



The Harcourt Herald

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

April, 2018

Love Thy Neighbour:
Living Next to a Church

Look Ahead with Joy!
Let's Go 'Fishing'

Get Ready for the Best
Harcourt Garage Sale
EVER!

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

by Jim Ball

There are passages in the scriptures that set my mind to wondering. On March 18th, my Sunday message focused on one of those passages. It is found in the twelfth chapter of John's gospel. Some Greek converts to Judaism show up and ask to see Jesus. The request passes through a gambit of disciples but never receives an answer. It is a puzzling little anecdote.



My studies and musings led me to this thought: that the point of the episode was less about “seeing Jesus” and more about “being seen.” It seemed more about the disciple Philip having an outward focus, toward the world, so much so that he was able to observe its life and hear its questions. Including the one offered by the Greeks. Even more so the passage seemed to be about assuming sufficiency in the life of a seeker, rather than inadequacy. What hangs in the balance of this distinction is whether we go through life from strength to strength or with a continually burdened sense of lack and shame.

To find my way into this idea I shared the story of my experience with a wise high school coach. I was a fledgling high jumper. He was the sage who played the role of mirror, helping me understand better what I was doing, enough that I could take responsibility for self-improvement, making the adjustments that would strengthen my abilities and increase my chances of clearing the bar. I was not a great jumper, but my lack was never his focus. The given in me was. And when it became clear to me that to go higher I would need to change my jumping style, from the “Western Roll” to the “Fosbury Flop”, his form of accompaniment did not alter. He helped me face the completely new by pointing not to what I didn't know and couldn't do, but instead to what was already, demonstrably, present in me. He offered clarity, not judgement. Any word from me that assumed inadequacy he answered with silence. It was a quiet that spoke volumes, inviting me to see the ways I was setting myself up for failure even before I approached the bar. I concluded the morning message with the thought that perhaps the silence in the ancient text was this kind of silence - a silence that was mirror-like, inviting the Greeks to revisit the assumptions behind their question, to continue to build upon the intentionality they already possessed, and not be weighed down by feelings or judgments of inadequacy.

In recounting the story of how jumping changed in the nineteen sixties, I necessarily spoke about Dick Fosbury. He won the 1968 Olympic gold medal and gave his name to the new style. It involves going over the bar backwards rather than forwards. A lesser known fact, and one I didn't share on that Sunday, is this: at the time that Fosbury was developing a style of jumping that would revolutionize the sport, there was another athlete in the world, younger than

Fosbury, who was, without knowing about him, creating a similar style of jumping. This other person was a thirteen-year-old girl living in Mission, British Columbia. Her name was Debbie Brill. And her style of jumping was called the 'Brill Bend'. She was, in the beginning, ridiculed for her unorthodox style. She was criticized for challenging tradition. But she persevered, and improved and won. Many came to pattern their style of jumping on hers. A good number did so without realizing that the style was authentic to her, and not something borrowed. Prejudice and marketing being what it was then, and still is now, the dominant style of jumping today is considered a modified "flop", not a modified "bend". In 1979, I watched her win the world championships in Montreal. And three years later, only five months after giving birth, Brill set a Canadian record that stands to this day.

I share this detail because it is true. And because I think it significant. It invites us to consider questions and possibilities we rarely explore. When gospels centre on Jesus and the disciples, it is expected that questions will focus on them. The Sunday sermon illustrated this. I wondered about the kind of coach Jesus was. And the kind of challenges, internal and external, the disciples faced. Including the degree to which a culture of shame and lack burdened their lives and the extent to which the ways of Jesus offered an alternative.

But the gospels occasionally make comments that inspire additional wondering. John's gospel, for example, highlights Mary of Magdala and her important place within the community. The Easter story features her. It names her as the first witness of the resurrection. This fact, and the story of Debbie Brill, nudge me to ask: What if Jesus' alternative way in the world was bubbling up in others at the same time? What if Mary of Magdala was a female equivalent of him, the Debbie Brill of her day? What if theirs was a relationship closer to that of equals rather than of leader/ follower? What if the original Jesus' movement was much more egalitarian than we ever imagined, a movement of mutual support and accompaniment that was only later recast into a more hierarchical, male centred one? And what if this later recasting is one of the reasons why his story, and not hers, got the last word, and most of the press, so much so that we call ourselves Christians and not Magdalenes?

There are mists we cannot see through. Questions the silence will not and often cannot answer. Thankfully, the silence gives us space to wonder. And to consider possibilities. Something that is harder to do when a spirit of judgment and inadequacy burdens our thoughts and shame seeks to hold captive our heart's imagining.

Spring Blessings!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Easter Sun. April 1 10:00 am
Celebrate Easter with us!
One service only. A 'good news and great joy' worship opportunity for all ages! Nursery care available.

Harcourt offers three distinct regular 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. Nursery services are available from 10:00-12 noon. However, please note that there is only **ONE service on Easter Sunday**. Visit our website at: www.harcourtuc.ca for more information.

by Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council

The Congregation's input and endorsement at our March 4th Annual Meeting is significant. We thank the 78 people who attended and participated in the discussion. Approval of the 2018 budget, with a projected deficit of \$39,000, is significant. Taking risks, accepting vulnerability, and working responsibly with respect and trust are important values that underlie all that we do. Endorsement of a resource-full budget reinforces that our Harcourt 20/20 journey, with our focus on revitalization and radical change (experimentation), is important to creating a healthy future.

Council's March 21st meeting focused on the outcomes and reactions from the Annual Meeting. We have appreciated the positive feedback that we've received about the format and opportunity to discuss the four budget options that were presented. Before beginning to discuss next steps, we identified factors that are important to consider as we proceed:

- Continuing consultation across Harcourt
- Continuing transparency of discussions and decision-making
- Being realistic about time for implementation
- Continuing exploration of the possibilities for radical change through a community support worker or youth worker/minister
- Continuing work on other important priorities (e.g. stewardship of time, talents and money; recruitment for Council vacancies; updating Harcourt Handbook; etc.)
- Continuing our learning as Council members; we are not experts in everything.

We identified an initial list of next steps that flow from the budget decision:

- Ministry & Personnel Committee will finalize the job description for the vacant office position to provide expanded technical support for worship and communications needs. Recruitment will begin as soon as Council approves the job description
- The MANNA leadership team will initiate a visioning process this spring to help define MANNA's future. This will help determine how a new staff position could be implemented
- Council will study a book recommended by Jim: *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World*, by Alan Roxburgh (2015)

- Council and other Harcourt leaders will coordinate efforts to increase financial support to meet this year's anticipated expenses, rebuild the Property Pillar, and begin a Legacy Giving program
- Council will continue plans to be supported by \$4000 'seed money' (support of enhanced, intentional welcoming; guest speakers to aid exploration and definition of community development and youth ministry; facilitated discussion to explore future use of Harcourt's facility/space)
- Council will re-start an update of the Harcourt Handbook. As well as updating our governance model and responsibilities of committees/teams, this could help with recruitment of people to fill vacancies on Council and committees/teams

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.

2018 Annual Meeting Closing Prayer
by Stan Bunston

*Loving Creator, Sustainer, Source of All Life
Thank you for this Annual Meeting time in blessed community
where, midst differing opinions and viewpoints,
we gather to work together and worship you as One:
One in our gratitude for all our blessings through generations;
One in our appreciation of leadership, stewardship, and initiatives offered by so many;
One in our common reliance on you to guide us through these uncertain
and challenging times;
One in our humble prayer for forgiveness for our shortcomings.
We are in need of your Grace.
Bless us as we go from here.
Strengthen us and inspire us to serve within and beyond our community.
All this we ask in the strong name of Jesus.
Amen*



New to Harcourt?

Join us on our journey
of faith

Church office
Tel: 519-824-4177
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Web Site: www.harcourtuc.ca
Seek – Connect - Act



Anyone who thinks
that money can't buy
happiness has never
been to a garden centre.

Cartoon by Roz Stephenson

The Latest Buzz...



- **Guelph's Oldest Soup Kitchen Gets a New Stove**

Guelph's oldest soup kitchen was in trouble last week after their industrial stove died. <https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/guelph-soup-kitchen-gets-a-new-stove-1.3849493>

- **New Lichen Species Discovered at Ignatius College Bridges Science and Religion**

Popular notions that either the Church or religion in general are opposed to science are a mostly 19th-century misconception born out of the rather crude philosophy of logical positivism, according to Father McCarthy. <https://www.catholicregister.org/item/27070-science-faith-are-a-perfect-fit-in-jesuit-s-life>

- **Moderator's Easter Message Emphasizes Resurrection**

"Resurrection is, by its very nature, unexpected and unimaginable", said Moderator Jordan Cantwell. "We cannot see it coming; we are never prepared for it". http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/transcript_moderator_easter_message_2018.pdf

- **The United Church Congratulates the Government of Canada on Its Leadership**

The United Church congratulates the Government of Canada on its leadership in announcing up to \$10 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Palestinian refugees. <http://www.united-church.ca/news/church-welcomes-canadas-contribution-un-relief-agency>

ANNUAL HARCOURT GARAGE SALE

Saturday APRIL 14TH 2018

8:30-12 Noon

At Harcourt United Church

87 Dean Ave.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR
PROGRAMS

Bring Donations
to the Gym

Friday April 13



Household goods, decorative pieces, books, jewellery, toys etc. No clothing, car parts or computers please.

Volunteers needed, call the church! High School students: earn volunteer hours. Contact the office for more details.

Committee & Group News

“Getting To Know You” A Big Success

by Ruth Tatham, Caroline Harcourt Women’s Fellowship

The March 12th Caroline Harcourt Women’s Fellowship meeting attended by about 30 women was a “getting to know you better” gathering. Groups of 5 or 6 women clustered around the friendship room and as requested, each attendee shared an object she had purchased at a (local) Thrift Shop and stimulated personal stories to introduce the life style or interests of each one in the group. Lynn Hanock had arranged the program clad in a gorgeous black and white poncho she bought at the St. Vincent de Paul shop for \$1. Many treasures were the source of much interest, laughter and welcoming centred on women new to the group. A devotional and short business meeting followed. Special St. Patrick’s Day cookies and tea completed the time of fellowship – deemed especially enjoyable by all.

The next meeting will be April 9th, again in the friendship Room and featuring emphasis on our Guelph outdoor environment. Dr. Shelley Hunt, Executive Director of the University of Guelph Arboretum will feature an illustrated talk on the various programs and beauties of the Arboretum. All women are very welcome – bring your brown bag lunch at 11:45 a.m. Tea and treats are provided.

Green Thumbs: Restoring A Peaceful Beauty

by Ben Fear, Property Committee

The Harcourt Memorial Gardens will be beautified again **on Saturday morning April 21**. We start as soon as you arrive which hopefully is around 9 am. After all everyone gets to sleep-in a bit on Saturday. We finish up when everything looks neat and cared for usually noonish. We always like to see some new faces so everyone is welcome. We especially invite all the regular gardeners who have done such a great job in past years – but we’d love to see new faces join the crew. Just bring some gardening tools from home and some garden gloves. And if Mother Nature plans rain on that date—errr -- well, we'll simply do it one week later!



Former Moderator To Speak at Harcourt Men's Group Meeting

by Bill Lord, Men's Group



Rev. Dr. Herb Gale

Murray Woods has arranged for the Rev. Dr. Herb Gale to be the guest speaker. He will give a talk on "**The Light Still Shines: The Enduring Value of Legacy Gifts.**" He is a former Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and is now doing consulting work as well as serving part time as the Minister of Generosity and Stewardship at Knox Presbyterian Church in Guelph, where the Endowment Fund grew from \$150,000.00 in 2005 to a million in 2017. After years in congregational ministry in both North Carolina and Ontario, he served as Associate Secretary for Planned Giving for The Presbyterian Church in Canada from 2004 until his

retirement in 2015. All men are welcome to attend. You are invited to bring a friend or a neighbour who would enjoy this session. Paul Webb will have 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 **May 9** for the next meeting. The speaker for the May will be announced at the meeting.

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!"

Hello All You Folks in Harcourt-Memorial-land: I'm Your New M & S Publicist!

by Ann Estill

Along with Bill Higgins, I will try to keep you informed about the various worthwhile projects with which we are connected when we give to Mission and Service. Our goal agreed upon at the annual meeting was \$80,000, not small change by any means. However, you may recall our M & S givings have often reached \$90,000 in the past ten years. We made it and could feel some pride in being the highest givers in Hamilton Conference. Meanwhile our hurting world continues to be wracked with violence and pain. Our generosity can do a lot toward binding up some of the wounds.

Harcourt Lunch and Learn

by Murray Woods, Chair of Trustees

The first Harcourt Lunch and Learn sponsored by the Board of Trustees is coming on Sunday June 3rd. The speaker will be the **Rev. David Jagger**, Stewardship and Gift Officer for Hamilton and London Conferences when his topic will be Wills and Legacy Gifts. Both parts of his topic should be of interest.

First, the regulations on Wills are subject to government change, and if your Will has not been reviewed in the last five years, come and learn about it. Secondly, what legacy will remain after you are gone? We know that the Government can be at the front of the line to share in your financial legacy. Taxes cannot totally be avoided, but they can be modified using a charity like Harcourt U.C. as one of your beneficiaries. At Harcourt your name can live on through the Harcourt Pillars. Your legacy can live on beyond another lifetime, supporting the Church's programs and outreach.

Many people are not fully knowledgeable regarding the Pillar Policy and how it functions. The new Pillar Brochure, that is now available, will hopefully answer most of your questions. The Pillar Program and Policy was approved by Council in 2014 to provide an organized structure to receive, hold, invest, and distribute funds to support church initiatives. An important secondary function was to provide bridge financing for cost overruns due to unforeseen complications. How important is this? Very! Recently, in building new accessible washrooms, unexpected severe drainage and asbestos problems created considerable additional expenditure. The Pillar funds were there to provide support.

Expect to see and hear, in the weeks to come, more about the June 3rd Lunch and Learn on Wills and Legacy Gifts. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to contact me or any of the Trustees, through the office at 519 824 4177. Find additional "Pillar" and

“Legacy” information by googling www.harcourtuc.ca/legacy. Then scroll down to Financial Support and see Generosity. Click on “Organized Structure of Pillars”, and also on “The United Church of Canada Website”.

Joint Report from the Property Committee and the Building Committee

by Dave Hume, Property Committee

The good news is the new washrooms seem to be working well. One thing that is not finished is that there are to be shelves installed beside the sinks so physically challenged people have a place to place their purse or other belongings when they are at the sink. The shelves that were ordered protruded too far into the turning radius of wheelchairs and shorter ones are back-ordered.

The Property Committee (well, it’s really Darko and an electrician) have been busy replacing the old fluorescent fixtures in various rooms with LED tubes. You may have noticed that the two rear-most columnar lights above the balcony have been refitted with two colours of LED tubes and spotlights. Last Sunday (March 18), most people who studied the two sets preferred the warmer colours in the lights on the west side.

You may have also noticed that the lower hallway outside the Pre-School Room is a lot brighter now than it used to be. All those fluorescent lights have been replaced with LED tubes, new ballasts and new fixtures that keep the flies out. So far, the pre-school rooms, the choir room, Alison’s office and the kitchenette upstairs have been completed. When we get these new fixtures inspected we will be applying for rebates because the LED lights use so much less electricity.



“It’s SO much fun to be a volunteer at the Harcourt Garage Sale! I got to meet people from all over our region. Such nice people, who are often really interested in Harcourt. I also get to know some of our own members better... and that’s fun too. “

Community News

A Ticket to JOY! ... and Just \$20! What a Bargain!

by Roz Stevenson, Harcourt Lay Representative to GUM (Guelph United Ministries)

There is a very short time for you to get YOUR ticket to the GUM Spring 2018 Event, which is on **Saturday April 28** at the Holiday Inn, 610 Scottsdale Drive in Guelph.

Just what is this event?

Well, it's called "Look Ahead with Joy" and described as "A Day for Worship, Sharing, and Imagining Together". The event is sponsored by GUM – Guelph United Ministries – and it marks five years since this group formed under a mandate (and funds) from the Norfolk Trust to encourage United Church of Canada congregations in Guelph to work together and support each other's strengths. For several years, a major GUM event was a city-wide joint worship service held in November. Last November, instead of a Sunday service competing with the Santa Claus Parade, the GUM ministries (Dublin, Harcourt, Three Willows, Trinity, Ecumenical Campus Ministry, and Chalmers Community Services) held a variety of "Open Doors" events over the weekend. You may have been at Harcourt's movie night, to see "Call of the Forest". This spring, we return to worshipping together, but as part of a day-long Saturday workshop intended to give us time to share, think, and imagine together how we can look ahead – and move ahead – with Joy. That's us as the Harcourt congregation – but even more that that -it's about all of us together in Guelph, moving forward together, sharing strengths and differences, working together with ideas and energy. We already have experience sharing among the pastoral care groups, the trustees, and the communications committees +of GUM ministries; think what the rest of us can do together!

That "Look Ahead with Joy" title comes from Isaiah 65: 17-18: *"Pay close attention now: I'm creating new heavens and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. **Look ahead with joy.** Anticipate what I'm creating: I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight."*

So, why do you need a ticket? (and why should you get it SOON?)

GUM is sponsoring this event, bringing in as special guest speaker **Rev. Dr. John Pentland**, of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary (Who's he? ... well, see below)! The event will be held at the Holiday Inn, to encourage people to come and focus on mixing and mingling – and to avoid having the "host church" folks having to dash around organizing things! The venue is large, but not huge, and can accommodate just 200 people, so that's why we ask people who want to come to **GET A TICKET in advance!** Tickets are now available from each congregation, ECM and Chalmers, at a **cost of \$20 per ticket.** GUM is covering the bills for

presenting this event, but the \$20 serves as a kind of commitment that you will come, even if it is super nice spring day outside! But the \$20 will also provide you with a **buffet lunch** at the Holiday Inn because you'll get hungry with all this thinking and sharing. ... (nope, no price reduction if you brown-bag your lunch!)

FAQ: What about food restrictions for that lunch? Write your specific needs (e.g. gluten-free, vegetarian) on the ticket stub where we ask all ticket holders to provide their name and congregation/ group. The Holiday Inn is aware of dietary requirements involved in when catering for large groups and accommodates them.

FAQ: What about people who really can't afford \$20? Yes, \$20 may be a barrier for some people who would really like to attend, and we really want them there! GUM has agreed to subsidize tickets as needed – just mention to your local ticket person that you would appreciate the assistance and we'll handle it. (Or, if you think of someone who *should* be there, buy them the ticket!)

Why do we say “Get your ticket SOON”?

Well, right now the tickets are being distributed through the four congregations and two other ministries in Guelph. The event is intended to foster interactions among people in those groups, so the first offer of tickets is to Guelph folk. But there was immediate interest in John Pentland's visit from other people in Presbytery, Hamilton Conference and beyond. They want to come! SO!!!! You want to get that ticket NOW! After Easter, tickets not claimed will go back to GUM-central and will be released to a wider group, Don't be disappointed – get your ticket NOW!

How to get a ticket?

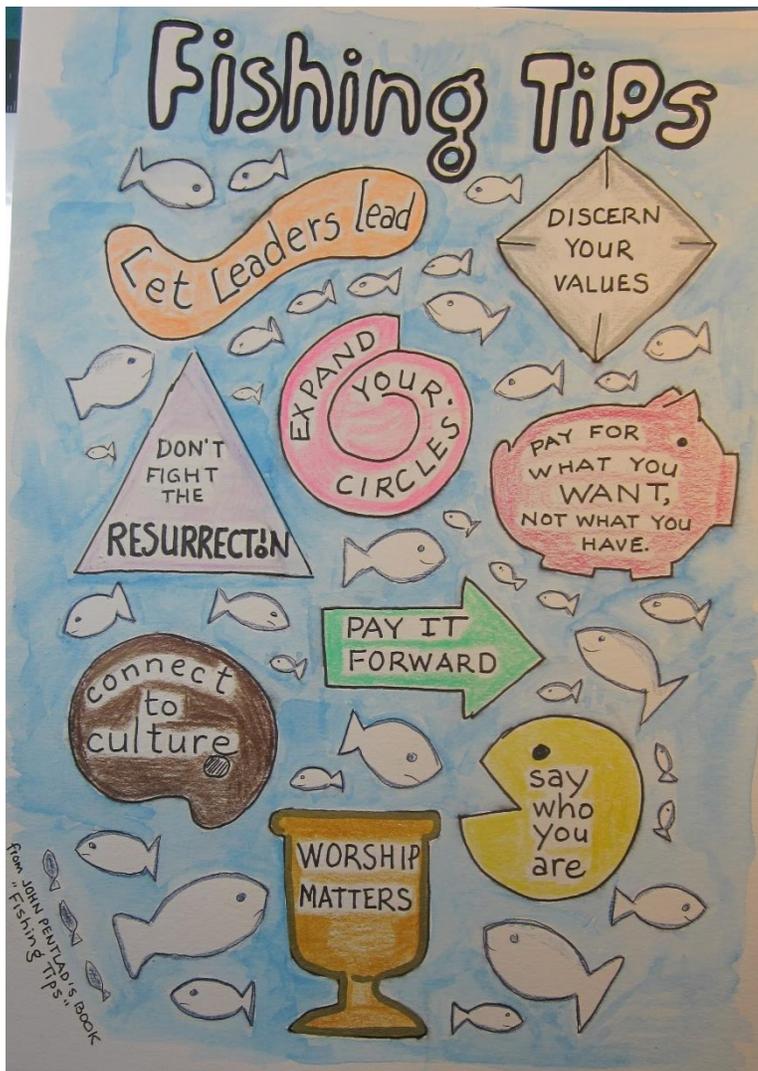
At Harcourt, you can get a ticket from Miriam, from Roz Stevenson (rstevens@uoguelph.ca), or Anne Purkis in the Harcourt office. The cost is \$20, in cash, OR if paying by cheque, **make it payable to “Trinity United Church”** as their trustees pay the GUM bills from their account.

So, what's going to be HAPPENING on April 28th?

Doors at the Holiday Inn Ballroom will open at 8:45 am (Yes, there will be coffee!) so we can be ready for Gathering Worship at 9:15 am and our Guest Speaker, John Pentland. Following his first talk, there will be Table Group Discussion, followed by his second talk and a question & answer session. Lunch and continued table discussion comes next, as well as opportunities to visit display tables in the Galt Room that will explore some Spiritual Practices. We will close the day by 3 pm, with Worship and Communion.

FAQ: Who's organizing all this?!!!! For those who get anxious about the details of event planning ... different congregations have been charged with specific responsibilities for

communication, ticketing, worship planning, decoration, and spiritual practice presentations, and they are already art work! All master-minded by the GUM “planning trio” of Gaylyn, Mary & Miriam ... and if you don’t know who they are, that’s a good reason to come and meet them – and many others!



Now, just WHO IS JOHN PENTLAND, and what do we hope can he tell us?

Rev. Dr. John Pentland is a spiritual teacher, theologian and lead minister at Hillhurst United Church in Calgary (<https://www.hillhurstunited.com>) and author of the Canadian bestseller “Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith” (vimeo.com/135611712). He has been a featured presenter at conferences and events across Canada and the US. John was born in Ontario and moved from place to place for many years. He attended postgraduate school at Queen’s University; holds a B.A. and Masters of Divinity from Emmanuel College in Toronto; a Masters in Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary; and a Doctorate in Ministry from the Chicago Theological Seminary.

His doctoral thesis was: “Speaking Faith in

Public Space.” For the past 30 years John has lived in Alberta, where he served in rural churches, and then worked for the United Way of Calgary before joining Hillhurst United Church as lead minister in 2004. He is a graduate of Leadership Calgary and Executive Directions.

John is, first and foremost, a lover of questions with deep curiosity about what makes good religion. He has been a featured presenter at over a dozen conferences and events across Canada and the US in the past year; and has also spoken to congregations of various denominations across Canada and the US. He leads workshops on a variety of topics, including: the Enneagram and Spiritual Formation; Wine and Spirituality; and A Religion of One’s Own. John loves to cycle everywhere, and is a partner and parent of 4 children between 6 and 25 years of age. In his free time, he is now working on his second book, in which he plans to answer the question: “What if we had good religion?”

You might like to consider what his “Fishing Tips” (see above) might mean for our congregation and for all of Guelph United Ministries!

Come and imagine together where God is calling us as the church in Guelph!

A Dirty Face is a Joy to Behold at the Harcourt Communal Garden!

by Jill Gill

Spring has officially arrived so here's your opportunity to participate in Harcourt's outreach food growing activity. For the foreseeable few weeks it is predicted that we will see warmer temperatures than we might usually expect in February. A perfect segue for thoughts of gardening – and food production. Specifically, growing vegetables, herbs and fruits in the Harcourt Communal Garden this spring and summer.



This will be the eighth season of harvesting edibles from several on-ground and raised beds on the western perimeter of the parking lot and a bed adjacent to the Memorial Garden. So far we have harvested 4,280 lbs. of fresh, organically-grown vegetables, herbs and fruit for donation to the Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) food pantry. These are distributed to CCSC guests and supplement the regular food offerings that they receive. CCSC is a Harcourt-supported charity.

The Communal Garden is maintained by volunteers who plant, water, weed and harvest during the spring, summer and fall. Families from Manna help with planting of seed and seedlings when the ground has warmed. Last season we had 16 volunteers who worked in teams of four for 2-3 hours on the weeks they were scheduled. Each team gardened six times, on average, from June until the end of October. This year we intend to utilize food “growing boxes” designed by the Julien Project at St. Ignatius to augment our ability to produce.

We would love to increase our number of volunteers, so if helping in the Harcourt Communal Garden is an activity that interests you, please join us for a short planning meeting (approx. 1 hour) following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 8, in the Chapel. You do not need to be an expert in vegetable growing, just be willing to learn and get your hands dirty! If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would still like to volunteer to help with the garden, or have any questions, please contact Jill Gill at 519.767.1244 or email me at peter.gill@sympatico.ca .

JOY!

A Personal Reflection

by Bill Lord

At Harcourt's spiritual life committee, we begin each meeting with a check-in. Naming the joys and sorrows we are carrying helps us to be more present and to have more compassion for each other. This backdrop of joys and sorrows also helps us to have a sense of perspective about the items on our committee's agenda.

So, I am beginning this article with my check in after the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, March 5. We experienced Kent Hoeg's excellent presentation of some of the activities enabled by our local operating budget. It feels wonderful to be part of so many ministries that seek to serve the world. I am personally active in only a few of them, but through my participation in this community and my financial support, I can take pride in all of them and in everything that we accomplish together.

Council presented three potential budgets, with differing levels of investment in revitalization and change of our community. I was amazed that, after one amendment, the budget with the biggest investment - and the largest deficit - was adopted so strongly. Part of this support came as a response to one person who invited us to see budget approval as indicating congregational support for a direction, trusting that Council will conduct appropriate study and make wise decisions, just as it has always striven to do in the past. I was deeply moved by the meeting's action and felt an awareness of the Holy Spirit's guidance.

A few years ago, I attended a lecture series at Metropolitan United Church in London given by the outstanding Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggeman. In the questions after one of his lectures he was asked why he went to church every Sunday. He said something like this-my paraphrase: "I go for two reasons. First, I go because I need to be reminded of who I really am--my **IDENTITY**. All during the week I'm bombarded by advertisements that tell me I am really only a consumer, that my true worth is my potential purchasing power as a customer. At church, and only at church, I am confirmed in my understanding that my true identity is as a beloved and unique child of the Loving God."

“The second reason I go is to remind myself that I am a part of the Christian **COMMUNITY**. In other words, my faith is not just about my relationship with God or Jesus Christ, important as that is and nourished daily by my spiritual practices. I go to be part of a Christian community that is called to be in service to the world.” Saint Paul dared to call this community “the Body of Christ”. This powerful metaphor tells us that it is now over to the Christian community to carry on the activities present in Jesus’ earthly ministry.

It is indeed a powerful metaphor. It inspired Teresa of Avila to write this prayer: “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

Another story comes to mind to this old story teller, I was a part of a leadership team for a group of ministers in the United Methodist Church in Indiana. During the Saturday morning session, a District Superintendent, sent by his Bishop, came to speak to those pastors, all of whom had moved in the last few months and some of whom had taken a cut in salary because of the move. He reminded us that in the Methodist tradition there are two key verbs: you are not just **called**, you are also **sent**. In other words, you are first **called** to follow but then **sent** to take some action. It reminds me of one definition of stewardship that I have heard over the years: “What we **do** after we **say** we believe.”

So here are two questions that I invite you to personally consider in this season of Easter and resurrection to new life. First, have you embraced the awesome, wonderful truth that you are a beloved child of God? Second, what part of Harcourt’s activities is the Spirit calling you to join and/or support with your time and personal resources?

Harcourt offers many opportunities calling out for support: small group activities, the choir, Chalmers Community Services, the gardens and orchard, the Council and its many committees, making friendly phone calls and more that I can’t think of at this moment. The thread that binds all these activities together is our **IDENTITY** as God’s beloved sons or daughters and our **COMMUNITY** that seeks to be the living presence of God’s love in a waiting and watching world.

Appreciation: I am indebted to a conversation that I had recently with Peter Jackson and Kent Hoeg for the inspiration and support to write this personal reflection. Thanks.



"Keep your heads down;
here come the 'HALLELUJAHS!'"

Cartoon by Roz Stephenson

Look Ahead with Joy!

A day to gather, share and celebrate together
with Guelph United Ministries (GUM)

Saturday, April 29, 2018

9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Holiday Inn Guelph, 601 Scottsdale Drive at Stone Road

Guest Speaker: Rev. John Pentland



Spiritual teacher, theologian and lead minister
at Hillhurst United Church in Calgary.

Author of Canadian bestseller *Fishing Tips: How
Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith*
(vimeo.com/135611712)

John is, first and foremost, a lover of questions,
with a deep curiosity about what makes good
religion. John has been a featured presenter at
conferences and events across Canada and the
US.

Come and imagine together where God is calling us as the church in Guelph.

**Tickets: \$20 each (includes lunch), available from
the church office or after Sunday services**

Announcements

Passing



Peaire, Roger passed away peacefully at Hospice Wellington on Saturday March 17, 2018 with his wife Jane at his side at age 67. Rodger was born in Hamilton Ontario, graduated from MM Robinson High School and Sheridan College. Rodger and Jane married in 1972 and lived for many years in Northern Ontario before settling in Guelph in 1986. In 2015, Rodger retired from McNeil Consumer Health Care, which then gave him time for his other passions, golf and being with the Staff and Students at College Heights Secondary School. He had volunteered at College Heights for 20 years and for the last 2 years had been working in the Auto Mechanics area. Rodger believed that with nurturing and guidance, every child could reach their potential and he sincerely hoped

that he had made a difference in the lives of all the students that he had had the opportunity to spend time with. One of Rodger's final trips was to the school he dearly loved and to have some very special time with the staff and students. If desired, memorial contributions to Hospice Wellington would be appreciated.

Other News

- **Vocal Meditation for the Easter Season.** We're happy that Jane Lewis is returning to Harcourt to lead Vocal Meditations for the Easter Season. Once again, the Spiritual Life committee and Alison are sponsoring the group. We'll be asking for a free-will donation to replenish the Music Pillar for future activities. Come and join Jane and Elizabeth to celebrate Easter. Spend an hour tuning up and tuning in. We'll explore various relaxing sounding exercises as well as chants and simple songs. The group is intended to give you a sense of calm and grounding to carry through the week, along with the energetic lift that comes with vocalizing together in a group. You can join us each week or come on a drop-in basis. The sessions will be held **Wednesdays April 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 10 to 11:15am**. In the Chapel. If you would like more information, please call Elizabeth Bone, at 519.821.0682 or send an email to dambonee1@sympatico.ca.
- **Look Ahead With Joy! A Day to Gather, Share & Celebrate with Guelph United Ministries (G.U.M.).** Plan to join members of our sister churches for a day of worship, sharing and imagining together where God is calling us as

the United Church in Guelph. Our guest speaker is Rev. John Pentland, lead minister at Hillhurst United Church, in Calgary and author of *Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith*. The event is taking place **Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Holiday Inn, Guelph, from 9:15 to 3pm**. This is a ticketed event (as space is limited and a light lunch is provided). Tickets are \$20 each and available from Miriam Flynn or Roz Stevenson or from Anne Purkis in the Harcourt office.

- **Skylight Festival:** July 27-29 The Skylight Festival stands for justice, faith and the arts. It creates a gathering place for people of diverse backgrounds to dialogue and be in community. The workshops and music are great! This year, it is being held at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre. Camping is included in the fee, but if a more comfortable bed is to your liking, it is possible to commute each day, or stay in a variety of accommodations on site. The cost for each member of a group of more than six is \$145 and seniors are \$129. Youth and young Adults are \$99 (ages 13-25); children under 12 are free, and there is a program for children ages 5-12. Last year the group planned communal meals, prepared by two or more families, so each of us only had to prepare one meal for the weekend! If you would like to attend this great event, please contact Merrill Pierce at smpierce@sympatico.ca or 519.836.8867. Cheques will be due in May. Learn more about the festival [here](#).
- Mar 29, 8:45am: **Mindstretch**. We begin a new book, Marcus Borg's *Convictions*. Borg looks back on his life, how his beliefs were formed, and the book can be read as a manifesto for progressive Christians. As always, we meet in the chapel between 9 and 10am, and all are welcome. For more information, call Jean Jackson at 519.824.4364. Apr 6:

Apr 14, 8:30am to 12pm: **Harcourt Garage Sale**. Gently used items accepted on Friday April 13. In the Harcourt Gym. Volunteers needed: for set-up on Friday, April 13 and Sales help & clean-up Saturday, April 14. Sign-up on SignUpGenius [here](#) using office@harcourtuc.ca to search by email or contact Janet Webster at fwebst0953@rogers.com





The United Church
of Canada

MINUTE FOR MISSION

by Cheryl Curtis Manager, Mission & Service Giving, United Church of Canada

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:31

The Beatles’ song “All You Need Is Love” is on my mind. The song is about love being everything you need and at the centre of our doing, singing, knowing, playing. While the song is short on details of what that looks like, scripture provides examples: the man who cares for the one who has been beaten and robbed; the woman who provides hospitality for the disciples.

What does it mean today to love our neighbours? Perhaps the starting point is to acknowledge that people all over the world are our neighbours. People we will never meet because of distance or different circles of community, people who share space with us but whom we do not actually see, and people we know and love—they are all our neighbours. The Mission & Service stories in this issue of Minutes for Mission focus on stories of loving our neighbours near and far.

Our gifts for Mission & Service enable ministries that truly fulfill the great commandment. Whether it is an act of service or advocacy, Mission & Service ministries speak and act lovingly of the dignity of all humanity and creation. To see with a compassionate gaze and offer compassionate service and advocacy—that is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Behind the Scenes

Love Thy Neighbour: Living Next Door to a Place of Worship

by Gillian Joseph

For over 50 years my husband's parents lived right next door to a Baptist church called "Tabernacle". In fact, they even shared the same back entrance and overlooked the church from their bedroom window. Although gated at the street entrance, the shared back path opened up to a "Y" where one way led to their back yard and the other into the back door of the church.

Built in 1856, previous generations of my husband's family had attended Tabernacle regularly and some had even engaged in lay ministry there. However, my mother-in-law continued to attend another local church in the neighbourhood where she grew up. Despite this, both my in-laws were enthusiastic volunteer custodians of the next door neighbour church over the years, helping to keep it clean and dusted and in good repair, setting up chairs and tables, as well as taking responsibility for locking or unlocking the doors for different individuals or groups of people who needed to go inside. A phone call to them from someone who had left a purse or a hat at church resulted in a quick scurry next door to put a mind at rest.

There were always people going in and out of the building during the week – many calling out a greeting to my in-laws as they walked by. Music drifted through the windows several times a week when the organist practiced, and particularly on Sundays, lovely hymns sung by the congregation, frequently in harmony, filled the air. We would often sing along. By an amazing coincidence, my husband and I discovered that the church organ had been made in Guelph at the Bell Piano and Organ Factory. Small world indeed.



Tabernacle Church

Long ago my in-law's house had been a manse for the church, and when the Minister and his family moved out, and the already large number of children associated with the church increased, it was remodelled as an overflow for the Sunday school. This meant that neighbours, and particularly older people in the neighbourhood who had attended Sunday school in their youth, still strongly connected the house to the church.

For my in-laws, living there had the benefit of broadening their scope of local acquaintances and increasing their knowledge about issues that lay beyond their smaller neighbourhood. They became neighbourhood celebrities of sorts and many people knew exactly who they were and where they lived because of their proximity to the church. I loved being there, hearing the music and greeting the people who wandered through all week. They all seemed to know about us, and about my being from Canada. They would make an effort to say “hello” as I hung out the washing, put in plants or sat on the back patio with a cup of tea. I loved seeing confetti that had blown into the garden, or the wet-haired, just-christened children and their happy families who walked by, along with the funeral cars parked outside the front door - all emphasizing to me the life transitions of a neighbourhood and the passing of time. On the other hand, I hated trying to find a parking space on my return from shopping or driving up the narrow road full of cars when something was on at the church. I was also grumpy about the noisy people who arrived very early on a Sunday morning when we were trying to sleep!

I often wonder, when I park on Dean Avenue in Guelph, what it is like to live near our church and whether other neighbourhoods near places of worship experience that same sense of connectedness that my in-laws felt. There aren't many research studies that focus on the topic of living next to or near a church, but a few consistent themes percolate through the media. A branch of this small piece of research has looked at the issue as an economic one in its association with real estate prices. Another has looked at living near a church from an environmental perspective with respect to crime, noise pollution, racism, etc. Still a third branch has considered the merits that the neighbourhood brings to the place of worship itself. In 2014, a German study found that houses that were located between 100 to 200 meters away from a place of worship listed for an average of nearly 5% more than other homes outside of that range. Moreover, that increase in real estate price was the same regardless of proximity to any religious buildings including churches, mosques and temples. The same held true for an American study, that found that the larger the church the greater positive impact there was on residential property values, and it even found that announcements of plans for a new church in the neighbourhood had little effect on property values.

Yet another American study found that violence and property crime was less likely to happen in a neighbourhood located near a place of worship compared to one located near to a high school or an alcohol-related establishment, speculating that neighbours would likely be invested in the community and thus better aware of who should and should not be entering the neighbourhood. Some articles suggested that people prefer to live near a church because often there is better access to transportation within the city and members can walk to their place of worship rather than needing to buy a car. There was even an article that suggested that living near a church might affect your Feng Shui (a Chinese metaphysical and quasi-philosophical system that guides people on how to harmonize with their surrounding environment). For example, it suggested that if you live near a house of worship that brings you joy, a beautiful structure that often hosts lively

worship services, weddings and other celebrations, positive energy will enter your home.

Fear, prejudice and racism can also shape how neighbours view living near a church. Several newspaper articles from places such as Canada, the United States and Britain highlight neighbourhood protests against churches that house or provide services to homeless people at the place of worship, suggesting that how and where the church is serving the greater community might make a difference to its neighbours. Interestingly, Jewish people are among the most residentially segregated groups in Canada and research on this topic suggests that groups tend to live near their place of worship not only so they can walk to the synagogue easily to participate regularly in its activities, but also because living in that neighbourhood together creates the maintenance of community “memory” that fosters communal and social cohesion for Jewish people. Families who live within a short walk of their church would naturally tend to be more involved in its activities. In one blog a family member suggested that when they moved closer to their church their social life increased as it was easier for people to visit them after the service, thus strengthening their ties with other parish families.

In the modern world, we are seeing an increasing connection to online cyber communities as “spaces” where people can be connected to others and experience a sense of belonging that can mirror that found in geographical neighbourhoods. How these “neighbours” react or adjust to religious symbolism, support or dialogue within their communities has yet to be explored. However, as the impact of a modern twist on issues of proximity in a neighbourhood unfolds, people continue to seek out ties that bind us together – and that, for the most part, must surely be a good thing.

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Harcourt Calendar – April 2018

Updated March 19, 2018—www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Sunday April 1

Easter

10:00am Easter Worship Service [S]

Monday April 2

Easter Monday

Church/Office Closed

Tuesday April 3

Office Closed

1:00pm Healthy Living Workshop for Older Adults [F]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday April 4

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]

10:00am Vocal Meditations for the Easter Season [C]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

5:00pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 5

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday April 6

8:00pm University of Guelph Concert Winds Recital

Sunday April 8

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

12:00pm Communal Garden Meeting [C]

Monday April 9

Office Closed

11:45am Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship [F]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

Tuesday April 10

1:00pm Healthy Living Workshop for Older Adults [F]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Worship Committee [C]

7:00pm Finance Committee [202]

7:00pm Property Committee [L]

7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday April 11

7:45am Men's Group [F]

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]

10:00am Vocal Meditations for the Easter Season [C]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

5:00pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Ministry & Personnel Committee [L]

7:00pm Communications Committee [202]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 12

8:45am Mindstretch [202]

1:30pm Park'n Dance [G/F]

7:00pm Creative Intentions [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday April 14

8:30am Harcourt Garage Sale [G]

Sunday April 15

9:00am Worship [C]

10:30am Worship [S]

10:30am "Manna" Service [G/F]

Monday April 16

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group [202]

7:00pm Scouts [G]

Tuesday April 17

11:30am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F]
1:00pm Healthy Living Workshop for Older Adults [F]
6:45pm Royal City Cooperative Preschool General Meeting
6:45 Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday April 18

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
10:00am Vocal Meditations for the Easter Season [C]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
5:00pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Council Meeting [C]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 19

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

Friday April 20

7:00pm Junior Youth Group [G]

Saturday April 21

7:00am Calligraphy Guild [all rooms]

Sunday April 22

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

Monday April 23**Office Closed**

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

Tuesday April 24

6:45 Cubs [G]
7:00pm Handbell Ringers [M]

Wednesday April 25

9:30am Lightshine Singers [M]
10:00am Vocal Meditations for the Easter Season [C]
1:30pm Tai Chi [F]
5:00pm Silent Mindfulness Meditation Group [C]
6:30 pm Preschool Toy Wash [K]
6:30pm Guides [F]
6:45pm Beavers [G]
7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday April 26

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

Friday April 27

8:00pm KW Symphony Concert [S]

Saturday April 28

10:00am Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Sunday April 29

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

Monday April 30**Office Closed**

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