



The Reverend's Reflection A Time for Gratitude

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near
Wait for the Lord be strong take heart.
(Taizé lyrics based on Ps 27:14)

As summer unfolds before us, we enter a time of transition once again. We wait for things to be back to normal and as they used to be. However, waiting for the Lord is never "as it used to be." It is always new, always changing, always in process.

Sarah Young, in her devotional, "Jesus Calling," reminds us of the depth of waiting for God.

Waiting on Me means directing your attention to Me in hopeful anticipation of what I will do. It entails trusting Me with every fibre of your being instead of trying to figure things out yourself. Waiting on me is the way I designed you to live: all day, every day. I created you to stay conscious of Me as you go about your daily duties.

I have promised many blessings to those who wait on Me, *renewed strength*, living above one's circumstances, resurgence of hope, awareness of My continual Presence.

We can be thankful for God's promise to be with us, to renew our strength and to give us hope through God's continual Presence. Sarah Young continues,

When you approach God in stillness and in trust, you are strengthened... The tangible world still reflects my glory to those who have eyes that see and ears that hear. Spending time alone with me is the best way to develop seeing eyes and hearing ears, The goal is to be aware of unseen things even as you live out your life in the visible world.

We need God's strength found in stillness and trust now more than ever. We are enduring a pandemic like never before. We have struggled with social distancing mandates for health and safety. We have defined community in new ways. Amidst all of this, we have maintained our identity as church.

I am thankful to God that I have had an opportunity to lead you through this time of trial. Together with lay support, I feel blessed to have brought in new members to the church, established a youth Confirmation class, led successful new worship styles, embraced creativity in worship and in community events, and have ministered pastorally to the congregation. For these accom-

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Carillon Concert 10:30 am on Canada Day. Bring lawn chairs, social distance. Wear red.

Summer Worship details on page 7

Financial Statements p. 8

That old saying "Bob's your uncle" comes to mind whenever you've aced something or even just done it right. All is solved and well.

Until March we were all going along quite happily with our lives and our church. And then things started to go south. And now we find that Bob is not our uncle any more. There are lots of things to solve.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives and changed the way we worship together. Black Lives Matter has us thinking about racism and policing. We really need to think about our native people as well as other marginalized or racially-identifiable people. They need to be able to fit into society and be able to live good lives. What is the role of the police? What is the role of the church?

And now we at Humber Valley have come to the end of our interim ministry. We were reeling when Rev. Mark left. We were healed by Rev. Rick and Rev. Ian. They helped us think about our vision and how we will work towards it. Rev. Ian left last year and Rev. Rick will leave at the end of June. What now?

We thought we had it all figured out, or we didn't particularly think about it because things were rolling along nicely. But now, in the middle of 2020, we as a worshipping community, as a society, and as human beings have new challenges. Throw out the old assumptions, start again.

Last year at this time we were finalizing a Strategic Plan for our church. We were busy implementing its three-pronged approach. Then the pandemic happened. In response we have learned how to do online services, we have learned how to hold meetings and events using Zoom, we have learned how to communicate with each other through an online magazine, and we have learned that we are able to be in each other's presence electronically and actually using masks and social distancing. We have found that our electronic reach is much greater than our in-person reach. That's a very good start.

Perhaps, as we seek a Supply Minister and then a minister we can call to Humber Valley, we should take some time to see how we are doing with regard to our Vision and Mission Statements seen at right. Let's keep our Vision, Mission and Key Commitments in mind as we work on making Bob our Uncle again and continue to live together as a Christian community.

Vision Statement

To serve as a growing and flourishing Christian community.

Mission Statement

To worship God in a spirit of joy.

To welcome all in a spirit of belonging.

To care for one another and the world in a spirit of love.

Key Commitments

- *To be a safe place in which everyone is welcome to participate in any or all aspects of church life wherever they are on their faith journey.*
- *To continue to be inclusive of people of all ages, sexual orientations and gender identities; racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds; family configurations; abilities; and economic status.*
- *To welcome all those who wish to attend, join, celebrate life passages, and participate in any worship services, activities, events, and small group programs.*

Source: Humber Valley United Church, [Strategic Plan](#), approved September 17, 2019.

This issue of Connections features messages from the congregation and photographs illustrating his life with us as a farewell to Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas. We valued his ministry and felt valued by him. Thank you for all you have done, Rev. Rick.

I'm looking forward to an interesting summer of worship at Humber Valley. We'll have some lay-led services and others with messages by Rev. Mark Aitchison and Rev. Ian Manson. Be sure to tune in to Humber Valley Services via our Facebook page, wherever you are.

I love to hear from you. Please send me your comments and suggestions.

Susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Susanne Hynes



A Time for Gratitude, continued from page 1

plishments and more, I am thankful to God. During my time here, the church has not only survived, it has grown.

It is sad that I will be leaving Humber Valley as the Board made it clear that I was not what they wanted in a lead minister. I had hoped to fulfill the call that God has placed in my heart to lead. I will now continue to develop my seeing eyes and hearing ears to follow where God is leading me today.

I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you. You have made my time here at Humber Valley so rewarding! How could I have gotten through the death of my father, my brother, and my dear aunt without you? It has been a time of many emotions, but my heart has always been filled with God's presence.

Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided me. Even though I will miss you, I am looking forward to the challenges of spreading my wings further as God is calling me to do.

Here are some scripture passages that have helped me through times of transition.

"The Lord says, 'I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.'"

—*Psalms 32:8*

"For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands."

—*Psalms 91:11-12*

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

—*Proverbs 4:25*

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

—*Philippians 4:6*

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

—*2 Corinthians 13:14*

May we continue to be aware of God's presence in our lives. May we rekindle our hope, renew our strength, and begin again to live with heartfelt anticipation.

In God's love and light,

Rev. Rick



Building on Success

We have had such success in the past few years and this will continue with the help of our committed staff and volunteers. Many of our accomplishments, achieved with the support of Rev. Rick, are highlighted in this issue of "Connections" and we look forward to continuing what has been started.

Programs and Worship

The Youth and Seniors programs are growing in leaps and bounds and our live-streamed services are being watched by my friends and family and, hopefully, yours around the world. Encourage people to join us every Sunday as our live-streamed services will continue with a flourish during the summer led by our congregants and guest ministers including Rev. Mark Aitchison and Rev. Dr. Ian Manson.

Search Team for Supply Minister

The search team for our new Supply Minister has been constituted. Sharon Dowdall will chair this team supported by David Dallimore, Brian Goodman, Susanne Hynes and Rev. Henry Poutiainen (Liaison from Shining Waters). They will begin their work immediately with the hope that we will have a full-time Supply Minister early in the summer.

Funerals and Memorial Services

We are blessed that Rev. Rick has agreed to stay on with us to lead funeral and memorial services for our congregants until we have a Supply Minister in place and even after that with the approval of the United Church. This is wonderful news for us and we thank him for agreeing to do this. These services could be held in the church (up to 10 people) or in other locations as per your family's desires and with Rev. Rick's mutual agreement.

Pastoral Care

If you have pastoral care needs after July 1, please contact Kathy Kitchen or Deborah Turnbull and we will do our past to support you during this time. Rev. Mark Aitchison, has agreed to provide pastoral care support to our congregation until a Supply Minister has joined us.

World and Human Rights Issues

World issues are top of mind for many as violence erupts world-wide related to anti-racism and social and economic inequities. At our recent Board meeting, Mary Moffat Johansson volunteered to chair a small group which will focus on racial equality, diversity and inclusion and how HVUC can take action on these issues. If you wish to join this small group, please contact Mary at m.moffat@sympatico.ca.

Reach out to Me

I have seen many of you on recent Zoom meetings. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your comments, criticisms, rebukes or just if you wish to share something happening in your life.

This has been a very upsetting and stressful time for me over the past few months. I am sorry Rev. Rick declined our call as I saw him as our stable base on which to grow our ministries for our future. However, this was not to be. Thus, we now will move into a new time of transition building on all the successes we have achieved in the past few years and on the challenges posed in our Strategic Plan.

I know you will continue supporting our church. So much has been accomplished and we have a loving faithful community. I have gone to this church since 1961 and have seen many changes but my faith in God, our church and its role in our community and world has never faltered.

I now ask for God's guidance, grace, patience and blessing as we continue to move through this time of transition.

We are a family in God's church.

Blessings to each of you,

Deb Turnbull

Chair,
Humber Valley United Church Board

A Season of Change



March 15th 2020 was the first official start date of our New Horizons Project at Humber Valley. It also marked the start of the national shut down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We had just begun to develop plans to bring innovative and engaging programs to our local 55+ community through the New Horizon's federal government grant. In so many areas of our lives we had to quickly find a new way function!

Thankfully a program that few of us were aware of called Zoom became a new way to stay in touch. Within a few weeks, thanks to the resilience and openness to learn, our 55+ friends were giving "Zooming" a try. It definitely felt strange at first, but soon we started up a range of new programs on Zoom.

In the last 12 weeks with the support and effort of our volunteers, and funding from the United Church of Canada Seeds of Hope, we have run some of our well loved, favourite programs such as UCW, Fred Torrie Men's Lunch, Men's Group and Daytimers. We've also transformed Fitness and Yoga into a Zoom format that gives us a sense of community and helps us keep healthy and active during home isolation. Our Daily Bread prayer group, led by Joanne Stenerson, has met six days a week to offer thanksgiving, and lift up many issues that are on our hearts during this time. It has been wonderful to see that our connections and support for one another has continued and grown even stronger.

Thanks to our funding from New Horizon's we have also experimented with some program formats such as Coffee

Time, Paint days, Sing a longs, Cooking and Gardening and most recently Memoir writing and Outdoor decorating. We have had several guests join us as facilitators and we have had new friends join us from the local community and as far away as the USA. We have been running a total of 16 different programs and have had a total of over 1,200 participants in our combined programs from Seeds of Hope and New Horizon's.

This summer we plan to offer additions to these programs with new Zoom sessions, such as Art Appreciation, Seniors Sharing Dance, and Crafternoons! Free activity kits will be provided so everyone has the materials needed to take part. Check out our July and August plans in the new Summer Living Program Guide!

Throughout this time of home isolation we've forged new connections with each other and reached out to new friends in the community. We want to keep extending the invitation to other's to join us!

Let your friends, family and neighbours know that we are here to help those 55+ stay connected, caring and creative! Share our online calendar and Program Guide, we'd love to welcome them to our 55+ in Central Etobicoke programs!

Anne Pietropaolo
Seniors Program Coordinator

Youth Group has been active and engaged during the pandemic. As well as maintaining our weekly meetings via zoom, we have shared several movie nights viewing together and chatting online, movies like "Soul Surfer," "The Prince of Egypt," and "The fundamentals of caring." We have cooperated to put together a statement of support for the congregation, and a strong message in favor of Black Lives Matter. We continually discuss and engage with the current climate both politically and socially as well as providing companionship and humor to one another. We have had two "paint nights" where we joined together on zoom for a fun interactive painting experience, and are planning a social distancing campfire, sanitized frisbee meet, a zoom cooking class and will continue our weekly get togethers!

Licia Meldrum

Making Online Services Happen

The last worship service in the sanctuary at Humber Valley United Church was held on March 15. Rev Rick delivered the sermon from a chair by a café table.

Two days later Toronto, and indeed all of Ontario, was under lockdown. One week later we were able to share a virtual worship service that all could watch via our Facebook page. It was no mean feat to accomplish this.

The first few services were actually streamed live, filmed from the audio visual booth at the back of the sanctuary. Since then we have found it better to pre-record services on Saturday, to make sure things could run more smoothly, but also so we could include video clips for our children’s stories, people reading scripture or prayers, and our soloists singing and playing anthems.

While we long to be together under the cross and chancel screen in our church, there are some advantages to our online worship services.

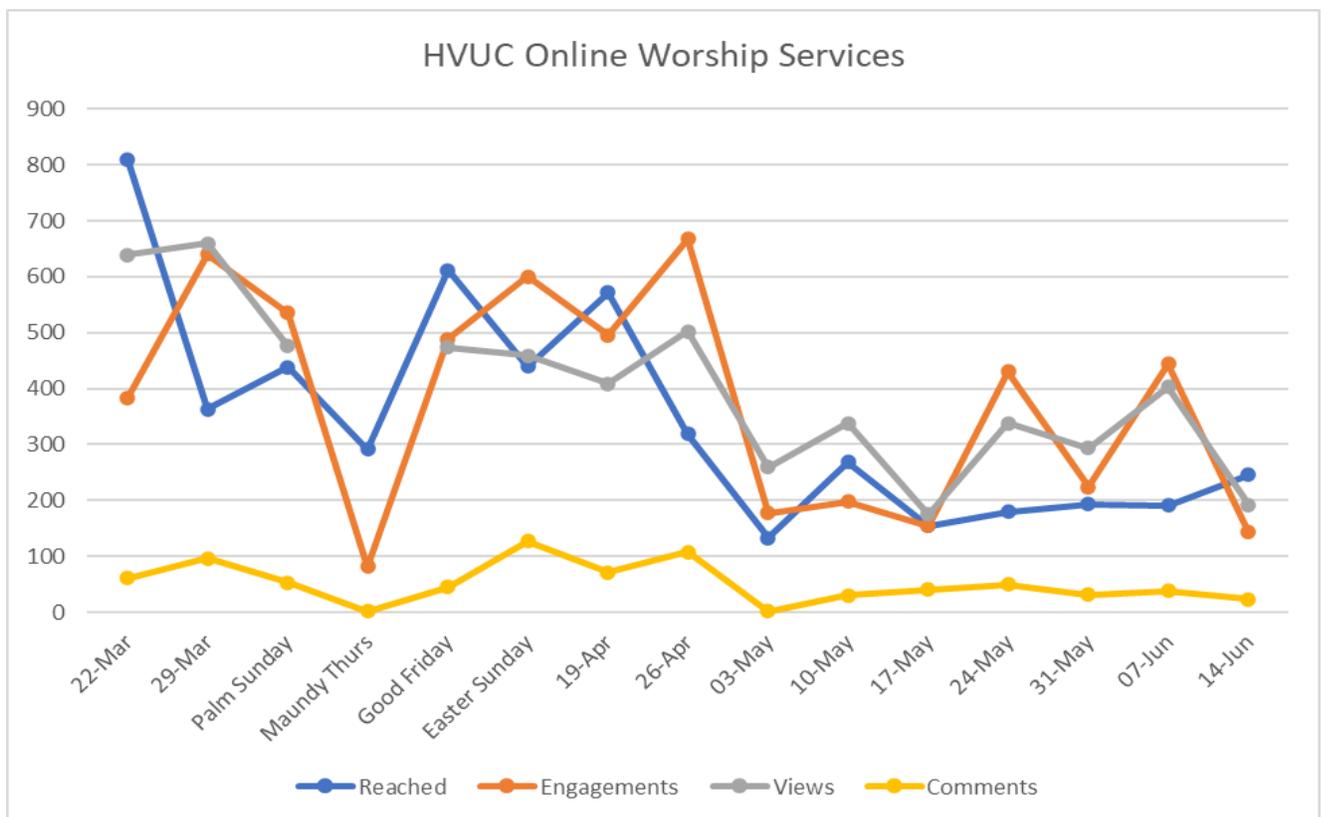
- You can watch the service while it is being transmitted and comment or “like” what is happening using the Facebook comment tools.
- You can watch it again any time.
- You can go back to watch parts whenever you want.

- You can watch from your cottage or on your cell phone.
- You can host a watch party and watch together with friends from all over the world.
- You can wear your pajamas.

Many people have been watching our services—more than we could accommodate in the church. As you can see from the graph below as many as 800 devices have been reached and more than 600 have actually clicked on the video of a service and watched at least a part of it.

We are very grateful for the excellent work our technical crew led by George Turnbull and including Scott Bryden and Zoran Mrkovic.

And we are very grateful to Rev. Rick and Jill Diane Filion for planning and delivering our services. The children’s stories created by Claire Hatje and Michelle Madill are a treat. And we have to thank our soloists for their amazing gifts of music, sometimes videoed in their homes and sometimes performed in the sanctuary: Joni Henson, Devin Herbert, Nicole Percifield, Thomas Goetz, Michael Sproule, and Rob Kempson. And Kelly Wells has been preparing excellent slides to go with the services.



Summer Worship Online with HVUC

All the summer services will be **live-streamed beginning at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning** on the church's Facebook page.

Each Sunday the **carillon** will ring out to the community from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. If you wish to hear our carillon ministry, please come by the church with your mask on and listen from your car or by physically-distancing standing or sitting in the parking lot.

Thank you to Kelly, George, Scott, Jill, Joni, Nicole, Thomas, Devon, Michael, Rob, Zoran and Dragan for all your support in the design and delivery of these services.

July 5 – This service is being organized by George and Deborah Turnbull working with Jill. It will feature a Special Program with guest performers. George will present the Reflection.

July 12 – This service is being organized by Brian Goodman and his family working with Jill.

July 19 – This service is being organized by David and Judith Dallimore working with Jill. Judith and David will present the Reflection.

July 26 – This service is being organized by Kathy and David Kitchen and Rev. Dr. Ian Manson, working with Jill. Rev. Ian will preach.

August 2 – This service is being organized by Carla Sandrin working with Jill. Carla will present the Reflection.

August 9 – This service is being organized by Licia Meldrum working with Jill. Licia will present the Reflection.

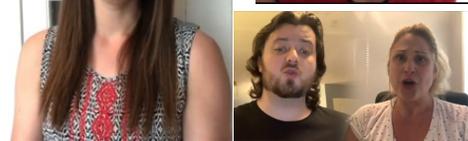
August 16 – This service is being organized by Claire Hatje and Michelle Madill working with Jill. Claire will present the Reflection.

August 23 - This service is being organized by Anne Pietropaolo working with Jill. Anne will present the Reflection.

August 30 – Joan Belford and Peter White are organizing the service with support from Jill. Rev. Mark Aitchison has been invited to be the guest minister.

September 6 – Details to be determined. Rev. Mark Aitchison has been invited to be the Guest Minister.

We hope to begin to have services in the sanctuary again beginning in mid-September. Also, we may continue our live-streamed services even after we return to the sanctuary as our services are now reaching people from around the world.



Stewardship

The following report shows the financial results to the end of May 2020. Results for the same year-to-date period in 2019 are also included below for comparison purposes.

Sources of Funds	2020	2019
PAR Givings	67,463	66,921
Envelopes/Stock Donations	44,598	47,687
Use of Church Trustees	50,150	63,279
Other	6,332	7,915
	28,974	15,477
Subtotal Operating Funds	197,517	201,279
Receipts for Grants, Capital, Outreach and Special Initiatives HFs	44,838	8,112
Total Sources of Funds	242,355	209,391
Expenditures		
Payroll	155,853	170,292
Building Expenses	28,844	35,359
Office	9,040	7,880
Mission and Service	0	1,730
Presbytery Assessment	4,381	8,761
Music	16,212	14,107
Other Committees and Grant funded expenses	20,202	11,021
Total Expenditures	234,532	249,150
Transfers to HFs	44,838	8,112
Operating Deficit	-37,015	-47,871

It is no surprise to anyone that the past few months have been challenging ones for the church not only spiritually and socially but also financially. At the annual meeting, the congregation approved a revised operating budget which projects that we are likely to end the year with a deficit of nearly \$55,000 compared with the initial estimate of about \$16,000.

The good news is that overall givings have been maintained on a level comparable to last year despite the fact that the church has been closed for the past 3 months. A sincere thank you to all. The bad news is that the main contributor to the increased deficit has been the loss of a significant amount of rental income. Additionally, some fundraising events were cancelled. However, support of the Lenten cans project was exceptional as people found a variety of ways to return their contributions.

One option to replace a portion of the lost rental income is, for those who are able, to prayerfully review their planned givings for the year and look to see the extent to which they might be increased. At the risk of sounding pedantic, every little bit helps.

Expenses generally have been maintained at or below budget. An exception is the extra costs required to support the streaming of our Sunday services.

In recent months, the church has been quite successful in identifying and successfully applying for grants in support of our programs from both the United Church of Canada and the federal government. We are also receiving some government COVID-19 wage subsidy and we continue to look for additional ones for which we might qualify.

Lastly, a reminder to those who are not on PAR to please make every effort to keep up your givings during the summer. Our

major expenses don't take a summer vacation. You can mail your envelopes to the church or take them there and put them in the mailbox by the front door. In addition, Anita is in the office every Wednesday morning so you can drop off your cheque in the office and it will be deposited in the bank that day.

As always, a sincere thank you for your ongoing financial support of Humber Valley United Church.

Gary Halpenny

Chair

Stewardship and Finance Committee

It will come as no surprise to anyone to learn that most HVUC fundraising ventures have either been cancelled or are currently on hold. Because of COVID-19 restrictions on the number of people who can be gathered in one place, it is unlikely that we will be able to host any large-scale event for the church during 2020.

Most recently, Valerie Wood has informed us of the understandable decision to cancel her concert originally scheduled for November 7, 2020. Her loyal audience will be very disappointed to miss hearing Valerie and her friends perform; in addition, this concert was planned as our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Despite these setbacks, we have nevertheless managed to raise a little over \$7550 this year.

We are very pleased with this amount, and very grateful to all those who have contributed. We would especially like to thank the Wards, whose assistance with Masks has been an unexpected blessing.

We are a long way from our original goal of \$20,000, but we know we have to temper our expectations in this unusual year.

The Fundraising Committee will be meeting by Zoom before the end of June to see what else we can come up with. We have had two suggestions that we will be discussing, and we would welcome others.

If anyone has an idea for us, please send it to jbelford@pathcom.com

Joan Belford

Great Results !

Our Lenten cans collected about \$4400

The masks contributed by Gary and Janet Ward have brought in about \$1800.

Dedications of Keeping in Touch are currently at \$1100.

Dedications of two virtual services have garnered \$250.

“How are you today, little lady?”



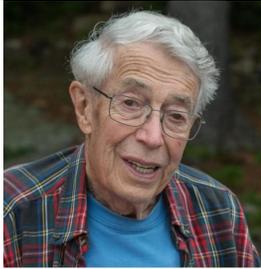
*“How are you today, little lady?”
I wish I could hear Norm ask.
Always the consummate gentleman,
Eager to help with a task.
Pouring coffee and tea in the hall
With a twinkle in his eye,*

*And a smile for one and all.
He was the dearest of souls, lanky and tall.
He made me think I had stepped back in time.
Like a knight in bright armour
In a fairytale time.
His manners impeccable, his smile was kind
Blue eyes as bright as his curious mind.*

*Norm was a pillar we could lean on,
And he knew it, it would seem,
For he continued to be with us
With a faith that never faltered, his endurance was
extreme.
It kept him fighting onward where a weaker man would
fall.
His family, his friends, his values were like gold.
With integrity and humour, a gentleman of old.
Building things and learning, Mr. Roper loved it all.
We will miss you, dear Sir Norman, but we never will
forget
You were a special gift to us. Very glad we met.
Donna and Steve McCorquodale*

Norm Roper died on Friday, June 12. Our deepest sympathy to the Roper family.

Memories of My Dad — Norm Roper



Norm Roper died on Friday, June 12 at home, at the age of 91, surrounded by loved ones. Beloved husband of Sally for 62 years, and brother to John for longer. Loving father to Scott and Sandy, Nancy, Jim and Sara, and uncle to Paul. Grandfather to Jeremy, Jason, Michael, and Christopher.

During this time when we are unable to attend at a funeral we are privileged to share with the congregation thoughts and tributes that would otherwise have been shared in church.

When I attend a funeral, I love hearing all the fond stories that the family and friends tell. I leave happy because I know so much more about the person aspects from earlier times or from other parts of the person's life. I hear so many kind words about the person and always wish that we had taken the time to tell these stories while the person was still alive.

My Dad died last Friday morning. We were so lucky that we were able to keep him at home till the end, especially with the pandemic swirling around us. I was lucky that I retired early so was able to spend so much more time with him these last three years.

My Dad's favourite things were spending time with his family, visiting with people, doing kind things for others, woodworking/inventing and spending time on his beloved Avro Arrow. Here are some of his stories, poignant memories that always make me tear-up:

Dad had always wanted a baby sister and he wanted to call her Nancy. When I finally arrived, there was no question what my name would be. Mom sewed all my clothes and I always had beautiful dresses. However, for my 1st birthday, Dad went to the children's store at Royal York Plaza, "Auralees", and bought me the most beautiful sheer white dress with lace. I can envision Dad being proud as punch at the purchase, and Mom possibly being a little distraught at the expense of a purchased dress, although she tells me she was delighted to see such a great Dad. The dress originally had white bows on the shoulders, but at Christmas, my Mom replaced them with red bows. Thankfully, we have a photo of my Gramma, "Dodie" (Mom's Mom) holding me in the Christmas version of the dress. It brings me to tears to think about a young Dad doing this for his daughter.



Dad didn't get to go to university, but he had all the skills of a professional engineer. He worked at a company called Syntron that sold equipment for assembly lines. Dad's office was on Dundas Street at Prince Edward. Always putting his family first, Dad waited to go to work till after we had left for school. He came home at suppertime to spend dinner and the evening with his family. Once the kids were in bed, he went back to work and put in a few more hours. He was officially a salesman, but he also designed and repaired all the systems. His customers loved him because he was so honest and helpful. If there was an application that he couldn't do well, he would tell them, and then he would go find a company who COULD do the job and introduce them. Mom called Jerry, Dad's last surviving employee, this week and Jerry cried so hard he couldn't stay on the phone - he said Dad was the best boss he could ever have wished for.

Many men make smart remarks about the amount of money their wives spend on clothing. In our family, things are the other way around. Mom and I will spend a lot of time deciding whether we want to make a purchase or not ... and Dad was such a sweetheart that he would pull out his credit card and say "we should buy it". Two examples that I remember clearly are shown in the picture. In 1999 we did the Alaska Cruise and it included a stop in Sitka. I had seen some cute little sea otter stuffed toys in a gift shop and was standing on the sidewalk outside, deciding if I wanted to buy one. In a minute, my Dad crept up behind me and handed me a bag with the sea otter in it. In the years thereafter, we were in a general store in Port Carling and found lovely quilted jackets and the same thing happened: Mom and I each came home with a jacket.



Dad loved to build things in his workshop and has left the family with so many beautiful pieces, from the toy stove,

crib, cradle and high chair that he made for me when I was small, to the lit china cabinets in the dining room in the city, to all the beds, drawers and cupboards at both the house and the cottage. He also did / helped with many projects at the church, including the sound absorbing "acoustic" artwork at the back of the sanctuary (he helped cut all the wood blocks) and the stand for the original church steeple which is now displayed inside. His most notable piece was the entertainment centre he built for the cottage: When the cottage was first built, Sally's parents bought some initial pieces of furniture for their bedroom and the living room. As time progressed, we eventually got a TV and stereo for the cottage (oh my!) and needed furniture to hold it. Norm designed the entertainment centre and built it to match the purchased furniture perfectly. He gave it to Sally's parents for Christmas, as seen in the photo.



Dad had an uncle, Jack Trollope, who worked at A.V. Roe and helped build the famous Avro Arrow airplane in the 1950's. In the early years of the millennium, Jack called Dad and said "We've got a group of volunteers working to build a life sized replica of the Avro Arrow: you should come up and see what we're doing". Dad visited and he was hooked. He spent the next 8-10 years leading the "Thursday Crew" of volunteers who did a full day every Thursday building the Arrow. In October 2006, they "rolled out" the completed Arrow replica in a joyous celebration. The Thursday crew then continued to volunteer and worked on new exhibits, museum repairs, and they even built a pair of "human wings" that were used in a movie. Some of Dad's happiest days were spent working with his friends on their beloved Avro Arrow and to the end of his days, he loved talking to his fellow volunteers from the "Thursday Crew". The photo shows Dad with his friend and fellow volunteer, Ted, on roll-out day.



Dad loved to visit with people and hear their stories, and he never forgot the things that he had learned. The sales clerks at all the local shops and grocery stores were his

buddies and he always filled us in on their families when he returned from an errand. As he moved into his later years and was no longer able to go out, we SO APPRECIATED coffee hour at the church. We could leave Dad to rove independently and chat with his church friends, and knew that someone would come get us if he ran into trouble. This became one of the highlights of his week. Thank you to all the folks who chatted with him. A very special thanks to Pippa Vandervliet who always spent time with Norm when she was at church and made him feel very special. Special thanks also to Allan Jones who had long conversations with Dad week after week.

The church became the main part of our lives in recent years. Sunday services, coffee hour and Daytimers were always highlights, along with all the special events and church dinners. We are blessed to have so many close friends who would gather with us in the city or at the cottage for fun social times. When we were in need, it was church friends that we called: Bill Cahoon rescued us by picking up a spare

set of keys after Jimmy accidentally took our keys to work; Peter White helped us when Jim's dog fell gravely ill; Kathy Kitchen brought us the most beautiful



dinner on fine china when Sally had her hip replaced last spring and Joan Belford had us to dinner as Mom recovered; David Kitchen drove Sally to the hospital in between his Daytimers pickups when Norm was ill in December, when Sally was too flustered to realize that David was busy; Bill Cahoon, Bill Ireland, Ron Crago and Fred Torrie always made sure Dad had a ride to the Men's lunch; and the list goes on. Since the pandemic started, we have so enjoyed the 55+ events that Anne P has arranged and the Men's group events that Murray Smith and Bob Kinnear have planned. And of course, we are so thankful that Rev Rick will be coming to the house on Friday to lead our family funeral service in our backyard: we couldn't ask for better.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in Dad's life over the years. We hope you will have fond memories of him too. To celebrate his life, we invite you to find something kind that you can do for someone in the coming weeks, and think about Norm as you do it.

Nancy Roper

OUTREACH AND ACTION - SPRING 2020

During this time of COVID-19, with many activities cancelled or done virtually, some of the outreach programs supported by Humber Valley are still in need of our financial help.

United Church Camps

Overnight camps have been cancelled by the provincial government but their permanent staffs are on the job in many ways:

- Properties need to be maintained;
- Taxes still need to be paid; and
- Connections to former campers and staff continue.

Sparrow Lake Camp will do some much needed maintenance on its very old cabins.



Sparrow Lake Camp

(Sally Jo was a camper in the 1940's so you know how old those cabins are!)

Camp Scugog is connecting with senior staff, many of whom were campers from families in need, and helping them earn first aid certification for future use. They also have weekly zoom "tea parties" with some of the mothers who would have gone to camp. This socialization and connection with friends is important to them in this time of isolation.



Money from Capital Outreach has been sent to both camps this month.

Unit 9

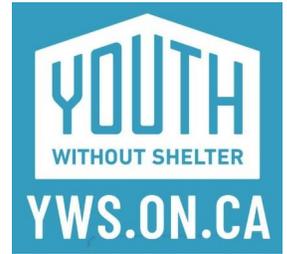
UCW Unit 9 have been keeping in touch with each other on a regular basis. Many of us are into the Zoom seniors' programs and the daily prayer meeting or coffee time put on by the Church.

Some are able to get into the Worship Service on Sundays.

Diane Imber

Youth Without Shelter

Programs continue at YWS with some participants living there full time. Meals are provided as well as support from paid staff. Humber Valley has a long history of providing dinner for the last Sunday of each month with money coming from individual donations all year long.



Currently the balance of this fund is \$1,100. The Outreach Committee has agreed to send \$750 which will pay for meals in June, July and August. Private donations from 3 HVUC members were made to cover the Sunday meal in March, April and May.

We hope that contributions to the church, marked Youth Without Shelter, will be made to top up the fund for meals in the Fall.

Sally Jo Martin

Unit 9 on an outing long before the pandemic



DayTimers

I think I should wear a button that says 'I survived 35 years of Daytimers'! Yes it really was that long! We began with twelve people and a cup of tea and grew to close to one hundred people and a full blown lunch, at our peak. I have made countless friends and have benefitted as much from the program as I have put in to it. It is now successfully supported by church staff, an outstanding team of colleagues, drivers and our church and community guests.

So, I am hanging up my skates, but Daytimers will continue, led by our competent Seniors' Coordinator Anne Pietropaolo, and I will still be there as a guest. Who would have guessed we would be wrapping up the year virtually, but we have been forced to become adept at using Zoom and keeping in touch by email, by phone and by mail.

Risa Shuman led an entertaining program in May, sharing her experience working for *Saturday Night at the Movies*, with Elwy Yost. June 22nd will be our final event for this year and it will take place in the afternoon, at 3 pm, via Zoom

Wishing all our Daytimers staff and guests a happy summer.

Judith Dallimore



Unit 6

UCW UNIT 6 usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month but of course with COVID-19 we had changes to make.

April 7 caught us off guard and we didn't have an alternate plan.

But by May 6, Zoom meetings were organized so we were delighted to have Anne Pietropaolo and Kelly Wells host a virtual gathering for us. Nineteen attended and we were happy to donate \$250 from our "golden purse" to Youth Without Shelter in lieu of our planned activity of making lunches for YWS.

Our June meeting is always a pot luck with yummy hors d'oeuvres, salads and desserts coming from our own kitchens to complement a catered main course. We did miss that time of fellowship but another Zoom meeting had 16 or more of our group sharing summer plans.

Catherine Ireland and Sally Jo Martin will continue their unit leadership for next year with the support of everyone in the planning of monthly meetings. We certainly hope to have those "in person" but will await changes in the rules for group gatherings.

Sally Jo Martin

Unit 7

During the pandemic, we have had all our monthly meetings through Zoom.

Our April meeting was purely social, as we caught up with one another. In May, Catharine Clemens spoke to us about Weight Watchers. At our June meeting, we had Deb Turnbull and Gail Hamblin as speakers, Sharon Dowdall shared some of her photos of Africa and we planned our 2020 / 2021 Unit 7 meetings.

On behalf of Unit 7, as incoming co-leaders, we would like to share our many thank yous to Linda Grass for her sensational leadership over the last number of years. She has led excellent meetings throughout this time. We were very

privileged to have Linda. She kept our Unit meetings on time and running smoothly. We have accomplished so many things, had fun in our meetings, and Linda was exceptional in all of her roles within our unit and the UCW.

Please pray for Linda in her future endeavours in the church and elsewhere. Thank you once again, Linda, for your dedication to our unit. We will very much miss your leadership. I hope we can count on you as past leader for your wisdom and advice.

Jennifer Brown and Colleen Isherwood,

Co-Leaders, Unit 7

This Communications Committee has met twice via Zoom and has been very busy keeping HVUC connected within our church and to the wider community.

When the pandemic closed public meetings in Ontario, it was decided to try to produce an online magazine with news and interesting articles of interest to, and written by, our own congregation. We have now produced 51 issues of this magazine: *Keeping in Touch*. It has been instrumental in bringing us nearer while we have to social distance. A much appreciated feature of *Keeping in Touch* is the dedication found at the top of each issue. This fund raiser honours people in our congregation and has raised more than \$1,100.

Our outside signs project is in the hands of Toronto city hall. We have applied for a variance to allow electronic signs to be installed in Humber Valley's residential neighbourhood. It is likely that the variance will be granted. We will then need to find the funds to have the signs installed. Electronic signs will help us reach out more effectively to our neighbourhood.

The Committee is also working on branding for HVUC. An important element of this is finding a logo that could be displayed on all of our publications and products. Two possible designs are shown here. The dove is inspired by the dove in one of our windows, it is a symbol of peace and hope. If you have comments please direct them to me.

We are also in the process of redesigning the Humber Valley website and hop to get assistance for this project from the summer student,

We would like to thank Rev. Rick for his support for our committee.

Susanne Hynes

Chair, Communications Committee



“The United Church affirms that gender and sexuality are gifts of God. This June, we invite all people of faith to celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people across the church and beyond. Pride Month, which is marked in June in many communities across Canada, is a time to publicly celebrate the rainbow people of God, intentionally affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and make explicit our acceptance and kindness for all.

There is no question that Pride celebrations across Canada will look quite different in 2020 due to COVID-19 and related restrictions on gatherings. In many communities, Pride parades and festivals are among the most visible ways in which Pride is celebrated—events that have



yet.

During this time of restricted public gatherings and the renewed calls for racial justice and decolonization, it's all the more crucial for people of faith to publicly celebrate people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all their diversity—age, race, ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, ethnic origin, language, and any other way in which they identify. In this way, we show **all** LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people that they are loved and affirmed as children of God.”

Source: [United Church of Canada](https://www.ucc.ca/)

largely been cancelled or postponed. In most United Church communities of faith, in-person worship services have not resumed

Pastoral Care

Recently I saw a sign that read “Church is who we are, not where we meet”.

It is good to be reminded of this especially right now when we are not able to meet together in person.

Your Pastoral Care team wants you to know that if you are feeling lonely and need a lift you are encouraged to call one of us.

Our desire is for everyone who is a part of our church (members, adherents, elders, staff) to feel that they are being cared for. During this time of self-isolation we are thankful for our elders who are keeping in regular touch with their flock. We are also thankful to be working along side Anne (Seniors’ Coordinator) who is constantly organizing mailings and zooming activities for our church community.

Recently your Pastoral team has started up a lending library of audiobooks and DVDs. Please contact Kathy Kitchen or Ruth Johnson for a list of titles if you would like to borrow one. A CD player can also be made available.



The Living On Purpose website offers excellent tips on how to make a difference everyday. Joanne Stenerson shared these with Daily Bread prayer circle. Here are a few of the tips.

- Wake up excited to tackle the day.
- Work on yourself first and the world around you will change.
- There are 3 major negatives in the world: greed, anger and ignorance. Accept that they exist and combat them with compassion, generosity and wisdom.
- Specialize in kindness.
- Give an encouraging word to those you may find lonely or distressed.
- Be an example to your children. Be caring, open minded and use good manners.
- Be true to yourself and your beliefs.
- Be in awe of everything around you. Never take the “normal” everyday acts and items for granted. You never know when it will no longer be there.

Members of your Pastoral Care Team are Kathy Kitchen, chair, David Dallimore, Ruth Johnson, Lynn Manning, Barbara Clarke, Sally Roper, Bill Cahoon, Rose MacLean, Joanne Stenerson, Laureen Kinnear, Bob Kinnear, Joan Rayner, Wanda Sekunda

Kathy Kitchen

Church Office Hours and Church Phone Monitoring

Monday – Thursday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. -12 noon

Though the Church doors remain locked due to the Ministry of Health’s Covid-19 health mandates, Humber Valley United Church is still in full operation. Zoran works in the building while other staff are working from home. The office phone is regularly monitored, so please feel free to leave a message. **416-231-2263**

Church Phone Extensions and Emails

Wells, Kelly 22 kelly@hvuc.ca
Hatje, Claire 26 claire@hvuc.ca
Filion, Jill 28 jill@hvuc.ca
Pietro Paolo, Anne 31 anne@hvuc.ca
McColeman, Janet 40 roombookings@hvuc.ca

Wakeman, Anita 21 anita@hvuc.ca
Meldrum, Licia 27 licia@hvuc.ca
Mrkovic, Zoran 29 zoran@hvuc.ca
Turnbull, George george@hvuc.ca

***“War’s very object is victory....
there is no substitute for victory.”***

– General Douglas MacArthur

Victory in Europe Day (V.E. Day) was on May 8th, 1945, seventy-five years ago. For most Canadians, it meant that, for them, World War II was finally over. Servicemen and servicewomen would soon be going home. Their contributions to victory in Europe had been substantial and impressive.

For some, however, who were serving in the Far East against Japan’s Imperial Forces, the war was not yet over. Although the Canadian presence in the Pacific theatre of war was not nearly as extensive as in the European theatre, Canadian military personnel nevertheless served with remarkable distinction.

While the war in Europe was winding down, the Canadian cruiser, H.M.C.S. Uganda, was supporting the American invasion of the Japanese island of Okinawa. The battle, which ended on June 22nd, 1945, was the Pacific war’s bloodiest. It is estimated that 241,000 lives were lost, including about 150,000 Okinawan civilians. The Americans suffered heavy casualties in their victory.



H.M.C.S. Uganda

In July of 1945, the three Allied leaders – British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, American President Harry Truman, and Russian Premier Joseph Stalin – convened in Potsdam, a city near Berlin. Their meetings dealt with a wide range of issues, such as the Allied occupation of Germany and post-war problems. The Manhattan Project was also discussed. The Manhattan Project was the development of an atomic bomb.

Two significant events occurred while the Potsdam Conference was being held:

- A general election in England, which resulted in the defeat of Winston Churchill’s Conservative Party and the rise to power of Clement Atlee and the Labour Party; and

- The successful test explosion of the first atomic bomb at Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16th, 1945

The three Allied leaders agreed that a Winston Churchill – Franklin Roosevelt secret agreement, dated September 18th, 1944, should be implemented. The agreement read: “When a ‘bomb’ is finally available, it might perhaps, after mature consideration, be used against the Japanese, who should be warned that this bombardment will be repeated until they surrender.” The warning was sent to the Japanese authorities in The Potsdam Declaration of July 26th, 1945. The warning was ignored.

Although, by this time, Japan was being bombed daily by the Allies, President Truman believed that the Japanese would continue to fight regardless of how many people will be killed. President Truman, mindful of the horrible Okinawa battle, did not want Allied ground troops to invade Japan. He therefore made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on a Japanese city, and conveyed the order to General Douglas MacArthur, Allied Supreme Commander. The Atomic Age had arrived.

On August 6th, 1945, the first atomic bomb to be used as a military weapon was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing and wounding thousands. The city was destroyed. The Japanese authorities refused to surrender.

On August 9th, 1945, a second atomic bomb was dropped on the city and the naval base of Nagasaki. Thousands were killed and wounded. The city was destroyed.

While the atomic attack on Nagasaki was occurring, R.C.A.F. Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray, a 27 year old Canadian from Trail, British Columbia, led eight Corsair fighter-bombers to target Japanese shipping in Honshu’s Onagawa Bay. Despite his plane being badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, he attacked a Japanese destroyer, sinking it with one 500-pound bomb. His plane subsequently plunged into the water. Lieutenant Gray, who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, is the last Canadian to die in World War II combat.



On the next day, August 10th, 1945, the Japanese Cabinet, led by Premier Suzuki; offered to surrender, providing that Emperor Hirohito can keep his throne. After negotiations, Allied terms were accepted on August 14th, 1945.

Victory over Japan Day (V.J. Day) was celebrated worldwide. The news reached North America on the evening of August 14th, 1945, and, as one observer reported,

“...immediately thousands of people spilled into the streets in jubilant celebrations. Toronto’s downtown streets were jammed with a sea of humanity. It was the same in every Canadian community.”

Further negotiations took place regarding the Allied occupation of Japan and other related issues. Allied troops arrived in Japan only after a cease-fire agreement was reached. One of their first tasks was to liberate prisoner-of-war (P.O.W.) camps. Many of the P.O.W.’s were Canadians attached to the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers, the first Canadian ground troops to engage in combat in World War II and the last to be liberated. They were P.O.W.’s for 3 years and 2 months.

The Canadians had been sent to Hong Kong in the fall of 1941 as reinforcements for the British Crown Colony’s garrison. British, Indian and Canadian troops fought courageously; however, they were outnumbered and out-gunned. On Christmas Day of 1941, Sir Mark Young, the British Governor of Hong Kong, surrendered to the Japanese forces, marking an end to a battle that had lasted more than seventeen days. Of the 1,975 Canadians de-

ployed to Hong Kong in 1941, 290 were killed, 493 were wounded, 1,685 were captured and 260 died in P.O.W. camps in Hong Kong and in Japan.

The formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay on the American battleship, Missouri; at 9:00am on September 2nd, 1945.

World War II was officially over, a war that had lasted on day beyond six years. General MacArthur spoke to the attendees:



Gray’s Peak, Kokanee Glacier Park, British Columbia

“Today, the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won...I speak for the thousands of silent lips, forever stilled among the jungles, and beaches, in the deep waters...”

Lieutenant Robert Hampton Gray was one of the 1.1 million Canadians who served in the military during World War II. He is also one of the more than 45,000 Canadians who died.

Lieutenant Gray and his brother, who was killed earlier in the war, are memorialized at Gray’s Peak, north of Nelson, British Columbia.

Lieutenant Gray is also memorialized at the Valiants Memorial in Ottawa.

Jack Berryman

Celebrate Canada Day at HVUC Wednesday July 1 10:30 am

Our carillon will ring to celebrate Canada’s birthday our.

Allan Jones will be playing Canadian favourites and some special guests may also appear. The music will also be live-streamed through our Facebook page at a later time for those who cannot join us in person.

Sit in your cars in the parking lot or bring your mask and lawn chair and physically-distance on the front lawn.

Bring your own coffee or brunch and celebrate Canada Day together on the church property.

Don't forget to wear red and white.



Canada Day 2019

Farewell Rev. Rick

Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas' ministry at Humber Valley United Church began in 2016 when he was hired in a part-time supply position to provide pastoral care. On November 26, 2017 he agreed to become our Supply Minister.

In his years with us he served alone as our minister before and after our Intentional Interim Ministry period and in team during the IIM. With Rev. Ian Manson, Rev. Rick was primarily responsible for the

operation of the church but he also participated in the drafting of our Strategic Plan and, while he only preached once a month, he was present at most of our worship services. He and Rev. Ian shared sermons, sacraments, and worship. His ministry with us is ending at the end of June 2020.

The next few pages are filled with tributes and personal reflections on Rev. Rick's ministry and with photographs that illustrate his life with us.

Coach Rick and Coach Ian

For over 15 months at HVUC, I had the privilege of sharing in team ministry with Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas, and it was a great experience (for me anyway!)

Throughout this time I consistently found Rick to be caring, creative, supportive and respectful. We complemented one another very well - he became both a valued colleague and good friend - and we had fun!

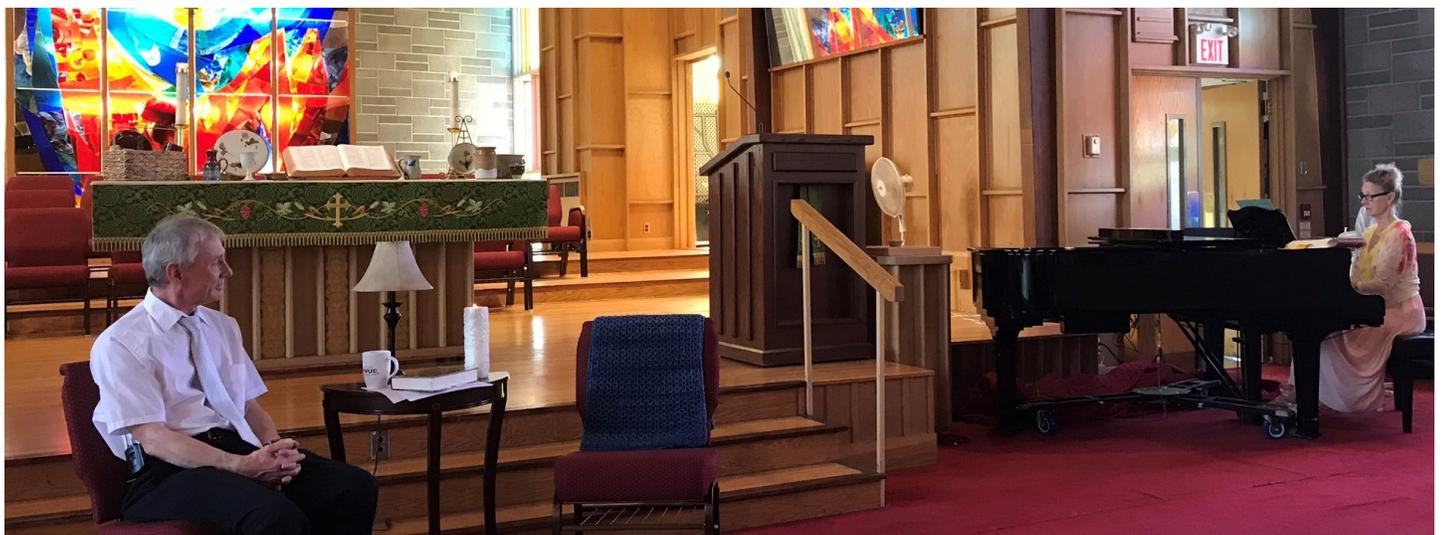
One vivid memory is the Sunday service soon after I arrived when "Coach Rick" welcomed "Coach Ian" into the HVUC "dressing room," and we illustrated the importance of teamwork and coordination by using a football (which he threw down the centre aisle of the sanctuary and I actually caught!).

On another occasion, Rick suggested that we offer a dialogue sermon from two comfy chairs set at the front of

the chancel rather than from the pulpit and lectern. Initially I was skeptical, but the suggestion proved to be brilliant, and this led to several subsequent rich and meaningful conversations of this type taking place.

Sharing ministry with Rick at Humber Valley was a true gift, and I wish him every blessing as he embarks upon the next chapter of his journey.

Ian Manson



Farewell Rev. Rick

I Will Miss You Rev. Rick

You were the answer to our prayers when you became our Supply Minister in December 2017. You came to us, as I see it, through divine intervention, to help us heal.

You took an active part in the "Penguin" play when you were just getting to know us.

You brought us your gifts of creativity and musical talent to our Sunday services. You embraced live-stream services.

You are a true Stephen Minister and active listener.

You have given your whole heart to our church even though you have had many difficult personal situations in the time you have been with us.

Wherever God's call is leading you next, I wish you peace, comfort and joy.

Deb Turnbull



Covenanting: Rev. Ian, Rev. Deanna Wilson and Rev. Rick.



Children's Time at during Advent



Rev. Rick and Rev. Ian in team Ministry

Working with Rev. Rick

I worked with Rick for two exciting years. He challenged me to improve my computer skills by selecting the pictures each week for the bulletin covers. Previously I was not doing this part of the job. He always appreciated all my work and made sure to let me know.

Anytime there was an issue he welcomed me into his office to discuss it and was always very helpful. I was lucky enough to listen to his music on his guitar when he was trying out pieces for the service.

Rick worked tirelessly every single day to bring his best to Humber Valley.

I am very sorry to see him leave. His compassion for others, his prayerfulness, as well as his thought provoking reflections will be greatly missed.

I wish, with all my heart, that he will find a new church where he can continue God's work.

Cheryl Drake

Farewell Rev. Rick

Maundy Thursday

I am fortunate to have had so many opportunities to be in Rick's presence, more than only at Sunday worship, and benefit from his wisdom.

I recall asking to meet with Rick just before Lent in 2019. I told Rick I had never been filled up spiritually by how we acknowledged Maundy Thursday at HV for the past many years. I told Rick that I believe we have not shared the vitally important messages of this night in our Christian faith in a way it should be honoured. Rick listened, understood, agreed.

Before I knew it, Rick was enthusiastically planning and arranging the elements we needed to make this learning of Maundy Thursday come alive for our congregation. My need as one congregant was fulfilled by Rick hearing and interpreting and creating a vision that became spiritual for so many of us.

This year, because of COVID, we could not all be together on Maundy Thursday. I was filled up by relistening to the Taizé service and by the memory of 2019. It was a blessing.

Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet

Taizé

Rev. Rick had many talents and also many good ideas for Humber Valley. One of the highlights for me was his Thursday evening Taizé services during Lent. This was a new and rewarding experience. Entering the quiet, dark sanctuary, sitting in a circle with friends in the chancel surrounded by candlelight, participating in song, prayer and meditation with Rev. Rick and his guitar and Jill on piano, was a very powerful and spiritual experience. The music was so very meaningful and one of my favourites was:

*O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me
O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me*

In this busy world, I tend not to take enough time for personal reflection to feel God's presence. This was a time in my life when I needed to do this. I got off the merry-go-round and took time to listen. This became my regular Thursday night ritual.

Thank you Rev. Rick for this very special, spiritual, meaningful time. I will miss you.

Ruth Johnson



Farewell Rev. Rick

Dear Rev. Rick,

The Cosburn Family will always be thankful to you when in our hour of need last year, you dropped everything to guide and support us during Rich's passing.

At one point you asked what my husband preferred to be called. I replied quite innocently, "Rich or Richard but never Rick." And my family all groaned. As I realized my faux pas, you smiled graciously and nodded reassuringly to me. I hastily quipped back by saying "Rick is good and even Ricky."

You too have known grief and suffering this past year. May you now see the light at the end of the tunnel. May this light shine on you and your family as you fulfil your new endeavours.

Sincerely,

Carole Cosburn and the Cosburn Family

From the 2019 Annual Report

Rev. Rick has continued to use innovative ways to deliver his sermons in our Sunday worship services. Whether traditional or contemporary they have been well received. Many of the services have involved our youth and young families and are closely connected with new programming being led by Rev. Rick and Licia Meldrum, our Faith Formation Coordinator – Youth and Young Families.

Deb Turnbull
Chair, Board

Sharing My Story

I had planned a two-month solo dream trip to Thailand and a number of Asian countries in the spring of 2018. Shockingly, half way through my trip I was severely burned by boiling water. As much as I wanted to stay and live out my adventure, the hospital in Chiang Mai was not equipped to deal with my level of burns and I had to come home.



Rick invited me to his office to talk one day about young people in the church. We talked about many things and he wanted to hear more about my time in Thailand. Once Rick heard that I considered this experience with my burns as an important life lesson and how my faith grew from it and how I relied on God and felt my deceased father carrying me all the way back home, Rick asked me to share my story and my faith in a Sunday service. Rick knew I felt uncomfortable about this and so he suggested that he sit with me and he would ask me casual questions to help me tell the parts of the story that Rick thought the congregation would benefit from hearing.

Rick is a great listener and he was so sympathetic and understood my extreme physical pain and my overwhelming disappointment about cutting the trip short. After the service, several people approached me with stories of their own about burns and ruined trips and I felt grateful to Rick that he encouraged me to share my story that day.

Pippa Van der Vliet



**Rev. Rick told terrific children's stories
and enabled people of all ages to express their faith through music.**

Farewell Rev. Rick

This Old Church—Minister and Friend

One of the minor decorations that not everyone has noticed is that most doors in our church have a name plate or signage beside them. But the door to Rev. Rick's office shows his availability which is clearly the information that a visitor needs to know. A mere office number is not as helpful.

Every occupant that I have known that has served us from the office has attempted to make the office their "own". We have had the neat and tidy and the desk and bookcases reflected order: - even rows of books, 3 gaps per shelf for mementos and neat stacks of papers on the edge of the desk, like little castles. Another used the narrow mantle over the fireplace to catch those items that one would need when leaving the office: -a pad of paper and pen, headset with mike, key for office but personal keys left resting for the last leaving of the day.

There are only 4 spots for the desk and each minister seemed to favor a different position - in front of the fireplace, in front of the window, on the bare wall and near the door. With each location the arrangement, style and number of chairs and couches filled the rest of the space.

For some, a musical instrument and stand filled a corner.

Rev. Rick brought something else to the office and that was a sense of functionality.

His office furniture was arranged to allow and stimulate God's work by drawing you in, inviting you to sit and converse freely.

The desk is by the door and on entering you are drawn right past it because the desk represents current work that probably is not why you came to see the minister.

The fireplace is a focus that can be seen from the seating area to which you are directed or even drawn. And the large window gives you a view, not of one, but many trees, numerous birds and chipmunks and the lure of our neighbour's garden.

The muted furnishings, ambiance and comfortable quietness rivets you with a sense that you are in good hands, being heard by a listening ear and a heart designed to hold all you need; a sense of God's love. This also is Rick Tamas, minister and friend.

Peter White



Baptism

I have really enjoyed working with Rick the past two years. He is creative, dynamic and had so many good ideas. He will always hold a special place in my heart for the Baptism of Maddie. I wish him all the best and know he will find a great new church home in the near future!

Claire Hatje

Farewell Rev. Rick

Walking with Others

I have so appreciated getting to know Rev. Rick. His compassion is boundless and his perceptive way of looking at things has enriched my life. His support for Stephen Ministry and his vision that everyone would benefit from taking the training so they can truly walk with others in a Christ-filled way has been deeply appreciated.

His support after my father died was astonishing, especially in light of the fact that he had so recently just lost his own Dad. Simply put I will miss him and my life will be less rich without his presence at Humber Valley.

Lynn Manning



Prayer Group

When I mentioned perhaps starting a prayer group at Humber Valley, Andrea and I met with Rick to have his thoughts on the idea. Rick was enthusiastic and positive from the beginning which was so encouraging to me. Previously, a number of years ago, when I had suggested the idea to our minister at the Anglican Church we then attended, he was rather surprised that we may have a need for a prayer group! However, when we advertised it in the weekly bulletin, we had a response from four people, which grew to 10 regular attendees and we met each Friday at our home for an hour to pray together. We experienced many answered prayers.

I hope that once this Covid problem is over, we may be able to reconvene the prayer group at Humber Valley but it was so affirming to have Rick's blessing.

Beryl Finlay

Reassuring Presence

My friend Heather woke up one morning to find she had no vision in one eye. She was admitted to the hospital for investigation, feeling very afraid. Waking up from a nap, she was amazed and greatly comforted to find Rev. Rick sitting beside her bed. She was calmed by his reassuring presence and very grateful for his care.

Judith Dallimore

Daily Bread Prayer Group

I have learned much from Rev. Rick at Our Daily Bread Zoom meetings. He always has a calming effect on me when he rings us in or when he comments on things. It was fun doing our prayers with him so that he could use them in the Church service. *Wendy Wiltshire*



Farewell Rev. Rick

Singing Bowl

In Stephen Ministry, we got into the beautiful rhythm of opening & closing our peer supervision groups with the deeply spiritual sound of a singing bowl. When Rick was in our meeting one day, he shared his own singing bowl with us. He had learned to obtain multi level soulful sounds coming from his bowl. Knowing how much this meant to us, he arranged for a woman he knows to come to HV and give us a lesson in the healing & meditative aspects of these bowls. She has collected many more than a few dozen bowls and "played" each one for us, teaching us what the different sounds heal within us. We were entranced and felt the effect from these bowls.

Rick was planning on a congregation-wide session on April 18th this year. Another casualty of COVID. Rick wanted all that wanted to take part to have the opportunity of benefiting from the bowls and to learn to meditate using them as he and the Stephen Ministers have learned. Another special gift Rick brought to us.

Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet



Stephen Ministers

Dedication and Enthusiasm

Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas has a remarkable ability to take an idea and make it into this wonderful thing that was better than you could have possibly imagined.

When I texted him that I had a Christmas story that I could read at the Christmas Eve service, Rick suggested making it into a play. A few days before the Christmas Eve service I was at the church with Rick trying to figure out the lighting for a presentation that had taken on a life of it's own.

The small amount of time I spent with him that evening gave me a glimpse into the dedication Rick puts into his craft.

His enthusiasm inspired me to explore my faith in my own voice. I looked forward to the texts I would receive from Rick asking me to participate in the church services because it gave me the space to think and interpret the themes of scripture in ways I never would have considered. Rick's support made my creative efforts possible and I am grateful that I was able work with him. I will miss him greatly.

Alanna Goodman



Farewell Rev. Rick

Humber Valley Office Staff

Rev. Rick's guidance, mentorship and infectious enthusiasm has left a lasting impression on the church staff. We appreciate his strong leadership ability which allowed us to feel pride and foster kindness in our team efforts.

We will be ever grateful to Rev. Rick for enriching our faith, deepening our dedication and enhancing our sense of self. May you find fulfillment and peace in your new endeavours.

Kelly, Jill, Anita, Janet, Anne, Claire, Licia, Michelle, Zoran, Dragan and George

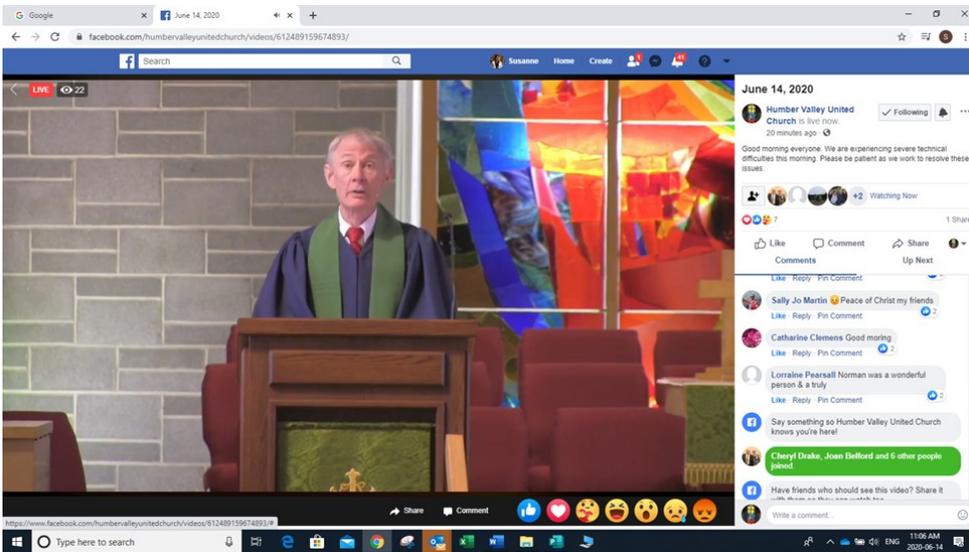
Listener

As Co-chair of Worship and Music I grew to appreciate Rev. Rick's ability to listen. He also had different ways of letting you know that he had heard you, in a sermon or a passing comment.

Both Peter and I, as members of the choir, enjoyed the Sunday musical services. There would be lots of music to learn but when that Sunday arrived it was always a lot of fun to be part of that Service. You always left on a high note.

Rev. Rick will be missed. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

Catharine Clemens



Virtual Worship Services led by Rev. Rick allow us to comment — and to watch the service whenever we are able and wherever we are.



Farewell Rev. Rick

Light in the Darkness

Dear Rick,

Your worship services were always full of surprises. We sat in the pews and waited for your innovations. I really appreciated that you lit a prayer candle before the Prayers of the People. The children loved your stories; you had them in the palm of your hands. All the props you used really worked. It was fun when you asked the congregation questions, so we could participate in the sermons.

I will never forget your campfire summer series. I was bringing Marion to church with me and we both loved how you had us facing the stage in Steed Hall. Marion always asked, "is Rick preaching today?" That campfire got lit and the old steeple cross had a place of honour behind it. The highlight was when you, Jill and Andy sang. Music is certainly in your DNA and as I was choosing photos for this edition I realized that your guitar was never far away.

I was impressed by your patience when the church was being used for a photo shoot. You came back from vacation to find the Narthex, halls, and even your office taken over by equipment, crew and actors.

At the first *Evening of Comfort and Joy* dinner that Pastoral Care sponsored, your message to the families who had lost loved ones brought tears to many eyes. You have a sensitivity that complements your faith so well.

I would like to thank you for your support for the Communications Committee. We met, and were welcomed, in your office. And with your guidance we came up with great ideas.

Since January you have been preaching about the light in the darkness. May that light shine for you and for us as we go our separate ways. We will miss you. God bless.

Susanne Hynes



Rick doing a "Rap".



At one of the last services in the sanctuary Rev. Rick was a cobbler and also blessed our prayer shawls.



Farewell Rev. Rick



Welcoming New Members



Confirmation Class



A Tribute to Rev. Rick

I have known Rev. Rick since 2016 and have benefited from his pastoral care experience working alongside Rev. Irene Ty during Rev. Mark Winger's second sabbatical leave. At that time I was chair of the Pastoral Care Team and was struck by Rick's genuine love of people and his willingness to provide help and advice not only to those members of the congregation in need but also to members of the Pastoral Care Team. His calming influence and commitment to his work were impressive assets even though he was only with us for one day a week.

Because of Rev. Rick's very strong pastoral care abilities, I was delighted to learn that he was to become our supply Minister following Rev. Mark's sudden departure. Rick's continuing work and interest in pastoral care and Stephen Ministry plus his calming presence became great assets for Humber Valley. Rick's pastoral care duties included leading services at three local seniors' residences (Humber Heights, Scarlett Heights and the Kingsway). One afternoon at Humber Heights we were told on arrival that our usual room in which we held the services was already in use for another event. This meant some quick attempts had to be made to find an alternative room to hold our service. After the second try to find a room with a piano we started the service, which included communion, about 10 minutes late but Rick was calm and collected and just quietly accepted the situation and proceeded quite unruffled.

Rick –Judith and I will greatly miss your presence and leadership at Humber Valley during a critical time in our history. You will leave a sizeable gap. While we understand your need to move on, we regret losing you and pray that the next chapter in your working life will be equally fulfilling for you.

David Dallimore

Farewell Rev. Rick

Father Fred/Pastor Penguin

Reverend Rick had only been with HVUC a couple of months when we began talking about converting Harvard Professor John Kotter's theory of Change Management into a musical play featuring penguins on an Iceberg in Antarctica. Other Ministers might have run for the exit, but not Rev. Rick. He immediately entered into the spirit of the enterprise and volunteered to take a part in the play, as long as it wasn't the part of the Head Penguin. Instead we cast Rev. Rick as Fred, the curious and thoughtful penguin who was the first to point out that the Iceberg on which the colony of penguins lived, was melting.



For weeks before the presentation, Rev. Rick put up with having his services disrupted by a very large and ungainly penguin. Despite his very busy schedule, Rev. Rick made time to participate fully in all the rehearsals for the production. He came up with his own props, and made lots of suggestions that were helpful with the staging of the play. Though we didn't know it before we asked him to be involved, Rev. Rick had trained in Theatre Arts at Ryerson University. What a lucky break for us! Furthermore, he could sing, and gathered huge applause for his solo, in which he made everyone in the audience truly believe that the situation of the penguins really was grave.

Rev. Rick was certainly one of the stars of "Our Iceberg is

Melting", but he won even more fans the next day. That Sunday morning, Rev. Rick appeared at the pulpit in his usual white shirt and black ministerial robe, but sporting his red penguin tie. He announced that we could call him either "Father Fred" or "Pastor Penguin". Then he gave an outstanding sermon on the nature of an iceberg; how only 1/7 of an iceberg shows above the water, and the dangerous bulk of it is invisible below the waves. He talked about how we need to look below the surface issues we see at the church, to find the real threats at the base.

Rev. Rick used his sermon not only to reinforce the hopeful theme of the Penguin play, but also to advise us that we needed to think very

deeply about what our problems were and how we were going to overcome them. Using simple language and straight-forward examples, he gave us a message we could understand and take to heart. It was Rev. Rick at his best.

Thank you, Rev. Rick, for being part of our play, for being part of our church, for being part of our hearts. We will miss you.

Our Iceberg is Melting: Changing and Succeeding under Any Conditions, by John Kotter and Holger Rathgeber,

Joan Belford

He Can Sing

I have a special memory of Rev. Rick as Fred in our production of "Our Iceberg is Melting". He had a solo and I remember thinking not only can this man preach, but he can sing too. This musical was a happy and uplifting time for all of us. It was just what our church needed.



*Kathy Kitchen
a.k.a. Penguin 2*

Dearest Rick & Family

Thank you for being our interim minister during our transitional time in the church.

I have very much enjoyed your sermons, your quiet personality, and the way you take time to talk with people after the service is over.

My best memory of you was your character of Fred the Penguin in "The Iceberg is Melting". You were absolutely sensational and it was my pleasure working with you as a fellow penguin.

May your future be bright and prosperous in whatever endeavours you take. You are a wonderful minister and you will be missed by all.

All my prayers, thoughts and best wishes are with you.

Jennifer Brown

Farewell Rev. Rick

To our wonderful Minister, Rev Rick,

I would like to thank you for all the work you have done and the work you are currently doing during the COVID-19 crisis. Many of us don't fully realize how much you do.

You have had a tireless response serving 7 days a week, during the COVID-19 crisis including continual pastoral care. You spend late nights and early mornings studying scripture, researching and preparing our exciting worship services. You spend hours listening to individuals and couples in our congregation without judgement and providing a safe space. You answer late night calls from people who are part of our church. Those calls often lead to middle of the night hospital visits, difficult conversations and helping people walk through challenging circumstances. You are often there at the end giving comfort. You help others face the unimaginable.



You are tender-hearted and compassionate in the face of grief and joy-filled as you share in our celebrations. You have become part of our extended family, even when that required you to sacrifice time with your own family. You have and continue to create lasting memories for our fam-

ilies during each holiday. Church is so central to our memory-making during the holidays. You make these beautiful memories possible. The Christmas pageant was amazing. You take time to lead the other staff members so they can shepherd and lead as well. You participate in an endless number of meetings and groups including God on the Go, Bible Study, Stephen Ministry, Our Daily Bread, Affirming Team, Worship & Music Committee, and the Elders team.

You sacrifice time and energy you could have poured into your own family. You juggle your own family responsibilities as you seek to meet the many, many needs of our church family. You have spent countless hours praying for us, for the church. You have spent nights awake, instead of sleeping, because you bear the weight of so many and so much. You carry stress on our behalf. You are endlessly patient with our Church. You have led our Church out of darkness, faithful, whole and strong.

You have shared your vision of an exciting future at HV and what worship could look like at HV. You have a remarkable connection with the young, old and in-between.

While I have tried to capture a list I know I am missing many more things you do for us. "Thank you" truly isn't enough. But here, we honor you for all you have done each day. We honor you for the years you have poured into ministry.

You are a difference maker and a life changer. You are a wonderful Minister and a trusted leader. For you, this day, we are so ever thankful.

Joanne Stenerson

Bill and I have found that Rev. Rick has been one of the best ministers & counselors we have ever encountered - a true listener with a great deal of empathy and insight.

He has always displayed an engaging demeanor regardless of topic or issue. This is a talented man who is an accomplished musician and is both approachable and positive.

Rev. Rick will truly be missed and we wish him the best of everything for the future.

Ina & Bill Anthony



Educational Study

Thursdays 11 am to 12:30 on Zoom June 18 to July 16

We will watch and discuss sermons/messages from other Christian communities and denominations, and will learn what is happening in the wider church.

Email Carla Sandrin csandrin@rogers.com to sign up for one or more sessions



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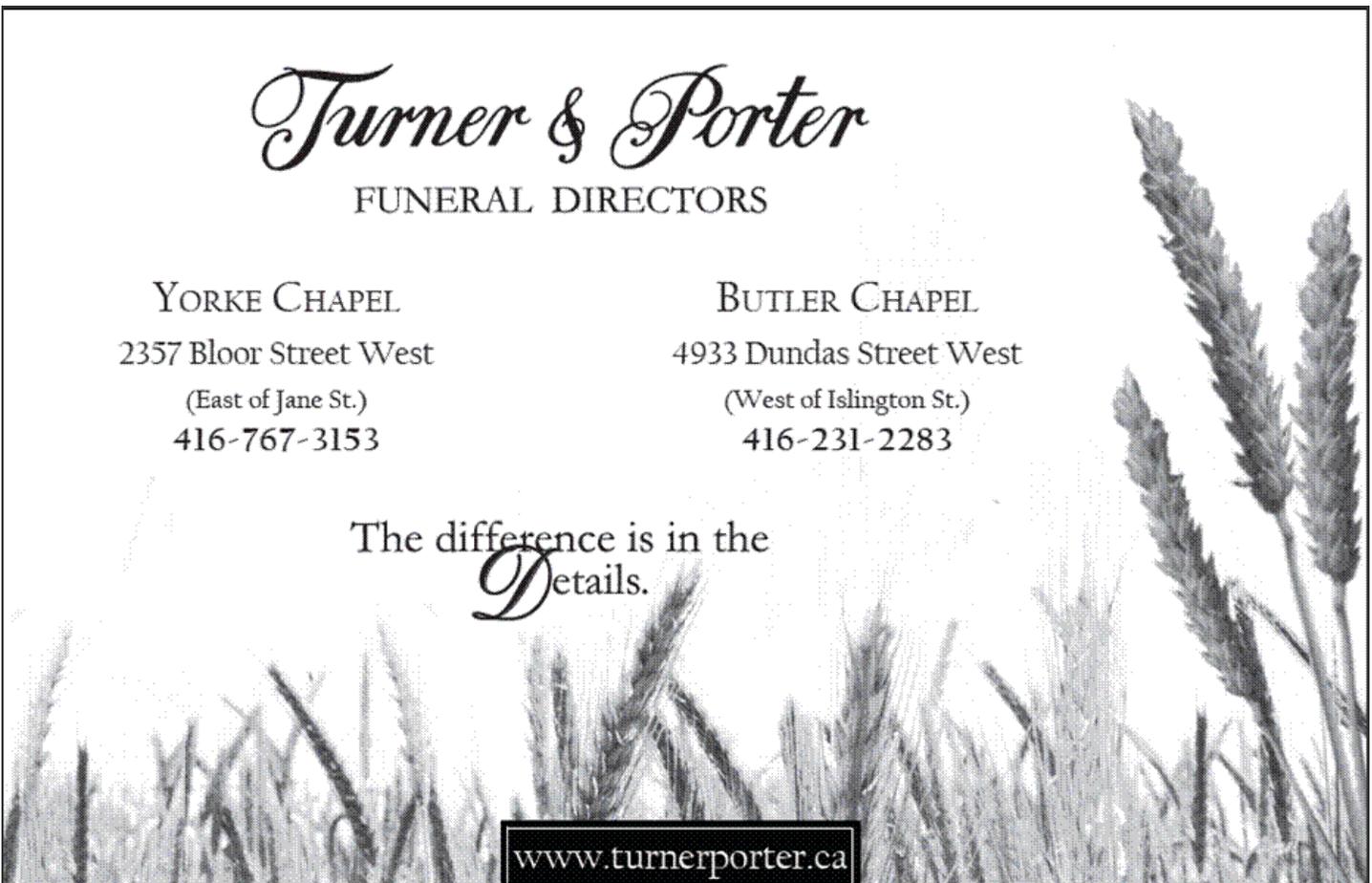
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Memoir Writing Mondays at 2:00 pm

Educational Study Thursdays at 11:00 am

Fitness Wednesdays at 3:00 pm

Yoga Fridays at 10:00 am

Our Daily Bread Prayer Group Monday—Friday 8:30 am

We will also be holding sessions on

Art Appreciation, Seniors Sharing Dance, and Crafternoons

Call Kelly Wells at 416 231-2263 for more information.

Our online magazine, *Keeping in Touch*, will continue for the summer



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Published by Humber Valley United Church

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