

CALVARY Catalyst

SUMMER 2022



“Connections”

Dear friends in Christ,

When I listen to the famous lyrics of “Summertime” from the opera *Porgy and Bess* by Ira Gershwin, I think of the hot, hot days of summer. Longing for a place of refuge and rest, perhaps under a favourite shade tree or sitting down by the river or even at one of the great lakes. We have already experienced a couple of hot, humid days and we know that there will be more to come. Stay cool and try to stay as hydrated as possible during the heat of the summer months.

I count my blessings to be living in Canada, where we are in almost complete peace and we have the opportunity to experience the four seasons. Summertime is one of my favourite seasons as it enables me to be outdoors more often as I enjoy walking in the Calvary neighbourhood, visiting friends and neighbours along the way, or heading to Wortley village to meet up with friends to enjoy a time of refreshment on a patio. It is also the season of many family reunions, which have not been in-person for the last two

summers. Relatives will travel thousands of kilometers to attend these reunions, which is preferable over continuing to meet utilizing ZOOM. Family reunions are a great way to stay connected and renew our familial memories once again.



Just like connecting with family members, I am looking forward to connecting with many of the members of Calvary in-person over the next months. As the pandemic restrictions for get-togethers have been lifted, I hope you too will also connect with your family members in either family reunions or family get-togethers in your backyards, on your decks or in a wonderful setting.

As we look forward to the lazy, hazy days of summer ahead, I hope you will continue to join me and many others in the

sanctuary for the Sunday worship services at 10:30am. One way to get others interested in what we are doing at Calvary is to send the YouTube link for Calvary’s worship services to your family, friends, and neighbours. The

information in Calvary Compass or the website link are two easy ways to reach out to others with the good news of what is happening at Calvary. There is always lots of information to share about what is going on and it is one of the easiest ways to spread the joy that we feel when we come together with the various activities to

live our call to be followers of Jesus.

It is indeed summertime and the living can be easy as we continue to stay safe and remain healthy.

May the blessings of a restful and peaceful summer be with each of you and your loved ones.

In faith and in peace,
Rev. Kerry (he/him)

From the office files

Welcome to the Peters / Gregg family who were baptised on May 8th, 2022.

Crystal Gregg
George Peters
Brianna Gregg
William Peters
Preston Peters



Calvary does it again!



This year's Undie Sunday was another huge response to those in need. A couple of weeks ago I delivered over 400

articles of under clothing to the Voucher Program at Mission Services. This program provides the new articles to needy individuals and families. When I told them I would be coming back, and would they like our items right away or at the end of summer, I was told that they were desperate for hygiene products, especially for men. Two weeks later, I returned with an SUV full of underwear, hygiene products and 13 boxes of diapers. The Springbank Giant Tiger was able to give us a bit of a discount so it stretched our \$1,300 even a bit further. The receipt from this trip was the longest receipt that I've been involved with! Thanks so much for your ongoing commitment to this project. It is my honour to represent you in the delivery of the items.

- Kris Goodman



My painting, *You Know I Do*, is an abstract expression of joy from Scripture Reading: John 21: 1 – 19. Inspired by listening to

music, *The Planets* by Holst, and experiencing the intensity of one colour at a time, this composition swirled onto the canvas.

I painted among friends at a CHAMPION meeting with a sense of belonging and creative spirit. God has blessed each of us with gifts as skills or talents. God helps us discover what they are, Jesus calls us in with full nets, and tells us to feed the people the skills we have been given to share.

– Ruthanne Dyer McLagan

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 2, 2022**

Send submissions to Bruce Jones: scouterbruce@rogers.com

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LENTEN PROJECT 2022



Thank you to everyone who donated to Ark Aid which was this year's Lenten project. Donations totalled

\$3,200 and were delivered to the Ark Aid office on Wednesday, May 18th, along with 15 bedrolls made by the CHAMPION group.



Thank you to the families who donated flowers in memory of their loved ones for Easter Sunday to create this beautiful display.



Lots of volunteers on May 14th for yard work and clean-up.



Hello From The London Community Chaplaincy!

Rev. Pam Cullen advises, “Our summer co-ordinators are busy planning two months of summer memories for the children, youth and families at the Chaplaincy.

We are looking forward to so much this summer, and are working hard to ensure that we can offer a vast array of meaningful and enriching opportunities. We are planning the following summer initiatives:

- **Alphabet Soup:** A weekly literary program for children JK – Grade 2 including storytime with the London Public Library.
- **Summer Recreation:** Planning on site three times per week to create an uplifting space for children to play and create, build friendships, enjoy healthy snacks and grow in confidence – for children JK – Grade 5.
- **On Site Youth Camps:** Running weekly for youth entering Grades 6 – 8 to build life skills, explore London, and create positive mentoring relationships,
- **Leadership Training Camp Subsidies:** Provided for youth 13 – 15. We are expected to encourage and sponsor Chaplaincy youth to attend this amazing City of London day camp.
- **Thank you** for your financial and practical donations!
- **Thank you** for your volunteer hours and service!
- **Thank you** for your words of encouragement and prayers!”

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and safe summer!

- Linda Baker, Outreach Committee

Our New Pollinator Gardens

There has been a lot of activity at the corner of Ridout and Garfield. With the help of the congregation, Calvary Green has planted Pollinator gardens—with over 100 new native plants.

BUT what is a pollinator garden?

Pollinators are animals (or sometimes winds) that pollinate over 90% of all flowering plants- primarily bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. Their activities are necessary for the production of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Pollinators are under threat locally and around the world due to a combination of pesticides, diseases, habitat destruction, and climate change.

Some pollinators have specific native plants they feed on. I am always excited when my parsley patch is eaten up by the swallowtail butterfly caterpillars. I can live without the parsley. They can't.

Urban areas offer limited opportunities for pollination when they are dominated by non-native plants and paved surfaces.

It is important to create more habitat for food and shelter for these creatures—and to link together these habitats into pollinator corridors or pathways. These pollinator pathways comprise strings of pollinator habitat that together can form networks. So, our gardens at Calvary are on the pathways linked to other Old South gardens and beyond.

We are building raised gardens that soon will have herbs growing, where people in the congregation and in the neighbourhood can pick off a few leaves—for example, they can take a few basil leaves and make basil and feta cheese tomatoes (one of my favourites). Marlene Wyatt will be posting recipes on the web site for using the herbs.

Once the herb gardens are up and running, we will welcome herb donations when you thin out the herbs in your gardens.

We also plan to have 2 benches by the Ridout garden so people can sit and relax and enjoy the gardens.

Soon all three of our rain barrels will be ready to go. Each rain barrel needs a hose to facilitate easy watering. We need a couple more hoses—if you have a functioning hose sitting in your garage, we would love donations. There is a weeding and watering schedule - watch for the *Calvary*



**For the Love
of Creation**

Compass. If you don't know how to weed and want to learn, sign up with others. Watering is easier.

The gardens are for everyone, and we want everyone to have a chance to be part of the project.

We hope that these gardens help the London Pollinator pathways, and help the environment.

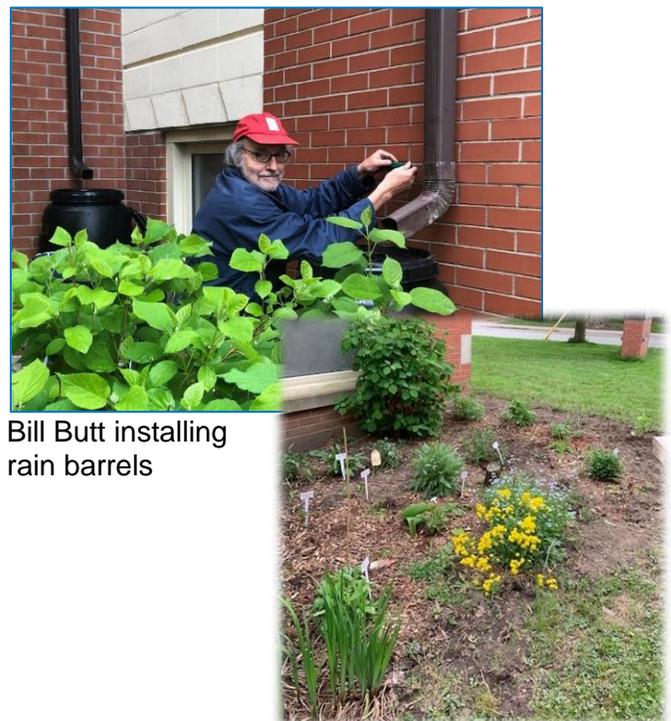
Contact Karen Butt, Lyse Geldard, Marlene Wyatt, or Kim at the church office, for more information.

Visit the gardens and enjoy.

- *Karen Butt*



Liz Macdonald, Lyse Geldard and Bill Butt distribute mulch.



Bill Butt installing rain barrels

Jazz Vespers

June 1st, 2022 marked Beth and Glenn Parsons last Jazz Vespers with us before moving to British Columbia. We wish them all the best and thank them for their many contributions to Calvary. Safe travels!



Gathering on the Green June 4th, 2022

Thank you to our many volunteers who assisted Rev. Kerry in making this a successful event – Phil Downes, Lyse Geldard, Mary Kannakko, Kathie and Bob Leigh, Liz Macdonald, Ruthanne McLagan, Bonnie and Brian McNichol, Fran Menard and Pastor Robert Lawson from Fonthill United Church. Lots of people stopped by our booth to buy cookbooks, participate in Phil's Geography activity and many children enjoyed Ruthanne's painting craft. Rev. Kerry encouraged many of those in attendance to come to our 10:30am services or try out some of our activities. Thanks to Ken McLagan for creating a video presentation for this occasion.





Shopping/Gift Cards

Upcoming order dates: June 19, July 3, 17 & 31, August 14 & 28, September 11 & 25.

Pre-pandemic, the church was raising over \$3,000 a year from this program but then we had to suspend it - twice, and now it's just not gaining momentum and is in danger of ending.

In 2012, one regular user wrote: *"Many of us are on set incomes and are unable to give more in our Offering Envelopes. However, all of us buy groceries and other items which are on the Gift Card list. If you purchased a \$100 gift card every month, you would be donating \$36 a year towards the operating fund. If one hundred of us did that, we could give the church and extra \$3,600 a year. It is easy to do and will not cost you (or the store) more money. My secret is to give Nancy a post-dated cheque for every month or you can go on-line (direct to Fundscrip) so that you don't forget to do it. This is an excellent way to better the deficit and still stay within your personal budget."*

Most people give me their order written on a slip of paper along with cash or cheque (to Calvary) payment. This is a greener option than using the paper order forms, but the forms are still available at the parking lot foyer, the credenza at the back of the sanctuary and the office. You can also go onto Fundscrip's website at www.fundscrip.com to see what cards are available - and there are *tons* of them. If you want to order but aren't coming to church that Sunday, e-mail me your order ahead of time and pay when I give you your cards. Easy-peasy!

Alternately, the on-line option has been popular and is easy. You can order whatever cards you want for a two-week period, on-line directly to Fundscrip www.fundscrip.com, Customer Code JVFQUX. While still on-line, make arrangements to pay directly from your bank account (EFT). Just watch your timing to ensure the money gets processed in time to be automatically combined with Calvary's bi-weekly group order. You only have to leave home to come to Church to get your cards - and you're coming to church anyway, right? If you're not quite ready to be out and about, you can make arrangements with me to leave them in the church office for pick-up, or if you live close to the church I might even deliver!

The Shopping/Gift Card program is easy and costs you nothing but a bit of planning. Order your cards one Sunday and I will have them for you the next Sunday. Sadly, lately I've had to "bump up" the order so that our profit covers the shipping cost. If you've been thinking that you should order, but have been hesitating, please start now. It would be a shame to give up the program and lose out on what has been a great fundraiser in the past. Contact Nancy Hind 519-434-4048 or nancyhind@rogers.com with questions.

- Nancy Hind



The Billiard Buddies meet Tuesdays at 12:30 and will continue to get together through the summer. All are welcome!



Calvary Nursery School - Now taking applications for September.

- 519-438-6638
- calvarynurseryschool.ca

CHAMPION

“Creative Hands and Minds Program In Our Neighbourhood.”

This program enables seniors (55+) of London to age well by remaining active, creative, stimulated, and to socialize in an accessible and safe environment or connect virtually to the creative and/or activity-based programs offered weekly.

CHAMPION has been very active over the past few months making bedrolls for the homeless as well as having guest speakers and special activities to engage seniors in creative ways. Currently watercolour classes are taking place, games being played and bedrolls being made - over 40 bedrolls completed to date! Wednesday, June 15th will be the last official meeting until the Fall.

For information go to: calvaryuc.ca/champion



Art session on April 6th, led by Ruthanne McLagan



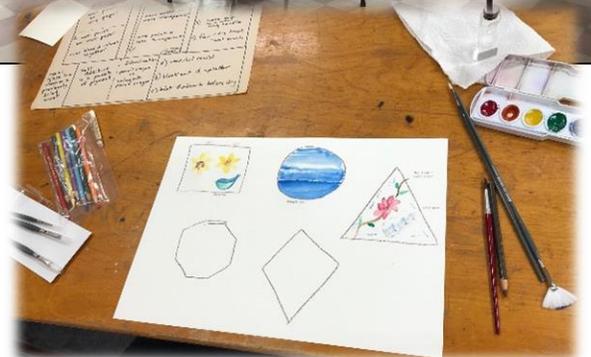
Guest Speaker Skylar Franke, executive director of London Environmental Network on May 25th



Bonsai session on May 11th led by Alf Langner



Watercolour classes, June 1, 8 and 15 taught by Ruthanne McLagan



LLWL Course Update from Ruthanne

The Licensed Lay Worship Leader course, offered by United Church of Canada through United Learning, is a wonderful on-line experience. Through Zoom sessions, I have met people from New Brunswick to British Columbia who received a call to lay worship leading. Hearing their testimonies and sharing the learning with them has proven to me God is at work calling and empowering lay worship leaders in the 21st century across Canada. We have God's work to do to spread the Good News of redemption through Christ and tackle the harsh truth of how indifference and complacency for social injustice must end! I did not realize how integrated social justice preaching and scripture-based preaching was. God's Word is relevant and in great need of being heard, prayed over, interpreted, reflected upon, and applied into our lives today. If we want God's kin-dom to come then we must do the work Jesus taught us to do, love God and love each other by caring for all of God's creation. I have learned a worship leader must not design all the features of a service too far in advance as the prayers and sermon must be reflective of current world, national, regional, and local news. Scripture, prayer, and listening to the needs of each other in local conversations and in reliable news media are the essential ingredients to drafting, revising, and refining worship service plans.

I enjoy reading and viewing videos of the wide variety of preaching styles from the electronic-file and internet links in the bi-weekly assignments. I have learned it is okay to "be me" and there is no need to adopt one style or a way which works for others but not for me. I cannot be genuine if I am not true to God and myself. I have learned new words like *etchatogical* which refers to worship services that add to a communal awareness of God's plan for a new reality in ourselves, our local communities, and globally.

I am three-quarters of the way through the two years of training. In the third unit (out of the four required units of study), we explored how to craft engaging worship services in the ordinary time between the seasons of Easter and Christmas. The acronym EPIC was the steering concept in the lessons. EPIC worship is experiential, participatory, image-rich, and connective. I learned that worship is a verb (actions of the people for God), not a noun (passive entertainment by a leader for the people gathered). Worshiping is praying with praise and

petition, speaking and listening, staying still and moving with joy to the music, and collaborating with The Holy Spirit of the Creator and Jesus during the EPIC worship service. The Lord's Prayer, The New Creed, and selections from The Song of Faith are in a familiar order of service and there are also extra-ordinary features to spark the senses into unique moments. You know my favourite features are the arts. Dance, drama, music, and visual arts are expressions offering sensory perceptions in loving relationship with our Creator.

- Ruthanne McLagan

An Affirming Church

At the April 20th Church Council Meeting, the Council approved our entry into the process of education and discernment of whether Calvary will become an affirming church or not. Over the next one to two years, there will be study groups, presentations from guest speakers and discussion forums for Calvary congregants and adherents to develop a better understanding of what it means to be inviting and welcoming to all no matter their sexual orientation, ethnicity or social status. The Open Hearts document of Affirming United, United Church of Canada provides us with a guide to the steps needed to become an Affirming Church. Several churches across Canada have already become Affirming Churches and several are in the process of discernment. The plan is to take this slowly so that everyone has an opportunity to gain the knowledge of what it entails for Calvary and its congregation. After the discernment period, the congregation will have an opportunity to have their final say. If you wish to be part of the Steering Committee, please contact the office or Mary Kannakko at mkannakko@rogers.com.

