



Connections

Humber Valley United
the friendly community church



December 2018

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Reverend's Reflection Treasured Traditions and Great Expectations

— Advent 2018

A lot can happen in a year! While some memories of the past may inspire and energize us, other memories may be sad or painful to recall.

Coal in a stocking or an orange in the toe, skating on an open pond, whizzing down a hill of fresh white snow; hot chocolate topped with marshmallows and the scent of pine as the tree settles in the living room before it is time to decorate. Warm flannel PJ's heated over the vent, the delicious anticipated cool minty flavour of a candy cane. Bing Crosby sings "White Christmas" as we wait for family to finally gather around the tree.

The promise of happiness, excitement and "good things to come" surrounds these Christmas moments.

The birth of the Christ Child also invites these promises of happiness, excitement and good things to come!

As we begin our journey through Advent, we remember our treasured traditions and great expectations in a wonderful way.

We remember the Angel of the Lord appearing to Joseph:

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:20)



We remember Mary's song of praise:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

(Luke 1:46-55)

And we remember a choir of Angels appearing to the shepherds in the fields:

"Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

(Luke 2:10)

Great expectations!

While the experience of our Christmas tradition holds fond and treasured memories of family and loved ones — waiting for the mailman to deliver a fist full of greeting cards from those far away - these traditions have taught us how to wait, what to expect, who will be there, when to be ready and why it means so much!

In such a deep and meaningful way, the promise of Christmas provides us with the ability to anticipate the birth of Jesus with the care and awareness of those around us — we hold and nurture each day as a gift, as a reminder that as an Easter people, we first need to recognize and celebrate the birth of the Christ-child.

Peace be with you this Advent season!

Rev. Rick

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Tree Lighting and Caroling, Sunday Dec. 9 beginning at 7 pm. Wimbledon entrance. Hot chocolate and goodies.

Congregational Meeting regarding new governance structure, Dec. 9 immediately following worship.

A Child's Christmas in Wales, reading and concert Dec. 15 at 3 pm

Christmas Eve: Family service at 5:30 Candlelight and communion at 10:00 pm

Elder _____ Phone _____



This Advent/Christmas edition of Connections is filled with information about transitioning to a new ministry at Humber Valley United. We are on a journey with great ministerial and lay leadership. Where will we be in December 2019?

There are new people in our pews on Sundays, attendance has been ticking up in recent weeks, our leadership is hard at work, and we are as busy as we can be with events and with supporting each other. Our music program, under the leadership of Jill Filion and with all kinds of inspiration from Rev. Rick, is blossoming. It is a very good time to be at Humber Valley.

Christmas is a Journey

Someone who dropped in today said to me, where is your Christmas tree, where are your decorations? "Oh my, it is only November 26," I thought. "Come back in a week and see where we are then."

I love easing into the Christmas season. It starts in July and August when I visit vacation craft shows and boutiques to shop for Christmas gifts for my friends and family. In November the weather changes, the Santa Claus Parade winds through Toronto streets, and decorations go up in stores. People aren't window shopping any more, they are carrying bags of goodies. Anticipation grows.

At home my decorations go up slowly – and start on the first Sunday of Advent. We have always had an Advent wreath and light another candle each Sunday as we wait for the birth of the Christ Child. Precious old nick-nacks come out, a wreath goes on the door, poinsettias appear, and my garden urns get winter greenery. Christmas cards appear in the mail. The tree goes up on the third Sunday. Gifts go under the tree as they are wrapped in the last few days. This is a journey that creates the glow of Christmas in my home. You each have your own traditions.

Jennifer Brown shared some of her Christmas traditions:

"We always went to Advent services, bought a Christmas tree and my parents and I would always trim it – that was very exciting!! On Christmas Eve, we always went to the Christmas Eve services at HVUC and thoroughly enjoyed it--especially for me when we were in a circle at the finale to sing Silent Night with lit candles. We woke up Christmas morning to open presents, then had breakfast and relaxed throughout the day while Mom was preparing the turkey and all the trimmings. I also helped when I became older. When my parents moved to Bermuda, I continued – every other year, my parents would come

home for the holidays and then I would fly down for two Christmases and everything we normally did continued. That was our tradition as a family, and my parents and I continued that after my brothers moved out. My parents still continued our Christmas traditions when they moved into the condo at Kingsway-at-the-Park until Dad died. Mom and I tried to continue but it was too difficult for her. I continued to put up decorations even when she was at Runnymede Healthcare Centre until Mom died.

I have tried to continue the tradition by putting up decorations, listening to Christmas music on the radio, and continued with the Christmas Eve communion service. This will be my second Christmas without my Mother so it will be more difficult as I will be alone but thankfully now with my pet cat, Joyce. It will be very lonely this year. I very much hope that we are continuing with the Christmas Eve Communion service and singing "Silent Night" with lit candles. It is so meaningful to me as we end Advent and await the arrival of Jesus' birth through Mary through God. I pray and hope that the world can be in peace very soon. God and Jesus would not approve of all the turmoil going on in the world today and in our city".

So many of us have journeyed from completely carefree and joyous Christmas to a much more nuanced time as we think of the people we have lost.

So much of preparing for Christmas is about brightening the darkest time of the year. For us in 2018, it is also a darkening time in the world as we worry about politics, wars, the economy, leadership and so many displaced people. So where is the light and where is the hope?

The light and hope are in the promise of a child coming into a dark world filled with worry and uncertainty. Think of the times Mary and Joseph found themselves in as they journeyed to Bethlehem. What could they do but hope, and glow with anticipation despite the hard times?



The promise of a child to start it all over again bringing

Good news for the world.

A new way for us to be together in community.

A new way for people to understand their God.

I love to hear from you. Please send me your comments and suggestions. Susanne@hyneslegal.ca

Susanne Hynes

Worship in Seniors' Residences

Did you know that our Pastoral Care Team regularly visits three local seniors' residences?

For the past several years, members of the Humber Valley United Church Pastoral Care Team have been visiting three local seniors' residences regularly to hold afternoon church services. From the feedback we receive, it is clear that the residents appreciate the time we spend with them not only in providing a short service but also handing round some goodies and refreshment afterwards, provided by members of the Pastoral Care Team, as well as having an enjoyable time of fellowship with them.

The three residences we serve are Humber Heights, the Kingsway and Scarlett Heights. In each of the residences there are some permanent Humber Valley members so these services provide a way for them to retain another connection with their church. We also encourage other residents to come to our services whatever their church background and frequently welcome members of other United Churches, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians and even a member of the Greek Orthodox church. All are welcome.

Traditionally we have held services at each residence five times a year with a break during July and August. Many of the residences asked if we could continue to come dur-

ing the summer since they found it a long time to go without a service. And so for the first time this year, we introduced a sixth service during the summer. This was well received and we will provide a summer service at each residence in 2019.

One of our ministers normally leads the residence services and over the past year, Rev. Rick has taken on this responsibility. In addition, Rev. Ian has led a service as well as Joanne Stenerson and Judith Dallimore in the absence of a minister. I would like to thank them for their leadership in this important area. We are fortunate that Paul Chant, before he departed from Humber Valley, and Jill Filion have been able to provide musical accompaniment to the ever popular hymn singing which the residents enjoy.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team are Bill Cahoon, Shelagh Chapman, Barbara Clarke, Susanne Hynes, Kathy Kitchen, Rose MacLean, Lynn Manning, Sally Roper, Wanda Sekunda and Joanne Stenerson. I would like to thank them for their continuing support for this important outreach to the local seniors' community.

David Dallimore,
Chair Pastoral Care Team.



Encountering the Child Within on Remembrance Day Sunday





Advent at Humber Valley UC has been synonymous with **Water for Life**.

Seed money from the Capital Fund was increased by generous donations from members of the congregation. Over the past number of years more than 25 HVUC wells have been dug in Africa in partnership with GAIN (Global Aid International Network). Videos show the joy of villagers pumping water locally instead of having to walk great distances to collect water that in most cases was not at all clean. Girls are able to attend school rather than being the main source of water for their families.



For Advent 2018 the Outreach and Action Committee has researched potential groups working with Indigenous groups in Canada. We have chosen **Water First** for their commitment to ensuring clean water for First Nations communities in Ontario through education, training and collaboration.

Water First works to train and certify Indigenous young people as stewards of their communities' drinking water. The first class of interns trained to monitor water treatment plants graduated in June 2018. Watershed restoration, fish habitat restoration and youth education for both native and non-Indigenous school children are important programs as well.



The Outreach Committee hopes that the congregation will support Water for Life again during Advent 2018 as we aim to share the value of clean water programs in both Africa and Ontario.

Your donations will be shared with both GAIN and Water First.

Movember Socks

On November 4 my grandchildren, Abby and William, sold Babsocks for Movember. A total of 26 pairs of socks were sold of which \$5.00 per sock goes towards Movember Foundation which raises funds to support prostate cancer research. Private donations were also accepted to a grand total of \$230.00. My grandson plays on the Westmall Lightning Novice Select team that will receive \$130.00 to be put towards hockey activities. The rest of the cost went towards purchasing and packaging of the socks. A big thank you to all who purchased this item for such a worthy cause.

Anyone who has not picked up their socks can do so at the church office.

Bless you all,

Gayle Taylor



Claire's Baby Shower

On Sunday, November 18, the Hearth Room was filled with ladies of the church helping to celebrate Claire's expected baby girl. The room was beautifully decorated, there was lots of food donated by attendees, two beautiful cakes, and LOTS of wonderful gifts for the baby.

Andrea spoke from her heart and from our hearts when she said:

Claire, from the moment we learned you were pregnant, everyone seemed to have the same idea - we must plan a celebratory shower! This day is finally here!

The St. Luke's family have known you since you were born into their congregation in 1982. Cheryl says she started bringing you when you were 6 weeks old. She would drop you off in the nursery and you would cry, ensuring mother guilt had set in, and then settle by the time mom was up in the sanctuary. Then you moved to HV with most of your congregation in 2010 and we have known you for 8 years now.

With all these years of knowing you and observing you, we know you are going to be the most awesome, amazing mother! How do we know?? Well, you started to volunteer as the Sunday school leader as soon as you were able to at St Lukes as you loved being with children. Then you chose a career as a teacher so you could help children rise to their full potential, then you took on Girl Guide leadership in your spare time, again to help girls recognize their strengths and talents, and then you took on the role of Sunday school leader here at Humber Valley. In other words, your whole life has been about working with, and nurturing children, and everything you have accomplished has brought you to this moment. Your destiny is to be a mother!

We know that Cheryl is your daughter's official grandmother, but you know that your daughter will have about 100 unofficial grandmothers and aunts and Godparents, and lots of older siblings!

Claire, we love you so much and we already love your baby girl! We wish you and your daughter every blessing from God and we can't wait to meet her and watch her grow up in our church family, just as you did.



Ladies' Night Out (with Men in Black)

The men in the community – except for those who donned their finest and came out to volunteer – missed a great party on October 24th!

'Ladies' Night Out 2018' was a resounding success. Ticket seller, Andrea sold and resold tickets and squeezed space everywhere to accommodate the over-sold crowd of women who came out to enjoy a glass of wine, and grab bargains at the bake sale, vendors tables, and sale of 'pre-loved' purses, wallets and belts. A large, surprise, last moment donation of paintings by Etobicoke artist Thelma Rock Tipping created a buzz in the impressive silent auction.

Over a light supper, inspirational speaker, Tricia Hasenclever entertained with her inspiring and amusing tales about dealing with stress (she doesn't recommend taking up horse-back riding!).

All in all, a total of \$10,500 was raised for UCW charitable and outreach projects. Thanks to everyone who participated under Diane Locke's leadership. It was good fun for a good cause.

The following businesses generously sponsored the evening. You are encouraged to support them whenever possible.

Beaulieu Vision Care, Chartwell Scarlett Heights, Daytech, Dineen Construction, Thornbrook Home Care, Turner & Porter, Royal York Dental, Westmount Gallery, Assante Wealth Management, Casual Affairs Clothing, Farquhar Advantage Real Estate, Ken Shaw Lexus, Network I T Solutions, A Changing Nest, Jennifer Hair Design, Montgomery Cleaners, Pardu Interior Design, The Happy Bakers, The Singing Lady, Tartistry.

A SNAP photographer attended. Check out his photos at

www.etobicoke.snapd.com

Event: Ladies Night Out

Carolyn Whiteside



Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of *Connections*.

The bells you see here and there in this edition are ringing out the good news of Christmas and remind us of the bells that rang out across Canada to end the first World War, and again on November 11, 2018, 100 years later.

Jazz, Gospel, Praise, Bells, and Angel Voices

The Sweetest Sounds

I'm pleased to announce that we have a lovely trio of Angel Voices: Morgane, Madeline and Alexis. They will be ushering the Advent Season on December 2nd with their sweet voices.

Both the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Ensemble are busy preparing Christmas repertoire. We can also look forward to the upcoming Gospel Service, hang on to your hats! It has been wonderful to host an array of talented guest musicians during the past 3 months and I even got to play in a band!

Thanks to Deborah Turnbull, I will be able to take organ lessons starting in December, John Derksen has agreed to be my mentor. I am very grateful, excited and slightly terrified...there's a lot more than just 88 black and white keys staring back at you.

Let us all continue to raise our voices, raise the roof and lift the spirit.

Jill Diane Filion

Director of Music

This fall we have been introducing different types of music into our worship services. Linnea Good led our anniversary service and featured her own down-home style of music. A very well received jazz service was led by Rev. Tom Reynolds on jazz keyboard and in the pulpit. Together with George Koller, a well-known bass player who thrilled us with his solo, they riffed on a familiar hymn. We've enjoyed Praise music led by and accompanied by Zoran and Rev. Rick's brother Andy. We've welcomed Lydia Pedersen, organist; John Derksen, organist and his wife Kristen, flautist; and Brendan Cassin, trumpeter. Our soloists and choir have worked with Jill to bring us wonderful anthems and postludes.

Thank you Rev. Rick who has been inspired to open our hearts to more music styles; and to Jill who has worked very hard with the musicians, the choir, the soloists, and the ministerial staff.

Susanne Hynes



We Will Remember Them

The hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I, the war to end all wars, (which didn't end all wars), was celebrated across Canada and with special observances at Humber Valley United.

Humber Valley's worship service on Sunday, November 11 was devoted to remembrance and reflections on war and peace. We were honoured to have a reading by Howard Langstaff, a veteran airman of the second world war.



The *Last Post*, the two minutes of silence, *O Canada* sung so proudly, the reflection by Rev. Ian and the prayer by Rev. Rick — together with the beautiful music — left few dry eyes in the congregation.

The following Tuesday, at the UCW Unit 7 meeting, Jack Berryman spoke about the meaning of several Remembrance Day observances. In particular the custom

of leaving poppies at the base of the War Memorial in Ottawa. Sally Jo Martin spoke about her September visit to the war graves in Europe. Linnea Moffat Johansson, accompanied by her friend Amy, sang *Fare Thee Well*, a remembrance song she had sung at her school's Remembrance Assembly. At the end of the meeting we all placed our poppies at the foot of Humber Valley's cross in the Hearth Room. You can still see them there.



Bells for Remembrance and for Peace

Bells certainly rang at Humber Valley both inside the Sanctuary and outside in the neighbourhood on Remembrance Day, Sunday, November 11.

I had the privilege of playing our carillon that morning before the service and planned a program that would honour the memory of those who served in the major



Let There be Peace

conflicts of the past century. In addition to wonderful musical suggestions from fellow carillonneur Allan Jones, I researched the program that would be played in Ottawa for the Remembrance Day Service on Parliament Hill and in the days prior, and was able to include several pieces on Sunday morning. Selections included hymns "O God, Our Help in Ages Past", "Abide With Me", "Amazing Grace", "Eternal Father, Strong to Save", "O Valiant Heart", "Once to Every Man and Nation", "I Vow to Thee My Country", and more popular songs "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary", "Roses of Picardy" and the "Theme from Schindler's List".

During Sunday's service, our Handbell Ensemble played "Let There Be Peace" and "I'll Be Seeing You" which the congregation found very moving. These bells are real, concrete objects and we could see the actual ringing in careful sequences.

Our carillon provides the sound of bells from speakers in the sanctuary and bell tower created by playing a small two-octave electric keyboard (with very distinctive "touch").

In addition to its usual welcoming before the service, the carillon played a special role this year, the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. The Royal Canadian Legion and the Government of Canada were partners in this year's initiative to have many organizations in communities across Canada "Remember Them". Bells were to toll 100 times at 5 second intervals beginning at sunset, (4:56 p.m. in Toronto) and HVUC joined in this commemoration. I contacted the Dominion Carillonneur at the Peace Tower in Ottawa to ask what note on our little electric carillon would be best. Dr. Andrea McCrady kindly replied that the lowest note on our instrument would be appropriate (G below middle C). She also forwarded our participation to be included in the official tally.

At 4:45 p.m. late Sunday afternoon, Sally Jo Martin and her great niece Talia joined me to ring "The Bells of Peace". They created a tally sheet to keep track of the number of keystrokes and I used my loudly ticking alarm clock to regulate the 5 second intervals. It was an extremely solemn and moving 9 minutes for the 3 of us, and I heard from people listening in the sanctuary, parking lot and neighbourhood that they felt the same. Humber

Valley United Church proudly helped to "Remember Them" with bells.

Catherine Ireland

One Hundred Years Ago on November 11, 1918

World War I, or The Great War as it is also called, officially ended on November 11, 1918 at 11:00 a.m. Of all the wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations in which Canada has participated, The Great War is, by far, the costliest in terms of lives lost. 66,573 Canadian military personnel, plus 175 merchant seamen, made the supreme sacrifice. As well, 172,950 were wounded.

The Canadian Corps, which, by April of 1917 at The Battle of Vimy Ridge, consisted of four divisions, fought brilliantly. King Albert of Belgium described the Canadians as "...unsurpassed by any Corps in Europe".

Most historians are of the opinion that The Canadian Corps, commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, performed at its best during the period of August 8 to November 11, 1918, known as The Hundred Days Campaign. According to British historian, Nick Lloyd, "The Canadian Corps would reach its peak operational effectiveness in the late summer and autumn of 1918 when it spearheaded The British Expeditionary Force's Hundred Days Campaign, and took a starring role in an unbroken series of victories that brought the German army to the verge of total defeat". The price of The Hundred Days Campaign was high; 45,835 Canadians killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

The Hundred Days Campaign featured modern warfare, unlike the trench warfare which had prevailed for much of the war. Known as "combined arms warfare", tanks, airplanes, machine guns, the engineers, and artillery supported the infantry in a well-planned, disciplined and coordinated fashion. Using such tactics as deception and night attacks to surprise the enemy, the Germans were dislodged from their trenches and forced to engage in open warfare. They suffered defeat in such key battles as Amiens, Arras, Cambrai, Canal du Nord, and Valenciennes. In short, "combined arms warfare" broke the stalemate of

In 1918, church bells rang out joyfully in many countries to signify the end of the war throughout cities and in the countryside.

One Hundred Years Ago

the trenches.

By September of 1918, it was clear to the demoralized German Supreme Command that Germany must surrender. Kaiser Wilhelm II was informed accordingly. Germany's key allies surrendered, the Ottoman Empire on October 30, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire on November 3.

On November 8, a German six-man negotiating team, headed by Matthias Erzberger, a politician, met with the Allies' negotiating team, led by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the Allied Supreme Commander. The historic meeting took place in Marshal Foch's private railway car in the Forêt of Compiègne near Rethondes, France. Mr. Erzberger asked for an armistice, and, then, General Maxime Weygand, Marshal Foch's Chief of Staff, outlined the terms already agreed to by the Allied powers. Mr. Erzberger requested an immediate ceasefire, as he was required to report the results of the meeting to the German government. This, he felt, might be a somewhat lengthy process, and, furthermore, it would save many lives. Marshal Foch rejected the suggestion of a ceasefire and set the deadline for Germany's response as 11:00 a.m. on the 11th of November. Thus was born "the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month".

On November 9, Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated amidst riots, demonstrations and unrest within Germany.

In the meantime, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie had ordered The Canadian Corps to continue its advance from France into Belgium. By November 9, some of the Canadian units had almost reached Mons, a city that had been under German occupation since the beginning of the war. It was at Mons on August 21-23, 1914, that the British Expeditionary Force first encountered the German army.



On November 11, at 2:05 a.m., in Marshal Foch's private railway car, Mr. Erzberger advised that Germany was in general agreement with the terms of the armistice document. At 5:10 a.m., the document containing 34 terms was signed. Germany's Chief of General Staff, Paul von Hindenburg, had stipulated to the negotiating team that the armistice document must be signed regardless of the terms.

One of the terms was that the war would officially end at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, the reasoning being that both sides needed time to notify their troops. There remained, therefore, a hostile period of nearly six hours despite the agreement to cease fighting. Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie was having a bath at his headquarters in Valenciennes when, at 6:30 a.m., on November 11, he received the message about the end of the war. Word of the ceasefire was immediately sent out to all units.

Late on November 10 and early on November 11, the 42nd Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) and the Royal Canadian Regiment reached the outskirts of Mons. In response, German forces began withdrawing, rather than engaging the Canadians fully. After more than four years of German occupation, the Belgian city was about to be liberated by The Canadian Corps. At 7:00 a.m., the 42nd Battalion's pipe band paraded through the streets of Mons, awakening the jubilant citizenry. The Battalion's official diary describes the occasion:

"Men and women vied with one another in expressing their hospitality – hot coffee, cognac, and wines were distributed with the utmost generosity. Soldiers were everywhere, embraced and kissed. In a few moments, the whole city was bedecked with flags, flying from every window."

Meanwhile, the 28th Battalion, Saskatchewan Northwest Regiment, known as The Nor'westers, was seven miles East of Mons, near Ville-sur-Haine. Private George Lawrence Price, a 24-year old farm labourer from near Moose Jaw, had only been in the Battalion since early 1918. At 10:58 a.m., just two minutes before the official

The Response

end of the war, he was shot. Private Price, who was the last Canadian soldier and the last British Empire soldier killed in the war, is buried in St. Symphorien Military Cemetery outside Mons. A short distance from his grave is John Parr's, the first British Empire fatality of the war who died on August 21, 1914.

In the six hours between the signing of the armistice document and the official end of the war, there were almost 11,000 casualties on both sides, including 863 British Empire soldiers, and 3,000 Americans. Even after 11:00 a.m., fighting continued in some sectors. In his journal, Colonel Thomas Gowenlock of the United States First Division wrote:

"At last, eleven o'clock came – but the firing continued. The men on both sides had decided to give each other all they had – their farewell to arms. It was a very natural impulse after the years of war, but unfortunately many fell after eleven o'clock that day."

On the morning of November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. in The Grande Place of Mons, a Canadian bugler from the 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment) played the Cease Fire. The Mayor then presented to Brigadier-General J.A. Clark of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade the keys of the city. In the afternoon of November 11, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie entered The Grande Place of Mons on horseback. 60,000 citizens cheered and sang Belgium's national anthem. Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie presented the mayor with a Union Jack. An impressive march-past, led by the 42nd Battalion's pipe band, before a saluting Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, brought to an end one of the most historic days in Canadian history.

Canadians assembled on November 11, 2018 at cenotaphs and war memorials in communities large and small to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of The Great War, and to show their respect and gratitude to a remarkable generation of Canadians. Thousands were in Ottawa at The National War Memorial. Known as "The Response", the memorial was unveiled on May 21, 1939 by King George VI, our Queen's father, before a crowd of 100,000. His Majesty's remarks are as relevant today as they were in 1939:

"As your King, I unveil today in your capital city the noble Memorial to Canada's courage and sacrifice in The Great War. The memorial speaks to the

world of Canada's heart. The symbolism has been beautifully adapted to this great end. It has been well-named The Response. It has a message for all generations and all countries, the message which called forth Canada's response. It is not by chance that the crowning figures Peace and Freedom appear side by side. Peace and Freedom cannot long be separated. It is well that we have in one of the world's capitals a visible reminder of so great a truth, for without freedom there can be no enduring peace, and without peace, no enduring freedom."

Jack Berryman

November, 2018

The Parable of the Old Man and the Young

Wilfred Owen, 1893—1918

So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,
And took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
and builded parapets and trenches there,
And stretchèd forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
Saying, lay not thy hand upon the lad,
Neither do anything to him. Behold,
A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns;
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.

But the old man would not so, but slew
his son,
And half the seed of Europe, one by
one.

One of the most admired poets of World War I, Wilfred Edward Salter Owen is best known for his poems "Anthem for Doomed Youth" and "Dulce et Decorum Est." He was killed in France on November 4, 1918.



My Time Has Come

There were times when walking along the street I would see some old guy sitting on a bench, and would ask myself what they were doing there on that bench.

Now, I'm that OLD GUY.

That bench is where one sits for a time; if you sit long enough, someone will join you. Often you will hear, without prompting or questioning, personal stories of loss and discovery, pain and pleasure, hope and despair.

You make your way home with your cane functioning as a third leg, knowing why you have two ears and one mouth. There is that sense fulfillment in being able to listen. We say a prayer of thanks for being a human being ... I Can Hear!

There is JOY. Pierre Tielhard de Chardin wrote: "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

Rev. Dr. Frank Gabourel

Daytimers

If you missed out on the fitness tips, the adventures in the Yukon and Frank Kershaw's tour of the gardens of the Caribbean, I am sure you won't want to miss the Daytimers Christmas event.

It is on Monday December 18th starting sharp at 11.45. We will gather in the sanctuary where Rev Ian will lead us in a short communion service. A festive lunch will follow, for a cost of \$8, then a visit from Santa Claus will precede some musical entertainment, led by Guitar George. If you have never tried Daytimers before, this is a relaxed, fun event at which to plunge in.

Great programs are planned for the New Year, always on the last Monday of the month. The amazing Daytimers team of planners, cooks, servers, and drivers will make sure you have a fabulous time. Hope to see you there.

Judith Dallimore



Shine on Sweet Chariot

I am thrilled to announce that my November 3rd "Shine On Sweet Chariot" concert held at Humber Valley United Church raised \$7677.00 for HVUC and \$5405.00 for Cystic Fibrosis.

I am elated! Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who donated silent auction items, helped me throughout the whole process including the hours of set-up and clean-up, and the over 300 who attended the event. Deb, Cheryl, Connie, Gail, Nancy, Judy, Murray, Zoran, George, and Carla, I could not have done the event without your help. It was a huge success and I am sincerely grateful.



Sincerely,

Valerie Wood

Two Christmas Poems

The Joy of Giving

by John Greenleaf Whittier

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The Joy that you give to others
Is the Joy that comes back to you;
And the more you spend in Blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.

These two poems were submitted by Bill Cahoon.



Above:

The Bryden family, Licia, Lexie, and Scott, with Rev. Rick and Rev. Ian at the blessing of baby Lucy Sarah-Jean.

Right above:

Sue, Kathy, Susanne and Bernie with Gayle Taylor at Princess Margaret Hospital after Gayle's last treatment.

Right below:

Deb Turnbull is presented with the annual Toronto Branch Award, Queen's University Alumni Association, Toronto Branch. At a spring 2019 convocation Deb will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science.

Christmas

by M. E. Miro

Christmas is more than a day in December
It's all of those things that we love to remember
It's carolers singing familiar refrains
Bright coloured stockings and shiny toy trains
Streamers of tinsel and glass satin balls
Laughter that rings through the house and its halls
Christmas is more than a day in December
Its the magic and the love
That we'll always remember.





Governance = Decision Making

We had a busy last few months as a congregation deciding what governance structure would best serve Humber Valley. While we were obliged by the Conference decision of November 2017 to reflect on and change our governance structure, this obligation was something of a blessing as it was the catalyst that enabled us to do what really needed to be done and what we otherwise might not have gathered the focus or energy to do.

About ten years ago the leaders of the congregation did some serious thinking and changed the governance structure from the structure that had been used since the inception. This was a big move forward, and that structure which we call the Leadership Council model served HVUC well for the last ten years. Our conditions have changed since then and with fewer available volunteer hours, like the broader church, we are now looking to streamline the way we operate.

The Transition Team gave a lot of thought to a new structure, and once there was consensus, a proposal was put forward first to Leadership Council who provided their support, and then to the Elders for their consideration, and then with the support of both the Leadership Council and the Elders, the proposal was shared with the congregation in September. Changes to the proposal were made along the way to reflect very helpful and positive input by all groups. The Leadership Council approved a new structure in October. This was then submitted to Presbytery for their approval, which was granted in mid-November. The proposal will be put to the congregation on **December 9th, 2018** immediately following worship. Yahoo! We are almost there. Hope you can come. We call this proposal the simplified Board Model.

What Changes?

New Board Structure

- ⇒ Leadership council numbers reduced from 19 to 10 directors, to be composed of:
 - 2 officers – Chair and Secretary
 - 4 Members-at-large who would focus on board-directed initiatives
 - 4 Ministry Chairs:
 - Chair of M & P
 - Chair of Worship

Chair of Stewardship

Chair of Congregational and Community Life

- ⇒ Terms of office are staggered, so 5 directors are elected each year
- ⇒ Presbytery Reps (Regional Reps after January 1, 2019) are elected by the congregation at the AGM, but are not members of the Board but may be invited to board meetings.
- ⇒ Regular congregational meetings would be held 2-3 times per year, in addition to AGM
- ⇒ The Board would name new committees or ministry teams in accordance with new or emerging congregational priorities, and designate one or more of the Members-at-Large to spearhead/support these initiatives,

Recommended Board Practices

- ⇒ Limited term for Director and Chairs
 - ◆ Upon adoption of the new model, 5 directors would be elected for a 3-year term, and 5 for a 2-year term. After this initial period, everyone would be elected for a 2-year term and will be eligible one 2-year renewal term (2 + 2)
 - ◆ Past Board Chair be encouraged to seek a third 2-year term to help mentor successor (2 + 2 + 2)
- ⇒ Diversity
 - ◆ Priority would be given to nominating members from different backgrounds and age groups (including millennials) with desired skillsets.
- ⇒ Succession Planning
 - ◆ All chairs would identify and mentor their successors
- ⇒ Regularly scheduled meetings
 - ◆ All teams would have the opportunity to meet with the Board on an annual basis, and when needed
- ⇒ Regular Communication
 - ◆ The Board would regularly share information about ongoing activities via the bulletin, e-blasts, and the website, and hold 2-3 congregational meetings every year in addition to the AGM

Visioning

⇒ Decision making

- ◆ The Board would annually approve all programs and budgets for all Ministry teams
- ◆ Teams would make decisions within pre-determined budget and mandate
- ◆ New initiatives and extensions requiring further resources (money, volunteer time, and other) would go to the Board for approval.

Visioning HVUC Tomorrow

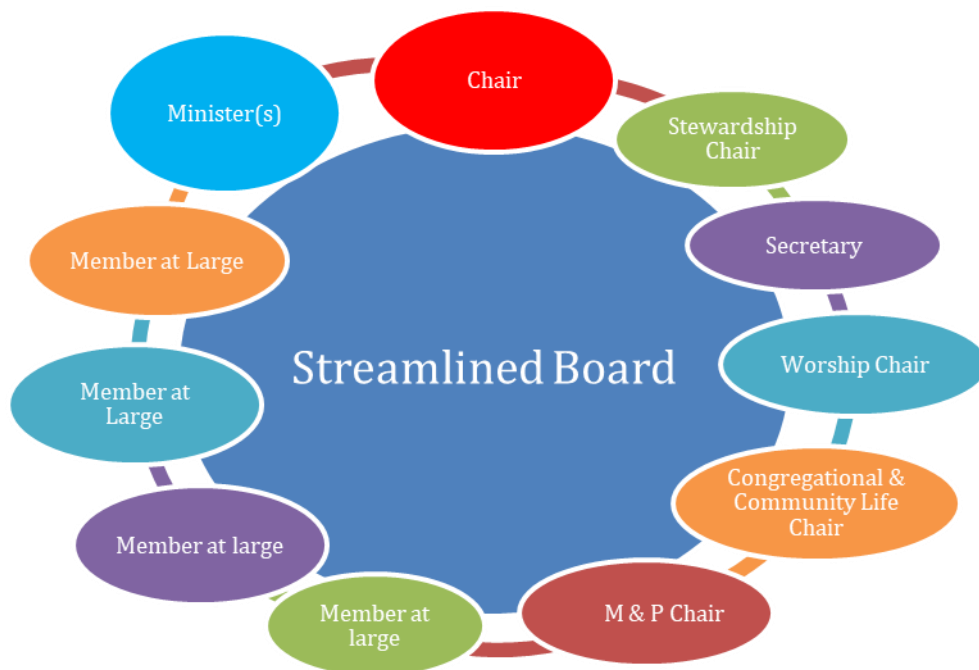
Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on what next for HVUC. We will be starting with a Community Roundtable, where we are inviting and hosting many groups within our community to try to better understand the community needs. We have had responses from many of the politicians invited, as well as other churches and community representative. The roundtable will be

held at HVUC the morning of Thursday November 29th. We hope for a good discussion, closer relationships and insight into our community needs.

Following Christmas we will be organizing visits to churches that we understand have been engaged in transformative thinking to get insight on what worked and didn't work in their journeys and hopefully inspiration for our own. See page 16 for information about these visits and sign up if you would like to join us. More to come in the new year!

Blessings,
Your Transition Team
November 2018

Gail Cook-Bennett, Ron Crago, Mary Moffat Johansson, Alanna Goodman, Deborah Turnbull, Deanna Wilson, Constance Crosby (Chair) with Rev. Ian Manson and Rev. Rick Tamas



Lot's Wife

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

Revitalized and Renewed?

As plans for the future of Humber Valley United are being developed, the Transition Team wants to learn more about how some other congregations have been revitalized and renewed. We've identified several churches that have found new energy and focus, and **we need your help** to learn more about what they're doing.

Here are some of the churches we'd like to visit:

- **North Bramalea United in Brampton.** This congregation has adopted a style of worship that, in some ways, resembles that in many evangelical communities. But, in theology and practice, it remains very much a UCC community, and does some things very well.
- **Wellington Square United in Burlington.** This church has provided a range of programs for people who like tradition as well as those who seek some new approaches to ministry. It's an active, spirit-filled place.
- **Norval United Church.** Norval is a growing congregation that is planning to relocate to a new, much larger facility in Georgetown, so they must be doing something right!
- **St. Paul's Bloor Street, Anglican.** This congregation was set to close about 10-15 years ago, but they did a thorough study of their neighborhood and adapted their building and programming to those who lived around them.
- **Lawrence Park Community (United) Church.** Lawrence Park is facing the same demographic challenges as we are, and is making a significant investment in a new program designed to attract people in the 25-50 age bracket.
- **Eglinton-St. George's.** The product of an amalgamation about a decade ago, ESG has made significant changes to its building in an attempt to make it more welcoming and functional. They've also called a new ministry team in an attempt to renew and revitalize the congregation.
- **St. Clement's Eglinton.** St. Clement's is seen by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto as one of its current success stories, and features four worship services, and different musical genres.
- **St. Mary St. Martha Anglican.** A smaller and newly-amalgamated parish on Weston Road, St. Mary St. Martha is also seeing some new growth and energy.
- **Jubilee United.** Jubilee offers music in a variety of genres, especially in the alternative services that are offered, and a creative spirit often abounds.
- **Trinity Streetsville, Anglican.** Trinity is on the "evangelical" wing of the Anglican church and is working hard to attract newcomers. It put in a sound system similar to the one that we installed several years ago.

So, if you are interested in visiting another church on a Sunday morning in January and February, please speak with Constance Crosby, Ian Manson, or another member of the Transition Team. You'll be given a choice of churches to visit and some questions to think about after you're there. The information you bring back **will be** important. We want to learn from others, and need your help to do so!

Rev. Ian

IIM



United Church Decision re Gretta Vosper

At its November meeting, the Leadership Council asked us to share our response to the United Church's recent decision concerning Gretta Vosper. Here it is.

A few weeks ago, on November 7, we learned via media reports that the United Church of Canada and Gretta Vosper "have settled all outstanding issues between them" and that "Rev. Vosper will remain in ordained ministry at West Hill United Church."

Like many others, both of us were surprised by this decision. Since that time, no further information has been released about the terms of the settlement that was reached. Nor has any explanation been provided as to why this decision was made. We know nothing more than you do.

As your ministers, we are deeply troubled by both the decision, and the secretive manner in which it was made. We acknowledge that those who negotiated this settlement are persons of integrity who care deeply about the United Church, and that there may well be good reasons why the rationale for this decision can't be disclosed. Nevertheless, the lack of transparency is troubling. And we take little comfort in a subsequent statement on the UCC website stating that the decision "doesn't alter in any way the belief of The United Church of Canada in God, a God most fully revealed to us as Christians in and through Jesus Christ." Affirming that an avowed atheist can continue serving as a United Church minister seems to make belief in God optional, and that contention flies in the face of every doctrinal statement our denomination has ever produced.

Rather, we agree with the conclusions of the Toronto Conference Interview Committee that said, in its 2016 report, that it had found Vosper unsuitable for ministry because she was no longer in "essential agreement" with the church's statements of doctrine and was "unwilling and unable" to reaffirm the vows she made when she was ordained in 1993. Consequently, Conference recommended that she be placed on the church's Discontinued Service List.

To be clear, we both affirm that God can be understood and experienced in various ways, and we celebrate that many diverse expressions of Christian faith exist within our denomination. We also know that many of our

neighbours who don't believe in God live with integrity and compassion and make countless positive contributions to family and community. And we affirm the importance of treating all people with dignity, respect and care, including those with whom we disagree. But, for us, belief in God is foundational to our lives and our

ministries. And, as our doctrinal statements declare, we believe this basic affirmation is also foundational to full and faithful Christian witness. So we will send this letter to the new United Church moderator, Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, so that he and others in the General Council office know our thinking. You too have the opportunity to share your thoughts, whatever they

may be. The address is:

Rt. Rev. Richard Bott,
Moderator, The United Church of Canada
#200 - 3250 Bloor Street W.
Toronto, Ontario
M8X 2Y4

We also invite you to share any thoughts or concerns you may have with either of us.

In conclusion, we believe it's important for all of us to remain focused on the central elements of Christian witness. So, on Sunday mornings here at Humber Valley, we will continue to give God thanks and praise, turn to God in prayer, ask God's blessing on those in distress, and focus on God's Word as we explore the blessings and wisdom found in Jesus. Throughout the week, we will encourage questions, invite discussion, and help you to continue discerning where God is leading this congregation. And we will continue to profess, in the words of the New Creed, that "we believe in God, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new."

In the days ahead, may God continue to guide us, and all members of the United Church of Canada.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Dr. Ian Manson
Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas



The following are excerpts from the Minute Speeches in support of Humber Valley's Financial Campaign by Gary Halpenny and Allan Orr.

A culture of generosity is built on a strong foundation of gratitude.

In a culture of gratitude, we thank God regularly for all of the blessings in our lives – and it doesn't take much introspection to realize that each and every one of us has been blessed many times over – both materially and spiritually.

It is the time of year again where we are challenged to meditate upon our blessings and think prayerfully about how we can be good stewards to our Lord and to our church both now and in the coming year.

Occasionally, we need to remind ourselves that the church is not the bricks, mortar and stained-glass windows that we see around us. The **Church is US** – the congregation - and nothing happens without the generous donations of time, talents and - yes – money from each and every one of us. When we take a look at the wonders that are in our lives, it becomes even more important to stop for a moment. Not only to say "thank you," but to realize the abundance that is in our lives. For some of us that comes in dollars and cents. For some of us, it is in time. For some of us it is in ability. For some of us it is in relationship. Wherever that abundance might lie in our lives, it's important that we celebrate it—and in celebrating it, that we share it.

We knew going in that 2018 was going to be a challenging year. And it has been. But together we have persevered and there is light at the end of the tunnel. At the annual meeting in April, you approved an operating budget that forecast a shortfall of revenue over expenses of just under \$70,000. At the moment, the deficit exceeds that and we were in red by nearly \$100,000 as of the end of September. Our hope is that the 4th quarter will be positive to the point that the year-end deficit will be roughly the amount budgeted. Short of the appearance of a benevolent angel, there are capital funds available to cover that amount. But that means that capital funds won't be available to fund other projects of interest. Further, that option is not sustainable over an extended period.

People give in many ways including money. Given the

aging profile of our congregation – which is by no means unique – we also understand that some people are already at the limit of their generosity for any number of reasons. First and foremost, thank you for what you have been able to give to the church so far.

The bible teaches us to give 10 percent to God. Times have changed and there are now many ways we "give" to accomplish what the Bible expects. We pay taxes, for example, which pay for health care. We support other worthy organizations. We volunteer here and for other organizations

Whatever your decision, the amount of your pledge has to be one that you are both comfortable and cheerful with.

We are the church and together we will work to deliver successfully the ministry to our congregation and to our community at large that we so cherish at Humber Valley.

Gary Halpenny

Good Morning, this is the third and final minute speech regarding Stewardship and the Finances of the Church.

In my head I was preparing, let's say, the regular type of Stewardship speech, when someone asked me a very interesting question. It happened when I was out with several people and the discussion turned to church attendance. I mentioned that I do attend a Sunday service on a somewhat regular basis.

So, the question that was asked of me "WHY DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH?" could also ask why do I donate to the church, a very valid and interesting question. In my head I quickly thought:

- Is it a cultural thing because my Mother took me to Sunday School/Church every Sunday growing up?
- Because I attended confirmation?
- Because my children attended Sunday school here?
- Because my wife is in the choir?
- Because of the beautiful music we hear every week?
- Because I have numerous friends at this church, many of whom are now friends outside of church?
- Is it all the wonderful events that take place at HVUC?

It could be all of the above and more, but the answer I gave was that **I believe it makes me a better person**, not

Stewardship and Finance

attending church but what I learn and take away from church: more understanding, more open mindedness, more generosity. Our wonderful ministers remind us each week how to be better and more generous people.

With everything that is going on in society today; where we have many people not telling the truth and it seems to be getting more acceptable (i.e. thou shall not lie); where normal everyday people become enraged on our roads and highways (i.e. love thy neighbour); where taking money from seniors happens daily (i.e. how low can you go); where we have people sending strange pictures of themselves over the internet (i.e. couldn't we just have some common decency).

Do you ever wonder if falling church attendance is related to some or all of the items that I just mentioned? Business schools now have to teach ethics courses since students don't understand the difference between right and wrong, and success is defined by the bottom line.

So, I attend and donate to Humber Valley United Church for many reasons, but a very important reason is to be reminded to be a generous person. (i.e. Chris, I will try not to talk badly about other drivers on the road).

I ask you to give generously to the church of your talents and monetarily, to ensure that Humber Valley United Church is able to support you and our community.

So, in conclusion, I ask all of you why do you attend Humber Valley United Church? And more importantly what does Humber Valley United Church mean to you?

Allan Orr

Stewardship Update

The table on the right presents our operating position to the end of October 2018 with 2017 data shown for comparison purposes.

As you can see, programming and operating expenditures have exceeded revenue, resulting in an operating deficit of \$102,929. This exceeds the budgeted YTD deficit by approximately \$40,000.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Humber Valley United Church. Please prayerfully consider

whether there is anything that you are able to provide to help us get closer to the budgeted shortfall. Please remember also to continue your envelope givings even if you're not attending church. Stewardship for the Church means managing its resources and Stewardship for congregants means fulfilling our responsibilities to the Church to the best of our abilities.

Finally, please make every effort to complete your pledge form and return it to the office by December 16th. This helps us immensely in the preparation of the 2019 budget.

Gary Halpenny

HUMBER VALLEY UNITED CHURCH		
	January – October	
	2017	2018
Sources of Funds		
PAR, Envelope, Stock Givings	\$251,567	\$247,510
Use of Church	\$141,866	\$131,860
Trustees	\$16,518	\$16,455
Other (Loose Givings, Solar, Outreach, Capital Givings	\$12,507	\$29,746
	\$35,131	37,296
Total Sources of Funds	\$457,589	\$462,867
Expenditures		
Payroll	\$352,623	\$398,830
Building Expenses	\$50,965	\$45,052
Office	\$26,141	\$24,562
Presbytery Assessment	\$12,623	\$11,948
Music	\$24,837	\$25,935
Other Committees	\$25,111	\$22,173
Total Expenditures	\$492,300	\$528,500
Transfers to Outreach and	\$30,400	37,296
Operating Deficit	\$65,111	\$102,929

The Unit 7 Coffee Song

Sung to the tune of "I'm Getting Married in the Morning". Written by Joan Belford.

We need more people to help prepare coffee and goodies for our Sunday services.
We hope this will inspire you to volunteer.

Verse 1

I'm making coffee in the morning;
It's Unit Seven's coffee time.
Dear, don't get surly;
We have to get up early.
Please get me to the church on time!

I have to be there in the morning!
Ding Dong! The Carillon will Chime!
I'll throw the switches
So we can wash the dishes.
Please get me to the church on time!

Forget our warm bed with sheets of silk;
I have to stop and buy two quarts of milk.

Out out the cookies on their platters.
Polish the teaspoons till they shine.
Find some clean dishrags.
Squeeze out those teabags.
We need the coffee there on time.

Verse 2

Look now, the choir's in the chancel.
Quick girls, we're running out of time.
Mix the juice faster.
We can't have disaster!
We need the coffee there on time.

We'd like to concentrate on worship.
Missing the sermon is a crime!
But don't get nervous,
We'll skip the service
To get the coffee there on time.

We think we're ready.
It's our mistake.
Here comes Deb Turnbull...
Oh no she's got a cake !!!

Okay, so coffee hour's over
We've got the kitchen all cleaned up.
We think we're through — oo
But just when we do — oo
There's Murray with another cup.

Verse 3

It's a lot of work each Sunday morning.
Staying in bed would be sublime.
But when we're do-ne,
We must admit it's fu-n.
And we'll get to the church,
Please get us to the church.
For Rick's sake get us to the church on time.



Fall Hike 2018

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, a dozen of us drove out to Limehouse, near Georgetown, for our annual fall hike. It was a glorious day to walk this new part of the Bruce Trail. Janet McColeman guided us expertly, giving us all kinds of insider information about the area we were walking through. Her commentary added a much appreciated element to our enjoyment. This was a great day in what became a stellar fall season of colour!

Talent Show

What an amazing evening! All hands were on deck for our dinner talent show in support of Youth Without Shelter - from setting up! collecting items for donations! helping clear tables and cooking for almost 200 people! So many helpers made for a fantastic night at Humber Valley United on November 24, 2018.

There were dancing Queens! Magicians and mind readers! Ribbon dances and jazz trios - latte boys and ukuleles and Girl Pow-R songs .



Dancing Queens



They closed down the show!!!

A glorious end to the best Talent Show ever at Humber Valley.

November 24, 2018.

But who are they?

Are they from New York? L.A.? London?

Can they really be Humber Valley's own Dancing Queens?

God's Wife

An eye witness account from New York City:

On a cold day in December, some years ago: a little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the

little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him.. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her. 'Are you God's wife?'

*Submitted by
Sally Roper*



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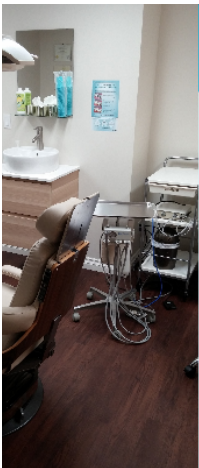
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*Advent, Christmas,
and into the New Year
Humber Valley United Church*



Dec 1- Ontario Pops Orchestra featuring the
Humber Valley Chancel Choir. Silent
Auction at 7:00 pm, concert at 8:00 pm

Dec 2 - Advent I – Hope

Dec 9 - Advent II – Peace – White Gift Sunday

Dec 16 - Advent III – Joy – Intro to Gospel

Dec 23 - Advent IV – Love – Gospel Music

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services –

Family Service - 5:30pm

Candlelight/Communion - 10:00pm


Jan 6 - Auld Lang Syne Service

Jan 20 - Intro to Folk Praise Music Sunday

Jan 27 - Folk Praise Music Sunday

Feb 17 - Intro to Global Music Sunday

Feb 24 - Global Music Sunday

Don Evans
reads the Yuletide favourite
**A Child's Christmas
in Wales**
by Dylan Thomas
*Come celebrate and sing along
with seasonal music by the band*
ALEX
Saturday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.
Humber Valley United Church
76 Anglesey Blvd., one block east of Islington Ave.
A benefit concert for the church ~ Refreshments
Free will donation
Receipts available for amounts above \$20
 For information please contact Sally Jo Martin
416-231-3477

*Humber Valley United
the friendly community church*

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