



Colborne Street United Church

Communiqué

Fall 2024 Issue

Colborne Street United Church

Communiqué

Fall 2024 - Vol 1 Issue 3

Come For a Visit: Stay for The Journey

About Us:



Colborne Street United Church presently has over 400 members involved in the life of the Church with 200 actively participating.

The Congregation comes together as a church family, supporting each other in faith, and through our connection to the community.

We laugh as a community as frequently as we cry together.

(We also have a bit of a thing for cake!)

Located in the heart of London, Ontario, the Church comprises a beautiful Sanctuary, Church Hall, and meeting rooms. The Congregation is committed to programs both within the Church and as part of the community.

Sunday Worship - Doors open at 10:00 am; service begins at 10:30 am / Coffee hour 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Office Hours

Monday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Tuesday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Wednesday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Thursday - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Friday - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Saturday - Closed
 Sunday - Closed

How to Contact Us

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 church@colborne711.org
<http://colborne711.org>

Follow Us On Social Media





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From Rev. Frank's Desk

We Need to Clear our Hearts and Minds... Fast!



**By Rev. Frank
Staples**

Do you long for a time when most everyone went to church on Sunday and children recited the Lord's Prayer at school, when the Christian church held significant cultural and political sway? If so, you are not alone. But what do you do when Christians migrate from simple longing to Christian nationalism?

Christian nationalists want to legislate laws that reflect their own brand of Christianity and the role religion should play in political and social life. Seemingly the result of a Catholic-Evangelical coalition, Christian nationalists want to curb the influence of moral relativism, social liberalism, alleged neo-Marxism, and LGBTQ+ rights. In other words, they want the freedom to tell everyone else how they should live, who they should worship, and the ones they should love.

In Canada, the COVID-19 pandemic saw a rise in Christian nationalist activity with many groups using anti-lockdown sentiments to expand their reach to more people. The group Liberty Coalition Canada gained the support of many elected politicians across the country. In the coalition's founding documents they argue that "it is only in Christianized nations that religious freedom has ever flourished." Their rallies have attracted the support of the likes of Alex Jones and Canada First, a spin-off of Nick Fuentes' group America First. Many of Liberty Coalition Canada's leaders are pastors who express ultra-conservative views.

Of course, there has been considerable pushback on these views. Other Christians argue that nationalists do not act in the same way our Bible stories about Jesus tell us. Maybe so. But Shea Darian, in her article *Comments on Christian Nationalism from a Firsthand Perspective*, points out the hard truth that there is something undeniably "Christian" about Christian nationalism. She writes, "Its racist, misogynistic, homophobic, violence-promoting, dehumanizing beliefs and ideals are well-rooted in the Christian tradition, culture, and institutions – past and present. If you didn't realize it until now, welcome to reality."

Whether pervasively or subtly, we all harbour a certain measure of racism, misogyny, homophobia, and nationalism. From the time our ancestors invaded this land and caused the genocide of the indigenous people who lived here before us our nation has exhibited Christian nationalist biases and beliefs. **Every Christian and every Christian institution in large or small part adds fuel to the Christian nationalist's fire, and if we do not actively purge these biases and beliefs from within our own Christian heart and mind, then we will continue to fuel that fire.**

As followers of Jesus' Way, we must strive to eradicate any Christian nationalist beliefs and values we may harbour—in our being, in our homes, schools, places of worship, on the internet, and in our neighbourhoods. No one is exempt from this kind of scrutiny. We all must do what we can in our own lives and surrounding culture to become more loving, more accepting, more welcoming, and more respectful of diversity. **In other words, each of us as a Christian must become more Christ-like. And, friends, we need to do it... fast!**





Colborne Council Reflections

A somewhat postdated “welcome back” everyone, to an exciting and jammed packed fall at Colborne Street United Church.



By
**Stephen
Chambers**

By the time you read this, most of our committees will already have had their first meetings following the summer break. **Speaking of summer break, for a few of our groups there was no slacking off as they busily organized some ambitious plans for activities and events to start up at Colborne this fall.** Some of those activities and events, which you will read about in this issue, have already started. I hope that you have already signed up to participate.

It is normally not our practice to single out any one volunteer’s efforts when there are so many long-standing, dedicated volunteers at Colborne; nor do we want to diminish in any way, our appreciation for, and thanks to, each of you. **I would, however like to give a tip of the cap to Laverne Kirkness, for all the energy and effort he has put in, on a number of projects this past year.** There is no “dipping the toes in” with Laverne, it is full-fledged “jump in with both feet” exercise and engaging those around him with a tenacious commitment to seeing a project through to its completion and achieving its objectives.

Some of you may be wondering **is there anything you can do to make a difference** and the answer is, **Absolutely!** There are so many opportunities to help out this busy fall, from volunteering with the rummage sale, helping the “**ColborneLive**” committee with all of the concerts – selling tickets, helping with set up, covering the door, or even just spreading the news. And alas, with the retirement of Richard Rodgers, during the transition until we have that role covered again, offering to clean up after an event you have attended so that our facility is clean and ready for the next user.

Thank you, Richard for your years of dedicated service at Colborne, and our sincere best wishes for a relaxing and fun-filled retirement!

An Invitation to Participate in Church Committees

Hope everyone enjoys the last days of summer and the changing colours as fall fast approaches. We hope to see you at some of the upcoming events.

Have you considered joining a Church Committee in 2024?

What a wonderful way to share your ideas, skills, talents and to meet folks!

We are extending an invitation to each of you, to please consider participating in one or more of the various committees at Colborne. Contact the Church Office at: church@colborne711.org; 519-432-4552 for more details.





From the Stewards

Encouraging All Members to Contribute Whatever They Can.



By
Paul Wiancko

The Stewards sincerely thank the members of the congregation for their continued faith and generosity, in supporting the operations of the Church; however, **the Church is still operating at a financial deficit and we would encourage all members to contribute whatever they can.**

All the split system heat pumps and air conditioners are now functional, including the failed and damaged systems in the sanctuary and the failed unit in Colborne House (former manse). This past summer the organ blower motor was removed and reconditioned. The blower was cleaned and lubricated and new bearings installed. The air supply to the organ now seems to be running without overloading the motor. Also, this summer the grand piano was scheduled for felt trimming, but on examination, the firm doing the job decided to replace the felts at no extra cost. The

second phase of a three year, three phase program to repair and repoint the exterior brickwork of the sanctuary was completed. These are some of the maintenance issues addressed by Stewards.

Church facilities are now largely rented out throughout the week, both day and evening, helping to minimize the Church's financial deficit. The Stewards have considered a "Deficit Reduction Drive" and in the past these have reduced the deficit, but these drives have been followed by a general reduction in congregational contributions, making the deficit reduction temporary at best. **This fall an ambitious concert program is underway. Pickleball started this September and the trees arrive November 23rd for our annual Christmas Tree Sale. Planning is underway with the ushers, to hold a fire drill for the congregation.** Check the *Colborne Connection* and the Sunday order of service bulletin for additional information on these events.

The Stewards generally meet monthly at the Church every second Tuesday, except in July and August. However, the number of people on the Stewards' committee is less than the usual number that serves on this committee. **Our Property Committee would also be pleased to have anyone handy with tools to help with minor repairs around the Church.** Please join the Committee if you can help out; contact the Church Office to advise of your interest.

Give Now! Through your donations, we can do so much!

"Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

Deuteronomy 15:10





A Thank You



**By Richard
Rodgers**

A Heartfelt Thank You

I was deeply touched by the response of the congregation in support of the **Richard Rodgers Retirement Food Drive and "The Caring Cupboard."**

As many of you know I served as the Church Sexton for several years before taking on the additional role of Church Custodian. As Sexton, I have had the profound pleasure of assisting the congregation. I have witnessed times of infinite pleasure such as marriages, confirmations and baptisms of children including grandchildren, of Church members. However, I have also been witness to times of grief and heartache while assisting members of the congregation at the celebration of life for their recently passed loved one. **It was my honour and privilege to support the congregation during these times of gladness and sadness.** Those memories will be a part of me as the years pass by.

As Custodian one of my greatest joys was interacting with the neighbours and other people passing by the Church. Many times, people would express how much they loved the unity pond and found it a comforting and cooling place to rest and reflect.

There were those who would express a curiosity about the Church. I always invited them inside to view our wonderful sanctuary and the stained-glass windows. **I took pride in being able to offer some history regarding our beginnings as Pall Mall Methodist Church and how the stained-glass windows were donated by members of Colborne as well as how we incorporated elements of both Empress United and Robinson United when they joined Colborne and we became one congregation.**

Unfortunately given the reality of our times, I also met people who took to our Church grounds to find refuge, shelter and comfort. They all had their own story to tell. I always asked if they felt safe and would allow them some time to rest so long as they were respectful of the property. I kept granola bars and drinks on hand so I could offer some nourishment while they rested.

I now look forward to my retirement by having the time to enjoy a leisurely cup of morning coffee, golfing and perhaps a bit of fly fishing. I also know that my days will be filled with many activities and projects that have been waiting for quite some time. My gardens will also receive some much-needed attention.

I guess it's time to say so long until we meet again...



Watch on
YouTube

Did you miss a Sunday Service?

Watch our Sunday Services on YouTube!





Singing in a choir... not only is it FUN, turns out is also has huge benefits!



**By Kennedy
Kimber-
Johnson**

Perhaps the most well-known benefit is that it provides an improved sense of happiness and well-being. **Being in a choir means being part of a community.** It expands your social group while fostering a sense of social connectedness and belonging. It can also increase your confidence and self-esteem and be a powerful form of self-expression. Plus, the act of singing releases “happy chemicals”! Or more specifically, positive neurochemicals such as endorphins, dopamine, and serotonin.

There is evidence that singing stimulates brain function, and activates areas connected to memory, movement, language, and more. This is supported in an article in ClassicFM, by Anne Corbett, Professor of Dementia Research at the University of Exeter, which says:

“Being musical could be a way of harnessing the brain’s agility and resilience, known as cognitive reserve. Although more research is needed to investigate this relationship, our findings indicate that promoting musical education would be a valuable part of public health initiatives to promote a protective lifestyle for brain health, as would encouraging older adults to return to music in later life.” (1)

Singing in a choir can even reduce stress and increase your pain threshold! Choral Canada says that:

“Whether singing in a community choir or belting it out solo in the shower, singing appears to be an effective stress reliever. Research substantiates not only that people feel more relaxed after a singing session, but also that singing can decrease levels of salivary cortisol, a hormone best known as the stress hormone.” (2)

Last but certainly not least, there are numerous benefits to your heart, lungs, and immune system. **Singing regulates the heart and circulatory system — regulating blood pressure, increasing oxygenation in the blood, and reducing heart rate variability. It improves lung and respiratory function; some professionals even advocate singing as a therapy for those with breathing difficulties.** (3) Group singing has been shown to trigger the immune system! Specifically, an increased production of immunoglobulin (or antibodies).

Singing has so many benefits for our overall health and wellbeing... it’s almost like MAGIC!



Sources:

1. ClassicFM, “Singing and playing an instrument can boost brainpower and memory in later life, study finds” by Siena Linton (2024)
2. Choral Canada, “Benefits of Singing” PDF.
3. The Conversation, “Choir singing improves health, happiness – and is the perfect icebreaker” by Jacques Launay and Eiluned Pearce (2015)





Pickleball @ Colborne

Pickleball Beginner Clinic:



**By Laverne
Kirkness**

The game combines tennis, badminton, racquetball, and table tennis.

The Pickleball Association says that over **40 million people play in North America**. Pickleball is a racket or paddle sport in which two players (singles) or four players (doubles) use a smooth-faced paddle to hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball over a 34-inch-high (0.86 m) net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction..



Through popular demand, the planned Beginner Clinic for September 15, 2024, turned into four 1 hour clinics. Approximately 30 people attended the 4 clinics. Frank MacKay from Stoney Creek YMCA instructed the first two clinics and Erna and Bill Pitt instructed the last two clinics.



Pickleball at Colborne

Sessions are 2 hours long, a maximum of 6 or 7 persons are booked for every Session, and we ask for a \$5 donation for each Session per person. Sessions are played as doubles.

The 7 X 2-hour Sessions are available at the following times:

- ✓ Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- ✓ Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- ✓ Fridays, 3:30 to 5:30 pm.
- ✓ Saturdays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm
- ✓ Saturdays, 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- ✓ Sundays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm
- ✓ Sundays, 3:30 to 5:30 pm

Location - In the GYM – Upper Hall at Colborne Street United Church, 711 Colborne Street at Piccadilly Street. Parking is available in LOT off of Colborne and street parking is available along Piccadilly Street.

What to bring? Court shoes or clean running shoes are required, street shoes are not permitted. You will need to change shoes before you play. We have to ensure the gym floor is clean so that players will not slip on the grit and grime brought in by street shoes. Bring a racquet or paddle, if you have one and a water bottle. We have 6 extra racquets that can be borrowed.





Local Outreach

Local Outreach continues its path to identify worthy initiatives and organizations to support in our community.



By Jill Bell

London Community Chaplaincy: During the summer, in partnership with Growing Chefs! Ontario Society, we continued to provide meals for young persons attending London Community Chaplaincy's (LCC) outdoor programs and field trips.

Growing Chefs! in consultation with the assigned volunteer at LCC, kindly put together individual, bagged lunches with acceptable food choices, for those attending the programs. **Growing Chefs! carefully provided the food for program participants by recognizing religious beliefs, being aware of food allergies and sensitivities, and in keeping with weather conditions. A note of thanks was recently received from LCC.**

Local Outreach plans to continue with the meals program and our first delivery after the summer program was September 17 at LCC's request.

Refuge Ministries Canada: We received a request from Alan Campbell, Director of Refuge Ministries Canada in London, asking to address the Congregation one Sunday at the Worship Service. **The Congregation has been so generous in providing the small, personal items care packages for offenders being released from prison, that he would like to address them on a personal basis, explain more about the program, and to thank them for their continuing support.**

With the Rev. Frank's concurrence, Alan Campbell will address the Congregation on **Sunday, October 20, 2024.**

Indwell: Humanitarian Crisis on Our Street. The CEO of Indwell, Jeff Nevens has sent out a letter to everyone who donates to Indwell, asking for support of Indwell's funding request to undertake the building of more affordable, supportive housing units. Indwell has seven projects with 264 units ready to build, and seven projects which can be ready to build next year. Funding donated in London remains in London to be used for its building projects in the City. Local Outreach continues to donate to this well-deserving and much-needed initiative. More information can be found at: www.Indwell.ca

Indwell is also calling for support of Ontario's Big City Mayors "Solve the Crisis" campaign to immediately address the humanitarian crisis happening on our streets and in unsafe tent encampments; to work with municipalities and community partners to prioritize solutions; to ask the Ontario government to appoint a dedicated ministry and Minister with necessary funding, to address housing, mental health, addiction and support needs; and to appoint a Task Force to develop a "Made in Ontario Action Plan". Indwell has already demonstrated its ability in London to provide a solution with affordable housing including the support needed for apartment residents. More information can be found at [Solve the Crisis](#)

Local Outreach: Refuge Ministries Canada and The Caring Cupboard



Please continue to support **Refuge Ministries Canada** with the five items in the small, zip lock bag, a small tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant soap, a comb, and a pen. There is a basket in the Narthex marked for donations.

Donations to **The Caring Cupboard** continue to be needed as well. **Food items required are canned soups, meats, fish, vegetables, fruit; also, cereals (easy to eat), pasta, rice, individual packets of oatmeal, peanut butter, pasta sauce, jam, crackers, and cookies.** Kindly leave all donations in the White Box in the Narthex. All donations are greatly appreciated.





I Didn't Know This

Resting in Proximity



By Mark
Richardson

Nine minutes' drive west of the small city of Lisieux, France lies the body of an uncle I never got to meet. St. Desir War Cemetery is the resting place of Lance Corporal Kenneth Vaughan of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. He died in battle on August 23, 1944, age 23.

He was my mother's brother – my eldest brother is named after him – and **my family connection to him might be one of the reasons why I am intrigued by another young person whose remains rest in the vicinity, St. Thérèse of Lisieux.**

To be precise, St. Thérèse's remains are in the Chapelle de la Châsse (Chapel of the Tomb) in the Carmelite convent in which 'The Little Flower' lived the last nine years of her life.

Google Maps tells me that the distance by car, between the two grave sites is only 2.5 km. **The theological distance, however, is much greater. In my mother's religious upbringing – she was born in South Wales in 1918 - you were either "church" or "chapel"; that is, Church of England or non-conformist, likely Methodist.** Being Roman Catholic was almost out of the question.

St. Thérèse died in obscurity, age 24. Her now famous "Autobiography of a Saint" began as mere diary notes annotated for her older (biological) sisters' eyes only. **When she died of tuberculosis, however, instead of sending fellow nuns in the area the customary death announcement, her sisters sent them a copy of Thérèse's notes.** There was soon a demand for more copies. Not long after that, they became a publishing phenomenon.

Thérèse Martin (b. 1873) was canonised in 1925. Her relics caused a sensation wherever they went. Almost all of Ireland, for example, came to file past her reliquary. And there were even long lines of people when they came to London, Ontario in October, 2001.

So, what does a United Church of Canada believer make of all this? Has there been a meeting in heaven of Lance Corporal Vaughan of South Wales and St. Thérèse of Lisieux, France?

I like to think so. And that one day all our religious differences, Catholic and Protestant, Christian and otherwise, will shrink to a vanishing point.





ColborneLive Concert Series

Colborne Street United Church presents ColborneLive's Fall Concert Series! Join us for an afternoon of great music!

This concert series celebrates a wide variety of music from local talent in London.! It promises to provide fun, entertainment, and fellowship for this fall and winter.

ColborneLive Concert Series is dedicated to the memory of Harold William (Bill) Bettger. Bill served as an organist for 30 years at Colborne Street United Church. Bill and his wife Eva led several choirs, including cherub, primary, youth and senior choirs that inspired and united the community. Bill always believed that everyone should be in the choir, and so many people benefited from this inclusion.

Tickets are available at Coffee Hour, at the Door or Online - [Http://Colborne711.Org/Colbornelive](http://Colborne711.Org/Colbornelive)

The Fall Concert Series includes:



Reynolds, Robinson & Lodge - Saturday, October 19, 2024, Dinner: 5:30 p.m. and Concert 7p.m.

An evening of an eclectic blend of original acoustic folk music, with influences from Bluegrass, Jazz, Celtic & Country.



We Remember Them – Sunday, November 10, 2024, 2:00 P.M.

A visual choral concert to commemorate our Veterans. A performance by Chorus London of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, featuring the Piccadilly Strings led by Sig Martin.



Christmas Singing at Colborne - Sunday, December 22, 2024 2:00 P.M.

Join us for a Concert featuring past Colborne Choral Scholars, accompanied by Kennedy Kimber-Johnson, that will be sure to add to your Christmas spirit and celebration!



Brothers Wild Concert, Reception and Art Show – February 1, 2025, 2:00 P.M.

An afternoon of and spiritual music with brothers Nolan & Ethan Wilde. A catered reception and art show in the Upper Hall after the concert.



Sean Quigley's Ukelele Trio – February 23, 2025. 2:00 P.M.

Join us for an afternoon with Sean Quigley's Ukelele Trio and the Piccadilly Strings led by Sig Martin.





Welcome Back Sunday

Welcome Back Sunday: A Joyous Return to Sunday School!



**By Dayna
Munro**

On Sunday, September 8, 2024, we were thrilled to welcome back our students to Sunday School with a heartwarming celebration. The day began with a creative activity where the kids designed their very own Words of Affirmation and Uplifting Scripture jars.

Each child carefully decorated their jar, filling it with positive messages and favourite Bible verses to inspire them throughout the year.

Afterward, families gathered for a delightful luncheon. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to reconnect, share stories, and enjoy fellowship over a delicious meal.

The afternoon was packed with fun activities, including face painting, cookie decorating, and even goody bags filled with treats for the children to take home.

It was a joyful day, filled with laughter, creativity, and the spirit of community. As we embark on this new year of Sunday School, we are excited for the growth, learning, and relationship-building that lies ahead. We're looking forward to nurturing the faith of our young learners and creating lasting memories together.

Welcome back, everyone!



Pastoral Care



Everyone experiences a trying situation or is given a difficult journey at some point in life. Whether it be grief, depression, loss, sickness, loneliness, or a major life transition, everyone knows a season of challenge.

Please remember to contact the Church Office if you know of a Colborne family member who is in hospital, is scheduled to be in hospital, or someone who would like a call. Pastoral Care is an important part of our Colborne Ministry.

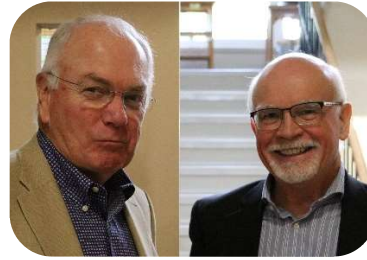




Colborne Events

Welcome Back Sunday Lunch

Sunday, September 8, 2024, was **Welcome Back Sunday**. This event marked the start of our fall programs and the beginning of a new year for Christian Education. **It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together, reconnect, and celebrate the bonds that make our church family so special.** The lunch was donated by the Wenn Family



Local Outreach: Parking Lot Fundraising

Once again, **with grateful thanks to the volunteers who kindly signed up to cover one or more shifts at the parking lot for the Sunfest and Rifest events at Victoria Park this year, we successfully raised \$4,779.** We were fortunate that there was only one afternoon this year, when the weather did not fully co-operate. Andrew and Heidi survived the downpour! Barb (Webster) very kindly drove over to the parking lot with towels to help them dry off and they continued their shift coverage with stoicism and resilience.

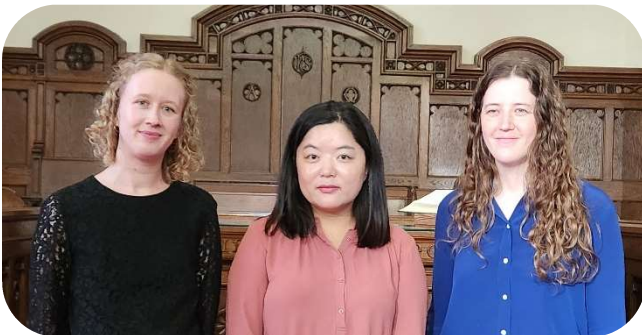
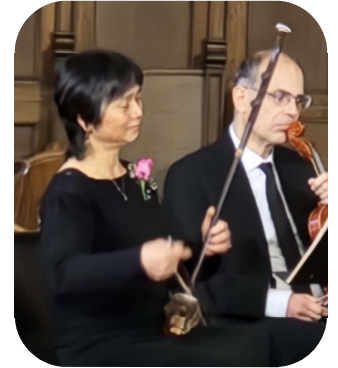
As this may be the last year we will have use of the parking lot, we are continuing to look for other similar opportunities to fundraise in 2025.





ColborneLive – The Essence of Music, September 29, 2024

The Essence of Music was the first concert in the ColborneLive Concert Series. **Grace Lou's Eighteen Strings**, and **Piccadilly Strings**, led by **Sig Martin** entertained an audience of about 90 or so people. It was an excellent afternoon of diverse music, presented with background and interaction, blending many styles, appealing to every taste in music. **Many thanks to everyone who helped with this event!**



ColborneLive – Women's History Month Organ Concert, Sunday, October 6, 2024.

October is Women's History Month. To celebrate, Kennedy Kimber-Johnson and two other woman organists, Catherine Gray and A Young Kim, entertained an audience of around 100 people with music composed exclusively by women. It was an inspiring afternoon of music! **Many thanks to everyone who helped with this event!**





Colborne Events

Fall Rummage Sale Saturday, October 5, 2024

**Thank
You!**

It was a huge success once again. Thanks to the many donations and hours of volunteer work we received! We donated the remaining items to Talize and Mission Services.

We raised \$4,023.00!!!



UCW Women's Retreat, Aging with Grace.

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, Colborne's UCW got together for **a day of friendship and fellowship to discuss *Aging with Grace***. They also played games and had a yoga session with Heidi.





Colborne, Our Church

Colborne Window - The Resurrection (1985). Did You Find the Lyon's Lion?

By Anne Obright &
Cathy Cull

In the Easter 2024 Issue of the Communiqué there was an article on *The Resurrection* (1985) window. Within that window is an image of a Lion and the challenge was to see how many of the congregation could spot it. Not an easy challenge as the Lion is well hidden amongst the tree leaves (upper right above the head of Jesus). The intent was to reveal its image in the summer issue of the Communiqué but because it appears only when sunlight is streaming through the window, we decided to give you the entire summer to spot the Lyon's Lion. **Thanks to Andrew, who was one of the first to spot the Lion, he took a photograph to help those who are still searching. The photograph should help to know what they are looking for.** For those of you who did find the Lion, well done!



For more information about our Church and its history, please visit our website: <http://colborne711.org/our-history>





Colborne, Our Church

Organ Blower and Piano Strings & Hammers

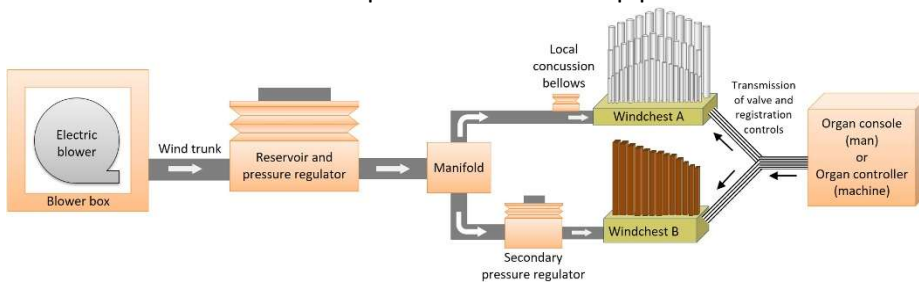


By Ian
Seddon

This past summer, our pipe organ and our grand piano needed some important repairs. They were needed to keep both instruments playing properly. Call the repairs necessary maintenance items, similar to periodic work on brake pads and brake disks to keep our family cars running safely. Fortunately, due to judicious money management by our Church, funds were available to cover the costs of the repairs.

What repairs were needed, you ask?

As Kennedy plays the organ, many pipes will sound in musical harmonies and sequences. The job of the organ motor is to provide steady power to the blower so it will provide a consistent and constant air flow and pressure to all those pipes that are called into action by Kennedy's fingers playing the



notes on the organ's keyboards. It's quite possible the blower motor is the original motor as installed when the organ was assembled in 1936: it may have been upgraded or serviced in 1992 when the last major console and tonal revisions were undertaken. Whatever is the case, **it was very apparent that it**

was failing as indicated by slow responsiveness of some pipes and by start-up grunts when some of the larger bass, pedal pipes were played.

The grand piano was a bit sick! Some of the strings were not holding their tunings and some sets of strings were not sounding as cleanly and clearly as they should. Kennedy and the choir both detected uneven tuning issues and uncomplimentary tonal issues from certain notes. A need for a comprehensive overhaul was obvious to ensure the piano would play in tune across all 88 of its keys given that tuning was only providing temporary improvements.

Dodington & Dodington Pipe Organ Services Inc. was retained to fix the organ's blower motor. This local firm has been doing a great job keeping our organ playing well for the past 32 years. The blower motor was removed and taken to the firm's Aylmer workshop. **There, the motor was taken apart, its electrical windings re-done, its electrical circuitry was repaired, a new start switch and new bearings were installed. The motor was then reassembled, tested and reinstalled in its place beside the organ's blower which it powers.**



D & S Pianos, a firm with a long-time relationship with our Church and its pianos, undertook the piano repairs. Its piano technicians took the piano to its Komoka workshop, leaving a loaned piano with the Church so Kennedy could provide music to support worship throughout the summer. The action works of the piano – meaning the assembly containing the levers, rockers, shanks and hammers that strike the strings as called for when Kennedy plays the keys – was removed. **New hammers and their shanks, along with new key bushings were installed. Re-stringing was undertaken.** Then time was taken to ensure the piano's action works were properly regulated, new strings properly tuned and other needed maintenance work accomplished.

As a result of these repairs, our organ plays much better; its pipes "speak" much more cleanly and consistently. ("Speak" is organ-talk for how a pipe first sounds when its corresponding keys are played on the console). The results are cleaner tones from its pipes, especially the larger, lower-toned pipes.

The piano now plays with brighter and more resonant tones which gives Kennedy greater dynamic control; a piano's expressiveness depends solely on hand and finger control by a player.





Colborne's Community

Meet Dick and Lou Claypole

**By Linda
Thomas**

The Claypoles, Richard and Marylou, known as Dick and Lou, and the chance meeting...



I met Lou by chance on a warm September day in the backyard of our neighbour's house in 1985. This day happened to be Lou's "day off" from the Metropolitan store in east London, where she worked as the store manager for 25 years.

She'd been invited to a small 3rd birthday party in the backyard of her next-door neighbour. My son Craig, also 3, and I had also been invited. Our street was a friendly one where neighbours often gathered for coffee. This became a ritual over the next 10 years. Lou made the best coffee!

Very shortly after we met Dick, a jovial, hardworking man who worked long hours and every holiday. He said he did this so that those with young ones could enjoy their family time. He often played Santa Claus at company Christmas functions.

Our kids went to their house for Christmas mornings to see what "Santa" had left them. They lavished them with new bikes, games and toys. Our kids spent many nights at their house for "sleepovers". Lou said she always felt safe with someone else in the house, even if they were only 5 or 6 years old at the time! Dick, of course was working a night shift.

Lou was known as the "cookie lady", always ready with a treat for the children. Dick always lending a hand or tool or whatever you needed. They were always ready and willing to help.

We enjoyed many family gatherings, special holidays, birthdays, sharing meals, and attending church together. We have been gathering and celebrating for the last 40 years and continue to do so.

Both my husband Dan and I thank God every day for the gift He gave us. The gift of these beautiful people, who entered our lives and became a treasured part of our family.



Rummage Sale Swag for a Longtime Friend

Lorraine Rendle, a long serving congregational member, asked Sherry Chambers a longtime friend, to find "something nice" at the rummage sale for her apartment door at Riverside Chartwell Retirement Home. Sherry found the item featured in the photograph, during the Rummage Sale Setup. Sherry said that Lorraine was very pleased with it. A nice story of kindness and friendship that continues over time!





Colborne's Community

Colborne's Hand-Crafted Cards, by Norma Stokes

Many, if not most, of our Colborne family, have received a **beautifully and lovingly crafted special occasion card from the Church**. Whether the occasion is celebratory or sorrowful, each of these cards has a meaningful message to brighten the recipient's day.

What you might not know is that these cards are handcrafted and donated by **Anne Obright and Elaine Rae**. While both Anne and Elaine have said that their card-making is a labour of love, for those of us who are not gifted with their skills, they are truly a work of art and so much appreciated by all of us.



Thank you, Anne and Elaine, for your kindness and generosity.



Annual 150 km Bike Ride for Multiple Sclerosis, by Maureen Cunliffe.

And so it began with my long-time friend, Doreen who lived with Multiple Sclerosis for over 25 years! **She inspired me to ride in the annual 150 km MS bike ride.**

My first ride began 20 years ago. That year my training on a borrowed bike with fat tires, was a one-day ride to St. Mary's and back. Not enough training so that first ride was torture!! I learned that more training was necessary and skinny bike tires were needed. When our grandson Luc outgrew his racing bike, I inherited it and made it my own for more than 16 years,

The weekend begins from Grand Bend with an awesome number of volunteers at the four rest stops providing water and snacks. Motorcycles keep the way safe, and Voyageur Transport lends assistance, cycle repair, and first aid. **There is a cheering section to meet us at Western at the finish line at the end of that first day.**

We stay at Western overnight, have dinner, and then have an evening celebration with speakers and recognition of fundraisers. This provides us the opportunity to reconnect with other riders and hear inspiring stories. **I have reached my goal each year - \$2,000 in the early years - \$5,000 annually thereafter. After breakfast the next morning we cycle back to Grand Bend!**

When I first started riding there were maybe **400 riders maximum and that increased year by year to over 1300 pre-covid.**

After losing Doreen, I was introduced to Linda who has had MS for more than 30 years. Our team is called "Linda's LifeSavers". Our numbers have fluctuated over the years and this year we were four. We are small but mighty. **My sincere thank you to my family, friends, and many of you at Colborne for your faithful and ongoing support. You and this meaningful cause inspire me!**





Colborne's Community

Summer Invitations, by Helen Bell



This summer has been full of first experiences for me. I was given several invitations. The first was to travel to Pierce Williams Summer Camp located in a hilly countryside near Iona, Ontario, **to teach Scottish Country Dancing. This was the first day of a "Girls Only Week" at the camp;** when I arrived, it was obvious that more than seventy girls were attending. The campers were asked to choose an

activity, archery, volleyball, swimming, crafts or Scottish Country Dancing! Sixteen young girls ages seven to twelve years old opted to try dancing which they knew nothing about! The whole camp was thankfully air conditioned, and so we enjoyed lots of dancing!

My second invitation, came from Nick Suzuki, my grandson, who lives in Montréal where he is captain of the NHL's Montréal Canadiens. This was my first visit to Montréal. My daughter, Amanda, his mother, offered to drive, so we set off on a beautiful sunny morning in August. We arrived in Montréal after an eight-hour drive, including driving up four very steep hills, (yes, I had been forewarned about the hills in Montréal), to reach Nick's home. The following day we toured the Westmount area admiring its many lovely mansions.

The local shopping area was full of interesting stores and restaurants. Next morning, **Nick arranged for Amanda and I, to tour the Bell Centre, where the Canadiens have their home ice.** This was an amazing tour given by the team's security officer, viewing many areas which are not open to the public.

In the afternoon, we walked around old Montréal and enjoyed the beautiful architecture and ambience. Crêpes were on my wish list, and by chance we found a crêperie. Dinner out was quite an experience as we were constantly interrupted by customers seeking either an autograph or a photograph with Nick. One customer even sent a text to his grandson to come to the restaurant as Nick was there! I will certainly remember my first visit to Montréal with great delight.

In late August, I traveled with a fellow Scottish Country Dance teacher to Ryerson Summer Camp at Turkey Point where we had been invited to teach dancing to sixty-nine boys and girls. The hall was bursting at the seams with energetic kids. We had another fun-filled dancing session, and we drove home exhausted but very happy! It was quite the summer never to be forgotten

This Moment

By Jennifer Wenn

For Aunt June on her 80th Birthday

Burdens left behind,
this precious minute
glides into another,
and another,
each released from
the past's restraint,
each free to be what it will,
like a butterfly wafting
through a summer garden,
trusting to divine drafts
for what's to come,
perfect simplicity in
each eternal moment



Jennifer Wenn is David and June Wenn's Neice. She is a trans-

identified writer from London, Ontario. In addition to her day job as a Systems Analyst, she has written *From Adversity to Accomplishment*, a family and social history; and published poetry in *Tuck Magazine* and the anthology *Things That Matter*. She is also the proud parent of two adult children.





Colborne Supports

Thanksgiving At Colborne, Sunday October 13, 2024

In preparation for the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, October 13th, 2024, Barbara and I are asking for your **kind donations of vegetables, fruit and nonperishable grocery items to be dropped off on Saturday, October 12th in the Church parking lot between 9.30 am and 11.30 am.**

These donations will adorn the sanctuary and then be donated to the London Food Bank. **Thank you all for your kind support each year at Thanksgiving.**

Helen Bell and Barbara Webster, Thanksgiving Co-ordinators



Volunteers Needed!



Are you looking for a unique and interesting volunteer opportunity? If so, consider volunteering with CCLC, the Cross-Cultural Learning Centre in their Canada Connects Program.

Volunteers are matched with a newcomer family to help them navigate the city, learn about Canadian culture, mentor them in learning English, etc.

In return, you will learn about another culture, taste delicious ethnic food, make new friends and enjoy a very fulfilling experience.

For more information, contact: Ian Bagnas at ibagnas@lcclc.org

Richard Rodgers Retirement Food Drive: The Caring Cupboard

On September 15, Richard Rodgers expressed his sincere thanks to the Congregation at Sunday worship, for all of the donations made to his **Retirement Food Drive for The Caring Cupboard**. Richard in his no fuss, quiet way retired from his position as Sexton/Custodian after many years of dedicated service.

We will miss seeing him on Sundays **running around opening doors, helping with the bus riders' group, handling the tables and chairs for coffee hour and finally, as last to leave, making sure that the Church doors are locked and secure.**

The Caring Cupboard co-ordinators posted pictures of the donated items with a short note of thanks.





Community Information

Take a Break

Wednesday Morning is a time to get together and enjoy coffee and conversation.



Bring a craft to work on, or show and share a completed article. It is a nice break in the week to meet, to catch up with other members of the Congregation, and to share ideas.

Every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Want to Write for the Colborne Communiqué?

Please submit your material to: **colbornestunitedchurch@gmail.com** on the due date no later than 5:00 pm. The preferred method is an attachment typed in Microsoft Word and photos as attachments.

Material Due

December 6, 2024
March 17, 2025

Publish Date

January 6, 2025
April 17, 2025

Wheels to Worship

The Sunday Bus offers door-to-door service.

There is no cost to ride the bus. If you would like to ride the bus to Sunday Worship, please get in touch with Norma-Jean in the Church Office at 519-432-4552



Colborne Family and Friends

Happy Birthday to our members celebrating birthdays who are over 80 years of age

Anne Alton	October 3
Barrie Neal	October 10
Lorraine Rendle	October 14
Don Mathewson	November 5
Marion Simpson	December 1
Tom Meathrel	December 2
Ron McClatchie	December 5
Carolyn Mendham	December 8
Jo Perry	December 16
Ann Smith	December 23
Cathy Cull	December 30

In Memorium

Thomas Wonnacott	July 6
Ken Gosnell	July 20
Pat Campbell	July 31

Yoga @ Colborne



It is a holistic practice that offers numerous physical, mental, and emotional benefits

Gentle and Chair Yoga held on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Gentle Yoga:

October 26
November 9 & 23
December 7 & 21

Chair Yoga:

October 19
November 16
December 14

Yoga @ Colborne takes place in the Upper Hall.



Colborne Street United Church
Communiqué
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Meet the Colborne Team!

Staff

Ministry - Rev. Frank Staples
 Music- Kennedy Kimber-Johnson
 Secretary – Norma-Jean Greenslade
 Treasurer – Dan Servos
 Sexton - Vacant
 Custodian: Vacant
 Sunday School Coordinator- Dayna Munro
 Sunday School Teacher-Primary - Areum Han
 Audio/Visual – Andrew McKinlay

Communications Group

Jill Bell
 Andrew McKinlay
 Rev. Frank Staples
 Marcie Wenn

2024 Church Council

Chair: Stephen Chambers
 Immediate Past Chair: Archie Wright [Transition from Official Board]
 Secretary: Trish Ashbury
 Treasurer: Dan Servos
 Antler River Watershed Regional Council Lay Representative: Susan Staples
 Ministry: Rev. Frank Staples
 Trustees: Michael Boucher & Brian Cunliffe - Co-Chairs
 Stewards: Gail Hutchinson & Paul Wiancko - Co-Chairs
 Ministry & Personnel: Greg Dickinson-Chair
 Membership/Nominations: Cathy Cull & Eleanor Hunt-Co-Chairs
 Worship & Music: Ron McClatchie- Chair
 Christian Education: Barb Webster & Elizabeth Wonnacott - Co-Chairs
 Pastoral Care: Sheila Lui - Chair
 Local Outreach: Jill Bell – Chair, Includes Communications Group Liaison
 UCW - Sheila Lui- Chair

