

Upcoming Special Events

King Edward Choir Concert
Saturday, November 25th @ 2pm & 7:30pm

Bravado Concert
Friday, December 1st @ 7:30pm
Saturday December 2nd @ 1pm & 7:30pm

Eastview School Choir
Wednesday December 6th

Annual Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
Saturday December 16th @ 3:00pm

Huronian Concert Series
Christmas List
Sunday December 17th @ 3:30pm

Christmas Eve Services
10:30am - Communion
6:30pm Pageant
8:30pm Lessons & Carols

IN MEMORIAM

Claire Finlayson, John McDevitt, George Campbell

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effective May 1, 2017

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Rev. Holmes hholmes@collierunited.ca

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Collier Street United Church Official Board
effective May 1, 2017

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Learning and Growing Richard Floyd

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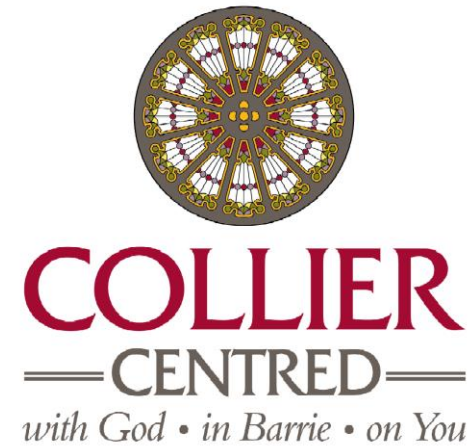
Serving Others
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Sharing Our Good News Anne Snell

Ministry

Rev. William Haughton
whaughton@collierunited.ca

Rev. Hewitt Holmes hholmes@collierunited.ca



COORDINATING MINISTER

One of the beautiful choruses in our *Voices United* hymn book is #646, ``Siyahamba ekukhanyen` kwenkhos – We are marching in the light of God!``

It is a simple but a rich statement: God shines His light on us, and we are illumined by it daily. The Bible often uses light as a metaphor for the presence and grace of God.

In John 3, we find some of the most famous words of the Bible: ``For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever might believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life.`` We know these words, yet we often forget the story in which Jesus spoke these words to a certain religious leader, Nicodemus.

Seemingly curious about Jesus, in some contrast to those colleagues who plotted actively against him, Nicodemus went to have a conversation with the renowned Rabbi from Nazareth. Nicodemus, we are told, ``came to Jesus *by night*``.

Given his own social standing, Nicodemus was wanting to be discreet about his visit to the highly controversial Jesus. Jesus responded to him with words of Kingdom-teaching, as was his custom. It is in the context of this teaching that Jesus offered his now famous declaration of 3:16.

LINK Newsletter

Beyond these beloved words, Jesus went on to spell out the implications of this good news for a particularly reluctant conversation partner: ``this is the judgement: that the light has come into the world and yet people have loved the darkness more than the light...for all who do evil hate the light and do not come into it...so that their actions might not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be shown that their actions have been done *in God*.`` Nicodemus` s nighttime visit betrayed his true character.

From the beginning, God has separated the light from the darkness. Whether by day or by night, in cloud or in sunshine, Jesus shines in our midst and is also light enough for the whole world. As his people at Collier Street United Church, let us come to him that on us, and around us, his light may shine. In so doing, our good and godly actions will be good news for all to see. The world God loves needs this from us.

Will



Collier Street Choir School performing at Grace United for the Ontario Registered Music Teachers Assoc.

The Quarterly LINK Newsletter of Collier Street United Church
112 Collier Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 1H3 705-726-1511 www.collierunited.ca

MINISTER OF LEARNING & GROWING IN FAITH

FROM HEWITT'S DESK



I write this link article a day after our celebration of faithful witness of 181 years of ministry and mission in the Barrie area. I was truly blessed to be a part of the worship experience on Sunday, November 12 with the Orillia Silver Band whose instruments added much joy to the service. I pray that the Creator will continue to shepherd us into the next 181 years of love and justice in this area and beyond; creating a community where everyone belongs, finds meaning and is filled with hope.

The last few months have been filled with many activities and travels. I was in Montreal with my Anglican colleague Canon Donald Butler, together we participated in the Engage Difference – Deeping Understanding for Intercultural Ministry from September 25-29. I returned home and was on the Electronic Meeting of 42nd. General Council Commissioners recall on September 30. The next week, I flew to Edmonton to be a part of the gathering of Black leaders within the United Church of Canada and also attended the Awkward Conversation put on by the Alberta North West Conference on Racism in the United Church of Canada. The week after thanksgiving, I was in Toronto attending a meeting of the Migrant Church. It was surely a busy but enriching time.

During these months, we have been experiencing the warmth of our designated space in M5 and the nurture of new curriculum for Godly Play. It has been a learning curve for both Collier's Kids and volunteers. The overall response to the program has been extremely positive. Amy Crawford, Godly play story teller will share in worship at Collier on November 26. Our older ones have been sporadic in attendance, yet our faithful volunteers continue to prepare and work with those who attend. We continue to pray for the growth and maturity of our children and different programs.

The teens and youths gatherings (hangouts) held twice per month have seen some improvements in attendance. We continue to be supported by Lianne Patterson and Christy Manuel and others who are

diligent in telephoning and asking teens/youths ages 10-18 to attend. We are grateful to Richard Lloyd our new Board representative for attending our volunteers meetings and hangouts. We look forward to working with him in the days ahead. The upcoming dates for our hangouts are December 02 & 16, 2017 and January 13 & 27, 2018.

Our adult ministries continue to meet the needs of our members and adherents with capable and committed volunteers who provide effective leadership to various groups and programs. Thanks to all who share in these ministries and mission opportunities of the Church. It is our hope to learn from the congregational surveys as we plan our priorities for 2018 and beyond.

The season of Advent is one of "coming" and "appearance" of true love, joy, peace and hope. Our Christian tradition will make us prepare for these important pieces with a circular advent wreath, representing God's unending love and the outer layered green representing God's hope and fresh promises for the world. The light of the candles reminds us that there is a light that lives in the world and each of us as embodied by Jesus the Christ.

As we live into this season of advent as a 181 years old congregation, it is my prayer that we will be an Advent people who bring into being God's hope – unending confidence; God's joy - overflowing sense; God peace – unwavering calm and God's love – unconditional favour towards us and others. So, we journey into the next 181 years of ministry and mission in the name of the triune God, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Best wishes for the Yuletide Season!

Hewitt



Hewitt leading Collier's Kids in Godly Play

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Hello Collier and Happy Holidays!

By now, the Christmas decorations will be up and our music ensembles will have been practising Christmas music for at least a month to prepare for one of the most inspiring seasons of the church year!

Music at Collier this past fall has been very busy.

Collier Street Choir School now has sixteen members, and has had its first official public performance. They will be performing with the Huronia Symphony on the afternoon of December 17 in Collier's sanctuary.

This year, the Choral Scholar program has a member at each level (beginner, intermediate and senior). You will have noticed that our Senior Choral Scholar, Hailey Choi, has been providing a lot more musical leadership in our worship services as part of her training. She is doing a lovely job and we are very grateful for her. Hailey will also be singing a solo with the Collier Street Brass Ensemble in our annual Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long.

And... speaking of our annual Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long(!), it will be taking place on Saturday, December 16, at 3 PM in the sanctuary. Many of our favourite Christmas carols will be sung by the congregation and choir accompanied by the Collier Street Brass Ensemble and organ. Other special music to be heard that day will: "Jingle Bell Rock" (sung by Hailey Choi), "Snow" from *White Christmas* and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah* (sung by the Collier Street Choir), carols sung by the Collier Street Choir School, excerpts from *The Nutcracker* played by your resident organist (me!), and the *Cherry Tree Carol* (played by the Collier Street Brass Ensemble). Ugly Christmas sweaters are encouraged!

As usual, the Candlelight Carol Service will be at 8:30 on Christmas Eve and the choir looks forward to spending this Holy space with you.

Many kind wishes and blessings to you and yours in this season of hope, joy, peace and love.

Sarah Svendsen
Music Director

COLLIER REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

This Fall the Collier Refugee Sponsorship committee have met monthly to continue planning for the arrival and settlement of Enas and her three children - Fatima, Khaled and Qusai. The team is an enthusiastic group of 26 people composed of members of the Collier family plus volunteers from the Barrie community. For our Nov 21 committee meeting, we were privileged to have two Syrian newcomer women speak to us about their recent experiences settling in Barrie.

In addition, we have networked with others who are supporting a refugee family: the Muslim mosque, St. Mary's and St John Vianney Catholic Churches, St. Andrews's Anglican, Northwest Barrie U C, Painswick U C, Grace U C and Islington U C. Additional community links have been built with Innisdale High School and community resource providers relevant to settling a refugee family in our Barrie community such as YMCA Immigrant Services, Simcoe County District School Board Immigrant Services, Barrie Public Library and the Refugee Network Barrie Area.

Enas has recently had a successful interview with a Canadian Immigration official and we all are now waiting for the last few steps, the security check and flight plans. We do not have a date of arrival but as soon as we receive the official Notice of Arrival Transmission (NAT) we will let you know. After we receive the NAT we will be posting a list of items that are required to help set up the family's home and to get them started. An information board is being designed to give you an overview of the support being given to Enas and her family.

We are getting to know Enas and her family by exchanging regular email, photos and videos. The whole family has been working on their English language skills, using Internet links that have been sent. Enas uses Google Translate to compose her emails to us. Qusai likes looking through online English recipe books for recipes for cupcakes and ice-cream. The latest video Enas sent had Qusai singing 'O Canada'.

A few final words now from Enas. "All of love and thanks for your prayer that arrived and will become a reality soon!"

Contacts: robin_milani@yahoo.ca AND carolwarnica@gmail.com

OUR CHURCH GARDEN

Leona Appleby has been directing volunteers in our church garden. Preparing for the upcoming winter season involved weeding, pruning, planting, winter fertilizing and transplanting. We have planted 66 bulbs so in the spring we will be greeted by the beautiful flowers of snow drops, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and crocus. The purchase of these bulbs was made possible by our members mentioning Collier Street United Church to the cashier when they shop at Bradford Greenhouse. We received notification from Bradford Greenhouse and our efforts this year amount to \$440.80 in gift cards to use for next year in the garden. Thank you to those people.

My reason for volunteering is because I love the exercise and find it is good therapy to work with nature. It is also my way of rejoicing in the wonders of God's love for our universe and all within.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Leona - 705 726-1884.

Submitted by Mabel Peyer

Congregational Survey – Coming Soon!

A congregational survey will be launched shortly! This is your opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings about Collier – both where we are now and where we want to go in the future! Your open and honest feedback will assist Collier leaders and influence the future direction of Collier. Your participation is critical! Stay tuned for more information via the Sunday bulletin and announcements.

Collier Research Committee

Tom George (Chair) [thosrgeorge@gmail.com]

Allan Bell [allanbell35@rogers.com]

Sharon Crossley [fscrossley@rogers.com]

Marnie Neale [mjneale7@gmail.com]

Lianne Patterson (Secretary) [denemlee@live.com]

Dorothy Ramsay [dramsay286@hotmail.com]

Ruth Wainwright [ruthjwainwright@rogers.com]

COLLIER MISSION COMMITTEE

We are pleased to report that year to date your Collier Mission Committee has assisted the following organizations:

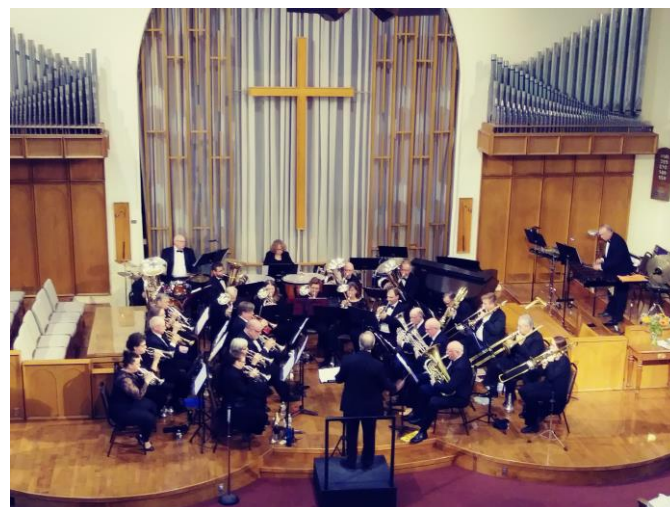
David Busby Centre	\$ 500
Effect Hope (Leprosy Mission Canada)	\$1,000
Elizabeth Fry Society	\$1,000
Georgian Native & Outreach Ministries	\$1,000
Ghana Rural Integrated Development	\$ 500
John Howard Society	\$1,000
Samaritan's Purse (Hurricane Irma Relief)	\$ 500
Stephen Lewis Foundation	\$ 500
Tabitha Ministry	\$ 500
Women & Children's Crisis Centre	\$ 500

Year to date, your committee has made donations of **\$7,000** on your behalf.

Thank you to the congregation for your generous support.

We are looking for new members. **Please** consider joining us in this outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Respectively submitted by: Larry Murray, Chair



The Orillia Silver Band performing at Collier

L.I.F.E. GROUP

The Tuesday morning LIFE group (Living in Faith Everyday) meets regularly for Bible study based on the United Church program, "Seasons of the Spirit" which follows the varying lectionary selections of scripture. This group gives us opportunity for both Bible study and discussion and provides a fellowship that strengthens our faith. We find that the experience of sharing together enriches and encourages us in our day to day life.

We welcome new members at any time. Contact Leona Appleby (705 – 726 – 1884) or Rev. Will or Rev. Hewitt for further information.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair was a great success this year with thanks to so many of the UCW and congregation members.

There was a lot of work leading up to the Fair-soup making - Marageth, pie baking – Jean and lunch preparation- Reg. Collier home kitchens were busy too baking shortbread, tasty goodies and preserves.

Special thanks to Booth leaders-Sharon, Audrey, Margareth, Sally, Barb, Donna and their crew. Dorothy kept the lunch room running smoothly and Reg and his kitchen "staff" had another sell out!

The success of this event is a tribute to the support of our congregation. A big thank you to everyone!

Catherine Battaglia Fair Coordinator



Christmas Fair lunch preparations before the big event.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!

In February our congregation voted to run a capital campaign with a goal to raise \$200,000 per year for 5 years. A committee consisting of Jean Cooke, Laurie Crosson, Stephen Manuel, Donna Martin, Phil Neale, Marg Valad and Brian Young have developed and rolled out a campaign strategy based on this goal.

We've been meeting with some congregants over the past few months. Through these meetings we are a quarter of the way to meeting our 5 year goal. Watch the bulletin for regular updates!

Moving forward every congregant is invited to meet with a committee member to discuss the 5 year strategy and plans. The purpose of the meeting is to talk about our Church - why we love it, why we chose Collier, our hope and aspirations for the future of our church. Yes - money will be discussed. No - there will be not be any pressure for a commitment. We appreciate that people give to their church in many ways - time, talent and treasure. We appreciate that some people may choose to not meet – that's okay! You're invited to reach out to someone on the committee for information on how you can be part of achieving our Church's goal.

To connect with a member of the campaign committee please email collierunited@rogers.com or call 705-726-1511 and leave a message.

We have a bulletin board!

Due to the amount of information that we want to share with you about the Capital Campaign, we are going to post updates on a bulletin board outside of M5. Please check there regularly.



FUNDSCRIP gift cards can be purchased through the office! Simply pick up an order form from the basket on the front desk and fill it out. Return the form, with your cheque or cash, to the office. Orders will be placed every Monday and the gift cards will be available within 3-4 days. This is a great way to support the Church while buying the Christmas gift cards that you need. A percentage of your purchase will be donated back to the Church by Fundscrip. This donation costs you nothing more than the cost of your gift card. It is a quick and easy way to complete your Christmas shopping!

Let's make gift cards our new way of shopping to help in our fundraising efforts.