

CALVARY Catalyst

FALL 2021



– A WELCOME & A FAREWELL –

Welcome Rev. Kerry Stover

We welcome The Rev. Kerry Stover as Minister with the Congregation. Most recently Rev. Kerry has been serving Maple Grove United Church in Oakville but is happy to return to his home in Old South London.



A call to serving a specific faith community is a call by God and a Spirit-Connection with the members of the church. Prayer and conversation were essential in the call of Rev. Kerry, as God formed the Spirit-Connection that brought us together. The description of leadership duties for our full-time Minister with the Congregation seems to be an impossible job for one person to accomplish and that is because it is not a job; it is a call to work with the congregation. None of us are alone as we do God's work together in committees and task groups.

Strong leadership is crucial to the success and growth of any church. The search team stated our ideal fulltime minister would be *"an effective communicator able to build relationships with people in the church and community... be approachable, sincere, empathetic...have strong time-management and decision-making skills with the ability to delegate where appropriate...use creative and dynamic methods of sermon delivery that engages and challenges people of the congregation to reflect on the message in the context of their personal lives, spiritual growth, and being the church in contemporary times..."* (That's just to mention a few qualifications!) Rev. Kerry fit the bill for our ideal full-time minister.

We thank Rev. Kerry for his enthusiasm to lead our way in worship, visitation and pastoral care, Christian education, community outreach and social justice. Sometimes he will lead the way out front, or in our midst, or support us as we take the initiatives. Let us join in the church work that we are also enthusiastic about to share the load of responsibility and love for one another. There is much to do and we can do it all together.

– Submitted by Ruthanne McLagan

A Thank You and Farewell to Rev. Susan Cameron

Rev. Susan came to us last November as our Supply Minister, following Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui's departure. We want to thank her for the wonderful sermons and online services these last nine months. Thank you for introducing some of us to online church yoga in the chair and the weekly bible study discussions. They were both very inspirational and informative. Who knew that you could do stretching exercises and meditate at the same time, with some biblical messages to carry you through the day and week.

Even though many never had an opportunity to meet Rev. Susan in person due to COVID, she attempted to reach out to people, especially those at home, in retirement homes, long-term care as well as those who were unable to receive the Tuesday email because of the lack of internet service.

We really appreciate all of her hard work and efforts on our behalf especially as the church was closed due to COVID restrictions. It helped make a difficult period manageable. You will be missed.

We wish Rev. Susan all of the very best in her future endeavours in her retirement and hope that her time at Calvary will be one of her happiest memories.

– Mary Kannakko



Covenanting Service

Rev. Kerry Stover's Covenanting Service will be Sunday October 17th in the afternoon. The guest covenanting speaker will be The Reverend Nancy Knowles from Thamesville United Church in Fullarton, Ontario. Please consider joining us for this service.

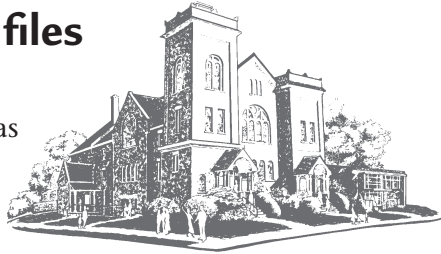
From the office files

Calvary United Church has been saddened by the passing of:

Jean Passmore

The following was baptised at Calvary:

Kenzie Jean Cameron, daughter of Alexander and Krysta Cameron (granddaughter of Rev. Susan Cameron)



Website News:

Updates and additions continue to be made to the Calvary website located at: www.calvaryuc.ca



CALVARY
UNITED CHURCH

Denise Jung, our Music Director, has put together a compilation of the Choir's favourite anthems and solos recorded during lockdown, which is available on the Music page at: <https://www.calvaryuc.ca/music>. There is also a link that lists all of the tracks for the music recorded.



A big thank you to our summer intern, *Heather Meatherall*, who has been working on the addition of new web pages including a section on our Stained Glass windows, a Calvary Green webpage, a Yoga Church section as well as updating our Calendar of Events.

- You can view the section on Calvary's Stained Glass Windows at: <https://www.calvaryuc.ca/stained-glass-windows>
- Calvary Green has a new web page at: <https://www.calvaryuc.ca/calvary-green>
- Calvary's Calendar of Events is located at: <https://www.calvaryuc.ca/events>



Gathering in God's Presence

We acknowledge that our sacred space is found on the Indigenous territories of the Attawandaron, Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples. With thankfulness and respect for their stewardship of creation, we seek to live into right relations with all.

A special gift for Rev. Susan

Rev Susan had her last Worship Service with us on August 29th. It also coincided with her decision to retire from full time ministry. We presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a painting done by Ruthanne McLagan. On the back of the framed painting is the following:

The artwork is a gift from the members of Calvary United Church, London, Ontario presented to The Reverend Susan Cameron on August 29th, 2021 for her spiritual leadership in 2020 and 2021.

The imagery is inspired by Mark 4: 26-34 which was a scripture for Bible Study on Thursday June 10th, and Camp Sunday, June 13th, 2021 :
"What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

– *Mary Kannakko*



A Message from Rev. Susan

I have appreciated my time here at Calvary, and although I couldn't meet many of you in person, I have enjoyed talking to you on Zoom or through phone calls.

But I have also decided that it is time to retire, which is a big decision for me, but I know it is the right decision. There are many things I want to do – volunteer, spend more time with the grandkids, read the pile of books that is on my nightstand – and retirement will give me the gift of time. So this is a significant occasion in my life and I am glad I got to share it with all of you.

CALVARY Catalyst

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

Submission deadline for the next issue is:

Monday, November 8th, 2021.

Send submissions to Bruce Jones: scouterbruce@rogers.com

Calvary United Church

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Scholarships and Bursaries awarded for 2021-2022 Academic Year

This year, I am pleased to announce that scholarships of \$750 each have been awarded to *Sheina Meatherall* and *Heather Meatherall* under the *Calvary Scholarship Program*. A total of 18 scholarships have been awarded over the last 17 years for a total amount of \$8,400. Up until 2013, the Scholarship Program was funded by donations from the congregation. In 2013, the Trustees agreed to fund \$3,500 for future scholarships.

We wish Sheina and Heather all the best as they leave home to attend university.

Also, this year, bursaries totaling \$4,000 were awarded to two students under the *Calvary Bursary Program*. Because bursaries are based on financial need, we do not publish the names of the recipients or the individual amounts of the bursaries. In the last 17 years, a total of \$55,000 has been awarded under the Bursary Program. The Bursary Program was permanently funded several years ago by the estate of Miriam Lois Gibson.

The *Calvary Scholarship Program* and the *Calvary Bursary Program* are administered by the Board of Trustees. Each year the Board appoints a Selection Committee to review applications and award scholarships and bursaries. Details of the two programs are available on the church website. (www.calvaryuc.ca)

– Wally Robinson
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Calvary Green

The Calvary Green webpage is now up and running on the new (and amazing) Calvary website... with weekly additions from our Tuesday emails... Learn how to become better Eco-citizens a day at a time... look for future events and how we all can turn a little 'Green.'



FOR THE LOVE
OF CREATION

Dear Friends of Calvary,

The Re-opening Committee has met and decided Calvary will re-open for in-person Sunday Church Services on Sunday, September 26th. We will have hybrid services in which there will be both in-person worship and Live Streaming of the service. Together we will join in worship, using whichever method you feel comfortable with.

For everyone's safety, we have set up COVID guidelines for those attending the in-person services. Registering beforehand will not be necessary. Everyone will enter through the parking lot door and be screened by one of our screeners. If you are feeling unwell or have been unwell, have been in contact with someone who is positive for COVID or have been out of the country or province in the last 14 days, please do not attend.

Everyone must wear a mask while entering the building, during the service and exiting the church. There will be disposable masks if someone forgets their mask. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be at the parking lot entrance, in the sanctuary and at the exits. Please keep your coats and other belongings with you as we don't want to cause congestion in the hallway around the coat racks. We recommend that you come to church around 10:00 am or earlier.

Those who need the lift will be assisted by one of our ushers. Only one person or a person and their companion are allowed in the lift at one time. Keeping physical distance, you are to proceed down the corridor to the sanctuary. An usher will take you to your seat. We are following the distance rules set up by the province and therefore only family members or a person and their companion can sit together. Otherwise, you must sit six feet away from others. Every other pew row will be roped off to help facilitate this. When the service is over, the ushers will direct you to the appropriate exits. People are not to congregate in the church to chat.

If you feel you will need water during a service, please bring your own container of water. Announcements, order of service and other information will be shown on the screens. Offering plates are located on the communion table at the front and back of the sanctuary. There will be no formal collection. Visitor envelopes will be in the pews. The washrooms are open for your use and they are cleaned on a frequent basis. With the new provincial rules, soft singing or humming under your mask will be allowed. Individual activity kits for our children will be provided at the back of the church as we do not plan to start in-person Sunday School until at least after Thanksgiving.

We realize that this is a lot of information to absorb, however we want it to be a safe and uplifting experience for everyone.

Sincerely,

– Mary Kannakko, Chairperson of Calvary's Church Council

Panty Raid in the West end... Twice!

As reported earlier, Calvary was again, very generous, with our Undie Sunday campaign. We raised \$1957. With the covid restrictions at the time, we were not able to start purchasing until early July.

I contacted the owner of Giant Tiger on Springbank Drive and he graciously gave us a discount on our purchase. Tom and I went in with two carts and made a significant dent in their underwear supplies. We spent over \$1000. That week I dropped off 636 articles to the Mission Store for distribution to those in need. This week my granddaughter and I went back, as we wanted to provide more items before school starts. We spent more than \$1000 and decimated their underwear departments by getting another 600 items. With the money that we "earned" with our discounts, we then went to No Frills and purchased 12 boxes of diapers ranging from newborn to size 6.

I have to admit that I felt pride when we delivered this second load this week. They were so appreciative. We definitely made life a little cheerier for many in need this year. Calvary sure comes through when there's an expressed need. Thanks so much!

– Kris Goodman

As we journey together...

Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to God's purpose."

Dear Friends in Christ,

There could be no truer scripture that fits the generous and gracious welcome that I have received by the committee chairs, the staff, and the choir. I am truly blessed to be called to serve in ministry with you and as you probably have already been told or know, I am so excited! Excited as we journey



together to experience where God continues to call us and to explore new opportunities and challenges in His name. At times I just need to take a step back from my excitement and give thanks and praise and to take in the glory of the wonderful essence of the Holy Spirit as God dwells within us.

Here we are though, ready for a new beginning, ready for whatever comes our way and together we will seek guidance

through the sacred text and the help of the triune God as we reach out and care for our members and adherents and those that we may not know by name that are both near and far.

The choir recorded a song to welcome me to their

Zoom gathering, just a short while ago, and that warm welcome certainly embodies who we are as Calvary UC. "Come in, Come in and Sit down – you are part of the family!" The family, the ever growing and caring circle of who we are, who we are called to be as followers of Jesus Christ. I am humbled and honoured for the sung welcome by the choir under the leadership of Denise.

Many thanks to the search committee, with the guidance of Beth Parsons, the church council, and you for voting to extend the call to me as your new minister. I look forward in meeting you in the coming days and weeks, with masks and following the health unit guidelines. If you have a question, concern, or pastoral care need please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, either through the church phone number or by emailing me at kerry.stover@calvaryunitedchurch.on.ca. I do try to answer emails in a timely manner.

The Calvary re-opening committee has been preparing for worship on September 26th, depending on MLHU protocols and guidelines. The services will continue to be live-streamed; as well they are being recorded and available on Calvary's YouTube channel on Sunday afternoon. My hope is that you will join in any one of these ways to connect with the Calvary community for worship. If you are wanting to come to in-person, please consider your own safety and health condition. We are still under pandemic precautions and your safety and health are important to all of us.

*Peace be with you,
– Rev. Kerry*

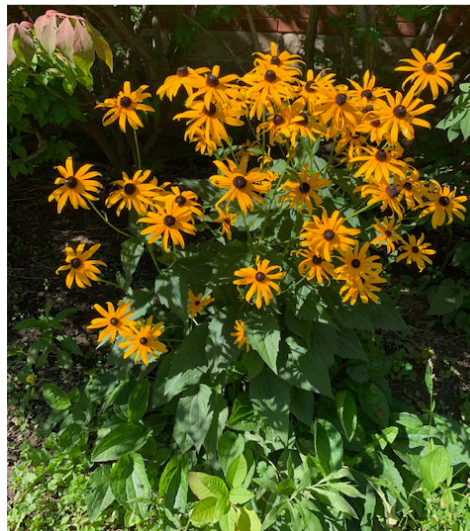
Calvary Green – What's happening?

The first initiative of Calvary Green has been the initiation of a Pollinator Garden. While still a "work in progress," over the summer clean-up of the gardens and adding pollinator plants, mostly native, now give our garden some colour, diversity, and, most importantly, have increased our butterfly and bee population.

This work was led by a small group of Marlene Wyatt, Marg LaRocque, Kristen Goodman and Lynn Danby. Special thanks to those from our congregation who have donated some plants, to Jill and Jeff Lucas for pulling out several boxwood shrubs, and to Gerry LaRocque and Mike Wittich who removed many stumps. Two rain barrels will soon be added. These were paid for through the grant received in 2020 from the Julia Hunter Foundation.

This fall, we will have some current garden plants available for give away to congregation members. Watch the weekly email for details. We are also looking for donations of pollinator plants, such as Black-Eyed Susan, Purple Cornflower, Cardinal Flower, and Bee Balm. So, as you prepare your garden for winter and divide perennial plants, should you have plants to donate, please contact Marg: mglarocque@rogers.com or Marlene: marlenemwyatt@gmail.com

– Marg LaRocque



Some of the plants in the pollinator garden... the work of the Calvary Green Team.



From our Catalyst Youth Correspondents: Heather & Sheina Meatherall

Farewell FAQ

Well, it's finally happened. By the time you are reading this, my bags will be packed and I will be starting my next great adventure, university. I'm sure you have questions, so here are the top four questions people have asked me.

What university are you going to?

This fall, I will be attending Ontario Tech University in Oshawa. If you've never heard of it, don't feel bad. It's only 20 years old, it specialises in science and technology, and it went through a name change two years ago.

What program are you going into?

I will be studying computer science. My courses for the fall are Calculus, Physics, Intro to Computer Science, Programming, and Technical Communication.



Are you actually there?

Yes! I will be in residence in a semi-private style room. This means I have my own bedroom, but I share a bathroom and a kitchenette with a roommate. I've actually already met my roommate. When I applied for residence, I filled out a roommate application. Ontario Tech then gave me the top 10 matches and I was able to talk with them so I could find the best fit.

As for courses, I'm still online. At least for the fall, all computer science related courses are virtual. Not ideal, but at least I'm not at my dining room table.

Are you excited?

Yes! I'm also a little nervous and sad about leaving home, but I'm excited to explore a new city and meet new people. It's going to be an adventure and I'm looking forward to all it will entail.

A Final Farewell

This is going to be my last Catalyst article. I've enjoyed doing it so much and you never know, I might pop into a future issue with an update!

– Heather ☺

September 2021

As I write this, I'll be leaving for university in two days. It's crazy to think that I've graduated high school, and I'll be moving out of my parent's house. This fall, I'll be attending Brock University with Concurrent Education as my major. This will be the longest time I've been away from home, and it will also be the longest time Heather and I have spent apart. I'm really looking forward to this new chapter in my life, and all that Brock and the City of St. Catharines has to offer.

This isn't goodbye just yet though. I plan to continue writing for the Catalyst while at university, so I hope to tell you all about my adventures in St. Catharines.

Until next time,
– Sheina

Dear Sheina/Heather, I would like to say thank you.. thanks for all the thoughtful articles you've contributed to the Catalyst. Thanks for painting wonderful works of art. Thanks for being on committees. Thanks to contributing so much to the life of Calvary Church. I'm so pleased that we will still be hearing from Sheina (and hopefully Heather too) as you take the next steps forward in your life. It's a pleasure having you as our "Catalyst Youth Correspondents." – Bruce

Camping Sunday, June 13th



2021 Fall Canadian Foodgrains Bank Report

The annual Blessing of the Fields for the Caradoc Growing Project was held on July 21st. The service was held next to a field of winter wheat, ready to be harvested by the McCracken family. Pastor Beth Parsons from Mt. Brydges and Cook's United Churches led us in a short service to bless all fields, including the McCracken's and one grown by the Bolton family near Kerwood. Following the Blessing, a short meeting was held where Henry Reinders, Ontario coordinator, gave a presentation on the current activities of CFGB in efforts to end world hunger. Also at this meeting, Richard Bolton, current chairperson of the Caradoc Growing Project, indicated that he would be stepping down from that position in the coming year. Anyone interested in filling this position can contact Kathie Leigh, for further information

On Sunday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 26, a short

video prepared by Henry Reinders, will be shown during our church service. This will mark the official start of Calvary's annual fundraising efforts for CFGB. Unfortunately, the annual Harvest Dinner cannot be held again this year, so your financial contributions will be greatly appreciated. Details on how to donate will be available in the weekly Tuesday email sent out from the church office

Many people in our global community continue to struggle with food insecurity. Natural disasters, like the earthquake and tropical storm which devastated Haiti recently has put many on the brink of starvation. CFGB, working with local partners, is attempting to ease some of the suffering.

Your generous support will aid in the efforts to eliminate world hunger. Thank you

– Kathie Leigh, Outreach Committee



Hello & Thank you from The London Community Chaplaincy!

Rev. Pam reports, "Summer at the Chaplaincy was a busy and meaningful season. We worked hard to spread joy for the families and children after such a challenging year. Twenty-five youth participated in our Leadership Camp which was held twice a week for eight weeks. We had 60 plus children participate in evening recreation three times a week at each site. Special events, carnivals, BBQ's and movie nights were offered. Plus a few special trips... the children had the opportunity to visit a farm and try horseback riding. And they also went bowling and swimming. One highlight was a first-ever Chaplaincy sleep-over at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee with eleven families attending.

"As we look again to the Fall with some uncertainty as the Pandemic evolves, we are certain that we will continue to serve in the heart of the community.

"We are so grateful for your ongoing support, and continue to ask for your prayers."

– Submitted by Linda Baker, Outreach Committee

