

Dear Friends,

We are now well into the season of Lent, a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter.

We continue to hold Rev. Pat in our prayers and thoughts as she continues her journey of restoring her health.

During the last five Sundays, we were blessed with inspirational messages from Rev. Kerrie Perry and Rev. Todd McDonald. We look forward to Rev. Dick returning to us for Sunday worship.

The various committees continue to work and plan activities for your participation. Please check this newsletter, our web page or the Burton Banner for events happening in the near future at Burton Avenue.

During the summer of 2010, Kristy Sawyers, a youth from our congregation, will be taking part in the Living Waters Presbytery youth mission to Nicaragua. We offer our support to her through prayer, raising awareness within the congregation of the mission projects and becoming involved with fundraising initiatives.

I recently read the following story in *Sincerely Yours* by Ann Mainse and I want to share its message with you.

A little boy came into the kitchen one evening while his mother was fixing supper. He had been working hard on a piece of paper at the table, and now he handed it to his mom. She wiped her hands on her apron, and read these words:

For mowing the grass - \$5

For making my own bed - \$1

For playing with my baby brother while you cooked supper - \$4

For taking out the trash - \$2

And for raking the yard - \$3

Well, she looked at him standing there expectantly, and a thousand memories flashed through her mind. She smiled, picked up the pencil, and wrote these words:

For the nine months I carried you, growing inside of me, no charge.

For the nights I doctored you, prayed for you, no charge.

For the meals, the laundry, the clean home, no charge.

For the hugs, the tears, the forever open door, no charge.

Putting down the pencil, she looked at him and said, "When you add it all up, the cost of my love is NO CHARGE."

Just as that mother's love cost her little boy nothing, the love of Jesus cost us nothing. Jesus paid it all and died on the cross for us. We will never truly know the price Jesus had to pay. May we, at this Easter time, be reminded of the sacrifice of Jesus' love.

*Yours in Christ,
Islay*



Treasurer's Report March 2010

The financial results for the first two months of 2010 were as follows: total receipts were \$44,515 compared to \$38,354 over the same period last year; total expenses were \$48,670 versus \$46,064; which resulted in a deficit of \$4,154, which was \$3,556 less than last year at this time. This was due to increases in memorial givings, catering revenue and salary reimbursement being partially offset by decreases in local givings, facility rental and miscellaneous revenues.

These financial results are encouraging given this time of year when our expenses tend to be higher and attendance lower due to concerns about weather. As we head into Spring with a number of fundraising activities planned, I am optimistic that our financial situation will improve. My thanks to the congregation for their ongoing support of the ministries here at Burton Avenue United Church.

Sincerely,
Alan J. McGee

WORSHIP and MUSIC COMMITTEE

(Members: Brian Baker, Miriam Oben, Marion Moffat, Doug Garraway, and Brenda McGee)

As the much-welcomed March sunshine melts away winter's greyed snow banks it seems hard to look backward, only forward to warmer days. But we have been busy at Burton Avenue through the long winter months and have much to celebrate and give thanks for. As Reverend Pat continues to strengthen and heal on her Restorative Care Leave, Reverend Dick has led us through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Full of joy, light, and music we enjoyed the Rainbow Club (and friends) retelling of Christ's birth, then the quiet majesty of candlelight and Communion on Christmas Eve. Rev. Dick's reading of the O. Henry classic, Gifts of the Magi, delighted young and old as it illustrated the beauty of Shalom- loving action.

Early February saw Reverend Dick take a well-deserved holiday with Marion. For 5 weeks we have had the pleasure of experiencing Sunday ministry (and rocking Children's Times) by the Reverends Kerrie Perry and Todd McDonald. They walked with us into the Season of Lent and we are thankful for their leadership and to all the souls who have helped with Lenten Liturgy readings. Reverend Dick will return to preach and serve Burton Avenue on March 16th.

Ahead lies Easter and the promise of renewal and redemption. On Palm Sunday the Rainbow Club will "walk through Holy Week", including a palm parade and Seder meal. Our neighbours, St. George's Anglican Church, will be our guests on Good Friday as we join to retell and reflect on Christ's journey to the cross. The congregational Life committee will offer a reception following this service. Wonderfully, blessedly, the good news of Easter will soon follow. Come and join in, everyone.

Blessings, Brenda McGee (Chair)

Sunday Worship- Looking Ahead

March 28th	Palm Sunday with Communion and Rainbow Club's "Walk thru Holy Week".
April 2nd	Good Friday Service at 10:30 AM, at Burton Avenue United Church with St. George's Anglican being our guests.
April 4th	Sunrise Easter Service on the shores of Kempenfelt Bay, then in our sanctuary at 10:00 AM.

RAINBOW CLUB

The Rainbow Club continues to be a busy place each Sunday with enthusiastic children and youth, and dedicated teachers. New members are always most welcome. We offer activities including stories, dramas, crafts and games each week to children and youth ages 3 and up.

On February 14 the Rainbow Club had a great turnout for our Valentines Day party. Everyone enjoyed board games, video games, Jesus BINGO, cards, treats and time hanging out with friends. This was a fun break from the gloomy winter weather as we celebrated God's gifts of friendship and love.

The Rainbow Club is working its way through the curriculum unit "A Way Through Lent", and we are preparing for the moving story of Jesus' last days on Palm Sunday (March 28). On that day we will take part in a drama, palm parade and Seder meal. We are thrilled to have our past Sunday School coordinator Elaine McGee as our guest story teller. All children and youth are welcome to participate. Just bring your bathrobe for a costume and come ready to experience this important story.

Catherine Fletcher
Rainbow Club Coordinator

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

On Sunday, January 24th, we served a soup and bagel lunch. A total of \$547.00 was collected and the proceeds from the free will offering was donated to the "Haitian Relief Fund". Many thanks for your generous contributions to this very worthy cause.

The Annual meeting was held on February 7th and our committee did the setting and cleaning up and serving of the sandwiches, desserts, and refreshments . Thanks to all who donated the food.

On Friday, February 19th, we hosted a pizza, card, and games evening. Twenty-six people joined in the fun. Games played were Bid Euchre, Progressive Euchre, Cribbage and Sequence. Door prizes were won by Phillis Edwards and Carl Brunson (hope they enjoyed using the Tim Horton's gift cards).

We helped out with the food preparation, setting and cleaning up at the funerals of Hilda Orchard (mother of Lois Delaforce), Sandra Bertram, and Howard Kelly. Thanks to all who donated sandwiches and desserts.

Orders are being taken at coffee time for Easter lilies which will adorn the church on April 4th and may be taken home after the service.

A "Glow in the Dark Bowling" evening is planned for Saturday, March 20th at Barrie Bowlerama. Twenty people have signed up and we are hoping for a few more that will come out for a fun evening.

Lunch at the "Princely Pear" and theatre outing in Cookstown is planned for May.

We are hosting the Good Friday service on April 2nd. Our committee will provide the refreshments, loaves, desserts, cheese trays, after the service.

Thanks to all who have been signing up for Sunday morning coffee servers and to those who lend a hand with setting up tables and the cleaning up. If you would like to add your name to the list, but are not sure what is involved, please speak to one of the committee members (Lois, Linda, Corrie, Marlene). Also, a big thank you to Katie Garraway who provides our beautiful and delicious birthday cakes every third Sunday of the month.

Marlene Holman

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Spring is coming...so that means that the Beat the Winter Blues Dinner is happening on March 26th in the Auditorium at the church and I need your support. The cost is \$50 per person, BUT you get \$25 of that back in a charitable donation receipt. Food prepared by Chef Jim Garraway and desert by It's just a Cake's Kate Garraway.

There will be a silent as well as a live auction this year with a great variety of items from baked goods prepared by congregation members to sporting event tickets. Barb Richards has generously donated her time to do a live auction for a couple of items. Please call the church office for tickets. This is an event you will not want to miss.

Roast Beef Dinner is also just around the corner; that will be held on Friday, April 30th. If you would like to help with the dinner, let me know and we will find a spot for you in the kitchen or as a server. This is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation, as you work beside them for an evening of great food and fellowship.

Do you want to be more involved o a church committee, but don't know who to ask? ASK ME! We would welcome you on any of our standing committees for the church.

LOCAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A new member, Joanne Barnes, has been added to our committee. A food bank drive will be held on Sunday, March 21 and 28. Most needed items are – powdered skim milk, jam, mayonnaise, formula, large size diapers #5 and #6, canned vegetables, stew, luncheon meat (not tuna), salmon, pasta, sugar, flour, pancake mix. Food and household supplies have recently been purchased for Youth Haven in Barrie.

Late February, Ruth and Sebastian Gaudette of Ivy lost their house in a fire. Ruth is the daughter of Evelyn Corigan who was a long time member of our Church. Our committee is assisting them in their loss by providing a shopping card for Walmart.

Several of our sick and shut-in members have recently received shepherd's pie and muffins prepared at the church by four volunteers. Please continue to bring in your grocery tapes from Zehrs also a sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed clothing, etc. to Simaritan House Ministries.

Joan Carruthers