

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

St. Paul's United Church 2019 Spring Newsletter

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Easter Services

Palm Sunday, April 14, 10 am

Maundy Thursday April 18, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 19, 10 am

Easter Sunrise Service April 21,
7 am at Little Lake Park, followed by
breakfast at St. Paul's at 8 am

Easter Sunday Service,
April 21, 10 am



**Minister's Message:
The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam**



When you read this newsletter, we will be at the end of March and beginning of April, still in the season of Lent. These past number of weeks we have been journeying to the cross with our sombre music and the colour purple reminding us that Jesus was drawing closer and closer to Jerusalem and his eventual torture and death. We remember the struggle, the cost of following him for those first disciples. We

remember that we too are called to follow Jesus. Sometimes it is not easy. We also anticipate the joy of Easter and the hallelujahs of God in our lives now. God is beyond understanding, a mystery, the Source of all Being. We will never have words enough to speak to the silent presence of God within us and in our world. We do know however, that Jesus invited us to walk his path and to proclaim the Kingdom or Realm of God where all are held in the embrace of God's love. We are called to love and serve others with gifts of compassion, kindness, forgiveness, dignity, justice and hope for all.

I want to personally invite you to join us for our special Lent and Easter services. Sunday, April 14th is Palm Sunday when we journey from the waving of palm branches to the cross. This service has special music and is a moving retelling of the events of Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday we will have our half hour Communion service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. During this quiet service we remember the last meal Jesus shared with his followers in the Upper Room.

Our Good Friday service is at 10:00 a.m. on April 12th. With its sombre music, this service is also a very profound quest to seek to understand the place of suffering and the grace of God in an event so long ago.

Our Easter Sunrise service is Sunday, April 21st at 7:00 a.m. at Little Lake Park. With Easter being so late this year, I am certainly expecting it to be much warmer than previous years. It is always followed by breakfast here at St. Paul's at 8:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday has us filled with joy and the reminder of new beginnings as God transforms our lives. Guest musicians and special music will be part of this exciting and joyful service.

Hope you can join us for all these special services. Invite your friends and family.

Blessing, Karen

Chair of the Official Board – Zena Pendlebury

Ah, spring has arrived and has brought with it signs of growth at St. Paul's. Just a few days ago, we welcomed seven new members; what a wonderful day worth celebrating, and we did! I have spoken with some of the new members who expressed how they already feel at home here at St. Paul's. This is a hopeful sign for the future of our congregation. Some other signs of growth are the young children in Discovery Kids and our Youth Group, new staff members, and new technology that makes our services accessible from anywhere in the world!



As I start my term in the Chair's role, I am excited with these positive signs while at the same time I am also very aware of the work that lies ahead. We need to get on board with the new governance structure of the United Church which has changed the way we have been operating for many years. Also, I am excited about the St. Paul's Stewardship Campaign we are getting ready to roll out later this year and hope it will set us on a path of long-term financial stability. Stay tuned!

St. Paul's is teamwork!

We are blessed with outstanding staff members who along with countless volunteers run every committee and every program around St. Paul's: Worship, Outreach, Faith Formation, Stewardship, just to name a few.

I welcome all the new members who have joined the Board or various committees, who are ready to serve. Thank you to everyone who has just finished their terms for their faithful service; we all have a job to do, we are all here to serve.

I invite everyone to join me and support the work of St. Paul's in all its facets within the congregation, our community and the world.

Thank you, Merci, Miigwech!

Zena Pendlebury, Chair of the Official Board

Accessibility Committee

Happy Spring!!! Do you have any suggestions or concerns about accessing St. Paul's United Church's buildings, information, programs or services? Our committee continues to meet monthly and is seeking your input on any accessibility related issues. Accessibility Feedback forms are available in the Atrium by the office and, if you're interested, a copy of St. Paul's Accessibility Policy is on display as well. You can also find it on the St. Paul's Website at <http://www.stpaulsmidland.org> and click on the link to be directed to a downloadable PDF file. Don't forget you can express your opinions/questions/concerns directly to your friendly Accessibility Committee Members too! They are Elizabeth Asmann, Marjorie Baks, Cam Bonner, Pat File, Fran & Doug Hill, and Christina Strong. You can also tell Rev. Karen and she'll pass the message along.



In accordance with the Accessibility Policy, we will be organizing accessibility awareness and AODA training in 2019. Watch for upcoming details. In the meantime, if you are a volunteer at St. Paul's and have already received AODA training from your employer or other place where you volunteer, please find a copy of your record (it may be in the form of a certificate from a seminar or online course or it may be found in your personnel file with your work or volunteer profile from the place where you volunteer). We will be trying to identify who needs training so we may request copies be sent to your committee chair or church office later this year. Stay tuned!

We're also hoping to work in partnership with the Tech Committee to ensure the audio supports at St. Paul's are distributed using a standard procedure and location for the Assistive Device Listening Team. There will likely be a call out to volunteer for that initiative, so please let Glenn in the Tech Booth or one of the Accessibility Committee members know of your interest in helping on Sunday mornings.

Accessibility Tip of the Month: Springtime often means Spring Cleaning. If you are cleaning out your garage, basement or attic and find a wheelchair, walker, cane or any other assistive device, you have options to share it in the community. You can either list it for sale or giveaway online at www.assistivedevicexchange.com or midlandequipmentcupboard@gmail.com or contact Louise in the church office for additional information on keeping these items out of the landfill and placing them in the hands of people who need them. We look forward to your participation in helping keep St. Paul's as inclusive as possible and thank you for building such a welcoming faith community!

Christina Strong, Accessibility Chair

Art & Spirituality

The Art and Spirituality group continues making art, the emphasis being on community and connection. The first four sessions of our spring workshop will focus on a collage exercise followed by an introduction to chalk pastels.



Joan Neville

Choir

St Paul's choir is alive and well with several new members! It is so exciting to see more and more people joining us on Sunday mornings. Particularly wonderful will be the choir's anthems Easter morning – "He Is Alive" and "Crown Him Lord This Easter Day!", both with brass accompaniment. As always, the choir will also be part of the worship services during Holy Week. It's not too late to come and lend your voice to our St Paul's choir. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7 pm in the sanctuary and newcomers are ALWAYS welcome!

As in past years, our choir will be preparing for the Midland Y's Men's Music Festival and I will provide more detail on that as it becomes available. Please come out and

support us in the festival in May!

BELL A'PEAL HANDBELL CHOIR

The Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir of St Paul's will be ringing as part of the worship service April 28. It will be an exciting morning musically as a brass quartet joins us on one of the selections. In addition, we have been busy preparing for several events including the upcoming Y's Men's Music Festival in May and planning a handbell concert of our own to continue to raise money to purchase a third octave of bells. Tentative date for this is June 2, Sunday afternoon. Please mark your calendars!

GEORGIAN BAY RINGMASTERS HANDCHIME CHOIR

Although the chime choir is not regularly active at the moment, there are plans to include chimes on a special piece we are preparing for the bell concert and hoping to resume regular rehearsals with regular worship contributions in the fall.

We all continue to be so very grateful for St Paul's support and encouragement of all aspects of the music program.

Victoria Warwick, Music Director

Congregational Life



Spring seems to be here, or nearly - longer days, brighter, warmer sun, we're seeing some birds, even the elusive snow-birds are appearing! It's been a long winter with snow and ice and extreme cold so we're glad to welcome the spring, and with it - Easter.

The Congregational Life mandate seems to have changed some but we're still responsible for organizing the pastoral visiting that happens at St. Paul's. Colleen Gareau put together a luncheon session on March 20th to give the volunteers an opportunity to get together, share their thoughts and ideas and ask questions or present problems. It was a time of sharing and support and touching base with each other. We are always looking for new volunteers for our team and information about church folk who would appreciate a friendly visit.

Another job we seem to have inherited is 'hosting' although sometimes it might be under another group's umbrella. On March 17, we hosted a St. Patrick's Day party with our new Waverley family members. We had music - Irish, country, classic rock with some dancing and lots of singing along. All those present had a wonderful time and we heard lots of positive comments. Hopefully **Hy 5 Country** will be available for this event again next year.

On March 22, Faith Formation held a bowling evening, postponed from February because of a storm. Bowling is always a fun event and the 30+ who attended - from seven months to 77 years, had a great time.

We've been talking about a pancake brunch after church some Sunday but there's so much going on that it's hard to find a suitable date. Perhaps we'll have to wait for fall.

The Butter Tart Festival is on June 8th and we'll once again be serving peameal on a bun and hot dogs in the Great Hall. This was successful last year and much easier to handle than cooking on the lawn. People can sit down, refill their water bottles and use the washrooms.

Don't forget Easter Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at the church following our Easter Sunrise Service at Little Lake Park on Easter morning. There will be hot drinks, juice, hot cross buns and hard-boiled eggs. Everyone is welcome!

**Sheila Thompson, Sandra Flint, Ron Neville, Sharon Penrose, Jean Stainton
Congregational Life Committee**

Faith Formation

St. Paul's Faith Formation committee has been quite busy this year and this will likely continue. As you can see from worship on Sundays, there are more children heading up to Discovery Kids (DK), and most of them are under 8 years of age. This is creating different challenges as the interests and abilities of these little ones are varied. We need to be prepared with a flexible, interesting variety of activities for them, appropriate to their development. Rebecca is working to find a balance that works and is experimenting with some new ideas.

The DK space has been reorganized and tidied up and the one remaining room will soon be painted. We are trying to make the space more conducive to engaging a diversity of ages in our DK program. We have toddlers, preschoolers and some participants as old as 12 or 13. Rebecca is working with the parents and our committee to do the best we can for our youngest family members. We will likely be looking for volunteers to help, so please give this some prayerful thought.

Rebecca has approached the parents of the DK to form a parent's group. A survey has been sent out and she is waiting for responses. This would be an opportunity for this age group to meet and make new friends, share parenting concerns - or just have a relaxing hour or so.

Rebecca has been creating interesting programs for the Youth Group and is experimenting with a second group for the middle-school age. Watch for their events, and don't forget the St. Paul's Boutique at the June garage sale!

The St. Paul's Annual Family Indoor Potluck Picnic will be held after worship on June 16, so please note this on your calendar.

The 'adult' faith formation programs continue, except for the Observer Reflections group, which is not currently meeting. Art and Spirituality, Theological Studies, Bible

Study and the Faith and Science Forum meet regularly and involve a large number of our St. Paul's family.

As spring and Easter approach we think of rebirth and are blessed to have so many little ones in our church. They provide us with the impetus to create a safe environment for them with fun and stimulating activities.

Faith Formation Committee - Sheila Thompson, Lynn Angus, Colleen Gareau, Joan Lavin, Chris Karges, Pat File, Rebecca Amadei

Faith Formation – Youth Programs

Discovery Kids seems to be gaining more little ones and this is great news! Since January, we have explored several broader themes. For example, in February, the unit called "Water of Life" involved the exploration of the preservation and celebration of the Great Lakes and Georgian Bay as a way of getting to understand a gospel value of being good stewards of our earth and thus, one another. We will continue to pursue some very applicable and current topics in our gospel studies. Kicking off the spring, we will launch our unit on "New Growth" and see how we can use the 'Easter and Jesus' resurrection story to inspire the growth of love and compassion in each of our hearts.

Camp Awesome is on the calendar for this summer! This year's theme is "The Leader in Me" and will touch more specifically on the role of women in leadership. All children ages 5-12 are welcome. Registration for camp is available through Rebecca. Camp will run from August 12-16 in the mornings. Looking forward to another week of summer fun with the kids!

St. Paul's also continues to provide support to any children aged 6-16 who wish to attend the United Church of Canada's Camp Simpresca in Midland. For more information about the camp, visit www.simpresca.net or contact the church office.

Our Youth Group is also expanding! We now offer a Junior and a Senior Youth Group. The groups continue to meet on the second Sunday of each month. Right now, our group is preparing to help with the promotion and facilitation of St. Paul's spring garage sale! Any youth from grades 6-12 are welcome to join Youth Group. We hope to see many more new faces this year! For more info on Youth Group, contact Rebecca.

Some of our youth plan to attend an ecumenical youth leadership camp for peace and justice in August. Camp Micah runs from August 18-23 on a beautiful camp property in Bancroft Ontario. Any high school aged youth is invited to attend. You can speak to Rebecca or visit www.campmicah.ca for more information.

Rebecca Amadei, Children and Youth Program Leader

St. Paul's Outreach - Did you know??

Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food.

I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

I was naked and you clothed me.

I was sick and you visited me.

I was in prison and you came to see me.

Whatsoever you do the least of these, you do unto me.

Matthew 26:35-40

Did you know that every year, besides raising money for its own budget needs, St. Paul's raises over \$34,000 for the United Church Mission and Service Fund which assists in ministry both here in Canada and around the world? This fund for example enables Christian Island to have a United Church minister and helps pay for the costs of the United Church there. It helps with special projects that assist the most vulnerable people in society both here and in the World. It also helps with special projects for congregations to enable them to carry out their ministry. The U.C.W. give \$5,000 a year toward that \$34,000 commitment every year.

Did you know that St. Paul's has been feeding the hungry on Monday mornings at our Drop In for over 26 years now? People who are hungry, homeless or just lonely are always welcome to join us for breakfast and some fellowship time every Monday morning. We serve anywhere from 30-60 people each Monday.

Did you know that St. Paul's has a Benevolent Fund that helps those who are in need? We have helped people with food vouchers; food; assistance paying first and last month's rent so that they are not homeless; helping with the cost of electricity if they get behind in their bills; clothing; shelter; a child's program that assists with building self-esteem; counselling; transportation. Our Christmas Eve offering and some other donations come in to help with this. The fund is confidential and our Minister is responsible for its administration.

Did you know that there is a St. Paul's team that delivers meals on wheels here in the community? They have been doing this every year since 1973 – a total of 46 years! We deliver meals every Tuesday. If you are interested in being part of the St. Paul's team, please contact Joan Lavin at 705-549-6804.

Did you know that our United Church Women (UCW) provide the meals for the Gift of Grace Kitchen here in town every Tuesday in August? They provide ten to twelve loaves of sandwiches each week for a month. That is a lot of food! Again, this is a ministry that has been going on for years.

Did you know that the U.C.W. also support other important community and world organizations? They support a Foster child, provide packages for Sleeping Children Around the World, give a donation annually to the Guest House, Salvation Army and some other community organizations. This is over and above the \$5,000 they give

as mentioned earlier to the United Church Mission and Service Fund as well as their contribution to the ongoing work of St. Paul's in its annual budget.

Did you know that every fall, St. Paul's has a special appeal for the Food Grains Bank which provides food and agricultural support to nations that struggle with feeding their own people? The United Church of Canada is one of the founding members of this very important and much respected program that seeks to feed and end food hunger in the world. We match up to \$5,000 every year from our Trust Funds which is then matched by the Government of Canada at 4:1. Last year alone we raised a total of \$8,136 before the matching from the Trust Funds or the government.

Did you know that over the years, St. Paul's has also had a Lenten Campaign, alternating each year between local charities and special overseas projects of the Mission and Service Fund?

Did you know that there is a small team of St. Paul's volunteers who provide meals to the Guest House once a month?

Did you know that St. Paul's has a team of committed pastoral care volunteers who visit regularly those who find it difficult to get out and feel isolated from their church and community?

Did you know that St. Paul's opens its doors to over 23 local community groups so that they have a space that is warm and inviting to provide programs to children, youth and adults in our community? Every week we average between 1,000-1,500 people through our doors. We have been the sponsor for the Scouts for over 60 years now.

Did you know that St. Paul's for years has been providing the Christmas turkey hampers to Christian Island? We average around 50-55 hampers every year. One year, we even provided Crock pots, a donation from a member of the congregation. Years ago, the Salvation Army asked if our congregation would take on this responsibility while they with the other churches would provide the food hampers for Midland and area. We were one of the largest contributors to the Food Hamper campaign at that time. We were happy to help and have carried on this responsibility all these years in consultation with the Beausoleil First Nations Social Services on the island.

Did you know that St. Paul's serves free hot chocolate at the Santa Claus parade? We do this to keep people warm. We also open our doors so that our washrooms are available to the public. It is also a place, especially for families with young children, to keep warm while they wait for the parade to begin.

Did you know that St. Paul's now has a new Chairperson for our Outreach committee? Sharon Penrose has volunteered to chair this committee that will be composed of a representative from all the various ministries named above.

Here at St. Paul's we believe that Jesus said we are to love God, ourselves and our neighbour. We are called to reach out to others. This is more than just helping. It is our way of being Christ in our community and in our world. We still need to support our budget. It is what enables us to be the church, but we also go beyond that as well. Both are interconnected and important.

If you are interested in becoming part of the team and this network of St. Paul's folk who live their faith by reaching out to others, please contact the church office. Louise would be more than happy to connect you with the various coordinators of our Outreach team.

Property Committee

We understand that spring is almost here, at last. As in years past, your Property Committee is looking for some "Green Thumbs" to help with the planting of the gardens around the outside of the building. As you may be aware, we will be hiring a new custodian and whomever that will be will require help planning and planting the gardens. If you can assist, please let Bruce Wilcox or any other member of the Property Committee know. There are always some normal maintenance issues that need attention. We are always looking for people who are handy with a hammer or paint brush. Please contact any member of the Property Committee and we will put you to work. Members of the Property Committee, who generously give of their time, include Hans Mueller, Tom Barber, Colin Whiteside, Floyd Tilson, Bruce Wilcox, Cam Bonner, Rev. Karen and Honorary Member George Leck. We would all like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Bruce Wilcox, Chair, Property Committee

United Church Women (UCW)

The United Church Women are eagerly awaiting the warmer spring weather! Our February meeting was cancelled because of the blustery weather. It was to have been the first meeting of 2019, after having our new executive inducted by Reverend Karen in January. Sharon Foster, our leader for this year, has already been busy making plans for the upcoming year.

In March, Colleen Gareau was our guest speaker. She gave us a very interesting talk on her life's work. We look forward to her cheerful presence at St. Paul's.

Our attendance continues to average about 20 women. It has been wonderful having some new prospective members coming in to join us.

Our Rummage Sale will be held on June 1st, and St. Paul's Youth Group will have a "Boutique" set up in the old choir room at the same time. They will be featuring clothing, hats, purses, belts and jewellery.

Joan Goodfellow adds the following report: Now that we are in Region 10, our relationship will be somewhat different than with the old "Presbyterial". Region 10 has appointed a Transitional Team to be in place until the first annual meeting.

The role of this team is to ensure that communication is maintained and to plan an annual meeting of Shining Waters. U.C.W. This new system of only three levels of governance encourages and empowers women in local units to form clusters in their own geographic area.

The first annual meeting will be held in Barrie on May 13th and 14th, and everyone is welcome. Patricia Edmonds, who is well known to us here, is our contact. Please contact Joan Goodfellow as soon as possible at 705-526-4720 if you would like to attend.

Eleanor Hunter

St. Paul's Yearly Talent Auction 2019

St. Paul's yearly auction of items made by talented parishioners as well as gently used items, is on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Viewing is at 9:30 am and the auction starts at 10:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity for you to show off your talent and to help raise money for the church.



We are accepting donations of talent, and we also accept gently used items. We are looking for quality items and limit these items to **one per family**. We are **not** able to accept furniture or large items. **We reserve the right to only accept quality used items.**

Forms are available in the Atrium and in the Sanctuary (on the back-window ledge) for you to provide a description of the item you are donating. We would appreciate those forms being returned to the church office by April 15 and your item brought to the church during office hours starting on April 26th.

For more information, contact Judy McConnell at 705-529-1826 or email her at itsally58@gmail.com

Worship Committee

These cookies were served at the March Meeting of the United Church Women (UCW) by Judy McConnell, a recipe of the newest reducing program "The Keto Diet". They were enjoyed by all, so I thought I would include this in my report.

Prep Time - 10 minutes, cook time - 18 min. total time: 28 min.

Yield - 15 cookies

Ingredients

1 large egg, beaten
1/2 cup salted butter, softened
2 cups superfine blanched almond flour
Pinch of kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
2/3 cup powdered erythritol sweetener

1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/3 cup finely chopped walnuts
5 tablespoons sugar free strawberry preserves

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Combine the egg, butter, almond flour, salt, baking powder, erythritol and vanilla in a medium bowl.
3. Mix well with a fork until a dough is formed.
4. Place the chopped walnuts on a plate.
5. Form the dough into 1.5" balls and roll in the walnuts to coat.
6. Place on a parchment-lined cookie sheet.
7. Bake for 8 minutes.
8. Remove from oven and press a small dent into the center of each cookie.
9. Place approximately 1 teaspoon of jam in each cookie dent.
10. Return to the oven and bake an additional 10 minutes.
11. Remove and transfer to a rack or platter to cool for 30 minutes.
12. Cookies MUST be fully cool to stay together - until then they will be quite fragile, so handle gently when transferring.

Net carbs per cookie = 2G, 1 cookie = 165 calories

Fat: 16g. Carbs: 5. Fiber: 3g. Protein: 4g.

Smuckers - no sugar added jam works best. Also, all keto baked goods must be cooled completely before you try and move them, or they fall apart.

A reading from "Not Alone, encouragement for caregivers." by Nell E. Noonan

Amaryllis

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-2, 10

They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The cold, gray winter days were getting me down. I lost my younger brother unexpectedly in early January. Then a lovely member of my Bible class died suddenly with pneumonia. Another member of the class went through the short illness and death of her husband. I was grieving and adrift in my confusion. The ice on the birdbath matched the chill in my spirit. I felt like a captive, exiled far from home. I knew this sad time would pass, but I was stuck and simply going through the motions of living while caring for my husband.

One day I decided to sort and put away the Christmas cards and gifts. I like to have things in their place, and it was unusual for a large pile to sit for weeks unattended. In one of the larger gift bags I found a metal box. Potting soil and a large amaryllis bulb were nestled inside the silvery box. I planted the bulb as instructed, watered the dirt, and set the container in the dining room window.

I faithfully kept the soil moist, but nothing happened. For four weeks I observed no change. Patience and the waiting for the blessing were rewarded when a little green shoot appeared. The plant grew so fast that every mealtime we noticed something new emerging. First, a stalk grew two feet up toward heaven. The bud on top began to show colour, and in a matter of days, three deep red, trumpet-like blooms heralded beauty and joy. My husband and I sat at the table and marveled at how God could put so much glory in one small bulb. A second stem appeared with two more blossoms to amaze us.

We have several isolated seniors and homebound caregivers on our Christmas gift list. It is a no-brainer what to give them next year - an amaryllis to cheer their spirits.

Prayer: O great Creator of us all, we marvel at how you can put so much beauty and life into one brown, dormant bulb. Thank you for a blessing of renewed hope found in patiently waiting for red flowers that penetrate grayness and "stuckness" of winter days. Amen

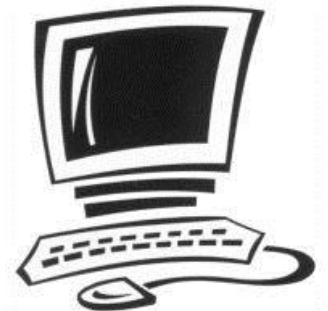
Sent to you this Lent to confirm patience and waiting is rewarded with the hope, faith and joy of Easter. Wishing everyone a blessed Easter.

Submitted prayerfully by Cathy Metzgar and your Worship Committee

From your Webmaster

The robins and blackbirds are back and some of our 'snow birds' too. Warmer weather is brightening our lives and everyone really does seem to have spring in their step.

There have only been minor changes to the appearance of the website over the past few months. However, those of you on Facebook will have noticed that our Facebook page is once again bringing you updates on what is happening in our church and community. Thank you to Linda Wilcox for taking on this challenge and doing such a great job!



Fran Hill

A few chuckles

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.' The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My dad scribbles few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.' The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'what would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a babysitter.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'



Submitted by Sheila Thompson

Idea for Celebrating Easter with the younger set

A simple way of telling the story to a variety of ages

The Empty Tomb and how sweet this knowledge is to us all.

You will need: a can of refrigerator crescent rolls and a marshmallow for each roll. Start by reading the story of Jesus' arrest, death and resurrection from John, and be prepared to tell the story in your own words.

To make the rolls: roll crescent dough around a large marshmallow, making sure that the marshmallow is completely enclosed. Bake at 375 degrees F for 10 minutes. While they are doing this, talk about celebrating The Lord's Supper with God's people. What do you remember most about the Lord's Supper? Who was there - Jesus, disciples? What did they eat and drink (wine, other dishes prepared at Passover time)? Why do we share the Lord's Supper now? How does it help us to remember Jesus?

While the rolls are baking you could talk about who the disciples were and what role each played in the Easter story. (Judas, Peter, found in chapter 13 of John - Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Peter did not want the Lord to wash his feet). Symbol of feet washing -- Judas would betray Jesus -- Peter would deny Christ.

When the rolls are done the children will find that the marshmallow has melted leaving an 'empty tomb' inside the roll. Despite the 'tomb' being empty there is a sweetness left behind just as we find joy in knowing that Christ is RISEN.

While eating the rolls, talk about the Resurrection of Christ and the empty tomb.

Submitted by Fran Hill