

Ministers' Messages: (Rev.) Dr. Steven Davis



In 1963 – the year of my birth – Nat King Cole recorded the song “Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer.” I suspect that the year is more noteworthy for the song rather than my birth! It’s probably a song that would be considered politically incorrect today. Not so much because summer meant “sodas and pretzels and beer” but

because the song makes mention of cute girls in bikinis on the beach whose bikinis somehow never get wet. ??? Anyway, the song’s title in a way sums up my approach to summer. I don’t think I really have a favourite season of the year. There are things to look forward to in every season. I love budding trees and growing flowers in the spring, the vibrant leaf colours and Hallowe’en in the fall, Christmas and crisp snow in the winter. In the summer there are long days and warm temperatures, lots of sunshine and the odd thunderstorm (I even like those) and summer offers so many opportunities. I’ve been thinking about summer recently – not because it’s here (not quite yet) but because for the last couple of days before I wrote this it feels like summer. It’s been warm verging on hot and very sunny. I’ve gone out for walks in t-shirt and shorts. It’s a nice time of the year.

This year it’s a time of hopefulness. I was thinking of that recently too as the liturgical season of Easter came to an end. Easter is always a time of hope, and this year I also see it as a hinge of sorts. As we watch COVID numbers decreasing and vaccination rates increasing, things seem more hopeful than they’ve been in a long time. The province has a plan in place for re-opening, and as a church we also have a plan to put into effect when we feel re-opening can be done safely. We don’t know when that will happen (and I’m not going to speculate here) but it will happen.

(continued on page 2)

Rev. Karen Smart



I looked at my message to you from a year ago. It began:

“I am writing this message on Victoria Day Monday. In these times, it is hard to imagine what summer 2020 will bring. Where will the flattening of the curve be? What phase of re-entry will we be in?”

Here we are now, the end of May 2021. The curve was flattened but it rose again. In fact, we are now trying to flatten the third wave. Vaccines are being administered. Many of us are patiently waiting for our second dose. Please get your vaccine when your opportunity comes!

We are now looking to the end of this school year’s Church School Program. The last lessons will be delivered on June 19th. We will then take our annual break until the week after Labour Day. We again wonder “what phase of re-entry will we be in?” Either way lessons – like school - will begin again in the fall!

This year we are celebrating two graduates. Bryanna Murdoch and John McCleary. Congratulations to both of you on your many accomplishments. We look forward to hearing about the next adventures in your journey!

I am looking forward to my holidays which will be taken from July 5 to August 9th. Like many, I will be having a stay-cation with Tom and Laura. I look forward to walks in our neighbourhood, swimming, reading in our backyard and gardening. Steven and I will have a week together when I return. He will then take holidays through Labour Day. Worship will be offered each week on the website and one or both of us will be there for you, should a pastoral concern arise.

(continued on page 2)

(Rev.) Dr. Steven Davis *(continued from page 1)*

It will likely be a while after we re-open before we're completely back to normal but things do seem hopeful, and although I'm always an optimist, I feel more positive about the situation than I've felt in a long time. It's been a long haul for PVUC as a congregation – the staff, the lay leadership and the general membership. Although we're not quite out of this yet I want to say before the summer lull comes for Voice that I am incredibly proud to be part of the ministry team here. Our staff and our congregation have done so well and so much in such incredibly difficult circumstances and it's been a real team effort. Our congregation has taken this unprecedented 14 month (and counting) crisis seriously, we've kept the church functioning as well as any church could be expected to do and probably better than many have done, we've tried to find ways to keep people connected to the congregation and to one another (admittedly this, I think, has been the hardest to do and while it hasn't been perfect we have gotten better at it as we've adjusted to our new reality) and I get a sense from most people I talk to that there's not just a weariness with the current situation, but an excitement and enthusiasm about what comes next. I think people are ready to embrace the challenges of getting things back up to speed. And that will be a challenge – but after watching how we've done since this began I have no doubt that PVUC is up to it!

There is a lot of work ahead and a lot of questions to be asked and answered – but there's also a lot of hope in the air. I hope all of you enjoy these upcoming "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer." Stay safe and stay healthy – and with God's help, we'll be able to see (actually see) each other by sometime in the fall.

Rev. Karen Smart *(continued from page 1)*

Most importantly, summer is a time of respite. The pace is gentler. It is a great time to connect with God and recharge your soul. This prayer written by Gordon Dunbar was found in *Gathering*, our worship planner:

In creation we see your constant, loving presence, O God.
Yet we are weary and worn from life's challenges.
May your Spirit work within us with power and promise
That we may become those who you created us to be.
May we open ourselves to Christ's presence within
And to Jesus' work of self-giving love. Amen.

I plan to pray this prayer often during my summer respite.

So, during this summer, please continue to stay safe and stay connected. Take care of yourself and open yourself to Jesus' work of self-giving love in whatever way you can best do so!

Have a safe, happy, Spirit-filled summer.

PVUC VOICE

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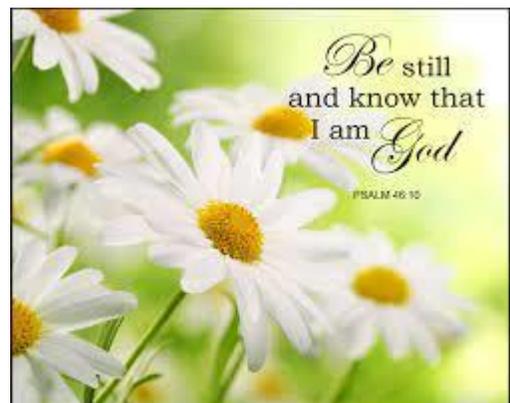
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"Spring cleanup by the PVUC Property Committee"



Property Committee work continues despite the pandemic. Spring cleanup work by Douglas Brown, Peter Rebek and Tom Smart (taking the photo)

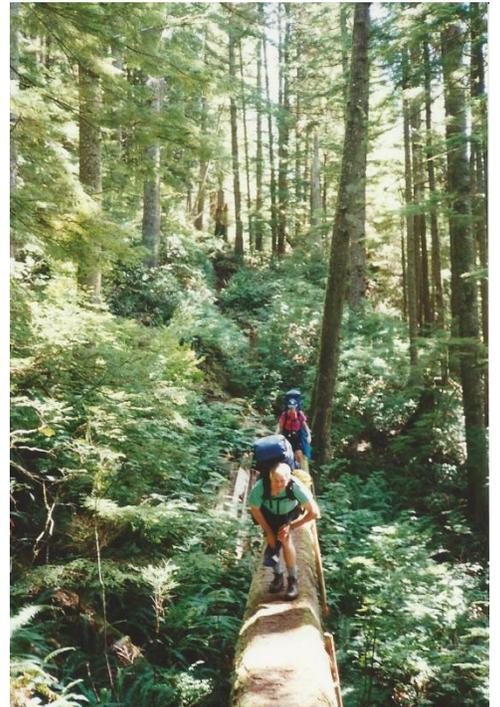
PVUC Men's Group Spring Activities

by Tom Smart

Our group continues to meet this spring, although doing so virtually because of the public health restrictions. It is always good to link up with one another and catch up on what is happening in each other's lives.

In May, Peter Rebek shared a presentation on his hiking adventure in 1993, when with friends he conquered the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island. This is a 75 km trail established in 1907 for shipwreck victims and their rescuers. In 1970 the Pacific Rim National Park was established, and they now maintain the trail. About 7,500 backpackers hike it every year, from May 1 to September 30.

We will be meeting again on June 12, to hear from a presentation from Gary Willert. We look forward to another time of fellowship before taking a break for the summer.



MAY UPDATE ON PVUC STATUS: Chuck Hay, Chair of the Church Council

Your Church Council continues to work diligently to continue the mission of our church. I want to thank all those who participated in our 2021 budget “town hall” style Zoom meeting on May 16, giving their input on both the draft General Fund budget and the Mission & Service Fund proposed target. This input is vital for the Council members as we work faithfully to manage our finances in this challenging time.

With the province’s ‘stay at home’ order continuing into early June, the PVUC church building remains closed. Church staff are still performing all possible activities remotely from home, coming into the building only for limited functions. Please remember that only activities directly related to the recording of worship and essential building maintenance are being allowed. Masks are to be worn at all times when inside the building, except for the times during worship recording when speaking or singing.

A comprehensive plan is ready to implement to allow us to resume in-person worship, once it is responsible to do so. Part of this plan involves an increased number of ushers, to ensure all worshippers are aware of the required precautions. If you would consider volunteering to be an usher, when worship resumes later this year, please contact Doreen Hallé to discuss what this job involves.

Phone messages and mail to the church office continue to be checked daily, and responded to in a timely manner. The ministers continue to be available to respond to pastoral care issues, and you can reach them by e-mail or by leaving a message on the church answering machine.

We are all glad to hear of the vaccinations that members of our church family are receiving, and we look forward to the beginning of “second doses” in the coming summer months.

The Property Committee continues to ensure our building and property remain in good shape; recently they have done a leaf cleanup, replaced damaged aluminum soffit on the front door overhang, replaced burned out lights, monitored the performance of the new sump pump system in the rooms adjacent to the gym, and continued to do mandatory monthly testing of our fire protection equipment (smoke detectors, emergency lighting). The “garden crew” continues to do an excellent job in maintaining our flower gardens around the building...what a glorious display of colour this spring!

Please continue to stay connected with our church family in the many ways that are available, including the weekly recorded worship services, our PVUC Facebook page, the monthly VOICE newsletter, telephone calls and the regular e-mail Blasts. Please continue to pray for a time when we can once again safely gather together for worship.

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Summer Gardening Tips from a PVUC Gardener by John Scott

At the outset, let me say that I'm no expert gardener. Many of you are far more knowledgeable and able than am I. Dianne asked me to share a few ideas about gardening and although I'm happy to do so, please accept them as ideas from someone who grew up in a gardening family but who ignored most of the available lessons. My gardening is common sense-based, with some internet help. Anytime I think of gardening, I wish to thank Linda and Frank Hearn for the work they put into our Church garden.

Mine is a gardening of trial and error with a "never be afraid to try something" spirit. I am firmly convinced that plants are much tougher than we give them credit for. This time of year fills us with the joy of the bright yellows of daffodils and forsythia, the reds of emperor tulips and the sweet fragrances of apple and lilac blossom. It also provides many opportunities for new successes and occasional failures.

I am drawn to annuals as most offer bright colours and constant blossom throughout the summer. My wife, Heather, loves her perennials for being more carefree, spreading and yearly beauty. But as few perennials offer constant bloom, I'm prepared to replant each year - though as the knees creak, I'm beginning to wonder about the wisdom of that choice. And to ensure peace in the garden, our plantings actually reflect a balance of both perennials and annuals.



In the excitement of the new season, it is easy to get trapped by the beautiful blooms on display in the garden centers. Although blossom on the plants ensures you know what colours you are buying, they may not be the best plants to get. Usually the ones that don't have blossom will be easier to transplant, and will develop far better than those covered with blooms.

I don't buy new plants unless I have a pretty good idea of where I'm going to place them. When you buy new plants, they will probably be in plastic pots that dry out very quickly. They need to be dealt with upon arrival. Additionally, most will have been under cover from the sun and wind when you buy them. Rather than planting them immediately, try to harden them off by slowly putting them into more and more sun and wind to prepare them for their ultimate sunny and windy experience. This also helps to avoid the burning of leaves from a sudden exposure to direct sunlight.

If you are planting any volume of plants, you may wish to buy some transplanting fluid. You can mix it with water so it will assist plants to transition from the plastic containers to your garden. After I dig a hole for a new plant - the hole being a bit larger than the plant - I add some of the transplanting fluid in the hole and let it soak in. I break up the root clump a little, spread it out slightly when placing in the hole, tamp the soil firmly around the plant and leave a shallow "moat" to capture water. I then water it with the transplant fluid which will help with root development and ultimately create a stronger, more stable plant.

Also, if you are short of water or don't want the extra work of regular watering, pick plants that are tough enough to withstand dry situations. That is certainly why the children often plant portulaca at the Church. It can withstand a hot, full sun and dry conditions while still producing constant varied colours. (Continued on page 6)

Have fun, laugh at some of the unsuccessful efforts and smile when something works. It's God's reward to us for tending His Garden.



Remembering Audrey Warren

Here are several more tributes to Audrey Warren that we received (after publication of the May issue).

From Marilyn Cummins:

When I was a new teacher at Lincoln Avenue, Audrey Warren was one of my class parents. She was very supportive of the school and the staff and was a loving and caring parent. I next met Audrey when I joined the PVUC Tuesday craft group and UCW.

Audrey will be missed by those of us who work in the kitchen. She was always there to help with UCW luncheons and teas and could be counted on to do things without being asked. From now on, I will always remember her when I make the coffee and tea for a large group as she was always in charge of making it and had the right formula for making tasty cups of both.

From Marilyn Wilson:

How I looked forward to Audrey's visits to the foot clinic AFTER the coffee was plugged in.....just one of hundreds of examples where others came BEFORE Audrey's needs. I valued her opinions, ideas and insight into people and life events here at PVUC and in the world beyond. "Wishy-washy" is not the word/s I would use to describe Audrey! For that characteristic alone, I loved and appreciated her most. As with my own mother, I always knew exactly where Audrey stood. Her genuine faith was inspiring to me. She may have given God a talking to, once or twice and I know they were/are on a first name basis! The last time I saw Audrey, she gave me a flawlessly knitted dishcloth. What a great symbol of her work ethic, thoughtfulness and tireless kitchen help always done behind the scenes. I'm thinking of framing it!

Remembering Ellie Jeffery

Ellie was a familiar face here at PVUC for many years and worked in a variety of roles. But most of us will probably remember Ellie best, as a faithful member of our choir, whose beautiful voice added to the quality of our worship. Rowena Dunlop remembers Ellie's contribution to our PVUC choir in the following tribute...

Ellie Jeffery became a member of PVUC in 1996 and over the years belonged to several committees including Worship and Affirming Ministries as well as serving as an Elder, but I believe that her favourite church activity (not that I am biased) was the church choir. Not only did she provide it with a beautiful singing voice, but she also served on its committee in several positions including Gowns and Hearts & Flowers. Her versatility showed itself as she moved between Soprano and Alto depending upon the music and the need for a part to be bolstered. Choir members are required to blend their voices when singing as a group, but when Ellie sang solos during the summer services when Anne Mizen was the Music Director it was obvious how talented Ellie was.

Despite her health issues, which forced her to step away from the choir on several occasions, Ellie had a cheerful disposition and volunteered to help in other non-committee official positions when she felt that there was a need that she could fulfil. When church services went on-line she kept in touch by phone with people to see how they were doing and this probably lifted their spirits as well as her own. When regular choir starts up again I will miss her voice whether she was beside me as a soprano or behind me as an alto!

Besides her work for the Worship and Affirming Ministries Committees and as an Elder, Ellie offered her help in organizing our PVUC Annual June Yard Sale.



Chuck Hay recalls her willingness to help...

I remember when we were scrambling to find someone to take on the task of organizing our spring parking lot sale. When Ellie learned of this need, she quickly volunteered to take on the responsibility. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude were much appreciated, and with Ellie's help the tradition continued. Ellie was always happy to find ways to contribute!

Sean Aune also remembers Ellie's enthusiasm in this endeavor...

Ellie was a vital member of our Annual June Yard Sale for the past several years. Her coordination and organization contributions were integral in the continued success of the Yard Sales. She was always a smiling face we could go to solve problems and make sure the event went smoothly. She will be greatly missed, thank you Ellie!

Pat Anderson – Ellie was her Elder and friend

Just shortly after Ellie became my Elder, she called me one day in January inviting me to attend a musical that evening with her at the St. Francis Centre and she had an extra ticket which I thought was very nice of her. We were also Maple Leaf fans and always enjoyed discussing the outcome of the games. Mitch Marner- #16 [assistant captain of the Maple Leafs] was also one of our favourite players. I am sure Ellie will be rooting for the Leafs in the playoffs.

She will be greatly missed by PVUC.

Goodbye Ellie, and thank you for your many contributions to the life of PVUC.



Remembering Edith Hogarth

Edith (Ede) was a familiar face both at PVUC and in Pickering Village for many years – exactly 100 to be exact. During those years she was a faithful member of PVUC and contributed many hours helping in the UCW and our Sunday School.



Gloria Murkar remembers Edith...

I really liked Edith; she was a good person – reliable, trustworthy and intelligent. Edith was the person who suggested our church newspaper [newsletter] be called The Voice. We had a contest and she won! Edith and I taught Sunday School for many years at the old Church and our present church.

Bernice Moreton was a good friend of Edith....

She will be missed. Edith became my good friend after I retired and joined her Monday bridge group. She was an excellent baker and always served delicious homemade treats before our card games. On one of these afternoons she told us about her Mom and Dad's mantle clock that sat in her living room. It was her parents' wedding present but no longer worked. Herb's hobby was restoring old clocks so we arranged for a visit. Ede and I chatted while he was able to work his magic. She was pleased to hear the ticking once again.

In later years when her eyesight was failing it gave me joy to be the one to zip up her jacket. She made me feel special! Edith was a kind and gentle lady who was dedicated to her family, friends and church

Dianne Catchpole remembers early years in Pickering..

When I was growing up in Pickering Village in the 1950's, (it really was a small country village in those days – about 1000 population – nobody would have believed it was possible that Pickering would become a city decades later), it was commonplace to know just about everyone in the village. If I saw someone on the street whose face was unknown to me, I immediately wondered who they were. It was a wonderful childhood, surrounded by people that I knew and trusted. Edith Hogarth was one of those people. I used to walk or bicycle to Lincoln Ave. Public School and went by Edith's house every school day. In elementary school, I attended classes with some of her children. And always, I would see her every Sunday in the old church and the Christian Education Centre during the years she worked in the Sunday School. She was one of those honest, pleasant ladies of the day who gave unstintingly of their time and talent to help the church – whether it was working to make and serve church suppers, teach small children in Sunday School or simply say hello.

I will always remember Edith fondly, as a caring and considerate person who helped her church with a lifelong devotion.

WELLNESS AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Pat Gottschalk

Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy summer. Please enjoy this article, **contributed by Ken Brown.**

Ken is a horticultural consultant, writer and photographer. He received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph. Ken worked as the Superintendent of Horticulture at the Toronto Zoo when it was being planned and built. He also has a horticulture teaching degree from the University of Toronto and has taught a variety of related courses. Ken is a certified horticultural judge and he is a frequent speaker at horticultural meetings and seminars.

His web page, www.gardening-enjoyed.com, is a great source of advice, tips and updates. He currently spends most of his non-gardening hours writing for various publications, his web site and e-zine "Dallying In The Dirt."

(Editor's Note: Ken Brown is our next-door neighbour!)

Container Gardening

Container gardening can take many forms, from a miniature Hosta in a teacup to large trees on building rooftops. What is a container? There is certainly no set answer to that question. Anything that will hold a useful quantity of soil and preferably has some drainage holes in the bottom.

Having used the word "soil", let's clarify what we mean by that term when it comes to container gardening. The substrate or growing medium that goes into a container can be comprised of many things but should almost never contain any actual garden soil. The clay content in any garden soil will compact into a solid mass inhibiting the absorption of water and it is comprised of very tiny particles that leave little room for air spaces. Without air and water most plants are destined to have a very short life. Most readily available container soils are mostly peat moss with some granular like perlite and sometimes vermiculite, mixed through to aid in drainage and the creation of air spaces. Coir, a natural fibre from Coconut shells, is



occasionally used as well as a small quantity of compost. We refer to all of these as soilless mixes and they are readily available at garden centres. Some of these mixes also will have some moisture retaining material in them but be careful not to use these to grow vegetables. You will notice no pictures of vegetables on these packages. As a final word, I am often asked how often you should change the growing media in containers. The only people urging you to regularly replace it are the people selling it. I have containers that have had the same soil in them for 20 years. Obviously that old soil has little or no nutrient value but even a bag of new container mix will have minimal nutrient value. What is the actual purpose of the growing medium in our containers? Physical support for the plants is a primary function and then it is a reservoir for water and nutrients, both of which must be supplied by the gardener. The easy way to do this, is to use a soluble all-purpose fertilizer in the irrigation water every time we give those plants a drink. The next question is, "How often should we water our containers?" Nobody likes my answer, "When they need it!" If we are growing annual flowers and vegetables in outdoor

containers then their water needs will increase over the season as the plants get bigger and use their water supply more quickly. Part of the enjoyment of container gardening is the morning walk to appreciate each one of them and checking to see who needs a drink that day. Usually when the soil starts to dry on the surface it is ready for another drink. If a container is outside in the sun, has a nice loose soilless mix and adequate drainage, then it is quite difficult to overwater it and the plants will certainly suffer from a shortage of moisture.



We have a container and some soilless mix; we know how and when to water and fertilize, now all we need is some plants. There is a long list of vegetables that will thrive in a container and keep us well fed throughout the season. The seed breeders are even producing new varieties that are more compact allowing them to be even better for container growing. From early season Lettuce and Pak Choi through mid-season favourites like Peppers, Beans and Tomatoes and finally autumn's Brussels Sprouts and Broccoli there are a host of delights to feed the gardener's soul as well as their appetite.

Annual flowers from Alyssum to Zinnias have always been used in containers to brighten up patios and decks. Perusing the seed catalogues trying to decide on colour and

texture and size is a great winter activity for container gardeners. Then we wander the aisles of the garden centre looking for those plants that are going to fulfill our dreams.

If we don't have a garden space then we don't have any heavy lifting or digging and certainly no weeds to pull but we can still enjoy all the pleasures of growing delicious vegetables and colourful and fragrant flowers and all of the therapeutic benefits of tending to green living plants.



TUESDAY MORNING CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP (TMCFG): Rowena Dunlop



Twenty-seven members of TMCFG got together by way of Zoom on Tuesday, May 18. All members are following the lock down rules, but are hoping that they will be able to see each other “in the flesh” in the autumn. Continued thankyou's go to the MacCutchans for making the meetings possible.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Ede Hogarth on the occasion of her passing. She was great at knitting Teddies for Tragedies even when her eyesight started to fail her. She will be greatly missed.

All of the usual activities are still on-going and a new one has been added. Along with making face masks, knitted baby hats and quilted prayer shawls, Florence Lee Kim has added Medical Caps to her repertoire of sewing skills. The suggestion for this came from a nurse and so far Florence has made and sold 8 at \$5.00 each. The proceeds are going to the church's General Fund. If you are interested for yourself or for someone you know, you can text Florence on her cell phone, 416-417-2103 and put in Medical Caps. She will contact you and there can be a discussion about size (S or M) or answers to any of your questions.

A donation of 29 baby hats and 4 baby shawls with matching hats is ready for delivery to Ajax/Pickering Hospital next week. If you have some more to add, please contact Rowena Dunlop. Officially, one “fidget” quilt is also ready. Money for the General Fund continues to trickle in, thanks to the face masks. Another \$39 has been collected and the group has passed along a total of \$1,132. As well, two more knitted prayer shawls have been made, Marlene Rye donated wool, Chris Smith volunteered to make the prayer shawl for the Sunday School's male graduate, Wendy Rothman continues to make the milk bag mats at home, using one of the group's portable frames and Clint Sturgeon was thanked for his delivery service.

Our next meeting, by Zoom of course, will be Tuesday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. If you are not already on the invitation list and would like to be, please contact Chris MacCutchan. Meanwhile, follow the rules and stay safe!



MISSION & SERVICE: Ruth Webster

DID YOU KNOW: Women and girls must walk long distances to collect water in many countries like Zambia. Heavy water drums. Scorching sun. Poor sanitation. Violence. Not able to attend school. These are some of the issues they face. Through Women for Change your Mission & Service gifts help empower women and girls in rural Zambia. Thank you for your ongoing support.

KARANDA: As you look at the pictures of young mothers at Karanda Mission Hospital can you visualize them walking with babies tied on their backs to fetch water? The work of Dr. Paul and Pedrinah Thistle needs our prayers and support especially during this pandemic.



Counter-Clockwise from Left:
Pedrinah with her class of midwives,
Karanda School,
Maternity- An eclamptic patient attached to our
new Fetal Heart Monitor,
The Maternity Ward- Preemies, Pre- and
Postnatal Moms and Tots



CHANGES

Our Sympathy

We regret to announce the deaths of:

D. Ian Fraser, father of **Alison Abou-Heif Ovenell**.
Edith Hogarth, mother of **Clare, Joanne and Kathy**.

*Remember days of gladness;
Remember times of joy;
Remember all the moments that grief cannot
destroy.*

#494 Voices United



Thank You

The Hogarth family would like to thank Mom's friends at PVUC, the UCW and the Tuesday Morning Craft Group for their cards and lovely notes sent to us since Mom's passing. She and Dad treasured their many friends at PVUC over the years, and our family greatly appreciated your love and caring.

Sincerely,

The Hogarth family

DEADLINE FOR NEXT VOICE IS SEPTEMBER 17, 2021.

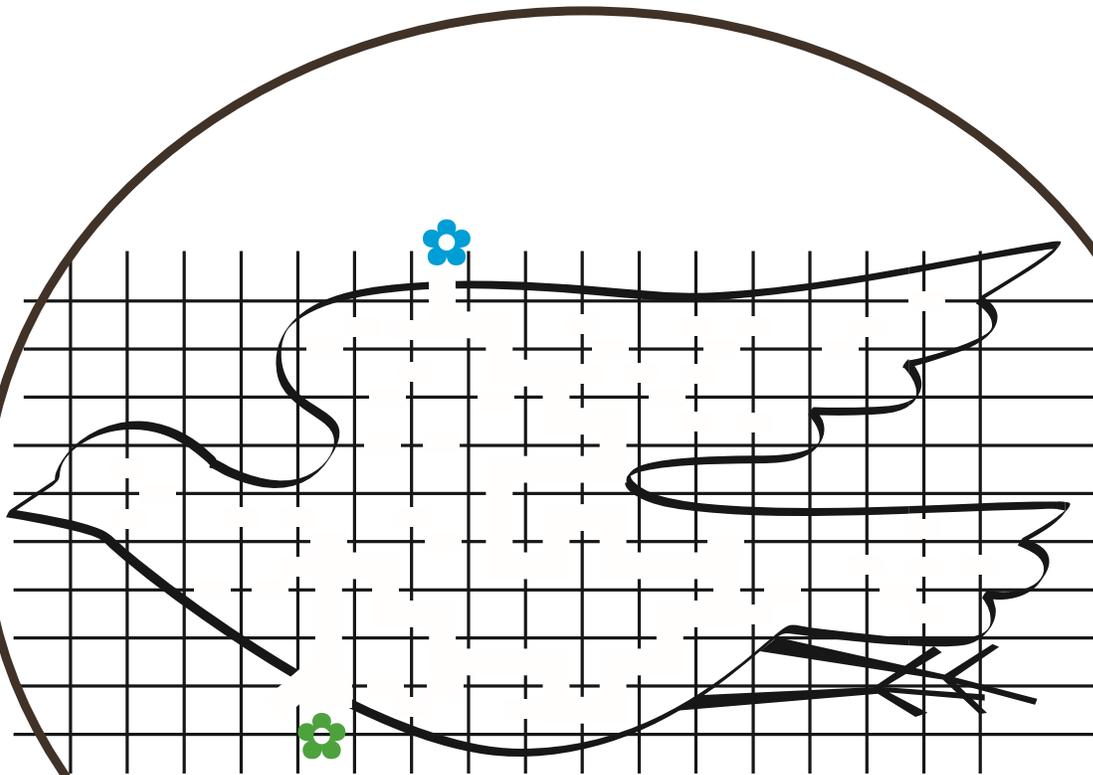
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!



KIDS' PAGE

Maze for The Story of God's Care for Us

Find your way through the bird maze
from the blue flower to the green flower.



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