

The Lamp

Shining a light into the life of our congregation



December, 2024

Welcome to Advent

*Today, we light the candle of hope
Today, we light the candle of peace
Today, we light the candle of joy
Today, we light the candle of love
Tonight, we light the Christ candle*

They're familiar words as we travel through Advent, week by week. It's the time of expectation, waiting for the coming of Christ. **God with us** changed the story of humanity forever, but not always in the ways we wanted or might expect.

Advent is a season of cosmic-sized prophecies about a coming Messiah - God's word made flesh (John 1) - and human interactions as young parents try to take care of a baby while travelling (Luke 2). It's about power struggles and displaced people (Luke 2) and fear of change, and those who are the most vulnerable seeing the face of God and getting the good news first (Luke 2). It's about upending everyone's expectations of who God should be and how God should come and who God should come to. We have a lot to look at, and sing about, and explore.

God comes. God is with us. Emmanuel.

We spend the rest of our lives trying to figure that one out. If God is present and Jesus lives in our hearts, how can we be God's presence in this world that Christ loves?

During Advent, we see all kinds of ways that God lets us know how to be present. To be willing to take risks to show that everyone belongs in the love of God, to welcome those who are refugees, to feed the hungry, to let the most vulnerable know God is here, loves us, and shows us how to change society so that the angel's words, ***Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy*** (Luke 2:10) stay true all year.

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves to do all that we need to do both in our own hearts and in our community. As we travel together through these weeks of seeing God's hope, peace, joy, and love, let's take a good look at how we are living those gifts both at BEPC and out in the world. There are lots of examples of that in these pages—take a close look and join us. Whether you are celebrating Christ's birth for the 98th time or for the first, or whether you are wondering if these events even happened at all, welcome. We journey together, and together we see God, as Father William O'Malley says in his book **More Prayers for Busy People** *In all of God's surprising disguises*. It's one of my favourite lines.

Looking forward to journeying with you in hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas.

Blessings,

Rev. Susan Kerr

Two Advent treats

Advent marks the period of preparation as we wait with great anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. As Advent unfolds, we invite you to join us in celebration following the service on Dec. 8. A light lunch will be served at fellowship. If you can bring a dessert, please sign up during fellowship or let Ann David or me know. We look forward to sharing in the Season of Advent with you.

Donna Beaudin



Sunday Dec.8, 2024
A special treat!

**Wellington Square United
Bell Choir**

will be performing during our service!



ADVENT SERVICES



Dec 1 – “HOPE” & COMMUNION

**Dec 8 – “PEACE” & WELLINGTON UNITED
CHURCH BELL CHOIR & ADVENT TEA**

**Dec 15 – “JOY” & MAKE A CHRISTMAS
ORNAMENT DURING FELLOWSHIP**

Dec 22 – “LOVE” & PAPER BAG PAGEANT

Dec 24 @ 7 PM – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

A Thoughtful Christmas

**Come for a quieter,
meditative afternoon service
to remember those who have
passed away or are away
from us this Christmas.**



WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 1 PM

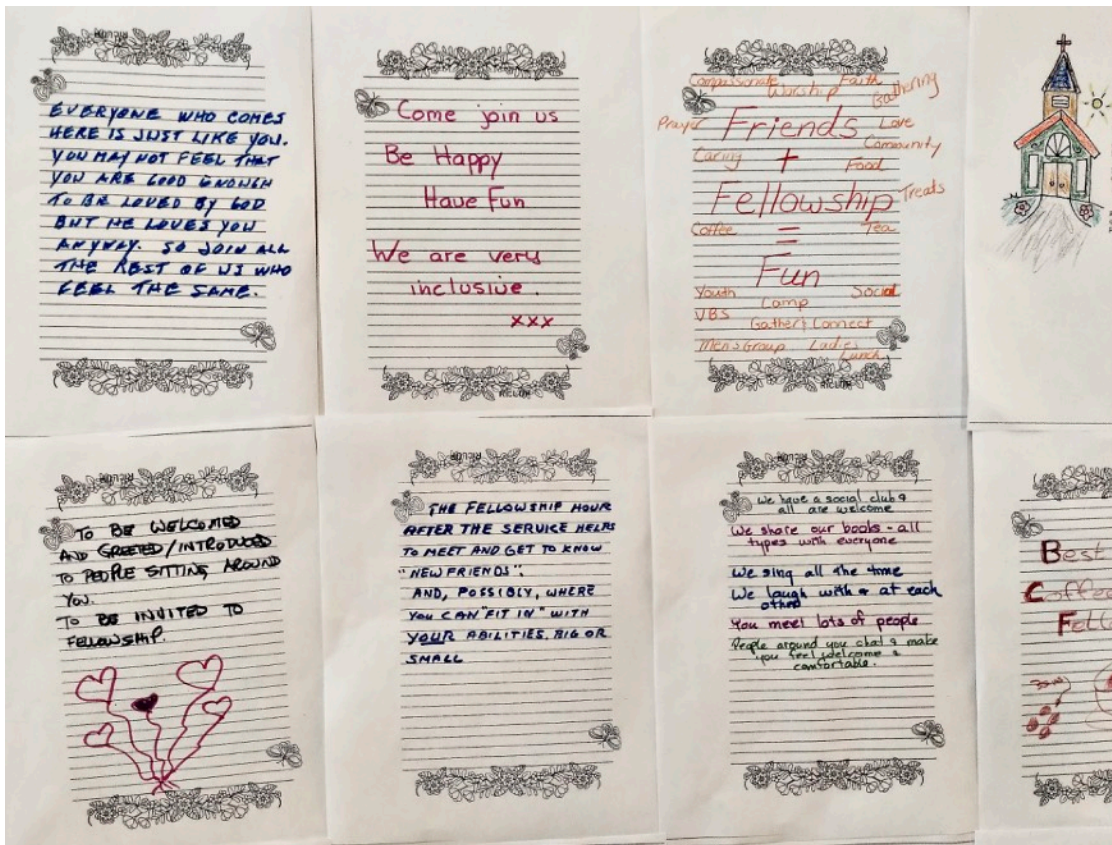
Financial update

Envelope givings were super generous for six months but unexpectedly they've fallen again. This has placed BEPC in a less enviable position than when the Finance and Maintenance Committee reported to the congregation in April, when we were only \$3,119 behind. We hoped we would continue to close the gap but givings are now **\$3,324** below the 2024 budget. We pray that the congregation is able to make a final generous push toward meeting our financial goals for 2024.

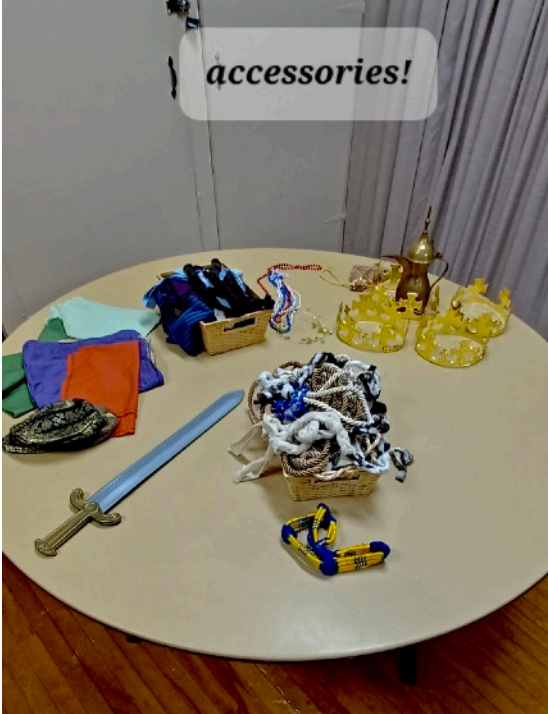
Ron Dekker, Treasurer

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget
Oct-24	\$ 9,670.00	\$ 11,250.00	\$ (1,580.00)	\$ 9,670.00	\$ 11,250.00
YTD 2024	\$ 109,176.00	\$ 112,500.00	\$ (3,324.00)		
	YTD Actual Income to Budget Variance (Envelopes)		-3%		

From the Intergenerational Service - a few of the reasons why we love BEPC



This table of accessories is a clue to Christmas. What do these things mean? Come to the Dec. 22 Sunday morning worship to find out!

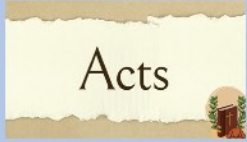


“Pro” golfers Stephen Shields and Ken Niepage of the mens group take advantage of a mini golf course created by the youth group in September



BOOK, BIBLE & BAG LUNCH CLUB

Adventures in:



MONDAYS AT
11:30 AM



NEXT MTG
MONDAY Dec. 2



MORE
INFORMATION SEE
REV. KERR

Men's Group



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

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

NEXT WOMENS GATHERING IS LUNCH @

Burloak / Wycroft Road

ON DECEMBER 12 AT 1 PM

LET ANN or JANE KNOW BY DECEMBER 8, IF YOU ARE ATTENDING

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE TO HEAR THE SERVICE?



Bluetooth



Headset



T-Coil

BEPC offers several sound reinforcement & listening options

See Ron Dekker or Bob Dickison for confidential assistance.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS



COMMITTEE / GROUP	DATE / TIME
CHOIR REHEARSAL	EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 11:00 AM
F&M COMMITTEE	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 @7:30 PM
PASTORAL CARE	WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4 @10:30AM
PRAYER GROUP	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28 @11:00 AM
SESSION	MONDAY DECEMBER 2 @ 7:30 PM
TECHNOLOGY GROUP	MONDAY JANUARY 20 @ 7:30 PM

December Mission Month: Mitten Tree, White Gift Sunday and Christmas dinner campaign

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

HOSTED BY

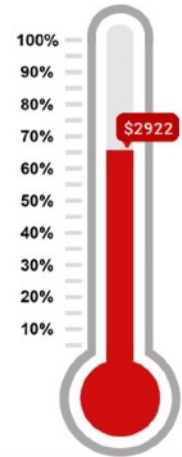


HARVEST TABLE FAMILY RESTAURANT

COST PER MEAL \$30.

SERVING 150 MEALS

\$4500.



HOW MANY MEALS WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE?