

VIEWPOINTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR HILLVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

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All Aboard the Train of Grace - by Pastor Norm Bleick



Illustration by Brian Worobec

Thanksgiving invites us to count our blessings, but Christian gratitude goes much deeper than simply taking inventory of the good things we possess. It begins with the Giver.

Bruce Springsteen's "Land of Hope and Dreams" can help us hear that invitation afresh. The song is built around the image of a train carrying travelers toward a promised destination. The lyrics speak of welcome, endurance, companionship, and hope — themes that resonate strongly with the gospel.

The train is not reserved for people who have life neatly arranged. Its passengers are wounded, weary, faithful, doubtful, joyful, and burdened. This vision recalls Jesus' fellowship and his call to those who labour and are heavy laden. The church is not a private carriage for the perfect. We travel by grace.

At Thanksgiving, this keeps gratitude from becoming self-congratulatory. Every good gift is received, not earned, and every place at Christ's table is offered through mercy.

The song's journey also echoes the Bible's pilgrim story. Abraham travels toward a country God will show him. Israel moves from bondage in Egypt toward promise. The disciples follow Jesus without knowing every turn in the road. Christians live with the same forward-looking faith. Our hope is not vague optimism, nor confidence that history will improve by itself. It rests in the risen Christ, who has gone before us and promises that sin, sorrow, and death will not have the final word.

There is an especially Baptist tone in this shared journey. We confess faith personally, but we do not follow Christ alone. We gather as a covenanted people. We listen to Word together, bear one another's burdens, and make room for neighbours.

A train is purposeful only when it carries people somewhere; a congregation is faithful when worship sends us outward in love. Gratitude therefore becomes action: feeding the hun-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Hopes and Dreams lyrics	*2*
Back to school Event	*3*
Harvest Time	*4*
Hillview Happenings	*4*
Ordinary People	*5*
Healthy Foods?	*6*
Ship of the Desert	*8*



Special points of interest:

- *Back to School photographs by Hank*
- *An Activity Page for all ages*
- *Party time for the ladies - A Wedding Shower*
- *Song lyrics*
- *The Great Parking Lot Adventure!*



All Aboard the Train of Grace

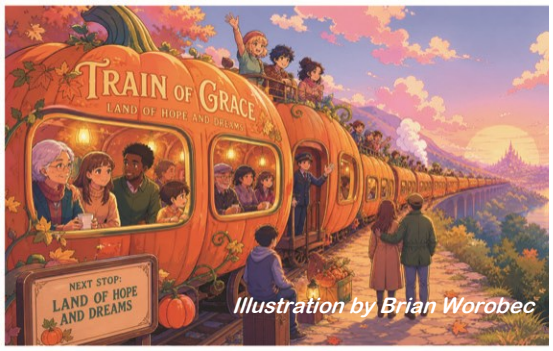


Illustration by Brian Worobec

(Continued from page 1)

gry, visiting the lonely, welcoming the stranger, forgiving one another, and working for peace.

This Thanksgiving, we can thank God not only for the harvest behind us, but also for the hope ahead of us. Some among us approach the holiday with full hearts; others carry grief, anxiety, or an empty chair at the table.

The good news is that Christ receives us all. He meets us on the journey, gives us companions for the road, and teaches us to sing hope even in the bleakest night.

So let our thanksgiving be more than a moment before the meal. Let it be a way of travelling: humbly receiving grace, gladly sharing what we have, and trusting the destination God has promised. The land of hope and dreams is not something we manufacture. In Christian faith, it is God's coming kingdom, already breaking into the world wherever Christ is honoured, mercy is practiced, and no one is left behind. By God's grace, there is always room for us—and room for one more.

... thank God not only for the harvest behind us, but also for the hope ahead of us.

"Land of Hope and Dreams" incomplete lyrics

Grab your ticket and your suitcase
Thunder's rolling down this track
Well, you don't know where you're going now
But you know you won't be back
Well, darling if you're weary
Lay your head upon my chest
We'll take what we can carry
Yeah, and we'll leave the rest

Well, big wheels roll through fields where sunlight streams
Meet me in a land of hope and dreams

Well, I will provide for you
And I'll stand by your side
You'll need a good companion now
For this part of the ride
Yeah, leave behind your sorrows
Let this day be the last
Well, tomorrow there'll be sunshine
And all this darkness past

Well, big wheels roll through fields where sunlight streams
Meet me in a land of hope and dreams

This train carries saints and sinners
This train carries losers and winners
This train carries whores and gamblers
This train carries lost souls

I said this train, dreams will not be thwarted
This train, faith will be rewarded this
This train, hear the steel wheels singing
This train, bells of freedom ringing

Yes, this train carries saints and sinners
This train carries losers and winners
This train carries whores and gamblers
This train carries lost souls
I said, this train carries broken-hearted
This train, thieves and sweet souls departed
This train carries fools and kings thrown
This train, all aboard
I said, now this train, dreams will not be thwarted
This train, faith will be rewarded
This train, the steel wheels singing
This train, bells of freedom ringing

Come on this train
People get ready
You don't need no ticket
All you gotta do is
Just get onboard
Onboard this train (This train, now)

People get ready
You don't need no ticket (Oh now, no, you don't)
You don't need no ticket
You just get onboard (People get ready)
You just thank the Lord (People get ready)
You just thank the Lord (People get ready)
You just thank the Lord (People get ready)
(Come on this train, people get ready)
(Come on this train, people get ready)

Back to School - 2026 Version - by Gloria Swain



This year rather than give out the usual school supplies the Mission Committee decided to try something different. We would reach out to our community by way of clothing, Bibles, Christian books and hot dogs. The event was held on the Monday of the September Labour Day weekend.

The morning started out being overcast and chilly. Not good for an outdoor event. But we soon learned that prayer changes things and we had some periods of sunshine throughout the day. Before the 3 hour event came to an end we guesstimate approximately 150 of our community members stopped by to check out what we had to offer and be blessed. One young mom and her two children rode the bus for over an hour to reach us. Our clothing hanger count was approximately 200 with many more items picked up from tables. The cooks declared that just over 100 hot dogs were eaten, along with bags of chips, coffee and cold drinks.

A real blessing was to see that 9 Bibles and 21 Christian books were picked up as well. Two strangers stopped by to thank us and let us know how much they appreciated what Hillview Church was doing for the community throughout the year. Recipients of both the food and clothes were very gracious and thankful. The end result was knowing that we were breathing fresh life into every soul that entered our parking lot that day. So, Hillview, let's keep moving forward, looking up and dare to dream. One day we WILL reap a harvest in our community.

Thank you to our volunteers and to each one of you who donated books, Bibles and clothing. YOU made this event possible and successful. He will rejoice over you with singing.



Photographs taken by Hank Tweedy. Ed.

Statistics for your information:

Items distributed - Years to date:

- **Bibles - 577**
- **Clothing - 12,021**
- **Books - 272**

Items distributed - 2026

- **Bibles - 90**
- **Clothing - 3,218**
- **Books - 107**





Bountiful Harvest - by Gloria Swain

We are happy to report that we had a great potato harvest at the Community Garden this year. Two of our plots were specifically planted to give to the Food Bank. The end result was a nice sized box of large potatoes and some fingerlings as well. What a privilege to be able to pass on the fruits of our labours to those less fortunate.



Illustration by Brian Worobec

The Community Garden Committee will be holding their year end meeting in mid October, where we gather to share our gardening experiences and make plans for next year.

Thanks to Larry and Howard for all the extra time they put into this project to make it another successful year. Maybe the best year yet!

Two of our plots were specifically planted to give to the Food Bank.

Hillview Happenings! - By Bill Holmes



After a rather lengthy sabbatical the Hillview's Ministry Council (HMC) had a meeting on September 19. 2026. In general, the purpose of the HMC is to

- provide a coordinating function among the various church committees and groups, especially as it relates to planned events,
- create an opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas, and
- resolve any cross committee issues.

The members consist of Pastor Norm (acting as Chair), Gloria Swain (Missions), Keith Wourms (Worship), Neil Carlberg (Audio/Visual), Sally Carr (Hospitality), Bill Bruce (Moderator), Rick De Leeuw (Deacons), Brad Baker (Christian Education), Howard Adam (Trustees). Bill Holmes (Treasurer)

I attended this meeting as Church Treasurer but provide this report as newsletter editor. It probably lacks perfection, because, basically I cannot listen, talk and write at the same time.

1. Hospitality, a particularly busy group of committed volunteers

- Sunday October 18 - wedding shower for Jillian, after a potluck lunch.
- Saturday October 24 - Harvest Party.
- Sunday November 15 - Potluck
- December 13 - Christmas Party

2. Missions

- Sunday October 11 - Shoebox promotion.
- Thursday October 15 - Shoebox packing party.
- Sunday October 25 - Hope Mission, Syd Bergsma.
- Sunday November 1 - Lindsay Gelinas
- Sunday November 8 - Shoebox dedication

3. Worship

- December 24 - Christmas Eve service. Pastor Norm requested input - what worked, what failed last year.
- Suggestion for a neighborhood/church carol sing.
- We have one team but with different members every week, must have the heart of worship
- New members including youth, attend Thursday night practice to learn, before joining the worship team.

4. Trustees

- Need 2nd barbecue *(as of Sept. 25, it has been acquired Ed)*
- Adding a couple of picnic tables was suggested for the church barbecues and the community garden users.
- We have a rather old telephone system; replacement is being considered.
- Investigate the possibility of constructing a "cry room" (under 3 years) in the balcony - need sound proofing, glass wall

(Continued on page 5)

Hillview Happenings!

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facing sanctuary, audio connection. Would it be okay with parents?
- There was an inquiry about "soundproofing" the Fireside Room used by the Adult Sunday School class.

5. Audio/Visual
- The office is experiencing internet issues - Howard and Al are working on it.
- A/V people for Christmas services are set.
- No upgrade to stage lighting is being proposed
- Need someone to maintain Facebook pages etc

6. Financial issues/situation
- Bill Bruce to arrange for a review of 2025/2026 financial books.
- 2025/2026 surplus moved to saving account.
- There was a small surplus for August.
- Sunday October 4 - Membership will vote to accept the 2025/2026 financial statements.

7. Deacons
- Hillview students helped with spring clean-up, will return for fall event. However, no fall clean-up is planned.
- Should there be an appreciation program for volunteers? Not church based, done at committee level.
- Priority is visitation.
- School reading program is continuing.

8. Decorating Committee
- A new group - presently consisting of Gabriele Bleick, Joanne Hickman, Wes Werstiuk and Christine MacDonald

9. Christian Education
- More volunteers needed.
- Using a new curriculum, focusing on Biblical literacy.
- Growth is indicating the need to adjust classrooms.
- Can we share the classroom used by the pre-school?
- Saturday October 24 - Harvest Party.

10. Leadership Council (Elders)
- At June AGM, the membership passed a motion to repair lower parking lot in spring 2027. ACTION: Wes has tentatively agreed to lead a fundraising group. Keith volunteered his band for an event.
- Review of the church's constitution to start in 2027.

11. Other topics
- Discussion on the value, usefulness, and continuation of the newsletter.
- Reading scripture - leaders only or congregation.
- Standing during scripture - to be discontinued.

Paving the Way - by Bill Holmes



Illustration by Brian Worobec

At the June 2026 AGM, the membership received some exciting news from the Trustees—because obviously, nothing says *"Annual General Meeting"* quite like a surprise parking lot crisis. We were informed that the lower parking lot had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. This came as a bit of a surprise to most of us, particularly since the project had somehow managed to avoid appearing in the Trustees' 2026/2027 budget request. Apparently, the parking lot had been quietly plotting its demise.

The proposed project is not exactly a case of spreading a little asphalt over a few cracks and calling it a day. The old asphalt will have to be removed, along with a substantial amount of soil. Then a proper, well-compacted base will be installed, followed by a beautiful new layer of asphalt—the sort of asphalt that makes you want to park your car just for the pleasure of using it. The estimated cost is in the neighbourhood of **$70,000**. unfortunately, asphalt has become an up-scale, luxury-good product.

At a subsequent meeting, the membership voted to postpone the project until the spring of 2027. Although the Church's Building Fund had enough money to cover the entire project, it was decided that we should raise **50% of the cost** through fundraising. This decision was made out of concern that spending such a large portion of our savings would leave us with very little financial cushion for emergencies. After all, furnaces have a remarkable ability to break down at exactly the wrong time, and buildings occasionally find creative new ways to require expensive repairs.

So, the parking lot project has been given a temporary reprieve, and we now have until spring 2027 to come up with half of the estimated cost. More information about how we plan to achieve this fundraising goal will be forthcoming. In the meantime, please treat the lower parking lot gently. It has been through a lot.

DO HEALTHY FOODS RESEMBLE THE BODY PARTS THEY BENEFIT?

It seems like God might have given us visual clues to identify what parts of the body that many different fruits and vegetables benefit. Of course, Brussel Sprouts is not on the list, they have no possible benefit! Check out these uncanny resemblances ……..



Tomatoes are a super food for the heart and blood. And like the human heart, the tomato is red and has four chambers!



A shelled **walnut** looks like a little brain, with a left and right sphere, upper cerebrums, lower cerebellums, and even the wrinkles and folds of the neo-cortex! We now know that walnuts are great brain food.



Kidney Beans were named thus because they look so much like the human organ, and they actually do help heal the kidneys and maintain their function.



A slice of **carrot** looks much like the pupil, iris and radiating lines of the human eye. Of course, science has demonstrated that carrots improve eye function



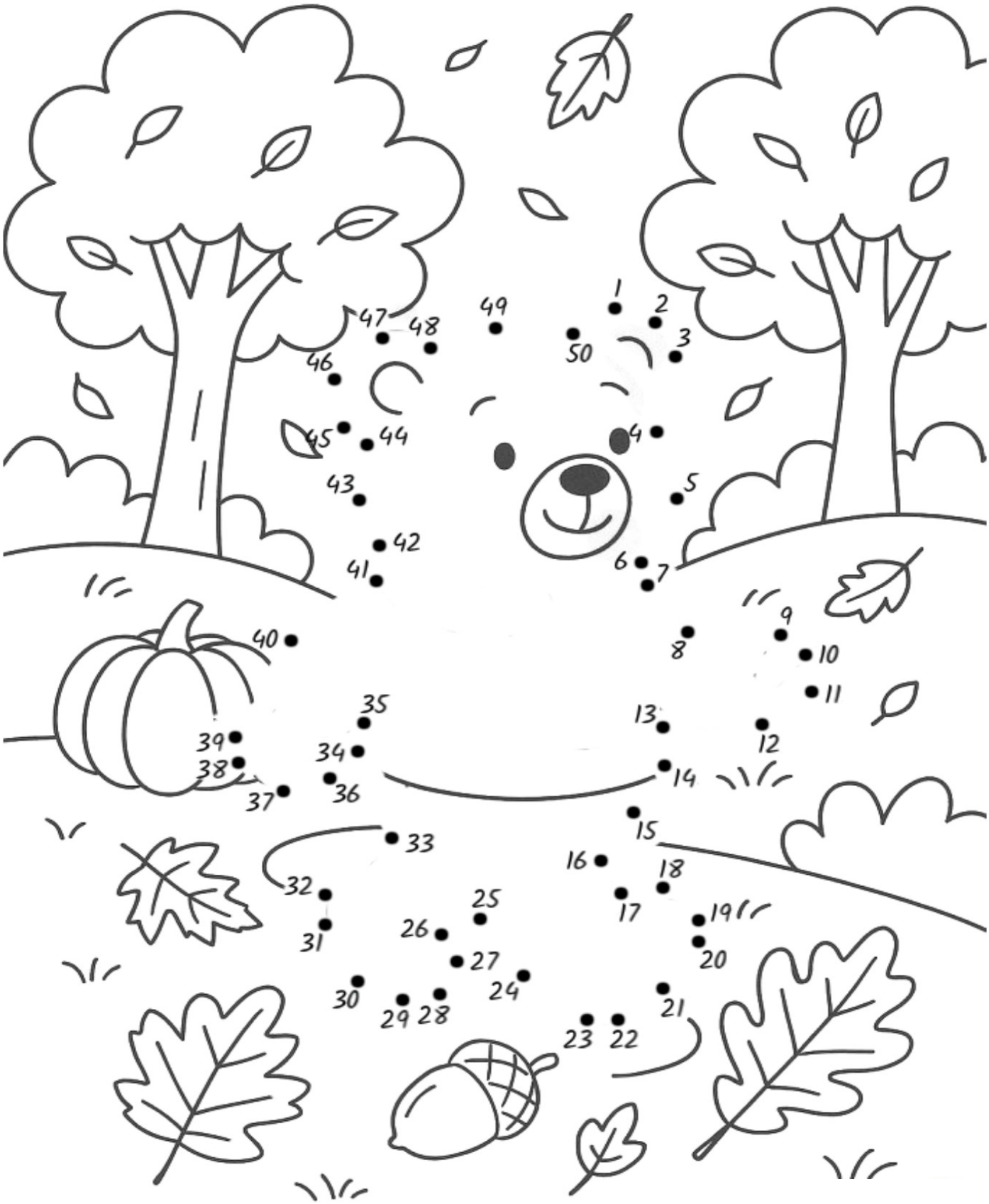
Celery and rhubarb look just like bones, and each helps bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium, and so are celery and rhubarb! If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.



Eggplant and avocados resemble the womb and cervix. Research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancer. Amazingly, it takes exactly 9 months for an avocado to grow from blossom to ripened fruit.



Grapes hang in heart-shaped clusters and look like blood cells. Research today shows that grapes are indeed a profound heart-and blood-vitalizing food.


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According to semi-reliable sources, it is a money tree shower because their backyard has some rather gigantic and obstinate trees that need to meet their maker! Ed.

Rick's Trivia - All About Camels - by Rick deLeeuw

What do you call a camel without humps? Okay, HUMPHREY!

Did you know why a camel has two humps? There are those camels also with one hump or no humps at all. And the question is "How much water can a camel hold in its back?" The idea that a camel might be able to hold any water in its back is pretty amazing. AMAZING, but not true.

The hump is a very good example of adaptation. Camels need some way to survive the desert's extreme climate. Camels are huge, and the desert is hot and dry, with little food to be found. Camels get water from food and from whatever actual water they can find. The amazing thing is that the camel can go a long time without a drink of water. A week in really hot weather and up to a couple of months when it is cooler.



If we humans loose more than 12% of our weight in fluids, we die; but camels can hold on even if they loose 40%. This is partly because they have some built-in water conservation systems. The water they take in they use very carefully. Camels don't sweat much, and if they do their fur holds onto the sweat and uses it to help cool them down. Their very stinky urine is hugely concentrated which means that they don't pass much water through that way either. Finally, they have particularly small and clever blood cells, which continue to work and circulate even when dehydrated. This causes a camel's blood to get really thick.

So is the camel's hump the key? Not for water storage-that is a myth. The truth is that the hairy, floppy "canteen" on the back of the camel holds fat, not water. It is there to live off when there is no food around. When it is really difficult to find a meal, the camel's hump shrinks, gets flabbier and flops over to the side.

Amazingly, camels can regain their weight in mere minutes by drinking a huge amount (up to 100 L) of water.

CAMEL FACTS:

- Think goat: a camel will also eat almost anything just as a goat will.
- Can you close your nostrils? Camels can. They need this trick to keep sand from blowing up their noses.
- A racing camel has to be able to maintain a speed of 35-40 kph for 10 km.

Now back to the original question…why are there camels with 1 hump, 2 humps or no humps? It's simply they are built that way. It really depends on the species.

Illustration by Brian Worobec