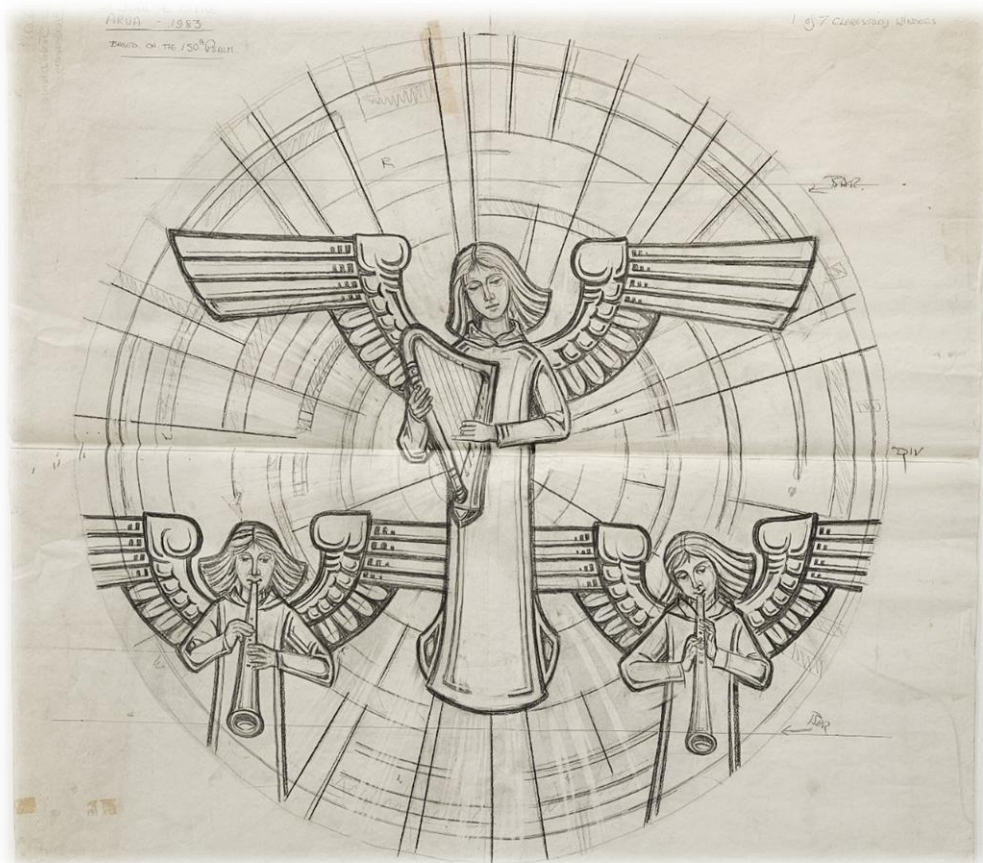
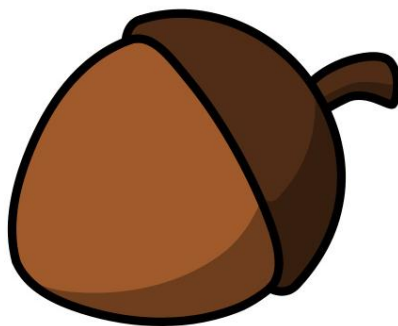


Rowntree Memorial United Church

Rooted and Grounded in God's Love

Acorn Newsletter – Easter 2025

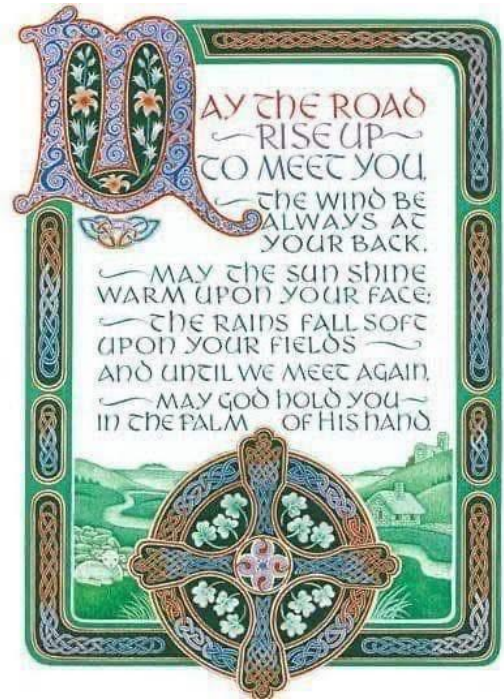


From the Minister's Desk

*This is what has driven me to you
To explain to you the wondrous tale
Which the Holy Spirit declared
Through Moses son of Amram*

*Of the creation of heaven and earth
With all that exists therein
For it is the story of the making
Of heaven and earth that the tale tells*

*As well as the formation of the world
Which was made possible
By Christ's resurrection from the dead
On this day of Easter Eve¹*



At first it seems an impossible timeline that the resurrection on Easter is what makes creation itself possible. Surely, the universe already existed before Christ was born and died, living a human life among us. The fact that this doesn't line up tells us that the author has something else in mind. Something which is not limited by our understanding of time. God, of course, is beyond time. To be beyond time means that the past, present, and future all exist simultaneously. Yesterday is just as real as today for God, and so is tomorrow.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was a temporal expression of an eternal reality. What I mean is that death and resurrection are part of Christ's nature. The same Christ in whom, through whom, and for whom the world was made. The historical resurrection on the original Easter eve was an expression of who and what Christ is in his divine nature. That's why in the quote above Philip says that he is going to use the story of Easter to explain the creation account in Genesis. Since Jesus is the word which God spoke in the beginning, everything which God made has the principle of death and resurrection built into it.

In this next quote I want to share with you, Philip is talking about how people knew about the cosmic principle of death and resurrection before Christ, but that they didn't know who caused it. In reference to the shape and form of the universe Philip says,

¹ Historically, ascribed to the Apostle Philip, from ancient Irish text.

*Not knowing who had created it
Until this account came from heaven
To open everyone's sense and intellect
So that the way of life and salvation*

*Might be ascertained and found by souls
For the truth of everything
Was obscure to the eye's of Adam's race
Save that they saw the course of the stars*

*The moon and sun and other stars
Which go round every day without resting
And they also they saw the world's wells
And rivers flowing without ceasing at every time*

*And they saw the sadness of the earth
And the trance and sleep of the light
And the fruits at the coming of winter
So they saw the resurrection of the world*

*With its warmth and its light
With its flowers and fruits
At the reawakening of summer
Still they did not know who caused it²*



The pattern of death and resurrection can be seen so beautifully in the changing of the seasons. We do not celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in the spring time because Christ is a symbol for the natural order. Rather, the spring time resurrects into new life precisely because it is a symbol for the eternal reality of God. When you see the grass bursting forth from the mud and dead leaves, that is quite literally Christ. When you smell the flowers pouring out from the trees, that is Christ too. When you feel the warmth of the morning sun on your face, that is none other than Christ himself.

It is not only something which happened at a particular moment in history, but it is also a reality which we all participate in. That's why Paul said, "Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

² Historically, ascribed to the Apostle Philip, from ancient Irish text.

Death and resurrection is the pattern we all follow. For the Apostle Paul, the death which we participate in is the death of the old self. This is why he says that whoever has died is free from sin. Our spiritual death is a setting free of our new self. As Christ himself said, we are like a seed which must fall to the ground and die so that we may grow into something new. A seed can remain a seed forever. But until it dies it will never become what it was destined to be.

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. The seed which has fallen to the ground and died emerges as something magnificently more. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So, we also must consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. The resurrection of Christ is what makes it possible for us to live into our new selves. It is what makes it possible for spring to arise out of the tomb of winter. It exists eternally in every moment and is the foundation of all the beautiful creation we are surrounded by. Therefore, we should not fear death. The promise of resurrection is an eternal truth, one which is so much more than us and yet touches us in the most personal way.

It is an eternal truth which we have access to, which we can participate in. The choice to remain a seed is yours to make, so is the choice to pick up your cross and follow Christ to calvary. Those who would choose to save their lives will lose them instead, but those who choose to let go of their old self, who they have always been and who they are comfortable being, will be given the eternal life of Christ.

The eternal principle of resurrection is the free gift of God. It can be found in any land. It can be accessed by any person. We live in a world which operates on the principle of death and resurrection. We can see it with every passing generation, how the faces of our ancestors emerge in the faces of our grandchildren. We are part of the circle of life and we participate in the pattern by necessity. The choice is ours whether we want to embrace that reality or not.

If we cling too tightly to our old selves, or our old traditions, then we cannot be reborn. If we are not willing to die then we will never truly live. God has made the world in such a way that everything has its time. We come into being and we pass away. The gospel teaches us that this is not in vain. Death and resurrection are the means by which God creates, and what is worth keeping from the old can always be carried into the new.

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Blessings to you this Easter Season!

Rev. Wendy Noble

Doggie Tails/Tales from Ilka



It has been a long cold winter – lots of snow! I love the snow! It does make it hard to go out on walks as the sidewalks are snowy and icy and my Mommy (Rev. Wendy) doesn't like to risk falling. I have to be careful that I don't knock her over when the path is risky.

But now that spring is here and the snow has melted, we are back in full force out patrolling the neighbourhood and I keep the backyard free from squirrels. The squirrels like to tease me by getting up in the trees and chittering at me. But I am resolved to continue my squirrel chasing.

One thing that I discovered this spring (after making a few alterations by digging) was a new exit from the backyard. I made my escape and was through into the neighbour's yard and heading for Chester Street, when apprehended by Mrs. Rick (our backyard neighbour) and then taken into custody by my new roommate at home, brother Paul. All of this was reported to Mommy by text. So, new security measures have been taken and I have to wear my flashy lighted colour when out at night. It makes it hard to sneak up on any critters that may be in the yard.



I am looking forward to the warmer weather and clear sidewalks. I understand the Easter Bunny will soon arrive and I promise not to harm any bunnies, just in case!

Happy Easter!

Doggie kisses,

Ilka, the Westie!



Knit Happens!



The knitting continues – as well as the crocheting! Over the last few months 46 hats of various sizes and designs have been donated to Victoria Hospital’s Family Birthing Centre, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), or the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Each time the staff share their admiration for the creative work and offer their thanks on behalf of the eventual recipients. A BIG THANK YOU to the many hands that make this possible!

If you might have a little yarn and a bit of time, consider adding a hat or two for the hospital’s wee patients. If you need yarn, there is yarn available in the “yarn box” at the church. If you need some general guidelines a simple pattern or recipe can be shared. Finished hats may be left for Rev. Wendy to deliver to the hospital. As you can tell, there has been some seasonal knitting and crocheting in action!



The other project that the Knit Happens folks have piloted was to make little hearts for the Pride Parade in July. These hearts will be distributed to people along the parade route on behalf of the London United Churches. The little hearts will have a card on them proclaiming “God loves You!”. To this end – as we would like to have as many hearts as possible – we have recruited knitters / crocheters from the other United Churches in London. The patterns to make these hearts are available from Rev. Wendy or Laura Wilkes and are attached to this newsletter. These are fun little projects and can use up some odds and ends of yarn. Keep calm and Knit on!

Submitted by **Rev. Wendy (on behalf of the Tuesday Night “Knit Happens” folks)**
Knit Happens over Zoom on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Rev. Wendy for the link.

Knitting Instructions from Sheila

Would you like to knit or crochet hearts to be given out by the United Church at this year's Pride Parade? Any colour welcome! See patterns below:

Make magic circle slip stitch to join
3 double crochets
3 half double crochet
1 triple crochet
3 half double crochet
3 double crochet



Slip stitch beside 1st slip stitch cut yarn leaving tail. Pull yarn to close Magic Circle but not tight. Sew in tail from last stitch being careful not to sew through Magic Circle yarn. Pull magic Circle tight and sew in the end.



Done!

Alternative instructions on next page...





Sweetie♥KNIT♥Heart

MATERIALS: US size 6 (4 mm) needles
4.5 feet (1.5 m) yarn of choice
GAUGE is not critical to design

FINISHED SIZE: approx 1.125" (3 cms) wide x 1" (2.5 cms) high

SPECTRUM PATTERN SAMPLE: knit with Bernat Handicrafter 100% Cotton yarn.
SPECTRUM COLOUR SEQUENCE: robin egg, variegated blue/green, boston blue, hunter green, hunter, delft blue, country mauve, purple, variegated purples, country rose, country red, hot pink, shell pink, pumpkin, hot yellow, country yellow.

INSTRUCTIONS

CO 15 sts using Knitwise Long-tail Cast On method

(RS) Row 1: k1, p5, s2pp2, p5, k1 = 13 sts

Row 2: p2, k9, p2

Row 3: sl1 kwise, (ssk) 2x, s2kp2, (k2tog) 2x, sl1 pwise = 7 sts

— Cut Yarn —  — Weave in Ends —

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www.
KNITTINGwithHEART.wordpress.com

5/5/2012


SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ——— *INTERMEDIATE skill level, although these tiny hearts DO make perfect little practice projects.*

k2tog (right-slant knit decrease)
• knit two sts together as one

ssk (left-slant knit decrease)
• slip 2 sts kwise, separately
• k2tog through back loops

s2kp2 (vertical double knit decrease)
• slip 2 sts kwise, together
• knit next st
• pass the 2 slipped sts over the knit st and discard them from right hand ndl

s2pp2 (vertical double purl decrease)
• slip 2 sts kwise, separately
• insert left ndl into both sl sts (from right to left) and return sts in turned/exchanged position
• insert right hand ndl into all 3 sts (from right to left) and p3tog

ABBREVIATIONS: CO = cast on; k = knit; kwise = knitwise; ndl = needle; p = purl; pwise = purlwise; RS = right side; sl = slip; st(s) = stitch(es); tog = together; (...) ?x = repeat the instructions between the (parentheses) as many times as is indicated by the 'x';
 ♥ B&T = cut yarn, insert tail through live sts, pull tight to close gap

London United Churches Collaboration

On Saturday, March 22, 2025, about forty-five members and clergy of London's United Churches gathered at Rowntree to discuss the presence and future of the United Church in London. Most of the sixteen United Churches in London are facing similar issues: declining/aging membership, fewer volunteers, increased expenses, reduced income, and building-related challenges. It is clear though that all our United Churches are providing valuable programs and ministries to their communities and congregations. Together, we considered our joys, concerns, and key ministries, along with our collective future and how we might collaborate more.

This first meeting was proposed by Rowntree's Visioning Committee, which includes Rev. Wendy, Maryjane Jolliffe, Dave Watson, Brian Kominek, Brad McMurray, and Phyllis Brady. The discussion on March 22nd was ably facilitated by Rev.



Lynne Allin of Antler River Watershed Regional Council, with beautiful opening and closing worship led by Rev. Wendy and Ryan Baxter. The table conversations were lively and informative, as we learned about and related to the experiences expressed by other churches in the London area.



We are excited about the outcomes of this first gathering, and there is enthusiasm for ongoing meetings of the group (the next two gatherings are planned for April and June). An electronic newsletter with input from all churches is being planned (to be shared to congregation members via email), and a *London United Churches* website is also being planned, to provide

easily available information about the locations and work of each of the churches. There was enthusiasm for knowledge sharing and more frequent collaboration among the churches. Communication will be improved now that we have an email list for all the London United churches, their clergy, and church leaders.

Thank you to everyone from Rowntree who helped make this first gathering a success, including Phyllis Brady, Rev. Wendy, Brad McMurray, Dave Watson, and Maryjane Jolliffe. • **Phyllis Brady and Ryan Baxter**

A Warm Welcome to/from Catherine Glover

Greetings to Rowntree,

I am pleased to be joining this vibrant Community of Faith. I am a lifelong member of the United Church of Canada. I have lived in London since 1991 and first moved to the North End (Stoneybrook) of the city and was drawn to Siloam United Church at that time. I am very proud of the work we did at Siloam to form a partnership with Urban Roots London to create an Urban Garden. I am still involved with the Garden. Lots of food is grown there now and is donated to ELUCO. It is a wonderful Outreach program.

Since moving to Old North I have often thought, "I must walk over to Rowntree one Sunday." I finally did join for Worship and found it very inclusive and welcoming. I find the Community to be very positive in outlook. I also respond to the Vision of a vibrant future for the United Church in London. All of this to say, I decided to transfer my membership and I am glad I did! I am now also enjoying Bible Study and plan to join the knitters. I also hope to help out at events during the year.

My husband Doug and I live in Old North. We have 5 children, and now 13 Grandchildren who range in age from 5 months to 12 years. They all live in other cities, so we travel a lot on weekends to visit them. Doug is a drummer in three Pipe and Drum Bands and loves playing with the Bands. I retired 9 years ago. I was an Occupational Therapist and in the later years of my career I worked in Hospital Administration at both LHSC and SJHC. My 96-year old mom also lives in London and I spend lots of time with her.

I am a member of the General Council Executive of the United Church of Canada and also a member of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Canada Foundation (where I met Ryan Baxter). I really enjoy this National Work for our Church. In my leisure time I enjoy reading, sewing, gardening and regular exercise. You can often find me outside my house on Victoria Street chatting with neighbors who stop by to admire my gardens.

Thanks for the opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself

Happy Spring

Catherine Glover



Kevin Coad

After the sudden and unexpected death of Rev. Wendy's son Kevin Coad on January 29, 2025, our community continues to hold Rev. Wendy, Kevin's siblings, and their extended family and friends in prayer. In keeping with Kevin's character and outlook on life, there was a time of fellowship and celebration for his life on Saturday, March 15th at Rowntree in the Fellowship Hall. Family and friends were warmly invited to attend and to wear something green for Ireland, St. Patrick, or the Green Bay Packers! Packed and green would both be perfect adjectives to describe this time of fellowship, with too many in attendance to count – a testament to the love Kevin's family and friends had for him.

Donations in memory of Kevin can be made to either the Canadian Diabetes Association at <https://www.diabetes.ca> or The Kidney Foundation of Canada at <https://kidney.ca>.



Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

Isaiah 26:19

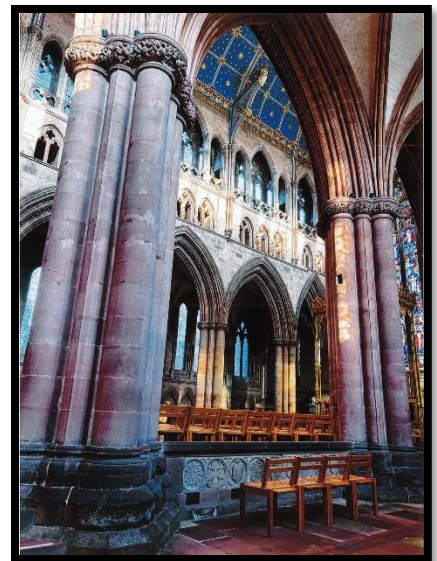
Dirk VanVrouwerff's Trip to Scotland

After Laurie, my wife of 57 years passed, I was left with the task of disposing of many items no longer needed at 56 Raywood Ave. By November I felt I had to get away from it all, and so after consulting with the rest of the family I started to make plans to go to Scotland and see how the family there (daughter) was fairing. It seemed to take forever for the days to go by but eventually, sure enough, it was time to go.



My son insisted he was going to take me to Toronto airport even though I had suggested I could take RobertQ. The day before departure my son had an altercation with a patch of ice while riding his bike going to work, He lost the contest and ended up with a dislocated collar bone. Needless to say he couldn't take me to Toronto anymore. I quickly called RobertQ and fortunately there was one spot left on the bus. Yeaaaah - on to Toronto. Departure day, up at

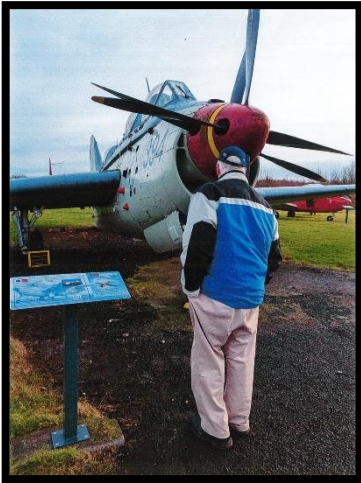
3:45 am. And Beth took me to catch the bus at RobertQ, then on to Toronto airport. RobertQ dropped us off and gave us directions as to where the Air Transat terminal was. Enroute I was using the moving sidewalk, when a golfcart pulled up and told me to put my suitcase in her cart and she would take me there. Now that I find hard to complain about. After my suitcase was checked in I had to wait about one hour before we could embark. We have all complained about the meal they serve shortly after take-off, well I was surprised as the meal was wonderful. A dish of hot lasagna, salad, a piece of cake, veggies, and a good selection of drinks. On our return flight they even served us red wine with our chicken and rice. Five hours later we landed at Glasgow and were greeted by my son-in-law Maurice who was there to pick me up.



My daughter and son in law have been running a bed and breakfast for nearly 1 year. They are located in the village of Gretna, which is located next door to Gretna Green - famous for being second for the number of wedding services performed in a year. Gretna and Gretna Green have

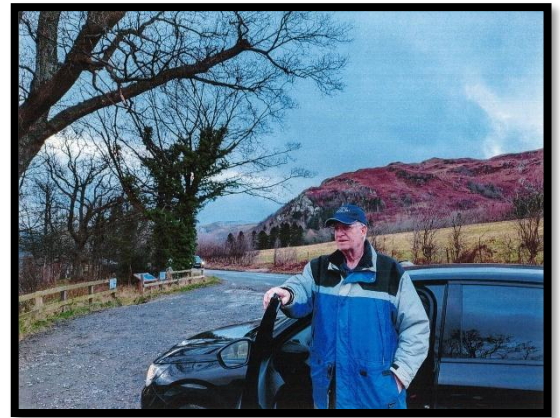
a combined population of about 3,500 people. People come from all over the world to get married here, so if you want to get married again, you now know where to go.

Before leaving London I been telling everyone that I was going to Scotland to get some mental as well as physical rest. It worked, as most days I didn't get out of bed before 10 am, and life at Gretna is very accommodating- they have all the conveniences you would love to have, mostly within a 10 minute walk from home.

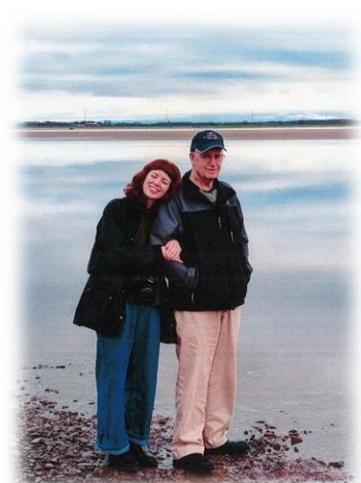


We did venture out a few times. My daughter took me to the Solway Firth a couple of times, once to see the tide go out and then again to see it come back again. We also visited sights in the Lake District, in England. That area is famous for its scenery of old mountains and waterfalls. These mountains are not like our Rockies, but while quite tall - about 1,000 meters - they have been rounded over many years. Roads in this area are treacherous - usually about 8 feet wide with 2-way traffic. And no guardrails. Another trip we took was to Carlisle where we toured a very large cathedral and then we paid a visit to the airplane museum.

They have about 10 airplanes parked outside. It was quite a cool, blustery day and after we had completed the outside displays we were looking forward to warmer conditions inside - but of course no such luck. The furnace was having problems and it wasn't much warmer inside than out.



We all know all good things must end. Christmas and New Years were celebrated. Both my daughter and son in law and their 2 daughters were able to come home for Christmas but one of my granddaughters had to go back home for New Years. We watched Hootenanny on TV before going to bed around 2 a.m.



Everything was packed up and so off we go back to the Glasgow airport. How that airport has grown since we last visited about 10 years ago. After landing in Toronto I had a wonderful time trying to find where RobertQ was located. Everyone I asked sent me in a different direction. I finally found the right connection - she was an employee who looked after and serviced the elevators and escalators. She took me to where RobertQ was located. She came back in about 15 minutes to see how I was doing. She also brought me a coffee complete with sugar, cream, and cookies. A wonderful end to a wonderful trip. Back to London and SNOW.

Activities, from Lynn

Grab a calculator!

- Key in the first three digits of your phone number (not the area code)
- Multiply by 80
- Add 1
- Multiply by 250
- Add the last 4 digits of your phone number
- Add the last 4 digits of your phone number
- Subtract 250
- Divide number by 2

Do you recognize the number?

PUZZLE

Searching Eyes

Hidden in the grid below are the names of 21 parts of the human body. To find them, go from letter to letter horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Just don't use the same square twice in a single word, or jump a square to get to that letter you need. For example: "Nose" can be spelled by starting with the N in the middle, moving diagonally down to the O, diagonally down again to the S and up to the E. Good luck! **BY WILL SHORTZ**

H	S	E	C	D
T	G	H	A	W
M	U	N	I	R
E	O	L	S	B
S	T	R	I	T

HOW DO YOU RATE?

10-12 Good thing you're not a doctor.

13-15 You might make it through med school.

16-19 Go ahead and open a practice.

20-21 How does Chief of Surgery sound?

Answers: brain, chest, chin, ear, gum, hair, head, lung, mouth, nail, nose, nostril, rib, shin, tibia, toe, tongue, tonsil, ulna, waist, wrist.

Music for Lent, from Ryan

A few times here at Rowntree I have prepared a single composer or set of pieces during a season of the church year, including sets by Josef Rheinberger and Canadian organist Denis Bédard. This Lent, I used the *Eleven Chorale Preludes*, Op. 122 by Johannes Brahms, and *Waldszenen (Forest Scenes)*, Op. 82, by Robert Schumann.

Brahms' final composition, the ***Eleven Chorale Preludes*** (1896) for organ, were completed not long after the death of his best friend Clara Schumann (wife of Robert Schumann). They are based on verses from nine Lutheran chorales. It is interesting that Brahms, having never been a particularly religious person or composer, turned back to hymnody and the organ for his final work. He wrote very little for the organ prior to this. His textures in writing for the organ are occasionally awkward and a little too pianistic, but these do not diminish the quality of the music. These eleven chorales have great depth in them, and are some of most refined examples of the genre. At times they express sadness and pain, but also the promise of eternal life, hope, trust, compassion, and the love of God. They are most appropriate for Lent, as they collectively mediate on life, death, and love. [Johannes Brahms (1833–1897), pictured here in 1889]



- I. *Mein Jesu, der du mich* (My Jesus, who chose me)
- II. *Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen* (O dearest Jesu)
- III. *Welt, ich muß dich lassen* (O world, I must leave you)
- IV. *Herzlich tut mich erfreuen* (My heart is filled)
- V. *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele* (Deck yourself, O dear soul)
- VI. *wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen* (O how blessed are you pious ones)
- VII. *Gott, du frommer Gott* (O God, you faithful God)
- VIII. *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (It is an upspringing rose)
- IX. *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* (I am heartily longing)
- X. *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* (second setting)
- XI. *Welt, ich muß dich lassen* (second setting)

Waldszenen (Forest Scenes) (1848-49) for piano by Schumann may seem an odd choice for Lent, but their melancholic reflections on nature felt appropriate, since spring began this year the middle of Lent (though, according to the weather it did not!). These nine pieces are very well unified, as Schumann reuses several musical ideas throughout. Some in the set are more dramatic, while others are calm and introspective. Always, there is a sense of honesty and transparency – nothing is hidden from the listener in this opus. Schumann wrote only about seven more compositions for the piano after Op. 82, making them representative of his late style.

In May I will be playing these pieces at a music conference, with some discussion of how the meanings of the titles has changed. Schumann's experience of pre-industrial German forests and landscapes is different from today, where wildfire, climate change, and environmental loss might change how these pieces are heard and interpreted. [Robert Schumann (1810–1856), pictured here in 1839]



- I. *Eintritt* (Entrance)
- II. *Jäger auf der Lauer* (Hunter on the Lookout)
- III. *Einsame Blumen* (Lonely Flowers)
- IV. *Verrufene Stelle* (Haunted Place)
- V. *Freundliche Landschaft* (Friendly Landscape)
- VI. *Herberge* (Wayside Inn)
- VII. *Vogel als Prophet* (The Bird as Prophet)
- VIII. *Jagdlied* (Hunting Song)
- IX. *Abschied* (Farewell)

*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.*

Martin Luther

The Life and Work of Artist Christopher Wallis



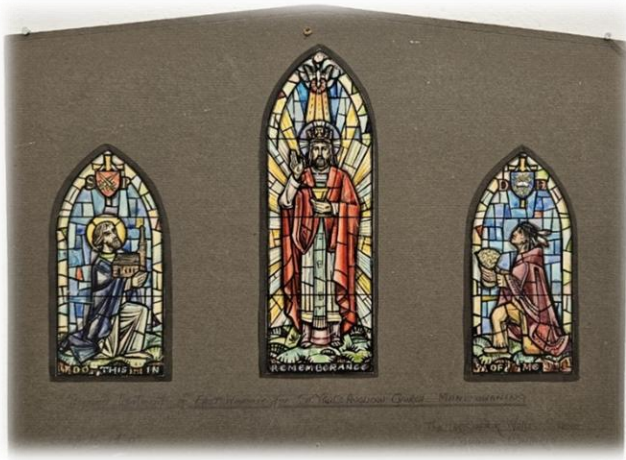
The stained-glass windows in Rowntree's sanctuary and narthex are by the artist Christopher Wallis (1930–2021), and came to us from Robinson United Church, with others making their way to Colborne Street United. An exhibition, ***Christopher Wallis: In the Balance of Light***, ran in the artLAB Gallery at Western University's Department of Visual Arts from January 9–30, curated by Cody

Barteet and Natalie Scola. Below is a description of the exhibition, with some photos.

In the Balance of Light celebrated the remarkable career of Christopher Wallis (1930–2021), a master stained glass artist renowned for his innovative approach to a centuries-old art form. Born in England and trained at the Hammersmith School of Arts and Crafts, Wallis created over 800 works in Canada and the United States, including ecclesiastical windows, institutional designs and private commissions. His notable works include heraldic windows at Rideau Hall, installations at Western University and Osgoode Hall, and church windows across London and southwestern Ontario. A Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters and a member of both the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, Wallis left a lasting legacy in stained glass art.



Drawing from hundreds of designs and drawings, this exhibition offers a comprehensive view of his artistic practice. Featuring coloured designs, preliminary sketches, full-sized cartoons, and completed windows, it highlights Wallis' ability to create detailed narratives through vibrant colours and intricate symbols, meant to evoke deep emotional responses. By blending traditional representational forms with mid-century abstraction, he redefined stained glass for modern audiences. Wallis's work demonstrates a detailed consideration



of how colour would interact with the intended space, ensuring his windows were not only visually striking but were also unified with their architectural surroundings. This exhibition invites viewers to experience Wallis' designs in their full spectrum, showcasing the depth and skill of his stained glass works. Through his work, Christopher Wallis transformed stained glass into a living medium, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire.

This exhibit is made possible through the generous support of the Department of Visual Arts and Western University's internal granting program. The curators extend their thanks to the family of Christopher Wallis whose generosity and collaboration in sharing his materials have been essential in celebrating his remarkable work.

Submitted by **Ryan Baxter**

The Nativity Window, one of Wallis' windows in Rowntree's sanctuary, was provided by the Women's Association, The Minnie Hawkins Auxiliary, and the Dorothy Gill Auxiliary. It was dedicated on Mother's Day, May 12, 1963. It is a fitting memorial as the women's groups were amalgamated into one group; The United Church Women (UCW) in 1962. -Mary Dame



United Church of Canada Foundation

This centennial year for the church is an exciting opportunity for reflection, growth, and visioning for the future. The United Church of Canada Foundation is leading the church's national fundraising efforts this year, through the **United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary Legacy Campaign**. Below is a short summary of this campaign. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about legacy gifting and how it might be right for you, please get in touch with Ryan or Catherine, and they will help connect you with an expert from the Foundation or one of its partners in this campaign. You can also learn more from the campaign's website, unitedchurchfoundation.ca/centennialcampaign/. Planning a legacy gift can be a very meaningful and faith-filled experience. This year in particular, the church invites us all

to consider what legacy we will leave for the next 100 years of the United Church of Canada, at both the local and national level.

What is the 100th Anniversary Legacy Campaign for the United Church of Canada?

The 100th Anniversary Legacy Campaign celebrates a century of faith, community, and service through the United Church of Canada. This initiative is designed to secure the Church's future by encouraging congregations and members to make legacy gifts, ensuring the Church's mission continues for the next 100 years.

How will congregations benefit from participating in the Campaign?

Legacy gifts are a powerful way to support the future of local congregations. These contributions help ensure long-term financial health by providing sustainable funding for outreach, ministry, music, faith formation, and vital community programs. Legacy gifts empower each congregation to strengthen its impact, ensuring its mission continues well into the future. Congregations can direct these gifts to meet their unique needs, ensuring that the ministry people care about continues even after they are gone.

Beyond individual congregations, this Campaign reflects a collective, nationwide effort. Every church that participates strengthens the United Church of Canada. Together, we are securing a vibrant future for our faith community, ensuring that our values of compassion, inclusivity, and service endure for generations. Legacy gifts are a lasting testament to our shared commitment, leaving a legacy of faith that will shape the next century.

What is a Legacy Gift, and how does it work?

A legacy gift is a planned future donation made through an individual's will or estate, allowing UCC members to leave a lasting impact on their congregation or the broader Church community. Legacy gifts can include cash, securities, or other assets, and they can be customized to fit each donor's financial situation.

Submitted by **Ryan Baxter**



As Easter People, we know that God is calling us to carry out God's work in our community, and to ensure that God's faith and love flourishes.

Picture Time!

Our worship service on Sunday, December 15th, 2024, including Steve Davidson playing his trombone.



Our first Blue Christmas service, on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024, led by Rev. Wendy

The choir singing for our Christmas Eve service



Deb and Dave Thomas celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary – they were married at Rowntree United Church on March 27, 1975. Congratulations!



Our Sunday December 29th worship service, café style in the Friendship Hall

Rowntree's Anniversary worship service, shared with Dundas St. Centre – we were happy to welcome Rev. Tracy Crick-Butler of Wesley-Knox United Church to our service.



Gathering for lunch after our annual general meeting Sunday worship service, on February 23rd, 2025. To prove the efficiency of our meeting, you can see the clock on the wall reads 11:30 – well done Phyllis Brady!



*Because you have seen me, you have believed;
blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed
John 20:29*

Oneida Nation of the Thames Water Supply Update

In March 2023, Oneida Nation of the Thames announced plans to connect the existing Oneida Water Supply System to the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System. The new connection will provide reliable and sustainable access to safe drinking water to approximately 528 homes and all the existing community buildings in Oneida Nation of the Thames.

The capacity of the First Nation's existing piped distribution system will also be upgraded and expanded to deliver potable water and water for fire protection to the existing core community and homes planned for future development. Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is investing over \$43 million to support the design and construction phases of this project.

As it is now spring 2025, this work is scheduled to be completed soon, according to the original timeline. No news has arrived yet of its completion or success. Thank you to all who continue advocating to elected officials of all levels to support this important project in any ways possible.

United Church of Canada Centennial

June 10, 2025, will mark The United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary—an opportunity to honour our past and look to the future! One of the first "united" churches in the world, The United Church of Canada is rooted in Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.

Sign up for a newsletter where you can receive the latest news, stories, opportunities, and event updates from The United Church of Canada about our centennial with this link: <https://united-church.ca/stories/centennial-newsletter-love-louder>

*When we are rooted in love we cannot keep from building community,
from practicing equity and justice, and that will in fact bring about
the new heavens and the new Earth. And in this new creation there is
a place at the table for everyone.*

Rev. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator

Rowntree Green Fundraiser

Rowntree is constantly trying to make our building 'greener,' and reduce our carbon footprint. In 2024 we partnered with [Faithful Footprints](#) of the United Church and Thomas Dyna-Build renovators of London to rework the Brampton St. entrance. This job was completed in the fall but was more extensive than we'd planned; we found insulation missing, roof leaks, and ventilation lacking from previous work which had to be fixed. We had a bigger bill than we anticipated: costs went from \$27,600 to \$43,800, some of which Faithful Footsteps covered. However, this should significantly reduce our natural gas usage and make our building greener. We've introduced a fundraiser to pay this off: Green (Rown)Tree and asking for your financial help. When you donate, please apportion some to this. Thank you!



Pickleball!

What do a Pickleball and Pizza have in common? Both can be served on a paddle!



Do you love playing Pickleball at Rowntree? Join us on Saturday, May 10th for Green Rowntree Game Day – Pickleball, Pizza & More. This will be a fun day of friendly competition and conversation. Please contact Lynn Patterson for registration details. The net proceeds from this event will go directly to Project



Green Rowntree to assist with the expenses of refurbishing the Brampton Street entrance.

Forest City Singers Annual Spring Concert



The choir is hard at work rehearsing for their performance at Rowntree on Friday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Pam Font reports that this is an exciting and ambitious endeavour with at least 8 new songs being prepared for our listening pleasure.

Along with favourites such as “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and “Little Light of Mine” will be new tunes including “Candle on the Water” from *Pete’s Dragon* and “Riversong”.

Refreshments will follow.

See Maryjane or call Laura to purchase your tickets, or buy them at the door.

Rowntree Fundraising 2025 – Save These Dates!

Friday, May 2nd 7:00 p.m. Forest City Singers Spring Concert – “Echoes of the Heart” – Tickets: \$20 – See Maryjane Jolliffe or call the office.

Saturday, May 10th 9:00 a.m. “Green Rowntree” Game Day – Pickleball, Pizza & More – Registration Required – Net Proceeds to Project Green Rowntree

Saturday, June 14th 5:00 p.m. Ham & Strawberry Dinner – Adults \$20, Children \$12

Saturday, September 6th 9:00-12:00 Fall Fling Yard & Bake Sale (in conjunction with Carling Neighbourhood Yard Sale)

Watch This Space! Perhaps another event will appear here

Saturday, November 22nd 10:00–1:00 Christmas Bazaar

Friday, December 5th 7:00 p.m. Forest City Singers Christmas Concert

Updates from Judy

Welcome Wednesday

Clients continue to enjoy a nutritious meal every Wednesday here at Rowntree from 12:00-1:00 p.m. There is a market table with items that people can take home to have later. This is a popular table! Many thanks to all volunteers who make this possible.

ELUCO Fundraiser

The 10th Annual *Voices of Broadway Concert* was held at Siloam United Church on March 29th. Several people commented that it was the best one so far!

ELUCO Food Cupboard

We are located at 1461 Huron St in the Gethsemane Apartment building. We are open Wednesday and Friday mornings for people living in the area. They are allowed to come once a month. For the month of March, we served 46 families, including 92 adults, 30 children, and 1 infant. We greatly appreciate the support of the Rowntree family through their generous donations.

The ELUCO Annual General Meeting was held April 9th at Rowntree. We honoured three of our volunteers with a gift basket: Barbara Hutchison/Caves, Gary Longhurst, and Connie Jackson. We could not survive without volunteers!



Picture: Meghan (daughter of Connie), Connie, Barb, Sharon Ashton (ELUCO Member), and Gary. Nancy Howard, community worker in the Marconi area, continues to support and advocate for the people living there. She finds herself helping to fill out forms for housing, attends meeting with them, and at times just offers a listening ear. She is non-judgmental and highly respected in the community – a blessing to everyone!

Thank You for Reading

The Acorn is published by the Communications Committee of Rowntree Memorial United Church and edited by Brad McMurray. This edition was edited by Ryan Baxter. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Articles for the next edition are due **August 20, 2025**. Comments or articles can be emailed to wbmcmurray55@hotmail.com or left in the Communications mail slot at Rowntree. Stories are much more effective with pictures, as “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Visit our web site at www.rowntreechurch.ca to find more information on who we are, what we do, and what we believe in, audio from our weekly church services, and how you can support us. We are also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RowntreeUnitedChurch/>.

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*Never yet was a spring-time,
Late though lingered the snow,
That the sap stirred not at the whisper
Of the south wind, sweet and low;
Never yet was a spring-time
When the buds forgot to blow.*

*Ever the wings of the summer
Are folded under the mould;
Life, that has known no dying,
Is Love's, to have and to hold,
Till sudden, the bourgeoning Easter!
The song! the green and the gold!*

-Margaret Elizabeth Munson Sangster

