

Upcoming Special Events

Master's in Music
June 4th

Sunday School Wrap up
Sunday June 25th

VBS
Monday July 17th – Friday July 21st

IN MEMORIAM



Collier St Trustees effective May 01, 2017

Ministry

Rev. Haughton whaughton@collierunited.ca

Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Young brian.young@century21.ca

Members

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George Laver geolaver@rogers.com

Murray Minshall murrayminshall@gmail.com

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Collier Street United Church Official Board
effective May 01, 2017

At Large

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Larry Murray sldpmur@rogers.com

Chair – elect
Christy Manuel **not available**

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Learning and Growing **VACANT**

Being Community
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Ministry

Rev. William Haughton



COLLIER
CENTRED

whaughton@collierunited.ca

Rev. Hewitt Holmes hholmes@collierunited.ca

MINISTER'S REFLECTION

Looking out the back window of my house just now, I see a beautiful sight: the bushes in my back garden are in full bloom, as are the trees just beyond them in my neighbour's yard. Spring seems a little late in coming but it has been worth the wait. With my sympathies to allergy sufferers, this is my favourite time of year!

Spring is a popular time of year, not only because of its intrinsic beauty, but also because of where it sits in the cycle of the seasons: it comes as a welcome relief from winter and anticipates the warmth of summer.

Like the seasons, congregations pass through life cycles. When founded, churches are clear about their purpose and vision. As a result, they are attractive to outsiders and grow quickly. As they grow, they become more and more productive. There is lots of positive energy. Soon, the congregation will achieve its peak performance.

As a congregation operates in such an effective way, members are understandably proud of what they've built. Then, a subtle, almost imperceptible shift happens: maintaining what has been established becomes more important than the original founding purpose.

For example, congregations usually start without a building. As they grow, they begin to see a building as a great asset to their mission. As the building is fundraised and built and first enjoyed, it gives the congregation a boost. Yet, before long, maintaining the building will become more important than the ministry purpose the building was originally meant for. The means become the ends. Once this shift happens, the congregation begins a long and slow decline.

Maintenance is less and less attractive to new members and established members become older and grow tired. Unless addressed, this decline will lead to the death of the organization, for churches as for all other human groupings.

The way to address institutional decline, is to re-engage with a founding purpose and to recreate

an inspiring vision - to circle back to an earlier point in the life cycle. Collier is over 180 years old. This is a sure sign that this congregation has re-envisioned itself and

The Quarterly LINK Newsletter

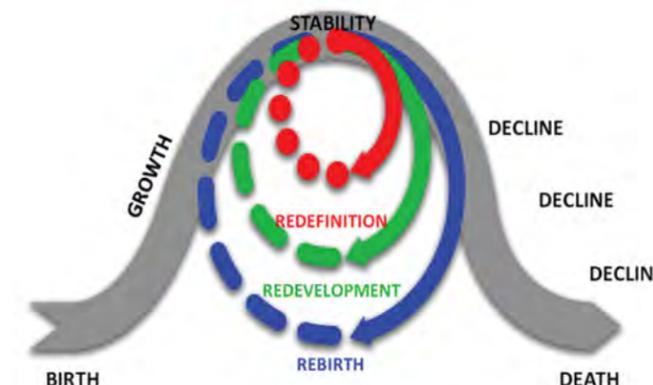
112 Collier Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 1H1

some of the examples and signs of new life this congregation has enjoyed in the past.

I believe we are experiencing the beginnings of an exciting rebirth today. We have just welcomed a gifted new minister in Hewitt who will empower our commitment to building a long-term youth and children's ministry for the future. Our capital campaign, still in its early stages, includes a vision for a renovated and refreshed building, which will feel better to us and give a more inviting presentation to our community. A new energy and forward looking outlook is felt.

Spring is a beautiful time. And we get to look forward to summer. Thanks be to God.

Will



The life cycle of a congregation

AN OPEN LETTER TO COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH

Blessed Love to Everyone!

I write you this letter on a bright and lovely warm Spring day in Thunder Bay with slight wind blowing a temperature of around 6 degrees celsius. I hope you are experiencing a lovely Spring day in Barrie Ontario

LINK Newsletter

as well. Spring is here, YEAH!

I am indeed excited to be called to be your other minister at Collier Street. I thank Lisa for her work among you and commit to carry on meaningful pieces and programmes in the days ahead. I look forward to working with William and the rest of the ministry team at Collier Street.

As you already know, I am Hewitt T. Holmes but preferred to be called by my first name, Hewitt, which was my father's middle name ☺

I recently returned from a two weeks holiday in Jamaica, my birth country. It was a lovely time with the weather being mainly around 26-34 degrees celsius



on both ends of the island in Montego Bay and in Kingston where I was born. On my trip, I was able to see my parents, Evelyn and Trevor, three sisters, Jennifer, Nicole and Janet and three brothers Garth, Curtis and Donovan and other family members and friends. They all sent me back to Canada with their love and best wishes for this new ministry opportunity of loving, learning and living together.

I enjoy social events and look forward to the many invitations and opportunities to visit and eat with you and your loved ones in the days, weeks, months and years ahead. In my spare time, I love reading and watching movies on Netflix. I have a Scene card as well. I love live Theatre Arts performances. I do play tennis, volleyball and badminton. I have never golfed but hope to do so one day. I do not know how to play cribbage but can play three cards. It is my dream to go to one of the Toronto Raptors and Blue Jays games.

As you will find out, I love to hug! You will also come to know me as a liberal thinker who believes God welcomes all persons into a dynamic relationship with God and creation. I live each day knowing that Jesus

Christ was God's living presence on earth who welcomed, affirmed, cherished and respected all of God's creation. I know that the Holy Spirit is with me each moment guiding my being in community.

It would be remiss of me not to mention how wonderfully blessed your congregation is with people who love God and the Church. People who are willing to share their gifts with others to make God in Christ's presence real to many. Thanks to all who were on the Search Committee. They worked very hard even into the wee hours of the night to make this Call a reality. May the memories of Gwen continue to linger in our hearts. Thanks to the other minister William, the office Staff and others including Trustee Chair, Brian Young, for their dedicated work in making this call come into being. Thanks to all who have agreed to serve on the Transition Team. Finally, special thanks to God for you the people of Collier Street for your willingness to call me as your other minister.

I look forward to the time of partnered ministry and mission in this part of God's vineyard.

Shalom!

Hewitt

MUSIC

Hello Collier-ites!

Well, another season is almost at an end and it has been a whirlwind. As the weather has brought us the glory of Springtide, may we give thanks to the awe and wonder of the green growth surrounding us. There have been some beautiful moments this year (from our beautiful Candlelight service, to a very moving Good Friday service), for which I am very grateful. As such, this article will be one of Thanksgiving.

I would like to give a big "Thanks!" to the Senior Choir for their tireless efforts to bring the joy of music to our congregation. This season was one of great musical growth for our ensemble, which sang some very challenging repertoire very successfully throughout Lent and Easter. Hooray for the "Hallelujah" Chorus! Choir: it is very exciting to be on this journey with you, and I am blessed to be your conductor. A special shout-out needs to go to other leaders from within this group, namely: Choir President, Sharon Saint; Choir Manager Ina Smith; Choir Secretary, Deb Tennant; Choir Librarians, Nicky Hodgson and Marilyn Harris; and volunteer youth

Choral Scholars, Hailey Choi, Victoria Ivanov, and Mohamad Chaker.

Additionally, thanks must go to our youth members Courtney Wenzel and Elen Colquhoun for all of their dedication and help leading the Choir School on Wednesday evenings.

I also must thank the magical Music Committee (captained by Sharon Saint), without which, so much of the exciting growth in the music department would not be possible. We are a true team that can do anything. Thank you to all of you who keep the boat floating and sailing smoothly! I can't wait to see what is on the horizon!

Finally, I would like to thank you, the Collier Members for your continual support of the Music Program. As it has been growing, you as a congregation are providing the nourishment it requires to flourish. Your love of music can be heard in your beautiful singing voices that you bring to church each Sunday. As our voices lift, our worship magnifies and deepens our faith and relationship with God. For this, we can all be grateful!

I wish all of us a restful and restorative summer. Try and keep those hymns in your hearts and voices while hanging on a dock. For those interested in some summer reading, hymnals are available for borrow from the Music Library. Take one up to the cottage and memorize a few and keep "worship[ping] your God with a song."

Sarah

MUSIC COMMITTEE

This year has been a busy one for the Music Committee. We continued to work on our Strategic Goals that were set last year in a brainstorming session. By this month of May, 2017, we have accomplished approximately two-thirds of these goals. One of the largest of these met has been the successful implementation of the Community Music Outreach program, through which we have been able to engage and invite the participation of both our membership the greater community in our church life.

Almost at the end of our first full-functioning year as a Concert Series, we are happy to report that we are in the black for these events and have also been provided some generous help from benefactors. One of these is "Print Solutions" on Dunlop Street, which is now providing us with free poster printing. We would also

like to say a special thank you to our private sponsors. In the coming year we will be making some changes to the Concert Series program, but we will continue to offer amazing concerts for freewill offering to the community and will work on expanding our monthly attendance.

Our Choral Scholar Program has grown to be a three-tiered system, where students ages 12-18 are auditioned and placed at the levels of "junior," "intermediate," or "senior" based on their skill set. We currently have one beginner and two intermediates who receive volunteer hours for their participation in the Senior Choir, where they have learned clerical, leadership, musicianship and professionalism skills, not to mention the tradition of our denomination!

Our Choir School has also been steadily growing into itself in its inaugural year. This group of community and Collier children began to meet in September with approximately 4 children and has now tripled in size to 12. The group has sung in church a number of times and this will continue into next year. Next year this group will continue on its regular day, Wednesdays, from 6-7:30. If interested, please be in contact with Sarah.

We are also very excited to announce a new program. Brass band conductor Rita Arendz will be commencing the Collier Street Brass Ensemble in September. CSBE will play various services with us throughout the year, accompany our annual Carol Sing-A-Long and travel around the community playing concerts and services at other churches. It will start as a group of 6-8 and will eventually grow to a larger group which will also have educational opportunities for beginners wishing to learn a brass instrument. Also, CSBE will be introducing a Open Rehearsal Program, which will allow the congregation and the public to listen to their rehearsals on Wednesday evenings starting this fall.

As our Community Outreach program continues to grow, we are seeking your assistance. If you are interested in being on a call sheet for occasional help with events, or baking, please speak with Sharon Saint, Ina Smith, or Sarah Svendsen.

MUSIC

Concert Listing:

Sunday, June 4 at 3 PM: Sheriff Herald: Jam Collector, woodwind and piano jazz duo



Choir School

22ND ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION UPDATE

Over \$23,000 Raised!

But more importantly - the fun and fellowship were priceless!!!!

Thank you to everyone who:

- Volunteered
- Bid
- Ate
- Donated
- and everything else!



Silent Auction Pie Guys!!!!



Chef Reg getting the pasta sauce ready

COLLIER REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

The Collier Refugee Sponsorship committee has been working and meeting monthly, preparing to support our Syrian refugee family. We are matched with a family from Homs, Syria. Enas (36) is a single mother with three school aged children; Fatima (13), Khaled (11) and Qusai (6). They are currently living in Saudi Arabia and we have been communicating and building a relationship with them via email, photos and Skype.

Our most recent communications with Enas have been about the school system in general and more specifically about English as a Second Language classes. Enas writes "I look forward to meet you and recognize the wonderful people who will help in the school of my children. Make education a priority means a lot to me, I believe that tomorrow's future is starts in the classrooms. Love, peace and blessings for you."

Future timelines are as usual uncertain. We are waiting as documents are processed and screenings completed. "In Kind" donations can be considered only after a confirmed arrival date has been received. At that time, a shopping list will be posted and your gently used donations will be gratefully considered.

The support of the congregation, community members and our partner churches and school is appreciated. Please refer to the most recent **church bulletin** for updates. For more information about the Collier Refugee Sponsorship please contact Robin Milani or Carol Warnica.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

At the Annual Congregational Meeting the congregation approved a plan to raise an additional \$200,000 per year, over the next 5 years. The Campaign committee, consisting of Jean Cooke, Laurie Crosson, Donna Martin, Stephen Manuel, Phil Neale, Marg Valad and Brian Young have developed the vision, 5 year plan and view book.

We are now visiting congregants to present the plan, identifying our opportunities and asking for a gift commitment. We encourage all members of the congregation to be open to a visit and thank you in advance for prayerfully considering a sacrificial gift towards our needs. One of the biggest benefits about the meetings so far is that we've had great conversations about the church, and about life, and we've gotten to know congregants so much better. We look forward to meeting with you!

UCW AMICAE UNIT

We all enjoy spring and the new life that pops up, especially in our gardens. To add beauty to our gardens for next spring, the AMICAE UNIT at Collier United is having a fundraiser with Veseys Seeds and Bulbs. Catalogues will be available from members to browse the many selections from which you can choose. Orders will be sent out in early September for fall planting. More information will be available after church some Sundays in June after we have received the catalogues. Supporting this endeavour is a WIN - WIN situation - beauty for your garden and support for our church. For more information contact Anne at 705 739 8732.

COLLIER BOOTC ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

On behalf of BOOTC, I would like to express our gratitude to Rev. Haughton and all members of Collier United Church for your support and participation in BOOTC. Not only do you host this program every Saturday and Sunday night from mid-November to the end of April but many of you are active volunteers on one of eight different teams that make up Collier BOOTC. This program provides all guests with a safe and warm place to stay as well as a hot meal while they are experiencing difficult times. This would not be possible without the assistance of 240 volunteers who are either members on four different shifts, meal makers or they assist with the laundry. Without your support, this program would not be possible. BOOTC welcomed 5732 guests this season which is an increase of 7% from last year. We would be amiss if we did not

mention the ongoing support that we receive from the custodial staff at Collier.

At Collier, we have the UCW who prepare meals twice a month for Collier BOOTC. The other churches that help us with meals are: St. Margaret's United, St. John's of Elmvalle, Youth Group at Midhurst United, Willow Creek Baptist and St. Thomas Church in Shanty Bay. We have many individuals who also provide salads, casseroles and desserts. To all of you, we are truly grateful.

We would not be able to run this program without each and every one of our dedicated and dependable volunteers. As a member of the Collier team, I am truly grateful for your ongoing support. If you would like to become part of this amazing team at Collier please apply on line at barrieoutofthecold.org. Thank you. Have a great summer and I will see you in the fall. Carol Forget, coordinator for BOOTC



Collier volunteers for BOOTC

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Hello dear friends, our first part of this year with the Fellowship Luncheon group is almost over. One more get together in June and then a two month break. Our June 21st Speaker is Mr. Andrew Robert. He is Director and Chief of the County of Simcoe, Paramedic Services. Sept. 20th Speaker is Jean Miso, who has interviewed Veterans across Canada and written three books and one special Song for each book. She is retiring from teaching this June and has many speaking engagements booked. She has been a guest and sung her songs at Vimy Ridge Services. Between now and our June meeting we should be enjoying warm weather and the beautiful flowers planted by our city around town. Blessings till we meet again. Don and Chris Jay, Co Hosts.