

CALVARY Catalyst

SUMMER 2023



Thanks to Karen and all the many volunteers for our wonderful Calvary Gardens.

THE LAZY, HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER...

As I sit at my desk and write this article, I realize that my rain barrels are very low since we have not had very much rain as of late and that may cause a problem with having enough water for my new garden plantings. In fact, my rain gauge has been dry, completely dry for the last three weeks. Also, special air quality statements have been posted on various media outlets due to the forest fires in northern Quebec and Ontario. The air statements are cautioning us about being outdoors where the smoke particulates are filling the skies along the eastern seaboard of Canada and the United States and causing health issues for many people.

Reflecting on our dry spring and the forest fires, my attention has been drawn to what we need to do to turn around the climate crisis that is happening around the world and especially here in Canada and in our community. The upset of our climate and how humankind deals with climate changes, as God's stewards of creation, got me to

ponder about where is God in this mess that is happening, not only here but also other places in the world where the climate changes are affecting God's beloved creation.

God does indeed care for what God has created. That is clear throughout scripture (Genesis 1:31; Psalm 104). Humankind, you and me, are made in God's image and we are tasked with being stewards of God's wondrous creation. We are to show equal care for all God's creatures, no matter how humble, small, or seemingly unnecessary. Our responsibility is to, hopefully, turn the climate crisis around and our initiatives can be summed up this way: we care for creation for our good and God's glory. God is praised and given thanks when we show the same care for and delight of the creation that God has created and is still creating.

As I settle into the somewhat lazy, and unfortunately hazy days of summer, there is a need for a wakeup call (we have many of them in the signs of climate change that we are experiencing) and to start or continue to treat God's creation with respect and honour. This is a reminder for me, and I encourage you as well, to continue to live as stewards of God's creation by taking the climate initiatives to heart. Here are just a few suggestions: use rainwater whenever possible for our gardens and flower beds, reduce our dependency on single use plastics and encourage alternatives to plastics with manufactured goods. Perhaps

purchasing second hand clothing rather than new clothing, so I/we can reduce the amount of used fabric that is going to the landfills. These are reminders that I tell myself, and I am aware that many of you do the same thing as well, to help reduce the climate crisis. For all of us to do one small thing, those small things will add up to the larger impact that we can make to help move



the climate change forecast from negative to positive changes in our lives. It is our covenant with God to be stewards of creation and by doing one small thing, plus one small thing, plus another small thing, eventually those small things will tally into saving our planet by reversing the climate change issues that we are faced with today.

The hot, hazy, lazy days of summer are upon us and our loved ones, and it is with God's blessing that we continue to enjoy the wonders of nature, making special memories with family and friends and continue being the best stewards of God's creation we can be in His name.

Happy, healthy, and a safe summer to all.

– Rev. Kerry (he/him)

From the office files

The Calvary United Church community has been saddened by the passing of:

Jim McVicar

Robert Coulthard

Norma Maidens

Nicholas Wright

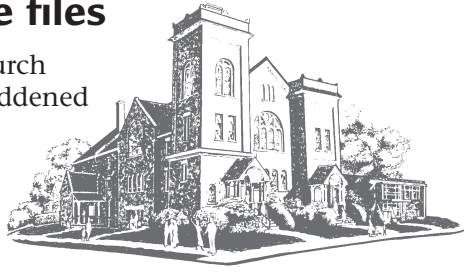
Shirley MacMillan

Jean Knowles

“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4

On March 19th, Calvary welcomed through baptism:

Paige Catherine and Alice Elizabeth Campisi-Devet, daughters of Brian Devet and Rachel Campisi.



Champion introduces Pickle Ball in the lower hall!



Good fun, good friends, good exercise... Pickle Ball has it all. Join in Wednesdays as part of CHAMPION!



FundScript order dates

Fundscrip order dates will continue through the summer:

June 11 & 25,

July 9 & 23,

August 6 & 20,

September 3 & 17.



Jazz Vespers will return this fall... after a wonderful season of inspiration and entertainment. Many thanks to the JVQ musicians.

CALVARY Catalyst

The Calvary Catalyst is published four times a year. Its purpose is to inform and report on news and events at Calvary United Church.

Submission deadline for the next issue is:

Friday, September 8th, 2023.

Send submissions to Bruce Jones: scouterbruce@rogers.com

Calvary United Church

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CALVARY GREEN At Work

What a super turnout on May 5th in the morning! It actually warmed up and we made it through a day without rain. With such a great team effort, we accomplished so much in a short period of time. The garden is blooming!

And thank you to Tim Lindsay for delivering the mulch for the Calvary Garden Mulching Marathon on May 26.

Calvary, "You are an Awesome Team!" Thank you!

Here's the latest!

- Recycling.
- Green bulletin board.
- We spoke to *Champion* on April 12 and presented our pollinator garden story.
- The new *Greening monthly minute* from the Sanctuary.
- We were Interviewed by *Greening Sacred Spaces* for their upcoming June newsletter.



Here is where some of the recycling items can go when folks walk through the passage to the sanctuary.



Lyse Geldard, Bill Butt, Reta Astles and Karen Butt. Reta is 102 years old, proving that you are never too old to garden!

Our Blooming Garden

- Thank you to the "Clean up Crew" on May 5th and "Tim Lindsay and the Mulchers" on May 26th.
- Remember to sign up for "watering." Bring a friend, bring family. The weekly schedule is now posted on the Green bulletin board (pick your date!) or just ask one of us, we will walk you through the steps.
- Herb boxes are filled and ready to be shared.
- New hoses (and a recycled one) are available for backup.
- Calvary's Garden is now on the Pollinator Pathways site!
- National Garden Day is June 17th.
- Thank You for Celebrating Calvary's garden.
- And lastly... Earth Fest April 2023, was a success with over 2000 attendees.

– Lyse Geldard



A Spring Luncheon

On Thursday May 18th, 25 members of the Calvary Marathon Bridge group, UCW and Champion met in the meeting room for a spring luncheon.

It was catered by Linda Arthur of *Village Catering*. After Rev Kerry said grace, we enjoyed a delicious chicken pie, several salads and rolls and butter. The best is always last with Linda's famous rhubarb custard pie and lemon meringue pie. Thank you for another great meal Linda!

The high total scores for bridge were announced with Debbie Friesen coming in first and Ainsley Marshall second. Deb Wiltshire had the highest single score for an afternoon this year. The winners were invited to take home bouquets of tulips from the centre pieces as their prize!

After lunch the bridge players enjoyed an afternoon of bridge while others played euchre or chatted.

The Marathon Bridge group is always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining us in the fall please contact: Julie Downes 519-433-7155.



Affirming

The Affirming Committee is attempting to inform and also open the doors for discussions on what making Calvary United Church an Affirming Church involves. What does "Welcoming" really mean? It refers to having open-arms acceptance of all people no matter their ethnicity, their abilities, their physical or mental limitations, their social status, their gender identity or sexual orientation. At the Affirming Worship service on June 4th, each of the candles – black, brown, pink, pale blue and white symbolized important components of each aspect of affirming and the church. The blue symbolizes Harmony and Peace. The orange is for Healing. The red symbolizes Life and Love. The violet is for Joyful Creative Spirit.

In the Fall, we plan to have educational and discussion sessions about different topics to allow everyone an opportunity to learn more about them and to openly discuss what they mean in today's world. Right now to

help you decipher the terms for different sexual identity and sexual orientation, a double sided sheet with definitions is provided at the back of the sanctuary on the table and in a brown envelope on the bulletin board or on the table at the front of the sanctuary. This will help when you are reading any of the books located in the church's library under the section of LGBTQ1A2S+.

In order for us to become an Affirming Church under the umbrella of the Affirm United, the congregation must vote with a majority. When that vote comes, our hope is that everyone will be able to make an "informed" decision. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us.

Please look in the Fall for information sessions and discussions.

– Ruthanne McLagan, Bill Butt, Jill Lucas, Kathleen Meatherall, Kathie Leigh and Mary Kannakko.



LIFE*SPIN, Calvary's Outreach Lenten project

On April 21st, five van-loads of clothing, toys, kitchen items and much more were taken to Life Spin. This was in addition to the two loads delivered previously. Thank you to the Calvary community for their generous donations and to all of the volunteers who loaded the vans.

– Kim Knowles



My LLWL Training is Completed

A Licensed Lay Worship Leader is a person who has heard or felt God's call to plan and lead worship services according to their abilities. Technically a LLWL is a person who has successfully completed training through the United Church of Canada, met the qualifying requirements of their specific region, and has been approved by interviewers.

The most important lesson I learned during the two years of on-line training to qualify to be a LLWL is to be myself. God gave each of us a unique combination of gifts called aptitudes, talents, or abilities. The students that I met through the four modules: Liturgy, Preaching, Prayers, and Special Occasions, were people from across Canada with diverse gifts, experiences and perspectives. We met every two weeks by Zoom to share our insights on scripture and theosophy readings, as well as share prayers and words of encouragement. I am very thankful to my Reverend mentors Christine Smaller, Michael Brooks, Kenji Marui, Anne Beattie-Stokes, Susan Cameron, and Kerry Stover for their encouragement, resource lending,

and voices of experience. I am very grateful to the faith community of Calvary with special thanks to the people who provided written feedback required for my assignments and the worship committee for providing opportunities for me to apply my learning.

As I move forward in my work as a LLWL for Antler River Watershed Region, I will remember liturgy is the work of the people as a public act of worshipping Triune God. The origins are within the Judaic tradition of sacred readings, praising Yahweh, and sharing a meal and stories of remembrances. We do these ritual worship activities as testimonies of faith to God and to build community with God's children in creative, engaging, and transformative ways. My biggest challenge will be to not over-pack the sermon with information. Preaching is different than teaching. Likewise, I must resist my tendency to over-stuff the order of service. I will remember to include time for pauses so people (including myself) can connect with The Holy Spirit in worship.

I value wise words of advice from theologian Marva Dawn: *"Free yourself up for worship. Do not watch the clock. Worship is for God, not what we can accomplish or get out of it!"* We are Christians and it is Christ who makes God known to us in a

real, risky, vulnerable relationship. Marva Dawn states the requirements of a Christian worship leader are *"a whole-hearted devotional life, Trinitarian belief, and the flexibility to let The Holy Spirit detour off script/plan."* I pray that I meet those requirements. Please join me on blessed detours during worship services.

– Ruthanne McLagan

CALVARY LIBRARY

We invite our congregation to borrow your Summer reading materials from Calvary Library.

Darlene is enthusiastic about her 23 favourite biographies, non-fiction, fiction and historical fiction reads, all housed in our own Library. A list of these books is attached to the book cart. You will not be disappointed with this selection. And, you may keep your choices until the Fall.

Several years ago the Library simplified the cataloguing system from Dewey Decimal to Subject. This makes it handy for choosing a suitable book for your needs.

Marg LaRocque and I hope you have a lovely summer relaxing in your yard, or at the cottage, with a good book at hand. Enjoy!

–Darlene Sanderson
Calvary Library Committee

Greetings from the London Community Chaplaincy

Rev. Pam writes...

We have had a fabulous spring with special funding to allow for a few extra outings for the moms! We held a ladies pottery day to celebrate International Women's Day, a trip to the sugar bush and a ladies day apart at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.

The children and youth enjoyed a fabulous March Break with a host of activities, as we toured the world from home! The youth also enjoyed a trip to Boler mountain! Together we celebrated Easter and Ramadan and now we are gearing up for a fabulous summer.

We appreciate all you offer to the Chaplaincy and ask for your prayers for a fabulous and safe summer.

Our Annual General Meeting is at Southdale, Monday June 19th 6 pm, beginning with a strawberry social. We would love to see you there!

– Submitted by Linda Baker,
Outreach Committee



SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 19TH, 6 PM
2023 AGM
Join us at
977 Southdale Road East
for our
Strawberry Social
to celebrate our volunteers
and stay for our AGM.
We would be "berry" pleased to
see you!



CFGB-Minute for Mission from May 7, 2023

Did you know that the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a 5 star rated charity?

On March 22nd I was privileged to attend the Ontario region of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank spring information meeting at the Christian Reformed Church in Wyoming, Ontario. Christina Phillips, their communication manager was the guest speaker. She shared information about her recent trips to Kenya and Ethiopia and the work being done there. One of her main messages was that the money spent on Conservation Agriculture programs in these countries were in fact making a difference. Asnakech Zema and her family, who participated in the 5-year Conservation Agriculture Program from 2015-2020 is thriving

comparatively speaking despite devastating drought conditions in parts of Ethiopia. Without these conservation techniques... such as adding Nitrogen back to the soil and covering crops to maintain moisture, the Zema family and other program participants would have had significantly reduced crop yields.

Henry Reinders, the Ontario representative for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank indicated they have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Canadians in recent

years. Over the course of the pandemic, it was assumed that funds raised by the charity would likely plummet. Instead it had the opposite affect. In 2019, 12.5 million was raised, 2020, 16.2 million, 2021, 18.6 million and in the 2022/2023 fiscal year, 23.7 million was raised. While this is great news, the needs around the world continue to increase. Hunger is worsening with the affects of climate change, (droughts and flooding) and wars and conflicts being the driving forces.

2023 marks 40 years of the CFGB and its member churches and agencies working together to end global hunger. Since 1983 they have provided assistance to over 50 million people in over 70 countries. Closer to home, this year's Blessing of the Fields event is to be held on Wednesday, June 21st, near Kerwood. The address is 1584 Melwood Drive, Strathroy. Please see the June 13 and 20 Calvary Compass for more details. Thank you for your continued support!

– Bonnie McNichol



London's Pride parade

London's Pride parade takes place on Sunday, July 23rd from noon to approximately 3:00pm, starting at the Western Fair District, traveling west on Dundas to Waterloo and then to Dufferin, ending at Victoria Park.

You, your family, and friends are invited to be part of the Calvary group that is walking/riding in the Pride parade this year. If interested in being part of the Calvary group contact Rev. Kerry at kerry.stover@calvaryunitedchurch.on.ca



Several United Churches in London joined together to walk/ride in last year's parade and it was tremendous fun. This year the participating United Churches are hoping for a larger turnout than last year, from our respective congregations. Plans are

underway for colourful decorations and T-shirts to represent Calvary and many of the other United Churches.

If you aren't interested in walking or riding in the Pride parade this year, please note the parade route and come out to cheer on those that walk/ride in the name of love.

Thank you for your support.

In faith and in peace,

– Rev. Kerry (he, him)

Win! Win! Win!

Another great year for Undie Sunday! With lots of benefits to others.

Nearly \$900 was purchased on cards from Fundscrip with proceeds going to the Church. That along with the cash and etransfer donations made a good day for Giant Tiger sales. And then Mission Services were delighted to receive goods that they could distribute to those in need. And those needing items would find that there was a fresh delivery made with them in mind.

I was honoured to be able to drop off 7 boxes of diapers, men's deodorant and 3 large green garbage bags filled with all ages of socks and underclothing. I felt like a winner too!

Thanks to everyone at Calvary for their wonderful response.

– Kristen Goodman, for Outreach Committee



The Choir's "end of season barbecue"

The choir had its end of season barbecue on May 31st. It has been four years since the last get together, due to Covid, and we had a great turnout. Thanks to Katy and Brian for hosting... their shady backyard was perfect for the event.



Help needed for Calvary's Community Breakfasts

Calvary has been providing a hot breakfast on the third Saturday of each month for over 25 years. Four teams rotate, so each works at three breakfasts per year. We have a few additional occasional volunteers.

When we had to switch to take out only during the COVID 19 pandemic, the menu was pared down. Only four to five workers were needed each month. We began to offer both eat-in or take-out meals about a year ago and now most of our guests choose to eat in. The current level of service requires six or seven workers.

We would like to get back to offering a fuller menu, including cereal and porridge...very popular in the past. To do this, we will need more workers at each breakfast. We also need more volunteers to help cover when regular workers are away. To volunteer to help at the Community Breakfasts or if you want more information about what is involved, please contact Marg LaRocque, 519-681-7810 or mglarocque@rogers.com

The story behind The Prayer for Protection

The Prayer for Protection (which we have started to use as the Unison Benediction in our worship services) was written by James Dillet Freeman (1912–2003), who was an internationally acclaimed poet, author, and lecturer.

*The light of God surrounds us;
The love of God enfolds us;
The power of God protects us;
The presence of God watches over us;
Wherever we are, God is!*

Here is why Freeman wrote "Prayer for Protection."

When World War II was raging in Europe, we received many letters and phone calls from people caught in the conflict, but for a long time we did not have a prayer for protection that we were all satisfied with. This is how one came.

Silent Unity, the telephone prayer lines of Unity church, had always written a special Christmas Prayer Service just for Silent Unity workers. And in 1940 Mr. Freeman was asked to prepare this service. We had never before needed a prayer for protection, but in 1940 we needed one, so he wrote one to go with the Christmas service. What he wrote was a little four-line verse:

*"The light of Christ directs me;
The love of Christ enfolds me; The
power of Christ protects me; The
presence of Christ upholds me."*

How the "Prayer for Protection" came about from the longer version of the poem?

First Freeman took the rhymes from it. He felt it would be more universally received if it was not a rhyme. Then he changed Christ to God. It had been Christ because it was a Christmas prayer, but he

felt if we were going to send it around the world, God might be more acceptable to more people. So the little prayer became:

*"The light of God surrounds me,
The love of God enfolds me,
The power of God protects me,
The presence of God watches
over me."*



That is the way Unity first printed it. Then a line came to Freeman that he felt would make the prayer even more powerful. The line was:

"Wherever I am, God is."

Freeman added it as the fifth line. The "Prayer for Protection" first appeared as a four-lined prayer in 1941, but when we reprinted it in 1943, it appeared in the form it has had ever since.

"The light of God surrounds me; The love of God enfolds me; The power of God protects me; The presence of God watches over me. Wherever I am, God is!"

The "Prayer for Protection" is one of two Freeman poems carried to the moon by Apollo astronauts. In 1969, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin carried a copy with him on the first manned moon landing. In 1971, a microfilm copy of Freeman's poem, "I Am There," was left on the moon by Apollo XV astronaut James B. Irwin.

It has appeared in hundreds of different publications that have no connection with Unity, and millions of people have carried it around on cards that fit into their pocketbooks, pockets, and billfolds. It has been translated into many languages. Sometimes it appears with Freeman as the author. Often no author is given. Sometimes other people are named as the author.

Freeman believes God has many ways of speaking to us and not only in words that we hear with our

ears. He thinks God speaks to our hearts and minds, and sometimes God's message has nothing to do with words. God is love and intelligence and life.

– Rev. Kerry

Adapted from unity.org, the Story of the Prayer for Protection

Prayers for Protection

*I am centered and poised in the Christ mind,
and nothing can disturb the calm peace
of my soul.*

*All the forces of heaven and earth now
unite to protect, to defend, and to deliver
me.*

*No situation frightens me. Divine intelli-
gence reveals to me just what to do in every
emergency.*

*The angel of His presence guides and guards
you.*

*Yea, though you walk through the valley of
the shadow of death you will fear no evil,
for God is with you to defend and to
deliver you.*

*The light of God surrounds you; the love
of God enfolds you; the power of God
protects you; the presence of God watches
over you.*

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The original poem.