



Summer 2023 Issue

- 2 CBOQ Assembly recap
- 3 Finances
- 3 CBOQ cont'd
- 3 Land Acknowledgment
- 4 Birthdays
- 4 Care Centre
- 4 Upcoming Events
- 4 Care Centre
- 5 Ganaraska
- 6 Moderator & Treasurer



Choir Practices

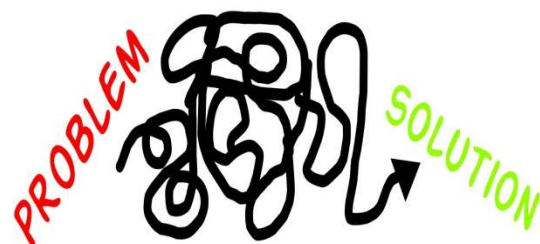
The choir will take a break from rehearsals during the summer. In-person rehearsals will resume on August 20th. It's a great time for newcomers to join. We will be preparing Christmas cantatas as well as one more anthem to sing on a specific Sunday – most likely on the Anniversary Sunday of October 1st (with special guest speaker Rev. Bert Radford).

Minister of Music
Han Na Kim DMA

Spotlight

Finding Solutions

Throughout the past number of months, many teams and individuals have been working extremely hard to try and find financial solutions as we work out and live out our ministry life as a church. This edition of the *Spotlight*, while capturing some of the things that have been going on in and around the church, is mainly focused on one of the ways forward financially as we bridge the gap between the moment we made the decision we've made to sell the back parking lot, and the moment when we actually have that money in hand. While there are many people to thank for getting us to this point, I want to thank especially our church administrator, Tanya Hardeo, who has worked with a number of different leaders in the church on different financial matters; our Interim Moderator/Treasurer, Heather Mains, who has been formulating these different solutions; and last, but not least, Gord Moore and the Building Committee, who worked with the realtor to come up with the solution we voted on at our last Huddle. I am grateful for them, and the many people within our church with many talents so very different than mine that contribute to the foundational aspects of finance and facilities to "make church work." May God bless each of you for helping us steward well the blessings God has bestowed upon us.



Love & Blessings, Pastor Ruth

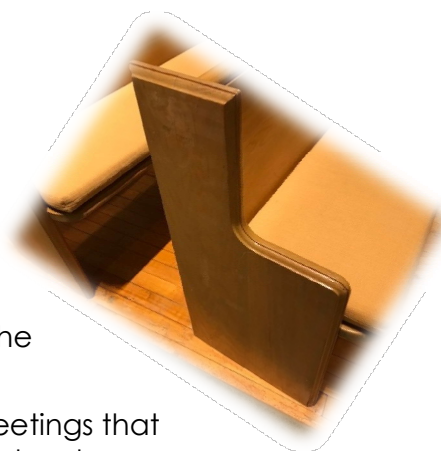
Adapting Our Space for Worship +

You may have noticed a few changes to our sanctuary. Instead of being buried in the cluttered Resource Room behind Clarke Hall, we have moved the large oak table to the back of the sanctuary.

This allows for a more amenable space for meetings that are held after the service. It also provides break out space for a small group, prayer as well as a sturdy table for refreshments. This necessitated the removal and reversibility of the back couple of pews. (If you know of anyone who might want a pew contact the office!)

The excellent upright piano has also been moved from the Resource room to the front of the sanctuary that will enable duets from time to time. Removal of the front south pew gives us more room for more musical options.

Victoria Drysdale Chair, Ruth Bartlett, Andrea Cambridge,
Rex Deverell, Kent Faulkner, Darlene Kelley & Han Na Kim





Once again, it was a privilege and blessing to attend this year's CBOQ Annual General Assembly as a delegate, along with Rev. Ruth Bartlett. The theme was. **ABC ... Associating** (Matthew 16: 13-20 & 1Cor. 14: 26-33), **Belonging** (John 3: 16 & Romans 3:22-26), **Called** (Acts 9: Jesus calls disciples.). The Assembly is an opportunity to receive an update of CBOQ activity, a chance to network with other Churches and support services, to learn, to praise and of course, meet up with old friends and meet new ones.

There were three plenary sessions based on the ABC theme. The first, presented by Sam Chaise, was **Associating**. With years of experience with CBM, CBWC, Christie Refugee Centre, and Carey Theological College, he explored with us the need for the Church in Canada to reassess its model and mission in light of changing times. The second session, **Belonging**, was presented by Rhonda Britton, Senior Pastor of New Horizons Baptist Church on the East Coast. She expanded on how our social structure has been built on division and segregation, perpetuating disparities. She questioned ... "Can the Jesus in you see the Jesus in me?" ... we are called to be transformed, to strive for justice, unity in Christ and equity. This journey requires intentional effort to dismantle divisions, to challenge social norms and actively promote a sense of belonging. The last session was presented by our newly appointed Executive Director, Rev. Leanne Friesen. She used the example from Mark 10. 46-52, the story of the call of Bartimaeus, an unlikely recipient of Jesus' call. Jesus saw beyond appearances. He calls every one and gives everyone a unique purpose. She shared her personal faith journey and her surrender to God's plan.

The delegates were offered a selection of Learning Sessions, presented in small groups by wonderful leaders. Subjects included ABC of the New Testament, The ABC of being Anti-Racist, The Church and the Marketplace, Parenting, CBOQ Financial Support for Churches, Re-envisioning Buildings and Spaces, Urban Sherpas and Suburban Guides, Retiring not Expiring, and Conversations on Women and Men in Flourishing Partnerships in Ministry.

The AGM brings together member Churches and Associations each year to address important matters and establish direction for the CBOQ Board and staff, focusing on resources, leadership development, fostering partnerships and strengthening identity. We heartily welcomed Logos Baptist Church, Oakville as new members. Board President, Craig Rumble, presented the work done on the CBOQ Membership Review Process, the review of Core Documents. The Bylaw Review Missional Team proposed revisions which include the motion that affirms the priesthood of all believers, both men and women.

The Financial Report was presented by Koon Wah. She reported that 94% of the revenue target was achieved, but expenses outweighed revenue. Balance achieved from inter-fund transfers. The primary objection is to give back to churches and partners through grants and supports. It was noted that 21 churches closed in the past five years with four more this year. A motion was passed to accept this Report.

Rev. Friesen was unanimously ratified as the new Executive Minister of CBOQ. She shared her personal faith journey and aims to encourage and empower staff and Board Members, dreaming big for CBOQ. She vowed to celebrate the identity and potential of each church.

The afternoon included the recognition of new ordinands, newly transferred credentials and the Children and Family Certificates. Of note was the celebration of Woodstock Baptist Church and their 200 years of service in their community.

The Nominations Committee Report was presented and accepted. Then, Rev. Friesen expressed gratitude for Rev. Tim McCoy for his past service. He confirmed that many efforts were made to strengthen Baptist identity and policy, innovate and share new church models, focus on future pastors and establish sustainable financial models with supporting resources.

The question of welcome of all people to share in worship was discussed at length. A motion was passed to "welcome but not affirm nor endorse any sinful lifestyle identified in the Word of God."

**When the Worship Team asked guest preacher
Rev. Joe Elkerton for a meaningful
Land Acknowledgement he suggested this prayer:**

Creator, you made all people of every land. We dwell on many traditional lands as we gather this day and we acknowledge with respect that our church rests on the traditional land of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the first people of this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of good mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray in your name, your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.

Calvary Finances

The first six months of 2023 Calvary's expenses continued to exceed income as our space was not fully utilized and rental income has been lower than in years past. This was anticipated in our approved budget for the year. I am pleased to report that we will be entering into an agreement with Leroux for the school to use additional space beginning September 1st. The new income, combined with additional user income over the summer months, means that we are close to achieving a balanced budget beginning this summer. We are grateful for this development.

Calvary Renewal Loans - Investment Certificate Opportunity

At the April 23, 2023 Huddle, the congregation of Calvary agreed to raise funds to support its ongoing operations. We have since learned that the buildings at 72 Main Street are in need of immediate repairs expected to cost as much as \$50,000. In order to continue to support worship and to provide the programs in our community such as seniors' and the Grace Pascoe Care Centre food bank, it is important that we maintain the building and infrastructure that we have.

The Treasurer, supported by the leadership, is proposing to offer investment certificates for three-year terms at a rate of 4%. The interest rate compares favorably to CBOQ certificate rates.

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity to invest, please contact Heather Mains, Treasurer, at 647-225-8732 or complete the subscription form below. Loan Certificates will be available from June 2023 onward in denominations of \$1,000 or more, and will be due in September, 2026.

Subscription Form – Investment Certificate in Calvary Baptist Church

I am interested in placing \$_____ in an Investment Certificate in Calvary Baptist Church.

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail _____

Please return in confidence to: Heather Mains, Treasurer c/o Calvary Baptist Church Office, 72 Main Street, Toronto.

CBOQ Assembly

continued from pg 2

Evelin Wharram, First Vice President, presented all proposed motions and all were passed with the required majority.

We then received reports from Jennifer Lau, which supported 136,000 individuals in poverty, causes of justice, kids at risk, church building and crisis response. Adrian Gardner, Director of Canadian Partnership, introduced new partnerships in such places as Togo, Egypt and Thailand.

The report from Helena Bergen, Executive Director of CBWOQ, shared a video that showed the variety of ways they serve Baptist women. We also heard from Stanley Porter, who provided an update of McMaster Divinity College.

It was a weekend of business, praise and worship, networking and togetherness. We closed with the celebration of the Lord's Supper and prayer for each other.

At Calvary we are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from CBOQ and are looking forward to what God has in store for us all as the body of Christ.

Tina Timmermans

Gifts & Tithes



We thank everyone for donations to Calvary's ministry through mail,

Canada Helps, and the offering plates located at the front of the sanctuary.

Calvary Birthdays

July

- 17 Rex Deverell
21 Pat Dewar
26 John Cambridge



August

- 1 Rita Shelton Deverell
3 Bob Long
11 Jennifer Hamblin
17 Martin Train

Upcoming Events

July Preachers:

- 9 Shelley Faulkner
16 Rev. Blake Bartlett
23 Patricia Elkerton
30 Nestor Abdon

August Preachers:

- 5 Rev. Andrea Cambridge
12 Rev. Andrea Cambridge
19 Rev. Ruth Bartlett
26 Shelley Faulkner

Summer Church Family Activity:

Saturday, July 8th: *Movie* and bring your own lunch at noon at the church. (Another in August ... Interested? Suggestions? Contact [Pastor Ruth](#) or Patricia for details.)

Mid-Week Small Group Connections:

Provision Time – July 11th at 7:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Prayer Time – July 25th at 10 a.m. (Virtual)

55+ Board Games & Cards Afternoons:

Starting again in the Fall. First Saturday monthly – 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 1: Anniversary Sunday.

Rev. Bert Radford preaching.

GPCC & Little Pantry: Non-perishable food donations are welcomed: Contact the Care Centre team at gpcc@calvary-baptist-church.ca.

Grace Pascoe Care Centre



One Year Re-opening Celebration in May

Help feed neighbours in need

Grace Pascoe Care Centre

Food Bank @ Calvary on Main



72 Main St, Toronto, ON

gpcc@calvary-baptist-church.ca

Drop off: Wednesdays 9 am -1 pm or Thursdays 5-6 pm

Items we need most

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Peanut butter | • Cereal |
| • Canned fish | • Granola Bars |
| • Canned vegetables | • Diapers (size 1-5) |
| • Pasta sauce | • Baby formula |
| • Canned beans | • Period products |



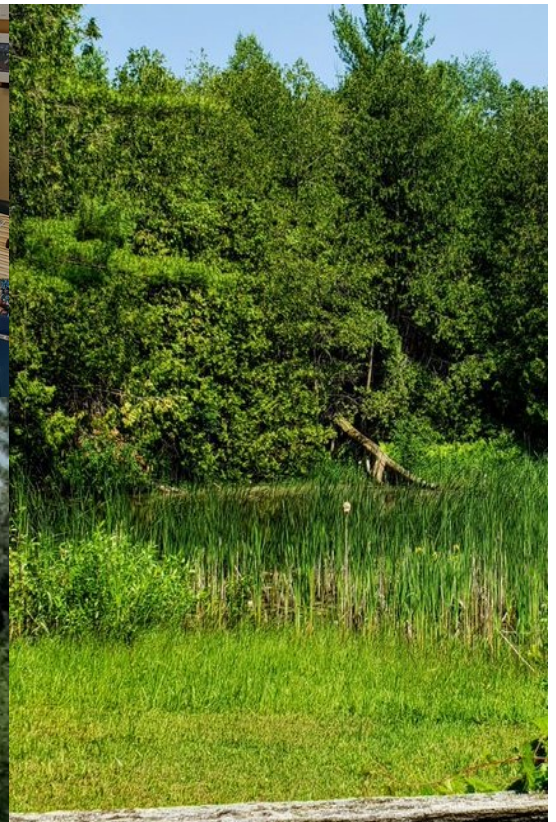
Calvary's insurer provides **discounted rates on home and auto insurance** for pastors, employers and church members. See joe@jdsfinancial.ca



Our first post-Covid Women's Retreat at Ganaraska Woods, April 28-30. Special thanks to Rev. Ruth Bartlett, Rev. Andrea Cambridge and Darlene Kelley for input, meals and crafts. It was a meaningful time to look back to see how God has been and will continue to guide us and we grow in Him, and we grow in relationship with one another.

Create Your Own Retreat at Our Beautiful Ganaraska Woods

Who needs a spa day when you can be surrounded by trees! Come and have your spirit renewed. Even Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed, (Luke 5:16). Ganaraska is open and available to the Calvary Baptist Church Family & Friends. Special rates are available. Come and enjoy the outdoors for a weekend. Contact Shawn sronson@calvary-baptist-church.ca for details and how to book a weekend.



The June 17th Picnic couldn't have been a more perfect day. The weather was lovely, 25 people attended, six were children. All folks had either the lunch, the potluck dinner or stayed for both. Many went for a swim to officially open the pool. Fun was had by all.

Treasurer & Interim Moderator Report

Calvary Renewal

In 2019 the Church struck a Renewal Team to address the challenges associated with a small and aging congregation with significant real estate holdings, an aging infrastructure and attendant financial challenges. In June 2021, the congregation accepted a report of the Renewal Committee which made a number of recommendations, including establishing two committees:

- Ministry Strategy Committee – tasked with clarifying Calvary ministry foci and to investigate partnerships
- Building Committee – tasked with investigating valuations and opportunities for 72 Main Street

Through this period, the congregation was asked to pray and support these teams in their efforts. The objective was to arrive at an integrated plan for ministry, real estate and financial resources, ideally by June 2023 in order to begin planning to upgrade the building to meet accessibility standards.

Ministry Strategy Committee

The congregation received the preliminary report of the Ministry Strategy Committee in June 2022, which identified the following ministry foci:

- 1) Worship, prayer and discipleship
- 2) Serving and supporting seniors
- 3) Neighborhood outreach through the Grace Pascoe Care Centre (current emphasis being the Food Bank)

This information was provided to the Building Committee, so that they could take into account the real estate needs for those ministry priorities.

Building Committee

The Building Committee reviewed research and recommendations made by previous committees, and contacted members of the community familiar with Calvary's real estate. This information, informed by the Ministry Strategy Committee priorities, led to a search for a real estate solution that supports Calvary's ministry priorities, is financially feasible, carries the least amount of financial and operational risk, and is the least disruptive option possible.

With those parameters set out, and having contacted various members of the Beach real estate and development community, in April 2023, the congregation voted in favour of accepting an offer to purchase a portion of the land at 72 Main Street owned by Calvary. While this offer is conditional, and it will likely take until 2026 before we receive funds, this is a significant step towards aligning our real estate with our needs that will also provide the church with financial stability once the transaction concludes.

The progress made towards a sustainable financial model for the church began with prayer and discernment, which led to clarity on our ministry priorities, and has guided our decisions related to real estate. We continue to offer prayers of gratitude for being so blessed.

Heather Mains, Treasurer



Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor: Ruth Bartlett rbartlett@calvary-baptist-church.ca • **Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Rex Deverell

• **Music Director:** Han Na Kim music@calvary-baptist-church.ca

• **Administrator:** Tanya Hardeo calvaryonmain@calvary-baptist-church.ca • **Custodian:** Jim Yolevski



72 Main St. Toronto, ON M4E 2V7 416.691.4721 calvaryonmain@calvary-baptist-church.ca www.calvary-baptist-church.ca