

From your Minister's desk

It was so good to be back in church last Sunday with the choir in full form. Old friends and new singing along with them praising our Creator, joining our hearts together as followers of Jesus. They say that “absence makes the heart grow fonder” and that’s how I was feeling.

What a luxury to have a Sabbatical spread over these last two summers, combined with holydays it really provided Lynn and I with an opportunity to rest, re-connect with family, and reflect on how Spirit has led us to this place in our lives.

We’d taken on the task of writing the founding story for Bedford House Community Ministry. It took us back seven years to when we’d first bought the house on Aylmer Street. And it took us back seven years before that when Lynn and I first met in Bobcaygeon, became friends, then colleagues, then a couple with a shared passion for learning, playing, expressing,..

We dug through journals and blogs and proposals and emails and financial statements. There are so many relationships intertwined with our story. So many stories. Trying to capture how our relationship with Spirit was central – while leaving behind all of the trappings and language of church culture – continues to be very challenging. This writing project that began as a summer’s pastime, has grown into a much bigger “work in progress”.

Our relationship with the newly amalgamated Greenwood church was central to the 2015 start-up of this experiment in community that has evolved into Bridging Teams and the Bridges Peterborough project. For me, it is so good to be rooted in the Greenwood church culture while we venture out into “being the church” beyond. A recent Facebook post expresses it like this...

I believe churches are meant for praising God -and so are 2:00 a m car rides, showers, coffee shops, conversations with friends and strangers, etc.

We will never change the world if we confine our faith within a building; only going to church.

We need to be the church.

What is so very cool has been this summer’s story of unchurched Bridging Team leaders visiting congregations – including Greenwood - to talk about what they’ve discovered in the midst of a safe, non-judgemental, circle of strangers who become friends and “neighbours”.

I wonder - if we stripped away all the hymns and symbols and hidden rules of the sub-culture we call Greenwood – what would be left? At our “naked” best, we are a community bound by stories. Trusting in our own deepest experience, we have found a safe place to share sorrows, laughter, joys and struggles. We journey together. We ask questions. We examine our dominant culture in the light of those pushed to its margins.

We lift up our differences as paths towards deeper understanding. And we discover what's our most precious common gift.

I look forward to another season of worship. Singing old songs and new. Celebrating with ancient ritual how history repeats itself. Telling old stories as guides to tough decisions we humbly make in the presence of ancestors, angels, and the ever-present, ever-loving, ever-changing, eternal Spirit.

Yours in the Spirit,

Allan

Session decided to hold our worship services outdoors for the summer which meant there would be no services available on Zoom. Should we need to meet indoors, masking and social distancing would be expected.

Rev. Bill Peacock led our Anniversary Service. Cupcakes were served and attendees were encouraged to eat outside.

On July 17th we gathered at Lang Century Village, where the Rev. Cathy Gradante and The Tarnished Angels from Bridgenorth U.C. led the worship. It was a wonderful service and a great opportunity for fellowship with folks from other congregations.

August 28th Greenwood was closed, thus giving Marion, Joanne and Ken a little break.

On Wednesday, August 10, a Celebration of Life service was held for Lois Beavis, a long time member of Greenwood Church. Ann Austin-Cardwell officiated at the service. The choir sang two anthems as part of a beautiful, uplifting celebration of Lois's life. Ann Austin-Cardwell graciously hosted the reception at her home.

Zoom services restart on October 2 and will continue until Christmas. Session will determine whether we will continue with Zoom services for the winter.

Mary Kay

The M&P Committee found wonderful people to take Sunday worship when Rev Allan was completing his sabbatical and vacation leave. Many of the services were held outside. We were surrounded by our sanctuary garden and meadow and sat under the shade of the trees. Refreshing breezes, butterflies and birds added to the uplifting messages provided by a diverse group of leaders. We appreciate the extra work that Ken and Marion did for these services. It was done with their usual good humour and positive energy.

Ann Barrett

Stewards

We had a work bee after the May 24th storm to clean up trees and the debris left along the side of the ditch and the roadway.

In June, we took a water sample which tested perfect.

The windows in the church will be replaced this fall which will improve heat retention.

Ken Minion

ASK MARY

Twenty years ago when I was a newcomer to our church I needed some information so I asked someone. Their answer was 'ask Mary'. So I did and I got my answer. The last time I 'asked Mary' was this past August and she shared her memories with me. Mary Hinan Grose's father, Stan Wood, donated the land for our church in the early 60's. We know that Mary's role within the church started with the very beginning. Since that time Mary has played many roles within our church. My best memory of Mary happened in 2012 when I chaired the Renovation Committee to make the changes to the Sanctuary. There were lots of ideas but we needed decisions. Mary and Shirley Lannen took on the responsibility of choosing the flooring and ordering the furniture – very important decisions and they chose wisely

I invited some of our long time members to share their thoughts.

<----->

A couple of things that come to mind - Mary directed the choir for a number of years - for some of that time while Shirley played the organ. Later Shirley took on directing as well. Mary's parents, Stanley and Jean Wood had the farm at the top of the hill, - the house north of the church was the farmhouse. Her parents built a bungalow across the road on what became Orchard Crescent. Mary and first husband, Joe Hinan, directed our baseball teams in the Church League, The teams played at our backstop for many years, giving youngsters from the area good access to well organized sport.

Mary worked long and hard for the UCW - there were Christmas Teas with the then-popular fruitcake made by the women, directed by Mary.

Never a dinner was put on that Mary didn't organize a telephone group to sell the tickets and then she worked at the dinner. Mary always organized the setting of the tables - the men did the job, but needed direction - then the men served the food. Much laughter occurred in all this organizing.

After my many years at the church, I still have to 'ask Mary' a number of things each year.
Ruth Benson

<----->

More than baseball was important in Mary's ministry with children. Mary led the youngsters in the Junior Choir with the same passion she brought to the senior choir. The children were dedicated and keen to sing, even if some weren't always "in key". Naomi, my daughter, was an inquisitive child and often asked Mary what certain words meant in the hymns. Mary, with great patience, would go home, research the hymn, and always come back with an answer for Naomi. I think, like the children, Mary has a great thirst for knowledge which she shares with others. As a baseball coach, she taught the children more than the skills to play ball, They learned about fair play, acceptance of others, and being a good sport, whether you won or lost. Some of those players went on to coach for Donwood - Nicole Joore and our daughter Naomi. I am sure there were others who played on the Donwood teams as young children, and then moved on to welcoming and coaching new young players, sharing the skills Mary had taught them. Another family memory we have is the camping excursions to Emily Park or Serpent Mounds. Mary was instrumental in organizing these camping week-ends. Not only did Mary organize these events, but every year at camp she and Joe hosted the children for a pancake breakfast as we parents sat and

enjoyed coffee at our own campsites! Children are an integral part of our lives, and Mary's recognition and support of the young members of this Donwood community have always been appreciated.

I greatly appreciate the time and devotion Mary gave to the sport, and more importantly to the children she coached in so many positive ways.

Paulette Nichols

<----->

I love the title of this piece "Ask Mary" because it captures my experience. Back when I first started as your Minister, this was most often the refrain I'd hear in response to my many questions.

I also really appreciate how Mary participates as part of the Choir "team". She obviously puts her "all" into each piece of music. Her enjoyment adds to my own.

As Council Chair, I appreciated how she kept us on track and moves us through our agendas.

It was only later - when I learned of her background as a sports Coach - that explained it.

The Peterborough Sports Community has clearly been the beneficiary of many years of hard work and dedication by Mary Hinan Grose. Mary played in the Women's City Softball League for 14 years, winning the championship four times. She also organized, coached and served as Convener in the Community Church Softball League for several years.

Nevertheless, it is in the sport of curling where Mary truly made her greatest contribution.

After joining the Peterborough Curling Club in 1959, she worked on the Centennial Committee in 1976, the Canadian Senior Championship Committee in 1988, and was Chairperson for curling in the Ontario Winter Games in 1988. Her ability to organize and run events smoothly, earned her the nickname, 'Sergeant Mary'.

As a certified Level 2 Instructor/Coach, Mary conducted numerous clinics at the Peterborough Curling Club and other area rinks. She served as a Provincial Course Instructor, teaching across Ontario. Mary coached curling at Sir Sandford Fleming College beginning in 1977 and was presented with the Honorary Knight Award in 1996-97 for her commitment and dedication to athletics at Fleming College.

She became a certified Level 3 Umpire with the Canadian Curling Association. She has also participated in provincial curling competitions, reaching the finals in Tankard play, and skipped one of the teams on the winning Peterborough Curling Club Tankard Team in 1973. Her induction into the Peterborough & District Sports Hall of Fame was a fitting testimony to her devotion to local sports.

Rev. Allan

<----->

Music has always been an important part of Greenwood United, and who started it all, - Mary Wood Hinan-Grose! Through Mary, organists, (Jean Drimmie and Vince Abrahamse to name two) came on board to assist in musical leadership. Church members and others were invited to form a choir and in no time, there was both a senior and a junior choir.

Mary developed a very strong music program but organists retire or move on so Mary recruited, or stole, as they said at St. James United, her cousin Shirley Lannen to become organist. Together, under Mary's very capable organization and direction, the choir performed, for adjudication at the Peterborough Music Festival, and always scored well. Mary undertook having the choirs perform Christmas and Easter Cantatas, often works of

considerable difficulty. This became an annual event with musical guests added such as additional voices and instruments like violins and trumpet. For many years, Mary worked hard to bring excellence to the music program, through decisive, unfaltering direction and excellent choice of music. With Mary at the helm, Donwood became known for its music program throughout the city. Mary's legacy of a top notch choir music program will always be one of the strong and enduring features of Greenwood United Church. Although now retired from Choir Direction for many years, a strong faith and love of her church has kept Mary in the alto section of the choir.

Shirley Lannen

< ----- >

Mary is a special, gifted, capable lady who quickly became our friend when we came new to the church in 2000. When I was in the choir, I always appreciated that part of her church life as she welcomed us. She was then also very involved with the wider United Church through Peterborough Presbytery and Bay of Quinte Conference. Mary is not just a member, but a leader too. She was involved in the United Church Women Presbyterial as well as the 'court structure' of the church before the recent dramatic change to the regions in 2019. Mary is an enabler and recently has been patiently teaching Bridge to some of us who thought we'd never learn...and may not. Some people are special gifts from God and Mary has been and is that personified. Thank-you God for Mary.

Dawn Cox

<----->

Mary has been the "ROCK" at Donwood/Greenwood United Church or I should say the helms person, providing the leadership in all that is our church: softball, junior church choir, senior choir, music director, church committees, trustee chair, investment coordinator etc. And for me she is a counselor whom I can consult on church decisions. Thank you Mary

Emil Varga

<----->

Mary has meant so much to me over the years. When John and I bought our home on Maryvale Rd. in 1978, Mary and Joe Hinan were our neighbours. Mary planned a welcoming party for us. We got to know the people on the street. She was so thoughtful. Mary introduced me to choir and bridge at Donwood. She also let me be part of her Provincial curling team. We won the Provincial Tankard Curling Championship. I wasn't very experienced at all but Mary said, "I just want you to experience the whole competitiveness at the provincial level." That's Mary, always thinking of someone else. I will never forget that remarkable weekend.

On the personal level, Mary has always been a wonderful friend. There needs to be many more people like her in this world.

Thanks for enriching my life, Mary!!!!

Aileen Castle

Thanks to some of Mary's Greenwood friends you now why we all **'ask Mary'**. Our writers could have mentioned many other roles that Mary has filled from the time the community decided they needed a church until today - such as starting the coffee for our Sunday Coffee Times, to her decorating the church each Sunday by changing the antependium with seasonal colours, flowers, etc. Some of the "behind the scenes" tasks she does so well.



Bee News

Our girls have kept us busy this Season. Our Swarm Hive (West Hive) that we caught earlier this year is very strong and healthy. Our Nuc Hive (East Hive that started with 4 frames with a Queen and Brood) is doing well too, although not as strong as our Swarm Hive. We have pulled our capped honey frames on September 6th and the honey extracting will be done September 13th. We will bottle our honey the following week. In the meantime, we will treat both Hives for Mites for 42 days and then plan to put them to bed for the Winter in late October. We hope that our Bees will stay strong through the Winter.
Greenwood Beekeepers



Our Sanctuary Garden

We are caring for areas that God has given us –we tend to it as an act of gratitude!

What we have learned:

We have learned that people have found it to be a lovely resting spot... a place to walk with a friend or their pet or just to watch their children at play.

We have learned that you can share a garden but that it needs to also be respected and not trampled on.

We have learned that it takes many hands to lighten the load of a large task.

We have learned how some seeds germinate but others may not – it depends on where they land and “choose” to grow!

We are reminded why we planted the garden but that we need to be flexible and that plans can be changed.

We have learned how the preparation of the earth is very important as well as dealing with the surrounding structures such as a well, a septic bed and soil type.

We have learned how to “watch and wait”- creation doesn’t happen overnight!

We have learned how important our water is and to preserve the moisture with the use of compost and mulch.

We have learned that even though it is frustrating to see our little seedlings destroyed by young animals – they too have a place in our garden.

Wonders of the garden

* Planting of trees and watching them grow – watching the new leaves unfurl in the spring but also watching the many bugs and worms

* Discovering the plants that have “appeared” by natural means eg Birds or the wind scattering seeds

* The wonders of transformation of bulbs exploding into various forms of flowers

* Watching the young and old enjoying the space

* Working together and sharing a “dream” for our bees and our community

Pat Lounsbury



Thank you Thank you Thank you

Thank you to everyone who kept our great garden happy with watering and many other ways of caring for our “bee and people friendly garden” this summer.

A few more bee-loving native perennials have been added as well as another serviceberry tree.

The perennials will be left to provide the birds with winter food and we will hope and pray that we don’t have too much winter damage.

Again..... thank you, thank you, thank you!

Most of the chores have been completed by Ruth and Don Benson, Brian Nichols, Mary Kaye, Joanne and Emil Varga, Roger Clapperton, Ann Barrett, Ken Minion

Pat Lounsbury

Our next Newsletter will be printed for Christmas. If you have ideas, comments you would like to share send them to me Joyce Fee jfee@accel.net

Greenwood – Here Comes the Fall!

Even after a couple of years of retirement, there is still the awareness of all the expectations that come with the fall season. I often think of the school environments where as a professor I would have been back at the college for most of the last month in anticipation of the return of faculty making sure preparations for the new semester were all in place. Of course, there would often be surprises as suddenly people are asked to teach unfamiliar courses. More students are suddenly assigned to different courses and there are changes within the corporate structure and alterations in leadership and you wonder how smooth the new college year will be. I would often wonder about new people joining the college team as support staff, administrators and of course, faculty who may never have taught in the college environment. All of this in preparation to providing the students with the best education and experience that will set them on a new career path, or a subsequent year enabling them to draw all the closer to the day when they walk across the stage to receive their diplomas or certificates.

One of the things I cherished the most was developing special friendships with coworkers and students and the special occasions where you might find yourself as a mentor to people in pursuit of lifetime dreams. Whether in an administrative function, role of counsellor, professor or peer there was this sense of restarting refreshed, a new opportunity and limitless expectations.

Within faith communities there are similar parallels as it often speaks to a return to regular routines as church members and adherents return from holidays, as churches gear up with regular programs as well as a discernment as to where energies and financial resources will be placed within the church, the larger community and the world in which we live and are called to serve. All the while, we are trying to do all of this in a spirit of joy. Welcome to the fall! For those of us at Greenwood United, all that is so familiar and all that we have never expected or anticipated.

I had anticipated a different ending to this contribution to our Fall Greenwood Newsletter, but I fear I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the passing of Queen Elizabeth. My parents, if alive, would be able to remind me of a time when she was Princess Elizabeth, but in my memory she has been the only Queen I have known. I wonder the changes that will be in store for the monarchy as well as the impact this has for Canada. I'm also engaged at a different level as to what other changes await us at the peripheral of our vision within our country, community and circles of faith. May we find rich opportunities in all that awaits us in this coming church year.

Peace 'n blessings

Rev. Bill

