

WINTER LINK NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023



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

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

I enjoy Christmas as the beautiful season for family and various cultural foods. Last year, in 2022, I was in Kingston, Jamaica. Thanks to the sabbatical, this was my first Christmas with my parents and siblings in 10 years. With the guidance of my mother, Evelyn, and my sister (who recently visited us in Barrie), Ishia, I helped to prepare the Jamaican Christmas cake for the dessert for Christmas dinner.

Evelyn soaked the mixed fruits (prunes, cherries, currents, mixed peels, and raisins) ingredients in red (Label) wine, a small amount of rum, and molasses a few weeks before. Ishia and I got directions on how much flour and eggs to add to the soaked fruits. We then worked the mixer machine to make the cake batter, with Evelyn adding the right amount of browning. Then Ishia greased the baking pans with butter, and I poured the mixture into the pans. Evelyn and Ishia carefully placed the pans in the oven on medium-high gasoline heat until adequately steamed for roughly 2 hours. They were finished when Evelyn could confirm that the pick or knife came out clean when inserted into the cake(see picture).After baking, Evelyn brushes additional wine or rum onto the cakes to keep them moist.

JAMAICAN CHRISTMAS CAKE



This was a joyful teamwork and special family time. We enjoyed the cake with sorrel drinks, another Jamaica Christmas favourite. Evelyn packed one of the cakes for my return trip to Barrie, Canada, in late December 2022.

I remain “thankful to God for the gift of Christ” (2 Cor. 9:15) this Christmas season and the gift of being with family, which words can’t describe! I remain grateful for the Collier family in 2023, especially the stewardship of our outgoing Music Director, Sandra Ruttan.

This Christmas, I look forward to hearing about some of your Christmas traditions with family and the foods you enjoy making together. Others will happily listen to your cultural stories over tea or coffee, Christmas cake or Christmas pudding at church and elsewhere. Best wishes for this Christmas and a great 2024!



HEWITT T. HOLMES

MUSIC DIRECTOR



CHOIR

I'm looking forward to working with the choir this fall to continue providing musical leadership in our Sunday services. Besides the regular anthems, the choir will also be working on music for a special Cantata service on December 17th.

The choir will lead the congregation in a participatory service featuring traditional carols and contemporary praise and worship songs accompanied by reflections on the place of the Christmas story in our lives.



As well, in December, we will be hosting a multi-choir concert featuring the choirs of the four United Churches in Barrie and St Andrews Presbyterian Church. The presentation will be individual and combined.

If there are people who would like to join the choir just to work on the Cantata and Choir event music with us, you are invited to come to our choir practices for the first hour starting in October.

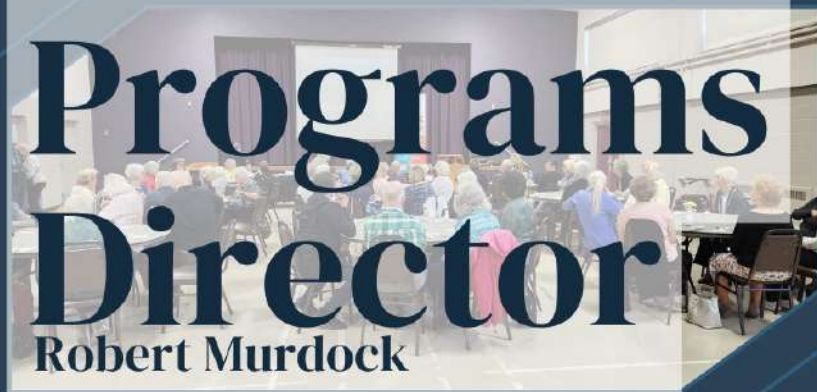
If anyone would like to join choir on a regular basis please come practice with us anytime!

Additionally, we will be welcoming guest musicians again for special services and continuing to be blessed by piano preludes from the dedicated pianists in our congregation.

-Sandra Ruttan

Programs Director

Robert Murdock



About

Well, it has certainly been an exciting few months as our Programs get up and running. They are all gaining momentum and are being supported by our church community and beyond. Each program focuses on aspects of communal engagement, social activity, mental and physical health, and spiritual well-being.

Senior Programs



Some of the highlights of the year so far have included: the Glory Way concert with an international quartet from Ohio, several senior's

luncheons with interesting and engaging guests including a delightful "service dog" from the Lions Club organization. Tea-Time Tuesdays- a chance for tea/coffee, a "sweetie" and a chat, are weather dependent but there is a solid core group of attendees. Our Wellness Class with Janine is catching on too!! We are looking forward to the following events in October, November and December:

ACTIVITY	DATE
<p>TEA-TIME TUESDAYS <i>Meet and Chat (Board Member attending)</i></p>	<p>Every 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Tuesdays (1-2 p.m.)</p>
<p>SENIOR'S LUNCHEONS (limited to 50 attendees) 1. <i>Health Fair with five different senior's groups promoting health care.</i> 2. <i>Canada- a place for refugee? A personal experience</i> 3. <i>A Christmas Special</i></p>	<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED 1. October 17: 12-1pm 2. November 21: 12-1pm 3. December 19: 12-1pm</p>
<p>SENIOR'S WELLNESS CLASS <i>with Reikki Master-Janine Graham.</i> <i>Senior's chair yoga, stretching, meditation and relaxation techniques</i></p>	<p>Every Thursday 10-11 am</p>
<p>COLLIER'S MEN'S BREAKFAST <i>Open to any one from Collier's Community or associated with a member. Cottage Canoe Restaurant 453 Dunlop Street (at Ferndale) 9:00 am</i></p>	<p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED Friday, October 20 Friday, November 17 Friday, December 15</p>
<p>A CHRISTMAS CAROL <i>A dramatic reading production featuring Collier folk. Produced and directed by two veteran's of the CBC production-Rob Murdock and Laurie Lang. Music with Sandra Ruttan. (Not suitable for children under 8.)</i></p>	<p>TICKETS \$10 Friday, December 08 7:00 pm</p>

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Happy Autumn! The Fall Colours and the temperatures have been amazing this year. I hope that you've been able to get out for some nature walks and were able to enjoy the scenery. Both UCW units are back in "session" and enjoying being back together once again. We have two groups within our UCW. Amicae meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm, and Wo He Lo meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 1:00pm. This year, we've decided to pare back our fundraising projects for several reasons but it doesn't mean that we aren't an active part of the Collier congregation.

We may look at doing some more Outreach programs throughout the year or something else might come along that fits our abilities. For now, several of our ladies have been helping Anne Snell with the Sunday Morning Coffee time through set up/serve/cleanup and even baking some goodies.

A new project that we've taken on this year which has proven to be most successful is in teaming up with the Senior's Luncheon. On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, our team, headed up by Lynn Dolmage, has been cleaning up and doing the dishes after the luncheon which is a catered event.

Also, the Tea Time Tuesdays, our team has been supplying Coffee and Tea and small baked goods for Coffee time. It is a nice opportunity for seniors to get together and enjoy a tasty treat mid-day. Even if you are not a UCW member, please reach out to either Anne or Lynn to see if you can help. The more the merrier! Thank you.

Our Purdy's Christmas Chocolate Sale has just started and we look forward to receiving our order at the end of November.

As always, if you are interested in becoming a member of one of the UCW units, please reach out to either myself or Mabel Peyer. To quote the UCW Purpose: "To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service."

-Susan Storning



WORSHIP

REPORT

**SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30AM
IN PERSON & ONLINE**

During the summer we had shared services with St. Andrew's for July and part of August. These services worked out very well and St. Andrew's hosted a delicious lunch as a thank you at our last July service. The services at St. Vincent Park during August had a different slant and were well received. The Potluck Picnic showed how people can be brought together and how much they enjoy it. Involvement is the key.

The last Sunday in September was the Credence Service with the emphasis on building community. People shared and it was evident that setting up tables with a certain number of people at each table generates much better discussion than speaking from the floor. Of course, the potluck lunch was a big drawing card too. Sharing food at a table builds community and this is what Jesus taught us through the celebration of communion. Coffee Hour after the morning service is popular. People are lingering to talk with each other-again, building community. We do need more helpers to assist with the Coffee Hour. In decorating the sanctuary, we follow the yearly themes. Deb Tyler is a big help in this area. As well, Deb and her Garden Committee kept the church gardens beautifully this summer.

Reformation Sunday was celebrated on October 29th and it was delightful to see the sea of red in the congregation. The All Saints and Remembrance Day Service on November 5th was very meaningful as we remembered the ones we lost this year from our congregation and those who sacrificed their lives in war.

The organ and trumpet music and the tolling of the bell certainly added to the service. November 19 is this Anniversary Sunday and then we begin preparations for Advent and Christmas. December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent, is Communion Sunday. December 10 is White Gift Sunday followed by the Choir Cantata at the morning service on December 17th. The afternoon of the 17th there is a Christmas Presentation by the four United Churches and St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Barrie. December 24th there is a morning service and an evening service. The evening Christmas Eve service will be shared with St. Andrew's. More information will follow about these services.

Many people contribute to the smooth running of our services -ushers, readers, the music ministry, our technical crew, the coffee crew, and, of course, our minister. We are grateful to all these people, especially the ones who volunteer their time so willingly. Willing hands make lighter work and we are always looking for people to share their talents through ushering, reading or on the coffee crew. By sharing the load we can make good things happen. -Anne Snell



CONNECTING

VISITATION

We look forward to the Fall and busy Christmas Season ahead at Collier Street United Church. We are blessed with many opportunities to connect with our friends at Collier over the next couple of months. Our dedicated team of Visitors are ready to reach out and provide care to our Church Family in person or by phone, e-mail or texts prior to our next Communion Service on December 3, 2023.

The Link Newsletter will be available for this visitation also. It has been suggested that next year we have two main visits with families, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Please welcome your Visitor and feel free to ask questions or make known your preferred method of contact. The care and support of our Collier Family has always been our top priority. With God's guidance, we will determine the best approach to achieve this. The best of the Christmas Season to all. With gratitude to our Visitors for all you do.

-Sharon Crossley and Dorothy Schonewille



COLLIER GARDEN CLUB

HIGHLIGHT

The members of the Collier Garden Club have now put the church gardens to bed for another season. Our future plan is to maintain the existing gardens by organizing plants so that some of the gardens don't look so cluttered, placing taller plants at the back of the gardens, control the Milkweed, plant more perennials and annuals, sod the garden next to the church hall doors, fix the front garden so that the soil isn't spilling out onto the sidewalk, create a path with stepping stones in the garden with the pantry (Care garden), plus continue to weed and water. In the spring we will be looking for help getting compost from the Barrie Dump to apply to the gardens plus mulch.

The Hope garden at the end of the parking lot requires a dump truck full of good soil before we can make this a beneficial venture with vegetables. Plus more volunteers will be needed to care for this garden properly. So until soil and more volunteers are available the Garden Club has decided that maybe a few tomato plants and herbs be planted in this garden and the plants that are currently in the plot be maintained.

Mabel Payer, Marion Tizzard, Ria Won, Robin Milani, Lynn Dolmage, Donna Martin and Deb Tyler would like to thank Vickie and Wayne for their constant support and thank the members of the congregation for their comments of encouragement.

Remember no experience is required to be a member of this club. If interested in joining please talk to one of the members. We will welcome your assistance. The members of the Garden Club wish you a Merry Christmas and a 2024 filled with happiness, love and health. -Deb Tyler



TRUSTEES

TRANSACTIONS AND PROJECTS

1. Line of Credit-

- Line of credit is currently \$86,500.00. \$25,000.00 was advanced from the line of credit on April 13 /23 to cover the overdraft and meet the outstanding payroll. Effective October, we increased the monthly loan repayment from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per month. We also aim to pay the monthly interest.

2. Re-Imagining Project-

- We have paid Trinity Centres Foundation \$14,972.50 for this project. \$13,319.50 has come from the Heritage account, with the remainder being provided by private donations. We are accepting any donations towards this re-imagining project for the Collier family, especially as we look towards the discussion and decision phases in the coming months.

3. Drawdowns-

- \$3715.41 was transferred from Steward's Account on Jul 11/23 re Elevator One Annual Renewal Fee. \$40,000.00 was taken from the Steward's account to cover operating expenses for September and October. The Trustees are holding \$20,000 for upcoming operating expenses and final repayment of the CEBA Loan due early next year, 2024.

4. The Market-

- The markets are down, and the accounts are experiencing some drop in value. RBC will tell us more at the AGM in 2024

INVESTMENTS

Accounts	Mar 31, 2023	OCT 31/2023
Steward's Acct 376-6747327	\$325,480.58	\$266,018.75
Heritage Acct #1 376-6747020	\$182,181.47	\$163,847.60
Heritage Acct # 2 541-2059429 (Re Ceba Ln)	\$30,467.88	\$31,190.79
Margin Loan 541-2761222	(\$65,500.00)	(\$86,500.00)
CEBA Loan (Due January 18, 2024)	(\$40,000.00)	(\$40,000.00)
Total	\$432,629.93	\$334,557.14
UCW 541-2894114	\$59,874.95	\$57,109.90
Trustee's Acct. #1001411	\$6,236.40 <i>(Holds \$4,463.04 Social Action Funds, +\$832.69 Trustee Funds) \$940.67 available</i>	\$35,616.73 <i>(Holds \$3072.29 Social Action Funds, \$1582.00 Trinity Ctr Fnds. \$20,832.69 Trustee Funds) \$ 129.75 available</i>

OPERATING

Thank you to all who have contributed their time, treasure and talent to help realize a less-than-budgeted loss YTD to the end of September.

Collier Street United Church Income Statement

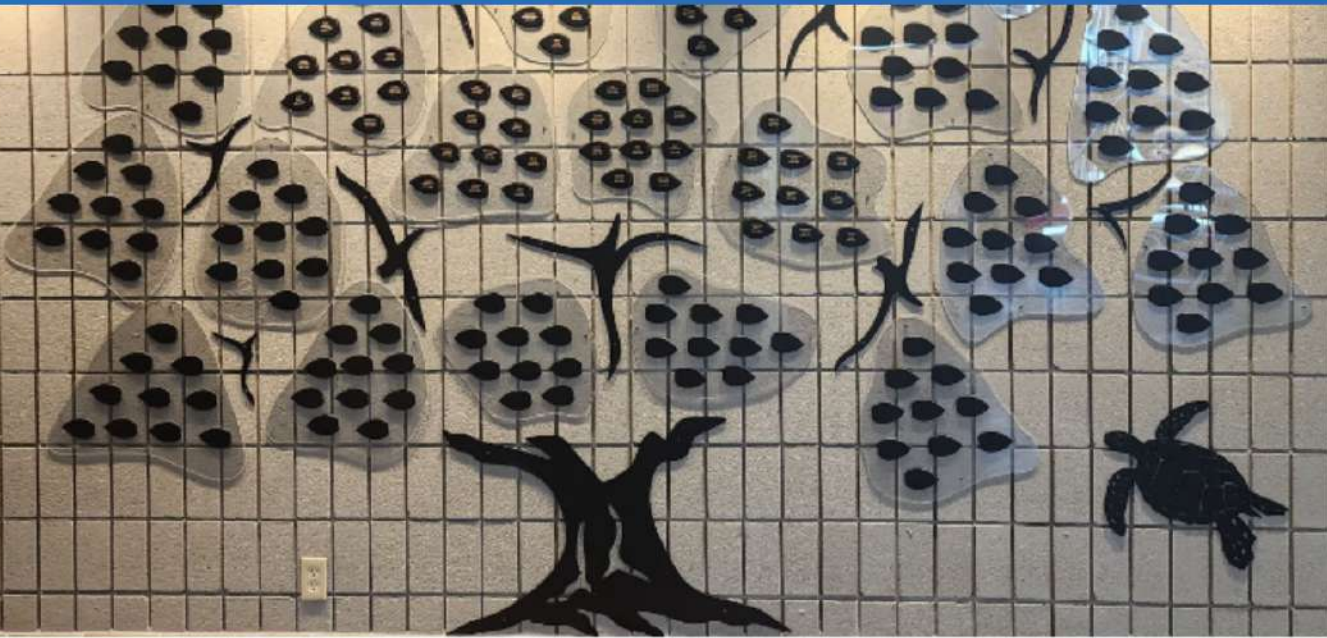
January 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

Income	2022	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
Envelopes	\$ 82,562.97	\$ 93,201.68	\$ 73,680.00
Par	\$ 48,270.81	\$ 43,465.50	\$ 48,447.00
Other Revenue	\$ 103,829.64	\$ 121,760.16	\$ 107,219.95
Total Income	\$ 234,663.42	\$ 258,427.34	\$ 229,346.95
Expenses	\$ 316,494.33	\$ 321,002.80	\$ 315,024.38
Net Income/Loss	\$ (81,830.91)	\$ (62,575.46)	\$ (85,677.43)



Scan to Donate Here!

REMEMBRANCE



- Ruth Boake
- Ken Byles
- Anne Campbell
- Ron Carter
- Madelyn Crawford
- Charles(Gord)Etter
- Eleanor Forsyth
- Esther Gregan
- Alan Hodgkinson
- Tom King
- Stacey Lepage
- Jean Little
- Jack McAdam
- Keith Richards
- Jean Small
- Jessica Stephens
- Sandra Trumble
- Fee Won

THE JOURNEY

There has been lots of activity on our Re-Imagining Project! The project began in April with our first congregational workshop; we had a second workshop in June, and then during the summer five neighbourhood listening sessions were held. Even with all of that activity, it's important to note that we are currently in the second phase of this project – the Discussion Phase.



INFORMATION

Our Re-Imagining journey progressed this past Sunday when Collier received our "Lifting the Lid" Report from Trinity Centres Foundation [TCF]. Dave Harder of TCF presented the data from the comprehensive review of Collier, and the surrounding community, which included:

- Examining the city and neighbourhood demographics,
- Listening to community stakeholders,
- Reflecting on city-identified needs and priorities, and
- Identifying the financial opportunities associated with both a community hub and a development.

Given the proprietary information contained in the report, it won't be posted online or shared broadly at this time. As a Collier member, you can obtain a copy of the report by attending the church office. Receipt of TCF's report is the last step in our Information Phase. To support working through the findings and options for Collier's Re-Imagining, we are now moving into the Discussion Phase.

DISCUSSION

Small group discussions hosted by the Task Force will be held throughout November to February. There are 15 sessions scheduled in total on the right side of this page.

Please plan on attending one, two or any number of these discussion sessions so we can share, listen to each other, and discern the Re-Imagining process, what it means for Collier, and how we can support each other as we work through the project.

Should you have any questions at any time, please reach out to Hewitt, Laurie Crosson or Lianne Patterson. You can also email your question to collierunited@rogers.com. We are 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!

DECISION

The final phase for this project is Decision. Our Decision on Collier's Re-Imagining is planned to take place at the Annual General Meeting next year on Sunday, February 25th. The AGM is 3 ½ months from now so we have lots of time ahead of us for discussion, to clarify information, and ensure full understanding of the options.

UPCOMING DATES

- NOVEMBER 13TH - 10AM
- NOVEMBER 21ST - 7PM
- NOVEMBER 30TH - 4PM
- DECEMBER 2ND - 11AM
- DECEMBER 3RD - 12PM
- DECEMBER 6TH - 10AM
- DECEMBER 11TH - 7PM (ZOOM)
- DECEMBER 15TH - 1PM
- JANUARY 10TH - 7PM
- JANUARY 20TH - 10AM
- JANUARY 25TH - 5PM (ZOOM)
- JANUARY 28TH - 12PM
- JANUARY 30TH - 10AM
- FEBRUARY 10TH - 10AM
- FEBRUARY 21ST - 1PM

RE-IMAGINING TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Lianne Patterson,
- Laurie Crosson,
- Rev. Hewitt Holmes,
- Sharon Crossley,
- Anne Snell,
- Sandra Dowds,
- Katherine Fairbarn-McDonald,
- Ian Knox,
- Terry Tizzard
- Bonnie Jerney

SOCIAL MEDIA

THE NEW PAMPHLET

Since August 25th, Collier Street United Church has been dedicated to updating our social media to make information easier to access!

We have a new Collier Pamphlet that talks about the wonderful nature of our church and the services that we provide, as well as some new promotional posters that feature our upcoming events.



UPCOMING EVENTS

11/19 187th Anniversary
12/08 Dickens Production
12/17 Christmas Cantata
12/24 Christmas Eve-7pm

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!





OUR VALUES
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CONNECTION
COMMUNITY
CREATIVITY
INCLUSION
LOVE
TRANSFORMATION
HOPE
.....





www.collierunited.ca