

CONTACT

*To worship God, grow as Jesus' disciples,
care for one another, and take God's love to the world.*

It's all a miracle, really.

The pages that follow could read as report, or gratitude, or griping. They could be read as the activities of a busy church: meetings held, programs offered, meals shared, plans made.

But what if we chose to read them as miracle?

What if we read these pages as evidence of God's faithfulness? As signs of the power of resurrection, bringing all things toward life and love, redemption and re-creation?

I'd like to make that choice—to trust, believe and see that indeed, it's all a miracle.

The summer brought tragedy to our church family. One man dreamed of tutoring and board games and snacks and basketball and facilities that are open more than they are closed. Then his life was taken from us, tragically. We responded the best we could, in the face of the unimaginable. Holding our grief, we found ourselves carrying his dreams forward.

Neighbours wandered into the sanctuary for a moment of awe during the weekly farmers' market. New friendships were forged over board games at summer games night. A handful of kids fancy themselves chess masters because this is the sort of church where children come to believe all things are possible.

Miracle: stubborn evidence that death does not get the only word, nor the final word. Life keeps breaking through. And as summer comes to its end, perhaps all of us can see it a little more clearly: it's all a miracle, really.

The late poet Andrea Gibson wrote in their poem "I Love It Here":

"I Love It Here"

"You can walk through life believing everything is a miracle," Julie said, paraphrasing Einstein, "Or you can walk through life believing nothing is a miracle." Whatcha gonna choose? "Everything is a miracle!" I say like I've known it my whole life. But I didn't. Why did I go so long believing I owed this world my disappointment in what it has to offer?

"I hate it here," writes every other person on twitter.

I love it here. "I love it here," I whisper to the sky at 1am, standing on my upstairs porch wearing nothing but my space suit. "I love it here" I whisper into my doctor's stethoscope, so she can hear my heart.

- Andrea Gibson¹

¹ Full poem available here:

<https://andreagibson.substack.com/p/i-love-it-here>



Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Minister

As we turn the corner to fall, and our focus shifts to stewardship, I wonder what might happen if we began there, with astonishment. With noticing what God has entrusted to us, naming it miracle, and deciding that we want to participate in it.

If we believed all of this is miracle, what more of ourselves might we give to it? Our time. Our resources. Our attention. Our imagination. Our prayer. Our willingness to show up midweek, to invite someone new on a Sunday, to teach the children, sing in the choir, take a risk, offer more.

"I love it here," we whisper to God from the pews, so God can hear our hearts.

May it be so.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Hannah

Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

I was reminded the other day at Presbytery Worship, that as Christians the center of our faith is Jesus Christ. This is of course something I have understood my whole life. The preacher went on to say that it is from this place that our churches move out in mission. I began to think about mission. It is a word that has a lot of different meanings. We tend to think of mission as something that happens far away. Mission has a multitude of faces, and it happens right here.

It is helping with the Hamilton Out of the Cold Program, donating food to the food basket, supporting the various programs of the church, supporting Presbyterians Sharing, Presbyterian World Service and Development, and more. It is Games Night with local people coming together in fellowship. It is our benevolent card program. It is taking positions of leadership. It is praying for the congregation and the leadership. It is any moment when we can share our faith in Christ by our words, and our actions.

It is also pastoral care. When we visit someone in the hospital, we share our faith. When we sit and listen to someone's story, we become missionaries. In walking beside someone in their spiritual journey, we are sharing in Christ's command to go and tell. In offering support to community people deep in grief, we are sharing Christ's love. We share Christ when we offer a safe space for people to gather for comfort and hope.

We do this together as Christ's body, Christ's hands and feet. We do it knowing Christ is the very center of our lives.

Together in Christ,
Lois



Rev. Lois Whitwell,
Director of Pastoral Care

Revenues and Expenses Year to Date as of August 31, 2026

	Budget	Actual	Favourable (UnFavourable)
Operating Expenses	\$ 414,279	\$ 382,842	\$ 31,437
Congregational Givings & Rentals	306,694	265,901	(40,793)
Revenues less Expenses	\$ (107,585)	\$ (116,941)	\$ (9,356)
Funds from Trustees as Budgeted	30,000	30,000	-
Budgeted Shortfall	\$ (77,585)	\$ (86,941)	\$ (9,356)
Additional Funds from Trustees	33,558	30,000	
Over (Short) for Current Year	\$ (44,027)	\$ (56,941)	
Surplus (Short) from Prior Year	44,027	44,027	
Over (Short) for Current Year	\$ -	\$ (12,914)	

The 2026 Budget approved at the Congregational meeting had expenses greater than revenues in the amount of \$106,378 which was reduced by a surplus carry forward of \$44,027 leaving a projected deficit of \$62,351 for which the Trustees are providing temporary funding by diverting funds normally accumulated for major repairs to the building.

Donations are welcome in support of the worship and mission of Central

You may support this good work by donating in various means: place a gift on the offering plate, use pre-authorized remittance (PAR), donate online, send money via Interac E-Transfer, to bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca or send a cheque.

Please make sure to include your envelope number or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit cpchamilton.ca/giving

Please ensure your information is up to date with your elder or the church office, if you have moved, are moving, or have changed any of your contact information.



Resource Management Committee Report

RMC was devastated at the beginning of June following the sudden, accidental death of Gregg Bullock-Price. Gregg has been a valued member of RMC for the past few years and was the property manager for our building. He was diligent in following up on repairs and engaging service people to keep the building operating. Gregg was frequently present at the church as he managed the property, coordinated Hamilton Out of the Cold (HOOTC) on our site, worked as part of the AV team and engaged with the youth. We miss him very much.

Lee Carpenter agreed to join RMC and fill the role of property manager. We welcome Lee, who has experience in this role. He and David Lewington, our custodian, are making a good team to operate our building.

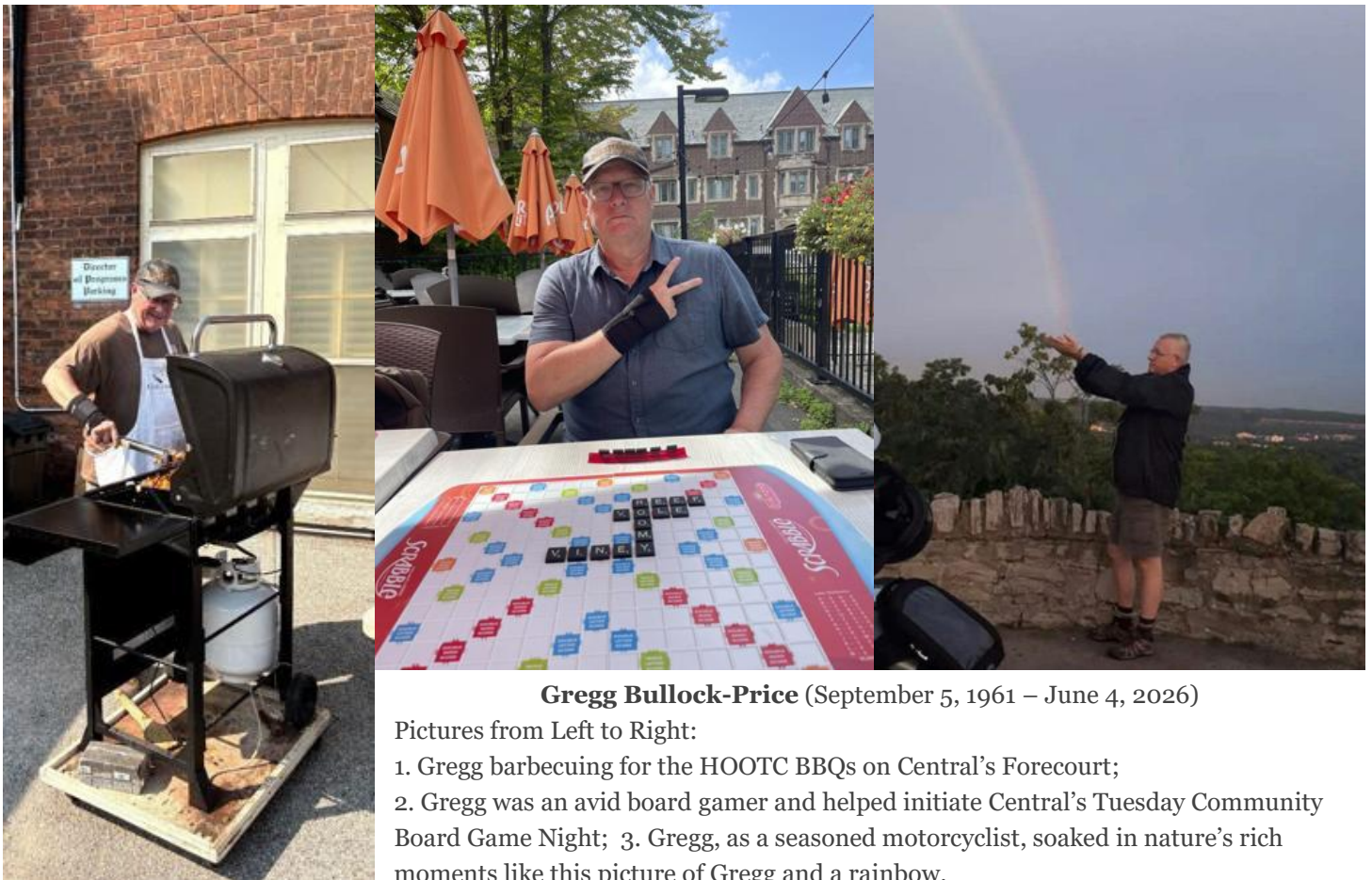
RMC member Frances Searle broke her hip earlier this summer. We wish her a smooth recovery and look forward to her return to the committee. Mary Guise plans to return this September from a leave of absence over the summer.

The playground for the Talented Tinkers Daycare has been completed on the north side of the church. The daycare is now working with their architect to obtain a "Change of Use" building permit, which will enable them to make necessary changes upstairs, obtain the approvals and permits to operate the daycare. We look forward to having them on site.

The other big project this summer was the removal of two and a half rows of pews to enlarge the space at the front of the church. We are grateful to Hubert de Bruin and Emile Swanepoel for this work. Johanna de Bruin has described the project and included pictures in her article.

And now we move on to our fall activities. We have a full slate of rentals as well as our own church activities. There are not many days or evenings without a community or church activity taking place. We have welcomed Michael Lovaglio as an event custodian, joining Geoff French and Abbie Boyko.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Guise, Secretary, RMC



Gregg Bullock-Price (September 5, 1961 – June 4, 2026)

Pictures from Left to Right:

1. Gregg barbecuing for the HOOTC BBQs on Central's Forecourt;
2. Gregg was an avid board gamer and helped initiate Central's Tuesday Community Board Game Night;
3. Gregg, as a seasoned motorcyclist, soaked in nature's rich moments like this picture of Gregg and a rainbow.

(Pictures courtesy of Jacqueline Price)

Clerk of Session Report

Some important correspondence was received at the September session meeting that I did not include in the Snippets. This was because its acknowledgement deserves more than a quick note in the weekly email. Many of you will already know of this, but it will for some explain the absence of one of our choristers this season, and of one of our key sound/livestream technicians. After decades as members of Central, and leaders throughout most of that time, Steve and Adele Pierre have made the decision to resign as Elders to attend a church closer to their new home in Guelph.

We have much to be thankful for in their time with us. Both have been elders for 20 years, and both leant so much of their talents to make this community richer. As professional musicians, they enriched worship and concert music at Central in so many ways. Steve by singing in the choir, or adding musical enhancements to the program on the oboe, clarinet, bassoon, or even perfectly tuned wine glasses Easter morning. Adele often acted as first violin and concert master for Good Friday concerts with a group of musicians who were well known and well connected to both of them (sometimes their music students).



Mark Stuppel,
Clerk of Session



Steve & Adele Pierre

Beyond music, Adele designed the gardens and landscaping around the church, and then “undid” her own work to re-design the play yards which replaced parts of those gardens, ensure that that they too are pleasing, practical and environmentally sound spaces. In 2010, after helping lead a confirmation group as a volunteer, she took on the part-time role of discipleship, and started the Charlton Club, a mid-week youth ministry that seemed to involve most of the community, at the time supporting youth in recreation activities, bible study, worship skills, and a family meal enjoyed all-together.

More recently, looking for a way to bring the “helicopter pad” in front of our building to life, she envisioned and brought together the weekly Durand Market on the forecourt.

Steve too offered more than his musical talents and pastoral/administrative skills on session. As a woodworker and craftsman, he made some beautiful repairs around the church, but also built the wooden “steps” for our kids to speak at the lectern. Steve was the project lead for the installation of the sound system, and the brass and wood railings on the chancel steps that look like they have always been part of the building. And of course, almost any time there were animals in the sanctuary, Steve seemed to have some hand in it, whether it was his own hens, a hive of bees, or a donkey that belonged to one of his neighbours.

While it is hard to see the Pierres leave Central after so many years, and all the faithful, generous service to this community of God’s people, we also celebrate with them this new page in their lives. The session received the letter of resignation with a measure of regret, but with greater measure of gratitude and celebration that we shared these years working alongside such faithful and committed church leaders. We wish Steve and Adele much joy and happiness with family close at hand, as they settle into the convenience and vibrancy of life in a city again.

Your Invitation To the Lord’s Supper



Sunday October 4th, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Also via Livestream at:

<https://www.youtube.com/CentralPresbyterianChurchHamilton>

Discipleship Committee - Youth & Children Ministry Update

A Doorway That Swings Both Ways

When we first imagined additions to our ministry, we hoped that midweek programming would create new entry points into the life of the church. We imagined that a young person might first come for a game, a book, or an activity and eventually find their way into worship and Christian community, in God's good time.

We are beginning to see that happen. But we have also discovered that the relationship between Sunday and the rest of the week moves in both directions: what happens midweek is changing what happens on Sunday. Our weekly Games Night now routinely gathers 20–25 people, ranging in age from 4 to 70. Intergenerational chess lessons happen spontaneously. Children challenge adults to games of HORSE on the basketball court. Activities begun on a weeknight spill over into Sunday afternoons.

Relationships formed around game tables and basketball courts carry into the sanctuary. Young people who spend time together during the week seek one another out on Sundays. Children and adults know one another differently because they have played, learned, created, and talked together outside the worship hour.

Perhaps our favourite measure of success is simply this: our young people do not want to leave. The last people out the door on Sunday are routinely our 8–16-year-olds, lingering together until their parents finally insist it is time to go home.

We set out to create additional ways for young people to enter the life of the church. What we are discovering is something richer: midweek ministry is helping Sunday become a place where young people already know that they belong.

Young People Shaping the Ministry

Our “The Other Wise Man” Faith Finders project gained momentum as the school year ended. Students in Grades 5–8 asked that we continue working on the project throughout the summer, so we did. Their enthusiasm helped keep worship participation among our families strong during months when attendance has traditionally declined.

The youth have now begun writing their own version of the story and illustrating the narrative. Their completed book will be bound and published by the holidays, sold to support the Christmas Toy Closet (stay tuned), and adapted into Central's annual Christmas pageant. A project that began in Christian education is becoming something our young people will create, lead, and ultimately share with the whole congregation across multiple platforms.

That pattern is increasingly important to us. Young people are not simply participating in ministry designed for them by adults. Their curiosity, relationships, ideas, and requests are shaping what comes next, not just for them, but for all of us.

This summer, Central also sent three youths and two adult leaders to Collective 2026, investing in faith formation, leadership development, and relationships with young people from across the wider church.

And the ministry continues to grow. Beginning in late September, alongside our weekly Games Night, we will add a weekly Recreation Night on Thursdays, opening our basketball courts to neighbourhood teens. Significantly, this next step comes at the request of our young people themselves.

Creating multiple points of connection—worship, learning, games, recreation, service, creativity, and shared leadership—does more than provide programming for children and youth and their families. It strengthens relationships across generations and helps create a congregation in which young people are known, valued, and invited to contribute. Their experience of church aligns with their experience of God. This is most fertile soil for lifelong faith formation and discipleship.

If you'd like to volunteer, play, support or otherwise participate in any of our programs, let me know!

With gratitude and joy,
Michael



Michael Lovaglio
Coordinator of Discipleship



Left: Photo of Risa, Gregoire and Kene on the day of their departure. They attended Camp Kintail July 19 - 24.

Right: Photo of Gustav and Neto upon their arrival at Brock University in St. Catharines for Collective 2026, a gathering for youth and young adults, presented jointly by the PCC and The United Church of Canada from August 12 to 15.



ODYSSEY BOOK CLUB REFLECTIONS

I started book club in the summer for the first book: The Odyssey. I like it because it's reading but it sometimes becomes a conversation that is not exactly about the book we are reading. We don't really have a designated area that we always read in but we usually read in either the Guild Room or the Allen Room, but sometimes we are in the offices. We read on Sundays after the church service ends at 11:30 and stop reading at around 1:15, and on Tuesdays about an hour during games night. FYI games night is really fun, if you don't come already you should try to come! I'm excited to finish reading the Odyssey and start reading some new books like The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and A Christmas Carol. I found book club very fun way to interact with other kids and adults I don't usually talk to!

– Caspian



Community GAME Night

Central Community Game Night

Join us Tuesdays from 5 -8 p.m.,
for a weekly community game night.
Open to the community at large, and game lovers
of all ages. Bring friends, and make new ones!

Tuesdays 5 - 8 p.m.

Bring your favorite game to play, or
enjoy one of the many games provided.



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Avenue West,
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8
Telephone: 905-522-9098
Email: info@cpchamilton.ca
Website: www.cpchamilton.ca



OCT 16



5:30 PM

ALL-AGES FALL EVENT
HOSTED BY CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LINE DANCING

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED | BEGINNER FRIENDLY



**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 16TH**

**5:30
DINNER**

**6:00 & 7:00
LINE DANCE
LESSONS**

Fun • Hotdogs • Dancing

Free Event / Monetary Donations for the
Central Christmas Toy Store Gratefully Accepted

165 Charlton Ave. West

COMMUNITY

CENTRAL RECREATION NIGHT



THURSDAYS • 5–7 P.M.

Come out for an evening of **pickup basketball**, movement and community. Kids, adults and all skill levels are welcome. Come ready to play, bring a friend and join the fun!



FELLOWSHIP HALL / GYM

Central Presbyterian Church

165 Charlton Avenue West
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8



905-522-9098
info@cpchamilton.ca



Mission Committee Initiatives

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. A day to recognize the residential school survivors, their families, and their communities. The day pays tribute to the children who never returned home from residential schools and it promotes reflection of the intergenerational trauma caused by the Canadian residential school system. On September 26th The Mission Committee has planned a visit to the Mohawk Institute Residential School in Brantford, Ontario, which operated from 1831 to 1970 and was the oldest and longest-operating Indian residential school in Canada. It is now an amazing museum and an opportunity to learn about this part of our history.

There will be a Community tree planting day on October 17, from 9am - 12:00 noon at Windermere Basin Park. Several churches from Hamilton will be working with "A Rocha", an international Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, environmental education, community-based conservation projects and sustainable agriculture. All are welcome to attend and plant a tree.

Sharon Lee and Beth Carey
Mission Committee Co-Chairs

Community Tree Planting Day



October 17
9 AM – 12 PM
Windermere Basin Park



**Scan for details
and to RSVP**

TrueCity **A ROCHA** CANADA 



Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

Central Presbyterian Church

God's Love Includes Everyone

We strive to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving, and supportive community unified in Jesus Christ. As an inclusive congregation, we joyfully affirm and honour the diversity of God's creation. Our community is richer when we include people of all ages, gender identities, racial and cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, economic circumstances and family configurations. We proclaim this statement of inclusion to all who have experienced the pain of exclusion or discrimination by the church and society. All are invited to join a body of believers, to participate fully in the life, leadership, witness and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church. We acknowledge we are imperfect and in different stages of our faith journey.

No matter who you are, how you identify, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey: know you are welcome here, and you are loved by God.

CPC Statement of Welcome:

www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/

Central Presbyterian Church Land Acknowledgement^{*}

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples. This land is protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to share and care for the lands, air, and waters around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers. We are all treaty people.

^{*} Our website has a guide explaining the above Land Acknowledgement
<https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

The Sanctuary Pew Crew Odyssey

The rationale for this undertaking was to provide past and future renters (choirs/orchestra) with an enhanced physical space for their performances. Thus, on June 29th - a hot and humid day - with excitement and trepidation, the crew entered Central's sanctuary. Champing at the bit, they were on a mission and ready to do damage. Anticipating the planned demolition put a smile on their faces, and they were eager to start. A decision had been reached to move the decorative modesty panels and eliminate the two rows of pews immediately behind them. Maestro Marcus was keen to assist in this endeavour with the proviso that his delicate digits be protected. This sentiment was echoed by a self-appointed overseer, and applicable to all participants.



Removing the two rows of pews was the first order of business. Accordingly, the brackets holding them in place were loosened and discarded. Collective muscles tensed and each in prescribed position, with concerted effort and a mighty heave-ho, the pews were released and relegated to be recycled. This episode - photographed for parishioner posterity - the arduous journey now an accepted reality. Due to the diverse components of this humongous task, communication was key to its successful completion and, when in doubt, they would form a huddle to discuss the best path forward. The following phase would prove to be more taxing.



The next chore on the agenda proved to be a bit of a conundrum. To disconnect and replace the modesty panels with all the component parts properly aligned, posed some puzzling moments. This required a trip to the crawl space to find and remove the numerous lag screws/bolts holding the panels in place. With determination, vim and vigor, these large bolts were unfastened.

Precisely drilled new holes, which would fasten the panels in their novel locations, occurred. The team, again temporary *cellar dwellers* - entered the bowels of Central's dark, dank abode, occupying the crawl space underneath the sanctuary. One practically had to be a contortionist to traverse through this very confined space with its surprising five-foot trenches. Despite this unfriendly environment, duty called. The collaborative and congenial fearless foursome – imbued with energy and agility, pressed onward. Avoiding the concrete

rubble, old heating pipes, broken light bulbs and fixtures, was no mean feat. Yet, they persisted. Although not all were properly attired with protective gear and headlamp, they *took turns entering the hostile surrounding*

to complete the specific, outlined assignment. Unfortunately, the holes were misaligned, halting the progress. Despite precise measurements – checked thrice – the first experiment failed.



An interested Bach Elgar lass suggested the use of coloured ribbons. Adorned with weights, the ribbons were lowered down the holes in the sanctuary floor, effective aids guiding the cumbersome process – consequently dubbed the *red ribbon solution*.

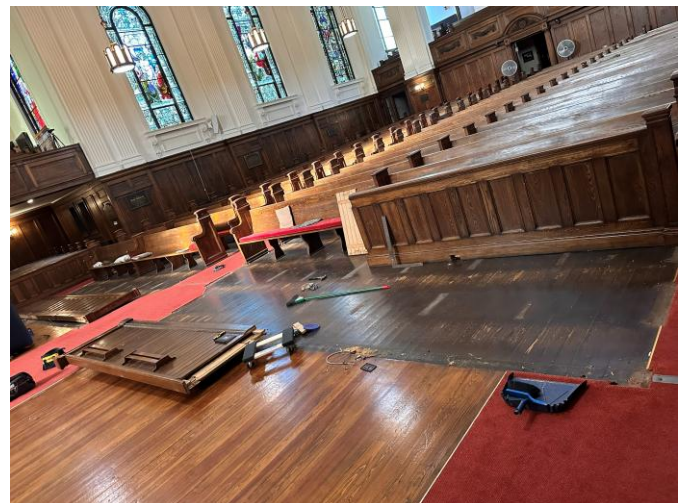
The coordinated crew – on the count of three – lifted the heavy section and the carefully orchestrated *detachment* of the modesty panel was positioned over the newly drilled holes. Armed with various tools, the onerous and unenviable assignment of *reinstalling the large lag bolts* to secure the modesty panels remained. Necessity dictated that, due to the severely cramped space, this be performed in a compromising (crouched mode or lying down) position. A Melrose church volunteer provided the *ecumenical effort* of this undertaking. Floor-mounted power outlets were also installed to satisfy the noted electricity

requirements. Pending the restoration of the floor and carpet to beautify the sanctuary, the gargantuan task will have reached its completion.

With sheer amazement, I witnessed the adept performance of the pew crew. The team's herculean effort and the cooperative spirit of the narrated vision, strength and execution, culminated in an impressive display of *poetry and pragmatism in action*.

Herewith, our heartfelt T H A N K S.

Submitted by Johanna de Bruin



Pew Removal Team Members:

Hubert de Bruin & Evan Marshall: grandfather/grandson duo
David Lewington: Central's custodian, when called upon
Marcus Scholtes: initial, enthusiastic episode only
Emile & Gustav Swanepoel: father/son duo

Below is an article from the Presbyterian Record of March 1992 about a member of our congregation who established the first birth control clinic in Canada which was in Hamilton.

Presbyterian Profile

Mary Elizabeth Hawkins: For the Public Good

by Thomas Melville Bailey

In the late 1920s, Canada was in a deep depression. The manufacturing city of Hamilton, Ontario, was no exception. It keenly felt the bitter blow of unemployment. Each day relief rolls increased.

The arrival of unwanted babies lead to exhausted mothers, burdened fathers and overcrowded homes. Canada's Criminal Code forbade the dissemination of information about contraceptives, unless it was "for the public good." Knowledge about birth control methods was either unknown or not used.

Enter Mary Elizabeth Hawkins.

A Vassar College graduate in 1900, she accompanied her husband to Hamilton, where he was sent as general manager of a power and light company. For 25 years, Mary exercised her natural leadership in benevolent work.

Possessing a love for children, she served as president of the Infants Home and worked for children's playgrounds. During the First World War, Mary Hawkins organized a committee of women to assist hospitals, and she co-founded the Family Service Bureau. Her young family attended Central Presbyterian Church where she taught in the Sunday school.

Despite Hamilton's already outstanding record in health concerns, Mary chafed under the plight of married mothers forced to bear unwanted babies. Only the establishment of a birth control clinic would help to solve the situation. With this in mind, she spread her gospel by word of mouth to all her socially-conscious and wealthy friends. Soon, this public-spirited woman formed a circle of influential women who began to raise money for a birth control society



by holding social events.

In 1931, 18 prominent women attended a charter meeting in the Hawkins' home. They chose the name Maternal Health Clinic for their society. It opened on March 3, 1932, in the surgery of a sympathetic doctor.

Under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw, the clinic was open every Friday afternoon. Women brave enough to attend were interviewed, then served tea and cookies. They left with information that was frowned upon by the law, the Roman Catholic Church, many doctors and a host of angry letter-writers in the local press.

The clinic expected to serve about 60 patients in the first year; 390 came! The next year the number doubled. A second day had to be added. This increase was helped by a worker in the city's Well-Baby Clinic where mothers would be asked on the side, "Do you want help in how to space your babies?" Some replied, "I didn't want this one." At once they were

invited to attend the clinic.

Mary Hawkins courageously faced hostility. The women were often labelled "devils." Others charged them with not caring for children. Their answer was: "We do care so very much that we believe no child should be brought into the world who hasn't a reasonable hope of a healthy body, a sound mind, decent surroundings and a fair chance."

The society helped to reduce Canada's mortality rate. Canada had one of the highest maternal death rates in the world. Mary painted a far too familiar scene: "Picture a woman of 21 who has four children under three years of age, and on relief, so depleted with insufficient strength, broken rest and hopeless spirit, that she sees one die with a feeling almost of relief." A clinic would lower the maternal death rate.

Up to this point, the law had turned a blind eye. Then, in 1936, the society faced a crisis that threatened to close it down. That year, a young woman worker for the Parents Information Bureau, Kitchener, was arrested for visiting the homes of the poor. She offered married women the knowledge of how to limit the birth of children through free contraceptives. The trial held at Eastview, near Ottawa, lasted six months. The future of Hamilton's clinic hinged on the outcome.

The best forces on both sides stood toe-to-toe. Over half a million words were exchanged. The trial ended with an acquittal, proving "there was no excess beyond what the public good required."

In 1952, the society's 20th year, the trailblazing pioneer Mary Hawkins died suddenly.

Unfortunately, few who benefit today from the Planned Parenthood societies throughout Canada know who founded Canada's first birth control clinic. But the name of Mary Hawkins is kept alive by the people of Central Church, Hamilton, where a memorial window reminds them every week. □

T. M. (Mel) Bailey is a retired Presbyterian minister, historian and writer who lives in Hamilton, Ont.

The stained-glass window referred to in the article is actually two small windows in the east side of the north transept dedicated to Mary Chambers Hawkins. Wikipedia says Chambers was her maiden name, but the article calls her Mary Elizabeth Hawkins.

View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Usually, summertime is a more relaxed interval at Central, however this past summer there has been a flurry of activity for the Music Ministry. There was so much going on, I had to keep a running tab throughout the summer to keep track of everything.

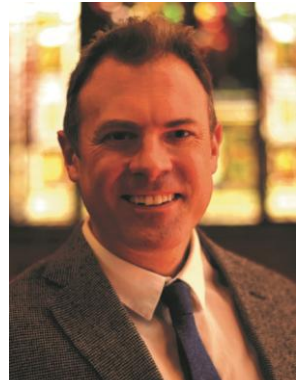
First and foremost, the most significant and observable change has been the removal of the front two pews in the sanctuary. This makes a world of difference on many fronts:

a) for our own events: having more space at the front is incredibly useful when we have choir processions or choreography, and when we have numerous instrumentalists for our larger performances. Moving the grand piano for events also becomes much easier with added space.

b) in terms of accessibility: we now have more room for Communion procession/ increased flexibility for the Children's Pageant, as well as having more room every Sunday when we move from the Sanctuary to the fellowship time - the South Transept area is now very open.

c) increased rental opportunities: our regular rental groups will benefit from the increased space. For example, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Hamilton Children's Choir, the Bach-Elgar Choir, all have large ensembles, and moreover, having a larger, flexible space at the front will encourage other groups to use our Sanctuary as well.

A HUGE thank-you to David, Emile, Evan, Gustav, and Hubert for all the heavy lifting, cutting, hammering, electrical, etc. etc., it was an enormous undertaking that lasted all summer, from all of us at Central and in the Music Ministry, we're so appreciative of your time, and sweat, in making this project happen. Hubert and Johanna have a full report and will have pictures - check out that article for the full description (see pgs. 10-11).



Dr. Marcus Scholtes,
Director of Music Ministries



Another HUGE thank you goes to our summer soloists who lead all the hymns and sang weekly Offertories. We had a diverse range of repertoire as usual, everything from Handel to music from 'Godspell'! Thank you to Christy, Debbie, Emma, Katie, Paula, Sharon, and Sue for a summer of hits. Also, another thank you to Johanna and Katie for helping clean up the choral library area - we've gotten a lot of the clutter that was above the filing cabinets organized now.

There were a number of musical events happening at Central over the summer too. The first was a rehearsal for a recording of a new composition by Brian Current, who is the Artistic Director of New Music Concerts in Toronto, as well as the Artistic Director of the New Music Ensemble of the Glenn Gould School (plus many awards, accolades, etc., his music has been performed in 35 countries). The composition is a re-working of "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" by Benjamin Britten, but specifically composed for new music/ music of the 21st century. So on June 16th, forty musicians from the Toronto Concert Orchestra packed into the Fellowship Hall and made many ... non-traditional sounds.



Our annual '**Concert on the Steps**' was a huge hit, we had to delay by a week because of the intense wildfires in July, but when we went ahead on July 22nd, it was a beautiful day with perfect weather. The Charlton String Quartet performed **Vivaldi's *Four Seasons***. We estimated about 110 people in attendance; the Steps concert is always a great way to engage with our community, and was generously supported by the Hamilton Musicians' Guild.



The Hamilton Children's Choir also had a camp week in July, culminating in a final performance by the various-aged choirs on July 24th.

Unfortunately there is some sad news to share from the Music Ministry too: one of our long-time bass singers, church member, and Elder, Steve Pierre won't be with us anymore: the Pierres moved to Guelph over a year ago, they wanted to see a smooth transition to Rev. Hannah leadership, but it was always their intention to move to be closer to their grandchildren. Steve was a staple in our choir and will be extremely missed! (Adele too of course!) (see pg. 4)

Central was also the host venue for the inaugural Conducting Workshop of the Toronto Concert Orchestra from August 6-8th. This was a 3-day intensive workshop taught by Sharon and my conducting teacher from the Juilliard School in New York City, Maestro Mark Shapiro. Students came from all around the world to Central's Fellowship Hall - from Poland, China, Korea, four from the USA, and four from across Canada to partake in this amazing learning experience, it certainly put Central on the map! (see pg. 15)

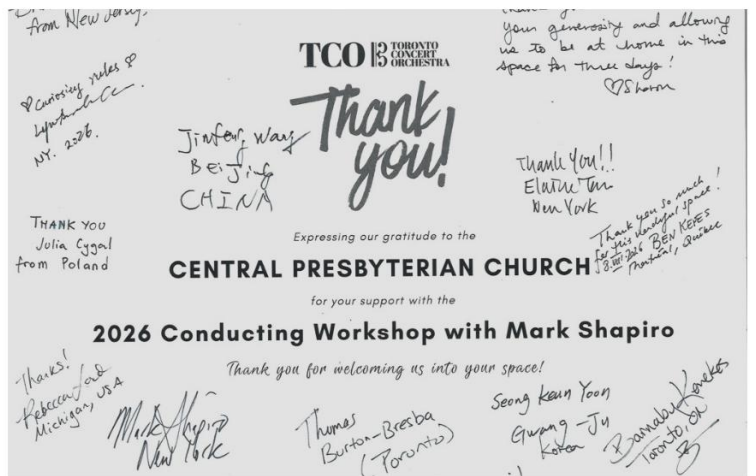


On a personal note: I found out mid-summer that I had been nominated for the Heinz Unger Award from the Ontario Arts Council. This award is given to an individual to encourage and highlight the career of a young to mid-career Canadian conductor, defined as one who has begun to establish and make an impact in his/ her chosen field. The application deadline was on Aug. 26th, and now the panel makes their decision. It's already an immense honour to be nominated, and my fingers are crossed!

And now we're into the fall season already - the Central Choir started up on Thursday, September 17th, we have some amazing repertoire coming up as usual, the trumpeter is booked for our Remembrance Day Sunday, and the Hamilton Brass is booked for Candlelight.

You'll also notice the new Music@Central posters - these come to us from our own multi-talented Seke Fowode (thank you Seke!). All the posters will have a similar style to them this year, stay tuned for the season overview coming soon. I'm looking forward to another banner year in the Music Ministry at Central!

Musically Yours,
Marcus



Pictures:

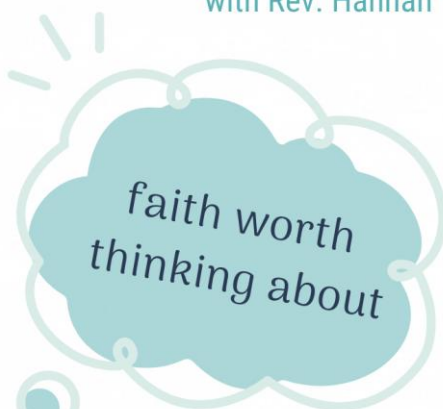
- Top Right: TCO Conducting Workshop
- Middle Right: TCO Thank You! From Conductors
- Bottom Right: Julliard's Maestro Mark Shapiro, Sharon Lee, Marcus Scholtes & Conducting Students
- Top Left: Central Choir Start of Season warm up
- Bottom Left: Hello from Central Choir Fall 2026 (September 17, 2026)



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

SERIOUSLY, NOT LITERALLY.

with Rev. Hannah



This Fall:
Reformed
(and always reforming)

The Allan Room

**Sundays, October 18 - November 22
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

*Minister – The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Coordinator of Discipleship – Michael Lovaglio
Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebold
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Avenue West,
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8
Telephone: 905-522-9098
Email: info@cpchamilton.ca
Website: www.cpchamilton.ca



Save the Date

**Communion Sunday and
Intergenerational Service**
October 4, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

**Congregational Meeting
Election of Elders**
Sunday, October 4, after worship

**Line Dancing
All Ages Fall Event**
Friday, October 16, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Community Tree Planting Day
Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Fall Sunday Seminars
Seriously, Not Literally.**
Sundays October 18–November 22, 9 - 10 a.m.

Music@Central:
Monica Kim and Pat Unruh
Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Durand Christmas Market
Saturday, December 12, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Ongoing Central Activities

Knit & Knatter Group
Weekly on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Community Games Night
Tuesdays from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Central Book Club
Monday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.
Usually Monthly on Tuesdays

Durand Market
Wednesdays until October 28
3:00-7:00 p.m.

Societus Vicorum
Monthly on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

CPC Recreation Night
Thursdays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Deaths

Gregg Bullock-Price
June 4, 2026

Linda Pearson
June 25, 2026

Hilary Price
August 8, 2026