

MAY, 2024 – NEWSLETTER



Spring is here. Take a deep breath. Look at all the things that are waking up after a long winter.

Smell - the earth, the flowers, that heady scent of old running shoes pulled out after a long winter....

For me, spring is a time of so much thankfulness. We celebrate Easter and the life we have in Christ, the good news we have to share, and the joy that comes from knowing the Holy Spirit works in us continually to teach, inspire, and help us grow. We belong to Christ, and to a community of faith that journeys together through all seasons.

Spring is exciting here too - we have just celebrated a month of mission Sundays about children and youth ministries, we head into plans for **Summer Adventure Camp** (there are still spaces left!), a new **Bible study on James**, new music for the choir, elders' training workshops, social outreaches like the **Monday Social Club** and **Gather and Connect** and so much more.

In April, as the days warmed up, something stopped me in my tracks every time I walked into the church. As a "first year Burlington East-er", I am constantly surprised by the beauty of the flowers

coming up in the garden court, most of which were planted in past years and are constantly being taken care of. Someone planted those flowers in the knowledge that they wouldn't get to see them bloom soon, but they would bloom later.

What an amazing gift of stewardship and faith! Working with God's creation, even down to where the sunlight would be at different times of the day in that court, the gardener planted so that those coming later could enjoy it, so that bulbs would divide over the years, and the garden would grow.

That's an awesome model for our community. We plant so that others can learn, enjoy, and benefit from God's garden growing here. It's the reason we are running the programs and ministries that we do. It's the reason elders and leaders spend time in workshops and preparation and reaching out to care for others. It's the reason we learn in worship and study. It's the reason we embrace an extended budget this year as we plant ministry seeds and meet needs for those in our congregation and in our community. How else are we being stewards of God's garden, rejoicing in the life in Christ and good news we can share, and helping things grow for the present and next generation?

When we take on these growth projects, pray about them, and seek to discern where God wants us to steward these resources, God answers prayers. On our youth Uplift Sunday, we asked the congregation to help support one of our youth going to a national youth conference by a one-time donation. The registration fee was covered in 20 minutes during coffee hour! When we asked the congregation to engage in a new ministry of sponsoring a restaurant takeover for Christmas at the Harvest Table, the cost of the dinner was more than covered, and some of those funds are still being used to help those who drop in and need a hot meal. When the call went out for leadership for Sunday School and Summer Adventure Camp, God moved people's hearts, and we now have a full Sunday School leadership team and the core leaders we need. When people needed contact, the pastoral care team and elders reached out, and continues to reach out, with a phone and visiting ministry that makes sure people are connected and know that they are cared for and loved by God and by this community.

I don't know about you, but I am so thankful for all of that. I am thankful for the ways we see God moving, and for the call that Christ makes on our lives for new mission, new hope, new growth.

On May 19, we will celebrate Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church. Here's a prayer I often use to start my day in this season of the church year. It is a little bit dangerous ... but it helps me keep my heart and mind where they need to be.

Prayer for Pentecost season:

Lord, your Spirit came to a bunch of fishermen, and a crowd gathered, and to them you gave words so they could live in your Spirit, grow in your grace, and spread your joy to the world. Help us to be humble, seeking, and joy-filled as we spread your love. Lord, in any way we can, let our lives bring forth Life.

Amen.

Joyfully in Christ's service with you,

Rev. Susan

2024	Giving - General Offering			Average Monthly	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget
January - March 2024	\$ 30,631.00	\$ 33,750.00	\$ (3,119.00)	\$ 10,210.33	\$ 11,250.00
April - June 2024					
July - September 2024					
Oct - December 2024					
YTD 2024	\$ 30,631.00	\$ 33,750.00	\$ (3,119.00)		
	YTD Actual Income to Budget Variance (Envelopes)		-9%		

Finances A deficit budget was approved at the AGM for 2024. Now it's important that we work to achieve the approved income target on a monthly basis for the deficit to stay within target and not grow further.

Falling behind this early in the year means it will be more difficult to close the gap as the year progresses. If BEPC is unable to meet its financial goal, a larger deficit will consume the money saved in prior years and that will reduce our ability to work our long-term plan for growth and community support.

With the first quarter of 2024 over, BEPC has a 10-per-cent shortfall in income. We prayerfully request that you review your givings, looking to the future, and help meet our financial commitments for 2024. The BEPC congregation has always been generous. Thank you for that.

Ron Dekker for the Finance and Maintenance committee

Save the date for....
**Summer Adventure:
Camp Big World!**

Exploring God's creation!

- **July 22-26, 9:00-12:00**
- **@ Burlington East
Presbyterian Church**

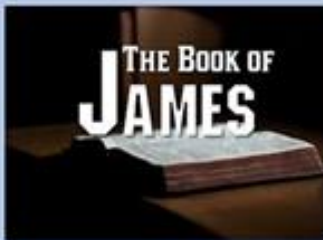


The Youth Group had an outing to the RBG to see *Nature's Superheroes*. The small but mighty group explored some amazing creatures and highly recommend checking out the RBG. (photo: Donna Beaudin)



Heather and Jack Needham with their latest grandson, Everett Jack Machmer

BOOK, BIBLE & BAG LUNCH CLUB



BEPC
McRae Room



EVERY
MONDAY



MORE
INFORMATION SEE
REV. KERR



No better fun for \$2.00: the Monday social club viewed the April 8 total solar eclipse after coffee, tea and treats. (Group photo by Susan Evans. Eclipse diamond ring by Mike McFadden)

More on Leading with Care: What we do at Burlington East

In the New Testament, the church is likened to the body of Christ and to a flock of sheep under the guidance of Christ's shepherding. John Calvin compared the church to a mother who nurtures a child. Christians aspire to the highest expression of Christian fellowship implicit in these images and explicit in the teaching of Christ and the epistles of the early church.

At Burlington East we aspire to ensure all our ministries and activities are undertaken in a safe and caring environment. This environment is aligned with the policy of the Presbyterian Church in Canada which states that:

"All persons, and in particular all children, youth and vulnerable adults, who participate in the denomination's programs, ministries and/or use the denomination's facilities will be cared for with Christian compassion and will be safe."

Burlington East is indeed a very caring, compassionate congregation, and, to further support this culture, the *Leading with Care* committee is working to ensure all *Leading with Care* procedures as laid out by The Presbyterian Church in Canada are embedded in our ministries and become top of mind.

We have recently completed risk assessments for all but a few of our ministries and activities and the Finance and Maintenance Committee continually reviews building safety. In addition to receiving a comprehensive presentation on *Leading with Care*, Session has completed the required training in the principles of the *Leading with Care* policy.

Gord Fielding



Men's Group



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

NEXT WOMENS
GATHERING IS
LUNCH @



1900 Appleby Line

ON MAY 9
AT 1 PM

LET ANN or JANE KNOW
BY MAY 5, IF YOU ARE
ATTENDING

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

BEPC offers
several sound
reinforcement
& listening
options

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE
TO HEAR THE SERVICE?



Bluetooth



Headset



T-Coil

See Ron Dekker or Bob Dickison
for confidential assistance.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS



COMMITTEE / GROUP	DATE / TIME
CHOIR	EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 11:00 AM
F&M COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY MAY 1 @ 7:30 PM
PASTORAL CARE	WEDNESDAY MAY 1 @ 10:30 AM
PRAYER GROUP	THURSDAY MAY 16 @ 11:00 AM
SESSION	MONDAY May 6 @ 7:30 PM
TECHNOLOGY GROUP	None scheduled



For The Good of Others

Matthew 16:25 - [Jesus said] "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it." (NLT)

Some years ago, my husband received a phone call from a social worker in a neighbouring province: "Could you take your mother in?" I had recently returned to our home in rural Alberta, Canada, after visiting my mother-in-law in hospital there. She was referred to endearingly as "Mother-Dear", a tongue-in-cheek nickname that her children had given her. Acute physical issues had caused her to be admitted, but the doctor's assessment of her persistent, annoying requests was "importunate", as if Mother-Dear still demanded the attention that she had craved during her troubled childhood.

When we first heard that she was in hospital, God distinctly impressed me that I should go and visit her. I wasn't sure how to accomplish this. Through a series of miracles, though, I was able to leave my teaching job, even before spring break began, and hitch a ride with an acquaintance

who was going that way, a journey of more than eight hours. Now Mother-Dear had been in the hospital nearly a month, and had improved so much that she no longer qualified for the long-term program that the doctor had initially targeted for her. Hence, the phone call.

It was a daunting prospect, but Terry and I knew that we had to offer her a home with us. We saw that God was asking us to give up our right to the comfort and privacy of our own home out of love for someone weak and powerless, so that she could get better and even flourish.

"How can we ever do this?" I asked our pastor's wife.

"If God is leading you, He will provide what you need to for the task," she replied.

So that we wouldn't miss too much school, we left during the night to pick up Mother-Dear. She was so happy and relieved that we would take her in.

At first, Mother-Dear clung closely to me, and needed help with the smallest of tasks. As the months went by, she flourished in the atmosphere of the small Bible college on whose campus we lived, and that included the Christian school where we taught. She lapped up the care and attention of the college students as we took part in campus activities. Bit by bit, Mother-Dear became sure of her position as a child of God, and we witnessed her faith and trust in God blossom. The 17 months that she stayed with us were not easy, but by taking in Terry's mother with God's help, we laid aside our own rights in order to benefit someone else.

Let's do our best to live not for ourselves, "but for the good of others". (*1 Corinthians 10:24b NLT*)

Prayer: Lord, help us to remember that we live to benefit others and not for ourselves alone, for that's how You want us to live, even when we're inconvenienced. May whatever we do be done all for Your glory. 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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