



Hi everyone,

During our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we are marking this special time with a number of exciting events that include many opportunities to connect, share stories and support each other. A while back, Will asked me to think about how we might commemorate this special year and perhaps create a community art project – tall order, but you know I’m always up for any BIG art challenge!

We have a rich history conceived decades ago by a few visionaries who dreamt of building a thriving church community on the North Shore. Over the years, we have blossomed into the Highlands we know and love today. Our congregation has grown significantly in the past few years, not necessarily in the number of seats in the pews, but we’ve learned about being an inclusive community and learned about others who have challenges that are not like our own. We are a community of change makers, of learners, of compassionate givers and we can also be proud of all our “doings” and “beings”.

So how do we create something that visually represents who we are, what Highlands means to us and how we see our future. We are individuals, but we are also a strong family, we work together for the common good and live by

example, showing our next generation what it means to be a loving, compassionate community. The byline of our anniversary logo was the launching pad for this art project: **“Honouring the past. Building the future”**. Below is a sample of the preliminary design that will be installed on the south wall of the 200 wing. The overall design theme is *rainbow people building the future* which sums up where we are now and how we are building our future.

The playful figures at the bottom are painted in rainbow colours and represent our inclusive and diverse children building the foundation of our future church. The rainbow people are helping to lift the puzzle pieces in place and are there to catch any that might fall.



The puzzle pieces are all of us. They represent our dreams, our work, our passions, our challenges and celebrations. The images that we paint or collage on the puzzle pieces will be in response to the prompt: What does Highlands mean to me? The responses and puzzle pieces will be different for each person and that’s really what it is all about. Living with God in community and loving our differences.

So, what’s the next step? We will have 125 individual puzzle pieces (cut from 3M foam core) available for congregation members to paint or collage. You can come to a workshop on Thursday afternoons on March 14, 21 or 28 from (3-7pm); Carol Smith & Wendy McNaughton will be there to help you with your creation (please sign-up [HERE](#)). There will be premade outlines on some puzzle pieces (like colouring pages) if you’re not feeling particularly creative but would like to contribute. There will be paints, brushes, paper, ephemera, glue, stencils etc. If you can’t stay and play, you can sign out a tile and take it home to decorate – but, all tiles must be returned by March 31, Easter Sunday. From April 1 to 4, the tiles will be installed on the wall and the finished mural will be ready for viewing on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Any questions, please feel free to email Carol Smith at [designsbycarol7777@gmail.com](mailto:designsbycarol7777@gmail.com)