

# The Harcourt Herald March 2021

The Life and Work of Harcourt United Church





## ***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

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Casey Connor

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Director of Music Ministry:  
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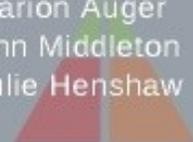
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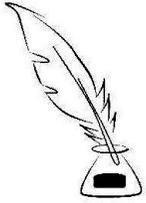
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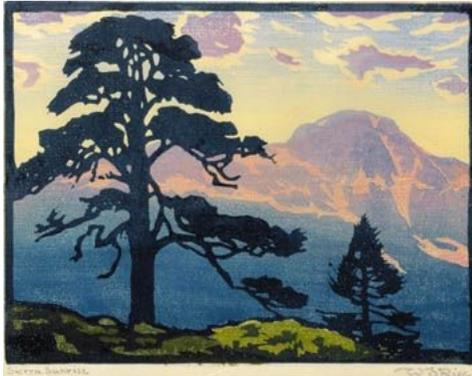
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## The Minister's Quill

*by Rev. Miriam Flynn*



“Sierra Sunrise” Woodcut by W.S. Rice

### **Into Lent Blessing\***

May the dust of the wilderness  
hold your footprints lovingly

May your journey into the wilderness  
unfold honestly

May your time in this wilderness  
be shaped by space

And may you know this wilderness  
has been expecting you,  
and as you walk, find between the stones,  
a promise growing.

Amen.

\*Condensed and adapted from a blessing by Roddy Hamilton

## From the Editor's Desk.

March is here – the days are longer, the sun gets warmer and the time for outdoor activities approaches.

Everything looks a bit better when we are not soooo locked in.

And now, since pre-registration for Covid19 vaccinations has started, everything looks even better.

Larry Smith sent a lovely proposal to the Harcourt Herald indicating that in this time when we have so little contact with each other we could try to publish writers' photos with their article. I think that is a very good idea and so, we will start to ask those who submit articles to also send a small photo of themselves with their submission. Larry suggests that a "Screenshot" from a Zoom conversation easily supplies what you need for a decent picture (he also offered help if someone does not know how to do it).

You will notice in the various reports, published in our newsletter, how much Harcourt people are involved and working hard to keep our Church going. — So much happens behind the screen: the services, the Choir, the council work, the committee involvements, Let's be thankful for all the energy that keeps us all together.

Staying in touch with each other also includes sharing our celebrations. Readers of the Herald would love to know what's happening at your house. Are you looking forward to a significant birthday or anniversary? Do you have a wedding coming up? Is there a new baby or grandchild in your family?

Let us know and we'll publish it on the Life Event page, in the Celebrations column.



## Letters to the Editor

*Hi Marion,*

*Picked up a copy of the HH today and read it at one sitting! That's the length that appeals to me. Maybe some people don't know but there are printed copies in a tub outside the main entrance to the church.*

*Peter Gil*

*I want to pass along my thanks for a lovely and loving February issue of the Harcourt Herald. Some great stories and contributions there, and of course thoughtful words about dear Joan Barham.*

*Larry Smith*

## Council News

### *Lorraine Holding, council chair*

It is encouraging to revisit my February report and recognize our progress during the past month – all while we continued in our second lockdown and stay-at-home order. Here are a few updates from our February 17 council meeting.

As part of our short-term staffing plan, we now welcome Pamela Girardi to our staff team as Manna lead coordinator, a new position as a congregational designated minister (United Church of Canada category). Combined with her previous role as Manna support coordinator, Pamela will anchor the lay leadership team (20 hours a week) for the next few months in collaboration with Miriam. Through our flexible approach to short-term staffing, we are testing potential scenarios during our discernment time.

On recommendation from the worship committee, council confirmed our support for the worship team to engage with their peers in Guelph United Ministries (GUM) to plan cooperative summer services for July and August 2021 on a rotating basis.

Based on his research of available software, Kent Hoeg presented a proposal to create a new Harcourt photo directory. With our thanks, council accepted Kent's offer to lead this project, using low-cost software provided by the company *Instant Church Directory*.

Council continued planning for Harcourt's first virtual annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at 1 p.m. The 2020 annual report is available online and in printed copy. Other details about the meeting will be sent by email. We require a quorum of 50 people.

As follow-up to our January discussion, Mark Sears provided an updated cost estimate (\$40,000) to proceed towards live-streaming capability. We acknowledged the passion that Joan Barham had to move this project forward, especially as an impact of the pandemic. As a next step after our meeting, council approved this motion:

*“In honour of Joan Barham's leadership to enhance communication technology for Harcourt, Council approves a fundraising initiative to raise \$40,000 to: 1) purchase and install a live-stream platform for worship services and other events, and 2) maintain and invest any extra income to be used for future upgrades to equipment or maintenance and for support for community groups that would like to use the live-streaming facility at Harcourt. Donations made to Harcourt Memorial United Church in memory of Joan Barham will be designated for the live-stream fundraising initiative.”*

We are very grateful that the Barham family has named Harcourt as a recipient of donations in memory of Joan for this project.

We are pleased that Harcourt folks are taking the opportunity to talk with others in small groups about our future. The *Harcourt Conversations – Round 1* had 70 people participate. Approximately 30 people registered for the first round of *GUM COVID Conversations*. Information gathered during these conversations will help guide the next steps in our discernment process. Continue to watch for more updates.

With faith and hope, our journey unfolds.



## Health unit announces Covid-19 vaccine rollout

*Lorraine Holding and Megan Ward*  
*Co-Chairs*  
*Re-Entry Planning Group*

### **Time to dream about church after immunization**

The Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health Unit has updated its website to provide details for the rollout of the Covid-19 immunization program. As more vaccine becomes available, priority groups are now able to pre-register for the first dose. For example, those 80 years and older are now encouraged to pre-register. While the health unit does not encourage general calls about getting the vaccines because of overwhelming volume, it is easy to pre-register online. Health department staff will accept a phone pre-registration for those without internet access, but it can take days for them to return a call. To see the most recent information about the next in line for the vaccine, go to the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health website (<https://www.wdgpulichealth.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-workplaces-and-living-spaces/covid-19-information-public/covid-19-5>).

For now, our building has re-opened for limited use, following all protocols related to being in the red zone. Please contact the church office if you would like to make an appointment or book a small meeting.

With the Covid-19 immunization program ramping up locally, now is a good time to dream a little about what this significant layer of protection adds to our church community. If all proceeds as hoped, it won't be too many months before we have more freedom to gather in person once again. Likely it will be in small groups to begin, perhaps outdoors, and still with other Covid-19 precautions in place. What would you like to see? What important ways of "being church" will open up to us? What will we keep from the old ways and add from the new ways? It's a good time to imagine the possibilities together.

## Property committee report

*Dave Hume*

Ben Fear has resigned from the committee after many years of work. Not many of us are still active on Harcourt committees at 96. We thank Ben for years of dedicated service. He still writes delightful articles for the Herald and has been a faithful attendee when we have cleanup get-togethers to keep the outside property looking good.

On Feb. 16, we welcomed back David Kucherepa, our custodian, from paternity leave. David and his Miranda Mafe have a new son, Dylan, born just before the end of 2020. All are doing well!

We are happy to have the Royal City Pre-School operating in their lower corner of the church. The only outside group still renting space during the pandemic trains young dogs to accompany autistic people. The group meets every second Thursday evening.

Thanks to Mark Sears, Frank Webster and Gary Parsons for checking the church daily during David's leave. We hired three students from the University of Guelph, led by Kristen Balawejder, to clear the snow while David was away. They picked an ideal time for the job because in their six-week contract it hardly ever snowed.

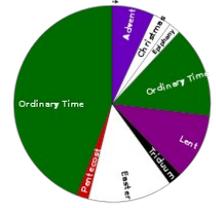
Over the last month, we have had two pump repairs on the heating system. Fortunately there was no loss of heat during the cold month of February. On Feb. 5 we had an expert in boilers come and teach three members of the committee and Mark Sears the finer points of proper boiler operation and we made an appointment for him to come back in the spring to make sure we can shut the boilers down properly and know what needs further attention. We're learning!



## A Guide to the Liturgical Year B Holy Week

**Andre Auger**

During most of March we will continue the Lenten journey which we covered in the February Herald. Easter this year is April 4, so I'll cover the Easter season in the April issue. For this month, all that remains is Holy Week.



We can easily experience the flow of the liturgical year. The Season of Epiphany that followed Christmas was a time to reflect on Jesus calling the disciples and teaching. Lent brought us back to Jesus' temptations in order to prepare us for a time of reflection on our own temptations during Lent. Liturgical churches celebrate the Transfiguration at some point in this season and this signals a turn toward Jerusalem and the final confrontation.

**Palm Sunday**

**Mark 11.1-11**

**Jesus enters Jerusalem**

Far from being a naive and silly procession, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem can be seen as street theatre, a protest mockery, a powerful political statement that could not have escaped the residents of Jerusalem. There would have been shock, disgust, amusement and fear. The implications would not have escaped the citizens. Jesus' gesture intensifies his confrontation with the powers that be. If anything, this procession is courageous and dangerous. The message is not to go out and protest and get arrested. The message to us all is that our faith is not a matter of being nice; it's not a comfortable private faith; it's public and it's political and it's about siding with the disenfranchised over the powers that be. ***What show of power, status and wealth might we possibly feel compelled to confront with some form of non-violent street theatre to remind the dominant culture of inequalities and poverty and injustice?***

**Maundy Thursday**

**John 13.1-17**

**Jesus' last meal and act of service**

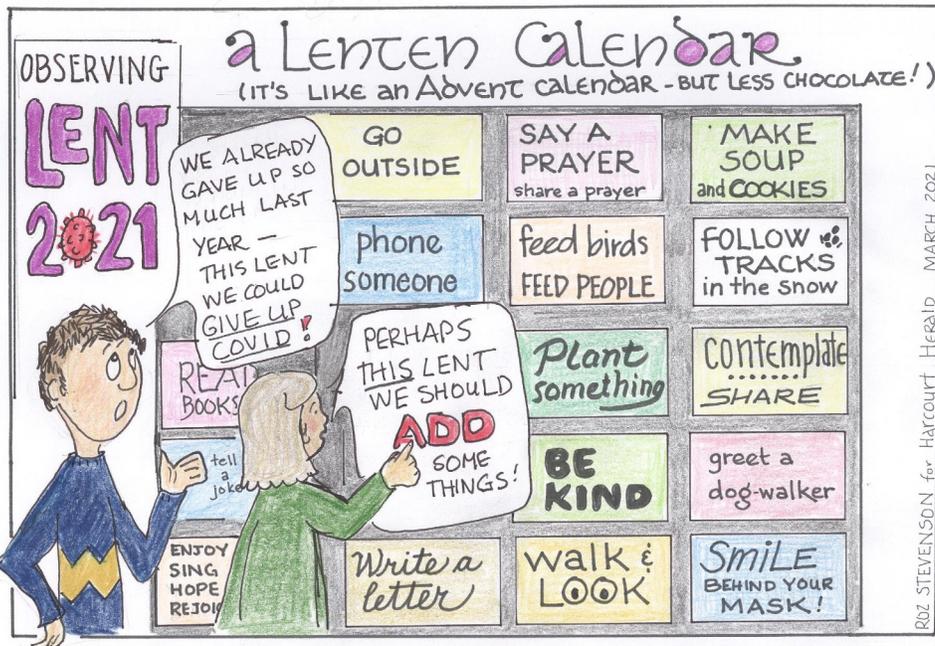
This year's Maundy Thursday reading does not focus on communion. It focuses on the countercultural act of washing the disciples' feet. The last lines of today's gospel reading remind us of the expression "servant leadership." While servant leadership is a timeless concept, the phrase itself was coined by Robert K. Greenleaf in *The Servant as Leader*, an essay published in 1970. Greenleaf said: ***"The servant leader is servant first."*** It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. ***As we examine our own leadership style – in our workplace, our families, our communities, our churches – what happens when we subject our approach to the criteria of servant leadership?***

**Good Friday**

**John 18:1-19:42**

If we pay attention to the story as it is written, we realize that the best we can say is that Jesus didn't die ***for*** our sins, but ***because of*** our sins. It should be clear from the story itself that Jesus died because he was a threat to the powers that be, both the Roman officials and the temple priests. This is probably not a bad time to remind ourselves that the dominant culture does not often reward those who challenge it. It takes courage to expose corruption and abuse of power. We can wonder where Jesus got his courage.

What Good Friday ought to teach us is ***the cost of discipleship. Can we take up our cross? How much are we prepared to stand up to the dominant culture and its regressive policies?***



## Not your grandmother's Bible study: new perspectives on the biblical text through communal study

by *Bill Lord*

Harcourt is offering an opportunity to reflect on our sacred scripture in ways that respect the best in biblical scholarship. The context for our study is an acute awareness that we have no access to original texts. We know that Jesus spoke Aramaic and that the New Testament was written in more or less good Greek, depending on the author. Another dimension to our context for this study is that we are aware that the gospel writers were writing parables about their master, not history. We pay close attention to the text; we put the text in its original context: we ask what the author of the text might have wanted to tell his audience and why?

A few days before we meet, participants receive a preparatory worksheet that includes suggestions for reflection on two basic questions about the “there and then” and about the meaning for us “here and now.”

In the current series, we are focusing exclusively on Luke, written about 60 to 80 years after the death of Jesus, and only on those texts that are unique to Luke, wondering why the author included these texts that are not found in either the gospel of Mark, the first, or of Matthew, a contemporary of Luke. In particular, we are aware that Luke seems to be writing his gospel story in the midst of two interpretations of the life of Jesus: the paschal lamb and salvation from sin version, and the prophetic tradition of challenge to empire.

Participants share in the large group the questions they would like to have asked Luke about his text. This tends to shake the text down as we pay close attention to what it says and what it doesn't. Then, in smaller breakout groups, we share the ways in which the text continues to speak to us today.

If you are interested in joining the next set of sessions, which begin in early March, please let Marion Auger know at [slcgroups2020@gmail.com](mailto:slcgroups2020@gmail.com).

## Celebrating forty

by *Bill Chapman*

What kinds of things fuel your curiosity and drive you to distraction? For me it is often numbers or unusual words. When I encounter a word, I want to know where it comes from and what it meant when it was first used. When I encounter a number I want to know if it is considered lucky, symbolic or significant for some reason. As we enter the season of Lent, my curious mind asked two questions. The first was the meaning of the word Lent/Lenten; the second was why 40 days?

The word Lent itself is fairly easy to trace back to early English, Dutch and German roots where it meant “long” and was often used to talk about the lengthening days of spring. I suspect that those from the colder climates simply felt it was a long wait till the season of warmth. Why were there 40 days in this season of Lent?

Again my suspicion is that the spiritual leaders who established this tradition looked at the Bible and saw numerous incidents where the term 40 pointed toward something that they wanted us to remember.

In Exodus, Noah waited through 40 days of rain. In Numbers, the people of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness. Moses, in Deuteronomy, had 40 days on the mountain receiving the tablets of stone. Jesus, in the gospels, spent 40 days in the wilderness and Kings David, Solomon and Saul all ruled for 40 years.

What were the spiritual leaders who developed the season of Lent at 40 days pointing to? In every case in scripture, the people who called God by name endured a period of trial, stress and strain that demanded patience and trust, a long period of waiting and struggling, before their change of heart or attitude allowed even a partial resolution of the problem or issue that beset them.

So what does this signify during the season of Covid? It is a long time of endurance, patience, obedience and trust in the medical community and also in our faith that there will be a resolution. Forty years in the wilderness meant that an entire generation had to die out before their successors could see enough to believe. We are a culture that seeks instant gratification in medicine and technology. How do we respond to “long,” “patient,” “trust” and “I will be with you?”

I suspect our spiritual forefathers and foremothers were much more aware of and interested in the development of these spiritual attributes than we realize.

Yet muscles that aren't pressed by weight and tension erode. Is it possible that the spirit is particularly active this Lent as we wait? Can we wait in trust and in faith, unknowing? Is that what the spirit is pointing to this “long” season?

If so, let us celebrate our “long 40.” Let us celebrate our need of and dependence on the Spirit. Let us celebrate and rejoice in our need for and dependence on one another. Let us celebrate the gift of Covid that has broken through the barriers of pride, indifference and laziness that allowed us to believe we could do life on our own. Let us celebrate our gift of faith!

*“Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be and find joy in the story you are living.” Cameron Trimble*



## **Lent in the time of Covid**

*by Joanne Hill (Bunston)*

Lent is intended to lead us into an always hidden future and an always greater opportunity, and in its truth - a future created by God - but still unknown to us. We now enter Lent with a new and open horizon, ready to both EXPECT and to WORK for God's ever new springtime.

Richard Rohr

In this 2021 season of Lent, we are entering a time in history where the future of our beautiful planet is more uncertain than many of us can remember in our lifetime. As we consider Lent at this time, many may feel that we have already given up so much in the past year and Covid fatigue is at an all time high. Although there is good news with vaccines and curves flattening, we are now feeling the threat of variants and further lockdowns. What to do? What to think? How to Be? These are questions we have wrestled with in the past year alongside so many more unsure calls we have had to make. To see the grandchildren? To shop or do curbside? I have a sore throat – is it Covid? We have watched heartbreak, and illness, people stretched beyond capacity and too many dying. We are feeling raw, and overwhelmed. It has been a difficult time.

Now I should do Lent? Isn't that the same as we have been doing all year – going without? No. What we have done this year has been thrust upon us, and we have had no choice or real intention towards Covid, other than doing our best as we go along. But let's face it, by the very nature of a pandemic, we have had to make it up as we go.

Many just want the pandemic to be over so we can get back to normal. Back to the way things were. It may be not only somewhat naïve to think things will be the same, but more importantly it may also be short sighted. Change, renewal and rebirth are vital to human evolution, to ecology and to the human spirit. Let us not look to go back, but let us continue to seek the new, and to move forward with more compassion. There may be a love that awaits us all in a better and perhaps more equitable world; the pandemic has shone light on the numerous injustices and inequalities in our society. Surely this deserves our attention towards not only ensuring, but insisting, upon a changing world.

I encourage us to see Lent as a giving up of something, and perhaps a taking up of something for ourselves that is internally nourishing. Lent can also be considered a season of having less and living more simply, as an antidote to our indulgent culture. I love the idea of a Lenten meal, rather than always the feast we long for. Simplicity and contemplation for 40 days is not easy, and yet if we want to change the world, one of the best places to start is to change and challenge ourselves so that we might grow and reflect our most loving natures. In Lent, and beyond, might we ask ourselves: “What am I willing to sacrifice in service of a better world?”

Ritual speaks volumes to the mind and the heart. This present season of Lent offers us an opportunity in what is the middle, or hopefully close to the end of a global pandemic. What better time than now to intentionally, mindfully – and with all our hearts – practice, pray, or give up something for Lent. As it is always easier to “expect” Easter to come, is this not one of the best times to “work” towards God’s ever new springtime.

### **Some suggestions for 40 days of intentional practice**

Daily meditation	Learn to rest
Study devotion	Pray at a designated time
TV fast	sleep earlier to meet the morning
Become more active	Connect deeply with nature
Listen to sacred music	Notice your judging
Bread or meat fast	Andre Auger’s <i>spiritualpractice.ca</i>

Give yourself the freedom to explore different themes for each week of Lent.

## 40 notes in 40 days

### *Peter Gill*

My mother loved chocolate – not just any chocolate – it had to be those almost foot-long Cadbury’s Dairy Milk bars! Eating all that chocolate didn’t seem to do her much harm as she lived to be 93. And yet every Lent for as long as I remember, my mother, as a good Christian, gave up her chocolate. I’m sure this is not unfamiliar to many of us – denying ourselves some indulgence or other over those 40 days.

A couple of years ago I saw an article in the UC Broadview magazine that caught my eye: *40 Notes in 40 Days*. The writer questioned why we need to **take something away** from our lives over Lent. Why not **add** something instead. And so she hit on the idea of hand writing a note every day to a family member, friend, or even an acquaintance, expressing appreciation for that person’s presence in her life. The presence might be major or it could be just fleeting. In these days of texts, emails, Facebook posts etc. I find there’s something powerful yet intimate about receiving a hand-written note, the fact that someone sat down with pen and paper to express thoughts or feelings.

So for the past two years, that’s become my Lenten discipline, maybe a spiritual practice even, and this year will be my third. It’s not always easy – I don’t often (in some cases ever) express appreciation to certain family members so it can be scary to open up and express feelings which make me feel vulnerable. The easiest are my two grandchildren. That makes me reflect on the way I can be so unreservedly open with those kids, but more hesitant with some family members and friends. Writing by hand can be challenging too – did I express that the way I meant to? There’s no delete option.

And yet the exercise gives me an enormous amount of pleasure and satisfaction. While I didn’t embark on this with feedback in mind, I’ve had some amazing and heartfelt responses from folks who have received a note.

Last year Covid-19 struck partway through Lent and shows few signs of letting up, so for me the idea of 40 Notes in 40 Days brings with it a new meaning – reaching out to family and friends with words of appreciation and gratitude.



## Doing Lent in a Time of Covid.

*Andre Auger*

Enough already! What else do you want me to give up during Lent? In this pandemic I've already given up my grandkids, all forms of travel, walking the stores downtown, enjoying a meal out, having drinks with friends on a patio ... What else can I give up?

It's been traditional to think of Lent as a time of giving up something we particularly like. It wasn't as perverse and masochistic as it at first seems. Such an intentional giving up of something was to remind us that we are dependent creatures, that sometimes we have to suffer for the good of others, and perhaps to prepare us for a fuller appreciation of the self sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

More recently, spiritual writers have been suggesting that, rather than giving stuff up, we can also take on stuff for much the same reasons. Perhaps we take on a new spiritual practice, or we commit to random acts of kindness throughout Lent, or to reading the Bible more regularly.

Most of us, however, are already tired of having to adjust to such a radically different way of living our lives. Why don't we just skip Lent this year?

On the other hand, we could decide to reframe our painful experience of this Covid time. Perhaps we can celebrate our resilience and wonder how else such resilience could be used to advantage in our family, community, or church life. Perhaps we can reframe this time of hunkering down in terms of the ancient Biblical injunction of "Sabbath economics" – Sabbath as resistance to the pressure of a consumer society; Sabbath as a time to lay fallow the various fields of our endeavours; Sabbath as a time to remember who we are and whose we are, and whose

world this is. Perhaps we can explore more intentionally new ways to get old needs met.

Maybe it's finally time to get computer savvy, since more of our interpersonal communication will be mediated by this medium. Why don't we learn to give up on old dreams that were energy intensive – like travel and power sports – and rethink what really matters in our lives. We can also reframe the constraints of staying home in terms of living a monastic life in our very own monastery, and praying an Office of the Hours, to mark the time of day, just as monks have done for centuries. Or if friends really matter, perhaps we can devote more of our time letting them know they matter – the occasional card or gift, a letter telling them how much we appreciate them. It can also be a time to seriously reflect on what it means to be "church," to "do church," to worship when we don't have access to a cherished physical space. We could explore a range of worship formats that broaden the use of imagery, of music, of interaction. Since geography is no longer an obstacle to attending whatever church we want, why not figure out what makes Harcourt unique, offer those strengths to the world and see who shows up?

So just maybe, Lent can be a time of reframing, of looking at our situation through different lenses, of stepping back and asking the big questions about things we've taken for granted. I, for one, doubt that we will ever go back to the "good ol' days." I think I want to spend my energy looking ahead rather than dreaming nostalgically of what used to be. Maybe that is already Lenten practice enough.

## Remembering some of Harcourt's greatest volunteers

*This article received feedback from All Things Christmas chair Janet Webster's hard-working committee.*

What does it take to be a volunteer for All Things Christmas? A deft hand with clippers, a green thumb, creativity and a spirit of adventure all help.

This year the All Things Christmas team has been grieving the loss of some of our most creative and adventurous volunteers.

We think of Don Macaulay who wielded his Fiskars clippers with "reverence, grace, respect and care," according to Judi Morris, whose forest is raided annually for greenery. Not many tree trimmers can boast an accolade like that one!

We think of Norma Fear who grew Christmas cacti and baked cookies to sell and was always willing to do whatever was needed.

We remember Jean Julian who established the treasures table that is one of the most popular features of the sale. Jean spent hours setting up Harcourt's own boutique. Her display sparkled, not only because of her creative artistry and choice of goods, but because she washed and polished her treasures.

We remember Shirley Ann Holmes who cheerfully made wreaths and cut up greenery for the arrangers.

And we remember Joan Barham, always willing to do anything, including lying on her back in a ditch to cut teasels. Ann Middleton remembers asking for volunteers to cut the prickly weeds so prized in Christmas arrangements. Joan and Lynn Hancock stuck up their hands and

Ann took them to Woodlawn Road across from Riverside Glen where there was a prolific crop of teasels growing in the drainage ditch. "All three of us were lying on our backs, hacking away at the stems," Ann says. "A lady out for a walk stopped and observed what she thought was a mass disaster. Can I call 911 for you?" she asked. "We assured her we were right as rain," Ann says.

And so we remember these wonderful volunteers, none of whom expected to be thanked, all of whom were hard workers and good sports.



## Harcourt gardens win \$2000 grant

by Jill Gill

WOW!!! We won.

On February 12, during a virtual award ceremony presented by Our Food Future: Guelph-Wellington Urban Agriculture Challenge, we were awarded a \$2,000 grant in the Shovel to Fork category. We received top marks in the category and encouraging feedback for proposed upgrades to the Harcourt Communal Garden during 2021.

As you will have read in previous articles, all the vegetables and herbs that are organically grown in the garden (6,006 lbs. in the past 10 years) have been planted, tended and harvested by Harcourt volunteers and donated entirely to Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantries in downtown Guelph and Chalmers West at Three Willows Church.

In order to continue to grow and increase productivity, there are several maintenance actions and some new projects that are now possible with the grant money. We will be replacing the perished timbers of the raised beds, installing a drip-feed irrigation system, installing eavestroughs and downspout on the shed to harvest rain water in barrels, erecting vertical trellis panels and putting up chicken wire barriers to discourage critters from feasting.

These projects will all be worked on as early in the spring as possible so we can maximize the outcomes of the 2021 growing season. Since they are each separate projects, I invite any folks who might like to help to contact me, Jill Gill at [peter.gill@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.gill@sympatico.ca), to say where you'd like to participate. Remember that these are finite projects and won't require commitment for the growing season. All work "parties" will take place outdoors, in keeping with Covid-specified number of folks with everyone masked and/or distanced appropriately for the safety of all.

I view all these projects as fun and creative ways to promote urban agriculture, contributing to the city of Guelph's aim to make a difference in advancing the circular food economy. Harcourt is in the forefront of this initiative and modelling good stewardship of the earth.



## What have you been doing during COVID19?

*Ann Middleton*

Next month – a year into the Covid experience – I want to write a story for the Harcourt Herald on how the members of our congregation have been passing the time.

I understand some of us have been travelling to the four corners of the world. Don't worry, no quarantining is necessary for these particular travels.

Send me an email to tell me what you've been up to. Have you learned a new skill? Have you been doing something you've wanted to do for years? Have you been on a reading jag of a new genre? I've been doing family history and learned that my maiden name is just one of nine spellings of the family moniker. Those misspellings on old birth and death certificates occurred because us Manores (Menards, Manares, Manards etc. etc.) were illiterate. Thank goodness we eventually learned to read and write!

You can reach me at: [famiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:famiddleton@gmail.com).



## Life Events:

## Passages:



**Louise Marston** loved Harcourt, the friends she made, the services, and particularly the music.

Louise, who died on Feb. 9, a couple of weeks short of her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, moved to Guelph with her husband Doug about 25 years ago. After Doug died in 2011, Louise joined the Harcourt Independents and loved nothing better than an egg sandwich with the gang after church. She also had many friends in the Caroline Harcourt group.

Daughter Carol Martin describes her mom as a fun person, very sociable. "She had cancer when she was 60," Carol says. "We were afraid we were going to lose her. After that we decided to have more parties. We celebrated everything." The family called Louise "Head Office" because she was so good at keeping the far flung branches of Marstons in touch.

Louise had considerable experience of head office, having worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia as an educator, teaching staff at branches all over the province how to use computers.

Louise had a special place in her heart for the Harcourt choir, and they for her. On special occasions she gave them cookies and candies.

For the last three years of her life, Louise lived at the Ellington. There the staff fell in love with her, providing kindness and support at the end of her long life.

