, and I didn't have an answer. I still don't. I vaguely remember being in a service and thinking "This is kind of interesting .." One surprise was how the church itself had changed while I'd been away. The ministers would refer to ideas and books by people like John Shelby Spong, Barbara Brown Taylor, Joan Chittister, and others. It was remarkable to find writings from people who were looking at the kinds of questions that that had circled around in my head so often. The one bit of advice I could give the students with certainty was that, for faith life as well as for science and other academic and professional endeavours, it matters that we keep asking questions and learning.

The "stories" cartoon came out of thinking I was doing about this "Matters of Faith" conversation. A book called "Adventures in the Anthropocene" by Gaia Vince started with a few paragraphs describing the formation of Earth and the emergence of life in our current scientific terminology. Yet it sounds as much a far-fetched story as the way it is described in Genesis (twice) ... or the native peoples' story of "Turtle Island". We all try to understand and tell the story

The Enneagram and Your Spiritual Life

by Andre Auger, Spiritual Life Committee

In the early seventies, a Jesuit priest brought back from the Esalen Institute in California to his retreat centre in Chicago a new tool for helping people grow spiritually. It claims to have ancient Sufi origins, although there are significant similarities to instruments developed by the Desert Fathers and Mothers in the early centuries of Christianity.

It's called the "Enneagram" - from "ennea" which means "nine" in Greek. Over the years, this tool has become quite sophisticated, and has been adapted in a number of ways by a number of psychologists and spiritual guides. The literature on the Enneagram is considerable. There are even books called "The Everything Enneagram Book" (Reynolds, 2007) and "The Enneagram Made Easy," (Baron, & Wagele, 1994) along with more serious and detailed books by Don Riso and Russ Hudson, and Helen Palmer.

What's remarkable about the Enneagram is that it invites you to explore your compulsions rather than your strengths, and suggests ways you can develop the strengths of your compulsion, and grow spiritually.

Harcourt's Adult Christian Formation group is pleased to offer a unique opportunity to explore the power of the Enneagram for one's spiritual development. April Snider, a certified Enneagram trainer, will offer a series, the first three Tuesdays in February (6th, 13th, 20th), exploring the nine Enneagram types and spiritual practices which might help participants move from the compulsion of their type to a healthier exploration of their strengths. The sessions will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Chapel. This series would be of particular interest to those who already know their type, but April will provide a quick overview of each type for those for whom this is totally new.

If you would like to know your type before you come, you may take a quick, free Enneagram test on line at <http://www.9types.com/rheti/index.php> or a more comprehensive one at <http://www.EnneagramInstitute.com> for a small fee.

I have also added a new section on my website on spiritual practices on the Enneagram. Check it out as well at www.spiritualpractice.ca

References:

- 1 Reynolds, S. (2007). The Everything Enneagram Book. Avon, Mass.: Adams Media
- 2 Baron, R. & Wagele, E. (1994). The Enneagram Made Easy. San Francisco: Harpers.



Tax Receipts Available

by Kent Hoag, Finance Committee

Your tax receipts for 2017 will be available for pick-up at the greeting space Feb 4-18th. Any not picked up at that point, will be mailed out. If you have any corrections or questions, please call Heather Hoeg at 519-265-5956. THANK YOU!!

Advanced Care Planning/Substitute Decision Making Event

by Esther Devolin, Pastoral Care Committee

On January 14, 2018, Harcourt hosted a GUM Advanced Care Planning/Substitute Decision Making Event that was presented by Advanced Care Planning Waterloo Wellington. Lisa Beattie, who attends the 9 a.m. service, was the facilitator for this very informative

presentation. Lisa walked us through the process of how to decide who you want to make your health care decisions when you are unable to do so for yourself. She emphasized the importance of discussing with the person you have chosen to speak for you as to what your wishes are, and that you are confident that the person will honour and follow your wishes. Ontario's Health Care Consent Act, 1996, outlines the hierarchy as to who would be your substitute decision maker if you have not discussed and made your wishes known with your loved ones or those who you wish to fill this role.

Power of Attorney for Personal Care and Power of Attorney for Property are both legal documents that gives someone else the power to act on your behalf. They can be two different people and, in Canada, the word 'attorney' does not need to apply a lawyer. It is important to note that the power enacted by these two documents ceases on death. For more information you can go to www.attorneygeneral.ius.gov.on.ca

For further information you can go to www.advancecareplanning.ca or locally www.acpww.ca The contact is Dale Gellalty, Community Engagement Facilitator, 519-743-7021.

Nearly There! New Washroom Update

by Dave Hume, Property Committee

I met with the architect, Unto Kihlanki, and the contractor, Curtis Donnahee, of Even Construction in Guelph, on January 16 and had a tour of the new construction. All the plumbing is done except for the sanitary sewer line across the ceiling of the boiler room. The washrooms in the former cloakroom are almost finished, with the walls, electricity and water installed, the floor and wall tiles done and the doors about to be placed in the doorways but the toilets, sinks and mirrors have to be fitted. Curtis Donnahee has given February 8, 2018, as the projected completion date, so we are getting close!

All of the problems that have arisen have resulted in change orders, delays and increases in costs but the problems encountered (mainly asbestos removed and routing around a broken sanitary sewer under the Greeting Place) needed to be fixed. When the project was approved by the Congregation last June, the estimated cost was \$175,000. Contributions and interest income have totaled \$160,000. Expenses to the end of 2017 have been \$195,373. The extra costs have been paid out of the Church's Property Pillar. Based on the Change Orders still to come, I estimate the total cost will be about \$250,000 after our 50% rebate on HST is returned. Plans are being developed for an appeal to rebuild the funds in the Property Pillar.

Special thanks are extended to the Executive and teachers of the Royal City Pre-School, who have been so adaptable and co-operative during the disruptions to their space. Their classes have resumed on the lower floor after the floor was retiled (it was discovered that the old floor had asbestos in the backing of the previous tiles). We also thank Jim Ball and Miriam Flynn for putting up with noise, dust and occasions when the church was closed. Special thanks, too, to Darko and Anne Purkis for inconveniences and extra requirements during the construction.

Exciting Volunteer Opportunity - Harcourt Co-ordinator for Saturday Night Suppers

by Jill Gill

The Saturday Night Supper program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Church, at 50 Quebec Street. In 2008, Royal City Church requested that the program be maintained by the various churches that actually provided the meals and volunteers to serve the dinners, with the venue remaining at Royal City Church. This is still ongoing, with about 20 churches and groups providing Saturday night meals throughout the year. Harcourt folks host dinner four times per year.

These dinners serve many of the same folks that we see at the Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry. Saturday Night suppers, for many are their special night of 'dining out' and they express great appreciation for both the delicious food and fellowship that it provides. I have been co-ordinating the dinners that Harcourt hosts for approximately ten years and am looking for a capable person(s) to shadow me for the next few dinners to learn the drill and eventually take over this responsibility.

Responsibilities include:

- occasionally communicating with the organizer at Royal City Church;
- placing a notice in the Harcourt Herald in advance of dinner dates to recruit volunteers and food donations;
- placing a sign-up sheet in the Greeting Place;
- requesting that Anne Purkis create a Sign Up Genius posting;
- placing notice in Harcourt bulletins in advance of dinner dates; occasional announcements in church requesting volunteers and thanking participants;
- purchasing food that hasn't been donated;
- preparation of 'Task Lists' for food preparation and serving as well as clean-up after the meal. The menu is set with a well-loved recipe for Pasta Casserole.

This is such a rewarding volunteer activity, especially for anyone interested in Social Justice and food security in our community. There is a solid core of repeat volunteers who

regularly prep and serve dinner, so the new folks who wish to participate have plenty of mentors. We meet wonderful folks and hear interesting and heart-warming stories over good food, in a non-threatening environment. I am willing to co-coordinate for a reasonable number of dinner events to allow a new person to gain some confidence and understanding of procedures. Our next date to host will be March 3, followed by June 16, Sept. 22 and Dec. 22. If this sounds intriguing and fun, please contact Jill Gill (519)767.1244 or at peter.gill@sympatico.ca for further details.

Community

Preaching to Save the Climate

by Michaela Führer

DW Global Ideas, 2013

Used with permission

<http://www.dw.com/en/preaching-to-save-the-climate/a-16714500>

From climate sins to the climate apocalypse, the dialogue surrounding climate change is taking on religious undertones. Now preachers and religious leaders are trying to turn their followers into climate believers.

In the 12th century, St. Francis of Assisi preached that man must respect all creation and the environment. And that message was repeated again now, nearly a thousand years later, by the newly-elected head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis. He called on the world to preserve the environment: "Let us be guardians of creation and of the plan He has embedded therein, guardians of the environment; let us ensure that the path of our world is not marked by death and destruction."



But it's not just Christianity that touches on the theme of the relationship between man and nature. It's a topic embraced by all the world's religions. And those beliefs play an important role in the world because more than 80 percent of the world's population consider themselves religious, believing in a higher force.

Authoritative and Influential

The leaders of the world's religions often shape and decide what themes are central to their believers. They select which passages to emphasize from the holy scriptures, too. Religious leaders often carry a great deal of authority among their congregations "They influence people's view of the world, and the way they act," American ethnologists James Peoples and Garrick Baley say in their book "Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology." Imams, for instance, often tell their believers about the Prophet Muhammad, whose favorite color was green – also the color of environmentalism. Religious leaders carry a great deal of authority as well. They offer orientation and guidelines to their congregations, they help regulate family life, they decide which rituals are performed at marriages, deaths or conflicts and they give meaning to the unexplainable, the mystical. That means they also determine, to a certain extent, the actions of their followers. Now, many of them are trying to use that influence to turn their believers into climate warriors.

Preaching for the Climate

Whether people are Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Sikhs – followers of all faiths are threatened by climate change. In the "Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change," more than 100 religious and non-religious groups called on world leaders to come to a binding agreement on fighting climate change.

The organizations involved appealed to the morals of their supporters, hoping to convince them that the planet's resources are indeed limited. Back in 2009, representatives from some 30 religions and interdenominational groups took part in the religious conference "Many Heavens, One Earth" in Great Britain.

Some religious leaders have opted to burn fewer incense sticks. The participants agreed to take on concrete projects: for instance, the Chinese Buddhists and Taoists wanted to limit the number of incense sticks to three per person to cut air pollution, and the Anglican church and the Sikhs committed to installing more solar panels on their prayer buildings. And in 2010, a group of African religious leaders signed a declaration vowing to regularly touch on climate change themes in their sermons, emphasizing relevant verses in the holy texts that speak to the relation between man and nature. They also aim to teach their believers to lead more eco-friendly lives.

Saying 'I do' to a Tree

Mufti Shaban Mubajje, a leading Muslim figure in Uganda, preaches to his followers every week on how to save the climate, from preserving land to consuming less coal and

planting trees. Many in the East African country cut trees to use as heating wood or construction material. That's led to entire swathes of forest land being destroyed.

Planting Trees for a Holy Cause

In the region of Bunyoro in western Uganda, an Anglican bishop is making a unique effort to reforest the region's land. Before he marries a couple or baptizes a baby, he requires them or their families to plant a tree. The initiative gets support from international organizations, like the British Council.

Whatever the method – whether it's using less coal, fewer incense sticks or planting trees, religious leaders don't seem to be bothered by how and how much their followers do to preserve their environment. The important thing, is that they do something. "We only have this one world, this world," Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu said at the climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009. "And if we destroy it, we have nothing else."

Loblaws \$25.00 Gift Card – Your Contribution to Chalmers

by Peter Gill

I'm sure most of you know by now that Loblaws is offering a \$25.00 gift card as a goodwill gesture after the company admitted to price collusion over a 14 year period.

Bread of course is a staple we give to all our guests. So, where do we get our bread from, you may ask. Well, we do not actually purchase our bread. Our primary source is from the Salvation Army which has a corporate arrangement with Costco to receive their surplus baked goods. We also receive quite a few Kirkland brand items (muffins, pies) from the Salvation Army which we serve at coffee time both Downtown and at West. We also receive free bread from West End Bakery and Bunsmaster. All of these items are picked up by a couple of dedicated volunteers.

There has been a lot of talk in the media about donating the gift cards to a local food pantry and we at Chalmers would be delighted to see that happen. However, we would like to suggest the following:

As Gail Nyberg, executive director of the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto said "First of all, we will gratefully accept the gift cards. But people need to understand that they are for use in retail stores by individuals". Her suggestion, which we endorse, is that people apply for the gift card and then donate the cash to a food pantry. Why? Because food pantries such as Chalmers can stretch the purchasing power of a dollar further by buying in bulk or at

wholesale prices.

So that's what we are asking the Harcourt congregation to do. Signing up to receive a gift card is very straightforward at Loblawcard.ca. Your participation will greatly help us continue to offer the most nutritious food possible to our ever-increasing number of guests. Thank You!

Cabin Fever? Cluttered Space? Relief is on the Way!

by Janet Webster

Spring is coming and with it the annual Harcourt Garage Sale. Set aside those gently used items taking up space, then bring them to the gym on **Friday April 13** (A very lucky day!) The sale will take place on **Saturday April 14th** and your previously loved treasures will find new owners with some cash in Harcourt coffers. Guaranteed cure for those winter blues.



Dinner is Served: Saturday Night Supper

by Jill Gill

The Saturday Night Supper (SNS) program was started in 1998 at the former Chalmers United Church, currently Royal City Evangelical Church at 50 Quebec Street. In 2008, Royal City requested that responsibility for the Saturday Night Suppers be maintained by the various churches that actually provide the meals and volunteers. There are currently about 20 churches who take turns in hosting dinners each Saturday. This provides a really good hot meal to those in need (usually between 120-160 people), in the company and fellowship of others. Supper is served every Saturday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers from Royal City Church also serve a simple evening meal each night of the week to many of the same guests.

Harcourt's next opportunity to provide and serve SNS is **March 3, 2018**. Our usual, and much appreciated menu includes pasta casserole (recipe provided and available on Harcourt's website), Caesar salad, pickles, cheese, assorted fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, milk, juice and coffee. We need twelve volunteers to serve the meal, as well as many folks to provide the food. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Greeting Place where you can indicate how you are able to help out. Or, if you prefer to volunteer online at Sign Up Genius, go to the Harcourt website, click on "Connect to Community", scroll down and click on "Saturday Night supper", then scroll down to "Sign up online". Volunteers and food should be at the church at 50 Quebec Street (back door entrance) by 5 p.m. Servers will be needed until approximately 8 p.m.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and continued support of this worthwhile outreach activity offering a nutritious, hot meal to many of Guelph's most vulnerable individuals.

Harcourt's scheduled hosting dates for the rest of 2018 are: March 3, June 16, September 22 and December 22. For more information please contact Jill Gill at 519.767.1244 or peter.gill@sympatico.ca.

Announcements

Weddings:

Stephanie van Ryswyk and Andrew Cataford, January 13, 2018

Behind the Scenes

In the Long Run: An Interview with Anne Ball

by Gillian Joseph

If you've noticed a tall slim woman in the choir with short curly hair and a friendly smile, it's likely to be Anne Ball. Anne was born in Toronto, but grew up in Mississauga. Her father was a family doctor in a practice that grew rapidly in town and her mother was a homemaker. To this day, her father's medical clinic is still running in Mississauga and Anne's family continues to seek medical care there. The second child of four kids, she and her brothers and sister saw many changes to Mississauga and the surrounding area over the years.

Upon graduation, Anne worked with the Peel District School Board as an elementary teacher for 33 years, retiring four and a half years ago. Although she loved teaching, she relishes the new freedom she has gained to pursue other interests and passions. During high school and university days, Anne competed in track and field events, particularly finding joy in running. She recounts that in 1980 when Terry Fox came to Toronto she saw him at a gathering at Nathan Philips Square – an experience that Anne will never forget and one that really inspired her. Later as a teacher she was able to help with the Terry Fox runs at her school and also ran to raise money herself. Upon her retirement, instead of a gift, Anne asked if her colleagues would consider making a donation to the Terry Fox Foundation - and that's exactly what they did. She was touched by that gesture. Now, having more time in retirement, to run is pure joy for her. She has participated in 10k runs and takes on half marathons as well.

Anne runs indoors during the winter, about three times per week, varying her running between long distance and short, faster runs.

Retirement has given Anne opportunities to pursue a variety of interests. She volunteers at Chalmers Community Services Centre on Friday mornings and enjoys interacting with the people she meets there. She has also been able to help out at the church, especially in the MANNA program, where she has met new families and made many friends. Although when she first retired she thought that she wouldn't have enough to do, her retirement has evolved into "a new way of being" which she really enjoys.

When I ask Anne what she would consider her greatest personal accomplishment, without hesitation she says it is her children. Anne is proud of her kids, now adults, and what they have accomplished as well as the people they have grown into. Being a mom has been her greatest joy. Although like most working moms she found it difficult at times to maintain a work/family balance, Anne says that being a parent has been an incredible experience. In particular, both Anne and Jim value the relationship they have with each of their children. Anne feels that her children really benefited from growing up in the church and interacting with many age groups. As a result, both of her children became very comfortable talking with people in social settings and Anne believes that this has contributed to their success in their careers and lives. Son Michael lives in Montreal and keeps in close touch with his family. Daughter Sarah lives in Toronto and Anne says they share many common interests and enjoy each other's company.

What makes you worry I ask? Well, I've been interested in politics, says Anne, especially watching people who lead. What is going on in the United States right now worries her. Having been a teacher, Anne also sees how times are changing in the schools. She is thankful that her children got through school with few problems. Today, bullying and the challenges of technology make her worry for young people. She hopes that if she has grandchildren they will have a good future.

What gives you hope, I ask? When I was teaching, she says, it was great to watch the children I taught grow up. It's young people that give me hope, she says. I see a positive attitude in them that really gives me hope - how they look forward and don't dwell on the bad things in the world. Anne says there are lots of things that we adults can do to help young people along the way. We can educate ourselves to better understand new challenges that children face, and work to make a difference for them. That is a goal for Anne, finding ways to make a difference.

I ask her about protecting the environment, something I know is important to her family. Anne agrees, and says that they try to be responsible about how they use the resources that they have wisely and not to waste things. She notes that neither of their grown children have a

car yet and that they use public transport or walk to work each day. They have been raised to be aware that what they do can have an impact on the environment. There are also other ways that her family keeps the environment in mind. They are conscious about how they use energy. They recycle and try to think more about what one really needs and what's important.

As we draw our conversation to a close, Anne reflects on what it has been like to be a minister's wife and says it has been wonderful. I was very involved in my own church and youth group when I was young, she says. It was very special for me to meet Jim and to find someone with whom I shared common interests in that regard. Once we were married, being with different congregations, meeting so many interesting people and having the opportunities that other people may not have experienced was a privilege and an honour for me, she says. Anne also feels that she has always had the ability to be her own person along the way, which has meant a lot to her. Jim's congregations were always respectful of the fact that she was teaching and couldn't always be at events. But she always felt welcome to do the things that she felt were important to her, and that she enjoyed, as they related to the church. Like running, her life in the church has been a great journey!



Minute for Mission

Celebrating United Church Women

Our gifts for Mission & Service support United Church Women. Since the union of the Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) and the Woman's Association (WA) in 1962, for 55 years UCW members have lived out their mission to love God, foster Christian commitment, be faithful, embrace spirituality, promote respect and love for all God's creation. We celebrate the extraordinary devotion of these ordinary heroes who have raised money for Mission & Service (over \$134 million), advocated for human rights in Canada and internationally, cared for the sick, promoted cooperation and leadership, fed the church and community, joined protests, studied the Bible, written letters to politicians and government leaders, provided fellowship and service, supported the ministry of global partners, especially the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Tanzania, where birth attendants are trained to go out into communities and offer a healthy start for newborns as well as care for the mothers, laughed, loved, and made room for women of all ages. Please offer your gratitude for UCW and join them in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.



Harcourt Calendar – February 2018

Updated January 18, 2018–www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Thursday February 1

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

Saturday February 3

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]
7:00pm U of G Symphonic Choir & Voices of Joy Community Choir [S/K/G]

Sunday February 4

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

Monday February 5

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday February 6

9:30am Enneagram Spirituality [C]
11:30am Staff Meeting
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday February 7

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday February 8

8:45am Mindstretch [C]
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/K/F]
7:00pm Creative Intentions [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday February 9

7:00pm Junior Youth Group - Sleepover [G, F, K] through to Saturday 9:30am

Saturday February 10

9:00am Brian Henry Writing Workshops [F]
10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday February 11

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am MANNA Service [G/F]
7:30pm High School Youth Group [202/203]

Monday February 12

Office Closed

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

Tuesday February 13

Shrove Tuesday

9:30am Enneagram Spirituality [C]
11:30am Staff Meeting
5pm & 6pm Pancake supper [G/K]
6:45pm Cubs [F]
7:00pm Worship Committee [C]
7:00pm Finance Committee [202]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday February 14

Ash Wednesday

7:45am Men's Group [F/K]
9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
12:00pm Worship [C]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Communications Committee [202/203]
7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]
7:00pm Property Committee [C]
7:30pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday February 15

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

Saturday February 17

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity
[202]

Sunday February 18

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

Monday February 19

Family Day

Church/Office Closed

Tuesday February 20 Office Closed

9:30am Enneagram Spirituality [C]
11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F/K]
6:45 Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday February 21

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
5:30pm Scout's Banquet [G/K]
6:30pm Guides [F]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday February 22

8:45am Mindstretch [C]
1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/K/F]
7:00pm Sharing Evenings [F]
7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday February 23

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday February 24

10:00am Explorations in Progressive Christianity
[202]
Cancelled Potluck & Games Night
7:00pm High School Youth Group - Sleepover [G,
F, K] through to Sunday 9am

Sunday February 25

9:00am Worship [C]
10:30am Worship [S]
10:30am MANNA Service [G/F]
12:00pm 2018 Budget Information session [C]

Monday February 26

Office Closed

9:30am Quilting Group [F]
1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]
7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday February 27

11:30am Staff Meeting
6:45pm Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday February 28

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
6:30pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Save the Date!
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 4, 2018, 11:30am