



**June
2017**

Volume 17 Issue 2

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Next Newsletter
September 1, 2017

Newsletter Editor
Edd Taylor

If you would like a copy of this newsletter emailed to you, please contact the church office.



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

As some of you know, I recently spent a week of study leave in San Antonio, Texas where I attended the Festival of Homiletics. It was an opportunity to hear from some of the finest preachers and teachers in the Christian church.... Walter Brueggemann, Will Willimon, Barbara Brown Taylor, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Otis Moss III, Yvette Flunder, David Lose, Grace Imathiu and others from a wide variety of denominations. In five days, I feasted on 11 lectures and 9 sermons. I was fed with the fellowship of more than 1800 attendees as we reflected with one another on what we heard and shared our own experiences of proclaiming God's Word in our own contexts. I was nourished by the sound of 1800 plus voices raised in song, praising God. I was fed by the witness of us celebrating Holy Communion together as we came from so many different congregations seeking to be God's people.

At the beginning of the festival, those of us who are Ministers of the Word, were asked to think about how many sermons we get to hear, to receive, to be filled up with, to be nurtured by in the year. For most of us the answer was "very few". In answering that question, we were supposed to wonder about and realize the importance of renewing, refreshing and recharging our own spirits and life of faith in helping us to proclaim the life-giving Word of God to others.

As I think about our church, I know that the life-giving Word of God is proclaimed in many ways other than my preaching.... through music, outreach, pastoral care, learning in the Rainbow Club and Youth Inc, mission & service, stewardship, welcoming to worship and even conversation over coffee. So just as I was refreshed and recharged on my study leave, I encourage you to find ways to ensure that you and others are embracing opportunities to refresh, renew and recharge your spirits.

If you are refreshed by the after-church coffee time, take a turn hosting, so that those who regularly host can receive. If your children are recharged in Rainbow Club or your spirit rejoices at the presence of children, offer leadership in the summer so that those who spend every Sunday there can be recharged by worship. If you are renewed by the Women's Group, share that experience with others. As we near the quieter summer season in the life of the church, take the time to think about and embrace ways to proclaim the life-giving Word of God wherever, whenever and however you can. But also seek out opportunities to refresh, renew, recharge and fill up your spirit and life of faith so that the Word of God will overflow through you!

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



“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
Acts 2:42

Dear friends,

As many of you know, I have been on medical leave since sustaining a double concussion at the beginning of December. In early May, after months of specialized therapy, I began a slow Return to Work program which culminated two days ago when I was able to join the community at Sunday worship for the first time in six months. As I sat in the beautiful sanctuary and listened to Andrea’s meditation and the choir’s anthem, and joined in the communal prayer, I was reminded of what a great blessing it is, to be part of a faith community. Of all the things I have missed over the last 6 months: my work with Open Hands and other Outreach initiatives, church functions and celebrations, family gatherings and travel opportunities, there is little that I have missed more than worship with my faith community at Burton Ave.

In the passage quoted above from Acts, St Luke is writing about the formation of the first Christian faith community. He describes how, in the wake of Pentecost, believers came together and studied scripture and broke bread and prayed. They came together, and they formed community. They formed relationships, and it was in and through those relationships that they were strengthened to then do God’s work of justice and peace in the world.

By the time you read this I will be back to work fulltime. There is much to do: a youth mission to Nicaragua in July; several upcoming missions to organize for 2018; work with the TRC and the Outreach Committee, to name just a few. One of the many things my time away has taught me is that the strength to do these things comes through relationships nurtured within a community of faith. You at Burton Ave are my community, and I am so grateful to you: for the support you gave me and the ministry of Open Hands in my absence; for the work we do together in God’s name; for shared worship and learnings and laughter and tears; and, at this time, for new beginnings.

Perhaps the simplicity of the chorus in John S. Rice’s hymn “Walk With Me” says it best:

“ Walk with me, I will walk with you,
And build the land that God has planned
Where love shines through”.

Blessings,

Rev Pat

Message From The Chair

On April 30th the church board met after the Sunday service for a very important meeting. There was much planning and preparation that went into this meeting. No one took lightly the work that we were entrusted with. The United Church of Canada and the dedicated people who work and volunteer with the National Church proposed some changes that due to their nature had to be voted on by every congregation. As I was reading and preparing for this presentation, it became clear to me that these remits were not about declining number or reduced revenues. They were about a bright future for the church. A structure that puts more control in the hands of the members - that officially eliminates old patriarchal ideas that no longer reflect the true nature of our church. It may be slow but we are changing.

At the Easter Sunday Service at BAUC, I felt profoundly that bright future. I am so grateful for the risk taking of our worship leaders Andrea Wheaton and Katie Pergau. They must have had doubts as they prepared that service but they pushed through and took the risks that led to a service described by one of our members as one of the church's proudest moments.

Change will continue on the Board as well and some will be hard as we say Good Bye to long serving members and welcome new members, new leaders. It will take some adjusting but if we are able to open our hearts we may find ourselves experiencing the risen Christ not in solemn majesty but in joyful dancing in the aisles.

Blessings,

Cathy

Chair of the Board

MEN'S GROUP

Are you a guy that likes wings and beverages? This may be your kind of group! Our purpose is to provide a relaxed forum for fellowship and support. We meet for lunch at noon, on the first Tuesday of each month, at Sticky Fingers Restaurant, (150 Dunlop Street West in downtown Barrie, across from the old Central High School). We do not have to write reports, submit budgets or make motions but we always have lots of laughs and spirited conversations! So come join us for lunch and fellowship!

Submitted by Peter Michalski

Note..... This submission is endorsed by the "Keeping In Touch" editor Edd Taylor.



Treasurer's Report April 2017 YTD

Our financial results for the first four months of the year show total receipts of \$142,589 compared to \$129,031 for the same period last year, an increase of \$13,558. Some of this increase can be attributed to local givings (+\$2,776), mission and service (+\$1,255), and fundraising event revenue (+\$1,462).

Our total expenses for the first four months were \$149,833, compared to \$128,616 over the same period last year. This leaves us with an operating deficit of \$7,243, which is substantially greater than last year when we enjoyed a small surplus of \$415. To be fair, some of this year's increase in expenses (+\$2,946) were not new but rather were carried over from last year due to not receiving the supplier invoices until well after the year-end statements were closed.

An operating deficit of this magnitude at this time of the year is a bit of a concern and will be monitored closely as we head into the slower months of summer. Thank you for your support of our mission at Burton Avenue.

Pre-authorized remittance program (PAR): one of the ways that you can help the church to address the problem of seasonal fluctuations in giving is by considering the PAR program. The PAR program is a convenient way to replace having to remember to bring envelopes to church or playing catch-up at the end of the summer while you were away. PAR is easy to use because it is a monthly charge in the amount of your choosing to your bank account or major credit card. The program is secure and you have the flexibility to adjust the amount charged on a monthly basis should your situation change. If you are interested in learning more about PAR or would like to sign up, please contact the church office for further details.

Sincerely,

Alan J. McGee

Treasurer

Dinner and Event Dates From Stewardship

2017

Mon. June 5 - NICA Golf

Tues. June 20 - NICA Strawberry Supper

Fri. Oct. 27 - Roast Beef Dinner

Dec. 2 - Victorian Tea

Dec. 3 - Chili and Chowder

2018

Fri. Jan. 26 - Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner

Fri. Mar. 2 - Spring Fling

Fri. Apr 27-Roast Beef Dinner.

We are all stewards and as such are challenged to use our time , talent and money in serving God. Our accumulated resources and accomplishments come from the good and generous hand of God and we as stewards are the caretakers of all that we have been given. Stewardship invites you to offer your time and talents in any of the yearly events - whether it is mashing potatoes, organizing an event or shopping for supplies. There is a welcome to everyone and whatever it is that you can offer.

Administration

Most things are of a routine basis, and are taken care of as they happen. With all the rain we have received lately, it looks like the bell tower has developed a leak, and the walls on the balcony are wet when it rains. We are in the process of getting it looked after, but since it is quite high we want to make sure it is looked after safely.

The city of Barrie required us to install a backflow prevention valve into our water lines to prevent any backflow into the city's waterlines.

We are also looking into getting a painter to paint the upper part of the building, which has not been done for some years because of difficulty of reaching that high. We need to find someone with an aerial bucket, or who can operate one safely. But we hope to get that done this year to make the church look better and to preserve the woodwork around the windows and roof.

On behalf of the administration committee, Warren, Barry, and Lyle.

Worship and Music Committee

Members: Miriam Oben, Marg Ralph, Katie Pergau, Bob Gill and Brenda McGee

As faith would have it, after waiting through another long, very grey winter, the birds, the flowers and the warmth of spring have returned to us. Spring is here and it's a busy, faith-filled time at Burton Avenue. As a church community we have travelled together through the sacred, reflective weeks of Lent and entered into the light of the Easter promise. Alleluia! Ash Wednesday Service invite us to enter into a time of spiritual self-examination as they started on their Lenten journey. On Palm Sunday the youth and children of the Rainbow Club, costumed and waving palm branches, celebrated "a walk thru Holy Week" and shared a Seder meal. A small group gathered to share Holy Communion and Jesus' new commandment of love at the Maundy Thursday Service. Burton was hosted by our neighbour, St. George's Anglican Church, for Good Friday Service and, through scripture and music, experienced the retelling of the final days of Christ's journey to the cross. Wonderfully, joyfully, the *good news* of Easter morning rang out along the chilly shores of Kempenfelt Bay with a sunrise service and continued in our festive, lily-filled sanctuary. Many thanks to all who offered their time and talents to help with these blessed celebrations.

This spring we have celebrated the baptism of two wee ones: William Richard Alan Edgerton and Sienna Lyn Armstrong. On June 11th, young Finn Emery LaRusic will also enter into Christ's body and blessing through baptism. Christian Family Sunday service included an honouring of moms for their loving presence in our lives. The descent of the Holy Spirit to the apostles will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday. Seven youth have purposely moved forward in their Christian journey and will be confirmed in their faith during this Pentecost service. How wonderful to celebrate the enthusiasm and grace of these young people!

Summer pulpit and music supply are being organized now. Andrea and Katie will be enjoying some well-earned time away with family for rest and relaxation. As so wonderfully happened last year, we are hoping to fill the pulpit on these Sundays with members of our own congregation. What a great way to come to know the passions and ideas of the folks you share the pews with! A listing of these guest speakers will follow in the Burton Banner.

Please feel welcomed to reference one of the six NRSV bibles purchased for use by our congregation. They can be picked up from the bookcase just inside the sanctuary and we hope you'll return them to their space after the service.

These last weeks before summer are shaping up to be a lively, faith-filled time. Come and join in the fellowship as we celebrate the light of Christ in our lives and in our world.

Respectfully, Brenda McGee

Lifelong Learning Committee

We have had lots of fun with kid's crafts at coffee time lately. Hopefully you have seen some lovely Easter and Mother's Day crafts. Our next event is for Father's Day and will be held on June 11. If you have a craft idea you would like to share or provide leadership for, please let one of us know.

Games Night was on Friday, March 31. It was a great success! Between 35-40 people came and played together! It was a relaxed and welcoming setting for players of all ages.

We will be hosting Vacation Bible School in 2017. Thank you to Julie McGonegal for taking the leadership again this year! We have chosen our dates (August 14–18) and look forward to welcoming Camp Awesome back again. If you are interested in helping with the snacks or supervision, please speak to Julie.

We have just had a wonderful first planning meeting for our weekend away at Sparrow Lake Camp. Our fall camping weekend will be at Sparrow Lake United Church camp in Severn Township for the third year in a row. The dates are September 22-24. Camper fees (even if you are only there one night) are \$110 for a family and \$55 for an individual.

If you want to join us for the Saturday only, it will be \$55/family or \$30/single. If you are able to commit to this weekend, we are asking for a \$20 deposit so that we can have an idea of how many people may be attending. Please add your name to the signup sheet at coffee time. There are many opportunities to help...games, crafts, food organization, campfire, worship...

If you are interested in helping out with the planning of any community event, please speak to Nicole, Marni or Lisa. Many hands make light work!

Blessings,

Nicole Masuda, Lisa Edgar, Marni O'Brien, and Meagan Cliche.

Confirmation Class 2017

What a wonderful time of learning with and learning from the members of this year's Confirmation Class for teens. On June 4th Madelyn Arcand, Zachary Cliche, Claire Garraway, Kate Gross, Breanna McDonald, Pierson Michalski & Max Wauchope will be welcomed into full membership of our congregation and the United Church of Canada. It is truly a blessing to have them as members of our church family and we look forward to not only Confirmation Sunday but to all the ways we will see them continue to grow in their faith for the years to come.

Kim Stoll & Andrea Wheaton



WOMEN'S RETREAT – LORETTO MARYHOLME

April 21-23, 2017

Twenty women in our congregation headed to Loretto Maryholme Centre in Roches Point for our annual Women's retreat. Loretto Maryholme is a sacred space at which we all can feel safe, accepted and at peace. We enjoyed use of the labyrinth, meeting in a sacred area, use of the meditation room/library, and of course, time with our community of faithful women!

Our focus was "Exploring the Celtic Faith" with Leslie Sedore. We learned much about the Celtic Faith...honouring air, water, earth and fire during group sessions. We also had the opportunity to "paint" beautiful silk scarves with crepe paper and to travel a river together in a big canoe.

This is a powerful weekend for our group as we celebrate and deepen our friendships through games, walks, talks, learning and lots of laughter.

Submitted by Lisa Edgar

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

It has been two months since our last update and the time is going by fast. Now if all these May showers would pass as quickly I would be very happy!

Past events include an outing to South Simcoe Theatre with lunch at Hot Stacks. About 12 people attended the drama/ comedy/horror/musical presentation of "Little Shop of Horrors".

Since it is officially Spring, on May 23 a group of ladies volunteered over three hours of their morning and with lots of elbow grease (and a few other cleaning products) they cleaned and de-cluttered the three kitchens and the freezer room. It seems we have acquired a collection of pie plates, dishes and plastic ware so next time you are downstairs for coffee/tea please pop into the kitchen and check out our collection on the shelves. You never know, you may find that missing tupperware container or cake pan you have been looking for!

Upcoming events:

JUNE 4: special service for welcoming our confirmands with cake and refreshments to follow.

JUNE 11: finger food luncheon after our morning service. Please bring something to share. Everyone welcome.

SEPT 17: annual welcome back BBQ. Miriam Oben has graciously volunteered her home again this year but in the event of inclement weather it will be held at the Church.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and reminders will be given with more details as we get closer to the dates.

One last thing, we have a new supply of BAUC pins and have been playing catch up distributing them to our new members that have joined in the last couple of years who were missed. They are available in the Office or from Lois at coffee time.

Have a wonderful relaxing and safe summer everyone and trade those umbrellas for your shades and sun protection.

Your Congregational Life Committee

Lois, Linda, Lynn, Janet and Nancy.



The Rainbow Club

The 2016/2017 Rainbow Club year will soon be wrapping up regular sessions—but still runs all summer! Every week since last September, the teachers, children and youth have come together to sing, dance, talk, listen, act, create, give and share God’s love. We wish our leaders and families safe travels as they take time to camp, travel and enjoy our fabulous but short Canadian summer.

We still need volunteers for all the Sundays at the end of June, July, August and the Labour Day weekend.

Please see Catherine to sign up for a Sunday or two and to get your pre-planned lesson.

As always, there were many highlights to our year. Some from this year were the pageant on Christmas Eve, the palm parade and Seder meal during Lent, our “Jelly Bean Prayer” at Easter, several holiday parties and, of course, our part in worship services through candle lighting and reading from the pulpit. Thank you to Marni for getting an email out to our Rainbow Club families each week. It has helped to keep everyone informed of all our events. Please let us know if you would like your email address added to our list.

Thank you to all those who make the Rainbow Club possible and successful: the children, the parents, the teachers (Marni, Sheena, Lori, Angela, Cathy and Peter), our treasurer Lois, Rev. Pat, Andrea, Stacey, Wayne, and Katie.

We are always looking for new teachers. Please consider being part of this fun and important program in our church.

Have a wonderful summer!

Catherine Fletcher

Rainbow Club Coordinator

BURTON AVENUE UNITED CHURCH AND THE NICARAGUA MISSION FUND

7th Annual
Golf Tournament

"Nine for Nicaragua"

At Simoro Golf Links

1045 Penetanguishene Rd., RR#1, Barrie

All proceeds will benefit a school project in Nicaragua.

Date: Monday, June 5, 2017, Time: Shot Gun Start at 5:15 pm.

Registration and Silent Auction starts at 4:30 pm.

Format will be a 9 hole scramble.

Cost: \$ 75.00. Includes golf, cart, Chicken Dinner, charitable receipt for \$25.00.

Dinner only \$35.00 with a charitable receipt for \$10.

Individuals may support the event by participating or contributing donations,
cash, gift certificates, merchandise, or quality
items for Silent Auction.

BURTON AVENUE
UNITED CHURCH

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



BURTON AVENUE UNITED CHURCH AND THE
NICARAGUA MISSION GROUP

Is hosting a

Strawberry Supper

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

5:30 PM.

Not only will there be delicious fresh strawberries and
shortcake made with real whipped cream, but there will
also be turkey, ham, and salads.



Adults \$20.00
Children 12 and
under \$10.00

Tickets are available from
the
Church office,
Monday to Friday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
37 Burton Avenue Barrie
Or by calling 705-726-0401

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