



*October 2024*

**NEXT COMMUNION SERVICES: OCT. 6 AND DEC. 1**

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### ***Will there be cake?***

It's probably the most asked question about social events at a church. It ranks right up there with, "Will there be church sandwiches?"

Well, here's the good news: the church community is like cake.

The cake has multiple layers, perfect butter cream frosting and a crumb coat, intricate decorations carefully placed, delicious flavour from fruit and small candies buried in the batter. It's nearly a metre high and everyone who sees it knows there's enough cake here to feed everyone. Individual layers of the cake are gluten free, vegan, and a separate portion is nut free. It all looks fantastic.

In I Corinthians 12, Paul talks about the church growing in unity through different gifts, and that the culmination of the church community exercising those gifts is that they are done in love (I Corinthians 13). If God made a cake without the icing or the decorations, it wouldn't have the same impact or attraction as one that was complete. If you just had a bowl of icing, well, that's not going to work so well if you try to have burning birthday candles stuck in it.

God called together our church community as the body of Christ with many different gifts, brought together and 'baked' beautifully. We are all different parts of that cake. We all have different roles to play in sharing the gospel. If that diversity of gifts and roles isn't there, our witness isn't as effective or attractive to others, just like cake without icing or icing without the structure of the cake.

We need all the parts of the cake. We are called to be part of this church community with the gifts that God has given us—there is a special place and purpose for each of us in this community.

As you read through some of the articles in the Lamp this month, and as we approach Thanksgiving, let's be thankful for those gifts.

Let's affirm and encourage what we see in others.

Let's name things we can do or offer - they might be knowledge or a skill that's needed.

Let's open our hearts to God calling us to use who we are, what we can do, and where we are for Christ. The baker is the only one who knows how the cake will turn out. As we establish and get working on our vision priorities this fall, let's put ourselves in God's hands to serve where we're needed, to try something new, and to pray about what part of God's cake we're called to be.

While the result may be surprising, I'm convinced it's not only going to be blessed, but also there will be a lot of fun moments and surprises as we discover the richness and beauty and depth of gifts God has given this community. For example, did you know we have a professional level cookie decorator?

I'm so thankful to be in Christ's service with you and looking forward to what we discover about God's gifts here. And yes, somewhere along the line, we'll have cake.



Blessings and peace,

*Rev. Susan*

## *Election of Elders*

At the September session meeting, BEPC elders discerned a need to elect at least three new members. This is exciting—the need comes about because we have new ministries starting, visions and leadership needs, and expanded mission and outreach opportunities.

In the Presbyterian Church in Canada, oversight of the church and its activities is by ruling elders, elected from the congregation, and teaching elders: the minister. Together, we make decisions, oversee pastoral care, and provide spiritual leadership and stewardship. Any ministry that happens at BEPC, and all members and adherents of BEPC, are under the care of the session.

That care takes many expressions. Sometimes it involves individual visits in times of crisis, phone calls, regular conversations during ministry activities, participation in the small groups that the church offers, contact through email or text. We work together to spiritually care for one another, to encourage one another, and to grow as Christ's disciples here. **Recently, Session approved a new model of pastoral care for our members and adherents that encourages connection with your elder and session through small groups that are already present in the church.** Later in October, you'll be getting an email or letter from the elder responsible for you. You'll know them, and you'll probably know a lot of the other people in your 'district' under this new model. We support one another as we grow in Christ.

While all our members and adherents are covered under our present plan, we recognize that some elders need to shift responsibilities because of growing ministries in the church and outreach to our community—and that's exciting. The culture of our session is one of consensus building and high trust as we focus on the mission and vision priorities of our church. We back each other up, pray together, serve together; and honestly, it's a joy to be the moderator of this group of people.

Time commitment as a session member includes one meeting per month, providing oversight to a group of people as described above, regular prayer and faithful living, and being a visible leader of faith in the congregation (there are a lot of ways to express that!). Other opportunities for leadership arise in session, and we negotiate sharing those together. An elder is elected by the congregation for a term of six years, which is renewable.

We'll be opening nominations for elders in October/November, and representatives of session will meet with all nominated candidates over December and January. In February, the election ballot will be announced and we will hold the election of elders on the Sunday of our Annual Meeting (usually the first Sunday in March).

As we grow, we are looking for session members who:

- 1) are members of the congregation and have professed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour;
- 2) have a calling to serve Christ and learn more as a disciple;
- 3) are regular attenders at worship;
- 4) care deeply for the community here;
- 5) and can maintain good boundaries. This last one is important, as session is a closed meeting in the Presbyterian Church. This is not for gossip, but because we often take care of sensitive pastoral issues. Anything that can be communicated to the congregation is communicated to the congregation.

Please pray for yourself and for others and listen to God's call to this ministry. As a session, we will be praying for you as you consider. We are blessed to have many potential elders in this congregation, and we look forward to leading together.

Please feel free to address any questions to me, Bob Dickison, or any of the current elders on session.

Peace and blessings in Christ,

*Rev. Susan*

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photos by Ron Dekker

***The Social Club's annual BBQ. Twenty six people attended, enjoying hamburgers and sausages with potato and salad. Desert was Ice cream on a stick. After some good fellowship, the card players enjoyed Euchre and Rummikub.***

*BEPC Vision Priorities - the adventure continues!*

*It's time!*

BEPC has two strong mission and vision statements. If we were to consider these in the corporate world, their functions would overlap. The bottom line is these statements, established at the last vision process, form the framework for any ministry here at BEPC. For each ministry, we ask ourselves:

- 1) Does this ministry/group/conversation help me or others Know Christ and Make Him Known?
- 2) Does this ministry/group/conversation help me and/or others to Live for Jesus Every Day?

Both of these statements talk about what it means to be faithful disciples of Christ. However, fulfilling these two mission and vision statements is more than we could do in a lifetime, so our focus this Fall is the question:

*Dear God, where would you like us to focus our energy, resources and time to accomplish this mission?*

When churches do vision process, we often dream big, and we have. Now we are asking God to direct us to 3-5 priorities (which will have SMART goals, or specific steps) to work on over the next three years. In mid-November, the Vision Team will be sending out questions to gather information from the congregation about our sense of ourselves, our calling, and where we can commit to doing the work that has been set out for us. At this stage in the vision process, there are no limits on the ideas - big, small, creative, new, challenging - anything can be on the table that will help us accomplish the two goals above.

Stay tuned, and we're looking forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile, as always, please pray and give time to listen to God as we seek to do Christ's will in the future planning for BEPC.

Please feel free to ask Marg Whitwell, Ron Dekker or me if you have any questions.

Peace in Christ,

*Rev. Susan*

Greeters meet to review plans for welcoming BEPC visitors and the Hospitality Table tools



Photo by Ron Dekker



Photos by Grace Dann

BEPC friends at a Brant Hills Presbyterian Church fund raiser, *A Taste of the Caribbean*.

*October is **Children Believe** mission month: Your generosity helps educate, feed, clothe - it changes the lives! - of two girls in Africa.* Donate by bank transfer, or see Ron Dekker.



**BEPC YOUTH!  
SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 6, 2024  
12:30-2:30PM  
MEET AT BEPC  
FOR PIZZA AND  
DEVOTIONS,  
THEN OFF TO  
MINIGOLF AT  
WITHIN RANGE!**



PLEASE RSVP TO REV SUSAN KERR BY  
OCTOBER 1, 2024 AT  
[MINISTER@BURLINGTONEAST.NET](mailto:MINISTER@BURLINGTONEAST.NET) OR  
905.637.5155 SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH  
PIZZA WE NEED ☺, AND ANY FOOD  
ALLERGIES/PREFERENCES.

IF YOU HAVE NOT FILLED OUT A  
CONSENT FORM FOR THE YEAR, PLEASE  
FILL OUT ONE AT THE BEGINNING OF  
THE EVENT. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO  
DRIVE YOU WITHOUT THIS PERMISSION.  
THANK YOU!

**Exploring Faith and Jesus  
September 30**

**October 7**

**6:20 pm-7:20 pm**

**Talk to Rev Susan or Tony Cirone,  
or call 905.637.5155**

# BOOK, BIBLE & BAG LUNCH CLUB

Adventures in:



MONDAYS AT  
11:30 AM



NEXT MTG  
MONDAY Sept. 30



MORE  
INFORMATION SEE  
REV. KERR

## Men's Group



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

NEXT WOMENS  
GATHERING IS  
LUNCH @

## PUR & SIMPLE

1940 APPLEBY LINE

ON OCTOBER 10  
AT 1 PM

LET ANN or JANE KNOW  
BY OCTOBER 6, 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.

## Prayer Requests

[minister@burlingtoneast.net](mailto:minister@burlingtoneast.net)

## Flowers in memory

Send your request to:

[OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET](mailto:OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET)

DELIVERED TO YOUR EMAIL IN-BOX



SEND YOUR REQUEST IN TODAY  
[OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET](mailto:OFFICE@BURLINGTONEAST.NET)



LOCATED AT THE FRONT AND BACK OF SANCTUARY

e-Transfer

[DONATIONS@BURLINGTONEAST.NET](mailto:DONATIONS@BURLINGTONEAST.NET)

## HOW TO GIVE TO BEPC



MAIL TO: BEPC, 505 WALKERS LINE  
BURLINGTON, ON L7N 2E3



SEE RON DEKKER TO USE POINT OF SALE





# COMMITTEE MEETINGS



COMMITTEE / GROUP	DATE / TIME
CHOIR REHEARSAL	EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 11:00 AM
F&M COMMITTEE	TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 @ 7:30 PM
PASTORAL CARE	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2 @10:30AM
PRAYER GROUP	THURSDAY OCTOBER 24 @11:00 AM
SESSION	THURSDAY OCTOBER 10 @ 7:30 PM
TECHNOLOGY GROUP	MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 @ 7:00 PM



LOCATED AT THE FRONT AND BACK OF SANCTUARY

**e-Transfer**

[DONATIONS@BURLINGTONEAST.NET](mailto:DONATIONS@BURLINGTONEAST.NET)

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SEE RON DEKKER TO USE POINT OF SALE