



*They ate....They bid....and fun was had by all!
The 26th Annual Silent Auction was a raving
success – raising over \$14,000!*

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GARDEN

I love to sit in the garden of my own being.
Senses alive with a new awaking; creation on the move
in a harmony that kindles the soul and arouses the spirit to a sense of bal-
ance;
and a feeling of inexpressible joy and knowing - that all is well.

The earth around the garden shed is on the move. I sit and watch amazed
and
See a world unfold.
A red legged spider busily on its way, dancing butterflies, ants in frantic
working madness;
Humming bird moth kissing fragrant flowers, flirting dragonflies feasting
on
creatures of nuisance;
Drifting fluffs of fleecy seed float lazily in spells of sunshine, warm breez-
es caressing fluttering leaves;
Birds happily chirping in joyous harmony against the stress call of an anx-
ious crow.

Budding purple Lupines reaching upward and a blue sky filled with fluffy
drifting white clouds.

All this within minutes; a joy in the midst of summer.

by Sandra Dowds



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MINISTER

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. —Proverbs 23:18

The words from Proverbs speak to the season of Easter. Easter is the time when life wins through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Spring shows God's future of new hope for all creation. The words are therefore fitting for this Spring issue of the Newlink. The Church is living in a post-pandemic time. The COVID virus is still with us. This week, I learnt of church families still catching and coping with the virus though grateful for the vaccines and boosters in Canada. Still, the Church is filled with hope at Easter. This hope we will not be cut off from at any time in the future.

Life at Collier is returning to something new. We had a fabulous Silent Auction. The items were abundant. The team was excellent. The Gala and meals were extraordinary. The spirit in the kitchen and rooms was life-giving. The experience was joyful. While helping to open a bottle, I got accidentally sprayed with whip cream, creating deep laughter. We remain appreciative of the funds, which are well-needed for the ongoing mission of the Collier family.

As we move into the future as a community of faith, in this post-pandemic time, we are encouraged to praise God

through real worship that gives access to in-person and online people and practice responsible stewardship through various renewing partnerships that match mission to money. Worship and stewardship are two key focuses of a community living up to its Easter calling as the people of hope.

Real Worship keeps the foot on the digital gas pedals. There is a growing online community.

We must keep our Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, and other platforms open for the "churched" and "unchurched" people. We must consider curating space for spiritual and non-spiritual people in our city. Is it time to reflect on our elements in traditional worship, to have more Pew Talks, Conversational Sermons, Prayers from people in the pews, Dramatic Bible Readings, Skits, and contemporary or non-traditional music from places like Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and South and East Asia? Real worship praises God dynamically and builds a deep spiritual for this post-pandemic time.

Responsible Stewardship is the engine that drives the matching of mission to money. It is the adequate use of the resources entrusted to us by God from the previous generation. It is the legacies that we will pass unto the next group. We have a beautiful big building with a sanctuary, chapel, halls, offices, and many rooms. We have lots of space. We have an excellent opportunity to partner with others in our community. As we re-imagine our space, may we be accessible or friendly enough to follow the Spirit's bidding and may we be available or open to be and become something new. I believe this is the future of hope that Collier is chosen for in this post-pandemic time. Though the Church will look different, God will remain the same.

Easter signals to Collier and the community of Barrie that God is not finished with us yet. Hope will hold unto us as we take steps to grow differently with others through real worship and responsible stewardship, seeking to embody the gospel in this culture-wide hinge moment of post-pandemic life. We will pivot and leverage this opportunity of hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13 **Hewitt**

"Good things will come from self-expression" - John Cho

OUR REIMAGINE PROJECT

Wow! This was my reaction after Sunday, April 23rd, 2023. We experienced wonderful energy, insight, deep questions, and hope as we gathered to consider how the Collier building could be re-imagined! We chatted about how to use our space more wisely as good caretakers. Kendra Fry of Trinity Centres Foundation was a good investment for our conversation. She shared several projects within Canada, the USA, and the UK, where churches have been transformed into sustainable community hubs.

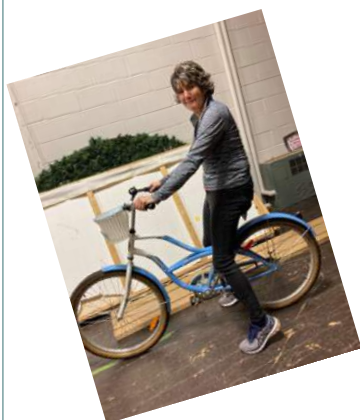
Kendra reminded us that historically, churches were the hub of their community, built in the middle of town and typically the centre of activities that supported many within the community. As a downtown Barrie church, we support the community's food insecurity and homelessness with a food pantry, breakfast to go and warming centres and provide rental space for various meetings and events for many community groups, which facilitates their exchanging ideas and building support. We are a community that is writing our history each day. Collier has this great opportunity to bring change to our current net loss for 2022 and 2023. Trinity Centres Foundation will continue to help us explore how our substantial building and facilities could be transformed into a sustainable community hub. As a community hub, our space will do more to support community needs while providing income for building maintenance and replenishing investment income. The transformation goal is to match Mission to Money. This means Collier will continue its worship and mission at work while essential sustainable income is

provided, with our space utilized to support the community. Thus, ensuring our building remains viable, seeking to be faithful stewards of the rich legacy afforded to us by our predecessors who worked so hard to build and maintain our beautiful Collier Street United Church.

Trinity Centres Foundation offers the expertise we need to re-imagine ourselves and will support and guide the multifaceted process, including working with the congregation and liaising with potential partners in our local community. The Church Board approved this work with a Lifting the Lid cost of \$15,000 as an investment in Collier's future. The Emergency Transition Task Force will work with Trinity Foundation to manage this process. Your special donation toward this investment is welcomed and appreciated.

The next WOW moment is coming up. It will be on Sunday, June 11, from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm. It will be a Congregational/Community Listening Session about our dreams as a Collier community. We begin with a continental breakfast around 10:15 a.m. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing you!

*Should you have any questions at this time, please reach out to Laurie Crosson, Lianne Patterson, or Rev. Hewitt Holmes. We look forward to walking together with you as we Re-Imagine Collier! **Lianne***



OUR MUSIC



May is Asian Heritage Month

Collier Street United Church is blessed to have the continued commitment of a small but dedicated choir whose leadership in leading singing, and special music in the form of anthems, does so much to contribute to a spirit of joy and worship in our services.

In addition to their consistent presence, we have also enjoyed the participation of guest musicians through the first part of 2023, playing ukulele, piano, trumpet and percussion, additions that have added a special energy to the music.

We have also had the opportunity to include children associated with the church in one of our services so far. Their youthful presence and voices lifted us up. Not to be forgotten are the piano preludes offered every Sunday by three of our own talented and dedicated pianists, helping to set a beautiful tone for each service. Music continues to be an integral part of the worship at Collier. Please see Sandra Lisa if you would like to become involved in sharing your musical gifts. - **Sandra**



June is Indigenous Month

PROGRAMS



My engagement as Director of Short Programs for Adult and Seniors has formed part of my academic progress in Diaconal Ministry. The latest program has been received by a dedicated group in our community who are actively walking the "Grief and Loss Journey".

The good news is that there will be some new programs beginning soon so stay tuned.

Anyone who is interested in offering suggestions, please contact, Rob Murdock at either rmurdockunited@gmail.com or text at 905-806-0102

Rob

UCW NEWS

Collier's UCW has been busy! After our successful Harvest Fair and the Christmas Bazaar, we had another successful Purdy's Chocolate sale for the Christmas & Easter season's.

More of our ladies ventured out to the monthly meetings and have enjoyed being back in the swing of things in Collier's kitchen! We were able to provide a lovely luncheon for the AGM in March and we had a very successful Food to Go Market as well. This was our first attempt at preparing packaged frozen food for sale. We had soups, comfort foods and meat pies available. A lot of love, sweat and tears went into the preparation of these items. Our freezers were absolutely jam packed but by the end of the day, there wasn't a container in site! Orders were taken and within a few weeks, we filled those orders, which ended up bringing in as much profit as the initial sale. Packages of Frozen Foods and a lovely Box of Purdy's Chocolate were all donated and sold.

We are currently preparing for a May Tea on Saturday May 27th. It will be from 2:00pm. to 3:30pm. Sandwiches, scones, tarts, shortbread and tea will be provided. Tickets at the door for \$15.00 per person. There will be shopping as well with a selection of purses, scarves, jewelry, knitting including dishcloths etc. will be available along with a book table. Something for everyone. Wear your fancy hat, put up your pinkie and enjoy!

Once again, the ladies of the UCW appreciate all the support that Collier's Congregation gives to us and together we continue to serve where we are needed. This is all done with laughter, learning and friendship. As the saying goes, you never work a day in your life if you love what you're doing. Well done ladies! If anyone wants more information regarding Collier's United Church Women, please contact Mabel Peyer or myself. - **Susan**

WE WORSHIP

The new life in the gardens at the front of the church is showing us that spring has arrived. This season of the year certainly uplifts our spirits.

Worship services in November and December were a mix of visiting ministers and presentations by our own church groups. The Board presentation in November was excellent and led to a better understanding of how the Board operates. The choir cantata in December led us into the Christmas season and the Christmas Eve Pageant let us journey to Bethlehem.

In December we also introduced White Gift Sunday and the congregation was very generous - bringing items that were needed for the outreach by the Social Justice Committee. It is certainly blessed to give, especially at this time of the year.

Our minister, Hewitt, returned in January, enriched by his experiences while on sabbatical.

The coffee hour after church encourages friendship and conversation and continues to be well received. Food is always a drawing card, and this was true even in Jesus's ministry.

The sanctuary is enhanced by the decorations used and they certainly help to portray the meaning of the church themes. This was particularly true over the Easter season.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church has been using our facilities since the fire at their church and we have shared some services with them. It was uplifting to see more faces in the congregation, but we know that whether there are many or few, God is with us.

Our choir continues to uplift us under Sandra's expert direction with their varied music and their dedication. They are certainly a family within the larger family of Collier and for this we are grateful.

There are many aspects to Sunday worship - readers, ushers, the coffee crew, music, technical team, decorators - the behind-the-scenes preparation and coordination with our minister, Hewitt, to make our worship services meaningful. To the many people who help in these areas, we are very thankful. However, willing hands make less work, and we are always looking for more volunteers, particularly with the ushering and for coffee time. If you could commit to a Sunday every few weeks, it would be great.

These are exciting times for Collier as we look to the future and new ways to build our church community. We must have faith in untraveled roads and trust that God always journeys with us. This is my prayer for our Collier community as we move forward.

Anne.

WE CARE—OUR VISITATION

It is uplifting to see signs of Spring, birds singing and flowers in bloom. They bring renewed hope.

We thank our faithful Visitors for their continued good work keeping in contact with our Church family.

Our Membership to date:
Members 314 Adherents 112

We are pleased to welcome 5 New Members to our congregation this year. We celebrate and welcome our new friends.

Sadly, we have lost 4 Members and 1 Adherent to death. We extend our con-

dolences and prayers to the families who have suffered the loss of loved ones.

If you feel called to help with Visitation, please contact:

Dorothy or Sharon



WE REMEMBER

JESSICA STEPHENS MARCH 11, 2023

JEAN SMALL MARCH 14, 2023

WHAT WE VALUE

Connection, **Community**, Creativity,

Inclusion, Love,

Transformation, & Hope

OUR INVESTMENTS

Transactions and Upcoming Projects:

- ◆ Goals for 2023-2024 – we have established the goals for the next two years. The Board will discuss them in May.
- ◆ Elevator - The Trustees transferred \$46,100.00 from the Heritage Account on Jan 19, 2023, to make the final payment for the elevator upgrade.
- ◆ The grant from the City of Barrie - Collier received \$25,000.00 from the City of Barrie once we showed the elevator upgrade had been fully paid.
- ◆ Line of Credit – The \$25 000 was applied to the line of credit, reducing it to \$65,500.00.
- ◆ The Capital Campaign – giving toward this is now complete. We have purchased a computer and two projectors from this account.
- ◆ Memorial Tree – we have agreed to write off the \$3900 used to erect the Memorial Tree from our Memorial Book Fund.
- ◆ Building Upkeep and Repairs – we plan to partner with the Property Task Force on effecting repairs to the building for the remainder of this year.
- ◆ Re-Imaging Project – we will be resourcing this project with Trinity Centres Foundation. Thanks to Kendra for such a hopeful and inspiring time on April 23 in the Hall. We are accepting any donations towards this re-imaging project for the Collier family.

Summary of Investments

Acct's	Dec 31, 2022	Mar 31, 2023
Steward's Acct 376-6747327	\$312,205.83	\$325,480.58
Heritage #1 376-6747020	\$220,995.74	\$182,181.47
Heritage # 2 541-2059429 (Re Ceba Ln)	\$30,246.75	\$30,467.88
Margin Loan 541-2761222	(\$92,547.87)	(\$65,500.00)
CEBA Loan (Due Dec 2023)	(\$40,000.00)	(\$40,000.00)
Total	\$430,900.45	\$432,629.93
UCW 541- 2894114	\$59,035.99	\$59,874.95
Capital Campaign (Trustee's Acct) 1001411	\$8,763.34 <i>(Holds \$4,463.04 Social Action Funds, +\$832.60 Trustee Funds</i> \$3,467.61 available	\$6,236.40 <i>(Holds \$4,463.04 Social Action Funds, + \$832.60 Trustee Funds</i> \$940.67 available

Marg

OUR OPERATING ACCOUNT

Collier Street United Church Income Statement			
January 1, 2023 to March 30, 2023			
Income	2022	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
Envelopes	\$ 30,598.38	\$ 39,274.35	\$ 20,640.00
Par	\$ 16,655.93	\$ 15,122.95	\$ 16,443.00
Other Revenue	\$ 35,380.72	\$ 41,502.91	\$ 26,550.55
Total Income	\$ 82,635.03	\$ 95,900.21	\$ 63,633.55
Expenses	\$ 104,945.16	\$ 101,855.67	\$ 103,764.00
Net Income/Loss	\$ (22,310.13)	\$ (5,955.46)	\$ (40,130.45)

LEADERSHIP, MENTORSHIP & GROWTH

“Where two or more are gathered, I am there.”

On April 26, 2023, the team met to discuss Missional Priorities and Strategic Planning including an evaluation of our planning processes. We opened our meeting with a short film “All That We Share”. It is about focusing on the things that unite us in these changing times.

The team was reminded of the SWOT analysis done in 2022. Then we turned our attention to the goals for 2023/2024. These include: A SWOT analysis of the Constitution will take place, and a strategic evaluation of the existing constitution and form of governance to ensure that it meets the needs of the congregation. In addition, existing leaders will become mentors for the congregation, and lead the recruitment of 7 new Board members including 2 from racialized or vulnerable communities. The priorities will be completed with input and feedback from the congregation. The team is hopeful and energized as we move forward.

Donald and Debbie

NEW AND UPDATED POLICIES

Over the past couple of months, the Church Board has reviewed our current policies and created a couple new ones. We are pleased to let you know the following policies are now available on our website for your review.

-Code of Conduct policy (New). This policy outlines the ways we wish to relate to one another in our community.

-Conflict Resolution Policy (New). The Policy outlines steps taken when there is a conflict, focusing primarily on the informal process for resolution.

-Workplace Discrimination, Harassment & Violence Response Policy (Revised). The policy outlines our commitment to providing a workplace and worship space for all that is free from discrimination, harassment, and violence.

-Communication Policy (Revised) This policy ensures that our interactions and communications represent our values and support healthy relationships within our church community.

-Rental Policy (Revised) This policy outlines our rental agreement and fee structures for outside groups and individuals who wish to use our facility. **Steve**

*Elevator Dedication—February 5, 2023
Hope and Inspiration—April 23, 2023*



*May is Asian Heritage — “The Asian culture has a profoundly different relationship to work. It rewards people who are persistent.”
Malcolm Gladwell*

