



**September
2018**

**Volume 18
Issue 3**

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

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



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Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

- attributed to John Wesley

The quote above is a helpful reminder to guide me as I live as a follower of Jesus. They are helpful words to challenge me as I commit to being part of the Christian church in a changing community and world. I wonder if they are words that can guide and challenge you too as together we participate in the life and ministry of Burton Ave. United. Perhaps you will hear those words brought to life, as you read through this edition of the newsletter or as you look through our weekly Sunday Banner of happenings or you listen to Sunday announcements or you talk to anyone on the Board. There are so many ways that we are trying to faithfully live into doing all that we can to love God and to love all of God's people.

Our Open Hands United invites us to stand in solidarity with our friends in Nicaragua by signing a petition calling on the Canadian government to do what they can in support of the people of Nicaragua.

The Affirming Ministry Team continues to invite us to consider how we can be even more welcoming and inclusive than we have already been. As we ready ourselves to vote, we need to be sure that everyone has had an opportunity to learn about and to voice their questions about what it means to be inclusive.

The Truth & Reconciliation Group reminds us weekly in the Banner that we are invited to discern how we can respond to the **94 Calls to Action** in the work of the church and in our personal lives. Responding in ways that we can is an important part of the church's commitment to Truth & Reconciliation.

The Stewardship Committee invites us to consider the financial support we can contribute to a special Anniversary fundraiser so that this continues to be a place where people are enabled to do all the good that they can.

The Local & World Outreach Committee invites us to wonder how a small contribution like a pair of socks can be a way to reflect God's love in the world.

None of us can do everything but we must say yes to doing what we can, whenever we can. And as we strive to do so, we need to support one another with prayer, words of encouragement, openness to one another's invitations to do good and with the love of Christ reflected in all that we do together.

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



Church Office Hours
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“And in the fullness of time....”

Dear friends,

I love the line from Scripture quoted above. The sentiment appears often in the Bible, though sometimes in different words. The story of Mary and Joseph begins with the words, “And when the time had come for Mary to be delivered...”. In the book of Galatians, Paul wrote, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son....” And in Ephesians, Paul wrote: “God is making known to us his plan...for the fullness of time... when God will gather together into One all things in Christ”.

“The fullness of time” is about things happening when the time is right. It’s about trusting that God is at work in the world and in our lives, and that if we open ourselves to God’s leading, we will know when the time is right for certain things to happen.

Many of you will have heard that on Sunday, September 26 it was announced in church that I will be retiring at the end of December, 2018. The decision to retire was not easily made. I was ordained 35 years ago and served 3 different Pastoral Charges before coming here to Burton Ave in 2000. Over the 18 years I have been here, I served first as the Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care and then, in January 2015, became the Minister of Justice and Outreach. I have loved serving amongst you and with you. We have shared so much together over the years. We have dared to “dream big” and have “stepped out of the boat” more than once to follow God’s leading. There is so much more to do! But over the past year I have been given a clear sense that we have reached “the fullness of time” in our shared ministry. It is time for me to let go and begin to live in what my husband Colin calls the “Third Chapter” of life. And it’s time for Burton to experience the excitement and renewal that often comes with new leadership.

It is my hope to stay at Burton Ave as a member of the congregation, and to continue to do overseas work as a volunteer. In the meantime, there is still much to be done in the 3 months leading up to retirement! It’s exciting to think about how God will work through each one of us as we continue to seek to follow faithfully in God’s way.

Blessings,

Rev Pat

Letter from the Chair

September begins the fall of my fifth year as chair of the Board. I clearly remember that first meeting when they told me that the church would be in transition over the next few years so be prepared for some difficulties. Well five years later, we are still in transition but if there is anything I have come to learn it is to be grateful for that transition. All living things grow and change and we, here at Burton, are nothing if we are not alive. Having said that there was a letter presented to the Board Executive at the September meeting that I need to let you know about.

The transition that they were speaking of in that first meeting was Rev. Pat MacDonald stepping down as Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care and pursuing a new ministry as Minister of Justice and Outreach. With considerable work and planning, she and a few dedicated members of this congregation made that happen and made it an exciting part of who we are here at Burton. One of their major achievements was the three years of funding that we received which will be ending at the end of December of this year. The letter that was read before the Board Executive was from Pat stating that when this funding is finished she has made the decision to retire from minister.

This is our opportunity to celebrate and give gratitude for 35 years of ministry to the United Church of Canada - 18 years with this congregation. 18 years that have been such a blessing. She brought us through some very difficult periods of transition with her leadership and she brought to us three years of shared ministry with the people of Nicaragua. I offer gratitude on behalf of all of those who have had the life changing experience of participating in one of these mission trips.

Pat will continue to be a part of Open Hands United as a volunteer. She is dedicated to this work and will be participating in the meetings that will be happening over the next three months to plan what this work will look like in 2019 and beyond.

In other news I have met with the steering committee for the Appreciative Inquiry Day that is planned for October 20. It was a very exciting meeting and I am looking forward to doing this work. There are some of us who have been worshiping and working at Burton a long time and some who joined Burton quite recently but we all described similar things that we loved about being a part of this church and similar goals for the future. I hope that everyone reading this report will consider being a part of this day. As someone with a full-time job and a family to care for, I know what a big time commitment a full Saturday can be but we really want your feedback. Burton is growing and changing at lightening speed and this is your opportunity to make sure that what you love about this church is preserved and that the vision you see for the future of this church is heard. But more than that, having participated in this first meeting, I know the Appreciate Inquiry format will ensure that this is an uplifting experience for all who participate.

As we move into the fall, I have had to accept a few resignations of some treasured members of our Board. We will feel the loss of these longtime members deeply so I want to appeal to you, once again, to consider if this work would be something that would be a good fit for your skills. There is lots of flexibility as to the level of commitment required so even if you only have a little time to give we can find a place for you on the Board. I can speak from experience that it can be very rewarding – more than worth the time commitment. We only ask for one thing as you consider - Love God and love each other. Remember that at every meeting you attend – every decision you participate in – let that always be your driver and you are perfect for this work. So simple!!

Blessings,
Cathy Manzato

Update on Nicaragua

Dear friends,

I am writing to give you an update on what is happening in Nicaragua.

In April, a peaceful protest against the federal government led to over 4 months of unrest in Nicaragua. Students, farmers, business owners and thousands of others joined together in peaceful marches to challenge the corrupt practices of the government and the President of the country, Daniel Ortega. The army and paramilitary infiltrated the marches and many of the protestors have been killed or arrested and put in jail, where they are subject to torture. Since the uprising started, more than 25,000 Nicaraguans have fled to Costa Rica or Panama, where they are seeking asylum. While things have settled down on the surface, the anger against the government is simmering and there are regular outbreaks of violence. It is difficult to know when, or how, this will end. Because of the uncertainty, we decided to bring David Sujo Taylor, our young translator and guide, out of Nicaragua for the time being. He had been identified by the police as a participant in a peace march and received a death threat. He has a 6-month VISA and so will stay with us in Canada for the time being.

There were 2 missions to Nicaragua planned for the summer of 2018, and one for February 2019. All three have been cancelled. We won't take groups to Nicaragua while things there are so unsettled. We decided to seek out an alternate experience for the 2018 youth, and I was able to connect with a woman named Doris Kizinna. Doris works for the United Church in British Columbia. She is also the Director of World Pilgrim Global Education Inc, which is an organization that offers short term mission experiences in several countries, including Guatemala, Cuba, Thailand and India. We have decided to go to Guatemala, as it is a close neighbour of Nicaragua and offers a similar kind of experience with Indigenous people. The trip is planned for July 2019.

In the meantime, our hearts are with our friends in Nicaragua. We ask for your prayers for both a swift and just end to the conflict, and also for the Nicaraguan people who are suffering through these difficult times. If you would like to sign a petition urging the Canadian Government to take action on the situation in Nicaragua, you can do so by clicking on the following link:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1800>

Blessings

(Rev) Pat MacDonald

Minister of Justice and Outreach and Director of Open Hands United



Treasurer's Report September 2018 YTD

As we head into the fall, our financial results for the first eight months of 2018 were as follows. Our total receipts for the first eight months were \$221,631 compared to \$267,499 in 2017, which was a decrease of \$45,867. While overall this was a large decrease, virtually all of it can be attributed to extraordinary items such as the ending of the restorative health care and refugee sponsorship programs from 2017. On a positive note, our local givings were up by \$4,414 compared to last year and mission and service was also \$1,684 more than last year, which is much appreciated.

Our operating expenses were \$239,583 versus \$280,322 last year, also a decrease of \$40,738, again due mostly to extraordinary items. This leaves us with an operating deficit of \$17,952 compared to \$12,823 over the same period last year, an increase of \$5,129. While this was a disappointing result in comparison to last year's performance, this is not an unusual situation to be in at this time of year. In the coming months, there are a number of fundraising events and program planned to try to eliminate the operating deficit before year-end.

If you are new to Burton Avenue and would like to use envelopes or the pre-authorized remittance (PAR) program for your support of our mission, please contact the church office. Thank you for your support.

Alan J. McGee, DBA

Treasurer

Youth Inc.

This year the youth group will have an older and a younger group. Both groups will meet on the same Sunday evenings but will have their own group time. So, we are hoping to add to the leadership team. We don't start until Oct. 14 and we meet every other Sunday evening from 7-8:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Kim Stoll or Peter Michalski.

Worship and Music Committee, Sept. 2018

(Members: Miriam Oben, Katie Pergau, Bob Gill, Jane Rees, Rick Williams, and Brenda McGee)

Thanks to all who worked over the summer to keep Burton Avenue welcoming and vital while Andrea and Katie enjoyed well-deserved vacations. Again this summer, supply ministry leadership came from inside our congregation and it was great! Many thanks to Chelsea Skanes, Bob Clay, members of the Women's Spirituality Group, and Cathy Manzato for gifting us with generous and varied offerings of worship. Special music offerings were enjoyed throughout the summer and these presentations lifted our spirits as they gave praise to God. Also, thank you to the volunteers who kept us on track each Sunday with power point offerings. Well done, all.

With autumn and the cool, beautiful weather comes a busy season in our faith community. On a nippy early September weekend, families gathered at Sparrow Lake for Family Camp Weekend; Andrea and Katie celebrated with the campers while Rev. Jane Sullivan provided leadership back home at Burton. Thanksgiving Sunday will celebrate the bounty we receive daily and that God asks us to share with our community. Busy and beautiful, Thanksgiving Sunday service will also observe World Wide Communion with all our brothers and sisters in Christ. On Sun., Oct. 14 our Local & World Outreach Committee will provide leadership and insight into the needs and possibilities of helping others in Barrie and beyond. The discoveries and conclusions from the Appreciative Inquiry exercise of Oct. 20th will be presented by its facilitator, Rev. Todd McDonald, on Nov. 4th. On Remembrance Sunday, Andrea Wheaton will be away on Study leave and the service, led by Rev. Ruth McDonald, will honour those who gave their lives in service to our country and to Canadians currently working in peace missions. Captain, The Rev. Audrey Brown, President of Toronto Conference, will be our guest speaker on Anniversary Sunday, Nov. 18th. Come and celebrate 145 years of ministry in Allandale as Burton Avenue celebrates this wonderful anniversary of community and world service in God's spirit! Holy Communion will be observed on Reign of Christ Sunday, Nov. 25th and lead us into the wonder and joy of the Advent Season.

Autumn is shaping up to be a very busy, joy-filled time here at Burton Avenue. Come and join in the fellowship as we celebrate the light of Christ in our lives and in our world.

Chair, Brenda McGee

Sunday Worship- Looking Ahead

Oct. 7- Thanksgiving Sunday and World Wide Communion

Oct. 14- Local & World Outreach Sunday

Nov. 11- Remembrance Sunday

Nov. 18- Burton Avenue United Church's 145th Anniversary

Nov. 25- Reign of Christ Sunday with Holy Communion

Dec. 2- the Advent Season begins

Congregational Life

Thank you to everyone who helped out with Sunday morning refreshments during the summer, those who served and others who brought in goodies! Now we are back to serving coffee and tea downstairs. We are always in need of people to help serve, help set up tables and chairs and also put away the tables and chairs at cleanup time. Training is always available. If you could help out with any of these jobs please speak to anyone on our committee or at the coffee table.

The September BBQ was a big success. Over 70 people joined us after Church at the home of Miriam Oben. A BIG thank you to Miriam for sharing her home, to Alan for cooking and to everyone who kindly brought salads, snacks and desserts. Also thank you to Don Lee for bring the wooden games for everyone to enjoy!

Meals to go - we have a sufficient supply of single sized portions of home cooked meals in the freezer for now. The meals have been much appreciated by our members who have received them while recuperating from illness or or surgery. Thanks to all who contributed.

Keep your eyes open for more details about the card party on November 9th at 7 p.m. Most play progressive euchre, but there will be other games available for non card players.

Your Congregational Life Committee





Welcome to the Rainbow Club 2018/2019

We have had another great start this fall in Rainbow Club. We've welcomed back many old friends and look forward to meeting lots of new ones. Please be sure to fill in a registration form (available in The Ark) so that we may know your child's needs/interests etc. and that we can contact you easily when needed.

We have a fun year planned with lots of drama, music, arts, crafts, food, discussion, games, parties and stories.

Through these activities and our *Whole People of God* curriculum, we share God's love and lay the foundation for faith in our children.

We have a core group of very dedicated leaders, but we are always looking for new volunteers to help out. Please talk to Catherine Fletcher if you are interested.

Note....Police checks for our volunteers are church policy

Our leaders are:

- Marni O.
- Carmen K.
- Sheena F. H.
- Carol B.
- Angela K.
- Peter M
- Cathy M.

Remember that the Rainbow Club meets in *The Ark* every Sunday during church and all children and teens ages 3 and up are most welcome.

Catherine Fletcher

Rainbow Club Coordinator

Youth Confirmation Classes

If you are in grades 8 or 9, please speak to Andrea Wheaton to indicate your interest in being a part of the upcoming Confirmation Group. Our meeting time will depend on class membership.

Outreach Committee

Thank you everyone for supporting the sandwich program for Busby Centre – your donation of time and sandwiches are greatly appreciated. There is a new signup sheet in the foyer, set up so that multiple people can volunteer for 10 sandwiches and there is a spot to request a driver to deliver the finished goodies if you are unable.

After a quiet summer, our committee has a few things planned that are coming up in the next couple of months.

SOCKTOBER: for the month of October, we will be collecting socks. Socks are one of the most needed items for those that are living on the streets in the cold, wet fall and winter months. Wet socks can allow bacteria to grow, causing potentially life threatening infections. In cold weather, frostbite can happen in under 30 minutes, so feet with holey socks/thin socks/wet socks could suffer from frostbite when out walking the streets. Socks are always in great demand in shelters! Let's see what we can do to help with that demand. There will be a basket in the foyer to collect the donations, and at the end of the month, we will deliver them to the Busby Centre for their outreach van and the out of the cold program.

Outreach Sunday: Please join us on October 14th as we take over the service for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Our speaker for this service will be from the Busby Centre. Children that will be at church that day will be asked to bring a vegetable with them for the Children's Story. The veggies will then be donated to the Barrie Food Bank and Youth Haven. After the service, please join us for lunch which will offer choices of soups and stews, buns and apple crisp with ice cream for a free will offering. We will have a table set up with information regarding the "Chew on This" campaign with packages containing material regarding poverty and food instability in Canada.

Minutes for Mission will be continuing, and if you are interested in volunteering on a Sunday to read one of the stories, please contact Joan Belecque. We are also going to make more Blessing Bags for outreach through the Busby Centre.

In November, the Snowflake Tree will once again be full of children's names given to us from Samaritan House. Each snowflake will have the name of a child, a bit of information and a small wishlist for Christmas. These gifts help to give a child a happier Christmas. The help we give is really appreciated, as you can see from one of the Thank You cards we received last year, for example:

"Dear Donor, I would like to thank you for helping give my children a great Christmas.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you"

Thank you again for all your support and donations throughout the year. We will make a difference in the world!

Devon, Joan, Joan, Lyla & Christine

Life Long Learning

We had a fantastic start to the new year as approximately 70 of us converged on Sparrow Lake Camp for a weekend of fun, September 7-9! While it was a little bit cooler weather this year, it did not stop the kids from kayaking, canoeing & swimming! There was also archery, hiking & scavenger hunts. On the Saturday, we were joined by Northwest Barrie United for the day. It was a wonderful day meeting new (& old) friends. We are ready to start planning for next year!



Friday October 19th, we will be hosting a Hallowe'en themed games night at the church. We will have a few Hallowe'en themed games planned, but encourage everyone to bring their favourite game from home. We encourage everyone to wear their costume and bring their favourite Hallowe'en treat for a 'spook'tacular evening.

Save the date! Saturday, November 24th we are planning a trip to Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons for the First Light event. More details will follow in the coming weeks regarding cost and transportation.

Nicole Masuda, Marni O'Brien, Ken Down, Shelley Cliche, Sally Telford & Briana O'Brien

Stewardship Committee

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to enable God's people to grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents and finances which God has entrusted to them.

As we prepare to enter the season of Thanksgiving we encourage all our members and adherents to participate in various church events and fulfill our stewardship mission. One need only enter the space of a dinner or function to recognize the fun and fellowship enjoyed by the participants and to witness the wide range of skill and talents particular to each participant. Indeed events which we so often look upon as solely fundraisers are so much more.

Our first event is our **Roast Beef Dinner on Fri., Oct. 26**. We always need pie bakers, table setters, servers, kitchen help, ticket takers and cleanup crew. Watch the Banner for contact info. or speak to Islay Scott. If your skill set doesn't work here, come and enjoy a great dinner.

The fall of 2018 saw us forgo our regular Fall Fundraiser in order to raise money to save our steeple. How you responded!

This fall our fundraiser celebrates the one hundred and forty fifth anniversary of our congregation. Over our long history this church has lived out its mission and ministry in a variety of ways within our community and the world. It takes many pieces to complete the whole picture of who are as followers of Jesus. So we invite you to **Be a Piece of the Whole Picture**. You will be given the chance to buy puzzle pieces to build the completed image of Burton Avenue which we aim to finish in time for our anniversary celebrations on **Sun., Nov. 18**. More information will come your way on Thanksgiving Sunday. Our goal is \$15, 000! We urge you to take part as you are able and make this another success.

We host our **Victorian Tea on Sat. Dec. 1**. It is a great event! If you are newly arrived at Burton Avenue and wonder what we do, speak to Brenda Young and watch the Burton Banner for information. In the meantime we all need to set aside preserves and pickles and get some baking planned.

We encourage you to use all the gifts that God has given you. The generosity of spirit that our congregation displays is truly wonderful and our committee appreciates it.

Brenda Young, Chairperson

Affirming Ministries Team

After a summer of vacation and rest, the Affirming Ministries team is back to work in full swing. As a reminder:

Affirming Ministries are congregations, Presbyteries, Conferences, educational institutions, and other ministries within the United Church that publicly declare their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

In addition to making an explicit statement about issues of gender and sexuality, Affirming Ministries also make a broader commitment to inclusion and justice for groups that have been historically excluded or marginalized. More information can be found at the Affirm United website:

www.affirmunited.ca.

The process of officially becoming an Affirming Ministry requires several formal steps, several of which are underway:

An Educational/Discernment process.

Required Documentation:

- An Affirming Ministry Vision Statement.
- A continuing Plan of Action.
- An inclusive Marriage Policy.
- A Ministry Vote on whether or not to become an Affirming Ministry:
(This vote will be held at a congregational meeting after church services on **October 28, 2018**.)
- A commitment to the Affirming Ministry Program nationally by becoming a member of Affirm United.
- A public service of celebration.

If you would like to find out more about what this means for BAUC, or if you have questions, concerns or stories to share, please:

- Join us for an after-church conversation on **Sunday, September 30**.
- Explore the materials on the Affirming Ministries table in the foyer.
- Leave a comment or question in the Wonder Box on the table.
- Chat with an Affirming Ministries team member.

Islay Scott, Cathy Manzato, Leslie Whidden, Julie McGonegal, Christine Nayler, Alita Morgan, Chelsea Skanes, Angela Kerr



Congregational Happenings

When are we at our best?

What time is it in the life of Burton Avenue United?

What do you long for in all your faith relations here at Burton Avenue United?

You are invited to come out on Sat., Oct. 20 from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 pm to listen, share, ask and answer questions as we wonder together about God's future for our ministry. Rev. Todd McDonald will be our facilitator for the day using a process called Appreciative Inquiry – it seeks to identify God-given gifts and connect them in ways that heighten enthusiasm, sharpen vision and inspire change.

Sign up as soon as possible in the foyer – space will be limited. Lunch will be provided. Rides are available. Childcare can be arranged.

145th Anniversary of Burton Avenue United Church

On Sunday, Nov. 18th we will be celebrating the 145th Anniversary of Burton Avenue United Church.

Come and celebrate on that morning as we welcome the President of Toronto Conference as our guest preacher. Captain, *The Reverend Audrey Brown*, has been an ordained minister for 24+years. She has served Congregations in Alberta (Grimshaw/Berwyn) and Ontario (Lion's head/Pike Bay, Wellington, Midhurst and Markdale.) In 2014 she became a Canadian Armed Forces Reserve Chaplain and served with 32 Signal regiment in Borden/Toronto. In June of 2018 she became a Regular Force Chaplain and is currently serving at CFB Trenton with 820 members under her care. Audrey is a life-long United Church member and is a product of Rural church, small Sunday school, Explorers and CGIT; Camps; Presbytery, Conference, and National Youth Events; and Youth diversity initiatives. She enjoys driving, spending time with her family, pets and whenever possible, prefers to be outside, in the woods or by the water. Despite her insistence that she doesn't like meetings, she has served as Secretary of Living Waters Presbytery, and is currently the President of Toronto Conference. Audrey is a person who believes strongly in bringing peace and love to places of turmoil and chaos.



Hot Summer. Healing Summer.

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

*Joy comes in the morning.
Psalm 30:5*

The healing process takes time; there's no way around it. Such was the lesson of my summer.

Foot surgery, loss of a beloved pet, and a relationship compromised by chronic illness and isolation. Life inflicts wounds on body and soul. These were mine this summer.

You might say that my foot surgery was "the main event". It led to restricted mobility and my being unable to drive, though grieving my lost pet also left me, for a time, at least, not wanting to venture out, and the stress of a loved one's chronic illness is my everyday sorrow.

But there's a season of creation and a fellowship of disciples that offer comfort in times of trial too.

The summer of 2018 was a hot, hot one. Many days it was better to be indoors in the air conditioning.

This year, an indoor season worked well for me since I couldn't get out much anyways. How wonderful that I could still feel the warmth and benefit from the sunshine looking out the windows. I also love how the summer dragged out through September, metaphorically matching my extended recovery season.

How wonderful too the blessing of having caring people who helped me through.

Foremost amongst these was the parish nurse who arrived at my home at 5:30 a.m. to drive me to the hospital the day of my surgery and who stayed by my side, ensuring my care, and guiding and supporting me throughout the day, until I was safely home again in the evening and tucked in my bed.

Others did their part. I am grateful for: prepared meals from the church freezer, a member of the congregation assisting with a trip to the grocery store, and another ensuring I got visits to the park by the beach. Cheerful get-well messages and bouquets of flowers, and with all these little kindnesses the knowledge that there are people who care, that I'm not alone or forgotten, indeed I am loved.

Though I couldn't drive, and as new as I am to the neighbourhood, my needs were met.

And, as with every season, the lessons were numerous.

I learned that one doesn't require as many trips to the store as one makes when transportation is readily available.

I learned that I can move more slowly and still get things done. I learned to accept help graciously. I learned that my husband can do laundry, wash dishes and wait on me by getting my meals. (Who knew?!)

I learned too that there is joy in the struggle.

Being at home so much more than I am usually meant I picked up long-shelved hobbies such as knitting and sketching. It meant I could relax and enjoy the passing of the day. I had more time to listen to the cares of, and to engage with, my family members. I could imagine being a "stay at home" and enjoying it.

Good lessons each one and I am grateful for them all.

The loss of my pet and the daily challenges of my husband's disability bookended my physical recovery. Perhaps not too remarkably, the above blessings, big and small, helped mediate these sorrows too.

Being chauffeured about afforded a safe haven where I could sit with my tears, grieving for the cat that wandered off at a time when I couldn't, due to my surgery, chase after him. Equally important, so much time to just "be" helped me to release the guilt of my powerlessness and worry that I could somehow have done more to prevent his fateful encounter with a nearby predator roaming in the night.

As for the day by day stress that comes from living with a suffering loved one, being just a little bit disabled myself taught me a much-needed lesson in empathy. I understand better now how valuable, yea, necessary even, it is, to spend time considerable time resting, seemingly "doing nothing". I also learned, in a reversal of roles brought on by my circumstances, the benefits of being the recipient of care, not the provider.

So, all in all, a good summer, despite - or maybe because of - the challenges. Time now to bring on the fall.

Jane Rees



Congregational Happenings

Marie and Ross Archer will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary on Sept. 29

Cheryl and Paul Grant celebrated their 50th in September.

Kristy Sawyers (youngest daughter of John and Nancy Sawyers) became engaged to Corey Bernard this summer while vacationing in PEI. The wedding will take place Sunday, July 7, 2019 in Ottawa.

John and Nancy Sawyers will be celebrating 40 years of marriage on Sunday, October 7 (Thanksgiving Day).

Want to explore the Holy Spirit?

We all talk about the Holy Spirit, but in reality the Holy Spirit is a mystery – no one can authoritatively know or describe the Holy Spirit. For how can anyone ever really know what God truly is? At best we have opinions based on our own contexts. Our perspective is our own, arising from our own context of experiences, what others have said to us, listening and what we sense has been revealed to us and so on. We each need to hear and see, listen to the experiences of others, evaluate and interpret and understand for ourselves.

So you are invited to 2 sessions with Bob Clay and Andrea Wheaton, where we are NOT going to answer the question of who the Holy Spirit is and how it works in a mechanical, categorical fashion. The intention is to explore. We will take the ideas of scripture and other folks and roll them around, try them on, sit with them and let the Holy Spirit move our beliefs like the wind moves the leaves. These sessions will lead to additional sessions in the new year.

Please sign up in the foyer if you wish to attend on Nov. 19 and Nov. 26 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the Lounge.

Roast Beef Dinner – We are looking for helpers for the Roast Beef dinner for **Fri., October, 26.** If you are able to help, please contact any of the following:

- **General Convener:** Islay Scott
705-817-6190 ila.scott@sympatico.ca
- **Kitchen Food/Help:** Alan McGee
705-735-6251 alanmcgee60@yahoo.com
- **Servers:** Miriam Oben
705-734-0395 jmim.oben@sympatico.ca
- **Pies:** Lyla Hubbert: 705-728-2092
- **Vegetable Preparation:** Lyle Edwards
705-728-1374
- **Table/Chair Set Up:** Lyle Edwards
705-728-1374
- **Table Place Setting:** Marlene Holman
705-728-3472
- **Clean Up:** Brenda Young
705-794-5988 wiley-cook@sympatico.ca
- **Tickets:** Brenda Young

BURTON AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

Roast Beef Dinner



\$20.00 For Adults

\$10.00 Children (12 years & under)

For Tickets:
Call the church
office

9:30-12:30 a.m.

Monday-Friday.

705-726-0401

**Burton Avenue
United Church**

**37 Burton Avenue
Barrie**



www.burtonavenueunited.com
www.facebook.com

Time: 6:00 pm

**Date: Friday,
October 26th , 2018**

**Tender Beef
served with:
potatoes, gravy,
vegetables,
salad,
condiments,
and.....**

**Home Made
Pies !!!**

**Gluten Free
Alternatives**