

Upcoming Special Events

Men's Breakfast

November 26th

Cottage Canoe, Speaker Jack Van Dam

Bravado Concert

Saturday December 3rd

Master's in Music

December 4th

Anne Sharpe, Soprano

Eastview School Choir

Wednesday December 7th

Annual Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long with the Metropolitan Silver Band

Saturday December 10th

Huronian Concert Series

The Christmas Express

Sunday December 11th

IN MEMORIAM

Gord Fairweather Jane Reid Wallace Campbell

Worship at Collier

November 20th

180th Anniversary

Rev. Bill Fritz, Preaching

November 27th

1st Sunday of Advent

Communion

December 4th

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 11th

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 18th

4th Sunday in Advent

December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

6:30pm Pageant, 8:30pm Lessons & Carols

December 25th

Christmas Day

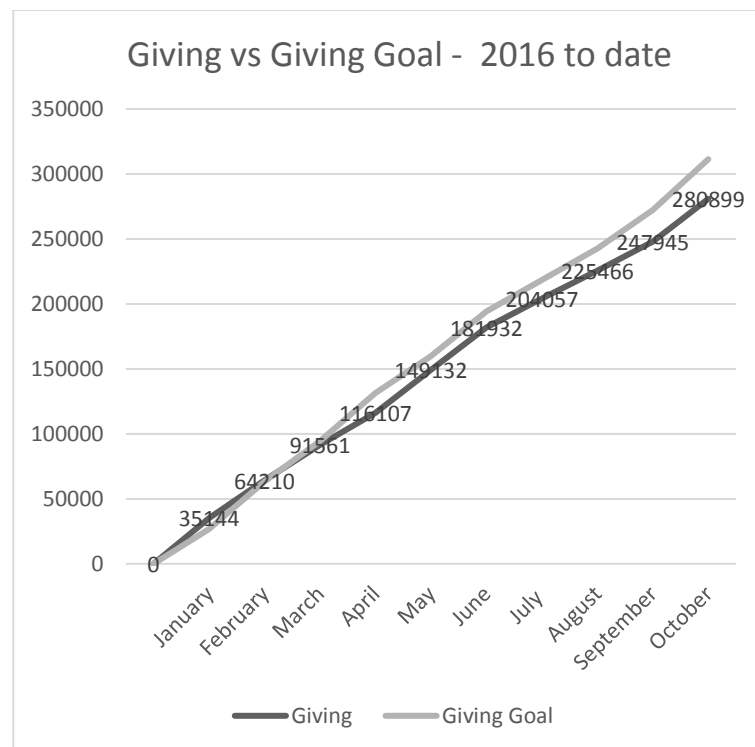
Sunday Worship 10:30am

LOCAL FUND INCOME & EXPENSES (Oct 31st)

**Pre-Authorized Remittance, an option which can be started, changed or cancelled at any time.*

May we be thankful for God's great abundance!

	2016	2015
Local		
Envelope Givings	173,127	204,073
PAR	103,518	109,563
Open Plate	4,254	3,458
Other	54,141	78,415
Collier Mission Fund	13,052	28,323
UCC Mission & Service	8,757	11,817
Total Income	356,849	435,649
Expenses to Aug 31	387,915	384,217
Collier Mission Fund	20,194	20,600
UCC Mission & Service	7,250	10,705
Total Expenses	415,359	415,522
Local Operating Balance as of Oct 31	-58,510	20,127



What is the magic formula for a healthy, growing church? Is it ample parking + a modern facility? Is it a well-staffed children and youth program + committed parents? Is it great music + great preaching? Is it the right minister + gifted lay leadership? Is it high income + low expenses?

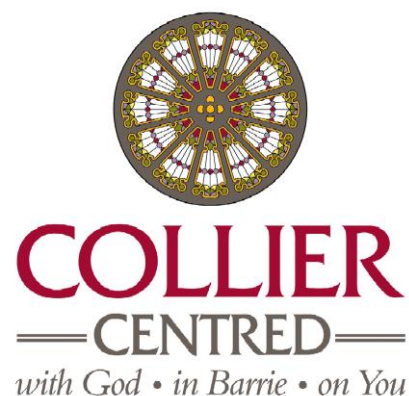
Perhaps some of us have visited a church, or heard from a friend of a friend, about a church that seems to be growing, and we wonder, "what does that church have that we don't?"

I think there is an answer to the question, "what is the right formula?", so to speak, but first, some "fine print". Usually when a visitor attends a church for the first time, the visitor sees, for the most part, what the church wants them to see. The church is understandably and rightfully putting its best foot forward. It may well be that there are internal struggles and challenges which are not apparent to the outside observer. Therefore "the grass isn't always greener on the other side" is an idea that always needs to be kept in mind.

Now in the case of Collier, we have so many good things going on in our church that we have many reasons to be thankful for the ministry God has given us: past, present and future!

Assuming though, that Jesus' encouragement to Nicodemus in John 3, about the need to be born again, applies to churches, as well as people, we would be wise to seek regular renewal of our ministry. One of the wise things to do in the life of the church, as in any

LINK Newsletter



"business", is to try and learn from good, and even best practices - what are others doing that works well.

I recently read a helpful book on congregational life and leadership which, in parts, I've shared with the Official Board and Session. Its author, Alice Mann, an Anglican minister and church leadership expert, offers what I think is the right formula that any church ought to be striving for: faith + context. That is to say, healthy churches don't see outward appearances as goals. Rather, they seek consistently and passionately to apply their faith in God to their context - they want to meet needs in their community and share the Good News with those around them. This is what people respond to and what draws them in.

Good programming, good staff, good facility, good worship...without ego, I hope I can say that we have these gifts and many more - praise God! Yet, the purposeful direction of our desires and energies into the connection between our faith in God and our context is the real measure of our church.

Christmas is coming - the "incarnation", a baby laid in a manger - God in contact with context! Powerful stuff. Will



Greg and Adam Peach, from 10th Barrie Scouts, with guest speaker Martin Maxwell, holocaust survivor and war hero, who spoke the afternoon of October 16th.

The Quarterly LINK Newsletter of Collier Street United Church

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MUSIC

Greetings Collier!

Autumn is upon us and, while we are enjoying the many flavours of pumpkin, my desk has been covered in Christmas and Advent music for weeks now. As a church musician, by the time I get to the end of Advent and Christmas, it can sometimes feel as though the Christmas season is constant and never-ending. Every year it starts with Advent. Around Halloween I pull out music and our lovely choir begins its preparations. However, I've found that beginning preparations so early can make it easy to forget exactly why we are preparing. Thankfully, each year something small happens to re-ignite that Advent spark within me. This year it came during my most recent trip to England where I was rehearsing for upcoming concerts.

I was sitting in Evensong at Chester Cathedral and it was their "All Souls" service. The Men and Boy's Choir was singing the complete Fauré Requiem interspersed with the traditional service. While I, long ago, was required to study the Latin words of the traditional Requiem Mass, it had been a while since I had listened in Latin while reading the English translations.

In the middle of the *In Paradisum*, I heard/read the phrase:

"...in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyrs et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem."

("...at your coming may the martyrs receive you and lead you to the holy city of Jerusalem.")

From this, it suddenly struck me as a reminder that Advent is not simply the time of year in which we sing and prepare similar songs as we did last year, nor just a time in which we perform various "traditions" at home or in the church. Rather, it is an action word: "adventu", or "coming." Additionally, Advent is not just a time of great busyness in the church, of great preparation, but, it is a time of great waiting. Advent is a time of great waiting for Jesus' coming. Both "to wait" and "to come" are very much action verbs and their interaction provides us with a more encompassing definition of our term Advent. This broader view of the term, in my mind, is defined as the space created by the interaction between "coming" and "waiting." It is that moment when the person you've been preparing for arrives or that feeling of excitement and wonder during the preparations.

So, just like that, sitting in a cold choir stall in England, the Spirit reminded me of the more subtle mission required of our music ministry: to prepare for His coming is a necessity, but let us not, in the hustle and bustle, forget the portion of our preparations requiring us to sit patiently and wait.

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, let's come together around Collier's hearth and, in preparation, love, and song, wait patiently for the Lord.

Sarah
Music Director



*October 28th Scavenger Hunt participants.
Thanks to Rob Murdock for taking the picture.*

On October 28th, we enjoyed a fun fall scavenger hunt. Session came up with the good idea to host a congregational event in the fall. Marnie Neale and Mary-Kay Marshall enthusiastically organized the evening which sent us all over downtown Barrie hunting for clues. Afterwards, we received prizes and enjoyed lots of yummy snacks – we shouldn't have had supper beforehand! Many also got to meet some of our newest members for the first time. Thanks again to Marnie, Mary-Kay and all who participated! Stay on the lookout for the next fun congregational event.

COLLIER REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

We have wonderful news. Collier Refugee Sponsorship's application for a Syrian refugee mother and her three school-aged children has been accepted by The United Church of Canada, our sponsorship agreement holder. The first stages of documentation have begun. Offers of In-kind donations cannot be accepted until the family's arrival date is confirmed, advisedly in 2017. At that time a shopping list will be posted and your offers of gently used donations will be gratefully considered. We continue to offer prayers for the family's safe arrival. For more information please contact carolwarnica@gmail.com OR robin_milani@yahoo.ca



Collier's Choir School

MUSIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

2016 has been a very busy year for the Music Committee. We have hosted numerous young artists, all of whom have been highly talented. We have had some exciting concerts, including the Orillia Silver Band, as part of our Anniversary Sunday week-long celebrations. This was a fantastic concert! Also, various new programs have started and grown. Our Choral Scholar Program now offers volunteer hours and music education to local teens. We also have a new Choir School which is still accepting members, has free tuition and is open to the public. Also, our Senior Choir is happily and prayerfully preparing regular anthems and special music, and is now looking forward to the upcoming Christmas concert.

As the year draws to a close, we encourage those who have not checked out the various concerts, to join us. Masters in Music takes place the first Sunday of every month at 3 pm and features young, highly skilled classical and jazz musicians. Our Collier Concert Series features larger names and community groups. There are still two more concerts left in our 2016 season. The first takes place on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3 pm. The concert is entitled "Songs from the Cradle," and is an Advent recital by Soprano Anna Sharpe. The last concert in the series is our second-annual Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long featuring our Senior Choir and Toronto's Metropolitan Silver Brass Band, which takes place on Saturday, December 10th at 3 pm. We hope to see many of you there. Have a blessed Holiday Season!

The Music Committee



Collier's Choir School

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Fall Greetings, it has been a lovely fall season and always nice to get back to our usual activities. We enjoyed Al Cuzen's presentation in September on behalf of the Historical Society, with pictures and events of Barrie through the years.

In October, Judge James C. Crawford gave us a very interesting and informative talk on Demystifying the Youth Criminal System.

November is here and so each sunny day and not too cold temperatures is cherished by all of us. This week is an important one as we honour Remembrance Day in Canada.

Our Speaker on November 16th is Captain Suleyman Demiray. He is an Islamic Chaplain in the Armed Forces. I know this is going to be a very special presentation and we are hoping for a good turnout.

In December we will have a Christmas celebration together, so mark your Calendar for December 21st. Be sure to sign up at the desk before each meeting, either on Sunday or through the week.

Thank you and Blessings.
Donald and Christina Jay

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

The children's ministry is gearing up for the holiday season. We have many post-church events planned such as t-shirt painting, Christmas crafts, Christmas movie day and so much more! Our Christmas Pageant will be remarkable this year. Please contact Lisa Naumann if you are interested in participating.



Emily Haughton, Robin Milani & Bryce Tisi

On Sunday November 6th we watched Little Red Riding Hood at the downtown theatre. Our very own Robin Milani was the good fairy in the production! The children (and adults) enjoyed the play very much. Collier is proud to participate in the downtown Barrie community events.



Pumpkins made by Aiden Colquhoun

Collier's Youth Group celebrated the fall season with a trip to Rounds Ranch. The kids had a great time engaging in the many activities there and at the end of the trip, we took a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch and each participant picked their very own pumpkin! Finally, when we returned to the church, we went straight to the kitchen to begin our pumpkin carving! We had a splendid time!



Aiden Colquhoun, Elliot & Graeme Michieli



Elen Colquhoun & Friend

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Our small group of women continues to meet twice a month in faith and friendship. The prayer shawls are given to those in need within the community as well as members of Collier church. Most prayer shawls are presented personally by the ministerial staff or a member of the prayer shawl committee and under rare circumstances they have been sent parcel post. The shawl pictured above was sent to a minister in British Columbia who is an ailing friend of one of our members.

This year, we thought we'd try giving a shawl to each person who is baptised within our church and they are presented to the family by Rev. Haughton prior to the baptism service. These shawls have been most appreciated by the baptism families and we have a lovely selection for our newest members.

Much of our wool is donated by members of the congregation and we appreciate the continued support and encouragement given to our ministry.



These shawls are being donated to the spiritual care team at RVH.

COLLIER MISSION COMMITTEE

We are pleased to report that since the last LINK update, your Collier Mission Committee has assisted the following organizations:

Barrie Literacy Council	Barrie Native Friendship Centre
Barrie Youth Haven	Canadian Bible Society
Hope International	Emmanuel's Wish Foundation
Mercy Ships	Grocery Assistance Program
New Life Girls Home	Our Daily Bread
Salvation Army	Power to Change Erin Stefaniuk
Teen Challenge Farm	Stephen Lewis Foundation

Year to date, your committee has made donations of **\$20,700** on your behalf.

Thank you to the congregation for your generous support.

Respectively submitted by: Larry Murray, Chair

BARRIE OUT OF THE COLD

It is hard to believe that with the beautiful summer we had and the amazing fall that we are experiencing that winter is just around the corner.

It's time once again to gear up for the 20th season of BOOTC. Our first night at Collier will be November 19th. Last year, we serviced 5360 guests which was a 17% increase over the year before.

I want to thank our dedicated volunteers from Collier who have supported BOOTC program from 1998 in a variety of ways. For that we are truly thankful. You definitely demonstrate the spirit of Christ. At this time I am still in need of male volunteers for the breakfast shift which is from 6am to 8am once a month. If you think that you could help out, please contact me at 705-726-1036 or email me at petou@sympatico.ca.

Thank you for your continued support.

Carol Forget
(Director of Operations)

5th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



On behalf of the Golf Committee, thank you to everyone who participated and assisted with the tournament especially Anne Snell, Audrey Eddy and Ina Smith. It was a drizzly day, but the camaraderie, laughter and amazing golf shots created a fantastic day.

Congratulations to:

Top Team - William Haughton, Margie Woodbridge, Dave McRae, Patti Harper

Most Honest Golfers - Joyce Johns, Marg Pendlebury, Catherine Battaglia, Margaret Daerendinger

Closest to Pin Men - William Haughton

Closest to Pin Women - Margie Woodbridge

Longest Drive Men - William Haughton

Longest Drive Women - Patti Harper

5 golfers tied in the Putting Contest - Catherine Battaglia, Trevor Neale, Brian Young, Derryl Johnston and Doug Stevens. Trevor was declared winner by luck of a draw.

The event raised \$2489.32 which will be used to help continue Collier's many outreach programs.

The present Golf Committee is taking a year off and if anyone is interested in organizing the event next year please speak to Joan Bailey, Phil Neale, Marnie Neale, Deb Tyler, Linda Young, Brian Young or Gwen Galbraith.



FRIENDSHIP BIBLE STUDY

Our class is for adults with special needs. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:15am in the chapel. Bernie McLellan is our coordinator. We welcome new members, come and give us a try. Contact Bernie at (705) 733-8046 for more information

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUP

Women's Thursday morning Bible Study and discussion group meets weekly on Thursday mornings. Gathering and fellowship time is 9:30 am and the study starts promptly at 10:00 am. Please consider joining us!

COLLIER L.I.F.E. GROUPS

L.I.F.E. means Living In Faith Everyday. This Bible Study Group brings the privilege of caring for one another, being listened to, and experiencing fun and fellowship. We have an opportunity to share our journey of Living In Faith Everyday.

Collier L.I.F.E. Groups meet Tuesday's at 9:45am. at Collier Church and Thursdays at 7:00am at Deb's Restaurant on Huronia Road.

Please contact Leona at 705-726-1884, Carol at 705-424-5408 or a member of the ministry staff at 705-726-1511.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Carol Duckworth and Leona Appleby

COLLIER UCW

Collier Street's UCW is alive and well! Please join us for fun and fellowship as we spend time together sharing our common interests in the life of Collier Street United Church. Whether it is working at a fundraiser here at Collier, or having guest speakers come to our meetings, or just having a good time getting to know each other, we have proved time and again that the women at Collier have become very close and are an important part of our lives as we all mature and grow in our faith journey.

At this time, we are currently working on recruiting new members for each of our groups, but also letting everyone know that we are not a "select club" where membership is mandatory. Please feel free to drop in to our meetings when you can, volunteer to help at one or many of our fundraisers, offer to bake or help clean up at a function. There are so many ways that you can offer your time and get so much more out of it in working with the UCW even if it's only one or two times. You will find that the time goes quickly, you'll be impressed at the way that "many hands make light work" and you might even find yourself having a good time!

There are currently 3 UCW groups at Collier and any one of them would love to have you drop in and check us out. Two groups meet in the daytime and one in the evening.

Unity group, led by Carol Duckworth meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:30pm.

WoHeLo, led by Jean Cooke meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 1:30pm.

Amicae, led by Susan Storning meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

The year is well underway as we work together on several important fundraisers that we have "adopted" for many years now and of course, stepping in wherever help is needed.

The UCW Christmas Fair was held Nov. 12th, a wonderful event enjoyed by the whole congregation. Please join us when you can. You don't know what you've been missing!

UCW executive

Carol Duckworth, Jean Cooke, Susan Storning, Sharon Saint (Catherine Battaglia, Marion Tizzard)



Donna Martin



Jean Cooke & Trix Spaans

We were busy preparing for the Christmas Fair by gathering the pie making team together once again. This day is filled with more than just pie filling! It's a day of fellowship friends and fun