

LINK 2024 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER



705-726-1511
www.collierunited.ca/link

COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH
112 Collier Street, Barrie, ON, L4M 1H3



TABLE OF

contents



3 MINISTER

5 MUSIC

7 UCW

9 WORSHIP

11 CONNECTING

12 REMEMBRANCE

13 THE GARDEN

14 TRUSTEES

15 OPERATING

16 RE-IMAGINE

18 EVENTS

21 PICTORIAL



SCAN TO DONATE



MINISTER

By now, you would have heard that my time with you will end in December 2024. Being a companion to and with you for 7.5 years has been a tremendous privilege. Thanks for the opportunity to be with you. Collier now has the record of the longest stay as a minister, which gives me joy. As you may have heard, I am leaving to continue my Doctor of Philosophy Work at Durham University and Vancouver School of Theology, which began in October this year. As I go, know that my encouragement and prayers will always be with the Collier Street community.

For this final link newsletter, my mind went to the Prayer of Jabez:

“Jabez prayed to the God of Israel, ‘If only you would bless me and give me vast territories! Let your hand guide me, don’t let any harm come to me, and let me be free from pain! And God answered Jabez’s prayer” (1 Chronicles 4:10).

Indeed, you have been a blessing to me in worship, leadership, congregational care, teaching, preaching, community partnerships, visitation, and hospitality. I will cherish the memories of your hugs, smiles, communal worship, many visits, and scrumptious meals with lovely desserts, which have made me truly “blessed and highly favoured.”

Driven by the re-imagining work, my prayer and hope are that God will bless you so that you will continue to be guided by God's hand to be a beloved, powerful presence of a graceful and flourishing community in the future.

My prayer is “that God would bless” Collier. Jabez believed that God was and is the source of all blessings. For that reason, Jabez asked God to bless him. The blessings were more than just material; they were also spiritual: healthy and good relationships, peace of mind, a compassionate heart, companionship of spirit, powerful worship, community partnership with the vulnerable, and a gentle demeanour of grace to all our relations, among other things. May God bless you, Collier, with the resources to make you faithful and fruitful in the coming days.

My hope is that you will “Let God's hand guide you.” Jabez recognized his limited, feeble, and frail nature and knew he needed God’s help. The all-loving and life-enabling God guided Jabez. God will guide you on the right path and hold onto you throughout the journey as you seek to live out your core values—connection, creativity, inclusion, love, transformation, hope, and community. Collier, with God’s guide, there are good things for you. You will fulfill a good purpose of love and justice.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

-Hewitt₃

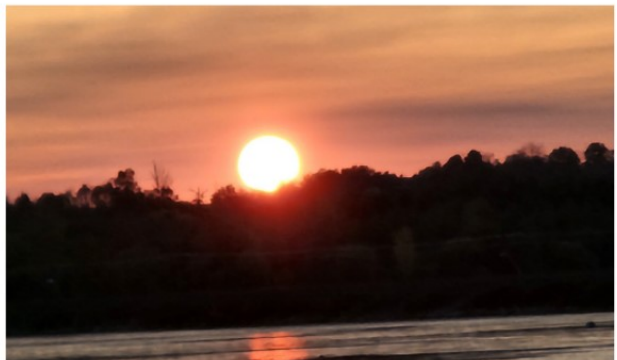




MUSIC

Greetings! Since my appointment as Music Director at Collier Street United Church on 1st August, time seems to have flown by at a frightening rate, and it is difficult to believe we are only a few weeks away from Advent and Christmas!

As I write to you this afternoon, I am spending time at my "Happy Place", Mountsberg, one of several areas belonging to the Halton Region Conservation Authority (see photos). It is beautiful here, especially at this time of year, and it is filled with so many fond memories dating back to when my children were very young. I would often bring them here to be a part of nature throughout each season.



Mountsberg provides many good gifts, including a sense of calm, being at one with our world that God has created, and a time for reflection. This afternoon, part of this reflection has been devoted to my time at Collier, dating back 4 years ago but focusing more on my

time as Music Director and wanting to give a sense of new beginnings while building on the wonderful legacy left by my predecessors, especially Sandra Ruttan.

"New beginnings" has included physical evidence, including a "new" choir room and office. This is a work in progress and will continue throughout 2025. It began with the sorting, recycling and disposing of "stuff" which had been accumulating over the years and which was not conducive to a positive and productive musical environment. As a result of this endeavour, on the first weekend of November, the choir room is being painted. Please stop by to have a look.

As for the office, a thorough vetting of the choir library needs to continue, as well as the vetting of other musical elements which are either dated or irrelevant.



CONT. MUSIC

The biggest challenge has been building the choir in order to enable them to sing anthems which are more demanding. With a smaller choir such as ours, a suitable repertoire is extremely limited. Unfortunately, the exact opposite has happened. We have gained one new member but have lost more than that. Despite the advertising that has gone out, and despite personal invitations by our current choristers, membership continues to be a challenge.

Despite this, the choir has been able to provide special music on a weekly basis and is looking forward to providing music for upcoming special occasions, including Hewitt's final service with us in November and services in Advent and at Christmas. I continue to be grateful for many things over the course of the last few months:

- members of the congregation who have been so generous with their warm welcome and expressions of gratitude;
- Hewitt for his unfailing pastoral & professional support;
- Vickie for her administrative skills and sense of humour;
- Jessica for all the work she has done in designing posters, flyers & brochures to advertise our choir, and for what she, along with Terry, continues to do to support the choir on a Sunday morning;
- the choristers who have helped in so many ways, including the reorganizing & painting of the choir room, working on the choir library, promoting the choir, and keeping me in line!

- John



UCW

Autumn has always been my favourite time of year. In my mind, it has represented new beginnings, new routines and "a fresh start"! This year has been especially lovely and a time to really reflect on all that God has provided for us.

It was very nice for all of us to be back together after the summer months and we look forward to our Wednesday meetings with renewed enthusiasm and refreshed energy. Both UCW Units meet on the First Wednesday of each month from September to June. One group meets at 7:00pm. and the other at 1:30 in the afternoon.

This year, the UCW will once again be looking at ways of helping with various Outreach Projects to enhance the lives of our Collier Family and the Community beyond. At this point, we have 3 projects in the planning process that will not only allow our ladies to work together toward a common goal but to provide services that have been tried, tested and true with a couple of little perks thrown in.

The Annual Purdy's Chocolate Sale will commence on October 27th. Orders will be taken until November 16th. with Chocolate Delivery by the end of November. Start your Christmas Shopping Early!

Once again, we are looking at holding a Frozen Soup sale which always goes over very well. We do know that the weather will turn cold one day and the UCW soups are very much sought after. The soups will be for sale on November 24th. after the Church Service and will continue weekly as required. If the need is there, we will offer more sale dates and possibly throw in a Chili day as well. At the same time, we will be offering some lovely handmade knitted items like headbands, and dishcloths.

Also, on November 24th., we will have forms available for people to sign up to Pre-Order Shortbread for the Christmas Season. There are some very talented Shortbread Bakers in our Congregation and this is always a "hot item". Orders will be taken until November 30th. and the items will be available for pick up and payment on December 10th.

article continues →

UCW

CONT.

By offering several projects, this gives the ladies of our UCW the opportunity to help at as many as they are able and offers variety as well. Please watch the bulletins for more information on all of the above.

The UCW have recently purchased a new Commercial Coffee Machine for the kitchen. It is lovely and will fill many after Church coffee cups and will be available for the various Functions that are offered at Collier as well.

With the request from Laurie Crosson for the Fresh Fall Appeal, the UCW have written a cheque in the amount of \$1000.00 to help towards the \$20,000.00 expense of sprucing up the outside of our Church. A worthwhile cause indeed!

It was a real pleasure to attend the Shining Waters Region United Church Women Togetherness Day on October 2nd. It was really nice to have 6 Wo He Lo Members and 3 Amicae Members in attendance. What a wonderful day! So many United Church UCW's were represented with approximately 70 ladies in attendance. The theme of the day was "Walking in Faith"

The speaker was very uplifting, recognizing that so many Churches are struggling these days but we can keep going as we learn to embrace change and to be adaptable to the changing times.

The day ended with some very lively entertainment and a Reflection that reminded us to think outside the box in encouraging people to come back to the Church environment. This is where we can celebrate each other in faith and fellowship and also serve our local community as well.

We look forward to providing a lovely luncheon on November 17th. as we celebrate with Rev. Hewitt as he transitions from Collier to his new Vocation in December. Also, we look forward to the United Church Women's 65th. Anniversary in Ottawa in 2027!

Once again, we are excited for another "year" 2025, of gathering with our Collier Sisters and to offer kindness, compassion and support to each other as we do God's work. New Members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to either myself or Mabel Peyer. Thank you.

- Susan

WORSHIP

All around us nature is painting a picture with vibrant colours just filling our senses – creation at its best when we give thanks for all its beauty and bounty. Summer slipped by quickly and church routines slowed a little as we relaxed into different routines. Our summer church services were shared with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and worked out well. Reverend Hewitt and Reverend Joanne shared the Sundays as did the congregations. Collier was responsible for coffee hour in July and St. Andrew's in August. As well, we shared a delicious barbecue after our service on August 11th. The last Sundays of each month were hymn sings with hymns chosen by the congregations. It's always a joy to sing the old hymns and we learned a lot about their origins.

John Charles was hired as our music director after filling in for the first months of the year. His music adds much to our services and it is fascinating to watch his hands on the organ when he is playing the postlude. Under his leadership, the choir is forging ahead. Practice times are now before and after church with no practice on Thursday evenings. Although the choir is small in numbers, it is truly dedicated to enriching the worship of our church services. If you like to sing, we would love to have you join us.



With September, routines started up again for most of us as we got back into meeting mode. On September 29th our church recognized National Truth and Recognition Day – remembering the story of the Indigenous Residential Schools in Canada. The congregation acknowledged the day by wearing orange shirts and we pray that we may all be reconciled and renewed through understanding.

WORSHIP CONT.

The first Sunday of October Collier United celebrated Worldwide Communion Sunday. It is a privilege to be able to share in this celebration with churches across the world. This was followed by our Thanksgiving service and we do have so much to be thankful for. For both these Sundays, it was enjoyable to see children participate in the service as they passed out the cedar branches tied with orange ribbon and the paper pumpkins to acknowledge our thankfulness.

October is Stewardship month and we thank the volunteers who continue to usher, read and serve coffee after church. As well, the gardening crew, those who decorate the sanctuary and our amazing technical crew all contribute to adding beauty and meaning to what we do. These are all Important services which add to our worship and help form community. We are always looking for volunteers to help with these services. Remember that willing hands make light work.

In June, Rev. Hewitt announced that he is leaving our church to pursue his doctoral studies. We will certainly miss him and the leadership he has displayed throughout his time at Collier. He has been a faithful servant and we pray that God goes with him as he pursues the next leg of his journey. November 17th will be our farewell Sunday for Rev. Hewitt. It will be a special service as we say our goodbyes to Hewitt and we hope everyone will attend.

In preparation for Hewitt's departure, work is under way for the next few months as we begin the process of hiring a new minister. Supply ministers are being booked and plans for Advent and the Christmas season are being prepared. Faith will carry us through as we go through this transition period.

As we move forward in the life of Collier United Church, there are many unknowns. However, with **STRONG FAITH** and God's guidance we will continue to be a community serving the needs of God's people. Let's all be good servants and do our part.

- Anne



CONNECTING

Our faithful Visitors continue to connect with our Collier Street United Church family by phone, email or personal visits.

A sincere Thank You to all involved. The AGM Report is available in February and delivered to those who wish it. Our Link Newsletter is now available in the Spring prior to our Communion Service in June and in the Fall prior to our Communion Service in December.

We were happy to Welcome Greg and Joan Gimpoli to our congregation in June.

Our CSUC Membership currently stands at 202. We welcomed 11 New Members; 2 Transferred; 2 were moved to the Historic Roll; and sadly, 14 were moved to the Historic Roll by death.



We extend a heartfelt thank you to our Minister, Rev. Hewitt, for his time spent with us and wish him God's Blessings as he pursues his doctoral education.

A Happy Christmas season ahead to all our Collier Family.

- Sharon



REMEMBRANCE

ANNETTE BOWMAN



RUTH REESOR



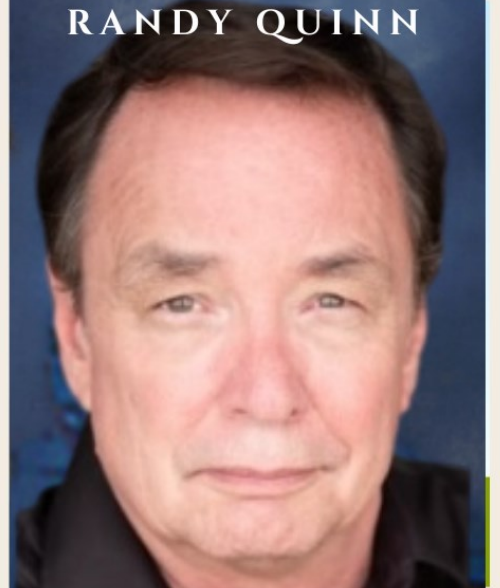
DONNA MARTIN



PHYLLIS GIVENS



RANDY QUINN



SALLY MURRAY



AGNES GROVES



THEY HAVE BEEN A BLESSING TO COLLIER STREET UNITED CHURCH.

GARDEN CLUB

'Where flowers grow so does hope"- Lady Bird Johnston

The Collier Garden Club consisting of Mabel Payer, Lynn Dolmage, Ria Won, Marian Tizzard, Robin Milani and Deb Tyler, discussed the priorities we had this year and summarized our priorities for 2025:

1. area next to church hall - area was seeded this year and doing well decided best to reseed next spring;
2. front garden where soil is spilling onto sidewalk- bricks and boards were used to try and fix this area, but another attempt is required as some of the bricks have been removed;
3. path in pantry garden- much better path through the pantry area, but in the spring more soil should be applied to make stepping stones more secure;
4. garden along hall wall on Pontz Street- cleaned up and mulch from the dump was applied - should apply more mulch next year and continue to tidy up this area;
5. hope garden (garden at end of parking lot)- tried to grow veggies, but soil not conducive to great growth- thought that we should use the pile of soil located near hall door on Pontz Street to amend soil in Hope Garden. Soil should be amended with manure(sheep)/compost and used in Hope garden for herbs, tomatoes and maybe another veggie. Lynn's husband Dale transplanted various perennials into the Hope garden which will hopefully thrive in this garden. Thanks Dale!
6. Other gardens - weeded, planted and watered- continue this next year (maybe plant seeds in spring like Zinnia)

The Garden Club members continue to appreciate all the positive comments from the congregation and the support provided by Vickie, Wayne (when he was here) and Medard. The members of the Garden Club would also like to thank the UCW members for their generous donation to help support our gardening needs.

Please think about joining the Collier Street Garden Club. Remember no experience is needed. All are welcome!

- Deb



TRUSTEES

RE-IMAGINING PROJECT

We are now in Phase Two of our Re-Imagining Project. Approval was received from the Regional Office to proceed. Two installments totalling \$17,500.00 were paid. There was a Listening Session Community Town Hall Meeting on September 11th. The purpose of the town hall was to bring forward interested partners, create synergies and discover alignments in our space that could create a viable and engaged community hub. Confirmation letter from Shining Waters Regional Council has been received to name Nidea Corporation as Broker representing Collier Street United Church for the development portion of Phase 2 of our Re-Imagining Project.

LINE OF CREDIT

The line of credit at year-end was \$85,095.43. As of September 30, 2024 outstanding loan balance is \$75,500.00. We make payments of \$1,000.00 per month plus interest @ Prime +1.25%. (7.95%)

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 administered the flow-through funds, receipts and disbursements. To date, \$110,944.59 has been distributed, with the remaining funds being held by the Trustees. \$75,000.00 currently in Heritage Account #2 and \$14,055.41 in the Trustees operating account. To date, we have earned \$3768.10 in interest, which is transferred to Collier's operating account on a monthly basis.

TRANSACTIONS

Jun 3, 2024, \$1380.32 transferred to Operating to pay Barriston Law for reviewing the TCF Proposal. These funds were reimbursed by the Region Jun 18, 2024. July 16, 2024 \$2000.00 transferred to Operating to pay for Elevator Annual Billing (Re quarterly maintenance and phone monitoring). Quotes obtained for painting outside windows and staining outside doors were presented to the Finance committee and the Official Board. A "Fresh Fall Appeal"

TRUSTEES

It is with sadness we advise Donna Martin, one of our Trustees, passed away Aug. 15, 2024. She will be greatly missed.

- *Marg*

article continues →

TRUSTEES INVESTMENTS

Investment Accounts	April 30, 2024	September 30, 2024
Steward's Acct 376-6747327	\$301,131.19	\$304,204.86
Heritage Acct #1 376-6747020	\$111,099.09	\$119,306.33
Heritage Acct #2 541-2059429 (Cnty/Busby)	\$150,000.00	\$75,000.00
Margin Loan # 541-2761222	(\$80,500.00)	(\$75,500.00)
Total	\$481,730.28	\$423,011.19
UCW Investment #541-2894114 5 GIC's due Nov 23/28 (4 X \$12,000 @5.050% / 1 X \$12,549 @ 5.060%)	\$61,873.66	\$63,164.33

Trustee's Acct. #1001411 This account holds funds for several different funds/groups until needed.	\$56,611.17 Social Action \$7,518.90 Trinity Centre Fnd \$17,000.00 CSRF Grant \$8,300.00 Anti Hate Grant \$7,500.00 Cnty-Busby Grant \$13,335.93 Trustee Available \$2,956.34	\$30,053.30 Social Action \$6,520.07 Releven (TCF) \$0.00 CSRF Grant \$4,411.60 Anti Hate Grant. \$857.55 Cnty-Busby Grant \$17,341.17 Trustee Available \$922.91
--	---	--

OPERATING

January 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Income	2023	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Envelopes	\$ 92,971.68	\$ 73,812.70	\$ 73,680.00
Par	\$ 43,465.50	\$ 40,687.17	\$ 46,140.00
Other Revenue	\$ 121,790.66	\$ 141,132.87	\$ 146,569.03
Total Income	\$ 258,227.84	\$ 255,632.74	\$ 266,389.03
Expenses	\$ 323,687.91	\$ 313,875.12	\$ 326,773.72
Net Income/Loss	\$ (65,460.07)	\$ (58,242.38)	\$ (60,384.69)

RE-IMAGINING



Concurrent Exploration of Community Hub and Development

Over the next month or so, Kendra Fry of Reléven [formerly Trinity Centres Foundation], will further explore potential partnerships and synergies that emerged during the Community Town Hall.

1. FURTHER EXPLORATION OF VIABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY HUB MODEL:

Feedback received from Community Members during the Community Town Hall clearly provided CSUC with a broad mandate and strong level of trust to approach many solutions to the challenges. There was virtually no pushback to further pursue new housing and much encouragement for deeper density. The community wishes to ensure other missional work continues to exist alongside (i.e. Community Hub). Community Members gathered were broadly supportive and enthusiastic.

2. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST [EOI] TO BE SHARED WITH POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS:

The purpose of the Expression of Interest is to ascertain redevelopment interest in CSUC, aligned with the values of our Church community that currently calls the property home.

We are looking to engage with a real estate development partner with the objective of creating a sustainable revenue stream and community hub that aligns with neighbourhood needs and congregational mission. CSUC is willing to be creative and flexible on the type of use(s).

OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Create a stable and long-term revenue stream for the benefit of the current congregation and the ongoing mission of the Church;
2. Create a community hub with equity seeking groups;
3. Engage in community impact through addressing the current affordable housing crisis, demonstrating environmental responsibility, while supporting the community.



Releven Team

THE VALUE TO THE DEVELOPER PARTNER:

The developer partner can secure an attractive site in an incredible market node. Flexible terms and conditions are available to support a reimagined solution. As a joint venture, the property provides significant equity into the project at the outset. Our faith community is active and engaged, and willing to be supporters of the right project.

OUR PRIORITIES:

- Community impact
- Addressing the affordable housing crisis
- Sustainable Church mission

THE COMING MONTHS:

Over the next month, Developer Partners will be invited to submit their interest in a creative partnership where both the developer, and our faith community, can truly flourish and benefit from this collaboration. A short-list of potential Developer Partners will be interviewed by Dave Harder of Reléven and David Chong of Nidea Partners, along with Laurie Crosson and Lianne Patterson, Co-Chairs of our Re-Imagining Task Force. More information is expected within the next few months and we will share updates as things progress.

Please remember that we are currently exploring potential Phase 2 options for Collier, as approved by the congregation. All alternatives will be thoroughly examined, and options will be presented to congregation members for decision-making once the exploration is complete. Thank you for your continued engagement.

Thank you to CSUC congregation members who took the time to review the schematics and the flipchart notes gathered from Community Town Hall participants which were in the church hall Sunday September 15th following worship. Thanks to Anne Snell and the coffee team who shifted coffee hour to the church hall so this review could easily take place. We appreciate your flexibility!

If you have any questions about the September 11 Town Hall meeting or these next concurrent Phase 2 Re-Imagining Processes, please reach out to Laurie, Lianne or Hewitt at any time. - *Laurie*

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRAVADO SOCIAL ACTION FUNDRAISER:

- Friday November 29 and Saturday November 30
- Volunteers to prep and serve coffee and baked goods: Friday November 29 7 pm to 9 pm, Saturday November 30 1:30 - 4:00 pm, Saturday November 30 7 pm to 9 pm
Donate cookies and squares

COLLIERS TABLE HOT BREAKFAST:

- Wednesday December 18th at Trinity Anglican Church
- Donate items for the gift bags - we're looking for warm, good quality gloves, mittens and socks. These are the most needed and appreciated.
- Help pack gift bags and prep food on December 17 in the morning
- Help with food service on December 18 at Trinity between 8 am and 9 am.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

- 11/03 All Saints Sunday
- 11/10 Remembrance
- 11/17 188th Anniversary/
De-Covenanting
- 12/1 Advent 1/Communion
- 12/24 Joint Christmas Eve
- 12/29 NO SERVICE

E-NEWSLETTER QR CODE

We have a weekly newsletter that goes out on Saturdays featuring our news and events. To sign up please check our webpage at collierunited.ca for more info!

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30AM



Pick up your 2025 Calendar of Events from the office or online at collierunited.ca/events



COLLIER
 —CENTRED—
with God • in Barrie • on You

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 27

COLLIER'S
**FALL
 FOOD
 FEAST**

**TAKE
 OUT
 STYLE**

Dinner can be picked up at our drive thru on Wednesday November 27 at Collier Street United Church, 112 Collier St., Barrie

— COST —

\$35 each

(plus admin fees for ticketing)

Most courses will be served in take-out compostable containers. To maintain the integrity of the entree, you will need to reheat at home for maximum enjoyment.

**ENJOY A LOVELY
 TAKE OUT MEAL
 INCLUDING:**

- Chicken Souvlaki
- Greek Salad
- Roasted Greek Potatoes
- Lemon Rice
- Homemade Naan Bread
- Handcrafted Baklava Tart

QUESTIONS?

Email collierunited@rogers.com or call 705-722-2003.

TICKETS: <https://2024collierfallfeast.eventbrite.ca>

OUR VISION

Our dream is to be a community with open hearts, open minds and open will as we become: stronger through various styles of worship; deeper through discipleship; warmer through unconditional welcome, fellowship richer through radical inclusion; broader through ministry to all ages and stages of life; and larger through intentionally inviting others on this journey of faith.

CORE VALUES

Connection
Community
Creativity
Inclusion
Love
Transformation
Hope

OUR MISSION

With God, in Barrie, on You





COLLIER
—CENTRED—
with God • in Barrie • on You

