



Connections

Humber Valley United
the friendly community church

September 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Desk	2
Music, Angel Voices	3
Audio Visual	4
Summer Students	5
Chair's Message	6
Retirement Residences	7
Ladies Night Out	7
We will Survive	8
Stewardship	9
Leaving a Legacy	9
God is With Us	10
New Doors	11
Daytimers	12
Gayle Taylor	13
Reaching Out	14
Summer Services	16
Concert	17
Our Sponsors	18-19
Services and Events	20
Transition Team	21
Worship & Music	22

A Season of Discernment, Exploration and Discovery: Reverend Ian's Reflection

*"For everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven."
(Ecclesiastes 3)*

As I begin my first fall season with you at Humber Valley, I'm really looking forward to the year ahead.

Over the past few months, it's been great to start working with a terrific group of gifted staff colleagues, and all the talented members of the Leadership Council. I've also enjoyed meeting many of you, and have discovered that this congregation is filled with lots of bright and creative people. So I'm eager to work with everyone over this next year to help develop an exciting new plan for Humber Valley United Church.

Many other congregations across North America are also working to articulate a new vision for their future. We're all discovering that some things that worked well in the 1970s and 80s don't work so well in 2018, and that adjustments may need to be made. That doesn't mean everything changes. But at a time when most mainline churches (including ours) are getting smaller and older, it's important to find some different ways of doing things.

So, over the next year, we'll be figuring out what Humber Valley wants to focus on over the next few years, and how that might be done. To that end, we'll be:

- Developing a clearer sense of how decisions can best be made, and determining how the Board will be structured;
- Learning more about the needs of peo-

ple in our surrounding neighborhood, and how we might respond;

- Looking back and celebrating some significant events and highlights in Humber Valley's history;
- Identifying the gifts, skills and passions for ministry that currently exist within our congregation; and
- Articulating a vision for the future that includes short-and-long-term goals, as well as an implementation plan.

And (in a really exciting initiative that Rev. Rick is spearheading, and that he describes on the back cover of this newsletter), creatively exploring a diverse range of musical styles and traditions.

So this will be a season of discernment, exploration, and discovery. There will be lots of opportunities for everyone to offer suggestions, provide feedback, and help shape the future direction of this congregation.

And we're doing this at a time when our denomination is also making changes. At its meeting this past July, General Council chose Rev. Richard Bott of Vancouver to be our new moderator. As well, General Council decided to restructure our church in some significant ways, which include:
Continued on page 3

- Replacing our existing Presbyteries and Conferences with 16 Regions across

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Zoran is the proud grandfather and Dragan the proud granduncle of a beautiful baby girl: Sophia.



*Community Fall BBQ
Sunday, September 23*

*Annual Fall Hike
Following the service on
October 14*

*You can view many of
our sermons via Humber
Valley's website at
www.hvuc.ca*

Elder _____ Phone _____

A Busy Summer Church

This edition is full of information about the very busy summer at our very vital church. If you drove by on any weekday you saw the parking lot filled with lots of little kids learning to safely ride their bicycles — the Pedal Heads. But, inside the church was full of activity too: summer maintenance projects, new doors installed, new fridge in the kitchen, Mad Science Camp, Italian Camp, Neighbour Note Music Camp, strategic meetings, preparations for Sunday worship and music, ...

Social HVUC

HVUC is all about community and worship but it is also all about friends getting together and supporting each other. A few of the auctioned events from the Penguins Evening were held this summer. People had fun and raised \$3,600 in the process.

Lots of HVUC people abandon the city heading for Ontario's near north. We miss our cottagers but a lot of us are lucky enough to get invitations to visit their friends at the lake. I was one of the lucky ones and had a great time swimming in a lake that was as warm as a bathtub. Coming ashore I almost stepped on a moving rock — a huge snapping turtle.

Nancy Roper sent me a couple of photographs of Humber Valley folk enjoying each other's company in Muskoka.



Above: the Koziaks and Ropers visiting Wendy MacBeth.

Below: the McCorquodales visiting the Ropers.



Every Crisis is an Opportunity

At HVUC it seems we not only have survived our crisis of last year, but we are seizing the opportunity it has afforded us for exploration, discernment and discovery. I am well known to be an optimist — for me the glass is always at least half full. Everyone is full of ideas and excited by the possibilities ahead of us. Perhaps, if we continue to work with, and support, our splendid ministry team, HVUC will become one of the thriving (much more than surviving) mainline churches in Toronto.

The rest of the world may not be so fortunate. So many people are glued to CNN every day to binge on the latest madness happening in the US. It seems the very institutions of that country are being undermined. We need to worry — and pray — that our time of democracy, peace and prosperity is not about to end.

What about the recent gang-related shootings in Toronto? What about the extremes in weather causing major fires out West and flooding in Toronto, and extreme flooding in India? What about all the people fleeing countries where conflict and bad government have destroyed their chances for normal lives? Let's pray that our leaders can work for the common good, not just for their own power and greed, to find the positive opportunities these crises present.

4 Worms in Church

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol; the second worm into a container of cigarette smoke; the third into a container of chocolate syrup and the fourth into a container of good clean soil. At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol — Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke — Dead.

The third worm in chocolate syrup — Dead.

The fourth worm in good clean soil — **Alive!**

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine, who was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said: "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!" And that pretty much ended the service!

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

Susanne Hynes

Rev. Ian's Refection, continued from p.1

Canada. Humber Valley will be part of Region 10, which includes most of the GTA, the Muskoka area, and communities north of Toronto including Barrie and Orillia

- Establishing a new Office of Vocation that will develop standards for the education, training, admission, conduct, and accreditation of ministers, and oversee these matters
- Changing the way that regional and national initiatives are funded, by assessing congregations on their revenues rather than on their membership numbers
- Permitting churches to allow adherents to vote on all matters at congregational meetings

These changes are designed to allow the United Church to make decisions more effectively, remove duplication,

function with fewer volunteers, and live within its financial means. But it will also mean that far fewer denominational staff will be in place to assist us, and that we'll be encouraged to find new ways to cooperate with neighbouring churches and support one another.

This is certainly a season of change for Humber Valley, and for our denomination. There's lots of work to be done, and undoubtedly there will be some bumps along the way. But I really believe that, with God's guidance, we can successfully work together to make our church more vibrant, relevant and Spirit-filled, and that this season can be a time of energy, excitement and new beginnings.

May God bless and guide us all.

Rev. Dr. Ian Manson

Make a Joyful Noise, Clap Your Hands, Hallelujah, Amen!

This fall, under the initiative and leadership of Reverend Rick, we will be embarking on a series of special services exploring the use of different genres of music and worship service format. These will be interspersed with our more traditional services. Our choir and wonderful roster of soloists will be taking part as well as guest musicians.

I am pleased to announce that we will enjoy organists Lydia Pederson and John Derksen playing at a number of services and trumpeter Brenden Cassin will play at the November 11th Remembrance Day service. The Handbell Ensemble will also be featured on November 11th as well as during the Christmas Season.

The choir has been invited to sing with the Ontario Pops Orchestra at their Christmas Concert taking place in the

Angel Voices

*I would dearly love to get a group of children singing,
to be called "Angel Voices".
We will rehearse after the Sunday services,
I promise it will be fun!
Please encourage any children you know
to come out and participate.*

sanctuary on Saturday December 1st beginning at 8pm. We will be presenting 5 pieces and hope that many of you will come out to hear us.

"If Music be the Food of Love, Play on!"

Jill Diane Filion, Music Director

Welcome Back

W - Welcome HVUC members, adherents,
new friends

E - Each of you

L - Love to all

C - Come home

O - One and all

M - Meet each other once again

E - Everybody!

B - Back to roots and to the future

A - Activities await you!

C - Celebrations galore!

K - Kum-ba-Yah! (GOD is here)

See You soon, *Carol Zachar*

This Old Church: Audio Visual

Why are the Sunday slides not perfectly worded?
Why do the Ministers' voices boom and then the announcements cannot be heard?

Our facility continues to be in demand for both Church-sponsored and community-based activities, partly because of our Audio Visual capabilities.

Our Audio Visual (AV) equipment and services include both stationary and portable audio and visual capabilities and some flexibility to augment any one room for a specialized need.

In the **Sanctuary AV booth**, we have a 36 channel sound board with linkage to a fixed three camera video recording system, as well as a computer based presentation system with programming for remote data transfers, cd, mp3 and video incorporation into presentations. This is augmented by recording component for the storage of presentations on CD's and their reproduction for public use. We have three wireless microphones and their respective boosters and hard of hearing amplifiers and earpieces. There are also approximately 22 cords of various lengths, numerous adapters, and several stands for mics and several boxes of batteries.

To ensure quality within presentations, we have created our own copy of the hymns from *More Voices* to our computer memory along side of *Voices United* and have instigated an additional review step by the Ministers to ensure the presentation reflects their service preparations and order.

For Steed Hall and the Hearth Room, we have equipped two AV carts with the appropriate equipment to handle the usual AV requirements: an amplifier and microphone; power and speaker wiring and within each room, we have placed quality speakers. Connections for a computer and our own video projector and screen have been added. The amplifier has capacity to power several other attachments that we have had requested in the past such as recording and hard of hearing amplification.

This equipment is maintained and used by a team of 6 individuals who have devoted their volunteer time to learn

how to ensure that the presentations are of the highest quality that we are able to provide. This includes attending training sessions, based on the use and repair of the equipment on attending rehearsals and performances and Sunday services. Church staff provide specific elements of the total AV programme: Cheryl Drake, Zoran Mrkovic, Carla Sandrin and George Turnbull as well as speakers with visual program announcements.

In addition to our use of the AV equipment, we allow qualified individuals, under the authority of a rental agreement, to use our system for their event. We also allow renters to bring in their own equipment provided it is compatible with our AV system and electrical circuits.

We are not always perfect in providing the requested AV support for a number of reasons. The content may have changed in the transfer between computers and programs; the creator and reviewer may have missed something in their review of the slide show; and lastly, errors occur because of what and when something was changed. There may also be some problems with the volume of the voices when a new person begins to speak.

The AV crew is trying to be more professional in their use of the available controls and each speaker has been extremely helpful by adapting to newer requirements asked of them by the AV team.

So I ask you to continue to applaud the work of the AV crew and cut them some slack for any errors within our presentations. Remember that a kind word will yield a smile while a harsh word will only yield a hardening of the volunteer's embarrassment that an error occurred.

If you want more details or just to see the equipment, please stop by the AV booth after Sunday service.

See and hear you all at Church.

Peter White

AV Supervisor, Property Team



Our Summer Students

This year we hired two summer students, Joshua Morrison and Justin Mizgala under the Canada Summer Jobs program. This program provides wage subsidies to employers up to 100%, as in our case, to create employment opportunities and valuable work experience for high school and college or university students. It also aims to assist organizations who provide important services to the local community.

Both students have been working 30 hours per week during July and August. We are very fortunate to have had these two very personable young men helping at HVUC.

Joshua Morrison

Joshua has been helping with various inside and outside property maintenance projects, such as cleaning windows, walls, floors, weeding, etc. under the supervision of Zoran.

Joshua said the seven weeks at Humber Valley flew by. This is his second job; his first was last summer at the CNE.

He spent a couple of weeks there doing property clean-up, picking up paper. It was very hot.

He got to work at HVUC each day on the TTC either on the Royal York or Islington bus. He has one brother. His favourite music is hip hop and he listened through his ear phones while doing some of his HVUC tasks. The hardest thing he had to do at Humber Valley was doing the cut around the ditch by the fence.

Joshua is a student at Humber College in a two-year Recreation and Leisure program. He is a little worried about getting permanent employment when he finishes knowing that he might need some connections and good words to help him get interviews for positions.

Thank you, Joshua, for all your help this summer.



Justin Mizgala

Justin is starting the Commerce program at McMaster University this fall. He has been providing office help under the supervision of Cheryl, as well as working on a number of research projects, identified by Rev. Ian, to support the Transition Team work. Nancy Roper, as suggested by Constance, has provided Justin with supervision on these projects.



Summer 2018 at HVUC was Justin's second paid position. He started out at the CNE last summer at the ice cream/waffle stand. Having survived some 12 hour shifts he thinks he may not ever want to go to the Ex again. Justin also volunteered as a camp counsellor at St. George's School and helped his aunt with some financial planning.

Justin graduated with honours from Richview Collegiate and was on the tennis team in grades 10 to 12. He has a younger sister and got a ride to work at HVUC with his Mom.

Justin's first task was to type all of the hymns from *More Voices in Word*. He really enjoyed the challenge of a large project for Rev. Ian that focused on the demographics of our neighbourhood. He also created a congregational map and researched programs other churches offer. Like Joshua, Justin listened to music on his earphones when he had tedious tasks to do.

For him the hardest thing was finding a way to begin the demographic project. And the best thing was getting to know people as they walked into the office or called the church.

Best of luck in your studies Joshua and Justin.

Be sure to keep in touch with us.

*Ted Loewen and
Susanne Hynes*

Note from the Chair, Leadership Council

I hope each of you has had a wonderful summer. As someone who loves to swim, I have tried to go into as many swimming pools and lakes as possible.

Your Leadership Council was very active during the summer, holding meetings both in July and August, with a focus on the work of the transition team (see separate article by Constance Crosby). Also, the decision was made not to submit the SMASH proposal to the United Church to request funding as we want to look at all our projects and programs in the context of our new strategic plan after it is drafted. After that time, we can move forward with new projects. Again, thank you to Carla Sandrin for her hours of work on this proposal and to Rev. Ian for his review of it.

We have had wonderful attendance at our summer services including a number of guests and young families. We hope they will continue to be with us in the fall. I hope each of you will take the time to talk to someone you do not know each Sunday and welcome all to our church family.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments. It is an honour and pleasure for me to continue to serve as your Chair. Blessings to each of you and your family members. See you at church.

Deborah Turnbull



Covenanting with Rev. Ian and Rev. Rick



We celebrated the covenanting of our two new ministers, Rev. Rick Tamas (now Rev. Dr.) and Rev. Dr. Ian Manson, with our HVUC community and Presbytery at a special and lovely Covenanting Service presided over by Mhairi Godley on behalf of Toronto Conference. *Being with*, based on Matthew 28: 16-20 was the title of Rev. Deanna Wilson's (our Presbytery representative in the photo with Ian and Rick) sermon.

Members of Southwest Presbytery were invited, and a lovely social time, including a cake, was held afterwards.

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 16-20



This beautiful cake was created by Carolyn Whiteside

Summer services at local retirement residences

For many years, the Pastoral Care Team has been arranging informal afternoon mid-week worship services at some of the local retirement homes. In recent years we have been going to Humber Heights, Scarlett Heights and the Kingsway retirement homes. We have been providing services at each of the three residences five times a year with a break during the summer.

We have numerous Humber Valley members in these three retirement homes who are unable to get out to our Sunday services. Our outreach services are welcomed by these people who then feel they are still part of our church. Many folks from multiple denominations enjoy coming as well.

However, this year, several of the residents asked if we could schedule additional services during the summer months. We agreed to do so as an experiment. The feedback from the residents regarding the services held was excellent. Many residents said they had found the gap between the spring and fall too long to wait for one of our services. Rev. Rick led the services at Humber Heights and the Kingsway and Rev. Ian led the service at Scarlett Heights. Jill Fillion provided piano accompaniment for the hymn singing in each residence. As a usual part of these services, members of the Pastoral Care Team volunteered to bring some refreshments to be enjoyed during a time of fellowship at the end of the service. Many thanks to the Pastoral Care Team volunteers who helped out.

We will be resuming our regular services on September 5th at Humber Heights.

David Dallimore



Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Tickets \$30.00

Contact 416 231-2263 ext. 39

Light dinner, wine, music, silent auction/vendors, bake sale. Be dazzled with donated pre-loved purses, wallets and belts.

Guest Speaker

Tricia Hasenclever
"Learn to Laugh"



Tricia takes her unique brand of wisdom and humour on the road. Her *Learn with Laughter* Seminars have been featured in the Toronto Star, she writes her own column and she is the co-author of 'Expert Women Speak Out'. Her goal now is to share with others the lessons she has learned – keep an open mind, learn from your mistakes, laugh along with life and always believe in yourself.

We Need Your Help

If you are cleaning out closets, please donate your gently used purses, belts and wallets to the sale. We are also looking for special items for the silent auction. And the Bake Sale wants your home made goodies including jams, jellies, pickles and preserves.

Sponsorship advertisers for the event booklet are welcomed — it's a great way to support local charities and promote your business.

Call Carolyn Whiteside at 416 231-1771

We Will Survive — And Thrive!!!

As requested by many, we are providing you with the lyrics of the final song from *Our Iceberg is Melting*, a musical play presented in the Humber Valley Sanctuary in June 2018. It is sung to the tune: *I Will Survive* (best known in the version sung by Gloria Gaynor); music and lyrics: Dino Pekaris and Frederick J. Perren.

First verse:

At first we were afraid
We didn't want to change
No we didn't want to find our nice lives rearranged.
We had views from every side.
We didn't know who's right or wrong.
But we worked hard,
And we learned how to get along.
And now we see a guiding star.
We know we'll find a way to win
No matter what the problems are.
When we all do it as a team
Our minds can solve each mystery.
If we just put our heads together
We can live in harmony.

Chorus:

We are a team. Let's join our hands.
If we just work together we can meet our life's demands.
When we are wrong, we'll make amends; if we are rigid,
we will bend,
But we won't crumble.
We will not fade and disappear.
Oh no, not we. — We will survive.
Oh as long as we hold on to faith
We know we'll stay alive.
We will let others know we care.
We've got so much we want to share.
And we'll survive
We will survive (hey-hey)

Second verse:

There were those who said that we would fall apart.
We lost some friends, that left us with a broken heart.
We spent oh so many nights just
trying hard to make things right.
It was a fight,
But now at last we see the light.
We've had to change
Our points of view.
We've had to drop some long held habits,
And that's hard to do.
There's been sunshine, there's been rain, but
after months of tears and pain,
We have survived; our hearts have learned to laugh again.

Repeat Chorus.

Adapted for HVUC Production of *Our Iceberg is Melting*

by *Joan Belford*

April 9, 2018

Miss October

HVUC is "Miss October" in the United Church of Canada calendar for 2019. Featured is a beautiful picture of the church at night. I believe this might be from the Etobicoke Camera Club contest last year.

I have left it on the counter for you to see when next you are in.

Deb Turnbull

Stewardship Update

The following table shows our financial results as of the end of July 2018. Results for the parallel period in 2017 are included for comparison purposes.

	January – July	
	2018	2017
Sources of Funds		
PAR, Envelope, Stock Givings	\$164,622	\$170,037
Use of Church	\$99,710	\$97,776
Trustees	\$11,518	\$11,582
Other (Loose Givings, Solar, etc)	\$19,155	\$11,146
Outreach, Capital Givings	\$31,607	21,080
Total Sources of Funds	\$326,612	\$311,621
Expenditures		
Payroll	\$292,726	\$244,905
Building Expenses	\$39,323	\$37,938
Office	\$20,517	\$11,817
Presbytery Assessment	\$7,965	\$8,415
Music	\$17,827	\$17,613
Other Committees	\$15,239	\$18,212
Total Expenditures	\$393,597	\$338,900
Transfers to Outreach and Capital HF's	\$31,607	21,080
Operating Deficit	(\$98,592)	(\$48,359)

Seven months into the year, we are experiencing an operating deficit of \$98,592. However, we expect that this should come down over the next few months. Current estimates are that by year end the deficit will probably be close to the budgeted level of \$63,000.

On a positive note, total operating income, excluding Outreach and Capital givings, is up slightly compared with last year. Conversely, our payroll expenses currently are over budget but that is mainly due to our use of a straight-line monthly expense budget. Actual monthly payroll expense has come down as of July 1 as we are no longer responsible for any of Rev. Winger's or Paul Chant's salaries.

Use of Church revenue also will increase in the latter half of the year. Increases have been applied to all of our tenant rents. In addition, charge out rates to tenants for sexton time and photocopying have been adjusted to better reflect real cost.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Humber Valley United Church that includes your support to current year programming and church operations, to capital funds and special outreach projects.

Please continue to share your generosity in support of good stewardship. God gives it all and then calls us to share. Please also remember to continue your envelope givings if you're not attending church.

Gary Halpenny

Chair, Stewardship and Finance Committee

Leaving a Legacy

Our society lives in a world of abundance and yet many sectors struggle with insufficient funding. In order for HVUC to survive and thrive and continue in a Christian community of service a storehouse of funding (HV Foundation) is essential.

To this end and to consider addressing this concern, we encourage you to attend the **October 28th** presentation on *Leaving a Legacy*. It's an opportunity to learn how a charitable gift not only benefits the Foundation but also provides substantial tax advantages to the individual. Often the greatest value is the satisfaction one may feel in having made the gift.

In consideration of a charitable gift as part of your estate plan, invite a family member to attend this session with you. Help them understand and support your intentions. It is a good subject around which to have a family discussion.

A speaker is not yet secured, although I expect to have one soon.

Brian Godman

Clerk of Session

God Is With Us: Explorations in a New Old Land



God's glorious handiwork reflected on the water.

reflects our common humanity. Frequently one or another of my Facebook friends will post a photo of an awesome scene from nature. Summer sunsets at the cottage, for example. How many of us have looked out at the lake and, with an exclamation of wonder, gone running for the camera to capture God's glorious



*Bethel Cemetery
Greenbank Ontario*



Facebook can be condemned as a time-waster, a mechanism with which to bully and to criticize-- - but on the positive side, it keeps people in touch where communication might not otherwise happen.

One thing I like about Facebook is the way it

handiwork reflected on the water? Wonder. Awe. Peace. The presence of God is found in the beauty of nature, whether in the glory of a flower, the snow on the branches, the soft reflection of a summer lake. All remind us that God is with us all the time.

Some of you might remember a talk I gave one Epiphany Sunday at Humber Valley, a talk I called, "This Old Book". I shared with you the family story of the McCorquodales, bringing their faith with them from the industrial darkness of Greenock, Scotland, to Upper Canada in the 1830's. In my research I learned that some of my husband, Steve's, forebears were buried in the Bethel Cemetery in

Greenbank, Ontario. Living in Etobicoke at the time, I really had no expectation of ever making the long journey to the wilds of Lake Scugog country and the former township of Reach, wherein the village of Greenbank lies nestled.

However, my geographic parameters have changed now that we have moved to Aurora. We are discovering wonderful unknown worlds up here, including the realization that Greenbank is less than an hour's drive along the Aurora Road and east through Uxbridge to Highway 12! Yesterday we made the journey to Greenbank and were astounded by the Bethel Cemetery. Bethel ... aptly named ... "the place of God."

Never before have we visited a cemetery that so clearly proclaimed the absolute certainty of God's presence with us. A plaque by the chapel tells us that more than a century ago the early settlers of Reach Township suddenly needed a cemetery. A three year old child had passed away. A local farmer donated an acre of his land for the cemetery, but this is not just any acre of land. The spot chosen for this cemetery is on an awe-inspiring height of land with a breathtaking view for miles to the south over the rolling hills and farms of Durham County. God's presence can be felt there. Never was there a more neat and orderly cemetery. The rows of headstones run unequivocally north and south, the headstones, in marching order, face east and west. The Gordon stone for which we were searching, parents of Steve's great-great grandmother, Jean, is flanked on either side with family markers. At the top of the hill stands a small chapel, originally constructed in the 1840's, it has been preserved for posterity by an exterior wall of cement block. The steps are dedicated to one of the community's founding fathers and the doors to another. The grounds are meticulously groomed and benches are provided for the visitor to rest and absorb the beauty of the place, the unshakeable faith of our forebears and the absolute certainty of an eternal, omnipresent God.

Our lifelong friend, Lynne Morris, visiting from her home in Whitehorse, accompanied us on our journey to Greenbank yesterday. This morning she took us on a similar journey into her past. She was born and lived her childhood years in Holland Landing, just north of Newmarket.

Have you ever been to old downtown Newmarket or to the quiet village of Holland Landing? We certainly had

God Is With Us: Explorations in a New Old Land

not ... until we moved to Aurora. Lynne took us to church with her where her ancestors had attended, where she had been baptized and where her family is buried. Christ Church, Holland Landing, is an Anglican church built in 1843. It sits on the top of a great hill overlooking the valley where the Holland River runs through. It is a small, but beautiful old red brick building, painted pale pink inside, with small but exquisite stained glass windows at the front and simple pointed arches everywhere, lifting our hearts and minds to heaven. The setting and the service were wonderful, magical. The three-person choir supported the congregation in their worship with high, clear voices in perfect unison, like a medieval boys' choir.

But it was not just in the setting, the service, and the music that we found God in that place. It was in the people. As you can imagine, the crowd was pretty small this Labour Day Sunday. But the warmth of their greeting, the sincerity of their dedication and their faith in action were overwhelming. Next Sunday, it turns out, will be the 175th anniversary celebration of "The Light on the Hill", Christ

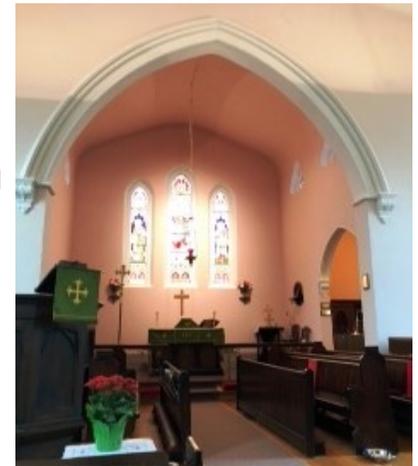
Church, Holland Landing. This Wednesday they are cleaning the church together to get it ready for a big turnout. When that celebration is behind them, they plan to resume their every-Wednesday lunch for all-comers (soup and sandwich for \$3, "so as not to be exclusive"). God is with them, in them, and He affirms His presence in the world through them.

As we stood in the amazing hillside churchyard this morning, shaded by ancient maple trees and surrounded by the markers of loved ones gone before, we marvelled again at the strength of our faith and the wonders He has wrought. Indeed, God is with us. He is everywhere.

*Donna
McCorquodale*



*Christ Church
Holland Landing*



Our Beautiful New Doors

The February 2018 issue of *Connections* advised you that HVVC had received 8 solid oak interior doors from St. Giles Presbyterian Church. We have had the doors re-sized and re-finished and they have now replaced our 6 front main doors and the 2 Steed Hall exterior doors. Your Property Committee believes these to be a great improvement over the old doors and would love to hear what you think.

The work was mostly done over a 3 week period — in Friendship Hall — by Arclight Construction. More importantly, the major part of the cost was covered by a very generous donation of \$13,000 by our own United Church Women (UCW). Linda Grass co-ordinated this and we thank her and the UCW for helping HVVC look it's best.

Murray Smith
Chair, Property Committee.



Like most things in September, Daytimers is back, bursting with energy and enthusiasm. We have an exciting program lined up for the coming year and the organizing team is reassembled. All we need now are our guests and we invite you all to be there on September 24th at 11.30 for our opening lunch and speaker.

September 24th

Mark Halpenny, son of Gary and Marion Halpenny, is a personal trainer and runs his own fitness business. What can he teach us? How can we learn from him? He will tell us about his work and answer our questions. I remember teaching Mark in Sunday School and I am thrilled to welcome him to our group as a successful adult.

October 29th

This will be our Hallowe'en event and you are welcome to wear costumes. The colour scheme will be orange and black. This proud mother is pleased to welcome her son, Rev Phil Dallimore, as our speaker. During the summer he took a sabbatical and went to explore the Yukon Territory. He will share his experiences, tell us some Yukon history and show us his excellent pictures.

November 26th

What a treat in store. Our own Humber Valley member, Frank Kershaw, has agreed to join us. He is a well known horticulturist and he will focus on the beautiful tropical gardens of the Caribbean. He will feature both public and private gardens, intimate romantic retreats and large estates. All the gardens have fascinating stories to tell and will be brought to life by slide images.

December 17th

For our Christmas event we will start as usual with an Advent Communion in the sanctuary. Hopefully our special Christmas visitor will drop in at lunchtime, and Guitar George will entertain us and lead some carol singing.

Don't delay. Write all these dates on your calendars today, so you won't miss a single event.

Judith Dallimore

Convenor



Jill Fillion, flamenco dancer, at the June Daytimers.



Coffee Hour buddies at HVUC

Gayle Taylor — UCW Life Member

At its Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 27, 2019, Gayle Taylor was presented with a UCW Life Membership Pin. Last year's recipients Joan Belford and Susanne Hynes paid this tribute to their friend, Gayle.

Joan

Today we are awarding a UCW Life Membership Pin to someone who is the spiritual heart of Unit 7, and an example to all of us. She is a person who always steps up to do her part, in the background or in a leadership role. She is a very good friend and her faith is very deep.

Today we would like to honour Gayle Taylor.

Susanne

I first met Gayle in the church nursery where we took turns taking care of our little girls (and other peoples' little boys) so the parents could attend service. Soon we were bridge-playing and child-rearing friends for life. We are grandmothers now and continue to share our highs and lows, laughter and tears.

Joan

I met Gayle through Unit 7, and have gotten to know her better through our monthly Mondays preparing for Daytimers, where Gayle scolds me for being a cooking tyrant, or on our summer forays to Wendy MacBeth's cottage, where Gayle heartily joins in our sing-songs. I am always impressed with the depth of Gayle's thinking about spiritual and philosophical matters. This is a woman who has truly wrestled with life's and religion's tough questions, and always approaches issues with love in her heart.

Susanne

Throughout her more than thirty years at Humber Valley, Gayle has been a faithful member of the congregation, attending Sunday service, bringing her children and grandchildren, and making many friends. Her commitment to Humber Valley is evident in the many ways she has participated and continues to participate in our worship and social life. Gayle is a poet and an actress; she took on roles in plays, she contributed poems to *Connections* and she is an excellent lay reader in church. She volunteered to be in the *Penguins* production but had to step down for health reasons.

Joan

Gayle is an unsung hero in the UCW. She has been a loyal member of Unit 7 for many years and took on the leadership for a time. She is a friend to all and is always there to

help and contribute by doing the devotional, bringing food, setting and cleaning up for events and funerals, and happily participating in the fun we have. A couple of years ago Gayle took on the job of kitchen supervisor and has ensured we have good supplies and that the kitchen is clean and organized (no small feat given the heavy use it gets from church people and renters.)

Susanne

In her continuing quest to gain greater depth and understanding of her faith, Gayle has participated actively in several bible studies, particularly the Friday morning one with Rev. Mark where she did a very creative presentation on an Old Testament story.

Gayle has been with us in our bad and good times and her bad and good times. She epitomizes what a United Church Woman is and should be: steadfast in faith and friendship and commitment.



HVUC 66th Anniversary Sunday October 21, 2018



This service will feature Linnea Good with musical and liturgical elements.

Linnea Good's life journey is an example of how faith can empower a person to become something bigger and more beautiful than they ever could have imagined. She challenges people, through her music and stories, to ask the hard questions of themselves and seek authentic joy in their lives

OLD LAPTOPS FOR STUDENTS IN NICARAGUA

Suzanne Campbell of Casa Relief is collecting old laptops to be reconditioned and taken to Nicaragua in December. Casa Relief has a young lady who works for Google in Nicaragua who volunteers to put all the information needed in Spanish on a laptop when it gets there to be used by students in Nicaragua who are unable to buy their own.

If you have any old laptops, please bring them to the church office anytime before the middle of November. All the information on the computers which are taken down to Nicaragua will be erased or, if the person who owns the computer is worried about security they can give it to us clean.

Casa Relief will be with us again in the fall with their fair trade goods for sale and will take any laptops we have collected at that time.

For more information, please contact Barbara Clarke
Tel: 416-622-6422,
Email: bcskc@sympatico.ca

Youth Without Shelter Back-to-School Wish List

- Mechanical pencils • White out • Index dividers for binders
- Pencil cases • Duotang folders (with the interior pocket)
- Soft/hard cover 3 ring binders • Toothbrush holders • Soap holders
- Lined notebooks • Combination locks • Laundry bags
- Gift cards: Staples • Knapsacks • Belts • USB keys: all sizes Large size:
- Shampoo • Conditioner • Body wash

THE CLOTHING CONNECTIONS ROOM at Youth Without Shelter (YWS) is one of the first places a new resident will visit. Youth often arrive at the shelter with only the clothes they are wearing. New clothing is an important first step in getting settled and feeling good about oneself.

YWS partners with a number of clothing suppliers as well as generous donors like you to provide new clothing for the room. For health and safety and most importantly youth self-esteem YWS only accepts donations of new clothing. They have observed first-hand the confidence and boost of self-esteem that residents gain when selecting new, clean and current clothing. It is especially important during this back to school season that the residents feel good about what they are wearing as they face the challenges of a new school year.

Your donations of clothing and gift cards are most welcome and allow them to continue to keep the Clothing Connections Room operating.

Items of clothing that are always in high demand are jeans, plain T-shirts, hoodies and sweat pants.

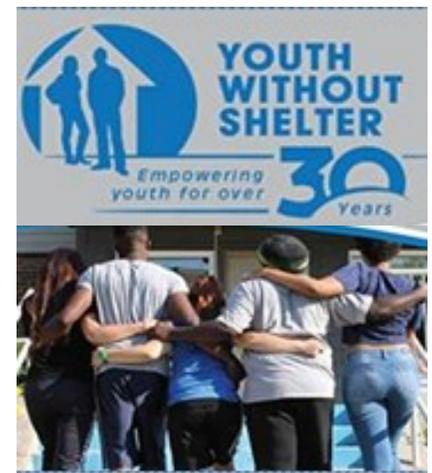
PLEASE BRING ANY DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH AND PLACE IN THE BASKETS BY THE PHOTOCOPIER.

UCW Special Donation to War Amps

In the spring, the UCW donated \$1,000 to WAR AMPS CANADA in recognition of its 100th anniversary. The cheque was gratefully received by Melissa Muller, herself an amputee, on behalf of the charity. She outlined the many services offered by WAR AMPS including assistance to children as well as war veterans. Started in 1918 and continuing to the present, WAR AMPS is an important part of Canadian history.



Humber Valley's UCW is proud to use funds earned at various events to help a variety of charities both local, national and international. By attending *Ladies' Night Out* or *Bids 'n Bites* we are all helping to support these charities. Many thanks.



HVUC Reaches Out and Helps



Indigenous education, Canada's future. | L'éducation des autochtones, L'avenir du Canada.

Dear Humber Valley United Church,

You've never met the MacDougall family, but you've played a huge role in their lives.

Your support helped three Indigenous siblings graduate with post-

secondary degrees - and all three have chosen career paths to help people. We - and they - are so grateful to you for making this possible.

Thanks to you, Mitchell is a graduate from Acadia University and in his second year of medical school at the University of Toronto, Allison graduated in May with a double major in Geology and Environmental Science from Acadia, and the youngest, Samantha, just completed her national exams and is a Paramedic awaiting hire from the Province of Nova Scotia.

You've made it possible for these sisters and brother to achieve their goals. As children, the MacDougall siblings all dreamed of doing something important, like saving people's lives or saving

Your support shows students like Mitchell, Allison and Samantha that Canadians care about them and about reconciliation. Your commitment to our students is appreciated more than words can ever express. Thank you for letting the MacDougalls and so many Indigenous students know that you want them to succeed. We are grateful to have you walk with us as we build a path towards brighter futures and meaningful reconciliation.

Sincerely,

President and CEO, Indspire

This letter is in response to Humber Valley's donation of \$1,000 to Inspire

PS: The Indspire Awards on CBC.ca are available for viewing online - and without commercials! The Awards demonstrate outstanding achievement, are a celebration of culture, and represent the highest honour the Indigenous community bestows upon its own people.

"I'm thankful for all of the help from Indspire supporters. I felt that I had to work even harder because there were these terrific people who had invested in me." - Allison MacDougall, pictured in the middle, with her brother, Mitchell, and sister, Samantha



Their parents couldn't be more proud of their children's accomplishments, and for embracing their heritage - their mother is Inuit, of the NunatuKavut people from southern/central Labrador, and their father is from the Acadia First Nation.

the planet - because of you, their dreams are a reality. We couldn't be happier to see all their successes! You've made a difference for Mitchell, Allison, Samantha and so many other students like them; your kindness won't be forgotten.

Lake Scugog Camp thanks Humber Valley

Scugog has created a "donor tree" to recognize those who have made significant contributions to the work of the camp.

The leaf on the far right of this mural shows our church name. Over the years Humber Valley has donated many thousands of dollars in support of the mothers and children who would not otherwise have a holiday away from the city.

We continue to make a difference in the lives of so many. In particular, the young campers who go on to staff positions have gained skills and confidence that also contribute to their education and future employment.



Summer Services

Led by Rev. Rick and Rev. Ian, summer services at Humber Valley were inspiring, enlightening, and fun this year. We started off with a great Canada Day service that included a birthday cake. We finished on Labour Day weekend and are looking forward to 10:30 worship back in our splendid sanctuary.

Rev. Rick themed the July services on *Living the Beatitudes* and featured a lot of music. We sat facing the stage which made a wonderful mountain with a campfire, bible, and candle. And it was topped by our dear old copper cross.

Rev. Ian's services were based on key concepts from the Lord's Prayer. We sat facing Wimbleton and were challenged with understanding, among other phrases, *our Father, our daily bread, and forgive us*.

Jill Fillion was able to play (GO sight-reading!) all the familiar hymns we requested and got well-deserved applause for her postludes, several of which were popular show tunes (some of us might have been singing along).

Lots of people turned out despite the hot weather and we welcomed a number of visitors.

Special thanks to Barbara Clarke who made sure we all had hymnaries and bulletins and goodies. Thanks to her helpers, to the people who took up the offering, and to our sextons who set up the rooms and the AV.



Rev. Rick, Jill Fillion, and Andy Tamas (Rev. Rick's youngest brother)



We are looking for items for the auction after the Shine on Sweet Chariot Concert.

Auction items should be experiential or services similar to what we had the night of the Penguin play. So if you have a cottage, a ski chalet, place in Florida, tickets to a sports event, tickets to the theatre, gardening help, a swimming pool or would like to offer your home or services to host a dinner or host a skating party or bridge evening or to provide computer or electrical or dog training or walking services, help decorating your home, help serving at a dinner party, help in cleaning up someone's home, videoing or filming an event, services of a professional make-up artist etc. etc., I would be thrilled if you would let me know and then we will auction off this experience or service on November 3rd. Some will be through live auction and most will be through a silent auction. The money raised will go directly for use by the church.

Please use your imagination and let me know what experience and/or service you would like to have included in the auction. As we do not want to compete with the UCW Ladies' Night Out fundraiser in October, the items for this auction should be as described above.

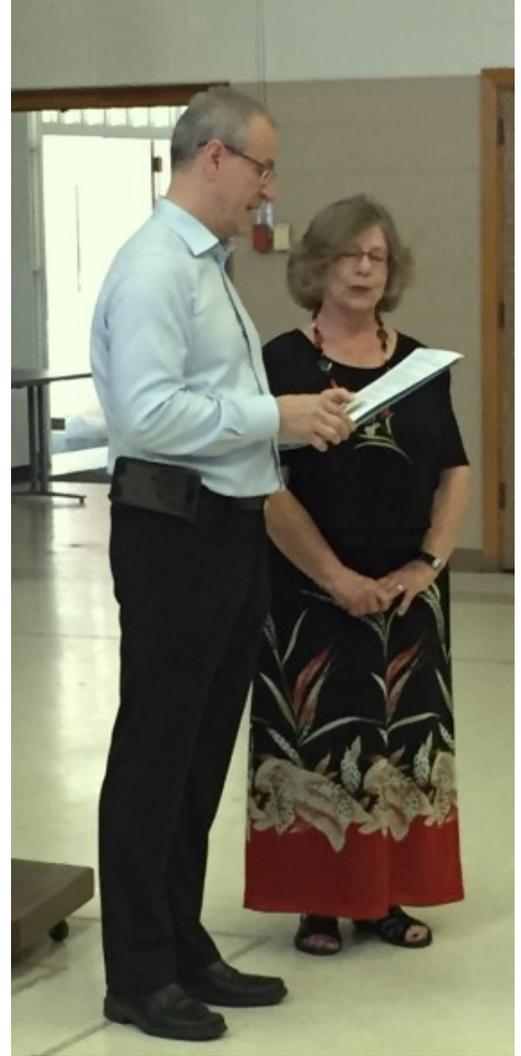
I look forward to hearing from you and thank you, in advance, for your support. Also, please buy your tickets to this event and encourage your family, friends and neighbours to come.

Blessings,

Deb Turnbull



Left: Allan Jones playing the HVUC carillon inviting the neighbourhood to come to church on Canada Day.



Right: Borys Wrzesnewskij, M.P. for Etobicoke Centre, presented Joan Belford the 2018 Etobicoke Centre Exceptional Service Award on June 10, 2018. Congratulations Joan!!!

We would like to thank our sponsors for their continuing support.

The funds we receive for these ads help defray the costs of producing Connections.

If you would like to advertise in Connections, or if you know someone who might like to advertise, please contact the office at 416-231-2263. We reach an audience of about 200 people in print and more on the Humber Valley website and Facebook page.

We encourage everyone to consider the services our sponsors provide.

A real estate advertisement featuring two agents, Lucky Milidrag and Masha Milidrag. The background is dark with a decorative border. The text is white and gold. The phone number 416-235-2500 is prominently displayed in the center. Below the names, there are logos for various real estate organizations and the company name REMIX Diamond Realty Inc. with the tagline 'Independently Owned and Operated'.

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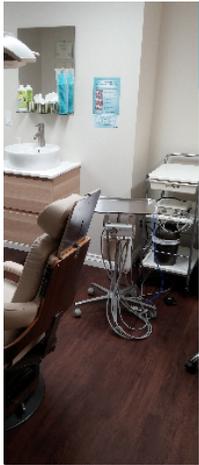
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Upcoming Services and Events

Sunday September 16 – Rev. Ian presiding and Rev. Rick preaching. Celebration of HVUC’s renters.

Monday September 17 — Handbells at 6:30 pm

Sunday September 23 – Fall BBQ, Renters Sunday, Sunday school starts

Sunday October 7 – Thanksgiving, World Wide Communion, Intergenerational Service

Sunday October 14 – Introduction to Jazz Music, Thanksgiving II

Sunday October 21 – 66th Anniversary Sunday, Guest Linnea Good

Wednesday October 24 — Ladies Night out with Guest Speaker Tricia Hasenclever 6 pm

Sunday October 28 – Issues and Us, Planned Giving, Jazz Sunday

Saturday November 3 – “Shine On Sweet Chariot” Show, dinner and auction, 7pm

Sunday November 4 – Stewardship Sunday, Daylight Saving ends

Sunday November 11 – Special Remembrance Day Service

Sunday November 18 – Children’s Sunday, Introduction to “Praise Worship”

Saturday November 24 – Talent Show

Sunday November 25 – Reign of Christ, Contemporary Praise Worship, Children stay in service

The Value of a Smile



- it costs nothing, but creates much.
- it enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give.
- it happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lives forever.
- no one is so rich that he can get along without it and none is so poor but is richer for its benefits.
- it creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a business and is the countersign of friends.
- it is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and nature’s best antidote for trouble.
- it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody till it is given away.

Submitted by Mabs Smith

Community Fall Barbeque

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Please plan to bring your friends and neighbours to our annual Community Fall BBQ to be held on HVUC’s front lawn and in Arthur Steed Hall.

We will honour and celebrate our renters and groups that partner with us in our community ministry.

Hot dogs, corn, salad, dessert

Rock climbing and games on the lawn

Free for all with an opportunity for donations to offset our costs.

**Blessings from
The Hospitality Ministry of HVUC**



Transition Team – Working with Our Ministers

We have had a busy summer with meetings and thoughts and ideas, fitting them all in between vacations and cottages and barbecues and enjoying the wonderful summer weather.

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING. Our excellent summer student Justin Mizgala, working under the direction of Rev. Ian and with supervision and the kind assistance of our very capable volunteer Nancy Roper, concluded an interesting piece of research into the demographics of HVUC and its neighbours that will be edited and soon made available in the office. This is the first step to the 'Sustainability' or 'Strategic' planning component of the Transitions Teams (TT's) work. Thanks to Justin, Ted Loewen and M&P for finding him, Rev. Ian, and Nancy for their excellent work this summer.

We will be organizing a 'Community Round Table' in November, where we will invite local politicians, community organizations, neighbouring churches and many others to have a conversation about our community, its needs and possibly the future work of HVUC within it. Rev. Ian will be chairing this meeting, and while he already has an extensive list of invitees, he is interested in hearing any groups you think should be invited. Please let him know your thoughts.

Over the next few weeks, we will be visiting other churches that have managed this process effectively, as well as organizing small group meetings over the October –November period to hear from the congregation.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE and LEADERSHIP RENEWAL. A great deal of discussion has been had between the TT and our Ministers and the Leadership Council about what we want to achieve with a new structure. Our aspirational goals are that a structure would facilitate:

- A strategic and spiritual focus
- Inclusiveness and renewal of leadership
- Effectiveness, appropriate to our size
- Transparency
- Respectfulness.

Rev. Ian is in the process of creating a document outlining possible structures and their advantages, for review by the leadership council. Rev. Ian teaches *Governance* at Emmanuel College and is a great resource for us on this. We hope to be in a position to hold a congregational meeting in early October to review a TT and Leadership Council proposed structure, with the goal of having an agreed structure in place by the time of the annual general meeting in the spring, with a renewed leadership team. We need your input, help and support in all of this work. The United Church of Canada has put out a document entitled 'Models of Board Governance' available on the UCC website which outlines possible structures and is a good reference document.

The work the Transition Team is doing is aligned with complying with the direction of Toronto Conference's decision of November 2017, including the following directives:

Members of the congregation be engaged in clarifying the HVUC vision and mission, emphasizing its goals for the next three years

The Interim Minister assist the Board to develop a governance model, including a nomination process, appropriate to their situation with established terms that would be adhered to

The current leadership of the Board and M & P be changed within an 18-month period.

Sincerely,

Constance Crosby for your Transition Team

Connections with Spirit through Music and Worship

As we reflect on the summer services involving the Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer, I invite you to look forward to an exciting "return to our sanctuary" in worship this September. This Fall, we acknowledge the presence of God in new and wonderful ways and prepare to intentionally explore God's gift of music in our worship services.

Not so long ago, the term "Sunday-best" meant something very specific. Some of you may recall wearing white gloves and special hats to church or wearing three-piece suits and fedoras. I can imagine that for many families Sunday worship meant church pews were full and Sunday school classrooms teemed with children. Indeed, hearts were singing the hymns of the day and our minds were filled with the message of the gospel.

Traditionally, music has been an integral part of our worship. Hymns bring to life biblical stories, the gospel message, and express the love revealed in the ministry of Jesus. Learning to express ourselves musically is vital to the lifeblood of the church. The rhythms of music can reflect the seasons of the church year, melodies can lift the spirit of the heart, and lyrics can be filled with comfort and hope.

And yet, music is such a personal experience. Each of us are attracted to certain styles of music and are less moved and motivated by other styles. Can we find a common ground among such diversity? Can a congregation feel at home exploring an eclectic approach to music that speaks from the heart and embraces the Spirit? I believe we can, and in so doing discover a musical worship identity that may extend far beyond our expectations.

This September we begin such an exploration of music in the worship life of our church. On special Sundays (see below), we will introduce and highlight a specific musical style in worship. Please be assured that the purpose of this exploration is not to replace or dismiss an existing approach to music. It is also certainly not meant to decide what musical genre is best for a church. Rather, the purpose of this exploration lies deep in the heart of worship itself with an experience of how the Spirit speaks through each musical style.

Humber Valley United
the friendly community church

76 Anglesey Blvd., Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 3C1

Telephone: 416-231-2263

Email: hvuc@rogers.com



Managing Editor: Susanne Hynes

Published by Humber Valley United Church

I am excited to share this with you how this will unfold in the weeks ahead!

On Sunday Sept 30, the worship leaders will introduce to the congregation the various musical styles that will be experienced in the special services:

Jazz:	Oct 28
Contemporary Praise:	Nov 25
Gospel:	Dec 23
An African/Global worship	in the new year

On the Sunday before a special service, the congregation will receive a sampling of the music and a brief synopsis of how this genre has been used in worship. Then, during the special music worship (held on the following Sunday), we will celebrate the musical style in a context that touches the Spirit. Guest artists may be asked to participate as will our own choir and soloists. The congregation will then be invited to offer responses and give feedback to the different styles of music. It is the hope that we will gain a clearer understanding of ourselves and the worship needs of our community.

Holding the reverence of our sanctuary as a sacred space while we express the various styles of praise, is of utmost importance. Efforts will be made to encourage current church goers to "bring a friend to church" each of these Sundays to share in the worship experience and reflect on its effectiveness and meaning for those present.

Rev Ian and I invite you all into a deeper relationship with God through our experience of God's gift of music in worship.

We can't wait to sing our praise to God together with you in church!

Blessings,

Rev Rick

Minister: Rev. Dr. Rick Tamas

Intentional Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Ian Manson

Director of Music: Jill Fillion

Communications Coordinator: Carla Sandrin

Church School Leader: Claire Hatje

Church School Leader: Michelle Madill

Finance Officer: Anita Wakeman

Property Manager: Zoran Mrkovic

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