

A Musical Moment by Amy

July 24th - A Harmonica Medley

I lived in Brantford pretty much all of my life. I knew where Mt. Pleasant was - right at the end of Mt. Pleasant Street coming from Brantford. I didn't know too much about the history of the village, but always liked the drive into the countryside. Small communities have always intrigued me with the friendliness, quick smiles and hand waves as you drive by. June 2009 added a new dimension to my spiritual journey when I was invited to become the Music Director for Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, beginning July 26. Upon my arrival to the church in this new capacity, I met wonderful people, who always greeted me with a genuine smile, a firm handshake and eventually, a sincere hug.

One such couple sat in the back pew of the sanctuary, and I grew to know **Bert and Janet Dungavell** for their love, encouragement, and appreciation of my musical efforts. I missed them so much when they were away at the cottage in the summer or wintering in Florida. Janet passed away 7 years ago, leaving her husband Bert and family to mourn her loss. Oftentimes, Bert and I would have a chance to "catch up" on our lives' news as I played the prelude on Sundays. Bert had a wonderful smile, always a kind word and was an encouragement to me. One more thing I liked about Bert was his harmonica playing, and he soon joined a vocal group we had at the church, playing his mouth-organ (Are you in the key of "C", "D" or "G", Bert?) while a guitar and piano also played along.

The Village of Mt. Pleasant has lost two pillars this week. Wesley VanDyk and Bert Dungavell passed away on Sunday and Monday respectively. Although I didn't know Mr. VanDyk, he was a long-time businessman in the community, and his presence will be missed. Bert's passing will also leave a huge gap in the village at large as well as our church family, having been a dedicated elder, always present for our roast beef suppers, and a friend to so many. My condolences, thoughts and prayers are with the family members of both Mr. VanDyk and Bert Dungavell.

During these days of uncertainty, change and adjustment, remember that the personal connections with our family and friends are vital. And, we need to stay in tune with God as well, the Author and Finisher of our faith. He knows the road we are on, with whom we are travelling and when those days will be done. Stay kind, stay loving, stay safe.