

ANNESLEY UNITED CHURCH

82 Toronto Street South, Box 573, Markdale, ON

Office 519-986-3019

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

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YOU TUBE : [https://www.youtube.com/c/AnnesleyUnited Church](https://www.youtube.com/c/AnnesleyUnitedChurch)



One of the goals of the Visioning Team's report in 2022 was to refresh and repurpose areas of the church building, in the hope that the community would recognise Annesley as a place for the whole community, not just for use for an hour or two on Sunday mornings. They also envisioned that the building could eventually "pay for itself" with rentals.

If you stop by Annesley during the week, you will see that the hard work of many people is beginning to pay off. Several events for the community have been held in our building, and 'the word on the street' is that Annesley is a great place to hold community events and activities. The dark and vacant rooms downstairs are now bright and inviting, and there are regular renters using the previously unused rooms during the week! Rental revenue is up! The building is being used! The clutter is gone! There is even a room dedicated to Sunday School that is now bright and inviting. There is still work to be done, but it is a very positive thing to see.

Another great thing to see is the newly renovated kitchen. Several years ago, the Property Committee expressed the need for upgrades to the kitchen area, but it was wisely decided that no upgrades would be done until the funds were in place to do the job. A presbytery grant was obtained in 2018 to start the "kitchen fund", but it would only cover a portion of what was decided needed to be done. As the years went by, we ran into the problem that costs to do the work were going up, and with the global pandemic, supply chains and shortages of workers began to make the vision seem out of reach. There were, thankfully, generous donations to the kitchen project. Last year, the Visioning Team also suggested upgrades to make the kitchen a more functional place that could be rented and used by the community. These changes could also make the building "pay for itself". See the report later in this newsletter for details about the accomplishments of the Kitchen Team .

We plan to have a celebration day in the fall, with tours (or video tours), followed by a lunch, cake, and an opportunity to give feedback and discuss next steps. Stay tuned for details! In the meantime, enjoy the summer services, including our participation in "HUB" services with Southampton UC and other congregations, Sundae Sundays, Movie nights, Speakers series and other events in our building. It is an exciting time to be here!

A reminder:
Summer
Worship
Services
are at 10:00 a.m.

HUB services:

June 25th

July 2nd

July 23rd

July 30th

Regular Services

July 9th

July 16th

Aug 20th

Aug 27th

No service

Aug. 6th

Aug 13th

Picnic at Rotary Park

Sept 3rd

Congregational
Meeting
Subject: Ministry
11:00 a.m.

THIS Sunday, June 25th
Just after the service

Stay for Sundaes Sunday

We are participating in a Collaborative
Ministry Questionnaire for Congregations,
to reflect who we are as a congregation,
and to see if our vision aligns with another
congregation, so that we could work
together toward a common goal.
We need YOUR help!

There will be 2 chances to participate, and
it will only take 45 minutes or so of your
time:

July 9th – right after the Sunday service
OR

July 12th (Wed.) at Noon (with pizza!)

Please show up at one of these sessions.
Your input is appreciated.



IN MEMORIAM

James Sinclair Shaw	Jan. 5, 2023
Vivien Diane Tolton	Feb. 23, 2023
Kerri-Lynn Stafford	Mar. 12, 2023
Blanche Noreen McCullough	Mar 15, 2023
Darlene Alberta Bowler	May 9, 2023
Mona Eileen Livingstone	May 11, 2023
Ronald James Alexander Hutton	June 13, 2023



From the Board:

Last fall, a group from Annesley sent out an invitation to other United Churches in Grey Bruce to come to our Fellowship Hall on October 15, 2022 to have “a conversation”. The goal was to discuss how the churches in our area could work together to share resources, promote each other’s events; discuss common problems, ideas and goals. It was recognized that many churches are in the same position, with declining attendance, a tired and shrinking volunteer base, and no full time minister. The first meeting had 22 participants, and everyone was enthusiastic and wanted to continue the “conversation”. A Facebook site was set up (Grey Bruce Churches), as a way to communicate and advertise upcoming events and meetings. The group continues to meet regularly, and they have also held information meetings in person or by ZOOM, to discuss such things as the Licensed Lay Leader program, so that interested people can become Lay Leaders in their own congregation or to lead services in other locations. Other meetings discussed HUB technology, and collaborative ministry.

The ministers that are looking at Collaborative ministry have designed a survey that they want congregations to complete by July 31st, so that they can use the information to match congregations that have the same “personalities”, so that they can see how they can work together. Each congregation submits one survey that represents the majority of the people who have participated, so it is important that we have as many people as possible to make sure our answers are a good representation of the true “personality” of Annesley. We have set up 2 sessions to work on the survey: Sunday, July 9th, just after the morning service (with coffee and cookies), and Wednesday, July 12th at noon (with pizza). It should only take 45 minutes of your time, so please try to attend one of the two sessions.

This Sunday, Annesley is participating in a HUB service. The HUB in our area is based at Southampton United Church. It was set up during the shutdowns of the pandemic as a way that churches could participate in a church service with a shared minister to provide a message from another location. Music, readings, and prayers are shared between the churches participating. Representatives from Annesley went to Southampton at the end of March to view a service, and were very enthusiastic about the process. We decided to give it a try instead of hiring Pulpit Supply on June 25th, July 2nd, July 23rd and July 30th. It is hoped that the services will be enjoyable and meaningful for those who are in the building and those who are watching at home.



From the Annesley Affirming Ministry Team

Thank you to the congregation members who represented Annesley in the Owen Sound Pride Parade on Saturday. It was a joyful, colourful, noisy and inspiring event with more than 400 paraders! We met with other local United Church members and ministers pre parade and walked as a group along the streets of downtown Owen Sound to the farmer's market area. We carried the Annesley banner as well as a Pride flag provided by the Western Ontario Waterways regional council. It was great to see so many people of all ages turn out to watch the parade. And the weather was perfect! The owensoundhub, in their online article about the parade, mentioned that community churches are reaching out to the LGBTQ+ community in Grey Bruce.



Submitted this week by John:

Reflections on Pride Parade: Owen Sound, June 17, 2023

From the very first marcher to the last in Saturday's Parade, there was one emotion evident throughout and that was JOY. Outlandish costumes, painted faces and inspirational signs abounded and the happiness was infectious, reflected in the faces of those on the curb.

Here was an opportunity, if only for a day, for young and old alike to show the world all that they are and all that they wish to be. Moreover, to celebrate and cherish the kindness and freedom which we ALL share in Canada.

I'm still smiling.

Sunday June 25 will be our final day for Sunday School. Our bulletin notice makes the bold claim that supervised classes will resume on September 10. In order for that to happen we will require the following:
*A VISION – Are we really just providing daycare in order that parents can attend worship when they see fit? I don't believe that today's parents feel compelled to have their kids in Sunday School every week to the exclusion of a host of other Sunday pastimes. Can we provide some kind of meaningful experience for kids on a per Sunday basis? Or can we roll out some kind of programme which encourages regular, weekly (or bi-weekly?) attendance?

*A LEADER – Someone(s) to oversee, facilitate, that vision; willing to commit and sacrifice for the programme, as Steacy den Haan has done so ably for some time. Steacy has made it known that she wishes to step away in order to give more of herself to her family. A wise and brave decision.

*SUPPORT – We need a sufficient number of individuals to enable a Sunday-to-Sunday rotation. To ensure that there are always at least 2 adults on hand downstairs, but no one person has to give up all of their Sundays in this pursuit. Can we/should we raise the profile of our youth in all of our minds?

*MORE KIDS – The dilemma persists between time and effort versus the small number of youth served. I believe that most of us would agree that our future is in the hands of that little group. Just as our demographic upstairs is aging, so too our regular Sunday School attendees. No younger arrivals in quite some time. It is noteworthy that youth at Beavercrest can attend King's Kids, a free weekly after school programme which offers music, activities, Bible Stories and snack. It encourages kids to know and follow Jesus. It is sponsored by Markdale Baptist Church.

*INSPIRATION – Just as we are exploring fresh avenues for the future of our Church and building, so too may our young people, however few, be served in completely new ways. Are we ready for a clean sheet approach?

HELP WANTED

If you would be willing to explore new ways forward for our Annesley youth please speak with John Lewis (519-379-1685) as soon as possible. We will meet in the latter part of August. We will be looking at any and all ideas, but we will also be looking for help.

Kitchen Report

As of this writing, our kitchen renovation is well over 90% complete. If you haven't looked in lately, please do so at your earliest convenience.

At present you will see freshly painted walls and new vinyl plank flooring (thank you to Paul and Mavis Hiltz for Paul's labour pro bono). Perhaps most visible are all new counter tops clad in 16 GA. 340 stainless steel. Featured is a seamless integral triple sink with pulldown faucet and an adjacent integral handwash basin. Between the two doors are a 46 cu. ft. refrigerator and matching 23 cu. ft. upright freezer/ both in stainless. Gone are the cooktop and wall oven, replaced by two matching Maytag (electric) convection ranges, complete with radiant cooktops. Above, are two recirculating chimney style range hoods, all in stainless steel. Completing the suite of shiny appliances is a Panasonic microwave oven. Pleased to say that all of the old appliances were sold or used elsewhere in the building.

If indeed you look in at present, you will observe a conspicuous absence of cupboard doors and drawer fronts. They are being refreshed and repainted off site with commercial grade lacquer and all hinges with slow close versions. This work is being done by local cabinet maker, Larry Dixon. Doors and drawers should be replaced sometime later in June. While the configuration of the cabinets remains largely unchanged, some small adjustments have been made with an eye to user safety. Leaving the cabinets intact has provided our largest single saving.



The cabinet doors

At present, all invoices are paid, and our May financial report shows our renovation costs at about \$30,800. Our calculated costs to date are about \$36,800, against a budgeted amount of \$50,000. Bear in mind that the budgeted amount is the total of a Northern Waters grant (\$17137 in 2018), a McCauley gift (\$8,000 in 2020), and contributions (\$24,791.95 from 2018-2022). While we are allowed to use the full amount, we are also permitted to use any surplus for future upkeep. A detailed summary of expenses is available from John Lewis (519-379-1685). We incurred some nominal costs for electrical and plumbing services, but otherwise all work was done by our committee members (Dale Beare, Doreen Latimer, Kathy Fraser, and Karen Smith) and a willing group of volunteers, including painters David Armstrong and Brian McKillop. Thanks also to Richard Goetz for disposal services.

The next FundScrip order collection date is THIS SUNDAY, June 25th

FundScrip continues to be an easy and financially successful fundraiser for Annesley. By purchasing retail cash or gift cards through FundScrip for your regular purchases of groceries, gas, hardware, clothing, drugstore supplies, dining and gifts, Annesley receives a donation on average of 3%. This adds up! A purchase of a \$50 cash card gets you \$50 in merchandise that you will purchase anyway and you can still collect points!

Order forms are available from Patti in the church office or in the Narthex and are collected and placed once a month. The orders usually arrive within 3-4 business days.

FundScrip: Where shopping is fundraising!

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Harriston Packing Company: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Harriston Packing Co. fund raiser in May, either by buying the products, helping on pickup day, or with the orders. We raised \$1580! We hope that everyone is enjoying the delicious Harriston products!

ONLINE AUCTION: We will be having an online auction again this fall. We will start asking for donations in early September. Please think of us when you are downsizing, moving or cleaning this summer!

Plant Sale:



Thank you to everyone who donated plants, helped with the setup, helped at the sale, or helped after the sale. We made \$586.00 on a cold and wet day.

September 3rd – OUTDOOR SERVICE AND PICNIC AT ROTARY PARK

On Sunday Sept. 3rd, our worship service will take place at 10:30 in Rotary Park in Markdale. It will be shorter and more casual. Following the service, there will be a picnic and games.

Please bring your own lunch and lawn chair. Beverages and an ice cream treat will be provided. Parking is available on the west side of the park, with some wheelchair accessible sites on the east side closer to the pavilion.

Should the weather be unsuitable for an outdoor gathering, we will meet in the fellowship hall at Annesley.

Submitted by David Tonks:

Religious and Cultural Heritage Destruction in Tigray, Ethiopia

Since a brutal genocidal, largely civil war started in Ethiopia in 2020, irreplaceable cultural icons have been destroyed, stolen or sold to private collectors around the world. Moreover, the guardians of this priceless heritage, the priests and monks who live and work in monasteries across Tigray, have been cruelly targeted and killed by the thousands. As virtually all of the traceable heritage and culture of Ethiopia originated in Tigray, this conflict is ostensibly a war on Ethiopia by Ethiopians, and the mass killings and sexual gender based violence are meant to erase thousands of years of ethnicity across Tigray.

“Tigray is a land of precious heritages with thousands of monasteries and churches. These are Tigray heritage icons and their historical objects and sacred items have been intentionally targeted, and represent a grave dishonoring of cultural values and works of great beauty.” Dr. Hagos Abraha, Philologist, post doctoral researcher at the Studies for Manuscript Culture, University of Hamburg.

“Ethiopia is destroying its own culture by destroying the Tigrayan heritage.” Dr. Michael Gervers, Professor of History, Expert in Ethiopian Art and Culture, University of Toronto.

“The treasures in our country are very ancient, we cannot find them elsewhere or replace them.” Birhan Yeshiwas, Historical Treasures Curator at the National Museum, Ethiopia.

Please speak out against these atrocities! Join us in this effort on our website, **tigrayatwar.org**
Make your voice heard.

Financial Statements May 31, 2023

OPERATING RECEIPTS				
Account Name	May-2023 Current Month	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	Budget
Envelopes	5,310.00	34,038.10	36,758.20	99,530.00
Loose	80.00	348.20	256.00	100.00
Initial		117.00	85.00	200.00
Sub Total	5,390.00	34,503.30	37,099.20	99,830.00
Plant Sale	586.00	586.00		1,000.00
FundScrip		664.85		900.00
Chicken Dinner				4,500.00
Flower Fund		425.00		
Other Fundraising				
No Bed of Roses		351.20		
River Glen		100.00		
Concerts	738.67	738.67		
Harriston Meats	6,627.00	6,627.00	7,497.00	
Other Fundraising	7,365.67	7,816.87		25,000.00
Fundraising Total	7,951.67	9,492.72	7,497.00	31,400.00
Rent	995.00	5,149.90	2,281.45	20,000.00
Weddings			250.00	500.00
Sub Total	995.00	5,149.90	2,531.45	20,500.00
Observer Subscriptions	50.00	275.00	375.00	400.00
Presbytery Dues				
HST Refund		991.02	1,236.34	1,500.00
Interest from Memorial Fund				3,600.00
Shalom Local Support				
Miscellaneous		235.00	20.00	1,500.00
Sunday School				
Music Program		425.00		
CEWS			955.52	
Sub Total	50.00	1,926.02	2,586.86	7,000.00
Total Receipts	14,386.67	51,071.94	49,714.51	158,730.00

OPERATING EXPENSES

Account Name	May-2023			Budget
	Current Month	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	
Salaries	3,130.22	15,651.10	15,136.45	47,000.00
Contract Wages		819.40	2,048.50	
Music Director		5,765.00		14,200.00
Benefits	800.76	4,194.45	3,914.52	9,600.00
Sub Total	3,930.98	26,429.95	21,099.47	70,800.00
Honourarium	1,100.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	12,000.00
Mileage		465.60	402.43	1,500.00
Guest Speakers	300.00	5,176.50	4,524.50	15,000.00
Sub Total	1,400.00	11,142.10	10,426.93	28,500.00
Union Gas	1,416.70	4,666.27	4,109.42	7,000.00
Electricity, Water & Sewer	798.30	4,719.35	3,847.36	7,000.00
Church Maintenance	907.64	2,786.38	1,055.75	7,000.00
Insurance		13,564.80	12,488.04	13,565.00
Sub Total	3,122.64	25,736.80	21,500.57	34,565.00
Office Expenses	383.85	2,046.99	1,965.29	3,500.00
Telephone	65.90	421.76	548.55	1,400.00
Observer Subscriptions			525.00	
Wedding Gratuities				
Presbytery Dues				4,790.00
Bank Fees	6.25	100.00	60.00	75.00
Music		1,154.00	572.00	500.00
M&P Committee				
Membership Committee			30.00	250.00
Outreach Committee		109.99		250.00
S. School, Christian Ed.				500.00
Library			58.20	250.00
Miscellaneous	78.02	1,825.33	276.96	2,500.00
Worship Committee				250.00
Flower Fund	54.00	107.10		
Fundraising-River Glen		320.00		
- Harriston Meats	5,047.00	5,047.00	4,934.00	
Boiler Repair			595.00	5,000.00
Funeral Gratuities			50.00	
HST	1,832.02	6,322.40	1,973.47	5,000.00
PAR & ADP Charges	42.90	273.57	258.06	600.00
Sub Total	7,509.94	17,728.14	11,846.53	24,865.00
Total Expenses	15,963.56	81,036.99	64,873.50	158,730.00
RECEIPTS (U)/O EXPENSES	-1,576.89	-29,965.05	-15,158.99	

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sun. June 25	10:00 a.m.	HUB Service
	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Meeting, then Sundaes Sunday
Sun. July 2	10:00 a.m.	HUB Service
Sun. July 9	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service written by Rev. Kathy Hird
Sun. July 16	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service with Phyllis Fleming
Sun. July 23	10:00 a.m.	HUB Service of Worship, followed Sundaes Sunday
Sun. July 30	10:00 a.m.	HUB Service
Sun Aug. 6	NO SERVICE	
Sun. Aug. 13	NO SERVICE	
Sun. Aug. 20	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service with Phyllis Fleming
Sun. Aug. 27	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service written by Rev. Kathy Hird Followed by Sundaes Sunday
Sun. Sept. 3	10:30 a.m.	Outdoor Service at Rotary Park

Wed. October 18th BBQ Chicken dinner – SAVE THE DATE!

