

SPRING LINK NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024



COLLIER
CENTRED
with God • in Barrie • on You

COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH
112 Collier Street, Barrie, ON, L4M 1H3
705-726-1511

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MINISTER

“For the love of God is this that we obey the commandments...for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.” **1 JOHN 5:3-4**

My fellow Collier family!

This first edition for 2024 is dedicated to the significant events of our congregation from January to now, all viewed through the lens of the Easter season. As you delve into the articles and peruse the accompanying images, may you feel the profound sense of community and the overwhelming power of God's love that permeates our faith community.

This season of Easter is one of rejoicing and renewing. We rejoice in the resurrection light that transcends all the evils of suffering in our lives and the world. We are renewed by the power of God's resurrection life, which transforms our ordinary selves into extraordinary witnesses who serve the community through acts of kindness and generosity.

In Easter, evil, sin, and death no longer have the upper hand in our lives. We will experience suffering and sin, or we will even die, but thanks be to Christ, we have the victory of life and hope through the resurrection story. We are now free to live in the power of that victory—to live over against our sins, sufferings, and death and to live a renewing life.

The fifty days after Easter, which make up the Easter season of the church year, are designed to help us rejoice in the resurrection. If Lent focuses our attention on the Cross of Christ, Easter focuses our attention on Christ's empty tomb that replenishes and revives us to be a faithful witness. Jesus died, yes, but he is risen. Yes, indeed! "Do not be afraid," Jesus says. "I am the first and the last ... I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever" (Rev. 1:18).

As we reflect on the significance of Easter, we are prompted to consider what the resurrection of Jesus Christ means for each of us today. Easter brings us joy in life. When Jesus utters, "Abba God, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34), we can find solace in the fact that these wrongs are indeed forgiven. Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross to convert our worldly sins into the righteousness of God. Christ's resurrection is God's seal of approval, affirming that we have another opportunity to expand Christ's work, for he paid the price in full.



article continues →

The resurrection is a testament to the truth that when Jesus declared, "It is finished," he was not mistaken. It is finished. He had fulfilled his mission - to love unconditionally as he laid down his life for the world. Paul writes, "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self" (2 Cor. 5:19). When Jesus proclaims, "It is finished," he signifies the completion of reconciliation and renewal. You and I, who were once at odds with God, are now reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. It is finished. The battle is won. God has triumphed. You and I are captivated by the love of God and transformed into friends of God because God desires us to be beacons of hope in the world. The resurrection brings joy in life for the Christian. Therefore, we rejoice with hope for the world. As the writer of 1 John proclaims, our faith "is the victory that conquers the world."

Easter is the good news that puts a bounce into every step and a smile on every face for those who hear and believe it. Christians have joy in life because of Jesus Christ's resurrection. "We are an Easter people." Together, we celebrate 7 years of Ministry in May 2024. May we enjoy the season of Easter and the days ahead!

Hewitt





UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Well, it's pretty much a wrap! This has been a busy "year" in the life of the UCW and hard to believe that Spring is here and Summer is on the way! Since the AGM Report wasn't that long ago and our Activities and Events were listed, there's no need to repeat the many functions that we helped with over the past year.

The UCW once again presented a lovely luncheon at the AGM and it is always well received and a great way to round out that annual meeting. Our involvement with the Senior's Coffee time has now come to an end and a very well deserved Thank You is extended to Lynn Dolmage and her team.

From what I understand, these Tuesdays are a nice get together and treat. The UCW has continued to help with Sunday coffee time. The congregation is really enjoying the fellowship after service and our ladies have the routine down pat! Thank you to everyone who has helped with these Sundays which has definitely helped Anne while she maintains the Coffee Time supplies and heads off to Choir as well.

Special treats from Barb have been very much appreciated, especially by the little ones! We have unfortunately lost a few UCW members over the past few months which has been very sad indeed. Some have been long standing UCW members who will be remembered with great fondness.

Wo He Lo have welcomed a couple of new ladies as well and we hope that they are made to feel welcome and will enjoy being part of our wonderful group of friends. As of this week, our UCW ladies have collected a large supply of Arts and Craft Supplies for Camp Big Canoe. A few of our members who will be attending the UCW AGM at Burton Avenue on May 6th. will deliver these goods.

It's always nice to have a special project to work on, especially when it involves the children. We will continue to look after Funeral Receptions over the coming months and by the Fall, we will present the Church with our Monetary Contribution resulting from the various projects and fundraisers that we have taken part in this year.

Once again, if you are interested in joining Collier's UCW, please reach out to either Mabel or myself.



Debbie



SILENT AUCTION

Over \$16,000 raised in the Silent Auction!

Thank you to everyone who bid, ate, donated, chopped, set up, washed, baked, cooked, drove, picked up...it was truly a team effort!!!!

We were so busy we didn't have time to take a lot of pictures - here's a few to capture the fun!



WORSHIP

Spring is in the air with bird calls, flowers and the beautiful spring green of new leaves popping out on the trees. With the Easter season upon us, it is a time of renewal in so many ways. It has been a busy few months for Collier United since our last Link letter, starting with our Christmas celebrations in December. These celebrations were noted in the report in the AGM booklet. Our music director, Sandra Ruttan, finished her time with us and we truly miss her. John Charles has been filling in as organist and choir director in the interim and Collier appreciates his musical talents.



The last Sunday in January we had a special service to vote for the future of our church – its Reimagining – a very exciting time. The choice was made to move forward with the focus on a community hub and was celebrated with a potluck lunch. Lunch was served again at our Annual General Meeting in February. Food certainly brings us together as a community.

During Lent, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church joined us. We were happy to share services with them for Holy Thursday and Good Friday. The Holy Thursday service was something new for us and sharing a meal together certainly made us aware of Jesus and the Last Supper. It was very meaningful.



article continues →



Easter services were well attended and the origami butterflies – a sign of new life – flew home to all those who attended the Easter service. Thank you to the team that helped to make them.

The Music Service in April was a change and the participation by the congregation was delightful to see. Music draws us together in so many ways.

Coffee Hour continues to be very popular and really draws people together. The noise level in M5 certainly shows how much interaction is taking place. We are always looking for volunteers to help make this special time possible.

The Sanctuary decorations enhance our worship and draw our eyes to the centre of the church with the cross, which is our Christian focus. As well, there has been a table set up in the foyer with decorations and information reflecting the seasons of the church – something new.

We will miss Rob Murdock as he leaves our congregation to serve at St. James Church in Stroud and are grateful for all the ways in which he served Collier over the years. Blessings in your new position, Rob.

Our minister, Reverend Hewitt Holmes, celebrated his seventh anniversary at our church this past Sunday, May 5th. Congratulations to him! He has been a guiding light through some challenging times in our church.

As you can see, it's been a busy few months in Collier United Church with many ways to draw people together. Now we prepare for the spring and summer services and a more relaxing time in our church year and in our lives. Thank you to all the people who so willingly give their time and gifts to make our services meaningful. You help to make it "our Church, Community" and that is so important. As we move into spring and summer, I hope you take time to enjoy the natural beauty all around us – a wonderful part of God's creation.

Anne

CONNECTING

Spring brings renewed hope with flowers in bloom and more sunshine.

Our faithful, friendly Visitors will be in contact with our Collier family once again in person, by phone, e-mail or text.

Please welcome them and be sure to let them know your preferred method of contact. The AGM Report was available in February, 2024; the Link prior to our June 2, 2024 Communion and prior to our December 1, 2024 Communion. Copies are also available at the church.



Reception of New Members

Our Visitors are Dorothy Schonewille, Co-Chair Visitation, Lynn Dolmage, John & Betty Hunter, Robin Milani, Marnie Neale, Mabel Peyer, Tom & Bev Stockdale, Marg Valad, Ria Won, Laurie Crosson, and Joan Fairbarn.

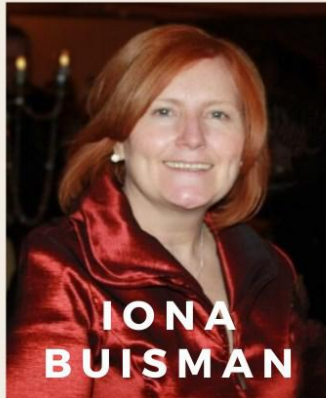
A Big Thank You to Rob & Maureen Murdock for their years of visiting our Collier families. We wish you both well in your new church, St. James United in Stroud. You will be missed at Collier in all the areas you served.

We welcomed 9 New Members to our Church Family between January 1, 2024 and April 30, 2024 . Margaret Dew, Azam Esmati, Katharine McDonald-Fairbarn, Murray Maxwell, Heather and Michael Madigan, Richard Moffat, George Rogan and Jessica Wenzel.

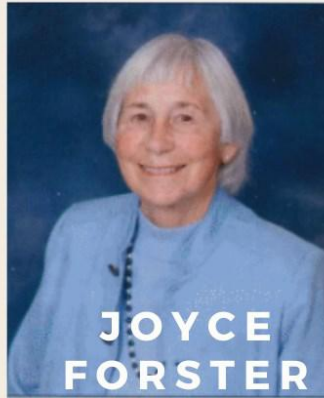
We celebrated the Baptism of Azam Esmati and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows of Hendrika Elizabeth "Ria" Won in February.

Sharon

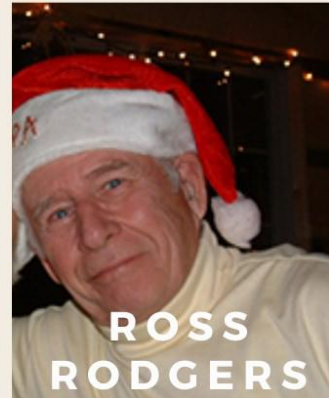
REMEMBRANCE



**IONA
BUISMAN**



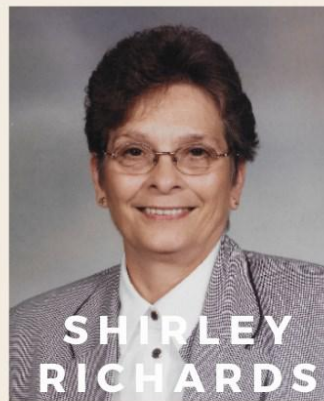
**JOYCE
FORSTER**



**ROSS
RODGERS**



**LINDA
FISKER**



**SHIRLEY
RICHARDS**



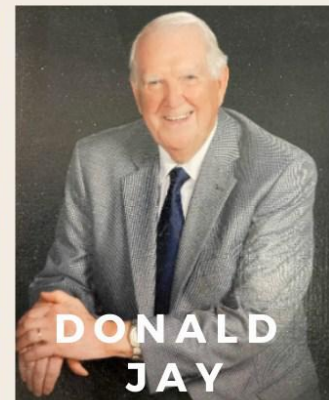
**LOIS
TURNERY**



**LAURELLA
LAVER**



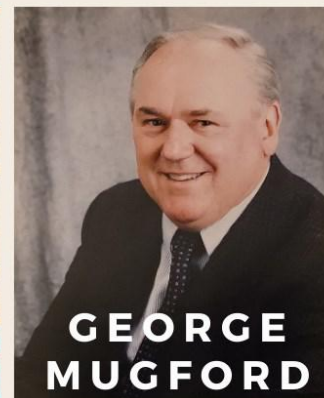
**BURNELL
HODGINS**



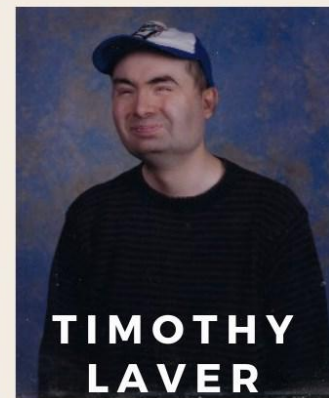
**DONALD
JAY**



**MARY
VANBODEGOM**



**GEORGE
MUGFORD**



**TIMOTHY
LAVER**

THEY HAVE BEEN A BLESSING TO COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH.

THE GARDEN



WANT TO HELP?

Remember if you are interested in joining us contact any of the Garden Club members - Deb Tyler, Marion Tizzard, Ria Won, Lynn Dolmage, Robin Milani, and Mabel Payer.

Any members of the congregation who would like to support us but are not interested in the planting etcetera we could use some bags of natural coloured mulch (please not red or black).

The members of the Garden Club were busy April 30 spreading "muddy" compost around the gardens in preparation for spring planting. Thank you to Laurie Crosson and Tom Stockdale for traveling to the dump, that rainy morning, to shovel the "muck" into the buckets which were brought to the church in JT Crosson's truck. Thanks JT!

The Garden club is hoping to clean and plant the gardens by the end of May.

WHAT WE NEED

Bring your bags to the church anytime Monday through Thursday from 9:00 until 2:00 and we will be happy to spread it around the gardens to help discourage weeds and help with moisture retention.

Also we are affiliated with Bradford Greenhouse Garden Gallery this year. If you tell the cashier that you are supporting Collier Street United Church, a portion of your purchase will be donated back to the church so that we can buy needed supplies to enhance our gardens.

Thanking you in advance.

Remember- "Flowers are like friends, they bring colour to your world"- Unknown author

Deb

A REPRINT OF
VISITATION
Letter

TO OUR ELDERS & DELIVERERS

With this letter of encouragement in your visiting, comes a heartfelt “thank you” for visiting our church family. Whether you have been visiting for a long time, or whether this is your very first time, we want you to know that what you do makes a positive difference. Not only will you be delivering THE LINK but in many ways you become a very tangible link between the Church and its people. Collier wouldn't be Collier without you.



Over the next two weeks, you have the opportunity to bring into the hearts and homes of our people, the reminder that we care about them. Enjoy the moments and may the One whose life has changed everything bring joy to your hearts. The office has a request of you. If you could ask those you visit for their email address that we could enter into our data base that would be helpful in our communicating with the congregation.

Dennis, 1999



TRUSTEES

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE NEW YEAR

1. Re-Imagining Project – The decision to proceed with our Re-Imagining Project was approved at our Congregational meeting held January 28, 2024. The proposal was submitted to our Regional Office for review and approval and we are awaiting final acceptance of same. In the meantime, \$17,000.00 was transferred from the Heritage account and is being held in the Trustee's account to pay for Phase 2 invoices due, once approval is received.
2. Line of Credit – The line of credit at year-end was \$85,095.43. As of April 30, 2024 outstanding loan balance is \$80,500.00. We make payments of \$1,000.00 per month plus interest @ Prime +1.25% (8.45)
3. Grant – The County of Simcoe provided a \$200,000.00 grant for use by local organizations serving breakfast. (Busby, Burton Avenue, Collier, Grace United, Ryan's Hope, St Mary's & Trinity Anglican). Collier has been asked to be the administrator for the flow-through funds, receipts and disbursements. Currently \$150,000.00 is held in Heritage Account and remainder is in the Trustee Account. As funds are required, they will be transferred from Heritage to Trustee account for disbursement.
4. Transactions – Jan 4, 2024 Trustees paid out the \$40,000.00 CEBA loan. January 11, 2024 \$25,000.00 was withdrawn from Heritage Account and transferred to Operating Account to help with overdraft and payroll. March 27, 2024 \$27,000.00 transferred from Heritage Account to Operating to pay for boiler and pump repair invoices.

Marg

FINANCIALS

Our Investments To Date:

Accounts	Dec 29, 2023	April 30, 2024
Steward's Acct 376-6747327	\$295,709.91	\$301,131.19
Heritage Acct #1 376-6747020	\$177,307.16	\$111,099.09
Heritage Acct # 2 541-2059429 (Re Cebe Ln)	\$31,311.34	\$150,000.00
Margin Loan 541-2761222	(\$85,095.43)	(\$80,500.00)
CEBA Loan (Due January 18, 2024)	(\$40,000.00)	\$0.00
Total	\$379,232.98	\$481,730.28
UCW 541-2894114	\$60,851.22	\$61,873.66

Trustee's Acct. #1001411	\$28,663.92 (\$6,792.89 Social Action Fnds / \$3200.00 CSRF Fnds / \$7500.00 Anti Hate Grant /\$8,563.76 loan funds for CEBA /\$2,269.03 Trustee Fnds /\$338.24 available	\$56,611.17 (Holds \$7,518.90 Social Action/\$17,000.00 Trinity Centre Foundation Funds/\$8,300.00 CSRF Funds/\$7500.00 Anti Hate Grant./ \$13,335.93 County- Busby Grant) Trustee Available \$2956.34
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OUR OPERATING UP TO DATE:

Collier Street United Church Income Statement			
January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024			
Income	2023	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Envelopes	\$ 37,224.35	\$ 24,311.98	\$ 20,640.00
Par	\$ 15,122.95	\$ 13,902.94	\$ 15,660.00
Other Revenue	\$ 43,704.27	\$ 64,900.09	\$ 39,367.11
Total Income	\$ 96,051.57	\$ 103,115.01	\$ 75,667.11
Expenses	\$ 109,785.67	\$ 134,721.18	\$ 112,033.58
Net Income/Loss	\$ (13,734.10)	\$ (31,606.17)	\$ (36,366.47)

RE-IMAGINE

Our Re-Imagining journey progressed substantially on January 28, 2024, when the gathered CSUC Congregation overwhelmingly supported accepting Trinity Centres Foundation's recommendation, "that Collier Street United Church explores partnership with the City of Barrie and a Developer to create a hybrid housing development and community hub in consultation with the Shining Waters Regional Council." This is wonderful news for the future of our space and the opportunities that reside within it, for CSUC and for the community!

During February, the Task Force launched a survey asking congregation members for their input on priorities under the headings, "Re-Imagined CHURCH", "Re-Imagined COMMUNITY HUB", and "Re-Imagined BUILDING/DEVELOPMENT".

Input was also specifically requested on Re-Imagining our parking lot space. Thank you to all who participated and provided their valuable input. Please know that your input is important as we move forward with this project.

Following our AGM held March 25th, the Transition Task Force submitted to the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Region a detailed CSUC Financial Viability Report and an update to our Living Faith Story, both required to support our decision to explore development. Since these reports were submitted, Task Force members have been liaising with both the Region and TCF to finalize the CSUC-TCF Contract for Phase 2, "Art of the Possible". We are hopeful to be moving forward with the contract in place before the summer.



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In late May, Laurie Crosson and Lianne Patterson, Co-Chairs of the Transition Task Force, are attending a TCF conference entitled “Steeple, Cities and Circus 2024”. The conference is taking place at St. Jax Centre in Montreal, which is TCF’s flagship re-imagined site. St. Jax is an Anglican Church, which shares its space with several partners, including:

- Le Monastère Caberet de Cirque – A non-profit circus company that supports the growth and development of contemporary circus by offering artists a platform to showcase their original creations.
- Action Réfugiés Montréal – A strong voice for refugees in Montréal and beyond, that provides support for sponsorships, legal and material aid to detainees, and a highly successful twinning program which pairs newly arrived refugee women with former refugee women who are already established here in order to provide mutual support.
- Innovation assistance – An initiative by Innovation Youth, which operates a food bank, Solidarity Market, and a meals-on-wheels service for people experiencing food insecurity in the neighbourhood.
- Wolfpack Street Patrol – An Indigenous-led group which patrols the neighbourhood at night, providing comfort and essential supplies to un-housed neighbours.
- Calvary Chapel Montréal Régénération
- Church 21

We are excited to liaise with other faith organizations from across Canada and the USA who are going through re-imagining, and are at different stages of the process. Sharing our learnings with each other will no doubt help all of us. If you’d like to find out more about St. Jax Centre, you can access their website at stjax.org.

Should you have any questions at any time, please reach out to Hewitt, Laurie or Lianne. You can also email your question to collierunited@rogers.com. We continue to feel enthusiastic about Collier’s Re-Imagining and what it can mean for Collier and for our community! Let’s stay connected as we work through this project together!



Lianne

UPCOMING:

- Holy Communion - June 02nd
- Union Sunday - June 9th
- Summer Worship in the Park - August

| CONNECTION | COMMUNITY | CREATIVITY |
| INCLUSION | LOVE | TRANSFORMATION | HOPE |

