



Durham Presbyterian Church News from the Pews

Merry Christmas!

As the year quickly comes to a close and we are all busy preparing for the coming Christmas season, we should take the time to reflect on the year behind us. Much has happened this year. On a sad note, we have lost several people in our church family. Prayers go out to their loved ones during this time of the year. On the positive side, we marvel at the work of the Lord as we face the coming year as a new church family. It has been amazing for the Holstein and Durham congregations to come together as one. 2026 holds much excitement for us and we pray God will lead us on His path. As Christmas rushes toward us, remember to reflect on the fundamental joy Christmas brings - the gift of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He offers us the assurance of His redeeming love and everlasting peace. May Christ be with you this season and you feel surrounded by the Spirit of the Season.



Pearl McCannell passed away on November 2, 2025 at the age of 94. She had been an active member of the activities of the Ladies until recent years. She leaves behind son Terry and extended family to mourn her loss.



Lorna Vollett died on September 27 at the age of 97. She leaves behind two sons, Craig and Wayne along with their families. Lorna had been a resident of Rockwood Terrace.



Richard Reger passed away on November 11, leaving behind wife, Lynda, two sons and many other extended family.

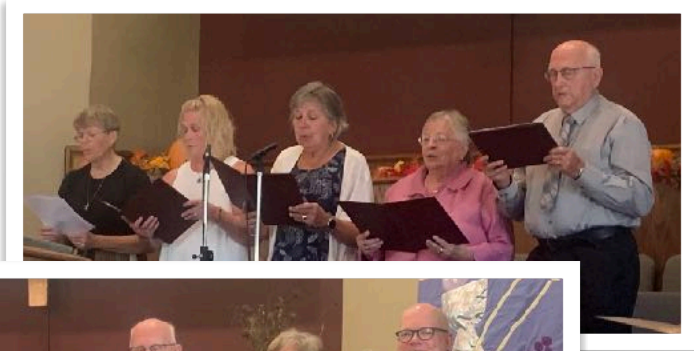


**Truth Seekers
Christmas
Pageant
Sunday,
December 21
10:30 a.m.
Lunch to follow**

**Christmas
Eve
Service
7 p.m.**

Retirement for Fred Grierson

It was a long time coming but this fall, Fred Grierson retired from our choir after over 70 years of faithful dedication. Fred began singing in the choir as a teenager and just celebrated his 90th birthday this fall. He certainly has seen many changes over the years. Following his and his wife, Marion's final participation in the choir, both received certificates of appreciation for their contributions to the choir and our church.



A Good Bye



Lyon Ezeogu and his three children, Eva, Ariel and Jesse left our congregation at the end of August to move to Calgary. This follows the death of wife and mother, Nelly a year previous. Eva remains in Ontario studying to be a nurse. At left is Lyon, Will and Emmanuel in their special outfits from their home countries.

Sundae Sunday



The Truth Seekers began their year in September. They are seen here with their creations on Sundae Sunday. Sundae Sunday is a much looked-forward-to event for both young and old.

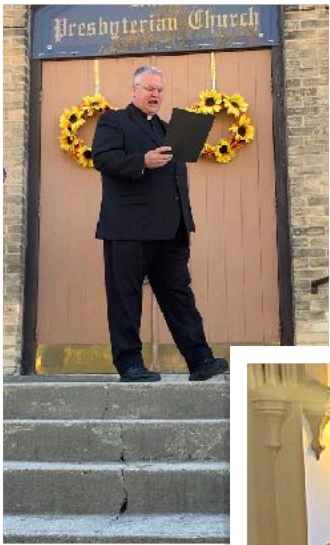
**Don't be alone for Christmas!
Annual Durham
Community Christmas Dinner
Christmas Day
Durham Legion
Doors open at 1 p.m.
Entertainment and Carolling**

Forward in Faith!

We have a new congregation and we have a new mission slogan: *Forward in Faith!* We sing these words every Sunday at the end of the service. Reflecting on our mission, Session felt that these words are inspirational as a slogan for us to unite around and step towards where God is leading us.

Forward - as a new congregation, we want to focus our attention on the future. In all that we do, we believe that God has a future planned for his congregation here in Durham. God includes us in his love for this community, and we want to be part of what God is doing here. We will go forward to where God leads us.

Faith - we want to be faithful in our actions as a congregation. We believe that God wants to involve us in the coming of his kingdom in this world. We believe that God will provide what we need to be successful in being salt and light in this community. We are people of faith



On September 28, Knox Presbyterian Church, Holstein officially closed its doors. The Rev. Robert Royal, moderator of Grey-Bruce-Maitland Presbytery conducted the service. Below, Rev. Royal is seen passing the "books" to our joint Clerks of Session, Donna Clark and Brenda Calder. The photos on the page to the right, show our Elders blessing our minister (unseen!) at the service to celebrate the joining of our two congregations into one.



Results of the Name Survey for our Amalgamated Church

The new Session decided to approach our church family to gather your opinion and/or ideas on the name of our newly amalgamated congregation.

In our amalgamation plan (approved by both Sessions and Presbytery), it is stated: "A consultation process about the name of the new amalgamated congregation will be done." The following three options (verbatim from the amalgamation plan) were presented to the congregation in a name survey:

- A Combination Name of the Two Previous Congregations (Eg, "Knox Durham Presbyterian Church")
- Keeping "Durham Presbyterian Church" (the building that the newly amalgamated church will be using)
- A New Name (communicating an openness to welcoming future co-operation with others)

We were encouraged by the good response from people filling out the survey. Session carefully considered every comment. We received 53 responses, with an overwhelming majority of respondents indicating that they prefer to keep the name "Durham Presbyterian Church" for the new congregation.

The conclusive result of this survey prompted Session to decide on the name of "Durham Presbyterian Church". Thankyou to everyone who participated in this survey. DPC it is!



Baptisms times two

On August 24, we celebrated the baptism of Shayna Littler and her daughter Evelyn Saumure-Littler. It was a joyous occasion and of course, we ended the event with cake - a church tradition.



Santa Claus Parade

The first Saturday of December saw our church taking part in Durham's annual Santa Claus parade. The parade was very enjoyable this year. Many thanks to the members of our church family who put in all the work to get out float ready and those who participated in the event.

Christmas Music Night

Thanks to the planning of Music Director Robin Rich and the work of the Music and Worship Committee, a full house enjoyed an evening of Christmas music, along with some carolling by everyone. The evening was a great success in the support of the West Grey Youth Centre.



Annual Christmas Bazaar

