



Editor: Tom Forbes

“News from the Pews” Newsletter February 2019 Edition No. 39

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

MESSAGE FROM ANN:



Last May, when snow and cold temperatures were a distant memory, I had the privilege of joining a tour of Italy’s Amalfi Coast. One of the most anticipated excursions was a day trip to the Isle of Capri. The day started out overcast and drizzly, which didn’t bode well, but by the time the ferry docked at the island, the sun had returned and we

were able to take a cruise along the coast, enjoying the ocean breezes and the spectacular scenery. Afterwards, I would have liked to go for a stroll, look in shop windows, maybe find a sunny terrace where I could sit and sip and enjoy the view, but our free time was limited that day and choices had to be made. My plan was to walk to a garden with a viewpoint overlooking the Faraglioni or “lighthouse” rocks – three large outcroppings rising out of the turquoise water just off the coast. I talked two other members of our group into joining me in the short trek across the island.

When we got to the garden, there was a crowd of tourists, all jockeying for position to take their photos of the rocks. There wasn’t time to wait our turn at the best vantage point – the one with the 5-star view posted all over the internet – so we had to settle for a lesser outlook. Even that was breathtaking. We quickly took our snaps, grinned at each other, and were turning to go, when I suddenly said, “Wait! Let’s BE here for a moment. I don’t want just a photo. I want a memory.” So we turned back to the view and stood side by side, quietly, *gratefully*, soaking in all the wonderful beauty of that place. Then we sprinted back to the rendezvous point, laughing all the way.

In this age of Facebook feeds and Instagram accounts, it is not unusual to find one’s self elbow to elbow with people who are trying to check off another “top ten” destination on their “bucket list”. Sometimes it seems as though capturing the moment is more important

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. Dr. Robin Wilkie

Contact Numbers:

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“Religion is not a spectator sport.”

Keith Clark

than experiencing it. I am reminded of a travel article I read in *The Globe and Mail* a while back, where the author said that, after years of checking off items on his “bucket list”, he’d come to the conclusion that the most memorable moments were the ones that were unplanned and un-curated: the chance meeting, the lucky find, the unexpected detour. So he’s decided that instead of a “bucket list”, what he really needs is a “marvel list” – a record, not of things he “must see”, but of wonders that have taken him by surprise along the way. What he needs is “less list, more marvel.”

This is my wish for you as well: *less list; more marvel*. May you journey through the year ahead, open to wonder and surprise. May you find many reasons to marvel at unexpected moments of gratitude and beauty.

Rev. Ann

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

GOOD DAY FOLKS.

Well as I write this, the temperature sure is not in the plus column but Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church continues to make its mark as a warm spot for all of us. The people of the congregation are faithful, dedicated and trying to put their face forward in the community in many positive ways.

We continue to have the boxes at the ready to accept donations for both Wesley Centre and Neighbour to Neighbour. At the last board meeting, we received a note of thanks for our generosity. I know this generosity is both sincere and ongoing. The JNAC team will, I am sure, recognize this about Barton Stone-Mount Hope as they endeavour to seek out who we are and where we are going. Please give the team your ideas both positive and negative to help them in their goals over the next several months.

At the Annual Meeting on February 24th, 2019 during worship in the Christian Education Building, you will vote on our budget for this year. Please consider the type of ministry you want from not only the ordained staff but also the mission and objectives you want for our future. We are important in the community and can make our collective ministry count for Jesus’ teachings and what we believe to be the right things to do. We are reaching out to youth and adults alike and “Go Make a Difference” as the song says.

During Lent, we will be able to share several different “Spiritual Experiences.”

It has been suggested that we too, this year, put some of our focus on the “Care for Creation”. This should always be at the forefront of our thoughts if we sincerely care for God’s creation.

Also, a series has been suggested for interaction between Indigenous and non-Indigenous folks.

It seems that there could be something for everyone for personal growth, guidance, contemplative study and renewal. Is this who God calls us to be?

Joanne Eagles

Church Activities

February 24th – Annual General Meeting



**Look what is
going to be in
the 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.

To date, we have the following items:

- Dinner for 4 in a home
- Model T Ride
- Wine Tasting
- Knitted Afghan
- Fruit Pies (6 in total)

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.

February is Black History Month. How would we receive Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message today? Is racism more of an American issue than a Canadian one? Does racism exist within the United Church of Canada? Check www.ucobserver.org and search for Rev. Paul Douglas Walfall's address to the 43rd General Council. (Submitted by Joan Massey)

First Contact:

Watch for more details regarding a documentary series, First Contact, to be shown here soon at Barton Stone-Mount Hope. (Submitted by Joan Massey)

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.

PALESTINIAN OLIVE OIL

Palestinian olive trees continue to be removed and Israeli settlements built over them. Or in other cases, Palestinian farmers are not able to get to their orchards to harvest the olives because of barriers set up, or military personnel who prevent them from getting to their harvest.

The sale of Zatoun olive oil helps pay Palestinian farmers fair prices. Also, a share of the proceeds supports women's food production co-operatives, Palestinian youth programs, and replaces olive trees that have been destroyed.

To purchase a 750 ml bottle of EVOO for \$18, contact Joan at 905-512-3488 .

Thank you for your continued support of the Palestinian olive farmers and their families. (Submitted by Joan Massey)

Women's Group:

The Women's Group will be sponsoring a discussion of the best-selling memoir *Educated* by Tara Westover. It is the hard-to-believe story of her life, brought up in extremely fundamentalist home. Several people have found it hard to put the book down. We will meet **Wednesday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m.** in the parlour of the Christian Education building. Everyone is invited. (Submitted by Joan Massey)

Did you Know

Chinese New Year in 2019 is February 5.

Wes Towers is a very proud Grandfather. His granddaughter, Kirsten Moore-Towers and partner Michael Marinaro won the senior pair competition at the 2019 National Skating Championships at Harbour Station in Saint John, N.B. on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019.

The purpose statement of Region 9 is:

Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith

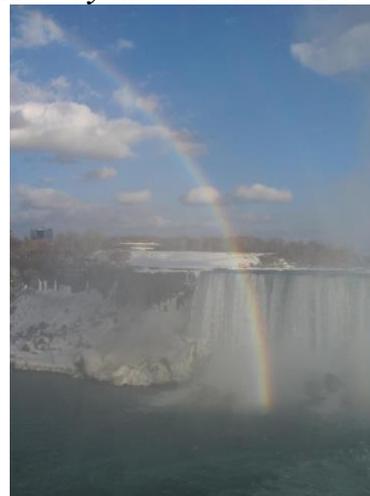
You have all heard that Presbytery as we have known it is gone but we are now part of Region 9 which is now called Horseshoe Falls Region. There will be more information coming about the actual governance very soon.

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council:

Many people suggested the name Golden Horseshoe. That name is associated with a larger area that includes Toronto and east. It is also an economic descriptor. Our region is horseshoe shaped and between the two Great Lakes we touch, are the Horseshoe Falls, a site people come from around the world to see. (Submitted by Jean Bethune)

PHOTO QUIZ:

Any guesses as to the photo? If you know, let the editor know by email in Church Directory!



The January photo was the World's Largest Axe in Nackawic, New Brunswick. Congratulations to Larry and Linda Smith and Alison Turner.

“Re-designing Your Life”

*Are you newly retired or thinking about retiring?
Have you become an “Empty Nester?”
Are you looking for new meaning and purpose in life?
Can’t find the time to figure it out?*

You are invited to come to a series of workshops exploring ways to approach life’s transitions in a positive and fulfilling way.

Conversations will focus on the book and video material from

*“Re-Designing Your Life:
A Practical Spirituality for the Second Half of Life”
By Sheila MacDonald MacGregor*

Sessions are free!

If you wish to purchase the book, copies are \$25.00 and available through The Hamilton Presbytery Resource Center and Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church

Sessions will be held the last Tuesday of each month

January 29 – June 25 from 7-9 pm
Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church
@ 21 Stone Church Rd. W.
(in the newer building)

For more information and to register please call
(905) 385-0800

These workshops are sponsored by Barton Stone-Mount Hope United Church and the Hamilton Presbytery Resource Centre

Know someone who might be interested?
Please let them know about this event.

Barton Stone United Church

Years 2002 to 2019 (Submitted by Doug Massey)



Are you able to read this immortal passage from Genesis? Try again if you cannot. Did you realize that this is from the King James Version of the Bible? Would

you like to buy the rest of the book? It has an electric format with 15% fewer words – you won’t find words such as “for”, “be” or even “God” anywhere – but has the potential to be in your purse or pocket all through the day and at your bedside through the night. It will cost you a mere \$2.99 (relatively inexpensive for 3,282 pages of content) and is available through your iTunes store. Yes, it’s an app. It’s called **Bible Emoji; Scripture 4 Millennials**, and you will need a smart phone.

The creator of this app, who translated the whole Bible into emoji, modestly calls herself “sunglasses emoji” and stresses that her creation is “a fun way to share the Gospel”. Care to try translating into emoji? If you have a computer go to www.bibleemoji.com/, type in your favourite passage from scripture and get it translated instantly! If you have a Twitter account, you could then tweet any passage you like to friends.

It seems Millennials or Generation Y, those born between 1980 and 2000, prefer numbers, letters and pictographs rather than English phrases. They are also great lovers of Instagram, a photo and video-sharing social networking service owned by Facebook Inc. that was launched in 2010. The lead pastor of Toronto’s C3 Church (Pentecostal) that appeals to Millennials with a sleek website, stylized videos and a flashy Instagram account, says this, “I think if Jesus were alive today, he would’ve had an Instagram account”. Of course, Instagram is also quite secular and that too is much more to Gen. Y’s liking. They follow their heroes on social media and dream of someday being followed by thousands of others, of being presenters who have big followings and who receive gifts of jewellery and clothes from manufacturers to wear around town because what they do so influences their fans. Or great numbers put their dogs or cats on Instagram. There are dogs, for example “Helmut” the pug, which have as many as 30,000 followers!

Millennials, although analogue born are “digital natives”. They have inherited computers and the internet and have exploited both in ways Steve Jobs and Bill Gates had only begun to imagine. They have apps for almost everything. Snapchat, for example, is a multimedia messaging app. WhatsApp and Messenger are social networking apps that reach 1.5 billion followers and 1.3 billion followers respectively (As of 2018). Social networking sites such as Facebook (currently with 2.23 billion monthly active viewers), YouTube (1.9 billion), Instagram (1.0 billion), Qzone, Weibo, Twitter, Reddit, Pinterest have become too

intrusive and convenient to fail, especially for the young. 95% of those 17-19 in 2012 were online compared to 74% of those 50-64 years.

Millennials prefer texting or instant messaging most of all and making calls on their smart phones second. As for face-to-face interaction, well it comes in a distant third. To those older this is a disappointment or just downright unbelievable. Consider these examples from my experience. First, four millennials sit around a kitchen table writing Haiku poetry on their phones, and then text their creations to each other. They never once make eye contact with each other, their eyes glued to their phone screens. And as they receive their neighbour's texted verse, from a neighbour who was sitting right next to them, perhaps even touching, they smile or laugh out loud in response to what they see on their phones. Then, their eyes never leaving their screens, they *text* their response! Wow, the social interaction is amazing!

Second, at the aquatic centre, young parents see their children safely to the pool's edge for their swim lessons, watch for a couple of minutes and then turn directly to their phones. Some sit with their devices, texting madly with both thumbs. Others stare motionlessly at their screens as if in a trance. Some play games, or, their ear phones plugged into their gadgets, listen to streamed music. Their children splash, smile and interact with their fellow classmates and the instructor, but their moms and dads have been absorbed into other universes! But how soon will it be before the children get their own phones?

Thirdly, as a stage actor, I was once haunted by electronic ghosts. When you are lit by strong stage lights, the house is usually thrown into an intense darkness. Beyond the first two rows people become vague silhouettes at best. But at one matinee staged for high school students, the darkness of the house was sprinkled with a constellation of blue faces, all lit eerily from below as they peered into and were transfixed by the light, a veritable tractor beam that emanated from their cell phones. Although memorable, I found the experience also unnerving. Get too caught up with the apparitions in front of you and you could miss your cue. But mostly the whole experience was deflating since it was obvious that those blue faces out there were light years away from what was happening on stage.

Finally, there are youngsters who will not go out of doors, will never sit on an *actual* stream bank and watch the water flow by because there is no Wi Fi there. Thus, they

cannot "stream" electronically! (Streaming being the constant arrival of data in real time for gaming, chatting, listening to music or watching video.) A parallel universe!

Older generations shake their heads at such antics. What are these youngsters thinking? Managers complain about millennials' sense of entitlement - Generation Y seems to want it all and want it now. They also get upset over young peoples' lack of respect for hierarchy, their desire to work at home and connect to the office electronically, and their frequent job hopping. Or, just suggest to millennials that they put down their phones and you can expect the "Taylor Swift eye roll". Don't know what that looks like? You can check this out online. Or you can get a Gif for that, if you have a smart phone such as an iPhone7 or an android device! (A Gif is a computer file format for the compression and storage of visual digital information.)

Well it is true that youngsters these days would rather lose their sense of smell than their tech, typically their smart phones or lap tops. And it may also be true that they are losing skills needed for direct interpersonal interaction. But it does not help to make jokes about them or shake our heads. Is it not true that if Barton Stone-Mount Hope is to continue for generations to come, if we truly want young people to replace us carry on, then it will be youngsters referred to as Generation X (those 38-53 in 2018), Generation Y or Millennials (those 24-37) and Generation Z or "Zillennials" (those 6-23) who will do that! It's time for the two older generations, namely the "Boomers" (those 54-73) and "Traditionalists", (those born before 1945) to better understand their juniors. At present we who are older have trouble understanding. But we must not give up trying.

This final chapter will cover the years 2003 to 2019, including such things as the economic challenges that have faced us, our successes and our failures. Ultimately though, it will come to grips with the proverbial "Elephant in the Room", namely this question, "Will the faith relay run by this congregation since 1789 continue, or will it end with us?" For nearly five decades now the aging of our congregation has concerned us. We have tried many ways to attract young people. We really have. **But we have not.** If we Traditionalists and Boomers decide to go with the *status quo*, the race *will* end and much sooner than we think. To avoid such an end game, we must try once more. And it very well might be that we have just

one more chance and very little time to get it right. We must understand the problems faced by young people and reach out to help. As well, we must discover the strengths of the three younger generations and utilize them for the ongoing work of our congregation. Ultimately, it will be what we *do* that will extend the race. “Showin’ is better than tellin’”. That needs some explaining. This chapter in its final form will end with that.

Yes, dear reader, it will end with that. In addition, I will present a personal vision for what this congregation might do to kick start another 230 years of Christian witness in our present location. I stick my neck out only to start a discussion. We have ever been a “free kirk”. Democracy is what we do, have always done.

The rest of this chapter, like the rest of the chapter that covered the years from 1990-2002, will not appear in this newsletter. **However, the complete final chapter, and the complete second to last chapter, along with all earlier chapters will be published in book form and available for purchase at the end of March 2019. This will be a fund raiser for the church.** Well, you say, I’m frugal and I have already read those earlier chapters for free in the newsletter! Well, yes you are frugal, I say. But these previous chapters that have been included in the newsletter will now be in *revised* form due to new information. But wait, there’s more. Act soon and we will include, at no extra cost to you, many interesting and rare photographs of the Barton Stone congregation! Here is truly an offer you just can’t afford to miss! (Sorry, I’ve always wanted to say that.) At present, the *working title* of this history is [Boil not Simmer: The Life and Times of the Barton Stone United Church](#). As for the price of this publication, it has yet to be decided. But stay tuned.

Care for Creation.

The focus for **Stewardship** this year will be Care for Creation. “Climate change is not an environmental problem—it’s a people problem.” (*The United Church Observer*, May 2018, p. 12) The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) reports that climate change is real and is primarily human driven. We need to be looking toward accelerating our transition to clean renewable energy.

There are many positive things that are being done by individuals and groups around the world. I would be glad

to hear **your ideas** on **what you are doing**, or on **what you think could be done** to protect this beautiful planet that we share with all of creation. - Joan Massey

Thank you to Jan Muirhead for taking spent batteries to the transfer station for safe disposal. If you have batteries you need to dispose of, they can be placed in the small wooden box in the narthex on the table between the washrooms.

Historical Hamilton Connection

E. D. Smith

Ernest D’Israeli Smith

(December 8, 1853 – October 15, 1948) was a Canadian businessman and politician who founded a food company that bears his name.

He was born in the hamlet of Winona, part of Saltfleet Township (which became Stoney Creek. His wife was the first president of the Women’s Institute in Stoney Creek.

His farms were a place where women worked during the First World War as part of the Women's Work on the Land program. This program brought female university students onto farms during the summer to help with food production.

The E.D. Smith archives and collection (family and factory) is currently housed in the Erland Lee Museum in Stoney Creek.