



# *St. Paul's United Church Easter Newsletter*

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## Easter Services

**Palm Sunday**, March 25, 10 am

**Maundy Thursday** March 29, 7 pm

**Good Friday**, March 30, 10 am

**Easter Sunrise Service** April 1,  
7 am at Little Lake Park, followed by  
breakfast at St. Paul's at 8 am

**Easter Sunday Service**,  
April 1, 10 am



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

In preparing for Easter, we are reminded of those first women at the tomb. They did not know the story as we do. Hindsight was not theirs. They gathered in the quiet hours of the morning when there was just a hint of daylight and made their way to the tomb. Their walk was slow, weary step after weary step. Sometimes there was silence, and you could hear the quiet snuffle of a broken heart and spirit. When there was enough light, the tears could be seen, slowly running down their cheeks. Women in grief. Resurrection was nowhere on their horizon. They had the burial spices and anticipated gently rubbing them on Jesus' bruised and tortured body. It is no wonder they could hardly comprehend the stone rolled away and the angel's message of good news. Raised from the dead? Resurrected? What could this mean? Was it a cruel trick? They didn't quite get it. Easter is a leap of faith, where hope is birthed in the unexpected, and startles us into a changed reality of new beginnings and new life.

We hold onto that Easter hope in the midst of these times. Easter is a seed of hope planted by God. Even in the darkness of our world there is the promise of God's reign on earth and God's reign in our hearts and lives. Whether it is our personal journey in the darkness, or the world's journey in which we are a part, God will continue to always break in with fresh, startling love and grant us grace, dignity and hope. New beginnings, new life, transformed lives. Resurrection - it is always on the horizon, waiting to touch our lives.



And so, anticipating this good news, I invite you to join us for a number of special services and Holy Week Events. Invite your friends and family. On Palm Sunday, using drama and rap, we will go from palms to the cross. Our Maundy Thursday, communion service is a half hour that reminds us of the Last Supper and helps to prepare us for Good Friday. Good Friday service, using music that stirs us to deeper places as we contemplate the story of torture, death that is transformed by courage, grace and love. Then Easter morning as the sun rises over Little Lake, we gather to celebrate that Christ has risen. Breakfast at St. Paul's is followed by our Easter service which celebrates this good news. We will have a brass quartet sharing in worship with us. Please join us, and may we walk this road together.....Happy Easter for indeed, Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

*Blessing, Karen*

**Chair of the Official Board – Marlis Dupuis**



Ah, welcome spring! Can you feel the warmth of the sun, see the receding snow, hear the joyous sounds of returning song birds? Spring is a time of renewal, hope and connectivity. While our financial picture looks grey, we have the

opportunity to come out of hibernation, to regroup and to do what we do best...step up to the plate and meet our challenges head on!

I encourage each one of us to shake off the cob webs by coming out to events such as the Talent Auction on April 28 and the Volunteer Fair after the service on April 15. See what committees are up to, listen to the sounds of renewing and making friends within the congregation or inviting newcomers into our fold. Feel the life blood coursing through our church community. I believe many hands make a lighter work load. Consider what each of you can do and then look to where you can inject your energies.

All past and new Toronto Conference volunteers are invited out for our final AGM hosting on May 25 and 26 this year. With the restructuring of the United Church of Canada Governance levels and the hosting of AGM this year – this will be a celebration not to be missed!

*Marlis Dupuis, Chair., Official Board 2018*

## **Worship**

Did you know that we are now live streaming our Sunday morning worship service? You can watch it from your home computer even if you're in Florida! To access the live streaming, go to our website at <http://www.stpaulsmidland.org/> and click on the "live streaming" link at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCT06avKTwwSRA1H-COh5Lw/live>

## **Choir**

Easter Sunday will be a morning worship service you won't want to miss! Our choir will be in fine form with a new Easter anthem. An added brass quartet will heighten the excitement! We look forward to raising our voices as we sing our favourite Easter hymns.

It's not too late to come and lend your voice to our St. Paul's choir. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7 pm in the sanctuary, and newcomers are ALWAYS welcome.

Beyond Easter Sunday, our choir will be preparing for the Midland Y's Men's Music Festival. I will provide more details as they become available. Please come out and support us at the May festival.

## **Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir and The Georgian Bay Ringmasters Handchime Choir**

The Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir of St. Paul's and the Georgian Bay Ringmasters Handchime Choir have been busy preparing for several events, primarily the upcoming Y's Men's Music Festival in May. More details will follow, and we hope you

will come out and support these choirs. The Handchime Choir will also be ringing at a fundraising event on the afternoon of April 14 for Huronia Sistema. The Handbell Choir is excited to begin fundraising for a third octave of bells and we will be busy planning events that will help us achieve our goal! Stay tuned for further information.

All three of these choirs (St. Paul's, Handbell and Handchime choirs) will be included in Sunday worship over the next few months. As always, we are so very thankful for St. Paul's support and encouragement and we look forward to "giving back" in the near future.

*Victoria Warwick, Music Director*

### **Congregational Life**



Winter is nearly over, and yes, there'll be a few flakes falling yet, but the days are getting longer, the sun is shining brighter, and spring is on the way.

It's been a tough winter for St. Paul's. So many of our church family have been ill since Christmas, many of them hospitalized or confined to their homes. Hopefully that season has passed. It has been a difficult time for our congregation and our staff, but we're looking at a bright and healthy spring and Easter.

Our Pastoral Care team continues with their important work. We are always matching up volunteer visitors with the 'home-bound' as needs change. We have an active, committed team, but the need is always there for more folks to become involved and share some time with those unable to get out. The most recent list includes over 30 names and I'm sure there are still some who haven't been suggested to us yet! Please give this important mission some thought and speak to me for more information if you're interested.

Our committee oversees the Pastoral Care program, the distribution of the newsletter, accuracy of the Family Directory and Social Hour. If you feel that there are other functions we could/should be addressing, please let us know. Our mandate is to encourage and support communication at St. Paul's.

Please join us for the special services over the Easter season. Everyone is invited and welcome to share in the joy of the Resurrection.

*Sheila Thompson*

### **Faith Formation**

**Discovery Kids** has been a busy group for the past few weeks as we have been exploring our faith within "The Path and Teachings of Jesus", "Inclusive of All" and

our current theme of "Search for Understanding." The month of March will focus on our "Journey Towards the Cross" with palm-making in time for March 25. Discovery Kids will be parading on Palm Sunday and will have a special song to share with the congregation. There will be regular class time on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday following our time together in the Sanctuary.

**St. Paul's Youth Group** meets on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 pm. So far, we have enjoyed an evening of "Going Bananas", making Valentines for our St. Paul's folks in Personal Care Homes, and had a movie evening together. Our next gathering will be April 8 with the theme being "Bring Your Own Utensil".

**CAMP AWESOME** (for ages 5-12) date has been set for St. Paul's from July 30 to August 3, from 9:00 am to noon. The theme for this year is "Water." More details will follow once the curriculum is received. We will need adult helpers in the kitchen to prepare and serve snacks and would appreciate any help you can offer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Colleen at: [cgareau02@gmail.com](mailto:cgareau02@gmail.com)

*Colleen Gareau*

### **Art & Spirituality**

The Art and Spirituality group continues to flourish, with a strong sense of community. During this session, we are exploring the four elements - fire, air, water and earth, as a means of learning how to express ourselves in our painting. We will follow this with an introduction to stone carving.

*Joan Neville*



### **Property Committee**

Spring is almost upon us and your Property Committee is readying itself. Planning is underway to have the gardens around the church planted. If any of you "Green Thumbs" can lend a hand, it would be appreciated. Just speak to Mary Ellen, our custodian, or any of the members of the Property Committee.

This is a very exciting time at St. Paul's. The majority of the renovations have been completed and it is now time to enjoy our newly renovated building. There are some normal maintenance issues that need attention and 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, Earl Kelly, Bruce Wilcox, Cam

Bonner, Reverend Karen and Honorary Member George Leck. We would all like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

*Bruce Wilcox, Chair, Property Committee*

## **United Church Women (UCW)**

Recently I was asked, "just what is UCW all about?" Perhaps others have also been wondering, so thought I would enlighten you.

UCW is a women's group of the United Church of Canada. Our purpose is "To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service".

Our group meets on the second Tuesday of each month except in July and August. Each year, we have an election of officers and this year we are fortunate to have Zena Pendlebury as our leader. The meetings are very informal. We open with prayer, have a brief worship service and business meeting. Frequently we have guest speakers from the community that inform us of their work in the County, which is of interest to us all. The speaker may be a craftsperson or from another UCW, to tell us of their activities. A new program in the United Church or a changing program may be presented to us. We sometimes go out into the community to visit different locales or former members who are no longer able to get to our meetings.

Each meeting is hosted by two of our members following the program, and we enjoy a time of fellowship with our friends. We have found that we become friends as we work and worship together. We take time to relax and share over tea and refreshments.

The UCW is open to ALL members and friends of our church. Perhaps you have never had the opportunity to come to one of our meetings. We invite you to come and give us a chance to show you what it is about. We would enjoy getting to know you better and sincerely hope you would enjoy the experience and want to come back.

*Eleanor Hunter*

## **St. Paul's Yearly Talent Auction 2018**

**This year's event** is on Saturday, April 28 at 10:00 am with viewing at 9:30 am. 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 at the church so that you can provide us with a description of the item you are donating. We need those forms returned to the church office by April 13 and your item brought to the church between April 16 and April 20. Items cannot be accepted at the church prior to April 16, due to lack of storage space.

**For more information, contact Judy McConnell at 705-529-1826 or email her at [judymc300@gmail.com](mailto:judymc300@gmail.com)**

### **Recycling Quiz (answers are on the back page)**

1. Paper plates are put in...
  1. green bin
  2. garbage
  3. blue bin
2. Do real Christmas trees get recycled?
  1. No
  2. Yes
3. Paper uncoated coffee cups go in...
  1. garbage
  2. green bin
  3. blue bin
4. Plastic cup lids go in ...
  1. garbage
  2. blue bin
  3. green bin
5. Styrofoam cups go in...
  1. green bin
  2. blue bin
  3. garbage
6. Don't know where things go? Who do you ask?
  1. your server
  2. Waste Wizard
  3. garbage collector
7. Wooden coffee stir sticks go in...
  1. blue bin
  2. garbage
  3. green bin
8. Empty milk, juice, wine and broth cartons go in...
  1. garbage
  2. blue bin
  3. green bin
9. Plastic bags and film go in...
  1. green bin
  2. garbage
  3. blue bin
10. What new item will be recycled starting in June?
  1. hazardous waste
  2. Christmas trees
  3. textiles

***All information and answers to these questions were taken from the 2018 Waste Management Calendar.***

Submitted by Cathy Metzgar, Co-chair of the Worship Committee

## St. Paul's and the environment

St. Paul's United Church in Midland is committed to following God's direction to be good stewards of our earth. We reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible. We have compost and recycling containers throughout the building and encourage people to use them - sometimes going so far as to post a volunteer near the units to ensure folks sort their items properly. We have signs that St. Paul's discourages the use of styrofoam products and non-reusable water bottles.

The Congregational Life Committee is responsible for scheduling the hosts for social hour and providing the supplies used. We have searched out resources for recyclable and/or compostable products. Currently the only items we use that go into the garbage are plastic drinking straws and plastic cutlery.

Some of the hosting committees for social hour on Sunday are very small, as few as three, and it is a challenge to prepare, serve and clean up after nearly 100 folks. It has been at the discretion of the hosting committee if they choose to use the paper cups or the glass mugs.

We love to show off our newly renovated and lovely building (equipped with many energy-conserving features) by hosting events and providing hospitality. We hope that our visitors see and recognize our steps to protect God's great gift to us.

*Sheila Thompson*

### Answers to recycling quiz

1. green bin.
2. yes.
3. green bin.
4. blue bin.
5. garbage.
6. waste wizard
7. green bin.
8. blue bin.
9. garbage.
10. textiles.

[www.simcoe.ca/wastewizard](http://www.simcoe.ca/wastewizard)

