



“News from the Pews”

Newsletter

December 2018

Editor: Tom Forbes

Edition No. 37

NOTE: Submissions for the NEXT News from the Pews by the THIRD Tuesday of each month.

Barton Stone–Mount Hope United Church

**21 Stone Church Road West
Hamilton, ON. L9B 1A1**

Church Mission Statement:

The Mission of Barton Stone–Mount Hope United Church is to be the people of God, called to respond with generosity of spirit, resources, and love; for the purpose of worshiping, nurturing, educating, equipping and caring within and beyond our church community.

Church Staff:

Ministers: The Rev. Peg Turner
The Rev. Ann Stafford
Office Administrator: Alice Perniac

Office Hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Ann’s Hours: Tues. 12:00 am to 2:00 pm
Peg’s Hours: Tues 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Associate Ministers:

The Rev. Lee Claus
The Rev. Ross Routliffe
The Rev. Dr. Robin Wilkie

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MESSAGE FROM PEG:

Very early Friday morning, Martha and I headed to The Toronto International Airport, the first leg of our journey to Ruidoso, New Mexico. However, when I look back over the last week, there had been many “legs” before our actual trip to the airport.

At home we had caught up on laundry, picked up the house, cancelled the paper and sent our itinerary to family. At work, both of us had connected with folks, tried to clean out our in-boxes and made sure others knew what projects or people might need some care. And as we’d packed there was clothes sorting, size of luggage decisions and lots of weather checking.

All those steps helped us be prepared for a week of study and adventure. As well, they helped us both sleep quite comfortably during our 3 hour flight to Denver! Getting ready for an event or holiday can be quite tiring. Yet, in this case, all those steps meant that we experienced less stress and anxiety, as we ran through airports finding our gates and fighting crowds. (Martha had said it might be a busy weekend at the airport due to the American Thanksgiving holiday...I didn’t believe her!)

Advent, the time to prepare our hearts, minds and homes for the birth of Christ begins Sunday, December 2. Much like a trip away from home, be it local or abroad, planning is helpful for this season.

There were many people involved in all the events leading up to Jesus’ birth, but Mary and Joseph were the ones who had the most to consider as they prepared for this birth. Could they even make the journey was step one. Could they afford the social stigma of a mysterious/miraculous birth? Were their hearts big enough to hold all the love and hurt that birthing the Messiah would entail? Could they believe the angel who told them all would be well?



As I write this, our second flight is preparing to land. It has not been the smoothest of flights - actually bumpier than driving on Nikola Tesla Boulevard was what I said to Martha!

There have been a few bumps and a couple of good drops as we cut through the turbulence, but the view out my window has been fantastic and I’m very excited about the week ahead.

“Religion is not a spectator sport.”

Keith Clark

Mary and Joseph planned the best they could for their journey into parenthood, yet it was at times turbulent. There were challenges, like imminent child birth with no safe place to deliver. (Unfortunately, Hotwire was not a thing back then, or maybe they would have had a room at the inn!) However, the gifts of grace, love and encouragement given by family, friends and strangers along the way, no doubt empowered them to continue on the journey.

There are many ways to prepare ourselves for Christmas. I pray that we each realize it is we who birth Christ into the world now, and like Mary and Joseph, it is our job to consider how we measure the cost of delivering the Messiah into our own life and others' lives. I pray for each of us that although we know there is social stigma to believing in Jesus and pain from following through with his message of love and unity in a world more comfortable with division and uncertainty, that we still prepare ourselves this Advent, trusting that all will be well. I encourage us all to take time to sweep out our hearts and make room for Jesus, and to prioritize what it is we need, as we head out to deliver the good news of Jesus' birth. And may we be open to receiving the love, grace and encouragement of those people God is bringing into our midst this season to strengthen us for the journey.

Blessings to you and yours during this season of preparing!
Rev Peg.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF BARTON STONE-MOUNT HOPE UNITED CHURCH

NOTES NOVEMBER 20TH, 2018

The mission of Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church is to be the people of God, called to respond with generosity of spirit, resources and love; for the purpose of worshiping, nurturing, educating, equipping and caring within and beyond our church community. This mission statement should filter how the board and others come to decisions.

You already know that we folks at Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church have been moving forward in this time of transition toward final amalgamation for the past year and a half. This transition time formally comes to an end on June 30th, 2019 as do the appointments of both Rev. Peg and Rev. Ann.

A few folks have now come forward to offer to become part of the Joint Needs Assessment Team through which we, as a congregation, will define our context, mission and

discern our ministry needs. With the aid of our Fresh Start this past weekend, we need to discover a few things. Questions such as:

Who is Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church? What do we want to be as we move on? What would we like to do in the future? Can we define our neighbour and what we want to take and project into the community? If we are indeed a people of God, what does that mean for us going forward?

With likely more questions than answers we need to investigate our future. Nothing is a done deal at this point so questions and input are integral!

What is next for Barton Stone-Mount Hope? Our JNAC team will seek God's guidance as we all plan and prepare for our future. This is exciting and important work. Together with your help, I believe this process will be positive and important. Please remember that we need everyone's insight, ideas, hope and fears, both positive and negative, as well as your prayers.

We have good news to share too! Jean Bethune is now a Commissioner to the Transition Commission for Region 9 appointed by Hamilton Presbytery. The appointed Commissioners are a decision-making body which began in May 2018 and will continue until the AGM of Region 9 at the end of May. By then the new governance for the new structure will be in place. Jean has also been appointed to the Board of Vocations. In that position Jean will oversee the Office of Vocation honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry. Congratulations Jean!

Please remember the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 1st from 10 to 2 p.m. Also it is White Gift Sunday on December 2nd with a congregational lunch and party following worship. Of course, you will not want to miss the Christmas Concert featuring the Hamilton Police Women's Choir and our very own Barton Stone-Mount Hope Singers. It will be held on December 9th at 2 p.m. Tickets are going fast at the nominal price of \$15.00.

Our wishes for a safe, happy and spirit filled Christmas.

Joanne Eagles, Board Chair

THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW!!!

Progress is being made re the installations of sewers. You heard about the sewers a year ago and we have finally obtained our permit. "Will keep you posted".

Fundraiser Event



Friday, December 28th

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Will leave church parking lot at 1:30 pm and returning around 10:30 pm depending on traffic.

Cost per person is \$79.00 including Winery Tour, Dinner, Lights Tour, Transportation and Taxes

- Tour of Magnotta Winery
- Dinner at Betty's Restaurant
- Light Display along Niagara Parkway

Contact Naomi or Barb at numbers listed in the new Church Directory.



**Look for It in
2019 - an
Exciting Silent
Auction**

On **January 27, 2019** a silent auction will commence in the Narthex, and continue for updated bidding until **February 24** annual meeting. There will be some exciting items, and the fun will be watching the bids as everyone bids on the items of their choice. There is no obligation to bid; however, we are confident you will be enticed.

We invite everyone to think about an item or service that would be of interest for bidding, i.e. small appliance, hand craft, event, etc. We already have a model T ride, and a dinner for four in home. We welcome your items to offer for sale. Please contact Sharon Pearce or Joanne Eagles at phone numbers listed in Church Directory by January 20, maximum 15 items will be offered.

A RECIPE FOR TODAY

Take a few grains of kindness,
Add a tablespoon of prayer,
A little bit of God's sunlight,
Mixed with the morning air.

Add to this some merriment,
And a thought for young and old,
And then as a main ingredient,
Common sense goes in the bowl.

Add some spice from God's word,
And flavour it with love,
Then, complete it with a thought of God,
Who rules us from above.

Church Activities

December 1	Christmas Bazaar
December 2	Congregational Christmas Party
December 9	Hamilton Police Female Choir and Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Singers.
December 24	Christmas Eve Service
December 28	Craft and Movie Day

Flowers in the Church

If you would like to have flowers in the Church for any occasion, in memory, a birthday, an anniversary or just because you like flowers contact Betty Berry. Her contact information is in the Church Directory.

Women's Group:

The Women's Group will be having a potluck lunch and mini-silent auction on Wednesday, December 12 at noon. Please bring a potluck item and your own dishes/cutlery/mug to save on clean-up. Also bring an inexpensive item (like a small plant, mug, etc.) for the silent auction. The money from the auction will go to the Benevolent Fund. Everyone welcome.

PHOTO QUIZ:

Any guesses as to the photo? If you know, let the editor know by email or phone!



The November photo was the barge at the top of Niagara Falls. Congratulations to Joan Massey, Joanne Eagles, Ruth Gibbs, Helen Spring, Wayne Hamilton, Peg Turner, John Hubber, Alison Turner, Alice Perniac, Harold Hubber,

Historical Hamilton Connection

James Street was named after one of Nathaniel Hughson's sons. Hughson was one of the City founders of Hamilton. Originally, James Street was called Lake Road because it was the road that led to Lake Ontario to the north. Then it was renamed to Jarvis Street after city founder George Hamilton's wife (Maria Jarvis) and then finally changed to its present-day James.

James Street was the Lake Road and in 1835, James Street was extended south, but was interrupted by a bog at Hunter Street which eventually (1844) was drained out and graded.

In 1890, the first Bowling alley in the City opened at back of the J.W. MacDonald Tobacco shop, (66 James Street North).

Remembrance Day for Lost Species - November 30:

“Dozens of species go extinct every day due to habitat loss, climate change and other effects of human activity.”
(*The United Church Observer*, November 2018, p. 8)
Consider doing something to keep the earth's waters free of pollutants and litter, like plastic bags and straws, to help preserve marine species.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Everyone one at Barton Stone-Mount Hope contributes in some way. People are so generous with their time, kind words, thoughtfulness, and with sharing their skills, money and other resources. This has been especially evident with Mission and Service this year, but also with Wesley and Neighbour to Neighbour to name two high profile causes. Awesome!

Future Fund

Just a reminder to anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Future Fund as the year winds down, it would be much appreciated. Money from this fund is intended for capital project expenses as they arise, like sewers and possible upgrades to our aging elevator. Mark it as 'Future Fund' on the third line of your envelope, or, if you are on PAR, on a plain envelope.

Speaking of **PAR** – Pre-Authorized Remittance – if you would like to make your offering to the ministry and work of the church through pre-authorized contributions from your bank account or credit card, just see Alice Perniac, or contact her in the church office at 905-385-0800. It makes it easy for you to remember, especially when you can't be out every Sunday, and it means reliable income for the church.

