



## **FEBRUARY, 2024 – NEWSLETTER**



### ***Journeys and Wanderings***

**On Feb. 14 we will celebrate Ash Wednesday**, or the beginning of Lent. Since the Council of Nivea in 325CE, Christians have used the 40 days before Easter as a time of prayer, fasting, and meditating on Christ’s life, ministry, and journey to the cross and resurrection. For many centuries in the Catholic tradition, Lent was a strict fast where only one meal a day was allowed, and no eggs, milk or red meat could be consumed—hence the abundance of Pancake Tuesdays (or Mardi Gras festivals) happening in the weeks before Lent.

We use some of these practices today; some people use Lent as a time to ‘give up’ something so that they can be reminded of Christ’s sacrifice for us. Others take additional time for prayer and meditation or commit to reading a certain part of the Bible during these 40 days (we’re doing the gospel of Mark this year, so perhaps you’d consider reading that with us!). The bottom line is, Lent is about setting special time aside to wonder and be grateful for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ, to reset

our hearts and lives and to journey toward the empty cross—and joyfully celebrate new life in Christ on Easter morning.

I've seen people get lost in Lent. In our Calvinist tradition, we often emphasize what we do, how we look, how we accomplish things over God's grace. We wander in the middle of a host of to-do lists, guilt, shame, hurt, pain, all thinking that if we can 'do something' or a host of good things, God will forgive us. But that's not the story. Perhaps, instead of wandering through Lent, we could choose to go on a journey. The difference between wandering and a journey is the presence of a destination. We've got a place to go. Or, in this case, *Someone* to meet.

Jesus came, and died for you and me, before we even knew it. And I think that's one of the most beautiful things about our faith and life in Christ. We were loved before we existed. And we are loved for eternity. We are loved enough that God in Christ gave his life for us. Not because of what we had done, not because of our fulfillment of a list, but because God took the initiative to make the relationship with all of creation right again.

I invite you to join us on a journey of stories, wonder, love and grace as we move through Lent, Holy Week, Easter and onward. Come for worship in person or online Sundays at 10:30. Join the Bible study Mondays at 11:30. Come to the Lenten soup and study on Wednesdays at 12 noon starting February 21. Pray with and for each other.

And as we journey together, we will share the love of Christ.

Blessings and peace,

*Rev. Susan*

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## **Session Update – January**

***First Session Meeting of 2024***, Jan. 8, moderated by Rev. Susan Kerr.

Bob Dickison reported that 115 people attended BEPC's successful **Christmas dinner** - all food bank users or seeking fellowship. The cost was \$4,050, including a tip. The Harvest Table owners provide free meals to needy people and Session voted to donate another \$500 to this cause, coming from Christmas dinner donations by BEPC's generous members. Nearly \$500 remains to be held for next Christmas.

Some other points: Our new **office administrator**, Susie Teal, started Jan. 8, working Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

The annual report should be ready about Feb. 11, in good time for the **March 3 AGM**.

BEPC again will subsidize associated children attending **Camp Kintail** (see below).

BEPC will consider sponsoring associated youths wishing to attend **LIFT (Living in Faith Together) 2024** at Brock University in July.

Mid-week **Lenten services** will be held at noon on Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, each followed by a soup and bun lunch.

Ron Dekker presented the December and full-year 2023 financial reports - see below.

Ron reported an agreement to repair the **back stairs**. New **elevator** locks will be installed when parts arrive.

Session agreed on a **rate card for funerals and weddings**, noting these are charged by funeral homes. The minister and treasurer may modify the fee schedule if appropriate.

Rev. Susan reported that the **youth group** would meet again in January to prepare for the Feb. 25 Scout and Guide service.

Jackie Wolfe and Rev. Susan will be hosting a monthly **prayer meeting**.

Presbytery has been invited to BEPC for its May meeting and will have a series of mini workshops. All are welcome.

The next Session meeting will be on Feb. 5.

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### ***Opportunities for Growth ... Come to Learn and Help Us Face the Challenges***

Working with our energetic new minister is a challenge - a good one, an opportunity to take new look at our beliefs, and an encouragement to grow spiritually.

Currently, Session is looking at elder role definition, and congregational and pastoral care.

What is an elder's function? In the current climate of disbelief and mockery, can we evangelize as perhaps we once did - or, as I believe, is being an example the best we can

do (while asking myself if that belief is defeatist)? Are we there to encourage the spiritual growth of BEPC members, or is it more relevant to take care of their physical needs where needed? How can we help Rev. Susan in her efforts to encourage young people to develop a connection with the Church and how can we encourage BEPC members to use their God-given gifts to help and guide the church? What roles need more priority, given our resources?

Rev. Susan gives us much to think about. As I said, it's a good challenge.

*Jerry Fairbridge*

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The Harvest Table set up for Christmas dinner (photos by Halyna Dickison)

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### 2023 TAX RECEIPTS

**Now available by EMAIL!**

Please let Halyna Dickison know, by Feb. 14, if you would prefer to receive your tax receipt by email.



### 2023 TAX RECEIPTS

**Paper receipts will be:**

- at the church → Sunday, Feb.18, 2024
  - mailed → to those of you not currently attending church in person
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### ***Jan. 2024 Financial Report***

Thanks to the congregation's generosity, BEPC overachieved in general givings for the last quarter by \$1,399.57 in a budget for the quarter of \$32,669.60.

Total income for the year from all sources was \$178,074.35, including special donations for;

- Children Believe \$1,810.00
- Christmas Dinner \$5,000.00
- Girls Like Me \$ 940.00
- Samaritan’s Purse \$1,501.00

Once again, BEPC gave generously to Presbyterians Sharing, donating \$15,690.00 on a budget of \$15,000.00. Our allocation for 2023 was \$13,500.00.

Although it was a very busy year financially, with the completion of several projects and unbudgeted expenses, the church ended the year with a \$13,931.17 surplus. Details will be provided in the financial report at the AGM scheduled for March 3.

Because Burlington East is positioning itself for growth in membership and outreach, budgeting for 2024 will appear differently than in previous years as we will be introducing a deficit budget for 2024 to pay for this growth. Funding for this deficit will come from accumulated prior year surpluses. Here we come 2024!

*Respectfully, your Finance Committee.*

	Giving - General Offering			Average Monthly	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget
January - March 2023	\$ 29,822.25	\$ 31,269.99	\$ (1,447.74)	\$ 9,940.75	\$ 10,423.33
April - June 2023	\$ 30,381.50	\$ 31,269.99	\$ (888.49)	\$ 10,127.17	\$ 10,423.33
July - September 2023	\$ 27,446.85	\$ 31,269.99	\$ (3,823.14)	\$ 9,148.95	\$ 10,423.33
Oct - December 2023	\$ 32,669.60	\$ 31,270.03	\$ 1,399.57	\$ 10,889.87	\$ 10,423.34
<b>YTD 2023</b>	<b>\$ 120,320.20</b>	<b>\$ 125,080.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,759.80)</b>		
	<b>YTD Actual Income to Budget Variance (Envelopes)</b>		<b>-4%</b>		



*Brendan Beaudin, Madeleine Beaudin and Shay Alexander at Camp Kintail*

Camp Kintail is a summer camp for youth on the shores of Lake Huron, operated by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. To encourage youth to attend, and as part of our ongoing outreach to youth, BEPC subsidizes registration fees for children connected to Burlington East.

For the current year, BEPC will pay up to \$420 per child towards camp fees.

Registration can be made by visiting [campkintail.ca](http://campkintail.ca) and following the registration guidelines.

Once you've registered, submit receipts to the church office for reimbursement to a maximum of \$420 per child.

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### FAVOURITE HYMNS?

Do you have a favourite hymn (or two or more) you'd like to sing at our services?

Please let Halyna Dickison know at:

Email: [office@burlingtoneast.net](mailto:office@burlingtoneast.net) or phone 905-637-5155

*HEARING ASSISTANCE - If you need help with hearing and aren't yet sure which of our new systems is best for you, see Ron Dekker or Bob Dickison for assistance.*

*Join us for fellowship after the service*

## BOOK, BIBLE & BAG LUNCH CLUB



11:30 AM



Every  
MONDAY



MORE  
INFORMATION SEE  
REV. KERR

## **Burlington East Social Club**



The Social Club continues to meet every Monday afternoon, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$2.00 admission covers coffee, snacks and future events.

New members always welcome.

See Ron or Susan for details

## **Men's Group**



**COME HELP THEM SOLVE THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS  
MONDAYS AT 10 AM - McRAE ROOM**



**Lenten lunch sign-up sheet for  
soup/bun/dessert providers  
downstairs at fellowship!**



**(lunches begin Feb.21)**



**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**



COMMITTEE / GROUP	DATE / TIME
CHOIR	EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 11:00 AM
F&M COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY January 31 @ 7:30 PM
PASTORAL CARE	WEDNESDAY February 7 @ 10:30 AM
PRAYER GROUP	THURSDAY February 15 @11:00 AM
SESSION	MONDAY February 5 @ 7:30 PM
TECHNOLOGY GROUP	None scheduled

NEXT WOMENS  
GATHERING IS  
LUNCH @



3120 South Service Road

ON FEBRUARY 8  
AT 1 PM

LET ANN or JANE KNOW  
BY FEBRUARY 4, IF YOU  
ARE ATTENDING

<p>Prayer Requests</p> <p><a href="mailto:minister@burlingtoneast.net">minister@burlingtoneast.net</a></p>	<p>Flowers in memory</p> <p>Send your request to: <a href="mailto:minister@burlingtoneast.net">minister@burlingtoneast.net</a></p>
<p>DELIVERED TO YOUR EMAIL IN-BOX</p> <p>BURLINGTON EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p><i>The Lamp</i></p> <p><i>Shining a light into the life of our congregation</i></p> <p>SEND YOUR REQUEST IN TODAY OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET</p>	<p>LOCATED AT THE FRONT AND BACK OF SANCTUARY</p> <p><b>HOW TO GIVE TO BEPC</b></p> <p>MAIL TO: BEPC, 505 WALKERS LINE BURLINGTON, ON L7N 2E3</p> <p>e-Transfer</p> <p>SEND TO: CLERK@BURLINGTONEAST.NET</p> <p>SEE RON DEKKER TO USE POINT OF SALE</p>



### ***Chaplaincy in the Military***

During Ray Paquette's 33 and a-half years in the Navy, he knew many memorable military chaplains. He thought we might be interested in a function of the church not often discussed. And in a particular Canadian (and Presbyterian) hero.

*(Ralph Gilbert's father was a military chaplain, Capt. Frank Gilbert.)*

Military chaplaincy dates back nearly 1,600 years to the Roman Empire. Evidence suggests Christian clerics occasionally were found attached to stationary Roman army units. The word chaplain comes from the Latin capellanus.

Chaplains are there to be the friend and adviser and boost the morale of the fighting men. They share the hardships and perils that fall to other service personnel, and ten members of the Canadian Chaplains Service are buried in Second World War graves, three in France, two in Belgium, two in the Netherlands, two in Italy and one in the U.K.

The circle on a chaplain's badge carries a symbol of their faith tradition: for Christian chaplains, the Maltese cross, which has long been associated with Christian chaplaincy. Jewish chaplains wear the symbol of the Tablets of the Law and the Star of David, and Muslim chaplains wear the Crescent.

Once selected, chaplains, have to pass a 12-week intensive basic military training course at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu,

Quebec. They learn to apply their newly acquired military skills in training exercises, and undergo a rigorous physical fitness program.

After they complete the Basic Military Officer Qualification, chaplains spend 12 to 18 months engaged in various online and in-person professional development courses.

### ***A Canadian hero***

How many know of the Presbyterian John Weir Foote, VC CD, 1904 - 1988, military chaplain and politician and the only Canadian chaplain to be awarded the Victoria Cross?

Foote was born in Madoc in eastern Ontario and educated at the University of Western Ontario, at Queen's University, at Presbyterian College and at McGill University. He entered the Presbyterian ministry in 1934 and served congregations in Fort-Coulonge, Quebec, and Port Hope, Ontario.

In December, 1939, after the outbreak of the Second World War, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and was posted to The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment) as the Regimental Chaplain with the rank of Honorary Captain.

Foote was 38 years old and serving as the padre of the RHLI when, on Aug. 19, 1942, during the Dieppe Raid, he calmly walked about collecting the wounded and carrying them to safety.

At the end of the gruelling eight hours of the battle, he climbed from the landing craft that was to take him to safety and deliberately walked into the German position to be taken prisoner so he could help the men, who would be in captivity until May 5, 1945.

### ***Naval Chaplains***

The Navy was an outlier in the armed services. Although chaplains wore an officer's uniform, it was bereft of rank insignia. Army chaplains, in the first part of their career, wore the rank of captain and Air Force the rank of a flight lieutenant. The Navy's rationale was that enlisted men would feel more at ease receiving counselling without being intimidated by the rank of the counsellor.

It was a chaplain who inducted me into the Presbyterian Church - Major Stan Self, the protestant chaplain at Canadian Forces Base Kingston. I was raised a Baptist though I'd attended Presbyterian churches since marrying my late wife. Major Self made it official.

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## Comfortable Or Conformed?

**Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (KJV)

For eleven years, my husband Marcelo and I had been renting an apartment in Chandler, Arizona, USA. In 2020, when it came time for us to renew our yearly lease, we were hit with some very unexpected news. In order to keep up with Chandler's competitive rising rental rates, the apartment owners would be totally renovating each apartment, and the renovations were going to cause the rent to double.

After hearing of the changes, if tenants opted not to renew their lease, they would be given thirty days' notice to relocate or to rent month-to-month, which would be even more expensive. If, however, the tenants agreed to stay, it would be the tenants' responsibility to move everything temporarily out of their apartment into a rented storage facility until the renovating process was completed, then to move everything back into the apartment. The new rents would become effective upon the completion of the renovation process, and the renovations were happening rather quickly.

We had thoroughly enjoyed the eleven years that we spent in the apartment. The complex provided excellent maintenance, weekly landscaping, and even pest control, if needed, but Marcelo and I decided that it was time to move, especially since there was no way of knowing how much or how often they would now choose to raise the rent each year. I knew that I would miss our apartment. During the years that I lived there, God had given me many opportunities to minister to the residents.

We had grown very comfortable living there, and we had actually thought that we would remain there until God called us home. Would you agree with me that even in our well-being and doing, there is a spiritual danger for us when we become too comfortable with where we are and what we are doing? Stepping out of our comfort zone was difficult and challenging, but God can use even seemingly negative experiences to draw us closer to Him by believing and trusting that He can use anything for His good.

In 2020, praise God, we ended up buying a home and moving to Casa Grande, Arizona.

Before we moved, my prayer was, "Dear Lord, I hope that I will draw closer to You at our new home than I have ever been before." Four days after moving in, I became ill, and for the three years that followed, it was one debilitating health issue after another. Did I grow closer to God? I most certainly did!

If God calls us to step outside of our comfort zone, let us remind ourselves not to be afraid, but to trust Him, to believe that He will strengthen us, and to know that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, Your ultimate goal is to use the goods and the bads of this physical and temporal world to conform us to Jesus' image. May we be more conformed than comfortable. Amen.



Please remember, we are doing everything we can to keep all the information in these newsletters as accurate, inclusive of everyone in our BEPC family, and informative as possible. We apologize in advance for any omissions or errors. They are by no means intentional.

## **BURLINGTON EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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