

The Harcourt Herald

September 2021

The Life and Work of Harcourt United Church



A print by Kobina Bucknor, from the collection of Lila Engberg



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

Church Administrator:
Wendy Guilmette

Worship, Communication
and Technical Support:
Casey Connor

Custodian: David Kucherepa

The Ministers: The People
with
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part-time pastoral care
minister Rev. Marcie
Gibson, Pamela Girardi
Manna lead coordinator,
Director of Music Ministry:
Alison MacNeill

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From the editor's desk



Hello, we are back! The September Herald comes to you with renewed energy to bring news and stories from within our congregation.

How has your summer been? Has it created new energy for the re-launch of so many things: school, church, meetings, etc?



Ready to keep going? To march forward? The Harcourt Herald has relaunched itself constantly over the decades. Most of us can still remember that we originally used a typewriter, and as Mike Peleschak reminded me, the editor received handwritten and fax submissions. Copies of the Herald were produced on a Gestetner, the pages collated, folded and stapled by hand, then delivered to individual mailboxes. So, keeping the tradition and continuing to adapt is Harcourt's motto.

As you see, we have already been busy, continuing to collect contributions from the conversations within the Harcourt community in spite of the restrictions caused by Covid-19 and all its variants. It is important for us to keep our community together, to keep talking (and writing) about what is on our minds. And the Herald is one of the vehicles to do this. Please let us know what is important for you to share with all of us. Send your comments, suggestions and ideas to us, as your team maintains the tradition of the Harcourt Herald.

Homecoming

Rev. Miriam Flynn

Restore our fortunes LORD,
like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

Psalm 126: 3-6



On a recent journey home from Kingston, my husband and I turned off the highway to visit our old neighbourhood and take a look, once again, at the first house we owned together. I was surprised to find it seemed set much closer to other houses on the street, and was smaller than I had remembered it. We reminisced about our lives as young parents in that place and considered all the changes that we'd lived through since then. It occurred to me that I was seeing my old home differently, not so much because it had changed, but because *we had changed* in the intervening years. When we return to familiar places after an absence of some time, we do so carrying the sheaves of all that has germinated and grown in us, while we were gone.

This fall, the community of faith at Harcourt will experience a homecoming of sorts, as we return to “hybrid” forms of worship, including an in-person, live-streamed service held Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Harcourt sanctuary. September 12 will be the first Sunday service held at the building on Dean Avenue since before the pandemic. Those who choose to return to attending Sunday services in the church building no doubt will notice that things are not quite as they remembered them ...

To begin, the church sanctuary will be the only space used for in-person worship. This is to ensure safe distancing protocols can be maintained by those on site, while giving others the choice to view the service from their homes, via live streaming. Congregational singing will not be part of our worship initially, and our choir will not convene on Sundays to lead us in song. But we will continue to be blessed by the gift of music through the ongoing use of pre-

recorded choir pieces and the presence of soloists or small groups of live musicians, in numbers as permitted.

Our alternative inter-generational service, known as Manna, has thrived in the virtual world during lockdown. This group will continue to meet outdoors or by Zoom in the early fall. Since children under the age of 12 have not been vaccinated, Manna has chosen to continue the risk reduction practice of avoiding in-person worship for the time being. However, the worship times adopted for the fall allow *both* a hybrid service and a Manna service to be accommodated in the sanctuary space should Manna's return to indoor on-site worship become viable in the months ahead.

For those who prefer a reflective experience that allows for circle- time sharing, Spiritual Listening will be available via Zoom as a lay-led Sunday morning option.

In this way, the three worship experiences that have been ongoing at Harcourt during the pandemic are continued, with the modifications that live streaming will replace a pre-recorded service and our times for meeting – either virtually or online – are now adapted to allow for greater use of the sanctuary worship space.

Many of us are looking forward to the *homecoming* of gathering for in-person worship on Sunday mornings. But the experience of September 2021 will not be an awakening from enchanted slumber that allows us to pick up church life just as we left it in mid-March 2020. Instead, we will gather as a people who have shared the experience of exile and so, carry with us the lingering laments and joyful expectations of those restored to a place from which we have been long removed. We bring with us the memory of life lived *elsewhere* – the newly ingrained habits and acquired tastes of an *ex pat* community. And we bring new self understanding of what it means to *be the church* beyond the walls of our building.

What will it feel like to return from our exile? No doubt, some of us will feel anxiety about gathering indoors again even though masks will be worn and distance maintained. Others of us may find this embodied reunion with friends so moving that we will need to sit on our hands to keep from hugging everyone we see!

Each of us will make our own decision as to the form of virtual or in-person worship that works best, given our risk factors, as we understand them. Some of us will feel liberated by the choices on offer, while others will be disappointed that there aren't more.

Our homecoming to hybrid Sunday worship at Harcourt will be a continuation of our shared journey, rather than our ultimate destination. May we make this hour of heightened anxieties and high expectations an occasion for tenderness and tending. As we welcome each other at the threshold of (yet another!) change, we hold the memory of God's faithfulness and presence, through all seasons of exile and return.

And what sheaves do *we carry* with us from our exile? Will we be surprised to notice how small our old concepts of church really were? Perhaps we'll bring a fresh appreciation of our church as *the people*, rather than the building. Perhaps the spiritual harvest we have cultivated in the wilderness of pandemic has produced a new-found sense of dependence on God, a hunger to go deeper or a vision expanding our sightlines of where the Spirit is leading us forward.

We undoubtedly will return to a changed church, for we are a changed people. Yet, we share a common bond – for we have travelled together, supported one another, wept and laughed and Zoomed and dreamed and planned and prayed together. We have found ways to connect and build community in exile. And so, we hold faith that the Spirit will be with us now – in each heart-breaking and heart-opening step of the onward journey to become the church God calls us to be.

Do you have renewed energy for baptism?

Rev. Marcie Gibson



- Perhaps you want to celebrate a new or renewed faith that you have found in the past year.
- Perhaps you seek a tangible, incarnational, way to mark your love of God and God's love of you.
- Perhaps you wish to offer that experience of joy to a child, or grandchild, or someone who has joined your family recently.
- Perhaps you were not baptized as an infant or child, but are curious what that would mean in your life now.

There are many reasons to consider baptism, for yourself or those in your care. In the United Church, baptism is a celebration and a sacrament, a visible sign of God's invisible grace. It is an opportunity to *recognize God's blessing* (to hear God's "yes, I love you!" to us), to *offer our response and commitment* to God and Christian life (to say our "yes!"), and a *mark of initiation* – being received and belonging to the global Christian church. Baptisms are usually performed in community, as part of a Sunday service with the traditional service or with Manna. Anyone,

at any age, can be baptized. For infants and young children, their caregivers make promises of faith on their behalf. If someone is interested, they usually meet with a minister for a few conversations first, to make sure this is right for them. *If you have questions, are interested, or would like to discuss more about baptism, please speak with either Marcie or Miriam.*

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Harcourt online grief groups

This past spring, Harcourt offered two eight-week grief programs using Zoom for those in our community who had lost a loved one in the past few years. Coordinated by pastoral care minister Marcie Gibson, and designed and co-facilitated with volunteer members Marnie Allen, Stan Bunston and Sharon Chapman, the groups met to talk about their own experiences of loss, tools and strategies to address grief, and some of the spiritual aspects of grieving. They were profound and holy spaces. Participants said that meeting online made it accessible, didn't take too much time, and was a great way to connect with others and address some of the complicated feelings and experiences of grieving. This program is different than the Hospice groups, in that it's an explicitly Christian/church setting and offered among those in the Harcourt community.

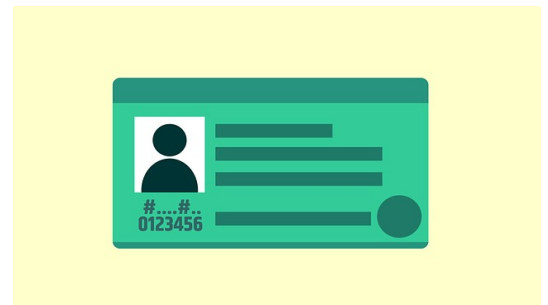
This fall, we will be offering this program again in October and November online once a week for 90 minutes. Groups are small, four to six participants, and must commit to the eight weeks (though we understand if life changes). Whether you have lost a best friend, or partner, child or parent, or someone else you love, this group may be right for you (or someone you know). *Please reach out to Marcie Gibson to express your interest at 226-343-7799 or email marcie.canoe@gmail.com*

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Do you have renewed energy for membership?

In this day and age, many people don't see the point of being an official "member" of an organization, even if they feel like they belong there. And to a certain extent, that's just fine. Everyone is welcome – to come, to participate, to give, to receive, to leave, to return ... you get the point ☺. And yet, as an organization, as a community of faith, it's helpful to know who considers themselves a part of the community and is willing to make a commitment to the health and sustainability of the community (and I'm not just talking money here). It's part of who and how we are together, as this particular part of the body of Christ. We know that people move around and make changes in their lives. Becoming a member of Harcourt isn't signing your life away, or making promises forever, but it does recognize that this is primarily where you hang your spiritual hat, and that you care that the United Church of Canada – and Harcourt as a part of that – exists in the world.

In the United Church Manual, there are four types of people who belong to a community (plus others who might come by to visit or to participate in a particular program).¹ **Members** actually refers to children of full members or children who have been baptized. **Full Members**



¹ The Manual (2021) can be found here: <https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-02/the-manual-2021.pdf> and this stuff is discussed in section B.3.

(who we usually just call “members”) are adults who have been baptized, have made a profession or reaffirmation of faith, or have transferred their membership from another United Church. **Adherents** are those who contribute regularly to the life and work of the congregation but are not members or full members. Lastly, **Members of the Order of Ministry**, ordained or diaconal ministers who are not called or appointed in ministry (at Harcourt or elsewhere), such as those who have retired, can apply to be added to the membership role.

What’s the difference between a member/full member and an adherent?

While members/full members have been baptized and made a conscious statement of faith, adherents are not required to have done so. Sometimes adherents decide they aren’t ready, or don’t agree with something in the UCC statements, or are officially members in another denomination that they do not wish to leave. It is up to Harcourt’s council to decide if you are considered an adherent (someone known to be part of the community of faith) rather than just a member of the general public.

What difference does it make for an individual?

At a congregational meeting, members can vote to allow all adherents present to also vote, no matter what the issue is. There are a few things that adherents can’t do, that members can, such as:

- a be members of council (the governing body of the congregation) or a trustee, unless given special permission from the regional council.
- b be the congregation’s representative to the regional council, or serve on a committee of the General Council [national church governance].
- c become a candidate for ministry, to become a minister.

What difference does it make for Harcourt?

On a day-to-day level of being church together, it doesn’t make a big difference who’s who. As I said before, it’s helpful to know who considers themselves a part of the community and is willing to make a commitment to the health and sustainability of the community. Our financial assessment (money we give to support the national and regional UCC) is not based on the number of members or adherents, but on the congregation’s income (money we receive from rentals, givings, etc.). We count on our members, and adherents, to contribute to the life of the community with talents, time, vision, care and compassion, and treasures (finances, as able).

So, would YOU like to become a member of Harcourt?

Perhaps your membership still resides with a different United Church that you no longer attend. Perhaps you were baptized or grew up in another denomination but feel ready to call the United Church home? Perhaps you want to make a public statement of support and belonging to Harcourt Memorial United Church and your Christian faith? Perhaps you are considering discernment for ministry, and you need to belong on paper as well as in your heart. Whatever your reason, let’s talk about it (even if you were never baptized in the first place). We will be

welcoming new members on Sunday October 3, in both services, as needed. This is not your only opportunity, but it's a good one. Please let us know asap if you are interested, so that we can make all the necessary arrangements before the date.

Rev. Marcie Gibson is coordinating this.

You can reach her by phone 226-343-7799 or email marcie.canoe@gmail.com

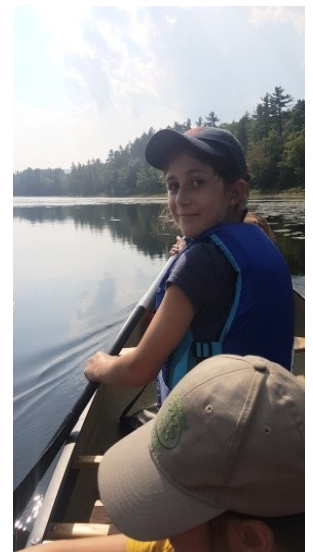
Energized for fall at Manna

Pamela Girardi

During the summer months Manna takes a pause from gathering for worship. Last June, as we celebrated before the summer break, we noted the strain and exhaustion of a year filled with adapting to Covid and carrying worry and stress in our personal lives. We wished each other many chances to play and find some renewal and restoration in these warm months apart.

For our family, this summer brought opportunities to be outside away from crowds and cities. We love to camp in our tent together. For our children, it brought a break from Covid in many ways. They were away from the screens that had taken up many hours of their day during online school. They were away from stores and indoor spaces with distancing stickers and masks and the reminder of Covid in our lives. Instead, they ran, climbed, paddled, and swam outside. I watched them relish this time that seemed almost normal again.

As an adult, I find that camping brings simplicity. There are only five plates and sporks (combination spoon-fork-knife) to wash. There are simple one-pot meals. There are no projects to feel drawn to in quiet moments.



When night falls, there is just darkness and mosquitoes and I find myself settling into the circadian rhythm my body

has been needing. As we prepare for the uncertainty of back to school and another fall in a Covid year, I carry these moments with me. I hope you have found your own moments to breathe deeply, and start to restore and renew this summer. Each fall, Manna gathers back together on the Sunday after Labour Day for our annual Sundae Sunday – a celebration of community gathering again, of sharing stories of summer joys and fall beginnings, of sharing wonder at the many inches taller the younger folks have grown, and of course of ice cream! We are so looking forward to the blessings of being together again for support, growth and joy this year.

Though Covid continues to bring many unknowns, Manna volunteers continue to bring an incredible energy and creativity to keep our community connected and being the church! Manna services will be outside and online during the fall months. This season of creation will find us worshipping under the stars, hiking at Ignatius, celebrating communion in the garden, in our kitchens cooking for climate change with Megan Ward, and other wonderful worship moments we are in the midst of planning.

Thank you to all who bring care, love and energy to Manna!

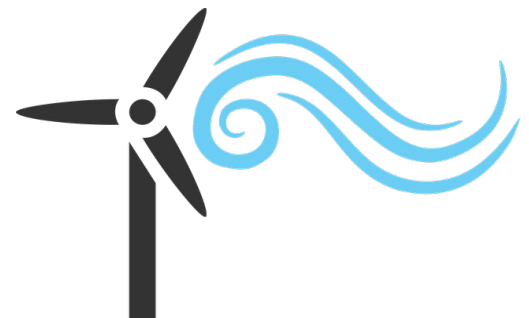
Council News

Lorraine Holding, council chair

Renewal and renewed energy! The focus for this month's Herald anticipates a more open fall season as Ontario and Harcourt venture through this Step 3 phase of living through the pandemic. Yes, there will be more energy within Harcourt as we return to more opportunities for in-person activities. We yearn for that.

From June to August, I hope that you have read the Council News section in Harcourt's Thursday e-weekly updates. If so, you know that the Re-entry Planning Group and the Transition Steering Team have continued to work through the summer. I include a re-cap of some of our activities here, along with what's ahead for fall.

The **Transition Steering Team** has focused on "digesting" the input from our spring Harcourt Conversations. We are working to identify "connections" that point to some key priorities and Harcourt's future direction. Working through technical problem-solving and adaptive challenges is difficult. Re-purposing Harcourt's mission is an important part of



discerning the future. It requires renewed energy within the various parts of our church. Our team hopes to present recommendations to council and our community of faith this fall. We will provide updates as our process continues to unfold.

The **Re-entry Planning Group** has been busy since Reopening Ontario – Step 3 was announced. We have reviewed all protocols, created a **Re-entry Plan for September 2021** (including revised maximum room capacities), supported the Worship Committee in planning for in-person worship in the sanctuary (September 12), prepared a Covid-19 Safety Plan, and created **Questions & Answers – Covid safety plan for in-person worship**. You will find the Re-entry Plan and the Questions & Answers elsewhere in this issue of the Herald. We continue to monitor and follow all public health guidance for prevention and protection from Covid-19.

At council's August 11 meeting, our discussion focused on these same issues and updates. We learned of some renewed energy to delve into the details required for a flexible seating implementation plan. We briefly reflected on the Guelph United Ministries (GUM) recommendations, as requested by the Trinity UC council chair.

On August 18, council and several chairs of committees/teams gathered in person to enjoy one another's presence, celebrate our community of faith's collective endurance through the past 17 months, and to share our experiences as we carried out God's work.

We look forward to the fall and the renewed energy it brings. We remember that God is with us. We are not alone. We have much for which to be thankful!

With faith and hope, Lorraine

Harcourt's Updated Re-entry Plan

(Approved by Council August 11, 2021)

A. Ministry and personnel

1. Church staff will return to regular on-site work on September 7, 2021, Tuesday to Friday, with only the church administrator and custodian at the church on Monday when thorough cleaning will take place.
2. The office area including all offices, chapel, kitchenette, staff washrooms and music room and office will remain closed to the general public until further notice. Staff will meet with people in other areas of the facility (e.g. sanctuary, friendship room, library, outdoors).
3. Outside doors will remain locked at all times. Appropriate signage will be placed on the doors regarding entry, appointments, etc.

B. Worship

1. One in-person indoor worship service will resume on Sunday, September 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. It will be live streamed, and recorded for later viewing on the website.
2. Manna will continue to worship on Zoom or outdoors as determined by the leadership team. Restart date will be September 12 at 11 a.m.
3. Holy Listening Circle, offered by the Spiritual Life Committee, will be on Zoom in September, timing to be confirmed.

C. Property

1. The Royal City Pre-school will be open, with restricted access at the lower west entrance and in a designated area on the lower floor.
2. Maximum room capacities are reduced according to Ontario's public health guideline to ensure 2-metre distancing.
3. The church will reopen for rentals and internal groups on September 7, 2021. The church may need up to two weeks to prepare for a renter/booking.
4. Multiple users can be accommodated based on room capacity and safety protocols. For example, allow use of only one room upstairs and one room on the lower level at any given time, ensuring compatibility with the pre-school area.
5. All renters will be asked to sign a Covid-19 Release of Liability, Waiver of All Claims and Assumption of Risk Agreement, attached to the rental contract.

D. Communications

1. Updated signage will be in place at entrances and throughout the church, based on Ontario government guidelines and any specific Harcourt requirements.
2. A communication plan will include e-weekly messages beginning August 12 and updates in the September Harcourt Herald and on the website.
3. The Re-entry Planning Group will host a test live-streamed event on Thursday, September 2 at 7 p.m., in cooperation with the Worship Committee.

Questions and Answers

Covid safety plan for in-person worship

Harcourt Memorial United Church August 10, 2021

What is the overall approach to safe return to in-person worship in the sanctuary?

We are following public health guidance for places of worship. In general, there are layers of protection that increase safety with each additional measure. They include, but are not limited to, pre-registration, screening for Covid symptoms and exposure, masking, physical distancing, hand sanitizing, immunization, safe entrance, exit and traffic flow to avoid congestion, and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting.

Will we be required to pre-register for the service or can we just show up?

Yes, everyone will be asked to register prior to the service. Should someone turn up without pre-registering, they can register at the time, as long as capacity allows.

Do we have to wear a mask?

Yes, with some exceptions. We ask that everyone put on their mask before entering the church. Very young children and infants are not required to wear masks but we request that they stay with their parents for the entire service and not move around the sanctuary. While outdoors, including for Manna worship, masks are not required as long as physical distancing of two metres is maintained between household bubbles.

Is screening for symptoms or exposure to Covid-19 required?

Yes, you will be asked by a greeter prior to entering the church.

How will we enter and leave the sanctuary? Can we choose our seats?

You will be greeted outside, asked about registration and screening, and directed to one of the entrances. In good weather, we expect to use both the main entrance and the garden entrance in order to reduce congestion in the gathering area. Everyone will keep their coats with them. We ask that everyone hand sanitize when entering and leaving the church. An usher will lead you to your seat and the rows will be filled from front to back on entry. At exit, the ushers will direct you to leave from back to front, in order to minimize exposure to others. At this time you will not be allowed to choose your seat because of spacing restrictions and row maximums.

Can we sing?

No, at this time congregational singing is not permitted. However, you can whisper the words with your mask on. Details on the music will be provided by our director of music ministries and Worship Committee. Stay tuned!

Will hearing assist be available?

Yes, ask the usher when you enter the church.

Can I use a pew cushion?

No, the pew cushions will not be available. However, you are welcome to bring one from home.

Will there be a paper bulletin? Will we use the hymn books?

Single use paper bulletins are permitted. The Worship Committee will decide about their use. Hymn books and other reusable paper products cannot be disinfected easily and will not be used.

What about communion and other special dates?

Detailed instructions will be provided closer to the time.

Can we hug or shake hands?

No, everyone must maintain a distance of at least two metres both inside the church and while visiting outdoors. We encourage you to wave or bow your greetings while indoors. Conversation and visiting are permitted outdoors without masks, as long as physical distancing is maintained.

Do we need to be immunized against Covid-19 to attend in-person worship?

At this time we will not be screening people for their immunization status. We recommend all people eligible for the vaccine complete the series before returning to in-person worship. For those with vulnerable health, regardless of immunization status, we recommend you consult your health care provider if you have any concerns about returning to in-person worship. Those who choose not to attend in-person worship are invited to join the service by live streaming or to watch the recorded service at a later time.

Will there be coffee time?

No, we will not be gathering for coffee inside or outside. However, there will be an opportunity to meet outdoors in the garden or parking lot for greeting and conversation as long as physical distancing is maintained.

Who do I ask if I have another question?

Send your question to the office (office@harcourtuc.ca) and the Re-entry Planning Group will make every effort to respond.

Property Committee Report

Dave Hume, chair of the Property Committee

We offer special thanks to about 14 people who helped with Weed and Whine on August 17. Bushes got trimmed, gardens got weeded and then they were treated to composted (scentless) sheep manure. Now, if reopening starts, the outside will look neater. Thanks to Sarah Lowe for hosting a short, distanced get-together after the cleanup.

Several projects are in the planning stages. We plan to repaint the lines and symbols in the parking lot and replace the 60-year-old gym floor. Installation of the hardware and software for live streaming of services and other events in the sanctuary is close to complete and testing and dry runs will start in September. There have been meetings during the summer planning for a re-opening on September 12, but the Delta variant still may have other ideas.

E. Maximum capacity of Harcourt spaces for 2-metre distancing (July 20, 2021)

Sanctuary + stage	47 singles; 72 with bubbles; 10 on stage/at front
Balcony	10 (currently closed for general use)
Greeting area	18-20
Staff office area	2-3 church office; 4 sitting area; 3 Miriam; 2 second
Music Room	7
Chapel	16
Room 202/203	6 in 202 end; 2-3 in 203 end
Room 301	2
Friendship Room	24
Kitchen	10-12
Gym	50 (accounting for furniture)
Library	4 (2 at table + 2 in entry area)

New Technical Beginnings

Casey Connor (she/her) Worship, Communications, and Technical Support

“There is no innovation and creativity without failure. Period.” – Brene Brown

Thinking of new energies at Harcourt in the context of technology has been surprisingly difficult. Not because the church isn’t innovating. We’ve done an excellent job at innovating and adapting during the pandemic. But to me, the truly energizing part of our new live streaming technology hasn’t begun. The part where a visionary idea (thank you, Joan) fosters community. The part where we fail and learn from those failures.



As someone who is energized by people, the past few months of reviewing the technical details of our new live streaming system have been challenging. I am extremely thankful for the amazing techies at Harcourt who do thrive on the details (or perhaps are better at looking excited than I am), who have taught me so much, and who have supported me as I continue to learn. This is the largest and most complex project I have ever been a part of and I know it will be one of great rewards not just for me but for our community. However, when things inevitably

do go wrong during our live streams, I hope you are reminded that it is failure itself that innovates and creates. Failure for in-person worship to continue during the pandemic is why we have this shiny system now!



When thinking of new energies at Harcourt, I can only feel energized by the prospective failures and collaboration that will follow. Too often failure is seen as a loss, when actually it is an opportunity. I challenge the Harcourt community to fail as we continue to innovate in the coming weeks, months and years. What opportunities will we find? Let's dig into our church's core values of vulnerability and risk to continue harnessing the power of technology!

Introduction to the reflections

Bill Lord

Here are some of my reflections; they are spurred on by the current issues that Harcourt and most mainline churches are needing to face. The pandemic with its restrictions on activities has given me the time to do some research and reflection on what is happening in the wider life of the Christian movement and the renewed call to be faithful, as Jesus was, to be God's care and compassion for the world and its environment. In this article I have raised some questions that will provoke some reflection as Harcourt moves into the future.

I offer this as an invitation to conversation.

Harcourt's Journey into the future: The leadership challenge!

Bill Lord

The current challenges

Harcourt is not alone as it faces the future change. Facts signalling changes are Covid-19 and the closing of the Dean Ave. building, followed by Jim Ball's retirement, and a clearer awareness developed of the aging demographic with decreasing human and financial resources. The congregation became more aware that it faced serious decisions. It can no longer continue with business as usual; the resources are not there.

The revamped process within the United Church for seeking new personnel will provide a further challenge. In the interim, pastoral care and technical support needs have been covered by part-time appointments but more permanent staffing roles need to be identified.

First step

A steering committee was formed and focus group conversations were held. The findings were analyzed and there were two basic positions: let's get back as close as possible to the pre-Covid church or deep change is on the horizon. Everyone was somewhere on that spectrum.

Outside best practices, resources, and questions for reflection

Here are some resources I have used. Ronald Heifetz (1) and his colleagues at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, suggested a framework to differentiate between technical problems and adaptive challenges. With the former, the problem can be defined and a solution decided, either by group members or outside experts, and thus the problem can be solved. However, all organizations are also facing adaptive challenges, where there is no expert with the right answer and in seeking to address it, the organization will be challenged to make changes in attitude and behaviour. Why has our focus in the past been on technical problems? In what ways can we pay more attention to adaptive challenges in the future?

I have also been informed by the writings of Robert E. Quinn, Professor Emeritus, School of Business at the University of Michigan (2). He clearly distinguishes the activities of any organization as follows. Problem solving is dealing with known problems arising from the past and keeps the leadership fixated on the past. In contrast to the former activity, purpose seeking shifts the focus onto the future. We are clearly being invited to address the task of re-purposing the mission of Harcourt. Given our current context, how much effort is being directed toward problem solving and how much to purpose seeking?

Best practices are identified in the writings of Tod Bolsinger (3) of Fuller Theological Seminary, regarding re-purposing. This involves helping a congregation identify its strengths and values, or to use theological language – its “charism” – and then discovering in what fresh ways it is being led by the Holy Spirit to address the pain of the world. This is missional activity. Do we have a clear sense of Harcourt's charisms and in what ways we can use them in missional activity?

Historical background

At the beginning of the Brooklyn Mission, those individuals who created it had a missional vision. So, Harcourt has always had missional outreach as a core value. Like those pioneers with a clear purpose, we are clarifying our future vision. Crossing a river is a powerful symbol in the biblical story as it was for those Guelph missionaries. Also, the theme of journey is a key biblical motif. Some examples: the exodus, Mary and Joseph's travel to Bethlehem and the Emmaus Road story. The call from God is to start moving and things will happen. Fear can immobilize any group, but new hope comes when it starts moving. Harcourt will face changes as it begins to move into the future, but it must move and change.

Harcourt's discovery of a revised purpose

Harcourt's call from God is to be faithful not successful. Through reflection, prayer, and conversation, it will discover new ways to be an incarnation of God's care, compassion, and love for all people, for the earth and its environment.

I offer these thoughts as an invitation to conversation.

References

- Ronald Heifetz article
https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/_adaptive_leadership_handout.pdf
See book list at the end of the article.
- Robert E. Quinn https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D68tY_UJACs
- Tod Bolsinger podcast episode 108
<https://www.markuswatson.com/2021/08/03/leadership-as-learning-part-1-context-and-creativity-with-tod-bolsinger-108/>

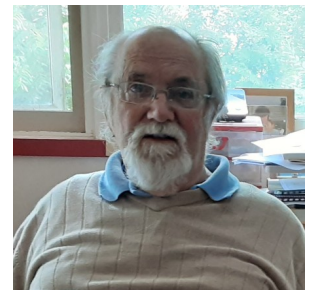
New Beginnings

Andre Auger

I suppose it's not too silly to say Happy New Year! Typically for a lot of Christians the new year begins now, not in January as the calendar has it, and not in late November, as the church calendar dictates. Now. The indolent, restful, carefree months of summer are over; school starts up again; church activities resume, and committees meet again. So, yes, this issue of the Herald is spot on: it's about new beginnings.

I turn 80 this month, and I realize that I am in dire need of new beginnings. But the new beginnings that are niggling me are not comforting or reassuring. These past 18 months of separation from the routine of nominal church community have forced me to face some truth I have been avoiding for a long time. Let me frame it this way: I no longer want to go to church. I want to "be church." And I want to be church with others who also want to be church.

I want to be part of a community of people who are all committed to living out the vision of a world of distributive justice, forgiveness and compassion. I want to be with a community of people who take their life in Christ seriously and are trying with all their might to live lives that bring hope and healing to a hurting and badly bruised world. I don't just want to pay lip service



to this: I want to engage in it. This doesn't mean I want to run off and join some radical protest group; nor does it mean that I am going to pack my bags and head off to a school or a clinic in a poor and remote part of the globe.

On the other hand, I want to belong to a community that is, for instance, taking the climate crisis to heart, that resists the dominant consumer culture, that takes our current cultural issues seriously, that properly mourns and repents of former colonial values, that wrestles with all of these, that informs itself, and finds age- and energy-appropriate ways to respond, not only as individuals, but as a community.

To "be church" also means to rethink what worship is about. I need to share with others my sense of awe at this incredible universe and its Creator; I need to remind myself, along with others, that God is God and we are not; I need to share, in some ritual fashion, my firm conviction that we humans are called to play an unprecedented role in the unfolding of the Universe and that we need to do it right. No point in praying for some super Being to come, intervene, and fix our mess: God is expecting us to fix it. I expect worship to remind me of this and to set me, yet again, on the path of healing this world of ours. God has told us how after all! I need to find ways to pray in a community that has gone beyond earlier understandings of a Supreme Being somewhere up there. I need to have concrete and tangible ways to ground my conviction that we are the Body of Christ, and that this is more than fine words: it truly means something. (In fact, it means everything!)

To "be church" means to be the Body of Christ 24/7, not merely for an hour on Sunday. What does that look like for me? Who is there to work at this alongside me? With whom can I share the issues I wrestle with?

Sitting in straight rows, looking at the backs of heads of people I don't interact with, listening to a sermon I will promptly forget, singing songs with outdated theology, and afterwards at coffee hour, talking about the Leafs or my grandkids or the weather with people I won't see again for a week ... none of that is going to do it for me. Sorry for my bluntness: 18 months of Covid-19 isolation has done that to me. I can't pretend to find any of that meaningful anymore. Liturgy after all means "the work of the people," not a polished performance I passively experience, then go home to life as usual! Worship is participatory, not a spectator sport.

Oh, I have cobbled together a reasonable facsimile of a worshipping community. The Holy Listening Circle goes a long way. Participants are genuine. We engage with the sacred story. We share their doubts and insights. Explorations in Progressive Christianity provides another piece. Together we push the boundaries of our understanding and challenge ourselves with today's best thinkers. The Spiritual Life Committee is my main church community. Together, we support each other as we journey on our respective faith paths, and we find ways to use our passions and our talents to introduce others to intentional spiritual lives.

Is that enough? What I've cobbled together works in a way, but communal worship is still missing. Does any of this address new beginnings? At the very least, the one new beginning is that I can at last articulate the spiritual malaise I have been feeling for some time. Perhaps that's already something. Perhaps it will have to do. Do I long for more? Of course. Will Harcourt provide it? I can still dream, I suppose.

Harcourt's Holy Listening Circle: a gift for members

Jean Jackson

Since March, 2020, I have been sustained and given energy by listening groups: Mindstretch, bible study groups, and the Holy Listening Circle on Sunday mornings. Today, I am writing about the Sunday group.

Holy listening may be the best thing I have ever learned.

When something is already known, and also good and true, it is repeated over and over. For example: Spring is glorious! Autumn colours are the best! So here is praise and explanation of this way of behaving, even if you already know.

Each person in the circle, or Zoom rectangle, is simply listened to — without fear of being interrupted, corrected, judged or disagreed with. To be able to voice what you are thinking, reflecting on, questioning, disliking, loving, feeling strongly or indifferently about, and be heard, is a wonderful and rare thing. An unexpected gift is to the listeners whose brains are not occupied with composing a response, so they are indeed fully engaged in listening.

The holy, respectful listening method can be used successfully in many formats. For example, during the summer months I have met with another small group midweek on Zoom from time to time to share the ups and downs of our lives.

Each Sunday morning, the Holy Listening Circle reflects on a passage of scripture from that week's Lectionary, sent to participants in advance. After an opening session where one person gives a brief reflection on the passage, we split into small randomly selected groups of six to eight. The comments can be on the meaning of the passage, how something in it applies to life today, problems in lives, a memory triggered, or picking up on something said in the opening session. The remarks are deep, thoughtful, informative, often serious and sometimes funny, and encourage me to reflect and read further.

Even after 18 months I am engaged and challenged and surprised by the wide range of comments. There is no way of knowing in advance what people will want to talk about and the life events of each participant affect what they say.

A second round of sharing is offered, followed by a brief time of prayer for concerns named.

Every week is different, but one thing that is always consistent is the connection that happens. I feel close to the circle in a deeply spiritual way, and am always filled to overflowing with a sense of the Divine Presence, and feel true gratitude for the blessing of the shared experience. This gives me energy to live in hope and faith.

Anyone, from anywhere, is welcome to join the Holy Listening Circle, at 9 a.m. on Sundays.



When you die – make life easy for the living

Ann Middleton

When my friend's 101-year-old mother-in law died a few months ago, the death did not come as a surprise. Mabel had lived a long and fruitful life. She ran a drapery business from her house and in her heyday she and her employees made curtains for the householders of Mount Royal in Montreal, as well as for movie theatre and funeral homes, sometimes engaging her children and their spouses to help install the finished products. She carried a drill, a hacksaw and an electric screwdriver in her purse.

She was sewing cushion covers and curtains for family and friends and working in the kitchen of her church's meals on wheels program into her nineties. She played a competitive game of online Scrabble and posted pictures of her projects to Pinterest and Facebook.

In other words, Mabel was totally *compos mentis*, a woman you would have expected to leave her estate in order. Unfortunately this was not the case. After her death, the family discovered a handwritten unwitnessed will. The house, where she lived till days before her death, was in the name of her husband who died 44 years ago. There was no marriage certificate and they probably never married. There were Canada Savings Bonds worth \$2500 at maturity in 1984 and sitting in Mabel's lock box ever since. The family located money hidden under a rug and in the curtains. They found a note that said funeral arrangements had been made, but it didn't say where. By good luck there were only four possible funeral homes in the neighbourhood.

There were other surprises, but these are enough to illustrate what can happen when a person dies without clear instructions for their grieving family, especially out of province during a pandemic. Mabel's house is now on the market and the estate will eventually be settled, but it could have been so much easier.



Mabel's celebrations featured fabulous desserts, but this one for her 95th really takes the cake. Everything, including, the fabric, pin cushion and spool of thread, were totally edible.

When my own mother died 25 years ago, I didn't her social insurance card was. Although she handed me every year to sort for the accountant who did her taxes, order, nor in a central place. The filing cabinet was found the key after her death, it was full of interesting as my grandfather's 1919 British passport and his from 1894-99.

Northampton School Board.
KETTERING ROAD SCHOOL. Boys' Department.
Report for Term ending Oct 8th 1897
Standard IV Class 2
Number in Class 56
Name Bassford, Frank
Position in Class 26 Geography Excellent
No. of times absent 6 History
Drawing Pass
Reading Excellent Algebra Excellent
Writing Good Chemistry Good
Arithmetic Very Good Natural History
Composition Good Conduct Very Good
Grammar Good Pass Book Keeping Excellent
Northampton - Excellent
*A quiet persevering boy.
Will be near the top next
quarter*
Class Master Mr. Clarke
Head Master Mr. Doan

even know where a box of receipts nothing was ever in locked and when I family relics such school report cards

My mother's next-door neighbour was a retired jeweller who kept many watches and some diamond rings from the days when she had the shop. She told her daughters that there were diamond rings hidden under the eaves of the house. But then one day she died suddenly of a heart attack. That was 30 years ago and they still haven't been found, either by the beneficiaries or the current owners.

If you've hidden cash somewhere in your home, explain where it is. And if you haven't hidden cash somewhere, mention that, too, because it will save everyone a lot of time.

To prevent unpleasant surprises for your family, do them a favour and let them know where to find the information on this list.

Will, power of attorney and power of personal care

Birth certificate or citizenship papers

Marriage certificate

Divorce papers

Adoption papers

Personal information: Date of birth, birthplace, name of parents, social insurance number (and location of SIN cards)

Contact List (phone, email): *Professional contacts:* Lawyer, doctor, dentist, other health professionals (optometrist, chiropractor, etc.), accountant, financial adviser, current employer if you're still working and former if you're not, housecleaner, etc. *Personal contacts:* Family members and friends.

Arrangements for after death: Do you wish to be cremated? Do you wish to have a funeral? If so, is there specific music or speakers you want at the funeral? Do you already have a plot in a cemetery? Dig out the paperwork. The more details you can provide, the fewer decisions your family will have to make.

Financial institutions: Names and contact info; types of accounts, investments, loans, lines of credit held there; any named beneficiaries of accounts or investments; list of automatic deposits (such as pensions) and withdrawals (such as utilities, taxes, charitable donations and RESPs), and information on how to cancel them. Also list any outstanding private debts.

Credit cards: Where you keep them, how they're paid, when payments are due each month, where to call to cancel them. List of expenses that are automatically billed to the cards monthly or annually and contact info to cancel them. Debit cards: Where you keep them and how to cancel them.

Safety deposit box location and key.

Insurance: Policies in effect (home, auto, life, etc.), policy numbers, where they are kept and how to contact insurance providers.

Pensions: List of all pensions and contact information to report death. For CPP & OAP, 1-800-277-9914 or www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp/cancel-cpp.html

Real estate: Property owned, copy of deed(s) and mortgage information (current or discharged).

Vehicles: Vehicles owned or leased, license plate number(s), where the ownership papers are located, name of insurance provider, loan or lease information if applicable, maintenance records if available.

Taxes: Where to find your income tax and property tax records, where to find receipts for current tax year (medical expenses, donations, etc.).

Passwords: List all passwords and make sure that access to your voicemail and computer will not be blocked.

You can put all this information in one big binder or keep it in your filing cabinet, alphabetically arranged.

And when the time comes, your children will thank you. And perhaps there will even be a reward. When a friend of ours was going through her husband's filing cabinet after his death, she found a stash of chocolate bars.



Unclaimed bank accounts

If you think there may be bank accounts you don't know about, you can check out the government website. But keep in mind, accounts are only turned over to the Bank of Canada after being inactive for 10 years. The website is: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/unclaimed-balances/#make-claim>

At the end of 2020, there were \$973 million in unclaimed funds with the Bank of Canada, the oldest balance dating back to 1900.

What new energies have developed in me?

By Lynn Hancock

I have been energized/inspired to create and follow these ABCs of Daily Intentions.
My new commitment is to:

Adapt. Adjust. Accommodate.

Breathe deeply and appreciate the breath of life

Care for Self and others

Drink clean water and appreciate the gifts of water

Eat foods that energize and sustain me

Find people who share similar values

Greet people with respect

Have fun

Invite others to create their own ABC
list of daily intentions

Join others who wish to experience joy
in their lives

Kindly treat others and Self

Laugh. Love. Live.

Move to music

Notice beauty in Nature

Open my heart to the love of God

Patiently persevere in the pursuit of peace

Quiet the mind and let go of negative emotions that prevent peace of mind

Raise my vibration

Seek truth, know God and serve others



Trust in the unconditional love of God
Use the resources at my disposal in order to live a better life
Value the gifts of God
Wonder at the wonders. Celebrate the WOWs experienced
Xerox conscientiously
Yawn to relax and release tension and stress
ZOOM in to see a bigger picture

Creative outlets important during Covid

Jerry Daminato

I found that during Covid I was much more active in creating music in collaboration with Shannon and Alison. This not only included playing my own instruments but adding virtual instruments like accordion and piano or drums and percussion etc. Sometimes these music "files" would be sent to Alison or Shannon. Other times I would be receiving files to edit and mix to create a finished product with vocals and harmonies and adding text. Not only did this fill a gap in time but it also allowed some creativity and practice and performance on my instruments, and editing/mixing skills. I looked forward each week to making those contributions.

Now that we are (hopefully) moving out of lockdown, my talents are being redirected to working on the new sound mixer and streaming gear we have acquired to broadcast Harcourt "live" to Harcourtians and others.



We passed this same First United Church again cycling in Wawa On. We spotted it 3 years ago on our cross country west trip. So neat what they have done with the solar panels.

Just checking out the tourist things in Wawa we have discovered many interesting items. Will write more later.

J&E

A letter of thanks

Fuad Ali

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of the Harcourt congregation for their support. Let me start by reminding you of our story which some newer people may not know. My wife Kashan and I with our two daughters aged four and five came to Guelph after threats on my life from ISIS in Iraqi Kurdistan. I was hired by the University of Guelph as a postdoctoral researcher in the Physics Department from 2016-2018. Unfortunately our refugee claim and later appeal were rejected after we had spent almost \$35,000 on legal fees.



At this very difficult time I was lucky to make a connection with Harcourt which has made all the difference to my family and me. Because we had no immigrant status, we were not eligible for child benefits. Harcourt generously provided the monthly equivalent to the child benefit. Since then my kids' life style has been very good – thank you all! I always say that without Harcourt's support financially and in other ways it would be almost impossible for my family to be where we are today.

As a last resort, we applied for residency on humanitarian and compassionate grounds and were granted permanent residence status after 24 months waiting. This allowed us to call Guelph our home and to carry on our life's journey. In the middle of the pandemic in 2020 God blessed us with twin boys. and provided us with all formula etc. and they had Unfortunately this could People like Jill and Peter Bryan Fuhr and Marilee growing and still getting members.



Harcourt members were very supportive the necessities – clothes, crib, diapers, arranged a great baby shower. not happen in person but helped us a lot. Gill, Anne and Gary Parsons, Arlene and Asher continue to help us. The kids are food and clothes from Harcourt

I am now working as a full-time employee at Electronic Data Exchange (EDI). My wife Kashan is also planning to return to her part-time job at the University of Guelph. We are still living in a two- bedroom apartment which has become very crowded with our growing family. We are looking to get larger accommodation, if possible by purchasing a small house. We would like to ask all of you if you can guide us by putting us in contact with someone who can help us take this step forward.

Again many, many thanks to all of you. I feel I owe each and every one of you – without you I cannot think how difficult my life would have been. God bless you all; we are so grateful for everything you have done and we are proud we have you in our life.

FOOD CHALLENGE!!!!!!

Albert and Julie Ashley

Chalmers holds a special place in many of our hearts, and when I heard in early summer how adversely impacted Chalmers had been by Covid, I was really bothered. It became clear that since none of us was meeting in the church anymore on Sundays, and connecting online instead, food donations had become very scarce. Don't get me wrong. I am so thankful that our technical wizards were able to set us up for ongoing internet connection with each other during the church closure. How blessed we are! But alas, we have not figured out how to send food donations over the internet yet, except for money which can be sent online, and thankfully some people have continued to do that.

However, it just seemed to me a couple of months ago that we all could use a little bit of fun and challenge and would benefit by putting our heads together and our imaginations to work to support Chalmers, especially in these difficult times.

So we followed through with our idea to build a food sculpture, using packaged food for Chalmers, with the intention to build up their supplies. We decided we would create a food sculpture of Matthew 17 where Jesus feeds everyone with five loaves and two fishes. Yes, Jesus does look a little square in the picture!

IT IS NOW OUR DESIRE TO CHALLENGE all of you individuals, couples, groups (C'mon Manna, whatcha got?) and see if you can improve the food weight and resulting sculpture beyond our first attempt.



If you didn't know canned food sculptures are a thing, look it up. The good ones require engineering genius, of which we have little, but regardless, Jesus and the crowd are going to help feed the marginalized of Guelph.

Our food sculpture weighed 226 pounds. And now we challenge you to set up your own and take a picture. Any nutritious food is welcome but always in high demand are peanut butter, beans (black, kidney, chick peas), canned fish and meat, cereal, toilet paper and size 5 and 6 diapers. If you can, weigh up your donation before you box it up for Chalmers. Then send the photo in for the next Herald and keep the challenge going! We will publish pictures of the largest and most creative sculptures. The Ashleys will donate a DOLLAR for every POUND of food sculpture that is weighed, photographed and sent in for the October issue! Game on!

Drop off times for Chalmers: Downtown is open 10 – 11 a.m. Tuesday, 7 – 8 p.m. Wednesday and 9 – 12 a.m. Friday. Chalmers West is open 12 – 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9 – 12 a.m. Thursday.

All Things Christmas

Janet Webster on behalf of the ATC elves

Usually in September we remind Herald readers that we are starting to plan for our annual Christmas fundraiser and ask for your assistance. Last year we were facing an uncertain future, but managed to meet our goals with an outdoor sale. With your help, we hope to repeat this success, whatever format the sale takes.

This is how you can help:

We need to start collecting materials for the arrangements that make our sale so popular. We will need lots of milkweed, teasels and mullein. The time to collect them is September and early October. If you can help with cutting for a few hours, please contact Ann Middleton, famiddleton@gmail.com. And if you know a good spot for collecting any of these plants, please let Ann know, even if you can't help out.



Local crabapple trees seem to have a lot of fruit this year, so if you are up to creating some preserves, they would be very welcome.

The arrangements will need pots and soil so if you have left over soil and washed 10" pots (empty hanging pots are great), we can use them.

Every little bit helps and this event is a crucial part of the Harcourt budget as well as a welcome neighborhood draw. Stay tuned for more information as we see how things go. Please feel free to contact me (Janet) with ideas or questions.

Major projects in the garden

Jill Gill

Happy September! We have been very busy at the Harcourt Communal Garden this summer. In addition to our regular activity of producing organically grown vegetables and herbs for donation to Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) food pantry in downtown Guelph, we have accomplished five new initiatives that were made possible by a grant from 10C/Our Food Future. We received this money as winners in the Shovel to Fork category of the Guelph-Wellington Urban Agriculture Challenge. We, the volunteers at the Harcourt Communal Garden, are very grateful to the sponsors for this opportunity.



The five projects are:

- 1.) Rebuilding of the raised beds. Due to 10 years of weathering, the hemlock beds had deteriorated badly. John Lawson led the group of builders which included Stephen Pierce, Dan Girardi and Peter Gill who restored the beds to their former glory.
- 2.) Early in June, Anne and Gary Parsons, Justine Richardson, Grace Hickey, Rosalind Slater, Karen Wendling and I took part in a work party to install new chicken wire fences around several raised and on-ground beds to help discourage critters from feasting.
- 3.) Stewart Bowland engineered a new drip-feed irrigation system for us to help maintain even water supply to the veggies.
- 4.) After some frustrating weeks waiting for material supplies, we received the cattle panels we required and Merrill and Stephen Pierce joined Pete and me to erect the vertical trellis system we needed to support the tomato plants and zucchinis. Rosalind Slater was our volunteer videographer and caught all the fun on camera!
- 5.) Again, after waiting for materials, Gary Parsons and Walter Johnson teamed up to put eavestroughs and a downspout around the garden shed to harvest rain water. These projects have all enhanced the garden and will add to our ability to increase our already abundant harvest of vegetables and herbs for donation to CCSC. **I'm still hoping to buy a new soaker hose (one that doesn't leak!) to water the entire fence bed. If anyone has a spare they are not using, please contact me, Jill, at peter.gill@sympatico.ca**

By the end of our 10th year, we had picked 6,006 lbs. of produce. So far this season (mid-August) we have harvested 245.5 lbs., with our heaviest vegetables – tomatoes, zucchinis and cucumbers – still to come!



This month we will be taking part in a self-guided Community Garden Tour on September 13 from 5-7 p.m. (all are welcome to visit at that time – Covid protocols will be observed) as a lead up to the third annual Community Gardens Festival taking place on Saturday, September 18 from 1-4 p.m. at the Brant Avenue School Community Garden, 64 Brant Avenue. The first two years this festival was held at Harcourt. Check out the festival.

Poster and self-guided tour schedule here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CW8mstOQ8-AUBguKjgI1tOeKHJlUYgV2gqY2WqNZrU4/edit?usp=sharing>
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i7xtMLV-oIgYCwzdsTk0gO-RjPofSOYNdfmkRn65dTE/edit?usp=sharing>

Lila's treasures – an auction of beautiful things from around the world

Ann Middleton

Lila Engberg was passionate about social justice. Born on a pioneer Alberta farm, she taught in a one-room country school, became a faculty member at the University of Guelph, and worked constantly to improve the lives of women and children around the world through the FAO and the UN.

During her travels she collected beautiful paintings, sculptures and fabric art pieces that are now being sold in an online auction to benefit Harcourt, her place of worship for more than 60 years. There is something in the sale for all tastes and pocket books with reserve prices ranging from \$5 to \$200.

As many of you know, Lila particularly loved Africa and the people she met while living and working in Malawi and Ghana. Many of the pieces in the collection come from this time in her life. But there are also lovely Canadian artworks, some beautiful pieces from Latin America, including a Panamanian mola, and other pictures, sculptures and fabric art from around the world that will make great gifts.



Lila was born on the family farm in Calmar, Alberta on April 24, 1923. She died September 23, 2000 in Fergus.

How the auction works

Sept. 4-11: online viewing only

Sept. 11-18: online viewing and bidding

Sept. 18, 2-4 p.m: in-person viewing and bidding (online) at the church

Sept. 18, 4-6 p.m: payment and pick up

Sept. 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m: final payment and pickup

You have a week from 4 p.m. Sept. 4 to view Lila's treasures and tell your friends about the sale. **Bidding goes live at 4 p.m. on Sept. 11 and continues for a week.** During the last two hours of the event – from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sept. 18 – you will have a chance to view all of Lila's treasures at the church. If you are not familiar with online bidding, we can help you place a bid on your phone or tablet at that time. The live portion of the auction is dependent on public health regulations relating to Covid-19. If this part of the event has to be cancelled, the sale will conclude online at 4 p.m., Sept 18. We will notify the owners of the treasures by email to make arrangements for pick up.

Open house Sept. 18

If you choose to come to the church to view the art and make a bid between 2 and 4 p.m., or if you are picking up your purchases after the sale, please note that we will be following all recommended public health protocols, including pre-registration, screening, masks, physical distancing and hand sanitizing.

Payment and pick up

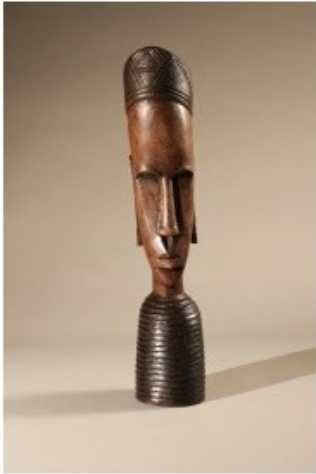
You can pick up and pay for your purchase at the church after the event on Saturday until 6 p.m. or on Sunday after church from 11 until 1 p.m. If these times do not work for you, special pick-up arrangements can be made by contacting famiddleton@gmail.com. We can accept e-transfers, cash, or cheques made out to Harcourt Memorial United Church with “Lila’s treasures” on the tag line.

To access the sale, go to <https://www.32auctions.com/lilas-treasures>

Cover picture – this detail from a print by Ghanaian artist Kobina Bucknor synthesizes African identity through past and present. 9 ¼” x 12 ½”. Reserve bid is \$25.

See some examples on the next page:

There are many objects in the auction with reserve bids of \$5 and up.



5820
This Malawian wooden head is 17" tall with a reserve bid of \$100.



5914
Malta is famed for its glass wear. This lovely rose-coloured vase, 8" tall, has a reserve bid of \$25.



5966
The Ghanaian Akua'ba fertility doll (with baby on back), 12" tall, has a reserve bid of \$75.

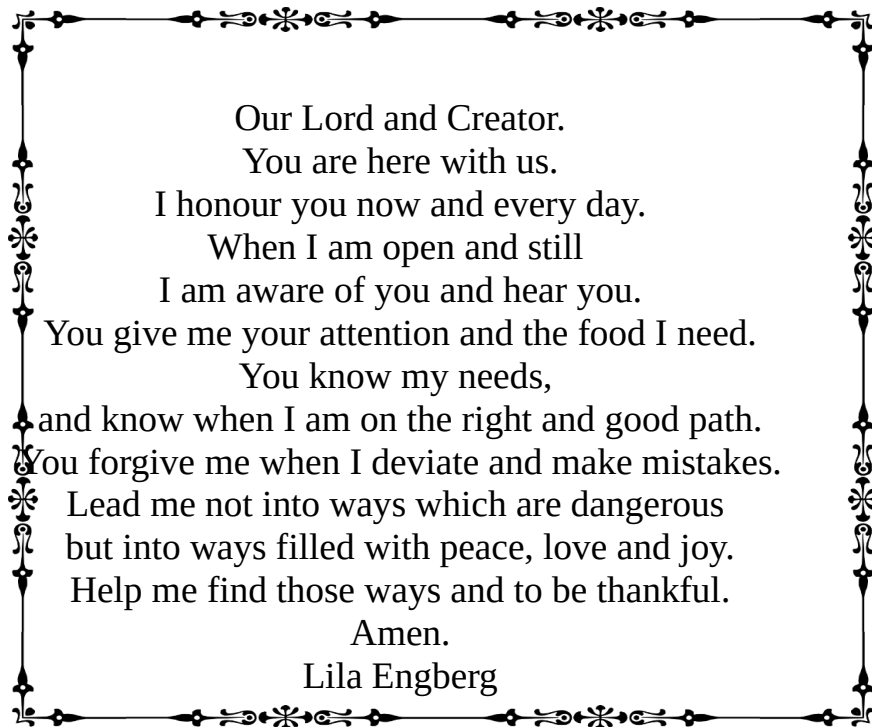


6087 This detail from Terry McDonald's photograph of teasels in winter captures the fluidity of the piece, 22" x 26" framed; reserve bid of \$100.



6038 Lois Betteridge bronze letter opener with inset pyroxene stone, 12" with wooden stand; reserve bid of \$200.

A Harcourt Lord's Prayer



In 2003 Harcourt members were invited to write their own versions of the Lord's Prayer for Lent, this is Lila's version

Life Events:

Passages



Blair MacNeill

January 9, 1923 – May 28, 2021

Dad led a rich and charmed life. Born in the village of Freeport, Nova Scotia, he left for teachers' college at 17, returning to fish in the summers. He graduated from Acadia, then took his PhD at the University of Toronto. In 1950 he came to the Botany Department at the Ontario Agricultural College..

As he liked to say, there he met “Elizabeth Taylor without the diamonds,” whom he married in 1953. Liz and Blair settled in a dilapidated old farmhouse on Stone Road. In this loving home, they raised their two children, Grant and Alison, while welcoming dozens of students and visiting professors from all over the world. This house was in a constant state of renovation, and students could expect to be handed a shovel or a crowbar when they arrived for a visit.

Dad was respected by his peers and students, and was known as a caring, dedicated, challenging, and good-humoured teacher. A mentor to many, his door was always open. His reputation led to a teaching assignment in Argentina in the unstable era of the 1970s. Liz accompanied him on this wild adventure, and over the years they attended plant pathology meetings all over the world, gaining new friends as they travelled. Other meetings took the whole family on long tenting expeditions across Canada and the U.S.

Blair's research contributions to his field were vast, although the grants were small. He reminisced that it was often an inquiry from a grad student that prompted an investigation into a specific area. He gave credit to these students for inspiring his ventures into new fields of research, and was pleased to see many of them become the backbone of research and extension work in Canada.

He was recognized as a Fellow of the Canadian Phytopathological Society, an award honouring outstanding service to the society and to the profession of plant pathology. He was editor of the

CPS journal for many years. On retirement, he was granted the title of Professor Emeritus for distinguished contributions to the university.

Dad loved music, especially singing in four-part harmony. He sang in the Harcourt choir from his first years in Guelph, with a “break” of about 18 years, as “interim” choir director. Later, when Alison became music director, he continued to sing and cause merriment in the tenor section.

Until Liz became ill, Dad never missed a choir concert if Alison was playing or conducting. Grant made it possible for him to attend Alison’s most recent performance in January 2020.

Dad learned rough carpentry on the farm. He applied these skills to improving the house on Stone Road, building “The Cabin” in Parry Sound, and later, their retirement home and his workshop on Farnham Road near Arkell, where Grant and Sue now live. He maintained the house and barn on annual trips to Nova Scotia until he was almost 90. We grew up thinking all dads had blackened thumbnails from errant hammer blows!

Fundy View, our Freeport home on the sea, has anchored five generations of MacNeills. After retirement, Blair and Liz (and cats) enjoyed long visits “down home” reconnecting with old friends and new. Blair entertained many guests and the locals with his stories of growing up on the island in the 1920s and 30s and his four books about village life are treasured keepsakes. As he often said, they were good stories ... and some of them were true! Blair’s memoirs are available in the Harcourt library.

Blair’s sense of humour was legendary, if somewhat predictable. He was a collector of bad puns, and enjoyed writing clever parodies on special occasions; his pen name since his Acadia days was Shortfella. He loved to make people laugh, and his disarming ways put folks at their ease. Dad found joy in the small things. Apple pie. Liz’s egg tarts. A trip to Tim Hortons. A good mess of clams or a fresh lobster. He always found joy in his family, never tiring of our stories and goings on. He was immensely proud of Grant and Alison, his grandchildren, and our chosen mates.

Blair was predeceased by his beloved Liz in January, 2020. He leaves behind his son, Grant (Sue), daughter Alison (Pete), and grandchildren, Katelyn (Mike), Meaghan (Darcy) and Blair.

He never had a bad word to say about anyone. He was hardworking, generous, a model of decency, and a kind and humble man. He died gently in the loving arms of his family, slipping

away to be with his beloved Liz. A memorial service will be held for Blair at Harcourt at 3 p.m. on Oct. 1. Alison MacNeill



Art Waters died at Riverside Glen on June 14. He was known for his gentle kindness, generosity of spirit and compassion, traits that anchored his career as a United Church minister and family and marriage therapist.

Raised in Toronto, Art was ordained by Toronto Conference in 1953 and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College in 1981. After serving churches in Ontario and Saskatchewan, he became a personnel minister for Toronto Conference, chaplain of the Family Court and Juvenile Detention Centre in Toronto and director of the Kitchener Interfaith Counselling Centre. In retirement he worked with divorcing couples, helping them reach non-confrontational settlements.

Art belonged to the Men's Group at Harcourt and occasionally provided pastoral care for the church in his early retirement.

For the last few years of their 62-year marriage, Art cared quietly and devotedly for Ruby at their home in the Village by the Arboretum.

Art and Ruby are remembered by children Ian Arthur (Ameeta Sagar) of Toronto, Karen Leslie Ann of Saskatoon and grandchildren Sasha Satya and Alicia Ann Waters and many friends and extended family.

The memorial service at Harcourt at 2 p.m. on September 24 will be live streamed for people unable to attend in person.



Carol Bruce died July 12. Although she lived in Guelph for more than 45 years, she always treasured her prairie roots in Roland, Manitoba where she grew up with her parents Jim and Margaret McLaren, her brother Wayne and many cousins who remained life-long friends. Carol and Jack, who predeceased her, raised their three children in Guelph and made many friends at Harcourt and in the community.

A proud graduate of the University of Manitoba, Carol was fundamentally the teacher she became, approaching every task with a clear method to achieve the highest standard. That included baking, tailoring, bridge and other games that she played competitively, but with a sparkle in her eye. Tea parties with grandchildren were a delight for all participants.

Carol and Jack loved to dance and their family can picture their beloved parents, joined once again, dancing in perfect harmony around the kitchen.

Carol is survived by Lesley (David Chernos), John (Heather), Paul (Kirsten) and grandchildren Naomi, Mattie, Betsy, Alex, Charlotte, Kaleigh and Emily.

