

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

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1L3 Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am-noon; 1pm-4pm

Phone: 519-824-4177 Fax: 519-824-9448 Email: office@harcourtuc.ca Web: www.harcourtuc.ca

Ministers: The People with Reverend Miriam Flynn (ext. 222) Miriam@harcourtuc.ca Reverend Jim Ball [Sabbatical] Reverend Mary Savage [Interim] mary.savage@sympatico.ca

Director of Music Ministry: Alison MacNeill (ext. 225) alison@harcourtuc.ca

Church Administrator: Wendy Guilmette Worship, Communication & Technical

Support: Shaina Ensing Custodian: Darko Cikovic The Harcourt Herald Published 10 times each year by the Communications Committee Your contributions are welcome!

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Cover photo: Gill Joseph

This newsletter has been printed on re-cycled paper



ATIL

by Miriam Flynn

There's something about early September that arouses in me a sense of excitement about fresh starts and new beginnings. Perhaps it is because I am the child of teachers and have spent so many years as a student and as the parent of students. The season of "back to



school" remains, for me, an anticipatory time of looking forward to the new learning and growth that a return to more structured routine yields as harvest. Within the church, those who have been away on summer vacation reassemble to share stories of our time apart. New faces join the circle and the air seems to brim with possibility as we engage more fully our collective life as spiritual community.

The energy of fresh starts and renewed commitment to positive routine make September the perfect month to explore the potential of spiritual practice to deepen our lived experience of faith. Fixed-hour prayer, fasting, Sabbath, the sacred meal, pilgrimage, giving and observance of sacred season are all traditional forms of practice common to the Abrahamic faith traditions.

Today, many Christians are rediscovering and

reinterpreting, for our own times, those ancient practices that intentionally tune us in to the frequency of the Holy.

A "spiritual practice" is a habitual action adopted for the purpose of cultivating spiritual experience or development. It is by definition an activity or observance, rather than a belief or attitude. Spiritual practices are intentional ways of opening ourselves to the presence of God, so a spiritual focus may permeate our days, our character and our outlook on the world around us. Spiritual practices are *life practices* – ways of *becoming awake and staying awake to God*.

At Harcourt, September marks the beginning of our celebration of the Season of Creation – a seven-week scripture and worship focus, centred this year around the themes of Ocean, Flora, Fauna, Storm, Cosmos, Harvest and Sabbath. The observance of church seasons is, itself, a collective form of spiritual practice we engage in as community. In an era when the effects of climate change and the imperatives of eco-justice are never far from mind, our worshipful expression of gratitude for God's good creation lead us to reflect upon our call to live as faithful caretakers of the earth.

What role might spiritual practices play in shaping us for faithful response to this call? What commitment to habitual action or intentional sacrifice might bring deeper meaning to our spiritual journey through the season?

In the past few months, a group of leaders and laity at Harcourt have gathered to consider this question prayerfully. They have shared their passion and concern for the environment and joyfully generated creative options for practices we, at Harcourt, may choose to adopt as *lived faith* response in the seven weeks to come. You will read more in this issue of the Harcourt Herald about resources and events planned over the coming seven weeks. Here, I want to highlight just a few.

Members of Harcourt's Spiritual Life Committee have prepared a reflection and prayer resource for contemplative prayer and meditation on the scripture and worship themes of the Season of Creation. The guide includes an invitation to write your own prayers to be collected and shared with the wider congregation.

On Sunday, Sept. 8th our Season of Creation will commence with an invitation for Harcourt members to consider making "just one change" of habit over the seven-week church season -- to commit to an eco-practice as spiritual practice. An informal Eco Fair will be held at coffee time following the 10:30 services that day, so we can draw inspiration from members and guests willing to share tips on the eco-friendly practices they have successfully incorporated into their own lives. Come prepared to learn about everything from reducing kitchen plastic to vegetarian cooking. Hear the stories of those who have committed to buying less or traveling differently in order to shrink their carbon footprints. And come willing to share your own ideas and experiences, as well!

As the Season of Creation approaches, may the promise of fresh starts and new beginnings that September brings, invigorate our faith and our community.

Photo: Miriam Flynn
Cover Photo by Gill Joseph

New to Harcourt???

Check out our website at www.harcourtuc.ca Give us a call (519.824.4177) or drop us a line (office@harcourtuc.ca)

We are a progressive, greening church community providing space for people to explore and deepen their spiritual lives and their involvement in social justice.



The Season of Creation

Three welcoming Sunday services

Starting September 8th - Harcourt moves away from one summer service at 10 a.m. to offer three distinct Sunday morning services: At 9am in the Chapel, at 10:30am in the Sanctuary and MANNA service at 10:30am in the Friendship Room.

Chapel service 9:00 a.m.

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 10:30 a.m.

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 10am until 12 noon**. Tea and coffee are served in the gym after the service.

MANNA 10:30 a.m. downstairs in the Friendship Room

Is a new, friendly, all-ages, interactive, alternative worship experience that involves hands-on activities and sharing.



COUNCIL NEWS

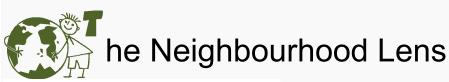
Welcome to Fall 2019! As we reflect on many individual, family and community summer activities, we now focus on more regular routines and commitments. Council met on August 21 to prepare for a continuing busy and important time ahead for Harcourt. We focused on these items.

• We reflected on the June 9th Congregational Conversation about the flexible seating report, recommendations, and feedback from the small group facilitators. We plan to provide a re-cap of the 'why and how' this change fits into Harcourt's vision for the future, in line with our values. We believe that congregational approval of the concept to change to flexible seating is required as the next step. Following that, detailed work to plan logistics, timing and financial strategies would continue. Congregational approval would be required during that phase when specific aspects would be ready for decision.

- We decided that Sunday, October 20 is the tentative date for the congregational meeting to seek approval of the concept to change to flexible seating. Other options are in late November. Stay tuned for further information.
- The past two months brought comings and goings. We welcomed our summer student Jackson Misner. We welcomed Jim on his return from sabbatical time, and acknowledged the successful coverage plan led by Miriam, Mary Savage and Harcourt lay leaders. We honoured Anne Purkis on her retirement following seven years as Church Administrator. We look forward to having a short-term replacement for her while Ministry & Personnel Committee coordinates a review of the position. We welcome Pamela Girardi as MANNA Support Coordinator. We have appreciated Sonya Wu-Winter's guidance as short-term Community Engagement Animator, and congratulate her on her new position as Coordinator of Multi-Faith Programs for this coming academic year at the University of Guelph.
- We celebrate having a positive financial status at this point in our year. We thank donors of some enhanced offerings, such as \$4000 prompted by our decision to create the MANNA Support Coordinator position.

Guided by the spirit, Harcourt will continue to explore, experiment, reflect and learn as a community of faith. Your involvement and support is essential to building a strong future.

With faith and hope. Lorraine Holding, Chair of Council Graphic: Background vector created by freepik - www.freepik.com



Luke 10:29 "Who is my neighbour?"

Genesis 2:15. "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."



Aidan Legault on getting involved with the Climate Strike

Aidan Legault talks about his experience participating and organizing climate strikes this past summer and suggests ways that young people, parents, organizations and churches can make a difference https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wtxzBkyn0o

The United Church of Canada: Faithful Footprints program reduces carbon pollution

Faithfull Footprints is providing ideas, tools and grants to help United Churches reduce their carbon pollution, save money on energy bills and renew their congregations. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql meYdMMKw

Former Moderator of the United Church - It's time to change our thinking

The very Rev. Lois M. Wilson, Moderator of the United Church from 1980-1982, speaks of thinking theologically and politically about climate change. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oT7szwXf10

Canadian faith leaders issue urgent plea for climate action

Moderator Richard Bott and Executive Minister Rev. Maggie Dieter (Indigenous Ministries and Justice) are among a diverse group of Canadian church leaders speaking out for climate justice in a new ecumenical Earth Day video jointly produced by KAIROS, Canadian Council of Churches and Citizens for Public Justice. https://www.united-church.ca/news/earth-day-2019-love-all-creation

Affirmation Sunday – the Pouring of the Colours



Photo by Jerry Daminato



Used with permission



Living Faithfully In Creation

by Peter Jackson, Spiritual Life

A Study Guide is available to help you to journey prayerfully through *The Season of Creation*, seven different themes for each of seven weeks. The week begins on Saturday, with a reading of the scripture; on Sunday you are invited to listen for similarities between your reading and the interpretation delivered in the worship service. Monday through Thursday you are invited to reflect on thankfulness, lament, change and courage to act respectively.

The week concludes on Friday, with a prayer based on review of the previous six days. The intention is to publish a collection of such prayers selected from those offered in written form for this purpose by people at Harcourt.

Printed copies of the Guide are available in the meeting places at Harcourt. It is also available electronically at www.harcourtuc.ca/creation. The Guide is brought to you by Harcourt's Spiritual Life Committee and is modelled on the well-received Guide distributed earlier this year for Holy Week.

Why not <u>re-grow</u> your lettuce and green onions instead of discarding them when done? Place onion or lettuce bottoms in a vase with roots covered in water. That's it! This is what it will look like in 2 days as it starts to re-grow.

https://www.gettystewart.com/how-to-regrow-romaine-lettuce-from-the-stem/



New Policy Update from the Board of Trustees

by Marilyn Crow, Board of Trustees

In the spring of 2019, Harcourt Council approved a policy regarding financial gifts received by our church, in order that such gifts are acknowledged. Created by the Finance Committee and the Trustees, the policy is to recognize all gifts including those made through the United Church Foundation.

Up until the creation of this policy, the Treasurer of the Memorials Committee has thanked those who have given donations at a funeral or otherwise in memory of someone. Unless otherwise specified, these gifts go into the church's Operating Budget.

With the new policy, Planned Legacy, Memorial and other Gifts of \$1,000 or more to Harcourt's Pillars will be recognized publicly, with the donor's permission, for the congregation to show their thanks. A book for *Legacy Gifts*, separate from the current *Memorials* books, is planned to record such donations.

Gifts (beyond normal givings) of \$500 or more to the Operating Account or the Mission and Service Fund, will also be acknowledged (with the donor's permission) for the congregation to show their thanks.

Memorial donations will continue to be handled by the Memorial Team and the books that have recorded memorials since Harcourt opened in 1956 will continue to be updated in order to recognize such gifts.



oes Your Diet Contribute to Climate Change?

by Jean Jackson, Merrill Pierce and Megan Ward, Eco-Practice Committee Members

Have you been wondering about the link between diet and climate change? During the Season of Creation (September/October), each of us is invited to adopt a new practice beneficial to the environment.

The production and consumption of animal products is one of the top three sources of carbon emissions worldwide. Moving to a meatless meal at least once a week is one of the most effective contributions an individual can make to reducing their carbon footprint. To read more, check out the Harcourt library and these links:

https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/food-climate-change-carbon-footprint-1.4930062

https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/how-your-diet-affects-climate-change

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/10/huge-reduction-in-meat-eating-essential-to-avoid-climate-breakdown

Like to give this a try as your eco-practice for the season? If this is your choice, why not join others at Harcourt for some fun around a **vegetarian/meatless meal** cooked by your host in

their home midway through the season. This will be a good opportunity to compare notes and learn tips of the trade.

The lunch has been set for October 6 at 12:30. Sign-up sheets are available in the Greeting Area from September 8 to 22.

Our hosts look forward to sharing a vegetarian meal with you!

"Food production is responsible for <u>up</u> to a third of greenhouse gas emissions around the world. A recent blog post from the World Resources Institute, a global sustainability think-tank, warns that <u>agriculture alone could raise the</u>

Earth's average temperature more than

1.5 Centigrade above that in preindustrial times if we don't change our eating habits". Emily Chung (2018)

CBC News

(see first link above)

Have You Been Blessed with the Means to Bless Others in Need? Guelph United Ministries Collaborative Refugee Support Group

by Arlene Davies-Fuhr

Beginnings

The GUM Refugee Support Group is launched and ready to welcome its first refugee newcomer in mid-August! Since our last update in May, all four United

churches have committed to be part of this effort through prayer, volunteer support, and help with fundraising. And we have also been joined by some in the wider community who are partnering with us. This truly collaborative effort is worth celebrating! Thank you to each of the congregations for getting us this far.

The Refugee Support Group is offering its support to a Mentor Group of 5 people who are spearheading this particular sponsorship. We are very excited to welcome Majd, a single man who is a Syrian citizen, born in Saudi Arabia but who has



been in the United Arab Emirates. He is 31 years old, speaks and writes English and Arabic, and has a degree and work experience in marketing and banking. Kyle Anderson, who is leading the Mentor Group, has been in contact with him by email and had some positive initial exchanges. The Mentor Group along with the wider Support Group is journeying with Majd as he adjusts to life

in Guelph and in Canada. The Group will be sharing updates with the congregations.

Finances

This sponsorship is being undertaken through the United Church of Canada in partnership with the Canadian government which contributes significant funding, and with financial support from Refugee Hub, a charitable organization in Ottawa. Over the next year our GUM churches will need to collectively raise between \$5000-\$7000 for this sponsorship. None of the churches is required to contribute a set amount of money. Our intention is to fundraise both within individual churches and perhaps through a joint event among all our churches. We have a year to raise these funds as Dublin St. United Church is currently providing the collateral needed to move forward with the sponsorship now.

We are proposing the following process for church members who would like to contribute to this effort, and would welcome feedback from church treasurers or councils/boards if another method would suit your congregation better. We recognize that we are creating the path for collaboration as we walk it, so we are open to designing and redesigning these processes as we learn.

Proposal for donations: Any funds donated by members of GUM churches will go to

their local congregation, clearly marked GUM Refugee Support. The local church will issue a charitable tax receipt to the congregation member. As donations accumulate, at some point or periodically, the treasurer/bookkeeper of the local church will issue a cheque to Dublin St. United Church, clearly marked for the GUM Refugee Support Fund. Dublin's bookkeeper has set up a specific line item to record donations for the GUM Refugee Support. This account will be kept separate from the other refugee initiatives happening at Dublin.

The GUM Refugee Support Fund will be overseen by the Refugee Support Group. Monies will be distributed according to a budget that the Mentor Group has developed, following both government and United Church guidelines around budgeting for a refugee sponsorship, adapted to our Guelph context. The budget is given additional oversight by the chair of Justice and Outreach at Dublin.

Dublin's bookkeeper will make available to the treasurers of each church a quarterly report on the fund's income and expenses. Should more funds be raised than are needed for this current sponsorship, the monies will be kept in the dedicated GUM Refugee Support Fund at Dublin for future sponsorship efforts as determined by the Refugee Support Group, in conversation with the four churches.

How You Can Help:

Majd would really appreciate invitations to lunch or dinner. He enjoys outings around Guelph or the surrounding area. He is currently staying in an Airbnb but is looking for an affordable studio or bachelor apartment. If you have any leads, please contact Arlene ASAP.

Further Communication

Feel free to be in touch with any of the following people if you have questions or you would like to get in touch with Majd:

Gary Partlow, gpartlow@uoguelph.ca

Sonya Wu-Winter, swu728@yahoo.ca

Kyle Anderson, Dublin, Mentor Group lead, kyleislaudable@gmail.com

Rhondda Lymburner, Three Willows

Arlene Davies-Fuhr, Harcourt

Ruth Cooke, Trinity

Harcourt Communal Garden

by Jill Gill

The Harcourt Communal Garden is fully maintained by volunteers who plan, plant, water, weed and harvest from June until late October each year. All of the fresh, organically



Photo by Larry Smith

grown produce we harvest is donated to Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) food pantry in downtown Guelph where it is distributed to many of Guelph's most food-insecure folks. CCSC is a Harcourt sponsored charity.

Our ninth season of harvest has begun very well. Except for a few cucumber seedlings which were lost to cucumber beetles and a few ripening tomatoes that critters nibbled on for their moisture content, our plants are thriving. We have netted 135.65 kgs of veg and herbs so far this year, compared to 90 kgs at this time last year. We've had a large harvest from rhubarb, asparagus, zucchinis, beans and even lettuce greens. There is a bumper crop of tomatoes on the way.

Our next Communal Garden work 'Party' will be on Saturday, September 14 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us to weed and do maintenance work in the garden. No experience needed – we have plenty of seasoned gardeners who are willing to coach! Please come prepared for the weather, bring water, sunscreen, gardening gloves, hats favorite garden implements and be ready for a fun few hours and a snack break half way through the afternoon. We will be joined by student volunteers from the U of G's Project Serve event which happens at this time each fall. Please contact me, Jill Gill at peter.gill@sympatico.ca to let me know that you will attend, so I can prepare enough snacks for all.

In a separate newsletter item, you will see the notice about the second Annual Community Gardens Festival (formerly Salsa Fest) which is taking place at Harcourt on Sunday, September 29th from 1-4 p.m. as part of Culture Days Ontario. All are welcome to this family-friendly event, filled with workshops, salsa-making, apple-cider press demo, seed saving workshop, children's activities and much more. This could be the perfect follow up to the Harcourt Retreat weekend at Ignatius.

Many Thanks!! From the Worship Committee

by Sandy Middleton, Chair, Worship Committee



Jean Hartmans

After six years of devoted service Jean Hartmans is stepping down from her role as Ushering Coordinator. As of 1 September, Tony Wagner will be replacing Jean as Ushering Coordinator. We were so delighted, and relieved, when Tony accepted our invitation to serve the congregation in this way. He and Jean have been working together over the summer to ensure a smooth transition.

Most will probably be unaware of any change, as this is another of those "behind the scenes" tasks that, though essential to the smooth running of our various worship services, just appears to happen. However, the task of finding and ensuring that trained ushers are always on hand, involves time and effort. Jean has given unstintingly in this way. We offer her a huge debt of thanks for a job well done, and hope that she and Roeland will now have a little more

time for relaxation together. THANK YOU, JEAN.

The Worship Committee would also like to acknowledge the role of a number of choir members who diligently provided refreshments (water and lemonade) during July and August. The refreshments were greatly appreciated, both before and after the service where they provided a focus for fellowship. This is yet another example of the quiet way in which our choir contributes to our congregational life. THANK YOU, CHOIR.



co-Practice in the Community

by Jackson Misner, Project Facilitator – Summer Student, Eco-Practice Committee

Many organizations throughout Guelph take pride in their eco-practices and are actively promoting sustainability. There are countless opportunities to leave a positive impact on our community. Whether or not you participate in an organization, anything from environmentally friendly lawn care to buying local food helps strive towards a greener future! We reached out to a few of the many community organizations in Guelph asking them to tell us about their eco-practices. Our own Jill Gill gave us a starting list.

Here's what we've found so far:

Transition Guelph

About our eco-practice: Our organization is dedicated to local resilience and sustainable living. Based on equity, and built through an engaged community with economic vitality, we are focused on environmental resources and stewardship. We oversee many projects including the GROW Garden, TreeMobile, The Tool Library and the Guelph Community Orchard Project (on Harcourt's property!), and host several annual events such as the Zero Waste Festival and Seedy Saturday.

What you should know about us: We're a volunteer organization that's non-partisan, collaborative, inclusive and has a philosophy of setting a positive vision for the future.

Want to contribute or learn more? We welcome anyone who cares about our community and you can contact us at info@transitionguelph.org

Wildlife Preservation Canada

About our eco-practice: Wildlife Preservation Canada focuses on saving endangered species, we promote sustainable living and eco-practice by ensuring that Canadian biodiversity does not decline. Through outreach and education, we provide information on how to live alongside wildlife and how each of us can make small changes to our lifestyles to help recover endangered species in Canada.

What you should know about us: Wildlife Preservation Canada carries out hands-on action to save endangered species and this includes conservation breeding, reintroductions, monitoring, research, and especially our main program, saving native pollinators.

Want to contribute or learn more? Email me directly

at <u>lance.woolaver@wildlifepreservation.ca</u>, visit our website at <u>wildlifepreservation.ca/</u> or call our office in Guelph and talk to Ellen Reinhart at 519-836-9314.

Yorklands Green Hub

About our eco-practice: We give workshops and presentations on and off our York Road site (former Guelph Correctional Centre site) to encourage the public of all ages to learn about and commit to sustainable lifestyles. Knowledge about growing and buying local food, watershed and pollination protection, energy use, urban forest increase and land preservation values inherited from our First Nations people are all related to sustainable lifestyles.

What you should know about us: We are working to secure the York Rd site for public green space. As a not-for-profit organization we have a small window of opportunity to buy this site before it goes to developers and we are looking for broad community support in order to attract the funding for this goal.

Want to contribute or learn more? We would love to speak to or offer a walk to anyone who would like to see the site. Contact us at nchaloner@yorklandsgreenhub.ca

Healthy Landscapes

About our eco-practice: We are the City of Guelph's outdoor landscaping resource hub. Our main focus is education and we offer complimentary landscape visits, tips and tricks on how to have an environmentally friendly lawn and garden, ways to attract pollinators, and ways to use water efficiently.

What you should know about us: We would like residents to know that you really can have a low maintenance lawn and garden that uses less water, is beautiful, and attracts pollinators and other beneficial wildlife.

Want to contribute or learn more? For more information visit our website at guelph.ca/healthylandscapes or contact Karen McKeown at karen.mckeown@guelph.ca

Our Energy Guelph

About our eco-practice: The City of Guelph Climate Change Office is focused on energy conservation efforts and reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions. We're working towards the goal of making Guelph a Net Zero Carbon Community by 2050.

What you should know about us: We partner with the University, both school boards, and many Guelph businesses to improve community support and to help businesses and organizations become more sustainable.

Want to contribute or learn more? The best way is to contact me directly at alex.chapman@guelph.ca. Our Energy Guelph is available at ourenergyguelph.ca.

Pollination Guelph

About our eco-practice: Our primary goal is to promote the conservation of pollinators and their habitats. We do this through a variety of activities including awareness and education, research, advocacy and support for local projects. For example, we supported the Hospice Wellington Gosling Pollinator Garden. Pollinators are an essential component to a flourishing eco-system! **What you should know about us**: We engage with landowners who would like to create pollinator habitats on their property. You might also have seen our Pollinator Habitat signs throughout Guelph!

Want to contribute or learn more? You can visit our website at www.pollinationguelph.ca/ or email us at pollinationguelph@gmail.com. We also have an active social media presence.

Caroline Harcourt Women to Hear Speaker of "Note"

by Jean Hume

The Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship Circle will start off the Fall season with Sandy Middleton speaking on Hymns that have Special Meaning to Him. He just might ask us to participate so tune up your vocals! Come and enjoy some good fun and fellowship on Monday, September 9th at 12 noon. Bring your bag lunch and tea and treats will be served.

The Fruits of Good Labour

by Jill Gill

The fruit and nut trees and shrubs in the Harcourt site of the **Guelph Community**Orchard Project were planted back in 2012. There have been a few replacements over the years, due mostly to severity of weather or disease. And it seems that each year's conditions have favoured different fruits. 2019 is shaping up to produce a bumper crop of thornless blackberries. They won't be ripe for harvest for a few weeks yet, but keep checking and grab them before the birds do! You will be surprised at how sweet and flavourful they are, compared with what you have sampled from the grocery store. We have already enjoyed plenty of asparagus and there are two lovely little pears on the Bartlett Pear tree. This is the first season this tree has fruited.

In March, we planted a new Cherry-Plum Tree. It will be a few years before we can expect fruit, but apparently the taste is delicious. Looking forward to sampling those 'Chums' in summers to come. In June we had a volunteer crew of 10 folks from Farm Credit Canada as part of the United Way's Days of Caring initiative. They helped weed, mulch and generally clean up the orchard – it was looking magnificent by the time they had finished! They also helped put some critter proof fencing around the raised beds in the Harcourt Communal Garden. They were a fun and enthusiastic group and I would love to work with them again next year, if possible. In mid-September we will be assisted by a dozen or so student volunteers from the University of Guelph's Project Serve event. They have joined us each year since 2012 and always manage to accomplish a substantial clean-up and sometimes harvest some tasty fruit for their efforts.

The Guelph Community Orchard Project is a diverse urban orchard that is volunteer maintained with all the harvest available for anyone in the community to pick. We aim to donate up to 50% to Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry at 41 Macdonell.

Harcourt Men Encouraged to Take a Big Breath!

by Bill Lord

The next meeting of the Harcourt Men's Group will be **Wednesday, September 11** at 7:45 a.m. Dave Mowat will speak on how to "IMPROVE YOUR BREATHING." Learning to breathe more effectively may be the best thing you ever do to improve your health and reduce health care costs.

Dave is an active member of Harcourt Church and the Guelph community for 56 years and has had a life-long interest and some training in preventative medicine.

Coffee and tea will be ready at 7:45 a.m., the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. In your date book please record the date of October 9, 2019 for our next meeting. The speaker will be announced at our meeting.



ome See the New *Green Shelves* in the Library!

by Mary-Lou Funston, Library Committee

Greetings faithful readers of this "column"! Welcome back from what I hope was a restful, rejuvenating summer for you. As you may know, (or will now learn), we return to the Church year celebration of the Season of Creation. There are some exciting things planned for us all. I am hoping that the following Library books will help you to think about what this means for you and for Harcourt.

To help you easily find the books, they are all arranged on the "green shelves", (i.e. all the top and some of the bottom shelves in the inner wall of the library). We have a pretty good, broad ranging selection. Some I have featured in past Heralds.

Children's books are on the top of the book cubes in the Library. Some of these will also be displayed in the Greeting area – or with Manna.

Because of the relatively short span of the "season", these books will be available on a 7 DAY LOAN. Each Sunday, books relevant to the theme of the day will be available on the table in the Greeting Area.

ON THE BROAD THEME OF CREATION

- * Where On Earth Are We Going? Maurice Strong
- "... he presents a hard-headed, balanced analysis of the future, a call to action in a world where a barrel of water promises to be even more expensive than a barrel of oil..."
 - * A Hopeful Earth Dyck and Ehrman
- "... explains the connection between the teachings of Jesus and how we treat our neighbour and God's creation."

- * Enough Bill McKibben
- "... it confronts...the dangers inherent in an array of technologies that threaten not just our survival, but our identity."
 - * Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering UCC
- "... examines the spiritual, social, and moral dilemmas raised by biotechnology and genetic engineering."

FLORA AND FAUNA

- * The Call of the Forest This is a DVD that was shown in the sanctuary last year and worth watching again. "... reminds us that when we improve our profound human connection to woodlands we can restore our spirit, our health, and our planet."
 - * Small Stories, Big Changes Lyle Estill
- "... written by ordinary folks whose lives have been transformed by their willingness to commit themselves ... to the creation of a better world."
 - * 50 Ways to Help Save the Earth Rebecca Barnes-Davies
 How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference
 - * Eco-Faith Creating and Sustaining Green Congregations Charlene Hosenfeld

Busy Busy Property Committee

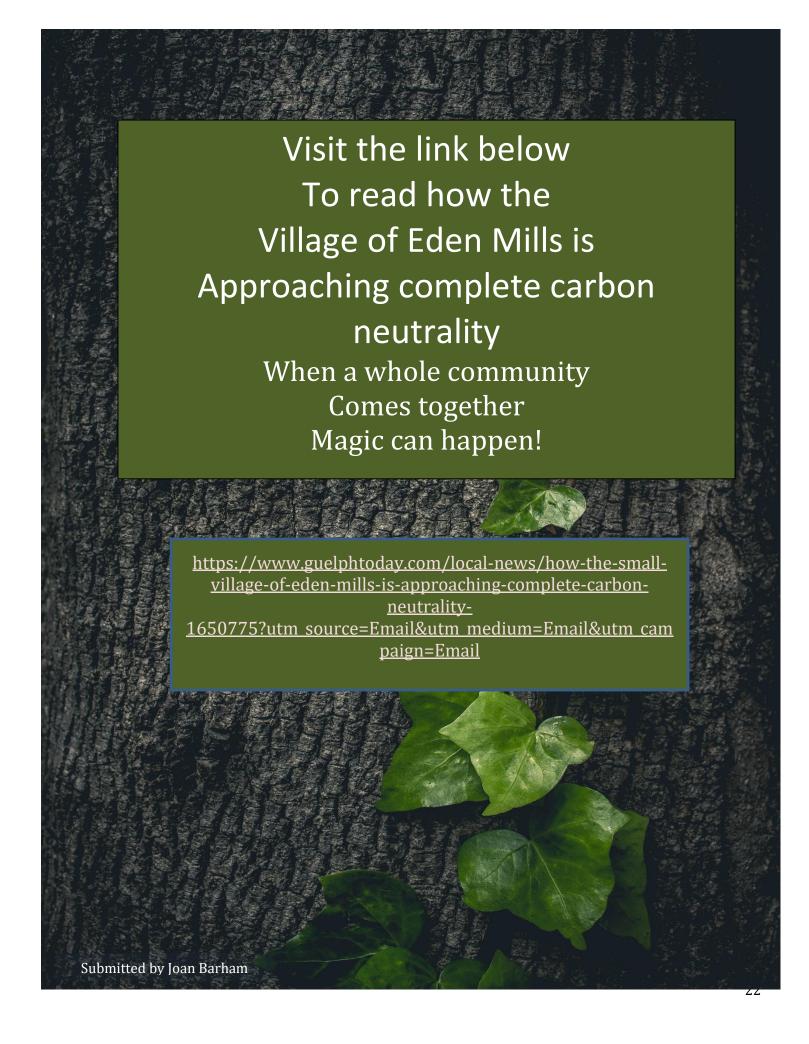
by Dave Hume, Chair Property Committee

Over the summer, a new rug was installed in the "Block Room". That is the room to the left of the back entrance (the one beside the Pre-school yard). The room is primarily used by the Royal City Preschool and the rug was literally coming apart at the seams. There have been delays in fixing the leaking roof over the flat-roof sections of the church. Hopefully those repairs will be completed by the time you read this. There



was a big turnout (Largest ever) for Weed and Whine, the summer garden cleanup. Thanks to Sarah Lowe for hosting the thirsty weeders after they completed their tasks. Thanks also to Larry Smith and other members of the Property Committee for pitching in while Darko was on holidays. Also, thanks to Jerry Daminato, who provided a detailed inventory list, complete with pictures, of the electronic and communication installations within the church. Our summer student, Jackson Misner, helped me do a new inventory of the other furnishings and contents within our church. Jackson also completed an analysis of rents and renters, which is done annually. Welcome back from wherever you travelled over the summer.





Prayers for Renewal

by Jim Ball

Hi Everyone! It is good to be back with you. I am pleased to say that I return to Harcourt renewed in spirit, mind and body. I am very grateful for your support that helped make such renewal possible.

The sabbatical time involved a daily mix of prayer, stillness, reading, reflection, note-making, and exercise. It included lots of walking. And coffee. Lots of coffee. To this daily routine was added participation in formal coursework and webinars, mostly with the Tamarack Institute, and intentional learning conversations with colleagues. I suspect the experience will continue to touch and influence much that I do in the coming months, generating insight, energy and calm as we address together the emerging opportunities and challenges that flow our way.

As a first step, I thought I would share with you the prayers I wrote during the first week I was away. I used them to begin, ground and end each day of the sabbatical. I continue to use them. Please feel free to replace the photos used here with images that are meaningful for you. Peace.

[photos by Miriam Flynn and Gillian Joseph]

First Light Prayer - a prayer of gratitude

Thanks for the day that breaks bright upon the land and upon my heart.

Thanks for the light that chases darkness from the skies and from my mind.

Thanks for the breath that stirs all beings to life and breathes me new into the day.

Thanks and thanks again, Holy One, for the gift. May I never forget.

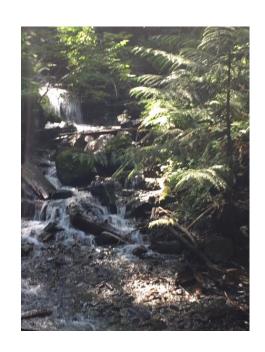


©jmball

Morning Prayer - a prayer of intention

May I live this day
with gratitude and joy.
May I live this day
with compassion and peace.
May I live this day
with respect and right relation
toward all things living,
including our mother,
the earth.

©jmball



Evening Prayer - a prayer of gratitude and time of Examen

For the gift of the day, thanks.
For the challenges of the day, thanks.
For the accomplishments of the day, thanks.
For the learnings of the day, thanks.
For the love in the day, thanks.

©jmball



Last Prayer before sleep - a prayer for all things.

May all things breathing pass this night in peace and without pain.
May all things pass this night in peace.

©*jmball*

Some soothing Deep Prayer Music to add to your experience.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4kynE8W21I&app=desktop



Plan Now!

by Barbara Friend, Chair Chancel Committee

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it!

Would you like to continue our tradition of honouring loved ones or to celebrate a special event by donating towards the purchase of a chrysanthemum? If so, please contact Barbara Friend at barfriend52@gmail.com; cell: 519-803-5032 or home: 519-763-5032 by October 7th.

p.s...Don't forget to pick up your plant after church on Thanksgiving Sunday!





arcourt's Annual Congregational Retreat: An Opportunity for Growth

by Marion Auger

Harcourt's Annual Congregational Retreat is an opportunity to develop and grow as an intentional community of faith. This will be our fifth annual retreat, and each builds on the preceding.



The topic of the first retreat in 2014 was "Designing Tools for the Wilderness." The premise was that, along with all mainline Protestant and Catholic churches, Harcourt was experiencing something akin to the time in the wilderness which the Israelites experienced upon leaving Egypt and which Jesus experienced after his baptism. A "wilderness" time is one where old ways no longer work and new ways have not yet been figured out. The theme of the following year's retreat

was "Learning from the Second Temple" and focused on lessons we can learn from the Israelites as they returned from exile in Babylon, and discovered they have to rebuild their

Temple – and their faith – from the ground up.

In 2017, the theme was more upbeat: "On Being a Beloved Child of God." We learned that realizing our belovedness required also that we realize everyone else's belovedness. This led us to reexamine our understanding of community as inclusive and sanctuary.

Last year, we reflected on "Living in the Light," A highlight was a fresh look at the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. We realized, among other things, that, in these dark times, what we already do – in these retreats and elsewhere in our life, in the church and out – is the alternative community that Jesus talked about: a community based on compassion and justice rather than competitiveness and judgment.

This year's retreat focuses on "Living with respect in creation." This theme seemed most timely, given the urgency of addressing climate change and the reluctance of our politicians to do anything serious about it. There is enough gloom and doom, and activism about. We wanted an opportunity to ground ourselves in our Sacred Story to find wisdom and energy to truly live with respect in creation. We want our action to come out of love for our habitat rather than fear, panic or anger. A highlight will be learning about the Old Growth Forest project and helping us fall in love with the nature which nourishes us. If you are struggling with this urgent and serious ecological crisis and want to find ways to avoid panic and discouragement, then you might want to consider coming along this September. Photos: Hand = by Anika Huizinga on Unsplash; Earth = Pexel

Community News

What Are You Doing on Saturday Night?

by Karyn Davies

Harcourt's next opportunity to host Saturday Night Supper at Royal City Church, 50 Quebec Street is September 21st. We will require 12 volunteers on the night, to prepare, and serve dinner and many folks to prepare food. Our menu includes pasta casserole, (recipe provided on the Harcourt website), Caesar salad, pickles, cheese, assorted fruit pies, vanilla ice cream, milk, juice, and coffee. A signup sheet is on the table in the greeting place where you can indicate how you are able to help out. You might prefer to volunteer on sign up genius. Food and volunteers should be at Royal City church (back door entrance) by 5 P.M. Servers will be required until Approximately 8P.M. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this worthwhile outreach opportunity.



Safety at Harcourt

by Shaina Ensing

As activity picks up at the church, we would like to make everyone aware of a few safety concerns and resources available at Harcourt.

Resources:

Automated External Defibrillator (AED): Harcourt has an AED located in the Greeting Area. If you would like to learn more about this and how to operate it in an emergency, there is an AED Education event scheduled for October 26, 2019.



First Aid Kits: There are first aid kits located in the church office, in the kitchenette upstairs and in the kitchen downstairs.

Naloxone: There is a Naloxone kit located in the church office. It contains two nasal sprays and instructions to be used in the event of a fentanyl overdose.

Fire Safety: There are Evacuation Plans and Procedures posted throughout the church. These indicate all church exits as well as the locations of fire extinguishers, fire alarms and fire exits.

Notices:

There are often kids running around outside from day camps and the preschool. Please take care when driving in Harcourt's parking lot.

There have been needles found on a few occasions on our property. Please be cautious of your surroundings, especially when working in the gardens. If you find a needle, please do not touch it. Let a member of staff know. Darko and the office staff are trained and have the correct equipment to dispose of used needles safely.

Do not leave your valuables unattended in jacket pockets, purses, unlocked cars, etc.

Thank You So Much!

by Anne Purkis (newly retired and looking forward to "multislacking")

I would like to thank the congregation for the lovely farewell party, generous gifts and the opportunity to visit SAIL, a wonderful outdoor oriented store in Cambridge. I have already



Photo by Sara Lowe

refreshed some of our boating accessories and fishing lures and look forward to another shopping excursion.

Thank for the many well wishes, cards, flowers and other gifts! I am truly blessed. As I embark on this next step in my journey I would like to thank all the folks at Harcourt for the lovely welcome I received 7 years ago and the opportunity to be a part of the life and work of the congregation and its members.

As I rest beside one of Ontario's beautiful rivers in glorious surroundings and contemplate my next steps, I will be doing so with gratitude. All of you will remain in my thoughts and I wish everyone I have worked with and shared stories, conversations and laughed with the very best.



ne Step at a Time – Eco-Practice Journeys

by Gill Joseph

"Men work together, I told him from the heart, whether they work together or apart" Robert Frost (1915). A Tuft of Flowers

Inspired by what I heard at the Harcourt Eco-Practice Committee meetings, my husband and I decided to take a step in meeting the challenge to cut back on the plastic that comes into our home, starting August 1st. It was harder than I thought at first, plastic is everywhere...but we persevered. We shopped in different grocery stores to check out products. We looked for purchases that were not wrapped in plastic. We looked for products that were not plastic. I read the online environmental blogs that talked about how people gave up using and buying plastic for a whole year and marveled at the accomplishment.



To be fair, we had been recycling milk bags for many years since our now grown children were small; washing the bags after use with soap and water, hanging them to dry and using them over and over to wrap sandwiches or bits of food for storage. But a quick look at Guelph's recycling webpage suggested that milk in cartons, which can be recycled here, might be a better substitute. Sixteen plastic milk bags a month eliminated! It was a start.

We then decided to tackle eliminating the plastic bags that we habitually collect in the produce and bakery sections of the grocery store – bags which are so flimsy they often get torn and thrown away almost immediately. This was very tricky for several reasons. First, touching baked goods that are not packaged is unsanitary, and second, what's to stop those stray bits of fruit and veg from rolling onto the floor or falling through the holes in my cart (which they did!). After an embarrassing experiment that found me dropping bagels with tongs into my cloth bag (praying that no one would think I was shop lifting!) and gagging as the checkout person coughed into her hand and then touched each bagel in my bag to count them, I am admitting defeat on that one for the moment. Any suggestions would be gratefully accepted.

Our next challenge was to eliminate plastic containers for cleaning products, and I chose to start with laundry and dishwasher soap. I was surprised to see how few non-plastic containers there are for cleaning products. Even the environmentally-friendly products were often in plastic containers. After a thorough search of the shelves, with great excitement I found a couple of

contenders: Seventh Generation Laundry Detergent and President's Choice Green Express Cycle dishwasher cubes – both in cardboard containers. Made for sensitive skin, the laundry detergent works really well and although when I poked my finger into it at home I found a plastic lining inside the cardboard container, the company



claims that the cardboard is compostable, is made from repurposed fiber and the plastic is recyclable. It also claims that the packaging uses 66% less plastic than most laundry soaps. The dishwashing soap also comes in a cardboard box and the cubes are not covered in plastic. This product too works very well – leaving our dishes sparkling clean. Three more large plastic containers eliminated!

Finally, I pulled out some old t-shirts that had been sitting in the ironing basket for far too long. A quick search online gave me instructions on how to make these fabric rejects into strong shopping bags...without the need for a sewing

needle! Very cool. My plastic bag recycle basket is now nearly empty.

http://alldaychic.com/no-sew-handbag-out-of-t-shirt/no-sew-t-shirt-bag/

We still have a very, very long way to go yet. But I'd love to hear about YOUR attempts to be eco-friendly (warts and all!). Please e-mail them to theherald@harcourtuc.c.a and let me know if you'd rather remain anonymous. Remember, as the poet says...we all work together on this, even when we're apart.

Can You Hear the Jingling?

by Janet Webster

Calling all energetic, and creative people!!!

As the Back to School Ads appear, we are reminded to start thinking about ways to prepare for the *All Things Christmas fund raiser* in late November.

Watch this space and other Harcourt notifications for planning sessions. Most discussions are held electronically so no need to block many hours on your calendars for meetings, although there may be a few. Let us know if you want to be on the email list.

In the meantime, here are some ways to contribute:

- Process some late Ontario summer produce into jams, jellies, pickles, chutneys etc.
- Gather dried vegetation for our popular arrangements (teasels, hydrangea, Milk weed pods etc.)
- Save outdoor plastic pots (approx. 10" in diameter, like the hanging pot size) for outdoor arrangements
- Set aside any unused soil for the pots
- ♣ Delay trimming evergreens until November
- Gather some ornaments or other decorations suitable for arrangements
- Create "picks" such as coniferous cones on sticks for the arrangements
- Purge that jewelry collection for the popular treasure corner
- Think of any other ideas to add to this fun event, we are always willing to consider something new.

If you have any questions, please send them along to Janet Webster, Ann Middleton, Lisa Mctaggart or call the Harcourt office.

New Tulip Trees Swaying in the Breeze at Harcourt

by Sarah Lowe

If you walk round the church property you will enjoy many beautiful trees and shrubs. Some of them were planted several years ago, as an informal tribute to various people and



events. For example, they include two large red oaks growing at the west of the property, in honour of John Buttars and Harvey Wright.

Have you also noticed four new trees that appeared this spring at the front of the church? The City of Guelph planted these at the Church's request. They are at the border of the Church's lands along the Dean Avenue sidewalk, and form part of the City's street tree program. Take a closer look at the two trees planted on either side of the Church sign and you will see that they are new to us. They are tulip trees: a large native species with unusual leaves, that eventually develop an extensive canopy, with flowers that look something like tulips. There is also a sugar maple (the "Legacy" variety chosen by the City), and a

service berry tree, which will have lovely spring blossom, summer fruits and fall colour.

In addition to the City of Guelph, thanks go to Peter Gill for initiating this tree planting project, inspired by Harcourt's screening of the "Call of the Forest" movie last year, with its call to action in planting trees to help combat climate change. Thanks also to Lisa McTaggart and Mark Sears for help with species selection and placement; to Darko for his extra care with maintenance; and Alice Carey for helping save one of the tulip trees from the ravages of tiger swallowtail caterpillars last month!

Confused by terms like: Green Sustainable Eco-friendly Fair trade

Non-toxic????

Check out the link below for more info

https://ecocult.com/whats-the-difference-between-greensustainable-eco-friendly-ethical-fair-trade-clean-organicnon-toxic-and-conscious/

Huge Fall Indoor Garage Sale

Fri. Sept 27, 3-8 pm & Sat. Sept 28, 7-12 noon

Books, toys, household items, china, glassware, kitchenware, games, CDs, DVDs, sports equipment, garden utensils, linens, pictures, frames, giftware, collectibles, small furniture, small appliances, and much more!!!



Donations of "good" used items can be dropped off at Trinity between 8:30 & 12:30 pm starting September 16th, 2019 No upholstered furniture or appliances.

> at Trinity United Church 400 Stevenson St N, Guelph

Should you fly, drive, take the train or sail to your destination?

Compare the Carbon Dioxide Emissions of different modes of transportation

https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49349566

GUELPH UNITED PERFORMERS

www.guelphunitedperformers.com

COMMUNITYCHILDREN'S CHOIR



Ages 6 to 12 years TRINITY UNITED CHURCH 400 STEVENSON ST. N.

Free for all boys & girls

Sunday Mornings, 11:30 a.m. October 20 to December. 8, 2019

Director: ANDREA LeBLANC

Contact: Barbara at: moldenhauer.b@sympatico.ca

519 824 6172



September 29, 2019

- FREE workshops
- FREE food

- Meet fellow gardeners!
- Community salsa

ALL ARE WELCOME!



FIND US ON
Facebook
&
Twitter!

@GardensFestival

1-4pm at Harcourt United Church
87 Dean Avenue, Guelph

AED Education Event

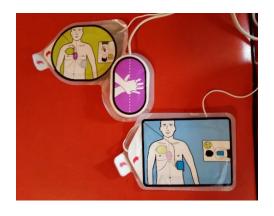


October 26, 2019
9-11 a.m.
Harcourt Gym

As a Member of Harcourt...

Familiarize yourself with the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Learn from a Paramedic You could save a life

Register with Esther Devolin
519-836-7675 or ekdevolin@sympatico.ca
Refreshments





Announcements

Passing:

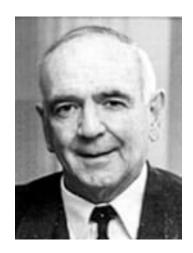


HINES, Ken passed away June 15, 2019 at Groves Memorial Hospital in Fergus. Dearest soulmate of Betty for 68 years, loving father and grandfather, Ken will be sadly missed by family and friends but forever remembered for his love of hockey and his contagious laugh. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Haldimand Memorial Hospital in Dunnville or Groves Memorial Hospital in Fergus would be appreciated. Online condolences jwhartfuneralhome.com



KELLY, Brenda passed away with family by her side on Sunday July 7, 2019 at the age of 85. Born in London, England to the late Walter Leslie Cable and Violet Patricia Woods, the family followed Walter to Kingston, Canada during the War. Beloved wife of the late George F. Kelly, and treasured mother and grandmother. As one of the inaugural recipients of a degree in *The History of Ideas* from Scarborough College University of Toronto, she expanded her love of history and architecture during a year of living in Switzerland. Maker of many lists,

she brought her excellent organizational skills to work on family chores, federal census and elections, church leadership, church libraries, a small business, and her own memorial service. Her beaming smile and laughter brought much joy to family and friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations would be appreciated to St. Mary's Hospital (supportstmarys.ca) or a charity of your choice. Condolences can also be posted online at gilbertmacintyreandson.com.



BRUCE, John Ronald Bruce 'Jack' Passed away at 81 years of age in Guelph, Ontario, on July 12, 2019. Beloved husband of 57 years of Carol and cherished father and grandfather. A University of Toronto, McMaster and California (Berkeley) graduate, Jack was a dedicated teacher and enthusiastic coach for many years at Centennial C.V.I. In memory of Jack please build a basement fort with your children, paddle and portage a canoe, perfect your loon and moose call, run up Mole Hill, sing joyfully and walk on a beach. Laugh heartily with new and old friends, cook and relish a wonderful meal and follow with keen interest

your grandchildren's lives. Most importantly, look at your wife with the same light in your eyes as the day you met her and tell your family and friends you love them.



STEVENS, John Howard passed away July 22, 2019 in Guelph Ontario. He will be greatly missed by his wife Barbara of 57 years, his six children and his 15 grandchildren. John was born in Fergus Ontario to Howard and Helen Stevens. It is in Fergus that he formed a life-long interest in sports and developed his entrepreneurial spirit. His long list of early businesses ranged from raising chickens, to owning an outdoor roller rink in Port Elgin. This led to more formal business interests that took him from cattle farming in Fergus to a career in real estate with

business interests in Ontario and Florida. John always had a keen interest in sports playing most sports in his early years in Fergus and later developing a special interest for tennis. He was a fixture at the Southampton Tennis Club resulting in a leadership role for 20 years. He was a man with a keen sense of humor and a sharp wit and always enjoyed a good laugh and a good story with his many friends. His greatest pride was his wife and his children. Donations to Hospice Wellington and the Kidney Foundation of Canada would be greatly appreciated by the family. Donation cards are available at the funeral home (519-821-5077), or online at www.gilbertmacintyreandson.com.

Other Announcements

- **SEP 8: ECO FAIR** Following the 10:30am service, during coffee. We will have around 10 tables set up and people are invited to browse and visit the tables for ideas that they may want to try for the season. Meet members of the congregation and other groups who will inspire you with stories, demonstrations, advice, and support. See poster above.
- **SEP 24, 7:15PM: GUELPH UNITED PERFORMERS** The eighth season begins in Guelph this fall! All drama lovers, ages 11 to 17, are invited to join our weekly Theatre Club! Tuesday evenings, 7:15 to 8:45pm. Starting Tuesday, September 24, 2019! For more information, please contact Barbara Moldenhauer at 519.824.6172 or visit www.guelphunitedperformers.com [1].
- HARCOURT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION:
 Community Gardens Festival Sunday, September 29th from 1-4 p.m.
 Join us for the 2nd Annual Guelph Community Gardens Festival (formerly Salsa Fest) to be held at Harcourt UC on Sunday, September 29th from 1-4 p.m. as part of the Culture Days Ontario weekend of events. This is a family friendly event with children's'

activities (including constructing a Bee Hotel), workshops featuring apple cider-making, Heirloom Seed Saving Workshop, Community Salsa-Making and Tasting, vegetable gardening information and displays. There will be prizes awarded for the 'Weirdest Vegetable' grown in any of the Guelph Community Gardens! The actual vegetable or a photograph needs to be present to participate in the contest. This event will happen rain or shine. See the poster and for more information contact Jill Gill at peter.gill@sympatico.ca or Google Culture Days Guelph, go to events and type in Community Gardens Festival. You can also find us on Facebook or Twitter @GardensFestival.



Educated in Home Economics at the University of Alberta, with a Ph.D. from Cornell University, Dr. Lila Engberg is a Professor Emerita at the University of Guelph with considerable experience in International Development, including the development and delivery of several educational exchange programs between Africa and Canada that ran over a number of years, and research projects that explored the role of women in agriculture among others. Raised on a farm in Alberta in the 1920s, Lila has a keen sense of our human responsibility to care for the earth and all creatures in it. Now in her golden years, the following is the first part of her reflections about the history of Alberta and the many changes that have affected the land and its environmental sustainability over time.

The Engbergs as Earth Keepers

by Dr. Lila Engberg with Ann Middleton

Can humans really own a piece of this earth, the water and trees, wild animals and birds, and the minerals? I believe "having dominion over" means humans have responsibilities for this one and only planet earth. We humans must care for the environment. Climate change is upon us and we must search for ways to contribute to change for the better – not just sustainability of our own land but global sustainability. In these memoirs, I look at my family, the Engbergs, and our piece of land in Alberta.

ON THE FARM IN ALBERTA

When I was a child in the 1920s, I remember living on the farm. I watched my father and a few helpers transform some of the Engberg land by clearing shrubs and trees (called grubbing). They hauled the roots, shrubs and trees away to create a field to grow crops. The men used horses to help with this work. They pulled out the roots of the bigger trees – the aspen and balsam, poplars, and the willows – and left a grove of trees behind the house and behind the barn, which is still there. Young members of my family (brother Bob's

grandchildren) now live on this piece of land that was once wilderness in Calmar, Alberta, occupied and enjoyed by Engbergs since the year 1899.

Bob, however, was never a farmer but an oil worker who enjoyed living in the country. After a few hard winters and a lot of snow shoveling, Bob and Betty moved to Edmonton. Now in a retirement home, he continues to manage the farm from afar, driving to Calmar occasionally to visit. Members of his family now live in the two houses that have been severed from the farmland which is worked by a neighbor who farms several quarters in the Calmar community.

I was not there to witness the Engberg family's transition from active farming, By the time my father died in 1967, the production of cattle, pigs, chickens and feed grain had finished. I don't remember this gradual change as I had moved away from Alberta to Guelph in 1957.

But what about the oil? Leduc No. 1, an oil well discovered in February 1947, was the beginning of an oil economy in Alberta – a transformation at that time away from agriculture to crude oil as the major source of provincial income, a transformation too in politics and everyday life. The Engbergs and some other local farmers held mineral rights. Oil was discovered on our land, drilling rights to be sold!

Dad, who was living on the farm with family at the time, negotiated the sale. He was able to receive a lump sum of cash plus ten percent royalty on oil production; although some farmers got twelve and a half percent, Dad was happy with his ten percent. Four oil wells were drilled on our farm with decisions to be made over the royalties and about family ownership, sharing, saving and spending. Aunt Annie, one of Dad's sisters, demanded and deserved a share of the financial profits from the sale. So Dad arranged that his three sisters Hulda, Annie and Esther, and his brother Harry receive equal shares. We children also received a few hundred dollars each. Today we assume there is no oil left on the land.

PIONEER DAYS

In the early 20th century, the Engbergs and many other Swedish settlers immigrated to Western Canada from the United States to farm quarter sections, 160-acre land holdings. Many of them came from Minnesota and North Dakota by immigration train, recruited by the Canadian government which arranged for land to be made available for them.

Our grandfather, Olaf Engberg, was among the pioneers. He purchased a quarter section of land from the CPR and settled in Calmar in 1899 with his wife Christine, his father and

mother, two sons – John Albert, our father (who was about six at the time), and Harry, and three daughters – Hulda, Annie, and Esther. They immigrated from North Dakota with a group of Swedish families who pioneered the bush country and became part of the Calmar community. Grandpa's brother Louis came as well as did his two sisters, Jenny and Sarah their families.

Grandfather's third sister Mary remained in the USA and married a wealthy lumberman in Troy, Idaho. When their son Albert Lewis and his family arrived to visit us in their Cadillac, we were proud to welcome our rich relatives!

Grandpa was the first postmaster in Calmar. The office was attached to the farm house. In 1921 he built a new house in town, providing the family with a place to live with the post office attached and facing the street.

My mother's family, the Sandstroms, were among the first settlers. They had been allocated a grassy property as requested by my maternal grandfather so that he could develop and feed a dairy herd. He had housing built for his family and barns for the livestock and immediately began cultivating his land as required by the government to prove homestead ownership. My mother, the former Julia Sandstrom, had five sisters and five brothers. The youngest two, Agnes and Percy, were born in Canada. Mom told me about riding the immigrant train from the USA and disembarking in Leduc to make their way to their homestead near Calmar. Since there were no roads, the entire family walked with horses and cows, their wagon laden with household goods. It was a distance of 14 miles through the wilderness to their homestead. There were no roads west of Leduc then. Our mother was five years old at the time. *Lila's story will be continued in the next issue of the Harcourt Herald*

When I am asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse.

Paul Hawken. Environmentalist

Harcourt Calendar – September 2019

Updated August 15, 2019 – www.harcourtuc.ca for most up-to-date information

Sunday September 1

10:00am Worship Service [S]

Monday September 2 Church Closed

Tuesday September 3

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G] 7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday September 4

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

7:00pm MANNA Meeting [C]

Thursday September 5

1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F] 7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday September 7

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday September 8

9:00am Worship Service [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am MANNA Service [F]

12:00pm Eco-Fair [G]

Monday September 9 Office Closed

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

7:00pm Scouts [F]

7:00pm Communications Committee Meeting [L]

Tuesday September 10

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]

5:00pm U of G Choir Rehearsal [S]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting [C]

7:00pm Property Committee Meeting [L]

7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday September 11

7:45am Men's Group [F]

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting [202]

7:00pm M&P Meeting [L]

Thursday September 12

8:45am MindStretch [C]

1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F]

7:00pm Sharing Evening [F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday September 14

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

Sunday September 15

9:00am Worship Service [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am MANNA Service [F]

3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday September 16

Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]

7:00pm Scouts [F]

7:00pm Women's Spirituality [C]

Tuesday September 17

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]

11:00am Stroke Recovery Lunch [F/K]

5:00pm U of G Choir Rehearsal [S]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday September 18

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

7:00pm Council Meeting [C]

Thursday September 19

8:45am MindStretch [C]

1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Saturday September 21

10:00am Progressive Christianity [202]

6:00pm Saturday Night Supper [off-site]

Sunday September 22 Blessing of the Animals

9:00am Worship Service [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am MANNA Service [S]

3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday September 23 Office Closed

9:30am Quilting Group [F]

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]

7:00pm Scouts [F]

Tuesday September 24

10:00am GWSA Exercise Program [G]

5:00pm U of G Choir Rehearsal [S]

6:45pm Cubs [G]

7:00pm Bell Choir [M]

Wednesday September 25

1:30pm Tai Chi [F]

6:30pm Guides [F]

6:45pm Beavers [G]

7:00pm Rainbow Chorus Rehearsal [S]

Thursday September 26

8:45am MindStretch [C]

1:00pm Park 'n Dance [G,K,F]

5:45pm Centre for Mindfulness Studies [C]

7:30pm Choir Practice [M]

Friday September 27

Congregational Retreat [off-site]

12:00pm Royal City Uke Fest [S,G,K,F,202]

Saturday September 28

Congregational Retreat [off-site]

7:00am Royal City Uke Fest [S,G,K,F,202]

Sunday September 29

Congregational Retreat [off-site]

9:00am Worship Service [C]

10:30am Worship Service [S]

10:30am MANNA Service [F]

1:00pm Community Gardens Festival [K,G,P]

3:00pm SWESH [G]

Monday September 30 Office Closed

1:30pm Prayer Shawl [202]

7:00pm Scouts [F]