Cambridge Chronicle



where the stories of the people & the mission of Cambridge Street United Church meet

NOVEMBER 2026



Monster Mash at the Phantom of the Organ concert, Oct. 30.

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Voices of Victory perform at Phantom of the Organ, Oct. 30.



Marking 25 years of music ministry by Erwin and Angelique Stroobach, May 3.

Walt's World

Cartoon by Walt Radda



Greetings from Council

Cathy Puffer, Council Chair



It's hard to believe another Christmas season is upon us. Where did 2026 go? We are so fortunate that Cambridge St. United is always buzzing with activity, especially at this time of year. We are all so privileged to be part of such a supportive, vibrant community!

I encourage everyone to take advantage of all the special events happening over the next month. There will be special music, concerts and opportunities to pause and reflect. Keep an eye on the calendar and don't miss out! If you have any questions, please reach out. Remember, there are drivers available to pick you up if driving is a challenge.

I want to use this opportunity to thank Bruce Glass for his service as Council Chair for more than two years. The timing hasn't worked for a public thank you, but that doesn't diminish the impact that Bruce had on the life and community of CSUC. Council members truly appreciate all of his leadership and guidance. When you see him, please express your thanks for all he has done for our congregation.

Wishing everyone peace and joy for the Christmas season.

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself." ***Charles Dickens***

Don’t Miss Christmas While You’re Getting Ready for It!

Rev. Sharon
Campbell-Rayment



There is something wonderful about Christmas. The twinkling lights, familiar carols, gatherings with family and friends, and the excitement of preparing for something special.

Of course, there are also the shopping lists, baking, decorating, wrapping, the concerts, the gatherings and the annual mystery of how we accumulated so many Christmas decorations!

And somewhere in the middle of it all, we’re supposed to find peace on earth. Goodness gracious! Sometimes finding the wrapping paper is challenging enough! I wonder, though, how often we become so busy preparing for Christmas Day that we miss the wonder of the season itself.

In Luke’s Gospel, we read that Mary “treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). Amid the extraordinary events surrounding Jesus’ birth, Mary paused to recognize something sacred unfolding. Perhaps we could learn something from her.

“Christmas isn’t waiting for us at the finish line. It is unfolding in laughter, kindness, shared moments and unexpected joy.”

Through Still Point 12:10, I encourage people to take a moment to breathe, pause and notice the sacred already present in ordinary life. Perhaps while the kettle boils or in a moment between errands.

Christmas isn’t waiting for us at the finish line. It is unfolding in laughter, kindness, shared moments and unexpected joy. These aren’t interruptions to Christmas. They are part of Christmas.

Christ’s birth reminds us that new beginnings emerge in ordinary circumstances. Each day offers opportunities for hope, compassion, forgiveness and love to be born anew.

As we journey through Advent, gather for Christmas celebrations, sing familiar carols and welcome the birth of Christ, may we remember that Christmas is more than a single day. It is a season of opening our hearts to the possibility of new life, renewed hope and love made visible in ordinary moments.

So, enjoy the preparations, but don’t miss the wonder along the way. Like Mary, take a moment to pause and treasure these moments in your heart.

With love and Christmas blessings,
Rev. Sharon

A Music Note

Erwin Stroobach, Director of Music

We had two amazing concerts in October this year. A special thanks to Pierre Chartier for the vision of the Inspirational Concert on Oct. 4. With the Wellspring Band, guest soloist Deidrey Francois and both choirs, it was a great afternoon. On Oct. 30 the Phantom of the Organ returned for another fun-filled spooky evening of music and storytelling. A huge thanks to Walt, who seems to have developed a unique relationship with our resident ghost Hector.

Thanks to everyone who performed for these two concerts, our amazing Music Team, and others who helped behind the scenes from tickets to lighting, sound … it's quite a list. I'm so amazed and thankful for the many talented musicians we have that allow us to put on these incredible performances.



Both were great concerts and I hope you were able to attend one or both.

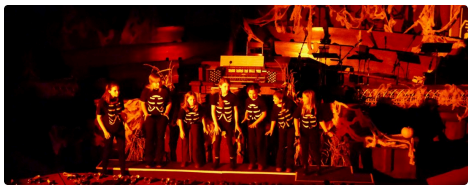
We are now rehearsing for our upcoming Christmas Cantata, *Let the Whole World Sing*, which will include an orchestra and 50-plus singers in the choir. Make sure you mark your calendar and invite friends and family on Dec. 13 for an uplifting and powerful retelling of the Christmas story during our morning worship service. We will again end the service with Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*!

Looking ahead to 2027, the Noon Hour Concerts will run on Wednesdays from Feb. 17 to March 17 and again we have lined up a wonderful group of musicians. Mark your calendars!

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season.



Wellspring Band, Oct. 4.



VOV at Phantom of the Organ, Oct. 30.



Rehearsing for Christmas Cantata.

Cambridge Street Youth Update

Nathan Copeland, Youth Coordinator



Kids Corner (Sunday School) ran the gardens and Foodgrains Market this year, growing vegetables, making signs and running the market table on cookie Sundays. Kids Corner lessons will now align with the Sunday service message, with a take-home family activity for further learning and reflection together.

Kids Connection (grades 3–12) now meets as one combined group, fostering mentorship between teens and younger kids. Evenings begin with hands-on baking, followed by a Bible-based show and interest-led activities. Monthly gym nights currently focus on team-building and sportsmanship. An adult volunteer is needed once a month to lead sports. If interested, please contact Nate: Church Office 705-324-3547.

A new **Homework Help Club** allows students arriving directly from school to work with volunteers before Kids Connection.

As **Junior Leaders**, our teen volunteers support church services, camps and events like Phantom of the Organ and the Roast Beef Dinner with commitment and professionalism.

Summer Camps

Nathan Copeland, Youth Coordinator

This summer the halls of Cambridge Street were filled with the laughter, singing, and voices of children as they developed friendships, learned new skills, and explored new ideas at our day camps.

The first camp was a STEM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Each day, the children rotated between five rooms: Mad Science, Physics, Games, Woodworking and the giant Lego table. They learned through fun with experiments, problem-solving, cooperation, creativity and interactive learning resources.

We had special events throughout the week. The children met, held and fed reptiles. One day, Walt introduced them to our dragon (the clanky boiler in the basement) and they learned how steam works. The next day, he taught them how the organ works by pushing air through the pipes. Walt then held an AV Club where he taught the children how the video and sound systems work, and they got to try it all out for themselves! On the final day we had a glow-in-the-dark dance party in the gym.

The August Arts Camp ran for two weeks with a new group of campers each week. They learned how to play percussion instruments with Ruby Webdale, ukulele with Bryan Gowan and action songs with Bob May.

The gym was transformed into a giant art studio for creating together. Sarah Hannam brought quilts for the children to see and they used fabric to make their own designs. They learned numerous art techniques with a variety of materials. Some of these creations were later used in their dramatic plays, particularly the sock puppets. Some wrote their own plays or dance routines, others enjoyed participating in prepared skits.

At the end of each week families were invited to a gala event that included snacks, art displays, crafts to try and a talent show with ukulele, dancing, singing and skits. The second week included a beautiful choir performance under the direction of Erwin and Angelique Stroobach.

I am incredibly grateful for all the volunteers who played and learned alongside the children, fostering and supporting the children's curiosity and sense of wonder. Your time and dedication helped create a richly rewarding experience for our youth campers.

"The halls of Cambridge Street were filled with the laughter, singing, and voices of children as they developed friendships, learned new skills, and explored new ideas."



Glow-in-the-dark dance party, STEM Camp.



Percussion circle, Arts Camp.



Ukulele players at the Arts Camp gala.

UCW Report

Sharon Tracy, UCW President



Thanks to all the volunteers who supported another successful Fall Rummage and Bake Sale. Together we raised approximately $6,000 for our church. Greatly appreciated are those who donate treasures, the sorters, pricers, cashiers, bakers, kitchen and bake sale crew, set-up and clean-up gang, and all the people who work behind the scenes to pull this event together. This sale continues a long tradition; CSU has had a rummage sale as far back as the 1930s.

Speaking of tradition, the Cambridge St. UCW formally began at our church in 1962. UCW members have made many invaluable contributions to the church and the community, as well as providing a means to share fellowship and friendship. Ensuring that this group builds on that foundation and continues to evolve into the future is a high priority of the current executive as we welcome new members into our church. As a first step, a survey was recently distributed to members and is currently being reviewed.



Rooted in History, Growing into the Future.

"Joys of Christmas" took place Nov. 21 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in this wonderfully festive fundraiser, both behind the scenes and as an attendee.

Outreach Team

Pam Putman-Kimmett, Lead

Congratulations, "crop farmers"! Thanks to the Bruce VandenBerg family for donating 10 acres on their family farm for our Canadian Foodgrains Bank 2026 project. We gratefully acknowledge the congregation's initial donations and purchases of virtual sheep, as these monies supported initial seeding costs. Under the guidance and support of Phil VandenBerg, we planted and harvested 10 acres of soybeans this season.

Thanks also for taking part in our summer produce markets held by our youth, and our recent Applefest event. Your ongoing involvement has made this project an exciting and rewarding experience for our church family. A summary of financial results will be posted as soon as they are available.



Rev. Sharon served communion at a monthly outreach service at Adelaide Place, organized by Kim Teatro.



Harvesting soybeans for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank project.



Kids Corner signs for the produce market and Foodgrains Bank.

Property Team Update

Mike Puffer, Property Team member



VOV sings at the front of the sanctuary where the proposed stage area would extend, Nov. 8 Remembrance Day Service.

The Property Team hopes for some good financial news soon that will help make a longtime ambitious goal for the Church move a bit closer to reality.

As outlined in October, the Property Team has made an application to the Lindsay Community CHEST Fund to support construction of an expansion of the choir loft area. A staging area in a semicircular platform extending from the current front area of the sanctuary would enhance not only our regular worship services but all special events that we present throughout the year. Additionally, the work will be very attractive to current and future user groups that enjoy using the Cambridge Street facilities, thus bringing more people to the Church, as well as rental income!

Planning and preparation for the accessible platform has been challenging and arduous.

Experts have told us that before any work in the sanctuary begins, the floor at the front of the sanctuary must be reinforced to handle the additional weight of a stage and performers. This requires reinforcing the ceiling in the Queen Street Hall, below the sanctuary.

Cost estimates for this work are considerable. The Property Team has sought possible granting sources for support. While we have been disappointed that our church does not qualify for accessibility grants through the United Church of Canada and various other granting sources, representatives from the CHEST Fund have been very positive in encouraging us to apply.

Through regular reports and updates, the Property Team will keep everyone informed about progress and timelines for the future "Cambridge Street Performance Centre."

Parking

Our church is growing (a good thing), but parking has remained the same! If you are able, please consider parking a block or two away when attending services or special events at Cambridge Street United. We want to ensure that those with limited mobility find a spot close by. Sadly, some people don't attend simply because they can't find accessible parking.

Rides to Church

There are many reasons you may want a ride to church. We have drivers at the ready every Sunday! Call the church at 705-324-3547 on Sunday between 9:45 and 10 a.m. If you don't get through, call again (please don't leave a message). Please, don't hesitate to call; our volunteers really do like to give rides!

Walter Auld Luncheon

Lisa Kapp

Looking for good food and fellowship? Join us at the Walter Auld Luncheons for a catered meal followed by guest speakers or music. At the Oct. 27 Walter Auld Luncheon, guest speaker and past Council Chair, Bruce Glass, shared insights from serving as a judge on an 18-week cold case jury trial.

The case involved a woman who disappeared from Bracebridge in 2007. After her body was discovered in 2010, police re-opened the investigation, focusing on her partner as the prime suspect. The lengthy trial featured 150 exhibits and 56 witnesses. Following days of deliberation, the jury convicted the partner of second-degree murder and committing an indignity to a body, resulting in a life sentence with no parole eligibility for 17 years. The audience was captivated and learned about things like jury instructions and murder degree distinctions.

The next luncheon features a musical program on Dec. 1. If interested in attending, non-members should register with Heidi Kaphengst at 705-328-0941 by Thursday, Nov. 26.

Roast Beef Dinner

Lisa Kapp

October was a busy month for fundraising at Cambridge Street United, and it is ALL completed through the generosity of our incredible volunteers! Early in October we hosted the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Concert and the annual Fall Rummage and Bake Sale, the end of the month was the biennial Phantom of the Organ, and sandwiched in between these events was the 29th annual Roast Beef Dinner! (See what I did there?)

It takes a village of dedicated volunteers to set tables, prepare food, organize pies, wash dishes … In fact, there were more than 70 people doing at least 90 different jobs to make the dinner a success! Special thanks to our organizers: Cathy Puffer, Brenda Burns, Wanda Percival and Joanne Winter. This event gets bigger and better every year!



Prepping vegetables, Friday, Oct. 23.



Peeling carrots, Friday, Oct. 23.

New Faces in 2026

Lisa Kapp

There has been a bit of a changing of the guard at Cambridge Street United in 2026. Cathy Puffer has stepped in as Chair of the Board, Jennie West is our new Office Administrative Assistant, Nathan Copeland has taken on (and expanded) Youth programming, and yours truly (Lisa Kapp) is the new editor of the *Cambridge Chronicle*. I asked all to answer a few questions to help you get to know them a little better. Interestingly, all were raised in Lindsay, left for education and work, and returned to find themselves at Cambridge St. United.



Cathy Puffer

Council Chair

PREVIOUS WORK

I graduated as a pharmacist and worked in Peterborough, Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon before opening my own pharmacy (Remedy's on Kent) in 2009.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I enjoy volunteering, reading, biking, camping and dragon boating!

FAVOURITE MOVIE / BOOK

Movie: likely *The Sound of Music*. Book: *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

HIDDEN TALENT

I love ringing handbells and would like to find some time to work on some more solo and duet work!



Jennie West

Office Administrative Assistant

PREVIOUS WORK

I've worked in various places as an Early Childhood Educator (four years) and an Educational Assistant (23 years).

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I love a good book. I also enjoy crocheting, knitting and spending time with my family.

FAVOURITE MOVIE / BOOK

Books: the *Anne of Green Gables* series and historical novels.

HIDDEN TALENT

Nothing she is willing to share!



Nathan Copeland

Youth Coordinator

PREVIOUS WORK

For over 20 years I worked as an educator, supervisor and director in childcare, striving to make child care accessible and inclusive.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Stage manager, actor and Drama Club member at Lindsay Little Theatre (following my grandparents' and father's example), and hiking in the woods with my daughter, Audrey!

FAVOURITE MINI-SERIES / BOOK

Mini-series: *Dark*. Book: *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking.

HIDDEN TALENT

Sketching while on walks in the woods with my daughter. You don't have to be good at something to enjoy it!



Lisa Kapp

PREVIOUS WORK

I was a high school English and Dramatic Arts teacher and department head in public and private schools in Cobourg, Turkey and Oakville.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Being outside (gardening, camping, golf, hiking), community theatre (acting, directing, choreography, costumes and more) and singing with the Electric City Swing Band.

FAVOURITE MOVIE / BOOK

Movie: *Love Actually* (?). Book: *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett (I love historical fiction).

HIDDEN TALENT

I'm learning to water colour paint and turns out I'm pretty good at organizing and porch sitting!

Pam Burtt's Retirement

Bruce Glass



Pam and Bob Burtt.



Paul Reed, past minister, was not the only one to make Pam laugh.



Carole Tully reads a poetic tribute to Pam.



Standing room only in the gym.



Pam thanks the congregation.

On Nov. 1, we had the fun of celebrating Pam's 33 years with Cambridge Street United. We literally had standing room only in the gym. As always, our UCW did a superb job with the luncheon topped off with great cake.

With a dozen speakers (including past ministers, board chairs and others), we heard a variety of reflections of personal experiences of Pam's time with us. Every speaker had different accounts of their experiences with Pam, but similar themes ran throughout. Pam's dedication, organization, humour and humility were at the core of each message. Pam always made time for others, even on a busy day, and we learned that she was a person we could trust: to find a misplaced file, to offer a helping hand when needed and to hold a private personal message.

And then Pam topped off the whole event with a quality speech in which she shared some of her own stories and thank-yous. The last 33 years were a golden time in the history of our church.

We wish Pam and her family all the best as she embarks on whatever "retirement" brings.

A Poem in Honour of Pam Burtt's Retirement

by Carole Tully

Pam - secretary here at Cambridge Street
for well over thirty years.
You've met many people enter
from far away and near.
You answered constant phone calls,
photocopying you would undertake.
You waded through many church files;
And reminded staff the deadlines to make.
Answering numerous questions
Yes - took time each day long.
Now, as you retire Pam,
Thank you for all you have done.
Good wishes ever be with you
From Cambridge St - yes, everyone!

Caught on Camera



Dennis Eaton retires from Chronicle.



Elaine Kell celebrates 90th, June 21.



Erich Dawson's birthday.



Welcome Back BBQ.



Camp Day, May 17.



Reception honouring Erwin and Angelique, May 3.



Wednesday lunch crowd: volunteers making school lunches.

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Coming Up

Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. Office closed Dec. 25, 28, Jan. 1 and Feb. 15.

Nov. 29	Advent 1 (Hope)
Dec. 1	Walter Auld Lunch, noon
Dec. 2	*A Christmas Carol*, APCH Fundraiser, 7 p.m.
Dec. 6	Advent 2 (Peace) · Children's Sunday and White Gift · Soaking Prayer
Dec. 8	UCW Miriam Unit, 1:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Labyrinth Walk, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	Advent 3 (Joy) · Christmas Cantata
Dec. 20	Advent 4 (Love)
Dec. 24	Living Christmas Eve, 7 p.m.; Candlelight Communion, 10 p.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day, office closed (also Dec. 28)
Jan. 1	New Year's Day, office closed
Jan. 3	Worship Band Sunday
Jan. 7	Men's Group, 10 a.m.
Jan. 12	Church Council, 7 p.m.
Jan. 19	UCW Miriam Unit, 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	Walter Auld Lunch, noon
Jan. 31	Cookie Sunday · Minute for Mission
Feb. 7	Worship Band Sunday
Feb. 9–11	Council Feb. 9; Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk Feb. 10; Men's Group Feb. 11
Feb. 14–15	Lent 1 · Communion; Family Day, office closed Feb. 15

Thank you to our Sponsors

John Harris, Realtor	Bowes & Cocks Ltd. · jharris@bowesandcocks.com	705-324-6145
Mackey Funeral Home	www.mackeys.ca	705-328-2721
Martin Scott	Scott's Decorating Centre · paintmaster@live.ca	705-324-5651
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Willock Insurance	Co-Operators · jason_willock@cooperators.ca	705-324-5222

Editor's Note



I am excited to be your new *Cambridge Chronicle* editor, giving Dennis Eaton a well-deserved break after 11 years at the helm. My goal is to carry on the tradition while bringing a fresh perspective to the pages. Thank you to everyone who pitched in by contributing articles or photos, shared ideas or helped out in any way to get this first issue to press. The current plan is to publish February, May and November. The *Chronicle* thrives on community voices, so if you'd like to contribute, please contact me at lisakapp66@gmail.com.

Lisa Kapp, Cambridge Chronicle Editor