

Upcoming Special Events

Jesus Walk Christmas Dinner
December 7th

Choir Sing-a-Long
December 9thth

Christmas Eve Services
6:30pm – Pageant for families
8:30pm – Carols, Readings, Candles & Communion

IN MEMORIAM

Carol Woolner
Jacklyn Pierce
Kenneth Gresswell

LENTEN SERVICES AND LUNCH 2019

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Lenten Services; Tuesday March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9, and 16! Services are from 12:00 noon to approximately 12:30 pm. Please join us for lunch immediately following the service. The cost of lunch is \$9.00 and watch for some *new* items on our menu...yum! Coordinators for the 2019 lunch are Joyce Moore, Lianne Patterson and Linda Wallis Dean.

The lunch coordinators have opportunities for everyone whether you would like to be part of our fun kitchen fellowship folks during the day or our awesome food donation friends anytime. On the day of a service you may wish to volunteer for set-up, food preparation, serving and/or clean up. Whatever you are able to do we welcome and encourage you to experience the personal rewards that come from being part of our Lenten Services and lunches at Collier St. United.

Watch for our delicious menus for the Lenten Lunch Series and the Volunteer Sign-up Sheets which will be posted on our bulletin board early in the New Year. If you have any questions please contact Lianne Patterson at 705-816-5864 or Linda Wallis Dean at 705-252-2047. We look forward to your support as we work together to make the Lenten series meaningful for Collier and the community!

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” **Galatians 6:10**

COLLIER'S LENTEN SERIES

WHEN

2019 – MARCH 12, 19, 26

APRIL 2, 9, 16

12 PM – 12:30 PM - SERVICE

12:35PM – 1PM - LUNCH

THEME - "Words of Life"

SPEAKERS from United, Anglican and
Presbyterian Churches in Barrie

112 Collier Street United Church, Barrie
705-726-1511 www.collierunited.ca

Music at Food Fest



COLLIER'S LINK NEWSLETTER

| November - 2018 | VOLUME 4

OFFICIAL BOARD CHAIR

The season of Advent is here. Rejoice and be glad in the Lord!

On behalf of Collier's Official Board, I extend a Merry Christmas to each one of you. During this season of Advent, we are filled with joy and love. Prayers of peace, hope for the future and songs of the faith give us a renewed spirit.

My family, much like yours, is busy with Christmas gatherings, sharing of special foods and making merry with friends and family. Trimming the tree, sending holiday greetings to friends and family far and near and cooking special Christmas dishes (both Canadian and Phillipino) are a few of the activities we look forward too. We will look forward to participating in our Christmas Carol Sing-a-long as well as the presentation of readings and carols at the special Christmas Eve service. Carson looks forward to reading from the bible and Aubrey can't wait until she takes part in the Children's Pageant.

We kicked off our celebrations by participating as a family in filling two Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes. With such abundance, we feel that Carson and Aubrey and Stephen and I should "build a larger table, rather than a taller wall," all year round but especially this Christmas season. We can't wait to watch the opening of the shoeboxes Christmas Day to see the joy our humble gifts bring a child across the globe.

My uncle Wayne, who passed just after last Christmas, always sent us a holiday letter. I will end by echoing his sentiments: "May you and yours find joy, peace and love this holiday season. And, may you find it in your hearts to make peace with the past and to forgive."

Much love, **Christy Manuel & Family**



182nd BIRTHDAY



What's inside? Minister – Session – Committees – Food Fest – etc.

112 Collier Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 1H3 705-726-1511 www.collierunited.ca

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK



January is the beginning of the calendar year, but Advent is the season that begins the Church year. "Advent" comes from the Latin, *adventus*, which often means "coming" or "visit" or "appearance." In the season of Advent, Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and look forward to the full appearance of hope, love,

joy and peace in our broken and blessed world.

One of the best known Advent customs is the lighting of the candles in a wreath. In some places, the wreath is simple or a decorated evergreen with four candles placed in the circle and a single white candle in the center.

- The *wreath* represents the never-ending circle of God's love.
- The green represents the hope of eternal life that comes through Christ and serves as a reminder of the freshness of God's grace and generosity.
- The *light* on each candle represents God's amazing and wonderful light that was and is to come, guiding creation into all truth.
- Three of the outer *candles* are purple, the color of royalty for themes: hope, peace, and love. One is often rose or pink, honouring the theme of joy.
- The white *Christ Candle* sits in the centre as a metaphor for how the Christian sees Jesus, the centre of our existence.



The first advent theme is **Hope**, which is the unending will to keep going in this life, knowing that our Godly living has eternal significance. In our lighting of the candle of hope, we see the light of hope for those indigenous women who have been missing and

murdered, families torn apart by drugs and addictions, and communities faced with evacuation because of natural disasters.

Peace is the second theme, which is the unwavering calm given by Christ in the seasons of life. When we light the candle of peace, we blow an unwavering calm to all people and situations but particularly, people who are victims of fire, in prison, homeless, sick, bereaved,

unemployed, lonely, abandoned, depressed and neglected in our community and world.

The third theme is **Joy**, which is the overflowing energy of God for all situations. This joy is more than happiness. In our lighting of the pink candle of joy, we shower an overflow of energy to those who are happy because of birth, baptism, confirmation, wedding, anniversary and working in mission fields far away but also to those who find the season of advent and Christmas cold and lonely for various reasons.



Love is the final advent candle, which is uncompromising and unconditional positive regard that God has and gives to creation. It is the love that gives and expects nothing in return. When we light the candle of love, we offer a warm embrace to

Best wishes for the Yuletide Season and a Powerful 2019!

Hewitt T. Holmes

SESSION REPORT 2018

The Session of Collier St. United Church continues to remain active in our role along with our Minister, Rev. Hewitt Holmes providing oversight of the spiritual concerns of our church family. The areas we are entrusted to oversee are: Worship, Baptism, Communion, New Member Welcome, Congregational Care & Seniors, Session Visitation, Children & Youth Ministries and Adult Ministries. It is a privilege to serve in this capacity. On behalf of the Session we wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy Happy, Peaceful New Year.

Sharon Crossley, Clerk of Session

GARDENS

Thank you to all who shopped at Bradford Greenhouses this year. We received notification that our gift cards will be in the amount of \$348.79. Our members must have some beautiful gardens. A big thank you to Mabel, Linda, Deb, Ria, Gail, John and the staff for helping to make our gardens beautiful. We look forward to seeing what pops up in the Spring.

Leona Appleby

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT Why do people sing in choirs?

People sing to touch the hearts of those who listen. They sing to express their emotions. They sing because music is not just about the words or the harmonies and melodies, it's about the meaning, and how people interpret all of those things put together. It's inspiring and heart-warming.

As the Choir awaits the arrival of our new Music Director, we continue to practise on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 in the sanctuary and at 9:30 Sunday mornings. During this time we have our warm-ups, we practise the anthem and hymns for the upcoming Sunday, and anthems for future Sundays. Through all of this, we enjoy the fellowship that comes with working together for a common goal. We close with a prayer from one of our members, currently known as Sister Anne!

The selections of anthems sung this past Fall are old and favourite hymns from the Voices United Hymn Book, sung in parts for the blending of our voices. The Choir may be small but it is a solid group of individuals who are all there to sing together the good word.



Speaking of singing in the choir, please join us on **Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 3 pm** for our 3rd Annual Christmas Sing a Long. There are two ways you can participate and

enjoy the afternoon: you can join the choir in the loft or you can enjoy the music from the congregation.

It is entirely up to you. If you wish to participate, there are extra practices coming up: Sunday, November 25, 2018 and Sunday, December 2, 2018 from 12:00 to 1:15. On Sunday December 9, 2018, a light lunch will be provided for those of you who will be participating.

We will start at 11:50 and practise until 12:30. After that, 12:35 to 2:15 will be a dress rehearsal. The dress attire for the performance is, of course, Christmas, so feel free to wear that tacky Christmas sweater that Aunt Martha gave you a couple of years ago or that flashy tie you received from your secret Santa at work!

The performance will be at 3:00 pm, followed by refreshments in the hall.

In December, the Choir will be singing every Advent

Sunday and Christmas Eve but will be taking a break on Sunday December 30, 2018, returning to the loft on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

On behalf of the Senior Choir of Collier United Church, we all wish you good health, hope, peace, joy and love for the season. God Bless.

Sharon Saint

1ST ANNUAL FOOD FEST

Over 150 people enjoyed delicious food from 8 chefs, lively music from the Joe Huron duo and yummy desserts from our own 'congregational' bakers. It truly was an awesome evening! What were some of the highlights?

- the rave reviews from attendees
- the enthusiasm of the chefs
- watching Chef Ryan and Chef Carmelo shouting fun jibes at each other across the room was pretty fun
- no line-ups at the food stations
- our awesome volunteers who helped out in so many areas
- And ultimately the amazingly good feel that was emanating throughout the church!



It truly was a successful evening on so many levels – friends reconnecting – everyone working together – having fun and laughs – and successfully fundraising for Collier too!

We are pleased to share that Collier Street Food Fest raised over \$4,500 for Collier's General Fund. Well done everyone! Stay tuned for next year's date!

Laurie Crosson



COLLIER MISSION COMMITTEE

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

Barrie Women and Children's Crisis Centre	\$1,000
Doctors Without Borders	\$1,000
Samaritan's Purse (Water Filtration)	\$1,000
Barrie Salvation Army	\$ 750
Ghana Rural Integrated Development	\$ 500
Hope International	\$ 500
Mercy Ships	\$ 500
Nkosinathi Fund	\$ 500

Year to date, your committee has made donations of **\$8,250** on your behalf.

Thank you to the congregation for your support.

New members are welcome. If you are interested in joining our committee (we meet only four times a year) to assist local, national and international causes, please speak to me at any time. We will welcome your input.

Larry Murray

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Givers of their **Time, Treasures** and **Talents** from Collier's congregation have made it possible for the Property Committee to facilitate the following jobs:

Vine removal	Flat Roof
Kitchen Venting (UCW)	Courtyard
Hall painted /	Parging
Hall doors repaired (UCW)	Tree Trimming
Painting Library room	Flashing
Volunteer cleanup day/disposal	Bell Tower
New Bookcases	



Building Repairs



L.I.F.E. GROUP

As we reflect on our time together we realize the impact the study of the Bible has on our lives. Following this Interdenominational program, "Seasons of the Spirit", nurtures active growing Faith. The present 3 month material covers Advent, Christmas & Epiphany. We now meet in the Library on Tuesday mornings at 9:45am. All are welcome. Contact Leona Appleby – 705-726-1884.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Collier Christmas Fair 2018 was another great success. Special thanks to the UCW women and many congregation members.

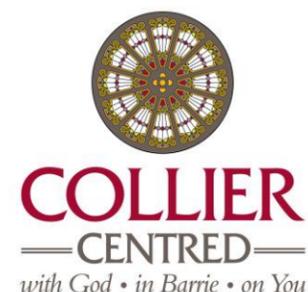
There was a lot of work leading up to the Fair-
 Soup Making – Margareth
 Pie Baking – Jean
 Lunch - Reg

Collier home kitchens were busy too, baking shortbread, tasty goodies and preserves.

Special thanks to Booth leaders -**Audrey, Margareth, Sally, Sharon, Terry, Ria, Betty** and their crew. **Dorothy** kept the lunch room running smoothly and **Reg** and his kitchen "staff" had another sell out! We had volunteers from the 10th Barrie Scout Group fetching the frozen pies and soups.

The success of this event is a tribute to the support of our congregation. Thank you everyone! This event has raised just under \$5000.00. Congratulations to all of you.

Susan Storning



Adult Ministry- Small Group

Film, Faith and Food

Marnie Neale and **Erryle George** organized a pot luck luncheon at the home of **Ruth Wainwright**. 10 Women, who have been part of this group for 4 years, watched "The Leisure Seeker".

We made sure there was a box of Kleenex nearby. Our discussion after the film was centered on Alzheimer disease and the caregiver, aging and a very dubious choice one of the characters made.

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

A BIG thank you to the UCW who last year purchased 3 new pre-lit Christmas trees and have again this year given the Decorating Committee a donation to purchase new lights to refurbish the large sanctuary wreath and purchase other supplies.



On Nov 26, a team of dedicated people came together to decorate the sanctuary, gym and reception area. Thank you to all who helped decorate. A lot of hard work, fellowship and laughter helped to make this a good day! The Church looks Amazing!!



Linda Wallis Dean will be in charge of the "Takedown" team. If you can lend a hand please contact her at lwallisdean@medonte.com or phone at 705-252-2047.