



**Carlisle
United
Church**

Newsletter



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Winter 2023

Merry - Almost - Christmas to Everyone!

I want to extend a huge thank you for all the prayers and well wishes while I was away. I missed all of you more than you can imagine! I now have a new hip and I feel better than ever! I am very grateful for access to excellent medical care. I know there are challenges, especially for all the nurses and support staff who I feel are very over worked and underpaid. Still, we are blessed.

I am so excited to be back and very ready to take up ministry again in time for the Christmas season - beginning with the waiting period of Advent. Advent is a time for anticipation and preparation. As we prepare our homes with greens and bows and lights and glitter, how we prepare our lives, our hearts and our ministry is even more important.

I am mindful and heartsick about all the conflict, strife and suffering in the world right now, as I know you are as well. It seems anathema to speak of being merry and joyous! How can it be right to celebrate when there is so much wrong in the world. Well, I suppose it all depends on what we are celebrating. As followers of Christ, what we are joyous about is the birth of one completely and wholly filled with Love – the embodiment of God here on earth. The birth of one who taught us there is a way to peace that involves not a lack of conflict but a lifting up of justice and mercy. Jesus

showed us a way to bring about change in this world through the power of love.

Let's celebrate this Christmas by seeking justice for our neighbours, campaigning for policies that will level the playing field just as we hear John the Baptist calling to the people to participate in the coming Kingdom of God:

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. (Isaiah 40)

For in the darkness, a light shall shine and nothing will put it out. Let your lovely light shine for all to see that there is Hope. All will be well in the end and if all is not well now it is not the end. We do not know the hour or the day, so we keep our vigil, sing our songs of courage, walk the path of peace and extend goodwill to all we meet. We welcome the Christchild every time we reach out to the forgotten, the poor, the imprisoned, the lonely, the suffering ones. We can each of us open our hearts and minds and purses to be part of that kingdom foretold so long ago with the birth of a child to a maid named Mary.

May you be blessed and a blessing be.
In the love of Christ,

Rev Allison





Carlisle Christmas Bazaar and Artisan and Vendor Sale

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on **Saturday November 25 from 10 am to 2 pm** at the Church. We will be running two great events on one day ~ just in time for Christmas meals and shopping.

This year the Local Artisan & Vendor sale will be in the Christian Education room and will be offering knitting, crocheting, scrimshaw and woodwork, lavender products, quilted items, soap, dolls, welcome boards, Christmas wreaths and ornaments, cards, glassware and The Book Band booksellers. For the first time, there will be a draw for vendors' items. A few poinsettias will be available for sale, if you missed the order deadline.

The Christmas Bazaar will be in the Gathering Room. This year we have both Deli and craft items. Our Deli items include all the usual favourites such as frozen pies, cabbage rolls, squares, cookies and lots of other baked goods. We have many kinds of jams & jellies, pickles & relishes. There are all kinds of Christmas goodies for your family and for gift-giving.

The ladies of the U.C.W. have worked very hard to produce all this wonderful merchandise and hope that you will support their fund-raising effort. We hope to see you on **November 25**. Please tell all your friends and neighbours too.

Advent to Epiphany Devotional Group ~ Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women who Prepared the Way

We will be meeting Thursday mornings during Advent from 9 to 11 am at Carlisle United Church, to discuss the book *Expecting Emmanuel* by Joanna Harader. The dates are **November 30; December 7, 14, 21, 28; January 4**.

The book includes daily devotions and we will share weekly insights and spiritual practices as we proceed through Advent to Christmas and Epiphany. You are welcome even if you cannot attend every session. You may wish a book to do independently if you cannot attend the sessions. There are 15 books available. Please contact Allison if you wish to attend or want a book: revaplayfair@hotmail.com or 905-802-8112.

Online Auction to Bolster the Bell Tower

We have one more activity underway this month to raise funds for the Bell Tower repair. It is an online auction, created for us by Jim and Sydney Leaman using Facebook. We are very grateful to the local supporters who have donated items for this auction – thank you all!

To participate in this auction, you need to be a Facebook user (or get help from a friend). There is a link from the Church's Facebook page or you can search for "Carlisle United Church Fall Online Auction 2023" and join the group. Bids are made in the "Comments" section below each item.



The deadline for bidding in this auction is **Thursday November 30 at 9pm**. All funds will go toward restoration of the bell tower. Our fund-raising goal for this project is \$10,000, so we need your help!

From Kilbride United Church

On October 22, we had a very successful 163rd Anniversary. Many attended from near and as far away as Ohio. The Eady family were our special musical guests. We thank our guest minister Rev. Will Wheeler and the members of the Freelton Strabane congregation who joined us, along with members of Carlisle United Church. We are now looking forward to the 164th Anniversary.

On November 18, we held our Christmas in the Country Maker's Market. There were more than 20 vendors, a bake sale and a raffle. The weather was great and the event was well attended. We thank all who donated the raffle items and baked goods, and Tina and her crew of volunteers who manned the coffee bar.

The 2nd Annual Festival of Floats, in memory of Maureen Trenkler, will be held on **Saturday December 2** at 6:30 pm behind Kilbride School. This is a free community event. All are invited to submit a float. To register a float or if you have questions, just go to festivaloffloats@gmail.com. Wait until you see how Santa will arrive!

There will be a joint carol sing at Kilbride United Church on **Sunday December 24** at 10 am. Join us and sing some of your favourite carols. The Christmas Eve service at Kilbride United Church will be at 5:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Helen Callaway

Prayer Circle

All are welcome to join us on Mondays in the Parlour for our monthly prayer circle gatherings.

Dates for the New Year are: **January 8, February 12, March 11**, all at 12:45 p.m.

We continue to ask for God's presence with us in our families, our community and in the larger world.

Joan Eagle



A snapshot of some of the fun at the Kilbride Maker's Market on November 18. (Photo courtesy of Helen Callaway)

Wesley Holiday Christmas Store

Dear Fellow Congregants,

Some of you have already begun to submit cash and cheques to Carlisle United for me to purchase Giant Tiger gift cards for the Holiday Store. The cash or cheques should be in a clearly marked envelope for the Wesley Store please. You can place them on the collection plates or bring them to the Church Office. Also, thanks for reading my earlier note about neutral-coloured knitted items for the Mitten Tree in the sanctuary as per Wesley client requests. New pots and pans can be placed on the two red chairs at the front of the Church just inside the door as well. I am thanking you in advance, as Wesley has been ever grateful for our past support.

Tina Ditoro and the Kilbride School staff and families are excited about collecting hygiene products to stock the shelves at 467 Main Street East in Hamilton. The creativity involved with sorting, classifying, weighing and measuring the items will provide the same enjoyment and education as in previous years with food contributions. Kevin has gladly volunteered his delivery services. Again, no food items are required this year, as this is being covered through food banks. Read on, as there is a request for tins of coffee and boxes of tea bags along with cookies for the refreshment area which is one of the new innovations this year.

I plan to have the Carlisle donations packed on Sunday December 3. On **Friday December 8**, I will come to the Church Parking Lot at 9:00am and load the items into my Jeep to deliver to the Store shortly before 10. I will stay to volunteer until 2:00pm. If any of you are interested in volunteering on that day, please let me know and I will register us with Sheba Khan who is the director of this year's store.

This is a change from our past shifts. Weekdays the store is only open to shoppers from 10am until 2pm. Volunteers will be:

- Helping with the refreshment area
- Providing shopping assistance
- Monitoring knitted items

- Monitoring the Children's Area of crafts and colouring while parents shop
- Gift wrapping for clients
- Handing out gift cards and giving clients tins of coffee or teas to take home
- Checkout
- Packaging up to carry items

Volunteers will be asked to sign a Special Events Oath of Confidentiality and Waiver. I know that Sheba will let me know closer to December 8 re numbers required. If you volunteer and we are not needed, as Colleges and High Schools are often first to sign up, I hope to let you know in plenty of time. One person to help me deliver would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lynn Gladstone

lynngladstone@rogers.com or 519 265-3057



Friends of the U.C.W. have been hard at work preparing pies and other goodies for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar on Saturday November 25. Please join us for a great start to the Christmas season. (Photo courtesy of Lynda Speck)

Please remember that there will be
NO WINTER MAINTENANCE
for the Cemetery lanes this winter

Thanks and Transitions

In the intervening weeks since the last Newsletter, our churches have undergone more than the usual number of life's relentless transitions, but it was also a time of thankfulness for many blessings bestowed on us.

Our summer Sundays were made special by Revs. Stan Stainton and Candace Harvey who brought us their unique life experiences to illustrate and enhance the Message.

When the need for Rev. Allison's medical leave was sooner than expected, we had little time to find a Supply Minister and we needed to accomplish this while working in the uncharted territory of Church Hub, the United Church of Canada's data base. The Search Team, consisting of Linda Dodman, Mary Gilbert, Tina Ditoro and Catherine Swatten, were blessed in finding Rev. Gayle MacDonald who was willing to come out of retirement to be our Spiritual Leader for six weeks. The approval process went with unprecedented speed as did Rev. Gayle's ability to fit in and to gracefully accomplish all the required tasks of being our Leader. The six weeks just seemed to fly by and on Sunday November 12 both congregations formally thanked Rev. Gayle for being God-sent at our time of need. Our appreciation list is lengthy and includes a willingness by Rev. Gayle to return as our Supply Minister when needed. Thank you, Gayle!

In parallel, we welcomed the news that Rev. Allison's surgery date was scheduled earlier than expected and we were thankful that her recovery process and rehabilitation were underway and going well.

At a congregational meeting on November 5, we were again blessed by the election of Bob Moulder to succeed Andrea McRae as the Carlisle United Church Board chairperson. At an Official Board meeting on November 14, Andrea was recognized for her years of service as Carlisle UC Board chairperson, her diligence



and her gracious leadership. We warmly welcome Bob in his new role and look forward to serving with him in the life and work of our church. Around the same time, we joyfully welcomed Rev. Allison's return to active duty, healed, energized and ready to resume her ministry. Welcome back, Allison!

On December 18, Andrea McRae will be starting in her new position as Office Administrator, "shadowing" Janet during the very busy year-end procedures. With pleasure, we welcome Andrea as a member of our church staff and feel sure our church office functions will continue to be in dependable and competent hands.

Finally, how do we thank someone who has given 30 years of loyal and devoted service to our church? Janet Witty-Heeley will be taking a much-deserved retirement as our Office Administrator at the end of this year. As Christmas and New Year's activities tend to dominate family lives at this time, planning is underway for a celebration and thanksgiving event in early January. More news of this will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead as plans take shape.

So many changes, so much to be celebrated, we are blessed!

Catherine Swatten, for the M&P Committee

Saying Goodbye and Thank You

December 31 will be my last day as your Office Administrator. It has been a privilege to work for you in this position for thirty years. Never did I expect it to be this long but it has been a challenging and rewarding position.

Thank you for all the support you have shown me over these years, I truly appreciated it. I am not leaving the church, so you will still see me around from time to time but no longer will I be greeting you in the office. I leave you in the capable hands of Andrea McRae.

Janet Witty-Heeley

Upcoming Events:

Thursdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4: Advent Devotional Group, 9 to 11.

Saturday November 25 from 10 to 2: Christmas Bazaar.

Saturday November 25 from 10 to 2: Local Artisan & Vendor Sale.

Saturday November 25 from 10 to 2: Poinsettia Pickup at the Bazaar.

Sunday November 26: Advent 1 - Hope.

Thursday November 30: Deadline for Online Auction, 9 pm

Saturday December 2: Kilbride Festival of Floats in honour of Maureen Trenkler

Sunday December 3: Advent 2 - Peace. Last day for donations to the Mitten Tree and Wesley Holiday Christmas Store.

Sunday December 3 at 2:30 pm: Blue Christmas. A service of healing and encouragement for those who are bereaved.

Sunday December 10: Advent 3 - Joy.

Friday December 8: Volunteering at Wesley Holiday Christmas Store.

Sunday December 17: Advent 4 - Love.

Sunday December 24 at 10 am: Joint service of carols in Kilbride.

Sunday December 24 at 4:00 pm: Christmas Eve Family service in Carlisle.

Sunday December 24 at 5:30 pm: Christmas Eve service in Kilbride.

Sunday December 24 at 8 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight service in Carlisle.



Sunday December 31 at 10 am: Joint service in Carlisle.

Mondays, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 11: Prayer Circle, 12:45.

Mitten Tree

You will soon notice our mitten tree up and ready for your donations of scarves, mitts and hats.

This year Wesley is asking for donations of gift cards to places such as Giant Tiger, Food Basics, Walmart. Please see Lynn Gladstone or call her at 519-265-3057 for more information.

From Freelton Strabane United Church

Holiday Centre Piece Workshop, Saturday November 25 at 1 pm

Join us and create your own holiday centre piece! Cost is \$15 and includes all materials and light refreshments.

Please bring secateurs/shears. Call 905-659-3380 to register.

Christmas Concert & Community Carol Sing, Sunday December 3 at 7 pm

We invite you to join our musical family as we gather for our annual Concert and Community Carol Sing at Freelton Strabane United Church, 1565 Brock Rd., Strabane. A beautiful evening of seasonal music and carol singing for all! Hot Cider, punch and Christmas goodies to follow. Free will offering.

From Lowville United Church

Christmas Sing Along Celebration at Lowville with the Lowville Major 7th Band, Friday December 1 from 7 to 9 pm

No admission charge. Cash donations to Lowville United Church gratefully accepted.

Trustees Report

By the time you read this, another six trees in the Cemetery, along the south side roadway (adjacent to the Columbarium Garden) will have been cut down. It is unfortunate that these trees are dying. According to the arborist the Trustees consulted, it is a combination of the winter road salt and vehicle traffic over the years that is causing their demise. It was recommended not to spend any more money trying to salvage them. It is anticipated that the remaining trees along the roadway will die and will need to be cut down in the near future for safety reasons.

It has been decided to cut the trunks to 3 feet. The centres will be cut out to facilitate the creation of stump planters. The trustees may also consider planting salt-resistant deciduous trees between the stumps.

This year the Cemetery lanes will be closed from **December 1 to March 31**. The only exception will be for in-ground interments. This is to prevent further salt damage to the plant material in the Columbarium Garden and along the roadway.

The third columbarium unit has arrived, and is expected to be installed this fall or early winter.

Andy Tarrant, Chair of the Trustees

Shred that Stuff!

Our third paper shredding event was held on Saturday October 21 from 10 am till 1 pm. Our intrepid group again welcomed folks, directed vehicles, unloaded mountains of paper and crushed cardboard for recycling. Unfortunately, the Papersavers truck was filled to capacity just after noon, and some people were disappointed at being turned away. Profit for the church was approximately \$2,500. Sincere thanks to all the hard-working volunteers and to all the local folks who supported this fund-raiser.

The date for the next paper shredding event is set already! Please mark your calendars for **Saturday October 19, 2024**.



Tree removal in Carlisle Cemetery, November 13, 2023. (Photo courtesy of Gord Eagle)



Example of a tree stump planter, similar to what is proposed for the Cemetery. (Photo source: <https://www.thisoldhouse.com/landscaping/21016469/how-to-create-a-tree-stump-planter>)

Property Committee

Doors: Adjustments have been made to make the front door more weather-resistant. Finishing the door is the next step. I had initially thought of removing the doors and finishing them inside. However, this would involve significant logistic and security considerations. The finishing may have to be put off until the Spring. The lock on the side door has been repaired. We are investigating a “card lock” system for this door and are currently getting quotes. This, as well as some security enhancements, is to be financed with a government grant,.

Heating: Heating issues in the Food Bank and Gathering Room have been addressed and instructions on how to temporarily adjust the thermostats are being prepared.

Dog Waste Container: The container requested was installed by the Food Bank ramp and a sign attached temporarily.

Handicapped Parking: Concerns have been expressed about the number of spaces available for handicapped parking. A fluorescent line has been painted and those using the Handicapped space are asked to park as close to this line as possible, to maximize the space available. A sign is being prepared and will be posted.

Bell Tower: Although we had intended to have the “Bell Tower Restoration” well under way this Fall, the weather and the contractor’s availability have been against this. This work will have to be postponed until the Spring.

Parking: A local business has asked to rent four parking spaces for their staff and clients. The CUC Board has approved the rental of these spaces which will be perpendicular to the fence on the north side of the parking lot. Signs identifying the space have been ordered.

Parking Lot: A huge “thank you” to Dennis Sinclair and Mark Nielsen for their work in filling pot holes and in leveling the parking lot. A very welcome improvement!!!

Bob Moulder

Finance Comments

It’s hard to believe we are nearing the end of another year! Thanks to your amazing time and talents, our various fundraisers have done very well. Our Envelope and PAR Givings to October 31 were \$56,000, an increase of 5.7% over last year. THANK YOU. We still have a way to go to hit our total year Givings budget of \$85,000. Our expenses have also risen, particularly salaries and utility costs. The net result is a \$46,800 deficit to the end of October. That’s \$6,000 more than last year at the same time. With your support I believe we can reduce the 2023 deficit to or below our budget number of \$35,800.

We are well under way to reach our new goal of \$10,000 for the Bolster the Bell Tower fundraiser. Donations were \$5,530 to the end of October with more fundraising events in November. The Shredding Event in October generated a profit of \$2,500.

In September, we received another \$7,500 grant from Ontario’s Anti-Hate Security and Protection program. Projects need to be completed by March 2024. Some of the expenses have been incurred and the balance will be in the new year.

A reminder that we need to repay the \$40,000 CEBA loan by the end of December. The Finance Committee is developing a plan to make this payment.

As we approach Advent and the time of giving, if you are able, please consider an additional or top-up donation before the end of the year. Thank you.

BREAKING NEWS: The Turkey dinner sold out and the estimated profit is \$2,500, including the silent auction. Thanks to all the organizers, helpers and Lynda Speck! To continue with the Bell Tower fundraising, the Facebook online auction is now open (Group name = “Carlisle United Church Fall Online Auction 2023”).

Barry Gilbert, Treasurer

Celebrating Heather's Graduation

On Sunday October 15, we celebrated Heather's graduation with joy and cake. Here is the tribute given by Chair of the Board, Andrea McRae, on this occasion:

"Good morning, everyone. There are some tasks assigned to Board Chair that give me the greatest pleasure. Like today.

On behalf of the Board of Carlisle United Church, I am thrilled to congratulate our Music Director, Heather Olaveson, on the completion of her PhD this fall.

Here are some things about Heather you may not be aware of. She has been at the piano since she was 6 years old. She loves working with children and youth, and still teaches piano every week in Oakville.

She has been with us full time since 2011 as our pianist and accompanist, but she is also experienced at playing the fortepiano, celeste and organ. If you don't know what a fortepiano and celeste are, you can ask her at coffee hour later.

Heather has been attending Laurier University since undergrad, and completed her first Masters of Music degree in composition at the University of Victoria. She followed this with a Master of Arts degree in English at Wilfrid Laurier University and continued on to her doctoral studies in English and Film Studies under Dr. Tanis McDonald. Her dissertation was entitled "(Re)Mediating History in Canadian Auto/biographic Long Poems Since 1970". I am sure she will be happy to elaborate on the details of her work!

During all this time, she has been our Rock when it comes to music, with many ministers relying on her expertise for assisting with our weekly musical selections for both churches. Since the pandemic, we have come to enjoy her hand-picked musical offerings from the world wide web in our written online bulletins. They have been so varied and so enjoyable, always presented with interesting background

information. It is just another layer of our multi-talented musician! Her postlude each Sunday has us firmly rooted in our pews.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Heather on achieving this prestigious milestone and meet her downstairs after the service for cake and coffee."



Heather with her proud parents. (Photo courtesy of Mary Gilbert)

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to my Kilbride and Carlisle United family for their enthusiastic support and celebration! This October I attended a Convocation ceremony at Wilfrid Laurier University to mark my completion of a doctoral degree in English and Film Studies. Unbeknownst to me, there were people at church secretly making plans to celebrate this achievement. On October 15, I was so surprised and touched to receive a beautiful gift and card during the announcements, presented with such warm congratulations by Helen Callaway at Kilbride and Andrea McRae at Carlisle on behalf of the congregation. We celebrated after the services with cake during coffee hour at Carlisle. I had no inkling of any of these plans – including my parents being invited to attend – and I felt very honoured and blessed to have the firm support and love of my church family. Thank you, everyone!

Heather Olaveson



Two snapshots from the Turkey Dinner which was held at the Church on Saturday November 18. The event was totally sold out and raised \$2,500 for the Bolster the Bell Tower campaign.

Thank you to Lynda Speck, Mary Gilbert, and the many people who helped with food, setup, parking and logistics. Thank you to the young people who pitched in to serve food with a smile. Thank you to Andrea McRae for running the silent auction, and thanks to everyone who participated in this event as volunteers and as supporters. We are also grateful to the local supporters who contributed to this event and to the Online Auction: Flamborough Sobey's, Shoppers Drug Mart, Carlisle Pet Foods, Corby's Framing, Josling Farms, Vanderbroek Farms, Bates & Green, Cascata Bistro, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Chris McDonald (photographer).