



“News from the Pews” Newsletter January 2019

Editor: Tom Forbes

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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. Dr. Robin Wilkie

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“Religion is not a spectator sport.”

Keith Clark

MESSAGE FROM PEG:

The Old Year Runs Away

the old year runs away from me.
I hang onto her sleeve
but she shakes me loose.
where does the old year go
when the new year comes?

she slips away into memories
falls into the crevices of wishes
and ought-to-have dones.
she waits no longer upon promises,
turns her back on might-have been.

the elves of the old year step in,
pack up the struggles, store the joys,
tuck them away in the bulging box
spreading out on the psyche’s floor.

it’s up to the new year now.
I bring a lot to her domain:
expectations, dreams, hopes,
and I place them all before
her strong, abundant door.

I walk into her untamed territory,
with a meek apprehension
and a vast sense of mystery,
assured by the welcome I receive,

anxious about what is waiting
behind the drawn window shade,
curious about what I will discover
in the hidden folds of her new days.
-Joyce Rupp

The words of this poem speak to the feelings we often have as we enter a new year, wonder, anxiety and hopefulness. Although, January 1st is just another day, it symbolizes the end of the old and the beginning of something new. Joyce Rupp uses the image of packing up the past, the good and the bad, with the image of opening up the future, with all our hopes and dreams for it. For many of us, we are doing just that this week as we put away the decorations from Christmas and think about our New Year resolutions.

This year, as we decorated the tree, I sorted out all the decorations that my son, Jim had been given over the years. I reflected on the memories of those years gone by and packed the decorations into a new box to pass on to him and his wife. This was hard to do. I have guarded those decorations and in many ways the memories attached to them for many years. I need to trust that he will care for those decorations, but more than that, that he will hold the memories of the people and events the decorations symbolize. In some ways I packed up the past, said goodbye to the Christmases I had with my son as a child and I have opened up to the future. The future of all the Christmases to come with the adult he has become and the family he has, his wife Natalie.

As you pack up 2018 into the storage of your memories, I hope that the new year opens before you and brings you and your family the best in the way of love, joy and peace and that your expectations and dreams are met throughout the coming year.

Best wishes in 2019
Rev Peg

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve Service was once again a great event. The story is always the same; however, the presentation changes each and every year. This year was no exception with many hands needed for the finished production.

Thanks to all who gave their time and talent from writing the script portraying the characters and reading the words we all love to hear. Everyone in attendance came away with a smile and a sense of rebirth for our faith in the place we know so well.

It was also great to see so many children at the service even though some did not always stay in the pews with their parents. That only enhances the atmosphere of Christmas Eve. *(News from the Pews Editor: Tom Forbes)*

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

No meeting in December.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



(Submitted by Mary McCracken)

The church was alive with the sound of music on Sunday afternoon December 9th. The Barton Stone-Mount Hope Singers joined with the Hamilton Police Female Choir to put on a Christmas concert to a packed audience. Two black police stallions greeted the attendees at the door of the church. The 33 combined voices of two choirs opened and closed the program. Each group sang in sets of 3 a variety of tunes covering a wide range of styles and tempos under the expertise of Donna Dunn-Albert. The audience was enthralled with the variety of music and enjoyed the afternoon performance. Delicious treats were served afterwards so we could all mingle. This was truly a wonderful *Christmas Celebration*.

(Photos used with permission)





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.

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE



There were over 60 people remembered on the tree this year.

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.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION *(Submitted by Joan Massey)*

'How easy it is to waste a life' – a quote from the award winning, bestseller *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan. A novel worth reading with a unique storyline about a slave boy in the southern United States and his circuitous life experiences and his conflicted relationship with his friend/master.

FROM THE 13TH HAMILTON CUB PACK

The Cub Pack has been busy:

November 17th, Float in the Santa Claus Parade which sported our large 13th Hamilton Banner along with a truck driven by former Cub Bob Welsh. Cable 14 gave good coverage as several groups joined us parading their colours.

November 20th, Visited the Police Horses in Ancaster where we saw the magnificent animals and had a talk from the Officer of the Day.

November 30th, Winter camp at Mt. Nemo where we joined the Ancaster Pack. We spent the morning learning to tie knots and mastered three. After knots and the like were greatly received, boots, coats and hats were the order of the day. The weather was pleasant and when returning to camp, mud puddles were good to pass up. Muddy and happy, the pack splashed and splashed. A good camp and everyone went home happy and muddy.

Grey Wolf (Mina Heinbecker)

Women's Group:

The 'Mini' Silent Auction sponsored by the Women's Group realized \$221 for the Benevolent Fund. Seven men from the Men's Group and approximately fourteen women enjoyed the potluck before bidding at the mini silent auction. Thank you to all who participated. The January 9th gathering will be 'Your Opinion, My Opinion'. And start looking for the book *Educated* by Tara Westover. We will be discussing it at our February meeting. *(Submitted by Joan Massey)*

PHOTO QUIZ:

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



The December photo was a light display at the Christmas Lights in Simcoe. Congratulations to Ruth and George Gibbs, Alison Turner

Historical Hamilton Connection

Burlington Bay James N. Allan Skyway

Burlington Bay Skyway, the largest bridge constructed by the Ontario Department of Highways up to that time, was officially opened on **Oct. 30, 1958** by the Premier of Ontario Leslie Frost.

The bridge had tolls when constructed, but these were removed December 28, 1973 after they were found to heavily impede traffic. Truck drivers in particular had refused to take the tolled bridge since not only were they charged the full toll but also it took them extra fuel to ascend the Skyway. With the lifting of tolls on the bridge, trucks were then banned from using Beach Boulevard. A second bridge was completed in 1985. The roadway deck for each bridge is 97 feet wide.

THANK YOU

A round of applause to Naomi for a great afternoon. It was a well-planned and comfortable bus trip with good company. We all enjoyed wine, chocolate, good food and the Niagara Lights.

Thanks Naomi, Mina Heinbecker

Future Fund



Just a reminder to anyone wishing to make a contribution to the Future Fund, 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.

Did you Know

There is one cenotaph in Canada that sits upon an actual War of 1812 battleground. Where is it located?

- Queenston Heights, Ontario
- Victoria, British Columbia
- Chatham, Ontario
- St. John's Newfoundland
- Abraham, Quebec

