

BURTON AVENUE
UNITED CHURCH

"We are not alone. We live in God's world."

June
2019



Volume 19
Issue 2

KEEPING IN TOUCH

"To know God through Jesus Christ, and to reflect God's love as the Church in a changing community and world."



Summer Newsletter

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Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday—9:30-12:30

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Well it does not feel like June today as I write this, since the temperature has dropped and there is a cold breeze blowing. And yet I know that it is June as programs are winding down with leaders and participants taking a break after a very busy time in the last few months. That busy-ness of our community of faith has been filled with many joyous moments, days of deep growth and learning and times of planning and doing. The joyous moments are many..... I was so happy to celebrate the ministry of my beloved colleague and friend, Rev. Patricia Gale-MacDonald as we marked her retirement. I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to work in team ministry with her, to have followed her as your Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care because of the solid foundation of love and strong faith she had laid within this community. We recently baptized two beautiful babies - *Hayley Marguerite Birks* and *Henry Michael Cook Buchanan* – and discovered connections that reminded us of the importance of being willing to say yes to welcoming families in this way. We blessed the participants of the 2019 Open Hands Youth Mission to Guatemala in worship and were blessed one Sunday with the children offering a beautiful gift in song.

Our days of deep growth and learning included a Mental Health Awareness Sunday. With exceptional leadership from our Outreach Committee we had our hearts and our understanding expanded to the need for openness in sharing our stories of mental health and our need to be caring advocates. Our Women's Spirituality Group spent time in self-reflection and discovery at their retreat weekend. It was a time to wonder about how they relate to others and how this can help us to better understand and care for one another. Sixteen of us, long time members, brand new attendees and others in between, gathered with Rev. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd from Winnipeg as she visits churches across Canada during her sabbatical project on *"Thriving United Churches"*. Not only were we excited to share what is helping us to be a faithful community of followers of Jesus but we were also willing to wonder about what we might need to change as we grow in numbers and in our ways in order to answer God's call to make a difference. Check out Loraine's blog <https://thrivingunitedchurches.home.blog/contact/>

Our planning and doing brought our Truth and Reconciliation Group and many others in our congregation into partnership with the Barrie Native Friendship Center to provide refreshments for the Barrie Pow Wow. Congregational Life, Alan McGee and the help of others enabled us to open our space to accommodate the 1st Annual Meeting of the United Church Women of Shining Waters Region. They were thrilled with our welcome, our space and Alan's fine food. Our Life Long Learning Committee are gearing up for our fall camp weekend at Sparrow Lake and offering us a unique way to help cover costs. Our Vacation Bible Camp Leaders are gearing up with registrations and planning for another Camp Awesome.

Yes, indeed, in this Season of Pentecost our hearts are on fire with passion and compassion for God's world and people and for our community of faith. Our groups and committees and Board and our Sunday gatherings are opening the doors and windows of who we have been and who we are in order for the Holy Spirit to blow into the midst of all that we say and do as God's people. As you travel through the summer months may you long to be filled with the desire to stay connected in whatever way you can with each other and with your community of faith here at Burton Ave United. And on those days when you are away from here, may the Holy Spirit dance and sing in and through your lives and all that you experience.

Andrea Wheaton, DLM, Minister of Word, Sacrament & Pastoral Care

May 24, 2019

Dear friends

I am still basking in the glow of my Retirement Celebration on May 5! The service itself was beautifully crafted and filled with special music and readings. Two exquisite baskets of my favourite spring flowers, created by Brenda Young, graced the front of the Sanctuary. The deeply moving Litany of Recognition and Thanksgiving that was written by Andrea Wheaton involved many beloved members of the congregation. The kind words spoken by my family, and by Cassie Edgar, Maggie Haynes, Lisa Edgar, Al Scarth, Catherine Fletcher, Islay Scott and Cathy Manzato were a wonderful affirmation of the ministry we have done together over the last 19 years. The gifts I was given were so thoughtfully chosen: a Memory Book with gorgeous leather binding, made by Anthony Butler, that I will always treasure; Catherine Fletcher's beautifully made "Grandma's bag" that is covered with the handprints of the children of the Rainbow Club and filled with all kinds of treasures for a grandmother of five; the generous cheque for \$3770 that will go directly into our special "Travel Fund"; and the shock and surprise of being named "Minister Emeritus" for Burton Ave United Church. I am deeply honoured and humbled by this designation. Thank you, more than I can say.

I want to say a special thank you to those who were involved in the planning of the service: Islay Scott, who was the Chair of the Planning Committee and who spent countless hours making the connections needed to bring the service together; Katie Pergau and Andrea, who also spent many hours writing the service and coordinating the music with the readings. I also want to thank all the members of the Planning Committee: Bev Butler, Lisa Edgar, Nicole Masuda, Linda Morris, Vera Pipher, John Sawyers and Islay Scott. Thank you to Kenji Masuda for preparing the slideshow shown through the Prelude; to Katie Pergau and the Choir for the blessing of their ministry of music; to Harv Garraway for his touching time with the children; to Kim and Steve Stoll for leading us in a rousing rendition of "This Little Light of Mine"; to Dan Pergau for his violin accompaniment to the hymn "Here I Am Lord", and to the Congregational Life Committee who organized the wonderful reception that followed the service. The celebration on Sunday was an experience of community at its very best, of people coming together to celebrate who we are at Burton Ave.

I also want to thank two very special people that I worked with for many years at Burton Ave. Lynn and Doug Garraway were both on staff when I arrived here in 2000. Lynn was the secretary and was at the heart of all that happened at the church. She welcomed me warmly, helped me find my place and over the years became a treasured friend. Doug was the Minister of Music. Like our Katie, Doug not only played music with his hands, he also played with his heart. He was an extraordinary musician who used his talent not only on Sunday mornings but also coordinated music concerts as fundraisers for causes he believed in. Thank you, Lynn and Doug, for all that you were, and continue to be, to our congregation and to me personally.

As we move forward into the future, my full support will continue to be with Andrea, my beloved colleague and friend. Andrea and I have been part of the Barrie ministerial since 2000, but our friendship really began when she became involved in the work in Nicaragua in 2010. Since then, Andrea has been to Nicaragua four times, twice with adult missions, once as a leader of a youth mission and once as a leader of a young adult mission. Working in a team ministry with Andrea over the past four years has been one of my greatest joys in 36 years of ministry. The many gifts that she brings to the congregation, including her deep faith, her personal integrity and her passion for justice are exactly the gifts we need at this time to lead our congregation into the future. The church is in good hands: Andrea's, and also those of the other committed members of the Ministry Team: Katie Pergau, Alan McGee, Wayne Armstrong and Stacey Brayford. And of course, the church is also in the hands of each one of us. Each member of the congregation is called to minister through the particular gifts God has given us. Together, we are the church. Together, we will continue to discern who and where God is calling us to be.

I have been richly blessed through the 19 years I have been at Burton. I am so grateful for all the gifts, challenges and opportunities that have come to me along the way. It has been an honour and a privilege to minister amongst you and with you.

With my gratitude and love, Rev Pat (Minister Emeritus)

Message From The Chair

There was a time at Burton Avenue, not so very long ago, when everything pretty well stopped for the summer. Summer Sunday morning services usually meant a supply minister and supply music director and a very small congregation. I even remember Sundays with no announcements at all. (I know it's hard to believe.) Just another example of how much we have changed over the years as we approach the summer now with much still in progress.

With the windows thrown open and the summer breeze blowing through the sanctuary, the services are relaxed and interactive. There are opportunities for members of the congregation to participate who wouldn't normally do so - offer a musical gift or spend time with the children or serve lemonade in the lounge. Summer services can bring unexpected, unforgettable opportunities to hear God's voice in a new way.

The Board will meet in June and then break for two months but the work of the Board will continue through the summer. The needs in our community, in our world, don't take a break. We are still looking for a Treasurer to take on the role in December. We are at work on updating our Plan of Organization. There are several exciting new ministries just getting started - the Listening Post and a new seniors Community Kitchen.

The City of Barrie will be holding a public meeting to discuss zoning changes to the properties on Cumberland between William and Essa Road. This major development will change the community around our church and it is important that we understand what will be happening and are prepared to meet the challenges it will bring.

Every Full Board meeting when I look out over our constantly growing and changing committee membership I am in awe at the commitment from so many to the work of this church - commitment that doesn't take a break. I was so proud to have been one of the ten thriving churches chosen by Rev. Dr. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd for her study on May 12. There were a few things mentioned in that conversation that I was pleasantly surprised by. More than one person mentioned our practice of welcoming new members into leadership and our ability to embrace and bring to fruition new ideas as two reasons for our success. Change is always hard but it is inevitable and it will always bring good and bad. The key is to develop the good and fix the bad and prepare for the next wave of change.

Summer blessings, Cathy

RAINBOW CLUB

Thank you to the Rainbow Club teachers for all they have done this past year as they look forward to a much deserved summer break. To keep our Sunday School running all summer we need volunteers. You only need to volunteer for one Sunday (more if you like) and the lessons are pre-planned and easy to follow. Please consider doing this. See Catherine Fletcher 705-792-6052 or cathken@rogers.com. **Police check required.** Thanks!



Treasurer's Report May 2019 YTD

As the deadline for submission for this newsletter was before the financial statements were completely finalized, please consider the following results to be a pretty good estimate of where we were at to the end of May. Having said that, where we were at is in a somewhat unusual position, but thankfully in a good way.

Our total receipts for the first five months of this year were \$134,668 compared to \$152,667 over the same period in 2018, which was a decrease of \$17,999. All of this decrease can be accounted for by the ending of the Outreach Position Transfer due to Rev. Pat's retirement. On the positive side, our local giving was up \$9,056 compared to the same period last year.

Our total expenses for the first five months were \$134,076 versus \$157,423 last year, which represented a decrease of \$23,347. This decrease can also be attributed to the ending of the Outreach Position previously mentioned.

As a result, we are in the somewhat unusual situation of ending the first five months of this year with a small surplus compared to last year's operating deficit of \$4,756. Of further note is that these numbers include paying the first half of this year's budgeted floor renovation project, which is scheduled to be installed over the summer.

So, as we head into the slower months of summer, we do so in a strong financial position, and for that, we are truly blessed. If you plan to be away from church over the summer, please consider the use of preauthorized remittance (PAR) or leaving your envelope(s) with post-dated cheque(s) with the church office.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries here at Burton Avenue United Church.

Sincerely,

Alan J. McGee

Treasurer

New Program — The Kitchen Club will be starting in the next few weeks. It is a 'community kitchen' in that participants get together to prep and cook meals and take them home to the freezer. Participants engage in planning meals, preparation, and cooking. They can learn about healthy eating and get some healthy meals into their sometimes single lives. Research tells us that community kitchens can have positive impacts on social support networks, education, and personal health practices. The Kitchen Club Steering Committee will be looking for a Project Coordinator who will manage all aspects of this program. It will be a part-time (approximately 5 hours per week) one year contract. For more information about the position please contact a member of the steering committee: Alan McGee, Miriam Oben and Cathy Manzato or call Peggy Gemmell at 705 719 1438 or email peggygemmell@sympatico.ca.

Worship Committee

Summer is soon upon us and we hope will bring with it some seasonal weather. We at least can look forward to holiday weeks or outings and opportunities to visit family and friends. We continue to worship at the same time, 10 a.m., each Sunday morning using much the same form of worship although some of the Sundays will have pulpit supply and generally we follow the more relaxed feeling of the season. We encourage you to worship with us when you are in Barrie but also to find God wherever you may be.

Pulpit supply will be provided on July 7 and 14 and August 4, 11 and 18. On some of these Sundays, the message will be given by lay members or groups from within our congregation. It is so good to have the willingness of folks to participate in this way and we hope that you will support them as they offer stewardship through worship leadership.

As you receive this we will have celebrated communion on Pentecost. What an exciting Sunday! Innovative worship and the reaffirming of their baptism by five confirmands. We congratulate them for their thoughtful preparation and the commitment they have made.

If you wish to contribute your time or talent during summer worship as an usher, elevator operator, Power-Point team or worship leadership, please contact Brenda Young.

Brenda Young

Worship Committee; Brenda Young, Miriam Oben, Rick Williams, Bob Gill, Jane Rees, Peter Sullivan, Chris Haynes, Katie Pergau

Powerpoint – Are you interested in running the powerpoint on Sundays for **July & August?** It can be prepared for you, so you just have to set up the laptop and run it. Speak to Brad Hampshire or Andrea Wheaton for more information.

CAMP AWESOME 2019

July 22-26

"THE LEADER IN ME"

9 am to 12 pm here at Burton Ave United

ALL CHILDREN AGES 5 -12 ARE WELCOME!

\$40 per child or \$65 per family, as you are able.



We will explore how we can be part of our community...Through games that allow us to exercise our bodies and minds...Through crafts that allow us to be creatively engaged...Through music that causes a joyful sound. Through stories that expand our knowledge. And most importantly through fun and adventure being together!

Registration Forms available in the foyer!

Administration Committee

The year started out quiet – then came time for routine maintenance for fire safety equipment, furnace – no heat call. Two visits for elevator repairs, two false alarms (fire calls) set off by faulty heat sensors, broken basement window and side door repaired thanks to Chris Haynes, potholes filled in parking lot, replacement of battery for phone and internet backup power – and the list goes on.

A new floor will be installed during the last week of July in the lower level, hall, etc.

Jim has been very busy looking after rentals and leases. Also updating the contact info on fire booklets at each entrance – thanks to Stacey for the help.

Our custodian Wayne Armstrong is doing a great job of cleaning and general maintenance.

We appreciate the work and help to set up tables and chairs for different occasions.

Lyle Edwards, Jim Macfarlane, Eric Boone and Norm Lusty (ad hoc)

Photo Directory – we are hoping to print/email an updated photo directory by the end of June.

If you **do not** wish to have your name, phone number, address included, please contact the church office.

Life Long Learning Committee

Sunday April 7th, we had a craft table set up for the children during coffee time. There were many bunnies bouncing around that day!

On Friday May 10th, we held a family movie night in the auditorium. Approximately 35 adults & kids came out to enjoy Racing Stripes, popcorn, sundaes and fellowship. We were able to raise \$150 towards camp expenses!

Sparrow Lake Camp is Friday, September 13 - Sunday, September 15. The cost is \$55 per adult and \$45 per child. (or pay over or under that amount, as you are able) Kids under 5 are free. If you are interested in coming up for the day on Saturday, it is \$25 per person and will include all meals & activities. In order to help with the additional activity costs, we are in the midst of a fundraiser. \$20 for a paddle (waterfront activities) & \$10 for a bulls eye (archery).

Sign up and fundraising ends June 9th!

If you are unable to afford camp and would like to go, please speak to Andrea. If there is a lifeguard in the congregation that is coming to camp weekend, we would have the opportunity to save on activity costs as we have the option to provide our own lifeguard. We would cover that person's costs for camp! Please speak to Nicole or Marni if able and interested in being our lifeguard for Saturday activities.

Nicole Masuda, Marni O'Brien, Sally Telford, Sheena Fletcher-Hoving, Shelley Cliche & Briana O'Brien

Congregational Life

Welcome Spring, Summer is close behind!

Well since the last newsletter our committee has been busy spending a lot of time in the kitchen!

- May 5: we organized the buffet table and clean up for Reverend Pat's Retirement Celebration
- May 12: Linda Hudson organized another very successful annual trip to Cookstown Theatre to see Hello Dolly. Approximately 28 people of all ages enjoyed this great show. Lunch at Hot Stacks preceded this adventure!
- May 13: Alan McGee courageously took on the task of providing breakfast, 2 lunches, and a dinner for the UCW meeting. Members of the Congregational Life Committee provided sandwiches and dessert plus some members were able to help out both days. Well done Alan and Brenda (who was behind the scenes).
- May 28: Our committee gathered to clean all three kitchens/kitchenettes, fridges, freezers, stoves, cupboards, dishes, etc. It was a BIG task and it took all morning. We used lots of elbow grease and had lots of laughs. Now we all need a new manicure!

Watch for these upcoming celebrations:

- June 9: Confirmation Sunday with cake served at Coffee time.
- June 16: Birthday Sunday and Father's Day celebrations with cake AND ice cream served at Coffee time.

We extend a SPECIAL thank you to Joan Carruthers for the wonderful cookies she made for Easter. Also a "THANK YOU" to everyone who has helped in any way with Coffee time in the last year. Whether you set up or put away tables, washed down table cloths, swept the floor, helped clear the dirty dishes off the tables and take them in the kitchen, washed some dishes, served coffee, brought in milk, creamer, cookies or treats or anything else we thank you! The list is endless but you know who you are and the Congregational Life Committee applauds you!

Starting the end of June we will switch to serving juice and cookies upstairs in the lounge after our Sunday service. This takes 10 minutes to set up and the same to clear up so please consider signing up for an upcoming Sunday this Summer. Training if needed is always available.

Watch the weekly bulletin for a possible summer pool party!

Alita and Valerie (Chairs), Linda, Lynn, Janet, Nancy and Cheryl (our 'newbie' this year).

Listening Post Barrie

We nurture listeners and create spaces in Barrie where people can be heard one-on-one with compassion, respect and in confidence because listening is a gift for both the sharer and the listener.

The Listening Post: Where, What and Why?

Where? Each Thursday morning in a small alcove behind a screen on the main floor of the **Busby Centre** is a sign that says *“Welcome to the Listening Post. We welcome you to a quiet space devoted to listening. Be free to sit in silence. If you wish to talk one-on-one we are here to listen with compassion, respect and in confidence.”*

Each shift, two listeners welcome visitors into the space, invite them to sit down and share their story at one of two separate sitting locations prepared to create a calm, inviting space with colourful scarves, a lit candle and tissues. So far we have had mornings where we have had as few as 3 and up to 9 visitors to the Listening Post, but for us the sign of success is how we, as listeners, have been present to each person who has come - accepting them without the need to advise, correct, or fix whatever situation they find themselves.

As a way to promote the importance of listening in our community, the Listening Post has also hosted two **pop up listening** events in Barrie. This is when we go out into a public space in groups of 2 or more and hold homemade signs that say *“Free Listening.”* We do not approach people except to say hello and indicate that we are open to a conversation. People come to us and ask us what we are doing. We tell them that we are here to listen with respect and compassion.

What? The Listening Post Barrie has two parts to its vision. The first is to nurture listeners...helping people learn the art of deep listening, letting them practice and reflect on how to be present to someone as they share their story. The second part of our vision is to create safe places in Barrie where people can be heard with compassion, respect and in confidence. That is what we are creating at the Busby Centre by showing up every week. Once we are established there, our hope is to expand to other sites where safe listening can happen on a regular basis.

Why? When people ask us why we are doing this we tell them. It’s because we believe people have a lot on their hearts and that we personally know how important being heard has been for us in our lives. We also believe that listening is a gift not just for the one being heard but for the listener also. As listeners, our hearts are expanded when we hear the lived reality of another human being. We discover places within ourselves where we hold prejudices, fears and judgements that we need to release in order to be a more compassionate presence in the world. Another gift of having no other agenda other than to listen and understand, we learn to trust in the wisdom that each person has within them. The last time we hosted a pop up listening event we had 3 listeners and 9 people share their story in a period of two hours.

We seek to recognize that “no visitor arrives without a gift and no guest leaves without a blessing.”

John O’Donahue

If you are interested in training or have questions about the Listening Post please email Ruth McDonald at listeningpostbarrie@gmail.com.

Truth and Reconciliation News

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee had a busy spring! As part of the new relationship we are building with the Barrie Native Friendship Centre we volunteered to host the hospitality tent at the 2019 BNFC Pow Wow held on June 1 and 2 at Sunnidale Park. It was lots of fun and lots of work.

Planning was detailed at meetings held in April and May. How many loaves of bread, and how much filling, fresh fruit, carrots and muffins would be needed and how would we set it all up? Other area U.C. congregants and representatives from KAIROS joined in to help out.

Finally the weekend for celebration arrived. There was cloud and there was sunshine. There was rain and clear blue sky. The trees stood tall, the grass carpet green and the people joined round in a circle. The wind swirled with as much energy as the dancers that the beating drums called to come out.

Young and old alike stepped up to the beat; the youth with boisterous enthusiasm, the older ones with gentle respect for the earth beneath their feet. Our eyes delighted in the colourful regalia of feathers, ribbons and intricate beadwork. Special songs, prayers and ceremonies acknowledged the struggles and remembered those who are no longer walking this earth.

While taking a brief moment's rest, the dancers and drummers came by the hospitality tent where we welcomed them. They found some nourishment and offered a small word of thanks. We too felt grateful to have been given the privilege of providing a small service in a gesture of reconciliation and love.

Thanks to all those who helped out, as well as those who stopped by to honour our Indigenous friends with their presence. Watch next for our special June 23rd worship service to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day and the Summer Solstice.

Submitted on behalf of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee: Pat MacDonald, Colin MacDonald, Julie McGonegal, Jane Rees, Islay Scott, Jane Sullivan, Selene Taylor.

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Resource Corner

Check out the corner of resources just outside the Lounge.

Both the Affirm Team and the Truth & Reconciliation Committee have compiled books and other resources that you can borrow .

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The Guatemala Youth mission is collecting small toys, stuffed animals, toy cars, action figures, etc for preschool children. The toys can be new or gently-used. Donations can be left in the office until June 27.

Church Office Summer Hours: We begin our shortened hours the first week of July until Sept. 4. During that time the office is only open **Wed. & Thurs. from 9:30 am–12:30 pm**. Andrea Wheaton can still be reached in the office by phone Mon-Thurs, unless on vacation.

Local and World Outreach

safeTALK Training

On March 30th, Burton Avenue Church held a safeTALK training for 24 participants, consisting mostly of members of Burton Avenue Church, along with a few of their friends and family members. In this training, the participants learned to better recognize when someone has suicidal thoughts and to then know how to help connect that person with thoughts of suicide to further resources in the community. This training will hopefully help to increase the safety of our church community, as well as the greater Barrie community. This is training we hope to offer again in the future as we had a great response and positive feedback.

Lucy's Place

It is nice to see residents at Lucy's Place settled in and enjoying the spring weather sitting outside their apartments in Muskoka chairs and using the facilities. Back in March several members of BAUC went into Lucy's Place to get on their knees, get dirty, and assist with the renovations. Let's just say they were a little tired and sore for the next couple of days after that. It's amazing how dilapidated this motel was before the renovation process began. It was truly inspiring to see other volunteers offering their time, including Mayor Jeff Lehman, putting together furniture in the rooms.

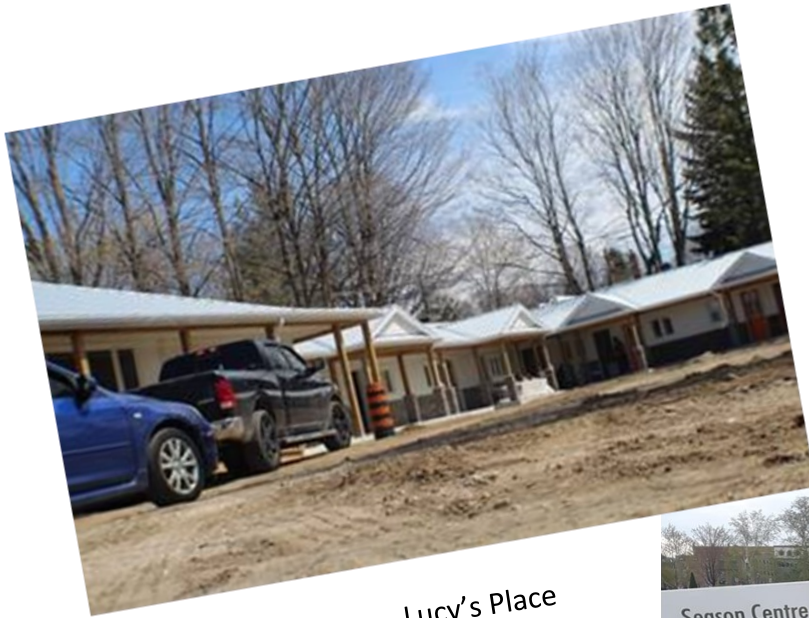
Suicide Awareness Walk

On May 25th members from BAUC participated in the 9th Annual Suicide Awareness Walk. This walk was to honour the memory of lives lost to suicide and to bring awareness to the importance of talking about mental health and suicide. It was a sombre event that was powerfully moving for those that attended.

Kitchenware Drive

The local Kairos group is sponsoring a Syrian family and we have been asked to assist with furnishing their new home so it is move in ready when they arrive. We are responsible for equipping their kitchen with everyday essentials and perhaps a few added extras. We have received a great amount of support and donations already from our congregation and want to thank for your generous sharing.





Lucy's Place



This is some of the Burton Ave Meals on Wheels team at the Red Cross Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. We are in need of more volunteers to deliver meals about once a month.

For information contact Rose Thomson.