



Connections

Humber Valley United

the friendly community church

February 2018

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The Reverend's Epiphany Reflection

Gaspar: (*looking up at the night sky*) "I see the light!"

Balthasar: (*preoccupied with his work*) "Oh, Gaspar, whatever do you mean?
You have hidden your light beneath a bushel for so long, I think
it has gone out!"

Melchior: (*seeing the star*) "No, look, a star! The light overcomes the
darkness. Our true light will never go out."

Farewell to 2017, and an eager welcome to
2018 - HVUC's 66th anniversary year!

The first of a new beginning should always
offer the opportunity to reflect on the past
—celebrate successes, re-evaluate challeng-
es, and regain one's strength and purpose as
we prepare for a future bright with faith,
hope and love. There is no doubt that Hum-
ber Valley is ready to do all the above and
then some!

Change seems always to be a challenge. We
are comfortable in what we know and
where we are already. We can fulfill expect-
ations and obligations with little stress, and
we don't worry that it will be done wrong.
"Steady on" is safe and secure, if not pre-
dictable. However, if that approach is "the
only way," then how would a child be chal-
lenged to ride a bike, swing a baseball bat,
or sing a solo? As adults, who would learn to
drive a car, take a course at university, or
apply for a job?

Whether we'd like to admit it or not, change
and growth is inevitable for each and every-
one of us. The key is how we decide to
adapt to the changes.

For some, that momentum is always pre-
sent. The urge and need to explore and
grow is always ahead of them. For others,

the quiet and gentle nudge from loved ones
is all that is needed to consider a new and
exciting path.

And yet, there is value in the "good old
days," using the wisdom gained from experi-
ence to light the way ahead.

The Bible reminds us to let our light shine
that others may see the good we do and
give praise to God! Can you imagine the Ma-
gi saying, "We see the light! But let's stay
here in the dark. The light seems to be lead-
ing us a very long way off." No, the Magi
followed the star. They were led to a special
birth - the beginning of good news of great
joy!

As we prepare to move into this very special
year in the life of Humber Valley, we need to
prepare ourselves through our reflections,
our learnings, our joys and our sadness –
considering all that we can be in Christ's
name.

Let us celebrate the good news of great joy
throughout this coming year and follow the
brightness of that star.

Blessings,

Rev. Rick Tamas

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Week of Guided Prayer
February 25—March 3

Healing Session for the
congregation after Sunday
worship on February 25.

About our Search Team on
page 5.

Rev. Mark's farewell book,
"Growing the Faith, can be
viewed in the church
office.

Issues and Us: March 4
International Women's
Day



Elder _____ Phone _____

From the Editor's Desk: A New Beginning

Breaking up is Hard to Do, do you remember that song by Neal Sedaka?

We have just come through several months that led to the end of our fourteen-year relationship with our minister, Rev. Mark Winger. We have shared our worshipping community with Rev. Mark. He has married our children, baptized our grandchildren, and buried our parents and loved ones. He has reached us with his faith, his sermons, his bible studies, and his music. He has counselled us and shared many great social activities with us. Now he has to move on to a new beginning and so do we.

We are very fortunate at Humber Valley to have a very committed Leadership Council and many congregants who have stepped forward to ensure that this time of transition will be as smooth as possible. This special issue of *Connections* is intended to inform the congregation about process of healing that we are beginning. It is also intended to celebrate our lay leadership and our staff, who, while also grieving over the loss of our minister, have worked tirelessly to ensure that we had a wonderful Christmas season.

I want to thank all the people who contributed to this special issue. Most of the photographs were taken by Nancy Roper or Bill Cahoon. If a picture is worth a thousand words; all those photos add up to a really rich edition of *Connections*.

As always, HVUC is a busy place. See you Sundays and at lots of the up-coming events.

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

Susanne Hynes

Beginning the Healing Process at Humber Valley

January 19, 2018

Dear Humber Valley United Church,

In January 2018, the Leadership Council of your congregation contracted with me to support your congregation as it seeks to heal following a difficult ending of a pastoral relationship. We have arranged for at least two facilitated conversations / healing sessions.

Our healing processes use various forms of facilitated dialogue to encourage a spirit of sharing, mutual learning, and grace so that those involved can heal together. We guide the conversation in a manner that respects and honours each person currently and formerly connected to the congregation. Healing processes allow those involved to share how they have been impacted by the past months/years at the congregation, what they need in order to heal, and what they can offer one another to restore the congregation.

Our first planned meeting is with the Leadership Council. It is scheduled for January 30, 2018. Our second meeting will

be for the congregation as a whole, to take place February 25, 2018 (following worship).

As for a little bit more about me – my name is Betty Pries. I have been working in the area of coaching, mediation, training and consulting for the past 26 years with a specialization in both congregations and workplaces. I work with an organization called Credence and Co. You can read more about me and my organization on our website, www.credenceandco.com.

I look forward to meeting you.

With care and best wishes,

Betty Pries

CEO & Senior Consultant

Credence & Co.



Humber Valley Friends

I've always said that if you want to know who your best friends are, think about who you would call if you won the lottery or if you were in a bad situation and needed help.

In September 2017, I fell while I was home alone and broke my shoulder. I sat on the sofa in shock and pain trying to decide what to do next. It wasn't serious enough to call an ambulance, but I wasn't sure I had enough cash in my purse to go back-and-forth to the hospital via taxi. After a few minutes, I realized that if I could just get the church directory, I would have a myriad of friends that would happily drive me if they were available that night. A wave of relief spread over me.

Have you ever wondered what the church means to you? For me, it's the huge group of good friends that we have in the congregation.

I continue to feel blessed every time I'm at the church when at least a dozen friends ask how my recovery is coming. Thank you to everyone for being such an important part in our lives.

Nancy Roper

BLESSINGS Unto Us for 2018

B - Body Humber Valley United family

L - Love

E - Each one of us

S - Spirit of God Almighty

S - Service to others

I - Interest in Outreach community

N - News

G - Gratitude

S - Sincerity

A Toast to 2018 — HAPPY NEW YEAR

May we enjoy Fun and Fellowship and Food one with the other! Amen

Carol Zachar

January 2018

Two Coins Offering Update

"Please can I borrow some change?" Have you heard or whispered this in the pew any Sunday? Many members of Humber Valley have taken the *Two Coins* offering to heart and don't want to miss participating in this part of the service. On Sunday, January 7, 2018, I reported to the Congregation that for the year 2017, we contributed \$2,660 in coin through this program. Thank you.

For some background: on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 I shared the story of how I started putting the 2 largest coins in my purse into the offering plate as it passed each Sunday, even though I use PAR. I had remembered as a child putting coins into the little halves of the envelopes - 1 dime for Mission and Service and 1 dime for use within our church. I had been moved by Rev. Mark Winger's sermon about the "Widow's Mite" from Mark 12 and Luke 21. In this story, a very poor woman gave her 2 small coins as an offering to God and these were recognized by Jesus as being more significant than the givings of others more wealthy. Also hoping to start a habit which would make this part of the service more relevant, I suggested that each of us put the 2 largest coins in our purse or pocket into the collection plate each Sunday as it passes.

To repeat, in the first year of the *Two Coins* project, we have collected \$2,660 in coins. Half of this has been given to M&S and half is added to Humber Valley's general revenue. \$2,660 is a considerable sum for these small but, I hope, mindful offerings. I will keep counting and I encourage you to continue giving. The coins truly add up. Thank you.

Catherine Ireland

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in the church, please do not hesitate to contact me, Rev. Rick, or your elder and we will try our best to faithfully answer these for you.

Blessings,

Deborah Turnbull

Chair, Leadership Council

Financial results to the end of December 2017. Results for 2016 are included for comparison purposes.

Sources of Funds	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Budget
PAR Givings	193,145	183,095	190,000
Envelopes/Stock Donations	136,530	160,341	137,000
Use of Church	161,525	183,045	160,000
Trustees	19,841	18,794	20,000
Other	38,894	33,922	30,000
Subtotal Operating Revenue	549,935	579,197	537,000
Special Donation	75,843		
Transfer from HF/Capital	33,802	9,502	
Receipts for Capital, Outreach and Special Initiatives	49,892	77,924	
Total Sources of Funds	709,472	666,623	
Expenditures			
Payroll	379,346	429,503	397,850
Building Expenses	65,827	63,143	65,000
Office	23,921	28,451	22,000
Mission and Service	11,090	6,212	11,000
Presbytery Assessment	16,930	16,830	16,800
Music	28,947	32,172	30,000
Other Committees	36,025	27,318	30,730
Subtotal Operating Expenses	562,086	603,629	573,380
Operating Deficit	(12,151)	(24,432)	(36,380)
Supply for Sabbatical	32,802		
Transfers to HFs for Outreach, Capital, etc.	49,892	77,924	
Total Expenditures & Transfers to HFs	644,780	681,553	
Total Sources of funds less expenses and transfers to HFs		(14,930)	
	64,692		

Although it may not seem like it at first glance, **this is actually a good news story**. When I updated you in the November issue of Connections, our financial position was of significant concern to say the least. Based on the information we had at the time, the expectation of the Stewardship & Finance Committee was that we had the potential to end the year with an operating deficit close to \$70,000. I also asked you to prayerfully consider whether there was anything that you might be able to provide to help us get closer to the budgeted shortfall.

Thanks to the grace of God and to the generosity of many, **our December givings (circa \$60,000) were well beyond expectation**. That amount, coupled with slightly over \$8500 of income from the capital money invested for us by the trustees, **dramatically reduced the actual year end operating deficit** to \$24,432. This is well below the budgeted deficit of \$36,380 approved at last year's annual meeting. The final reported deficit has been reduced further to \$14,930 by transferring \$9,502 from capital and from HFs designed to fund specified operating costs.

While the church cannot operate indefinitely with yearly deficits, the final 2017 outcome is manageable and does not cause significant harm to our overall financial health.

We are still working on the 2018 budget. There are a few details yet to finalize as this is a year of transition. Based on current information, it is estimated that we will end up with a 2018 operating deficit in the \$50,000 range. There are two key contributing factors. On the expense side, we are required to pay Rev. Mark Winger's salary and benefits until the end of June in addition to remunerating the minister(s) who will be our spiritual leaders throughout the year. On the revenue side, PAR income is expected to be reduced by \$20,000 since pledged PAR increases were more than offset by the loss of PAR givings from members who have chosen to leave Humber Valley following the decisions announced by Toronto Conference in November.

With a combination of good luck, a supportive congregation and strong leadership, both of these factors will be transitory and the expectation is that 2019 has the potential to be a more typical year in the life and work of our church.

Respectfully submitted *Gary Halpenny*, Chair, Stewardship and Finance Committee

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

The Search for our Next Minister

Humber Valley is looking for a minister with special training in ministering to congregations in conflict – ministers with that designation are called “Intentional Interim Ministers” (IIM). The Conference decision that was relayed to us at the end of November 2017, requires that Humber Valley engage an IIM for a two-year period. A five-person team we call the **Transition Team** (supported by Deb Turnbull and one or two Presbytery reps who are yet to be appointed) was approved by Presbytery the first week of January. The Team is mandated to select the IIM Minister, and then to assist in his or her work at Humber Valley United Church over the next two years.

The Transition Team is looking for candidates and is now starting the interview process. We know that we need an individual with exceptional ability to help heal and move our congregation forward. As there are only a few dozen qualified IIMs in Canada, they are in fact hard to find.

At the moment we have only one potential candidate – a person with experience who lives in the area. Our candidate was introduced to us from the Conference Personnel Minister Rev. Dale Hildebrand. Dale is reaching out through his contacts to find other candidates. He let us know that IIMs are not found in the normal way through job postings, but through Conference Personnel ministers’ networks.

Although we understood this might be of limited success, we placed an ad seeking an IIM in the *United Church Observer*, both in the current digital version, and print version that will be out in March. Here is the link: <http://ucobserver.org/classifieds/#Ministers>. This has elicited interest from a minister with experience in interim ministry, and we are engaging with Conference to determine if this person’s significant experience would qualify for a waiver of the IIM training so that we could also interview this person.

We are excited that we will have our first interview with our one candidate in early February. We are somewhat concerned at having only one candidate, and we are trying to find more.

Some people asked to help select the next minister and will provide input in the interview and selection process. The Transition Team, together with these 9 individuals is the **Selection Team**. Our first meeting was last Sunday January 21, which was also attended by a Presbytery liaison, Mhairi Godley, whose role is to help guide us in complying with best practices as set out in the United Church manuals. At a second meeting on Sunday January 28 we selected the questions and the interviewers. Our plan is to ask the same questions of all candidates (hoping we will have more than one) so that we are better able to compare their answers. We will also be asking each candidate to give a short homily on a selected bible text.

The team is happy to talk to you about the process, and welcomes any and all of your questions. What we are not able to do is provide the name of any candidate, as their candidacy is held in confidence, and this is a strict requirement of the church, and of course of fairness to the candidates.

We will keep you posted as we go along, as we know how important this is to all of us!

Constance Crosby

Chair

Transition and Selection Team

Selection Team

Transition Team

Constance Crosby

Ron Crago

Gail Cook-Bennett

Alanna Goodman

Mary Moffat Johansson

Deborah Turnbull

(resource person)

Search Team

Bruce Boyd

Susanne Hynes

Genevieve Bailey

Richard Temple

Catherine Zakaib

Catharine Clemens

Paul Chant

Cheryl Drake

David Dallimore

Plus Presbytery
Representatives,
as appropriate.

*Conference has
mandated that
HVUC engage an
Intentional Interim
Minister
for a period of two
years.*

Prayer

Living in God's Time

**Week of Guided Prayer
2018**

Feb 25th – March 3rd

*A Retreat in the Midst
of Daily Life*

Contact Joanne
416-450-9369

As Lent, and Week of Guided Prayer are now close at hand, I find myself reflecting on prayer a bit more as each day passes.

There is no wrong or right way to pray. For each person prayer can be very different. In our worship services we do much communal prayer. Saying prayers together and listening as others share “Prayers of the People”. At home we may say “Grace” before meals, pray with a spouse, or pray alone in our own way.

Prayer is simply a way to communicate with God; to speak to God and perhaps, just as important, to listen for God. How we go about this “communication” with God is up to each of us and different methods work better for different people.

For me, prayer, especially writing prayers as I am now doing in my latest course, often comes easiest when inspired by scripture. Sometimes I will read scripture and then begin my prayer from there.

For some nature is a source of prayer inspiration, for others solitude, for others being in silence in the sanctuary, for others journaling, for others serving.

Experiment with diverse ways of praying. Attend **Week of Guided Prayer** this year. Find out what works best for you.

Often using the “**ACTS**” method is helpful when getting started in prayer, whether you’re a seasoned prayer warrior or this is a new exercise for you.

First start with **A-Adoration**; to praise God. There are lots of God’s creations of every

type around us to praise: sun, rain, autumn, spring. It’s all magnificent.

Second is **C-Confession**; to face our behaviours that fall short of pleasing God. While this may be difficult there is no reason to get stuck on it. God knows everything in our hearts and loves us. God forgives us and gives us a new chance to set our lives right every single day.

Third is **T-Thankfulness**. I will be the first to admit, some days it’s harder than others to find something to be thankful for, especially when going through a rough patch. But there always is something, however small it may seem at that moment. One day recently, I was struggling in prayer. I couldn’t at that moment think about anything I was thankful for. I was so consumed with the days difficulties. It came to me that I was thankful for my dog. It had been a very distressing day, and of course my dog, Taz, is fairly awesome. Just starting there, helped me remember other things I am indeed thankful for and I was able to move on.

Finally, **S-Supplication**, lifting up the plight of others or our own personal requests for help.

Prayer doesn’t have to be perfect. God wants to hear the good, and the bad from us. God wants to walk with us in the bright sunlight and the hours of darkness.

Joanne Stenerson

Past Clerk of Session and Candidate for
Designated Lay Ministry

*God does wish to have
a relationship with all of us.*

*I believe God is less
concerned with
how we pray
and more concerned
that we **do** pray.*

Lenten Prayer

Glorious God, we thank you, for your promise to be with us always, be it in joy-filled days or despairing nights.

Creator of the sun. The sun which rises, crosses from one side of the heavens to the other and sets each day. The sun, which is always joyful in its perfect work! The sun, which creates warmth to wherever its rays touch. You God, in your perfect work, warm our hearts as well as our bodies.

Thank you, God, for the sun. Thank you, God, for this day. Thank you, God, for the warmth we feel in your presence. Thank you, God, for the rejoicing in our hearts from following you.

Forgive us God, for letting our hearts become cold. Forgive us God, for not always following your guidance. Forgive us God, for not always listening for you. Forgive us God for not always being joyful in our work for you.

Creator, we ask you to help us keep our hearts warm with your sunlight. Help us follow your guidance joyfully. Help us to keep our eyes and ears open for your enlightenment. We ask you God, to help revive our souls each new day, through you.



The Prayer Chain

Thirty-four congregants are members of Humber Valley's Prayer Chain.

People submit requests for prayer to Sue Hillery, who administers the chain. She lets the prayer chain know who to pray for and why.

We pray for people who are ill, in trouble, worried, or grieving. Prayer really helps.

Prayers of the People

The *Prayers of the People* is typically the longest prayer of a worship service. It raises up the joys and celebrations as well as the needs and concerns of worshipers. It also intercedes for the needs of others, in our community, in the wider church, and the nations of the world.

At HVUC we are encouraging lay members of the congregation to create this prayer and to lead the congregation in this important prayer time. It is an amazing opportunity for us to share *Prayers of the People* lifted up by different voices from within our congregation.

Each person who leads *Prayers of the People*

puts considerable, time, effort and personal prayer into crafting the prayer so that it speaks to our congregation for that week's concerns and in that worship service. Each structures the prayer slightly differently, yet all with the intent of praying for congregational concerns.

These prayers may not be as polished as those by an ordained minister but they are a wonderful opportunity for us, as a congregation, to explore prayer, help each other grow in faith, and enhance our relationships with one another and with God.

Thank you dear congregants for leading us in the *Prayers of the People*.

The intent is to encourage many voices to participate in Prayers of the People.

Christmas at Humber Valley



White Gift Sunday



Daytimers' Christmas Lunch



Many people turned out to enjoy a Christmas lunch and entertainment at Daytimers. We were very happy that Rev. Frank Gabourel and his wife, Pauline, were able to join us.



We were blessed to have a wonderful, very compact Santa Claus: Bob Kinnear. He was great.

We had a quiz and a guess the carol game, then we sang the carol.

The great food was masterminded by Sally Roper.



Christmas Day Lunch

About 40 people attended the Christmas Day Lunch which was the brain child of Judith Dallimore.



Lorraine Pearsall's Christmas decorations were used to decorate the Hearth Room and it looked wonderful.

We want to thank everyone who attended and all those who provided food and gifts.

A special thanks to the Fernandes family whose son goes to

Hillside Montessori School. They came to help serve and donated the wine.

It was a wonderful, community event celebrating the birth of Christ. It may become an annual event – we will see.



The Kitchens / Tareks had fun at the Christmas Eve photo booth.

Auld Lang Syne Sunday 2018



An Evening of Comfort and Joy

On Tuesday December 5th, an Evening of Comfort of Joy was held in the Hearth Room. In previous years during Advent Humber Valley has held a *Service in a Minor Key* and in 2016 *A Service of Comfort and Joy*. These services were designed to help those of our church family who have experienced recent difficulty or loss and for whom the Christmas season may be tinged with sadness and grief. Using a suggestion from Rev Mark Winger, the Pastoral Care Team developed a new format for 2017 to try and help comfort those who might need such additional support.

On December 5th, more than 20 people shared a meal and memories of their loved ones and participated in a short candlelit service led by Rev Rick Tamas. We hope this opportunity to be together brought comfort and support to those who needed it, and helped to re-instill the season with some happy memories and joy.

If anyone who attended would like a follow up evening to explore additional support with those they talked to during the evening, please contact David Dallimore, Chair of the Pastoral Care Team Committee (416-239-5319)

Lynn Manning

Reflection

This memorable evening began with bereaved members lighting candles for all their loved ones. This is always very meaningful for me and many others as well. Lighting a candle touches your heart and soul knowing your loved one is always with you and with Jesus and God. It's a time to say a silent prayer, reflect, or remember the wonderful memories of family members, dear friends, and even dearly departed pets.

Following the candle lighting, our wonderful minister, Rick Tamas give a benediction before a scrumptious dinner was served. It was a time for fellowship and being together rather than being alone.

Personally, I was in great debate with myself whether I should attend or not. At the last moment, I decided to come knowing wonderful friends would help me through this very difficult season of Advent. I am so thankful because I really enjoyed myself and everybody is there to love, care and understand the grieving process! It's better to be with other people who know you than being alone—I know this for a fact!!

Our dinner and dessert was excellent and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. A great big thank you to these very caring members who organized this wonderful and very meaningful event!!!

Jennifer Brown



Members of the Leadership Council

Chair:	Deborah Turnbull
Vice-Chair:	vacant
Past Chair:	Gary Halpenny
Clerk of Session:	Brian Goodman
Associate Clerk of Session:	vacant
Past Clerk of Session:	Joanne Stenerson
Christian Development:	Adult Programming: Carla Sandrin Youth Programming: vacant
Gracious Hospitality Ministry:	Deborah Turnbull
Worship and Music:	Deborah Turnbull
Elders Committee:	Brian Goodman
Stewardship and Finance:	Gary Halpenny
Foundation:	Dennis Schettler
Ministry and Personnel:	Ted Loewen
Nominating:	Gary Halpenny
Outreach and Action:	Sally Jo Martin and Barbara Clarke
Pastoral Care:	David Dallimore
Presbytery Representative:	Wilma Crago
Property:	Murray Smith
Trustees:	Allan Orr
UCW:	Sharon Dowdall
Treasurer:	Joanne Molliet
Secretary to the Council:	Joan Belford
Transition Team:	Constance Crosby
Strategic Planning Team:	Gail Cook-Bennett, Ron Crago
Ex-officio Officer:	Rev. Rick Tamas

January 2018

The Leadership Council of Humber Valley United Church is comprised of the chairs of the church's committees and teams, three members who comprise the strategic planning team, a secretary, a treasurer and the ordained Minister (ex officio).

The Council meets monthly to discuss and make decisions about issues related to our church. Any member of the congregation is eligible to sit on or chair teams and committees.

The report of Toronto Conference has recommended that Humber Valley needs renewed lay leadership on the Leadership Council within the next 18 months.

Thus, please consider serving our worshiping community by joining one or more of these teams and committees. If you are interested, please express your interest to the particular Chairs, or to Gary Halpenny, Chair of the Nominating Committee.



Doors

After their recent renovation and at the suggestion of Rev. Mark Winger, St. Giles Presbyterian Church offered HVUC 8 solid 2 and one half inch thick oak interior doors, each weighing about 200 pounds.

Your Property Committee inspected them and agreed they would make a huge improvement over our 6 existing main entrance doors and the 2 Steed Hall doors.

Our plan is to have them re-sized, finished, and installed this summer. The 8 doors were "Muscle" over to the HUVU basement on December 10th, by Bruce Boyd, Frank Kershaw, Allan Orr, Michael Orr, Denis Schettler, and Peter White.

The photo shows the doors after their arrival at HUVU. Murray appears in the photo because he was the best dressed that day :)

Celebrating 40 years

Sunday December 31st, marked the 40th anniversary of Paul Chant's experience as a professional church organist. During that time he has played for church services and led choirs in Canada, the United States and Britain.

For approximately a quarter of this time we have been blessed to have him as our Minister of Music at Humber Valley.

On behalf of the congregation, and in recognition of this impressive milestone, Deborah Turnbull, Chair of the Leadership Council, presented Paul with a bouquet of flowers during the morning service on December 31st and the congregation joined in giving him a standing ovation.



An Invitation to Sing and Hear Your Favourite Church Music

How would you like to be able to pick a favourite hymn, song or piece of music to be played during a Sunday Morning Worship Service? Now you can and you are invited to send any ideas and suggestions to Paul Chant, our Minister of Music, and he will try to accommodate your request. His email address is: paulchant@gmail.com

Parking

Humber Valley now has designated handicapped parking spaces. Several, clearly marked with yellow and aqua paint, are located in the circular drive at the front entrance.

Thank you Jim Koziak for leading this project for our church.



Annual General Meeting

Please mark your calendars for Sunday April 15. The meeting will be held after Sunday Worship and a lunch will be served. Printed Annual Reports will be available the week before the meeting.



For the past 18 years, Campbell's has been redeeming labels from their soup tins and providing educational materials to many

thousands of schools across Canada. They have now decided to wind down the program and replace it in other ways. They will no longer be accepting soup labels.

The Labels For Education program is winding down.

Humber Valley United as well as St. Luke's, have been collecting these labels for several years. Thanks to everyone who participated. Please DO NOT bring any more into the church for collecting. We are retiring our giant soup tin.

Special thanks to Ruth Balmer who looked after the collecting and remitting of the labels once she joined Humber Valley from St. Luke's. Mari Peterson and Heather Cartwright and Sally Jo Martin helped prior to that time.

Carman Fischer

I first met Carman when he joined the property team at our church. Immediately everyone on the team liked Carman, and over the years I realized that almost everyone in the church that met Carman - liked him. This is something that is not easily done.

Until recently I never questioned this — I just simply enjoyed like everyone else just being around him — I never tried to understand this or explain it.

My first attempt to understand this — I first thought about Carman & his tools — & began thinking about people with tools. People who have tools, who know how to use tools, who know how look after tools, know the difference between good tools & not so good tools — these people are special people. They are generally quiet — their tools can be noisy — but they know not to shout over the tools — they also know what noises a tool should make when used properly with care.

Carman always knew to listen — he knew to listen to his tools with care he knew to listen to the wood or the materials that the tools were applied to — in the same way he knew to listen to his friends & almost everyone he met. People would say he was quiet — I would rather say Carman knew to listen.

No matter how big or how small the project, knowing where to cut, where to drill requires a lot of patience & careful study. Carman took the care to get things right. Carman was always steady, always grounded — he never moved too fast or talked too quickly. He knew that this was what was required to getting the project right. The same care he gave to his projects & tools he gave to his friend's. He knew this care was what was required in treating his friends & people in general.

There was no unnecessary noise with Carman. His tools were used with care. His friends & everyone he met understood this care he gave to all situations.

Recently a character in a movie said — The Great Creator didn't put Mankind on the face of this earth to complain — when you think about all the complaining — all the noise — all the noise — our world has — Carman never was part of the noise.

People who are all wrapped in their own noise — rush ahead — almost lost in their own fog — they talk quickly usually drowning out others — unable to listen fully — until much later they are unaware of the damage that results.

Carman moved at the pace that CARE required — tools require a certain pace of care — the wood / materials to be dealt with again require a certain pace — If you rush handling wood or other materials you get small cuts or even slivers — If you rush — the tools can jump off the mark — may make an unusual noise — unexpected damage results

People may say Carman was quiet & didn't move quickly — I prefer to say he knew how to listen & how to move with care. And what is just as important — He also knew the importance of this. These characteristics are what grounded him — made him steady, it somehow connected him to an inner peace.

I expect — it was this steady unwavering inner peace that everyone really

liked about him. There was no noise with Carman. He would always listen to everyone else's noise — but would never get caught up in the noise around him — he knew to quietly listen — he knew to handle with care. Being grounded is not easy. For just a moment — I would like you to image — "The Circle of Life" — what does this mean to you — how big could this circle possibly be? — Then I would like you to image the smallest — tiniest part of this circle —

The first question I would like to ask is — is this smallest tiny part of "the circle" that you just imagined — is it just a tiny isolated thing or is it somehow interconnected to the all the many aspects of the larger circle?

The second question I would like to ask — is this "circle of life" you imagined just some academic image — or was this circle part of your lived experience.

With Carman — I have no doubt — his image of "the circle of life" — is one that is a lived experience. Carman grew up on a farm. He lived the meaning of the daily & seasonal routines, of the animals, of the fields, crops & harvest. He lived the experience where weather can change the outlook of the harvest. He understood in the big scheme of life that being wrapped up with your own personal noise is futile. He lived the necessity of being grounded in part of something bigger, the necessity of listening to the daily seasonal routines of the animals & fields.

Being grounded in something bigger than ourselves — isn't that what we all are seeking — Isn't that what we all really liked about Carman?

Our church was very lucky to have had Carman as cherished member — & I am very grateful for the time I spent with him on the various projects.

Carman is a great reminder for us all to listen & handle what's before us with care.



Bill Cahoon

Bill gave this eulogy at Carman's funeral on November 26, 2017.

Surprise! A Baby Shower



On January 14th, after service, a surprise baby shower was held for Licia Bryden in the Hearth Room.

Licia, Scott and their daughter Alexis joined our congregation at the end of June last year.



Its been a long time since we have welcomed a newborn from active parents in our congregation! Its very exciting for us and so the women of church were quick to rally and support Licia. Many contributed to the gifts for the baby and mother.

With our usual HVUC hospitality the array of food, including home-made sandwiches and treats was fit for the Queen. As well, Lorraine Pearsall did a beautiful job decorating the room.

We surprised Licia with her mom, Tammy, sister, Jordana (both from Kitchener) and best friend, Barbara, all of whom attended. We believe we managed to keep the surprise (amazingly!) and look forward to hearing about the birth, some time around mid February

We all wish you the very best, Licia!!

*Andrea Ostvik
Van der Vliet*



What I Want my Church to be!

My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.

Submitted by

Cathy Wilkes

We're planning a fun evening including

Dinner with Penguins.

Curious?

Watch for further announcements.



SAVE THE DATE

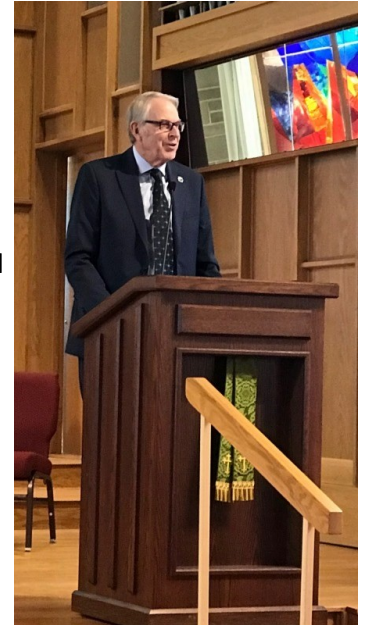
Saturday April 21, 2018. 4:30 to 8:30 PM

A Church of Doers

Pinehurst Crescent is a famous street in Etobicoke. Two champion hockey players, Dave and Ken Dryden, grew up on Pinehurst and learned the love of the game playing it on the street when they were boys. The Dryden house on Pinehurst is the original home and still is the site of the headquarters of Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW).

We were privileged on Sunday, January 28, to hear Dave Dryden tell the story of how his parents, long-time members of Humber Valley United Church, saw a pressing need and found a way to address it. The need was for children in third world countries to get a good night's sleep. The result is that in 1970 Murray and Margaret Dryden set up an organization that, still in 2018, gets donations, tells the story, attracts many volunteers and cooperates with overseas organizations to provide bed kits for children living in poverty. Those kids receive bedding, clothes and school supplies produced in their own countries. 100% of donations to SCAW go to the kits given to the children. Humber Valley is the church that helped the Drydens nurture this charity and Humber Valley people are still very involved in its operations.

Dave's message was all about the joy of being a doer in the service of others.



Three Wells

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 2017 Advent Wells project. Members of the congregation donated \$6,320, the Capital Outreach Fund contributed \$7,000 and an anonymous donor from the Global Aid Network matched the amount so the final amount raised this year was \$26,640 — enough to build three wells.



World Leprosy Day

Sunday, January 28 was World Leprosy Day, a day set aside so churches everywhere can raise awareness and offer prayer and financial support for those suffering from this now curable disease. Jean Koziak has sponsored our campaign to support effect:hope for almost ten years. Please make cheques out to Humber Valley United and write Leprosy on them.

effect:hope
The Leprosy Mission Canada

Join us for Humber Valley United Church's annual

Pancake Supper

and

Service of Ashes

Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 pm



Tickets: Adults \$5.00 Children \$3.00 Family of 4 or more \$15

Please purchase tickets after service or through the office so we know the numbers.

All are Welcome

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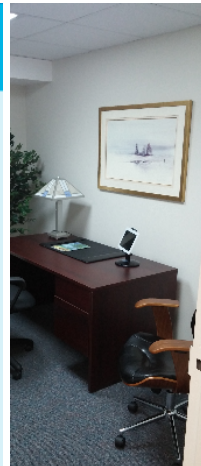
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Upcoming Services and Events

Sunday, February 4 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rick Tamas preaching.

"Souper" Bowl Sunday. Please bring in cans of soup to honour the outreach ministry begun by the late Margo Watt.

-6:00 p.m. Come and watch the Super Bowl with friends and family in the Hearth Room. Bring your favourite food, snack and beverages to share.

Tuesday, February 6 7:00 p.m. Blanket Exercise.

UCW invites everyone in the congregation to participate in the Blanket Exercise, an interactive way of learning First Nations, Inuit and Metis history that most Canadians are never taught. To get an idea of numbers, please confirm participation with Sally Jo Martin.

Sunday, February 11 10:30 a.m. Rev. Rick Tamas preaching.

"Winter Olympics 2018."

Tuesday, February 13 6:00 p.m.

Pancake Supper followed by a Service of Ashes.

Sunday, February 18 10:30 a.m. First Sunday in Lent.

Rev. Rick Tamas preaching.

Sunday, February 25 10:30 a.m.

Family Service to celebrate Lord Baden Powell's birthday with the Girl Guides assisting with the service.

Sunday, February 25 Second Sunday in Lent

Following the service lunch and a facilitated meeting to begin the **healing process** in Arthur Steed Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, February 25 – Saturday, March 3

Week of Guided Prayer – "Living in God's Time".

Monday, February 26 11:30 a.m.

Daytimers. Guest Speaker: Jack Grady, retired Richview Collegiate English Teacher speaking on the history of the English language.

Sunday, March 4 10:30 a.m. Third Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher "Celebration of International Women's Day"

8:30 Breakfast followed by **Issues and Us.**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kristin Blakely, Vice-Chair, Canadian Women's Foundation, Professor at the University of Toronto and York University. "Trudeau, Feminism, and the Future of Gender Equality in Canada."

Sunday, March 11 10:30 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Lent.

Rev. Rick Tamas preaching.

Sunday, March 18 10:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday in Lent.

Rev. Rick Tamas preaching.

Sunday March 25 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday.

Part I: Easter Cantata

Hallelujah! What a Saviour! The Crucified and Risen Christ. HVUC's Liturgical Dance Group will be performing to "Celebrate Jesus."

Immediately after the service: Kneading of the bread for use at Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

Monday, March 26 11:30 a.m.

Daytimers. Guest Speaker: Gillian Guthrie, Fire Prevention and Safety, Toronto Fire Services speaking on prevention, detection and escape.

Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday. 6:00 p.m.

Seder Potluck Dinner followed by Holy Communion.

Friday, March 30 10:30 a.m. Good Friday Service.

Part II: Easter Cantata

Hallelujah! What a Savior! The Crucified and Risen Christ.

Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday.

8:00am Joint Sunrise service with St. Giles Kingsway Presbyterian Church on the hill at Humber Valley School followed by Easter Sunday Breakfast at Humber Valley United Church.

10:30am Easter Sunday. Part III: Easter Cantata

Hallelujah! What a Savior! The Crucified and Risen Christ.

Rev. Rick Tamas will be preaching.

Holy Communion.

Farewell to Rev. Mark Winger

It was emotional Saturday afternoon at Humber Valley United gathered in Arthur Steed Hall on January 20, 2018 to say good-bye to Rev. Mark Winger and to wish him well in his continuing faith journey. People from Humber Valley were joined by some from Presbytery and Olivet United Church in Hamilton. People made contributions to a fund

in support of Mark's up-coming participation in Habitat for Humanity Build in India. A photo book, *Growing the Faith*, reflecting Rev. Mark's fourteen years at Humber Valley was presented by Deborah Turnbull. Claire Hatje, on behalf of the Sunday School, presented him with a hard hat and a hammer.



Dear Humber Valley Friends,

Thank you so much for the good wishes and gifts you gave me at my "good-bye" drop in on Saturday, January 20th.

The coffee table photo book of memories and the hammer signed by the children will be lasting treasures.

The money gifts towards my India trip are also appreciated, and will allow me to stay an extra week for sight-seeing in Jaipur, after the two week Habitat build.

While some of you were not able to attend the event, I look forward to the more "intimate" gatherings that are being organized upon my return.

I will post a daily image to Instagram
... you can follow my adventure @ revmark67

*Blessings,
Rev. Mark*

Copies of the book we presented to Rev. Mark, *Growing the Faith*, are available for viewing in the Church Office or online at <http://www.blurb.ca/books/8482816-growing-the-faith>. This is a 48 page hardcover book containing high quality photographs. The book can be purchased at the cost of \$100 including shipping and a small profit for the church.

We have also prepared a photo album of pictures taken at Rev. Mark's farewell. Most people who attended had their photos taken with him. You can preview the book online at <http://www.blurb.ca/books/8512371-saying-good-bye>. The cost is \$25.00 for a soft covered album.

If you would like to purchase copies of one or both of these books, please contact Susanne Hynes at Susanne@hyneslegal.ca. Volume discounts will apply if we order 10 or more copies.



HALLELUJAH!

What a Savior!

The Crucified and Risen Christ

Humber Valley United Church
invites you to our Holy Week Cantata
10:30 am in the beautiful HVUC Sanctuary

Part I: Palm / Passion Sunday, March 25

Part II: Good Friday, March 30

Part III: Easter Sunday, April 1

Chancel Choir and Soloists
Directed by Paul Chant, Minister of Music

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