



# Connections

Humber Valley United  
the friendly community church

November 2017

## The Reverend's Advent Reflection

Picture the figures and details at a crèche scene. At the centre of course, the focus of everyone's attention, is the baby Jesus, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. Then there is mother Mary, usually kneeling angelically at the improvised bedside, (though when you think about it, you might wonder why she is not fully reclined, half naked, bloody and sweaty and spent from the rigors of childbirth and with the newborn on her chest!) Joseph is usually standing guard in the background, being about as helpful as most men are at the time of child-birth.

Then there are the shepherds. They make it to every crèche scene I've ever seen, usually accompanied by a few of their sheep; big burly bearded men they are, one of them cradling a little lamb in his strong arms. There's a cow lowing in the corner, always lying down, surrounded by straw. Never pigs... this is a Jewish family event after all! No sign of manure either... an impossibly clean stable. No mid-wife present. Odd.

Sometimes an angel hovering about. Often the three wise men bearing gifts find their way there, even though the biblical account clearly has them visiting in a house in Bethlehem many days after the birth.

The Norman Rockwell style picture we like to create is a sanitized conglomeration of the original narratives. We do our best to have the manger scene tidied up of the more "down-to-earth" details. We place there those figures and details that

we **want** to see. We avoid some of the messy realities. For instance, in reality, the shepherds who were there on that holy night were likely not adult men at all. Shepherding in those days, (and to this day, all around the globe), was primarily the work

*"In that region there were shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

*This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."....*

*When the angels had left them... the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."*

Luke 2: 8-12, 15



of poor children and young teens; (think of the story of young David, shepherd-ing the flocks of his father Jesse while his older brothers were fighting in king Saul's army).

The young and the poor have always been seen as the most expendable of society to do the "dirty work" of shepherding.

There's a good likelihood that the shepherds who visited the baby at the manger were twelve and thirteen year old peasants. The mother Mary that they met was probably a teenager herself, an un-wed mother perhaps only a couple of years older than they were.

It is this group, this collection of pre-pubescent innocents which is the first to embrace the Good News of the angels. This is the adolescent gathering that greets the newborn Messiah. Mere children really. To such as these was God's in-breaking manifestation of divine Love first made known. To such belongs the kin-dom of God. That's the messy reality of Christmas... that God would be so "down to earth" for all of us.

Advent blessings,

*Mark*

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

*Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 26, immediately after the service.*

*Tree Lighting and Caroling on December 3, 7 p.m.*

*Our new Clerk of Session is Brian Goodman.*

*We are supporting Water Wells again this Advent Season. See page 18.*

Elder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Elder's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



I've just finished putting together our final Anniversary-themed edition of *Connections*, and as usual, I am blown away by all the wonderful contributions I have received. I hope you'll enjoy Jack Berryman's poem about Remembrance Day and the pictures and reports from our members who celebrated 50 and 60 years of marriage.

We have information about HVUC's 65th celebrations and shared memories of our long-gone, but not forgotten, variety show, the *Festival of Song*. For many years, all over Canada, churches, schools and clubs put on variety shows that featured skits, songs, and music performed by their own amateur members. People loved to see their friends and children perform and turned out in droves to support them. Their participation in these shows had a strong effect on those children; it gave them confidence, allowed them to be out late with the grown-ups, and still today provides them with cherished memories. It seems this is a dying tradition in Canada. But at Humber Valley, thanks to Deborah Turnbull, we continue the tradition, albeit in a different format, with our annual Talent Show.

In a recent sermon Rev. Mark recently explored the famous Stelco slogan *Our Product is Steel, our Strength is People*. This concept resonated with me, as it has with many of you, I am sure. During the service we came up with *Our Product is Worship, our Strength is our Faith*. To solicit contributions for this newsletter I suggested the slogan *Our Product is Connections, Our Strength is our Stories*.

I attended the *Read for the Cure* event at the Liberty Grand ballroom earlier this week. *Read for the Cure* is a charity started by an Etobicoke women's book club a number of years ago. The women in the club had been affected by cancer and, wanting to do something about it, they came up with a wonderful format to raise money for research into the environmental sources of cancer. The entrance ticket gets you a light dinner, a glass of wine, talks by three authors about recent books they have published, and also copies of the books (all donated). Held in several Canadian cities, *Read for the Cure* events have raised more than a million dollars in ten years. This year three Canadian authors spoke very candidly about how and why they write. The slogan *Our Product is a*

*Book, Our Strength is our Stories* probably also resonates for them.

I would like to thank our paid soloists for the wonderful music they provide for us each Sunday. Their solos and ensemble pieces greatly enhance our worship services and their voices add strength and leadership to our Chancel Choir. It is very hard for young singers to earn a living and we are fortunate to be able to help them, in a small way, get established in their musical careers.

So many people have contributed to *Connections* in the past year: contributors, proof readers, and in particular, Cheryl Drake who proofs each edition and then gets it printed and ready for the Elders to deliver. I would like to thank you all.

HVUC is a very busy place during the Advent and Christmas season. This edition of *Connections* is chock-a-bloc with news and information about the season. You will notice that our *Connections* logo is adorned with a Christmas icon, a photo of Humber Valley's crèche scene with the Chancel Screen as backdrop. The red figures at the bottom of the Screen have, for me, always represented the three Magi.

*Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year to all.*

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

[Susanne@hyneslegal.ca](mailto:Susanne@hyneslegal.ca)

*Susanne Hynes*



The Etobicoke Centennial Choir performs in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

## Coping with the Holidays in Bereavement

Many of us have great difficulty coping with the first Christmas season after a special person in your life dies (i.e., my mother). This can be an extremely painful and difficult time in ones life because this person has brought so much extensive love, pride and joy to your life.

We enjoy with great enthusiasm the joy, blessings, hymns, sermons, and anthems that will begin on Sunday, December 3—the first Sunday in Advent. We enjoy the true meaning of Christmas with great anticipation from December 3 to December 25, 2017—the day that Mary gave birth to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The season brings many, many wonderful memories of family Christmas traditions as well as the roller-coaster emotions that all of us have gone through in the 1st year especially the 1st Christmas. To me, it also represents having another celebratory day, my Mother was born on New Year's Day—she would have been 93.

Unfortunately too much commercialism has destroyed this for us. It makes the bereavement that much harder to cope with. If a person should be alone, no emails but a phone call would enhance greatly the anxieties and loneliness of Christmas.

*Jennifer Brown*

### We join our hearts and voices to offer our prayers to God

We thank you, God, that you promise to be with us always, in joy-filled days and despairing nights.

Glorious God, 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. 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.

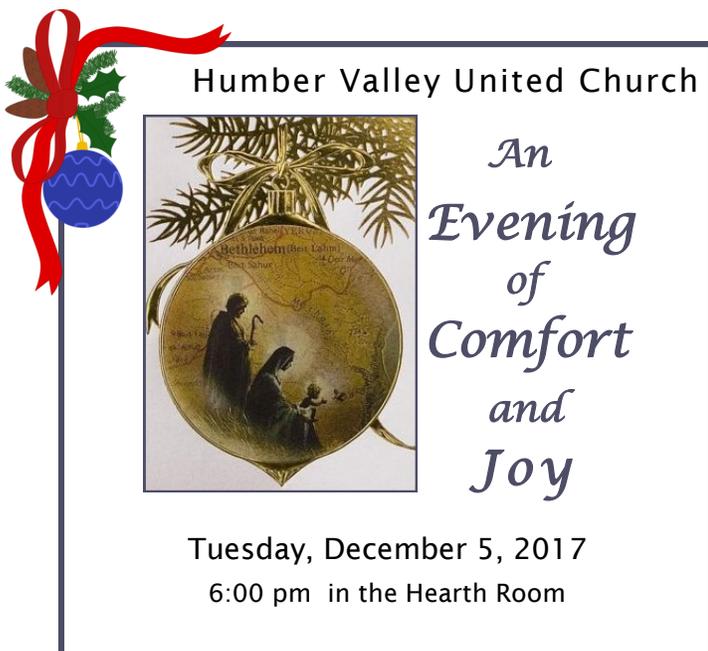
Amen

*Joanne Stenerson*

For those of our church family and community who have experienced recent difficulty or loss, the Christmas season may be tinged with sadness and grief.

Instead of "Christmas in a Minor Key", this year the Pastoral Care Committee invites those who may be seeking comfort during Christmas to share a meal, fellowship and faith. We will begin the evening at 6:00 with appetizers, followed by a meal and then a short liturgical service. We hope this opportunity to be together will bring comfort and support, and allow the anticipation of our Saviour's birth to re-instill the season with happy memories and joy. We look forward to sharing the evening with you.

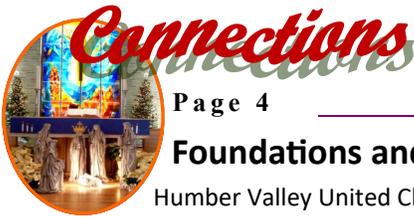
If you would like to join us on Tuesday, December 5th, please RSVP to the office on or before December 1, 2017.



Humber Valley United Church

An Evening of Comfort and Joy

Tuesday, December 5, 2017  
6:00 pm in the Hearth Room



# This Old Church

## Foundations and Rainfall

Humber Valley United Church was actually built on a swamp in 1950-51, and to this day it has an underground stream running along its Wimbledon-side foundation. As a result, our concrete and concrete block foundation is under constant attack. We can withstand this water presence except on those once-a-year occasions when a heavy rainfall overloads our eaves troughs and the overflow water falls against the church foundation. In those situations we can, and do, get water leaking into several basement locations.

Under the close and capable supervision of the Property Committee's Jim Koziak, we have prepared and paved the grassy areas beside our building on the north and northeast sides. This prevents the overflow rainwater from falling against the foundation. As an extra precaution we are enlarging and repositioning the eaves troughs and downspouts.

These unbudgeted expenses will cost approximately \$21,000 at a time when the church is running a deficit. Fortunately the HVUC Foundation has agreed to cover this cost and we have finished most of the work before the onset of winter weather. Some further fixes will have to be made in the spring after the

ground settles. This is another case of our Foundation stepping in to assist in certain necessary capital projects.

*Murray Smith*

Chair, Property Committee

## The HVUC Solar Project

The church solar project has been very successful and we as a church owe our gratitude to the company **Down To Earth Solar** and, more particularly, to Mr. Rick Balmer who supervised and advised our church through the many phases of this project.

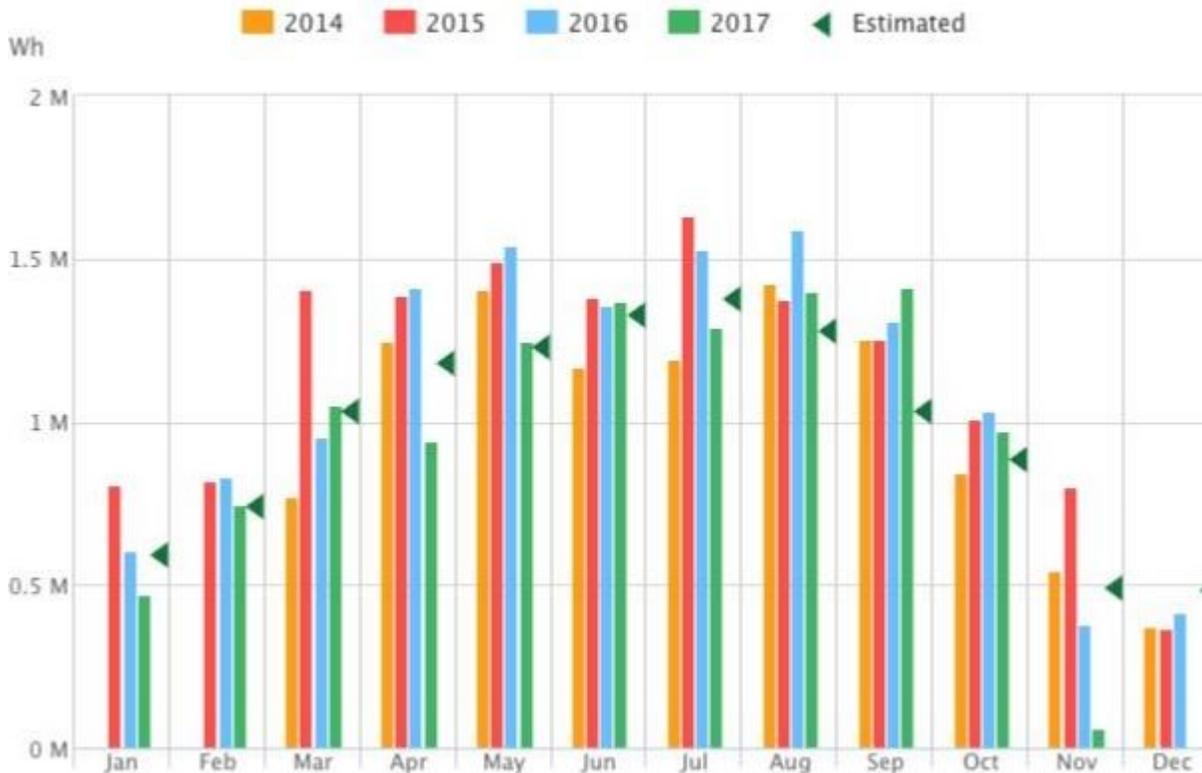
Power production started March 10, 2014 and as of Nov. 5, 2017 the total power produced is 47.92 MWh of power and the total revenue produced for the church is \$26,296.54.

I would like to thank Rick for the success of this project as well as the numerous times he would visit the church to solve various minor issues to assure the continued success of this project.

Thank you Rick.

*William Cahoon*

## Solar Project—Energy



## News from South West Presbytery

Those of you who attended the Remit education sessions that were held at Humber Valley last February and March will be interested to know that all the remits that were voted on have passed. Remit 6: “One Order of Ministry” remains to be voted on by February 2018.

Rev. David Allen has been appointed to lead the process of developing a detailed plan for implementing the remits. This plan will be taken for discussion to the 43rd General Council in 2018. Under the leadership of Gail Hamblin as Chair, South West Presbytery will be planning for the changeover to a regional governance model which will be coming in 2018.

Beginning in August of 2017, Rev. Jody Maltby has been named Interim Executive Secretary of Toronto Conference.

We are embarking on a period of historical change in the United Church of Canada which will involve challenges as well as exciting opportunities for us as congregants of communities of faith.

*Ron Crago*

Last year our Humber Valley congregation along with all communities of faith across the country voted on 8 remits which would change significantly the structure of the United Church of Canada. There is one remit outstanding but all of the others have passed by a significant margin.

The planning for the restructuring is well underway, under the leadership of Rev David Allen who was the Executive Director of Toronto Conference. Many of us were reassured that any changes under his leadership would be well done as he had the responsibility of reducing Toronto Conference from 9 to 4 presbyteries. His experience will be invaluable as our denomination faces significant restructuring across the country.

At a recent Toronto Conference Executive meeting, we were visited by a member of the Boundaries Commission. These people are tasked with the responsibility of creating 12 to 15 regions across Canada. These regions will replace all presbyteries and conferences that currently exist. The members of Toronto Conference executive provided a list of suggested parameters that we felt should be considered when dividing up the country

into regions. You as a group or as individuals can also provide your thoughts on this matter. It is not as simplistic as taking a marker and drawing up some boundaries on a map, based on geography alone. I was amazed at what other important parameters we came up with, such as financial resources, number of migrant ministries, population distribution, distance to travel, association with other organizations, the need for flexibility, as we continued our discussion with the commission member.

The Executive of South West Presbytery planned three consultations in November to which any members of all communities of faith were invited. Communities of faith will be more autonomous in the future. Any persons or groups that consider themselves innovators were asked to discuss their ideas as to how we might organize ourselves for support in the future. The need to develop networking around specific interests seems to be coming to the fore as other presbyteries consider their options. The use of technology, used almost exclusively in the north will need to be something that we in the south will need to become proficient, as our region expands.

Our presbytery will be considering at its next meeting, the development of a stabilization fund in order to assist congregations with their plans for the future, particularly while the new region is figuring out how to do its work beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Already we have set aside funding for the community ministries and are working toward hiring a staff person for three years to help congregations with the development of youth ministry. We will be interested in what will come out of the consultations in November. It is possible that we will consider additional consultations within the presbytery in the spring, as more concrete information is made known.

Humber Valley has some talented people that could well influence others as we begin to think outside the box and develop ways to make our denomination one of vitality. Some people fear this change. However, if we get involved we can ensure that it moves in a positive direction.

*Gail Hamblin*

Chair, South West Presbytery



# The Smith's Golden Anniversary

## June 1964: Montreal

Mutual friends suggest a blind date to Murray. He agrees, and using the name Ray Butler, phones Judy Csatory on Monday. She agrees to a date the following Friday and adds that she works as an executive secretary for the Rotary Club of Montreal at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, and that Ray is welcome to come by and meet her to decide if he wants to keep the date. Ray responds that that is NOT going to happen and he IS looking forward to the date on Friday.

However, on Wednesday, he goes to the second floor of the hotel, walks down the hallway, and passes the open doors to the Rotary Club. As he passes by he sees a beautiful blond animatedly talking on the telephone at the desk facing the doors. She is laughing loudly and ending the conversation. Ray-Murray feels he can't go back past those doors because the blond will know he is checking her out so he continues down the hallway and is forced to take the only other exit out: the fire escape.

The next day Ray phones Judy to reconfirm the Friday date. She says it is still on; however she asks if that was him walking past her office at 3:12 pm yesterday. After a pause he asks her if she would recognize that person again. She said she thought she would.

The Friday date goes well so Ray keeps trying to explain that his name is actually Murray Smith.

## November 4, 1967: Montreal

Not wanting to upstage EXPO 67 Murray and Judy delay their marriage until November. They are married in a Hungarian Catholic church by Father Lazio, a Jesuit priest.

The ceremony is conducted entirely in the Hungarian language so Murray has no idea what he is promising!

At the same time the Catholic church was opening up slightly to inter-faith marriages, and surprisingly, Father Lazio (whose sister had married a Protestant) invited Murray's grandfather (a practicing United Church Minister from New Brunswick) to participate in the ceremony in the Catholic church. Unfortunately,



Murray's grandfather, who never in his life had set foot in a Catholic church or participated in a Catholic function, died two months before the wedding.

## Honeymoon: Jamaica

The Jamaica honeymoon would have been fantastic except that Judy had given up her smoking habit on her wedding day. This made her just a little sensitive until Murray bought her a carton. Then while scuba diving Murray lost his wedding ring. Judy purchased another one two sizes smaller that for the following fifty years could not be removed.

## The Rest is History

After this colourful start, the rest, as they say, is history. Fifty years later Murray and Judy are still happily married. In 1975 they moved to Etobicoke. A year later began attending Humber Valley United Church and Judy opened Westmount Gallery. They've lived in three houses within a ten block radius and count their two grown children and five grandchildren as their finest accomplishments in fifty years of marriage. Life is good!

*Murray Smith*



*The Smiths had a wonderful party organized by their daughter Valerie. Spectacular music, great food, and Murray was well roasted.*

## Ruth and Ted Johnson's 60th



March 9, 2017 was our 60th wedding anniversary.

We celebrated the occasion by going on a family cruise with some family members.

When we returned we hosted a dinner party with family, friends, and some of our bridal party at St. George's Golf and Country Club.

We feel very blessed to have had 60 years together.

*Ruth Johnson*

## The Drake Party



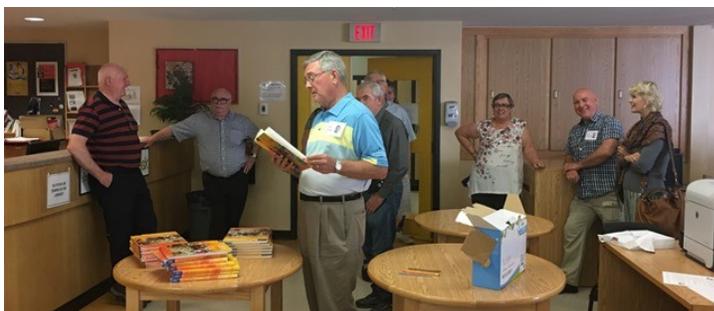
On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> we partied till we dropped. It was our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Our family and friends came from near and far to help celebrate. Even our friends from

Las Vegas came and helped set up and clean up, all the while enjoying themselves. Claire, our youngest daughter, prepared all the decorations for the walls and the tables. Fellowship Hall was transformed into a lovely banquet hall. Melissa, our oldest, whipped all the cream for the pies, sliced them and plated them for the tables. Many wonderful friends pitched in beforehand, during the dinner and afterward to help make it a splendid party. We had a Disc Jockey who played a variety of music and everyone danced the night away. All in all a great celebration!

*Cheryl Drake*

## Susanne's 50th High School Graduation Reunion

Dave and I travelled to Corner Brook, Newfoundland for my 50th reunion in September. It was wonderful to see so many of my classmates, most of whom I hadn't seen in 50 years. But we really aren't teenagers any more.



The school library



*Susanne Hynes*



ships. Jesus is the cornerstone of the church and the Currency of Relationship is the cornerstone of his community. We need to ensure the Currency of Relationship is the cornerstone of Humber Valley in order to move toward becoming a missional and sustainable ministry.

**CURRENCY OF TRUTH:** The ability to articulate individually and corporately the global/holistic truth, both internally—the experiences of different individuals and groups within the church/ministry, and externally—the experiences of different individuals and groups in the community, the neighborhood, the city or town, the nation, and the earth. The truth might be gifts that need to be lifted up and celebrated, naming the injustice and oppression against populations, or discovering our own lack of spiritual wellness.

**CURRENCY OF WELLNESS:** The state of being healthy physically, socially, economically, ecologically and spiritually within a church/ministry, the neighbourhood, the town/city, nation or the earth, especially as the result of deliberate effort. Sustainable wellness requires a regenerative and recirculatory flow of material, human, financial and natural resources.

Internal examples: one-on-one pastoral counseling, ongoing group spiritual direction, sabbatical days.

External examples: the church can mobilize its resources to provide wellness events for the wider community.

When the community is well spiritually, socially, economically and economically, the other currencies will flow and the church that takes part in fostering these wellness will be missional and sustainable.

**CURRENCY OF MONEY:** Something generally accepted as a medium of exchange, a measure of value, or as a means of payment. The traditional way that most churches raise money is by asking its members to contribute. Pledging, tithing, and occasional special offerings are all part of their stewardship strategy.

Combining the currencies of Time, Place and Gracious Leadership, we can construct creative ways of using our place to bring in financial return.

We have prepared a visual chart of the *Cycle of Blessings* as they apply to HVUC which can also be seen on the black board in the narthex.

*Barbara Clarke*

## Notice of Congregational Meeting - November 26

### Following the Service

### Ministry Personnel Review (Minister) and Pastoral Charge Review (HVUC Congregation)

Toronto Conference has received the review of the Ministry Personnel and of the Pastoral Charge conducted in July by Linda Anderson, as well as comments by the Minister and HVUC on the draft recommendations.

The Executive Secretary of Toronto Conference, Rev. Jody Maltby, will come to Humber Valley to have a congregational meeting with us on Sunday, November 26th. This meeting will be held right after church in the sanctuary. As is our fashion, a light lunch will be served. At that time, Rev. Maltby will present to the congregation the final recommendations of each of the reviews.

Please save this date. It is important that as many of you as possible attend.

We will learn together on November 26<sup>th</sup> the final recommendations for the Minister and the church.

All those involved have been asked to engage in prayer to listen for the stirrings of the Spirit. I would ask each of you to do the same.

*Deborah Turnbull*



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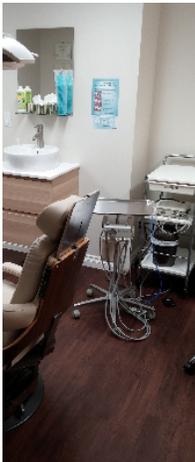
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On January 28, 1918, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, who, during the Second Battle of Ypres, wrote "In Flanders Fields", died. The cause of death was pneumonia and cerebral meningitis. He was buried on January 29, 1918, with full military honours at Wimereux, France, about five kilometres from Boulogne, where he had been Head of Medicine at Number 3 Canadian General Hospital. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in The Western Front. General Sir Arthur Currie, Commander of the Canadian Corps, attended. Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae's horse, Bonfire, led the procession. The coffin, placed on a gun carriage and draped with a Union Jack, was piled with floral arrangements, including a wreath of artificial poppies. Real poppies couldn't be found at that time of year. A pathologist, physician, poet, soldier and teacher, Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae was also devoted to animals, especially horses and dogs. Bonfire was with him from the start of the War in 1914.

In one of the many letters to his mother in Guelph, Ontario, Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae wrote: "I have a deep affection for Bonfire, for we have been through so much together...". Later, he adopted a stray spaniel, Bonneau, who often accompanied him on his rounds. The War affected Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae deeply. His favourite form of relaxation was riding Bonfire through the Boulogne countryside with Bonneau running beside them. It seemed to give him the solitude he apparently craved. Despite suffering a shrapnel wound during the Second Battle of Ypres, Bonfire survived the War. It is not known what happened to Bonneau.

### Someone Else

John won't be coming home, Bonfire,  
He has gone away;  
John won't be riding you through the Boulogne  
countryside, Bonfire,  
Someone else will be riding you.

John won't be coming home, Bonneau,  
He has gone away;  
John won't be taking you for a run with Bonfire, Bonneau,  
Someone else will be taking you.

John won't be coming home, Bonfire,  
He is with his friends who lie in Flanders Fields;  
John won't be brushing your shiny coat, Bonfire,  
Someone else will be grooming you.

John won't be coming home, Bonneau,  
He is with his friends who lie in Flanders Fields;  
John won't be playing fetch-the-stick with you, Bonneau,  
Someone else will be playing with you.

John won't be in charge of medicine at the Hospital,  
Bonfire,  
Someone else will be in charge;  
John won't be the Consulting Physician to the First British  
Army, Bonfire,  
Someone else will be the Consulting Physician.

Each of us is a someone else Bonfire and Bonneau,  
We arrive, we perform, we depart;  
Someone else will not be John, Bonfire and Bonneau,  
Someone else will be someone else.

You were fortunate to have had John as your master, Bon-  
fire and Bonneau,  
He was one of Canada's finest;  
Don't be sad, be thankful, Bonfire and Bonneau,  
That there will be someone else to hold The Torch high.

*Jack Berryman*, October 2017

**On the Occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death  
of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae on January 28, 1918**



# Remembrance Day at HVUC



Humber Valley's Remembrance Day service was held on November 12. We were privileged to have three World War II veterans among us: Joe Robinson, Peter Morgan, and Howard Langstaff.

The service was greatly enhanced by the music. Ben Promane, a guest trumpeter, played *The Last Post*, *Reveille* and the second movement of Flor Peeters *Trumpet Sonata*. Devin Herbert and the Chancel Choir sang *Homeward Bound* by Marta Keen (arranged by Mack Wilberg) accompanied by David Kingsmill and Paul Chant.

Thank you especially to Lorraine Pearsall who created the table centrepieces in Steed Hall in honour of those who served and died for our country.

*Susanne Hynes*



# Fashion Show and Ladies' Night Out

On November 1, the ladies of Humber Valley United Church and community were treated to a very enjoyable evening of food, wine, fashion and shopping. This fundraiser event sponsored by the UCW raised in excess of **\$10,000**. These monies are used to fund Humber Valley's Sunday Coffee hour, Church projects and UCW supported charities. We were also able to provide a great meal for Youth Without Shelter of pasta and salad. In addition, items that didn't sell in our event went to support Rummage Sales at Westway Church and St. George's on the Hill.

Of course this event could not happen with a horde of volunteers, the help of our support staff, Cheryl, Zoran and Dragan, and our popular and handsome "Men in Black". Many thanks to all those who volunteered and especially my co-chairs, Diane Locke and Carolyn Whiteside for all their work. As well, a special thank you to Fred Torrie and Michael Orr for their scarf tying skit and, of course, our lovely models who did a great job of presenting Zack's fashions.

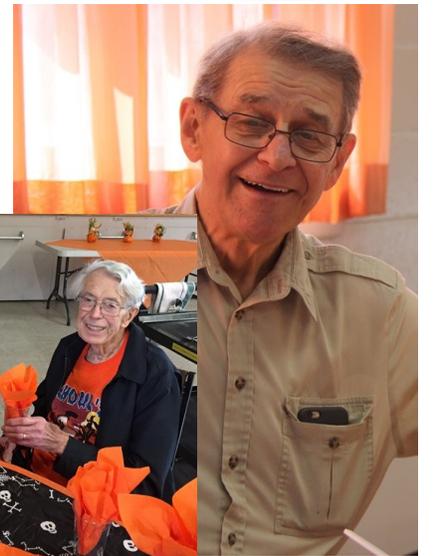
We would like to thank the following businesses who generously sponsored our event. You are encouraged to support them whenever possible.

Assante Wealth Management (Brian Goodman), Beaulieu Vision Care, Casual Affairs Clothing, Chartwell Scarlett Heights residence, Daytech Ltd., Dineen Construction, Farquhar Advantage Real Estate, Ken Shaw Lexus, Kingsway Village Custom Homes, Mariposa Cruises, Montgomery Cleaners & Alterations, More Than Pies, Network I. T. Solutions (Adrian Walters), Paragon dpi Printing, Tartistry, The Gem Gallery, The Singing Lady, Thornbrook Home Care, Turner & Porter, Westmount Gallery (Judy Smith)



We are a church that believes in community service and enjoy spreading our love and fellowship.

*Linda Grass*



# Stewardship Update



Here is our operating position to the end of October 2017 with 2016 data shown for comparison purposes.

## HUMBER VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

	January – October	
	2017	2016
<b>Sources of Funds</b>		
PAR, Envelope & Stock Givings	\$251,567	\$257,834
Use of Church	\$141,866	\$129,251
Trustees	\$16,518	\$19,000
Other (Loose Givings, Solar, etc)	\$12,507	\$27,632
Outreach, Capital Givings*	\$35,131	
<b>Total Sources of Funds</b>	<b>\$457,589</b>	<b>\$433,717</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Payroll	\$352,623	\$323,437
Building Expenses	\$50,965	\$48,130
Office	\$26,141	\$22,267
Presbytery Assessment	\$12,623	\$12,698
Music	\$24,837	\$18,835
Other Committees	\$25,111	\$35,306
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$492,300</b>	<b>\$460,673</b>
Transfers to Outreach and Capital HFs*	\$30,400	
<b>Operating Deficit</b>	<b>\$65,111</b>	<b>\$26,956</b>

As you can see, programming and operating expenditures exceeded revenue, resulting in an operating deficit of \$65,111. This exceeds the budgeted YTD deficit by approximately \$35,000.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Humber Valley United Church. Please prayerfully consider whether there is anything that you are able to provide to help us get closer to the budgeted shortfall.

Within your means, continue to share your generosity in support of good stewardship. God gives it all and then calls us to share. Please remember also to continue your envelope givings even if you're not attending church. Stewardship for the Church means managing its resources and Stewardship for congregants means fulfilling our responsibilities to the Church to the best of our abilities.

*Gary Halpenny*

\*The 2017 statement of sources of funds includes givings received for Outreach and Capital and then transferred to the Holding Fund accounts that are used to administer these funds. Such amounts weren't previously reported in the income statement. As a result there are no corresponding balances shown in the 2016 statement.



## Brian Goodman—Clerk of Session

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*My hopes for HVUC  
is that our  
interactions with  
each other are filled  
with acceptance, joy  
and enthusiasm.  
Sometimes it is  
difficult to live the  
Word, nevertheless,  
it is Christ's way.*

As the new Clerk of Session, Susanne has asked me to express my thoughts and hopes for our church in the 2 years ahead. Initially, my hope is that I am able to fill the shoes of my predecessors and build on their leadership skills.

It was most heartening to hear the voices of your elders at our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Humber Valley has an engaged, caring and enthused group of elders. It was reassuring for me to feel their support, positivity and spirituality. And for each member of the congregation please be assured that your elders are interested in you; they want to hear your thoughts and concerns. They are eager to have a conversation with you. Taking some time with your elder also lifts their spirits.

In a month we celebrate the birth of Christ, God's gift that helps us to understand our true selves, to love and to live in peace. There is a reason for each of us to be here; and for me the journey continues. Your support is appreciated. We are all better than we know. Let's re-discover ourselves and grow with the community of HV.

Have a joyous Christmas and a journey of spiritual discovery in 2018.

With thanks to all,

*Brian Goodman*



Rev. Mark thanks Joanne Stenerson for her service as Clerk at the installation of our new Clerk of Session, Brian Goodman

## Thank You Note from the Chair, Leadership Council

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I hope each and everyone of you is enjoying the fall season and the preparation for Advent. It is a very busy time in the church. I have some big thank yous to share.

I want to thank Steve McCorquodale for all his service in leadership positions in the church for the last number of years. As Steve and Donna are moving to Aurora, Steve has decided to resign from his leadership positions. He and Donna hope to still be involved in our church as their time allows.

I also want to thank Peter White who has decided to step down from his role as Chair of the Ministry and Personal (M & P) Committee for health reasons. Peter has been involved in the M & P Committee for many years and we will miss his leadership in this capacity. We are blessed that Ted Loewen has agreed to serve as Interim Chair.

When you next see Steve and Peter, please thank them for all the time and effort they have spent working, on our behalf, as committed volunteers in leadership positions at Humber Valley.

*Deborah Turnbull*

## Talent Show 2017

One of our church ministries is to share our talents (both natural abilities and financial resources). This we do in many ways. Each November for the last 15 years, we have shared our natural abilities with each other at our annual Talent Show. This year was no exception.

Filmmakers, singers, actors, dancers, piano and ukulele players shared their talents with us. They gave us moments of joy, laughter and tears making this a wonderful community ministry bringing young and old together to share a meal and a night of entertainment.

*Deb Turnbull*



## Fall Hike

On October 22nd, 20 of us headed out to Mono Cliffs, in Caledon, to hike that stretch of the Bruce Trail. Due to our spectacular Indian summer, it felt more like a late August day than October! The colours were showing well and a number of lookouts afforded us fabulous vistas of the surrounding area. Our expert guide, Janet McColeman, ensured we walked the best trails for maximum enjoyment of this beautiful part of the Bruce Trail! A wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all.

*Andrea Ostvik-Van der Vliet*





## Daytimers

**PAST:**

A fun Halloween Party on October 30th and outstanding presentation by Susanne Hynes and Colleen Isherwood, on game-changing Canadian women from the past 150 years.

Wendy MacBeth, seen in the photo at right, dressed up as the Statue of Etobicoke (a la the Statue of Liberty) in honour of 150 years of outstanding women in Canada, and for fun for Halloween.

**PRESENT:**

November 27th Fred Torrie takes us to Scandinavia - Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

**FUTURE:**

December 18th - An Advent communion, Christmas lunch and entertainment, a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas Carols.



*Judith Dallimore*

## Water Wells during Advent

*Often, just 80 meters below their feet are aquifers of disease-free water. By providing one deep-water well, we can help break the cycle of poverty and death caused by contaminated water.*

Again this year, Humber Valley will be embarking on our Well Digging Advent Project.

Did you know that Humber Valley has dug more wells with GAIN than any other church in Canada? Now that's something to be proud of and to build on!

We know that Clean Water is Life and that 1 in 10 individuals suffer physically and emotionally from unsafe water sources. Let's continue to break the cycle of poverty and death caused by contaminated drinking water.

Make a donation this Advent to our Well Project and help us share the gift of clean water to those who need it.

*Kathy Lloyd*



# A Cantata for Christmas

In celebration of Advent and Christmas,  
we will be treated to a special performance  
by our choir and soloists under the direction of Paul Chant

## Appalachian Winter

as part of the **Worship service on  
Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am**

**Appalachian Winter** is a Christmas cantata by Joseph Martin that celebrates the legacy of early American carols and hymnody. Composed in the spirit of folk music, the cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements creating a blend that is fresh and pleasing.

Popular American carols like *“Away in a Manger”* and *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* dance with traditional spirituals such as *“Children, Go Where I Send Thee”* and *“Go Tell It on the Mountain.”* Sacred Harp tunes are re-tooled for Advent and stand alongside new versions of Shaker hymns and Appalachian melodies.

A thoughtful narration weaves the movements together in a meaningful tapestry of song and scripture.

The performance of this cantata promises to enhance our morning worship experience as we look forward to Christmas. Please join us for this special service on December 17 at 10.30 am and bring your family and friends; they won't be disappointed.

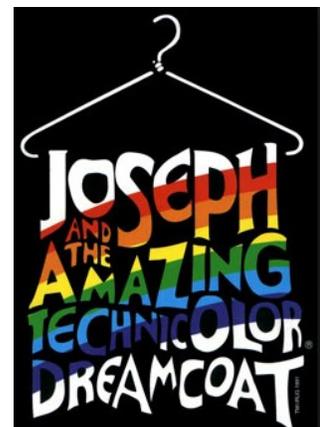


**David Cotton** will be performing in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat as the Pharoah at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton from November 29 - December 24, 2017  
<https://tickets.theatreaquarius.org/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent986.html>

**Joan Cotton** will be performing with Pax Christi Chorale in two concerts for the Christmas season.

- Saturday December 2, 4:00-5:00pm - The Children's Messiah (adapted especially for children) at **Church of the Redeemer**
- Saturday, December 16, 7:30pm and Sunday, December 17, 3:00pm - GLORIA! - Music by Poulenc, Duruflé, Fauré and Gounod's Noël at **Christ Church on the Hill**

<http://www.paxchristichorale.org/>





*In response to a request sent to some of the people who participated in the Festival of Song, or whose children starred in it, we received these wonderful memories.*

Raymond Gould was the organist/choirmaster for many many years at Humber Valley. Under his leadership there was an annual concert, the Festival of Song, that featured all the choirs and soloists. Weeks of practice, preparation of stage sets, and a dress rehearsal culminated in three evening presentations that brought families and the community together to celebrate.

People arrived early so they could get good seats. Steed Hall was filled to capacity as grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, teachers, and friends of the 60+ children in the choirs all turned up to see them perform.

There were skits, dances with well rehearsed choreography and Raymond's presentation entitled "88 keys and Ray". His wife Marion was a busy lady preparing all of the music. Parents were busy for weeks making the costumes and ensuring their children knew the words.

My daughter Laura Jean still remembers the lyrics to some of the songs she learned in the junior choir. Costumes, makeup and special hair dos added to the excitement. The Crago boys and my son Scott excelled at the *Moon Walk* as they performed Michael Jackson's *Beat It*.

A special highlight every year was a performance by Melba Watt, Lorraine Winger's mother, perched on the grand piano, wearing a gorgeous turquoise gown and her trademark sparkly eyeshadow, singing torch songs at a divine pace in her strong contralto voice. She always brought down the house!

*Sally Jo Martin*

To me this was a "Golden Era of Music" at Humber Valley. Every November, we would put on a 2 hour (some husbands said it was too long!) variety show involving

the four Humber Valley Choirs. The show involved at least 100 performers: the Senior Choir - 40, Chapel Tones (teens) - 15, Bell Tones - 12, and the Junior Choir - 40 or more.

Ray was magical at the piano - jazz, pop, classical on demand. Marion was his very able assistant, Wilma and I did choreography and stage movement. We were assisted by wonderful volunteers for stage crew, lighting, makeup and cast management when off stage.

On show nights the Church was alive with excited performers, lots of chaos and people "warming up" while the audience drifted in.

Melba, our "Femme Fatale" would perch on the piano and sing "Basin Street Blues" in her wonderful husky alto voice. Then she would return later on in the show to sit in a rocking chair, as Mother Goose. Chris Pickios told us a Fractured Fairy Tale which the Senior choir acted out. A women's group performed Andrew Sister songs like *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree*. Ray played *Swan Lake* and the Senior Choir men floated around the stage in tutus.

The Junior Choir were a big hit performing sets centered around themes such as *Monster Songs* or *Ghostbusters* and loved dressing up to sing and dance.

It was a wonderful time to bond in practicing and performing together. Ray always said we sang Bach better because we loved to do lots of popular music in harmony. Songs like *Mr. Sandman*, *Dream*, or *Cheek to Cheek*. After the final show the Senior Choir and Bell Tones and partners always ended up at Ray and Marion's house to share our "blips and successes".

The following Thursday, we were back at choir practice working on the pieces for the Candlelight Service and all the Christmas festivities.

This was a special time in my family's life as we were all involved in this wonderful celebration of Christian outreach for our church and community.

I could not end without praising all the talent and dedication that Ray and Marion Gould exhibited in their service to Humber Valley Music. They were truly an outstanding couple.

*Mary Ellen McNaught*

I will never forget Valerie, as a 6 year old with the Junior Choir, and then singing and dancing her heart out as a teenager.

*Judy Smith*

Dave Bear and I dressed up as the Walrus and the Carpenter. Walking out on stage with him is one of my favourite memories of myself and my best friend growing up. We have talked about it many times and can both remember the lyrics to the song at least 20 years later.

*Owen McCorquodale*

The Festival of Song was great for our boys. One year Owen and Dave Bear were The Walrus and the Carpenter. I made a walrus costume for Owen and we will never forget watching him walk down the street wearing it as he headed for the church. It might have been embarrassing for some kids, but not for Owen!

*Donna McCorquodale*

I remember the musical numbers but my favourite was always the 50s songs with our poodle skirts and ponytails - songs like *Yakity Yak* and *Splish Splash*. It was always a sign

you were growing up when you got to dance in those numbers.

*Jennifer Kitchen*

A salute to Mary Ellen McNaught and Wilma Crago for their success in moulding a group of unruly children into credible actors/singers capable of entertaining at the Festival Of Song years ago. Roy and I were amazed to see Topher and friends perform so well and the happy memories remain with me.

*Gail Cook-Bennett*

Mary Ellen and I did a lot of the staging and figured out and practiced the choreography for some of the junior choir songs. I especially remember doing Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. Jim Hartill was very good at arranging the 50's numbers that Ray Gould could play but were out of his comfort zone. Peggy Walker was a great mentor for the Chapel Tone choir for many years. It was the dedication and musical talents of Ray and Marion Gould that inspired choir members to have fun doing it for so many years.

*Wilma Crago*

I remember helping Cathy Fleming as assistant choir mother for the Junior Choir. Some of the kids, who were only 7 or 8, were amazed to be allowed to stay up so late on three nights. The kids loved doing *Achy Breaky Heart*, and in another year, many of the songs from *Oliver*. Mary Jean Affleck, my neighbour, always brought her family and a bunch of people from Pinehurst Crescent.

*Susanne Hynes*

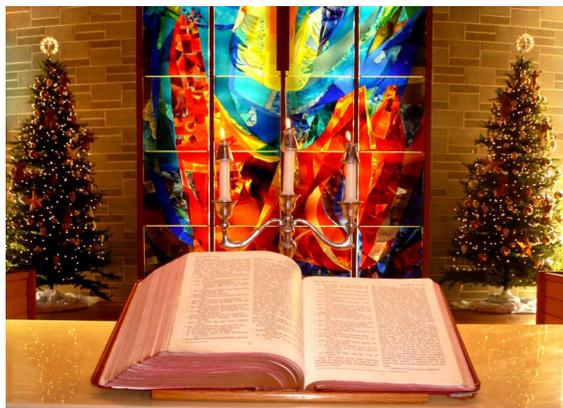


## CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP

Many helping hands are needed to get the church 'dressed' for the Advent holiday season. Can you come on Friday, December 1st, starting at 9:30 am to help put up the Christmas decorations?

Get an early taste of the Christmas spirit;  
Join in the fun! Coffee & muffins supplied.

Men are particularly needed to work on the big trees.  
Carolyn Whiteside will really appreciate your support!





## Lunch on Christmas Day

*Will you be on your own Christmas Day?  
No need to be!*

Join us at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the birth of Christ with the singing of Christmas Carols and sharing of messages of hope. Communion. All are welcome to the service.

A lunch (turkey with all the trimmings) will be serviced immediately following the service for those who will be alone and wish to share Christmas cheer with others.

Please RSVP for the lunch with the church office.

[cheryl@hvuc.ca](mailto:cheryl@hvuc.ca) or 416-231-2263

Donations of Christmas salads and baking would be most welcome.



## Tree Lighting and Caroling

**Sunday, December 3 beginning at 7 pm**

Just like an old fashioned Christmas, we are going to light the Christmas Tree at the Wimbleton entrance to the church and sing carols beginning at 7 pm on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hot Chocolate and Christmas goodies will be served. Come with your family and friends. All Welcome.

Thank you to Rev. Mark Winger for proposing this event and for purchasing and putting up the lights on the tree.

## Strategic Planning

In the early summer, HVUC Leadership Council kicked off a Strategic Planning process for our long term sustainability in a modern world, including engaging a professional facilitator.

There has been an intentional pause in the process pending the HVUC review. We will be asking all of you to give us your creative ideas about the future of our church.

We will restart the process early in the new year - stay tuned!

*Gail Cook-Bennett,  
Constance Crosby, Ron Crago*

## Fun Volunteer Opportunity

HVUC will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary with a Gala Dinner and Evening at Islington Golf Club on April 20, 2018. The Theme will be: *A Night at the Oscars*.

We are putting together a team to plan fun entertainment for the evening, for example, appearances by "Hollywood stars", HVUC's own "Best of" awards, short skits, etc. All ideas welcome.

Please join us in the Hearth Room after the service on Sunday Dec. 3, to discuss, or contact Kathy Kitchen: [ka\\_kitchen@rogers.ca](mailto:ka_kitchen@rogers.ca), 416-236-3139.

# Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Humber Valley



**H** - Hope

**V** - Village

**U** - Unity

**A** - Alive

*Old Age Security - Here we come!*

**M** - Music

**L** - Love

*HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

**B** - Birthday

**L** - Loyalty

*Carol Zachar*

**E** - Enthusiasm

**E** - Each and Everyone

**R** - Rocking (Chairs?)

**Y** - YOU (Plural)

## **A Night at the Oscars**

### **Save the Date**



Join us  
On the evening of  
April 20, 2018 for a star  
studded evening celebrating  
**Humber Valley's  
65th Anniversary**

## **April 20, 2018**

# Advent and Christmas Worship Services

*Celebrate Christmas at Humber Valley United Church*

10:30 am SUNDAYS

- Advent I**      Rev. Rick Tamas preaching,  
**December 3**    George Turnbull presiding
- Advent II**      Sacrament of Communion. White Gift  
**December 10**   in support of Jane Finch Community  
                         Ministry. Rev. Mark preaching
- Advent III**     *Appalachian Winter*, Cantata  
**December 17**   Special Christmas performance sung by  
                         the Chancel Choir and led by  
                         Minister of Music Paul Chant
- Advent IV**      Christmas Eve  
**December 24**   **10:30 a.m.** Worship Service  
                         George Turnbull dancing and Madeline  
                         and Hannah Loewen singing  
                         **5:30 p.m.** Family Service  
                         **10:00 p.m.** Candlelight Communion  
                         Service. Cider and Christmas cake will  
                         be served from 9:15 p.m.



## CHRISTMAS DAY – Monday, Dec. 25, 2017

**10:30 a.m.** Communion and Christmas Carols  
Followed by lunch for those who would be  
alone and wish to share Christmas cheer with  
others. RSVP to church office.  
See p. 22 for further details.

*The carillon will be played every evening  
during the week leading up to Christmas.*

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## *Humber Valley United* *the friendly community church*

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