



The Epistle

January 2019

Volume 51, Issue 1

Over the past three months it has been my custom to write an article for the Epistle. This month, I was asked by Billy and Nancy to include their letter instead.

Dear Congregation of St. Paul's,

Grandma says that rather than make New Year's resolutions that we never keep anyway, we should take the time at New Year's to reflect on the people who have played a significant role in our lives during the past year. So Billy and I have decided to write a letter to you to thank you for being our church. Some of Billy's ideas for this letter are a little far-fetched so I haven't included them and others needed to be toned down.

For example, Billy said, "Nancy, we could make superhero capes and send them to the people at the church with a thank you note." Now the idea of making superhero capes was unreasonable but the idea of thanking people for their superhero contributions to the church was really quite good. So I asked Billy who he would like to thank.

The first person Billy suggested was Lois. I agreed because Lois puts in an enormous amount of time with the choir getting them ready for Sunday morning but she also helps structure the music in the service so that from the first note of the prelude to the last note of the postlude, the service builds on a theme.

Billy wanted to thank the bizarre ladies. At first, I wasn't sure what bizarre ladies Billy was referring to and when he finally made it clear who he meant, I had to teach him the difference between bizarre and bazaar. We really enjoyed coming to the bazaar and my favorite purchase was the fudge at the bake table. Billy enjoyed carrying his tray with the soup, sandwich and pie to the table. He said it made him feel like a grown-up.

Of course, we always stay for the potluck lunches after church. Everyone who made the food should be thanked but we don't really know who did what. Billy said the ladies who made the apple crisp were the best. It takes a lot of work to set up all the tables, and then clean-up as well. One of the things we noticed is the number of people who just willingly pitch in when they are needed. Billy wanted to thank all the men who put the chairs on the racks.

I think the best evening was the Baked Ham and Trivia Night. I am still a little hurt that my group didn't believe me when I said that Arrangement in Grey and Black was Whistler's Mother, but my group won a prize anyway. We loved the baskets and all the items in the Silent Auction. Billy's favorite part was the popping of the balloons although he thinks that next year people should have to sit on the balloons to break them. (I wrote his idea but really just ignore it). Most importantly, Billy and I would like to thank everyone at St. Paul's for being our church family. You have made us feel welcomed, included and loved. May God bless you in 2019.

Sincerely,
Billy and Nancy



FINANCE*Financially Speaking : Update November 30, 2018*

Donations From All Sources	November	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$12,424	\$152,081
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	\$16,057	\$169,123
What We Spent	\$15,644	\$174,198
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	\$413	- \$5,075
Capital Fund Donations	\$3,504	\$21,637
M&S Donations	\$1,129	\$13,309

November givings of 16,057 were above our budget target by \$3,633. This is terrific. Our November expenses of \$15,64 were lower than expected by \$117. Very positive. So far this year, we have spent \$5,075 more than we have received. Since our original forecast was to be in a negative position of -\$22,234 at this point in the year, our financial position is actually \$17,159 better than we expected. This is a tremendous result. Partially because November was such a good month, and looking ahead to the end of December, we believe that our bank balance could be almost \$13,000 (See the chart below). I can't remember when this happened last.

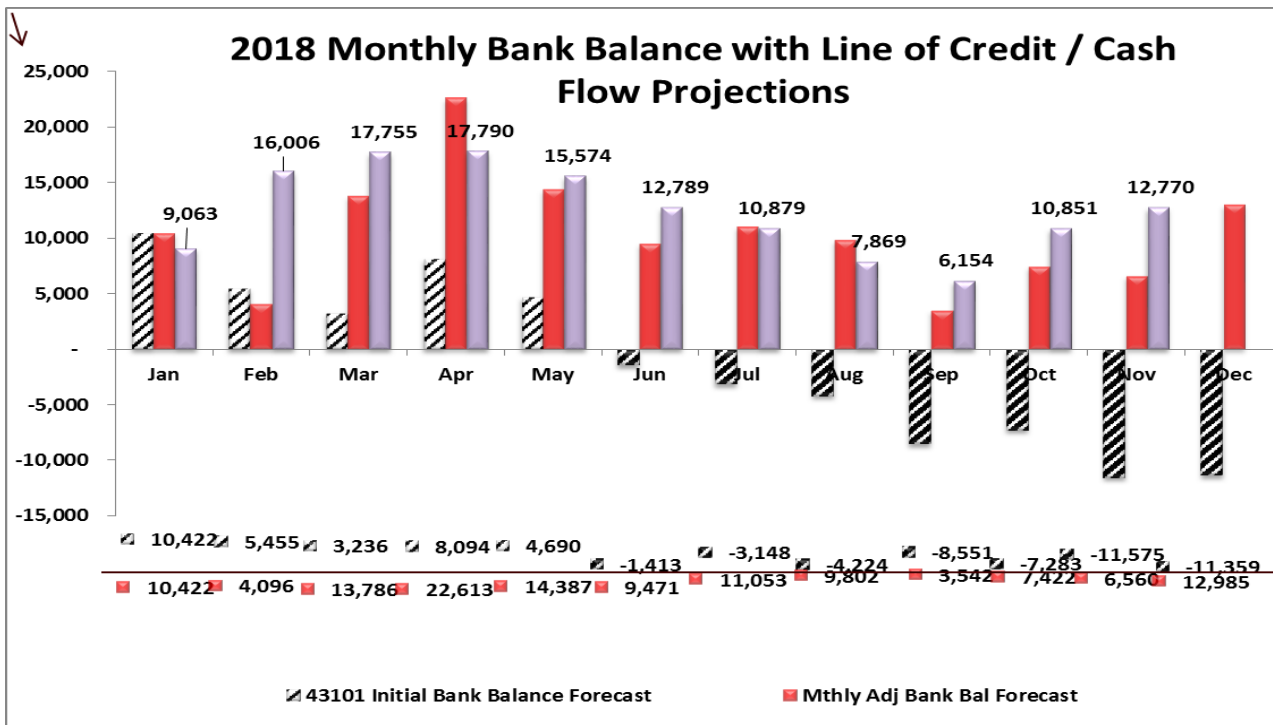
Our Capital Account givings are very healthy at \$21,637. M&S givings are \$13,309 so far this year. Gifts such as these are a way for all of us to support the work of St. Paul's as a part of our legacy to the world we have left behind. We are making some essential repairs to our building now. If you were at the congregational meeting of November 18, 2018 you will already know this. If not, it was voted upon and approved that we will be re-shingling part of our roof, re-aligning a piece of our eaves troughing, and repairing various components of our lift in the coming months. We will be paying for these repairs through a combination of an interest-free loan from the Church Extension Council (repaid over a three year period) and from our Capital Account. The total of these expenses will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$32,000; the bulk of it (roof) being paid for over the three year period already mentioned).

This is a great time to reflect on and be thankful for the strength of our congregation and how it has responded to the needs of our Church home, St. Paul's. This year, 2018, when our need has been great, we have seen fantastic participation in our fundraising activities, an increase in regular givings from the congregation, and increased attendance on Sundays which seems to be an even further source of givings in support of the ministries of St. Paul's. It is wonderful that the message of St. Paul's is reaching so many and seems to be expanding in our community.

As you know, stewardship is rendered in many forms whether as gifts of time, talent, skills or treasures. Your gifts are appreciated. Financial donations to further the mission and work of St. Paul's are also greatly appreciated. Gifts of your time are also very valuable to your Church. St. Paul's is in need of volunteers to help keep St. Paul's in a state of good repair. These are mostly supervisory roles. Please prayerfully consider lending some of your time and skills to your Church. You need not commit for a lifetime of servitude!! Lol. We desperately need some helpers, short term, to assist us on various projects. As always, your gifts will help St. Paul's to continue to be a place for everyone to reach out to for worship and prayer, for comfort, for social interaction, and for help

FINANCE (con't)

Financially Speaking : Update November 30, 2018



If anyone has any comments or simply just wishes to better understand this graph’s meaning and how this graph works, please contact Robert Hunt at 416 458 5888. All questions are welcome.

We hope that all of you experienced this past Christmas Season by celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, with good friends and family, great food, and an abundance of Joy. May the coming New Year bless you with good health and much happiness.

Your Finance Committee

Galatians 6:2
Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ

CHAIR OF THE CONGREGATION

From the Chair of Congregation

HEBREWS 12:28-29, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire.""

By the time you read this, another Christmas season will have come and gone. And my hope is that each and every one of you had a very Merry Christmas and that you were able to spend quality time with friends and family over the holidays. This is truly a joyous season because it gives us time to reflect upon, and celebrate, the miraculous birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

As Heather Babcock once said, "Time doesn't really 'march on'. It tends to tip-toe. There's no parade. No stomping of boots to alert you to its passing. One day, you turn around and it is gone." And so it was with this past year.

It was an interesting, and busy year across St. Paul's. It started with some tough news during our Annual General Meeting in February, where we learned that our 2018 budget forecast was showing a \$25,000 deficit. But through multiple fund raising initiatives, such as the "Marching out of Winter" campaign and the Ham Dinner and Trivia Night, we managed to reduce that deficit pretty significantly. And despite having to complete a number of repairs on our church building, we are leaving the year in a much better financial position than originally anticipated. And that was all because of you, the people of St. Paul's coming together.

We said goodbye to Rev. Cordelia at the end of September as she embarked upon a 3 month sabbatical journey to eastern Canada, and the U.K. Hopefully you were able to follow Cordelia's journeys through her Blog posts on our newly developed St. Paul's website, where she talked about having time to rejuvenate and learn about spiritual practices other churches are leveraging. And by the time you read this we will be getting ready to welcome Cordelia back to her St. Paul's family. But we've been extremely blessed to have Susan Reed volunteer to lead our worship while Cordelia was away. Susan has done an absolutely outstanding job, and I hope we get a chance to learn more about the adventures of Nancy and Billy and their family at some point in the future.

As we say goodbye to 2018, and prepare our hearts and our minds for 2019, I wanted to let everyone know that we'll be hosting our **Annual General Meeting on Sunday February 3, 2019**. Cordelia will be back with us, and will be sharing the changes that have taken place within the broader United Church. We will also be celebrating our accomplishments from the past year, and preparing ourselves for what will undoubtedly be another interesting and blessed year at St. Paul's.

Blessings,

Stuart McLean



MUSIC**Christmas Presence Well Received**

Have you ever wondered how the music the Choir presented on December 9, 2018 is prepared? Lois, St. Paul's Music director chooses a Cantata/special Christmas Music that she hopes will excite both the Choir and the congregation.

One requirement is that there is a CD called part dominant. This means with all 4 parts, Tenors (men's high/women's very low) and Basses (men's low voices), Soprano (women's high) and Altos (women's low voices). There are 4 versions, with each part prominent/loudest. This allows the singers to (a) hear and learn their own part, and (b) hear how their part fits with the other parts.

This allows the singers to practice at home. Some play their CD in their cars, so they find time to practice that might usually be "lost" time. If a singer is going to miss a choir practice, due to work or another conflict, it helps them to keep up to date. The music on this CD can also be sent to singers as tracks that can be played on their computer. The singer gets to decide how they'd like it!

Another requirement is that there is an accompaniment CD. Lois practices conducting this, paying special attention to where the tempo/speed changes. Having this allows Lois to be in front of the choir to conduct them, rather than at the side, with the piano. This makes it easier for all to see her. Also the orchestral accompaniment adds to the presentation and expressiveness of the music. The choir has to learn their music well enough to be sensitive to tempo changes and watching a conductor. But the result – ah, the result is worth all the effort!!!

Perhaps you are considering joining the choir. Our music for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season is planned, and it will be fun.

On March 3, 2019 we will be presenting A Caribbean Mass by Donald Patriquin for the church's 69th Anniversary. (We do this Mass twice a year!) On Palm Sunday, April 14 the Cantata Come to the Cross and Remember by Pepper Choplin is being repeated. This Cantata has both a part dominant CD and accompaniment CD. (see above for explanation.)

In May we will start an anthem that will done in October with Harpist Liane James. (Yes, we're starting one anthem for the Fall.) The challenge of presenting an anthem in the 10:30 am service every week is possible due to the music being at different levels of difficulty. The choir strives to express the music, adding to the emotion and meaning of each service. To continue to do this, the choir needs enough members. This is your invitation to join us! The best time to join is while there are other experienced singers for you to sing with and learn from.

For more information, call Lois Craig at 905-427-3800, or email her at lcraigbflat@gmail.com. Speak to her, or any choir member after any service. St. Paul's has a tradition of having a wonderful Choir and presenting interesting music! In 2019, JOIN the Tradition!!

Thanks

Thank you to Marie Nesbitt and Winston Pinnock for narrating the Cantata Christmas Presence on December 9, 2018. Your expertise added so much to the presentation!!! Thank you to Dave Bayliss our sound technician. Dave made himself available for numerous practices. Dave your attention to detail was fantastic, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to Catharine Ottaway for a super job on that day's bulletin. Thank you to Susan Reed for the photos on the screens that enhanced each song. Thank you to Ron and Karen Strong and Family whose donation, in the memory of Jim Bond paid for the music and CD's. And thank you to the Choir whose efforts to prepare the entire work - 7 songs long, - made it such a pleasure for me to conduct. The sound was GLORIOUS!!!

Lois

CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

Annual Report *Submitted by Susan Reed*

A new year means it's time to produce our church annual report—the record of all we accomplished as a congregation in 2018. If you are a coordinator of one of the church's committees or groups, you should complete a report. The deadline for a written report is Sunday, January 20th. Reports should be sent to Susan Reed at svreed@bell.net or left in the cubbies under 'R' at the church. If you are sending the report electronically, please use Word.

If your group collects or disperses money not included in the church's general budget, you need to submit a financial report with your written report. The financial report needs to be accompanied by a form signed by an examiner. The completed financial report must be submitted no later than January 20. These may be submitted electronically or left in the cubbies under 'R'.

Christmas Presence

The choir's presentation of this year's cantata by Pepper Choplin was spectacular! Once again our choir led by Lois Craig put in many hours to perfect their performance of Christmas Presence. I was overwhelmed with all of their pieces but especially Still They are Here (at Christmastime) with soloists Deborah Faulkner and Michael Morrison.

The narrators, Marie Nesbitt and Winston Pinnock, did an amazing job bringing the words to life. Dave Bayliss helped to make sure that the sound was just right.

Thank you all for making this a special Christmas memory.

Karen Strong

WORSHIP**Thank You to Susan Reed**

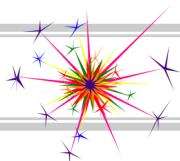
I want to send a public “thank you” to Susan for all that she has done over the past three months to keep St. Paul’s afloat. Susan is an excellent leader, as she has demonstrated in her past career as a public school teacher and school administrator for the Durham District School Board.

Each Sunday, Susan arrived early to listen to the choir practice their selections for the day. She made a point to welcome people in the narthex before the service. The worship service was well organized and ran smoothly. The highlight for me each week was the children’s story. The lessons that were shared by the adventures of Nancy and her family stayed with me during the week. On many occasions I shed a tear, and I know I wasn’t the only one. Her messages tied in beautifully with the scripture lessons, and made them relevant to our lives today.

In addition to writing her sermons and prayers for the week, Susan found the time to write an exceptional script for our Christmas Pageant on December 24, 2018. This willingness to go the extra mile is what makes Susan so remarkable. Her ideas and execution of them are thought-provoking and remind us of what it means to be a part of our Christian family here at St. Paul’s.

Thank you Susan for all that you have done to ensure the continuity throughout Cordelia’s absence, and the excellent way you have prepared us for Christmas this year. We are truly blessed to have you in our congregation.

Linda Westendorp

**SPARC****Sparc Events****January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2019 – TEA AT TWO ON MONDAY**

Come out and gather with your pew mates, meet new members of the congregation and get to know one another better. Enjoy a cup of tea, coffee and sample a tasty dessert in the company of other people from St. Paul’s at Jolie’s Café (formerly Debbie’s Café) in the old Harwood Plaza. A table is reserved for St. Paul’s on every Monday in January. Mark your calendars for tea at 2 o’clock on Mondays.

OSHAWA GENERALS GAME

SPARC invites St. Paul’s to go to the **Oshawa General’s** hockey game on Family Day, Monday, February 18, 2019. The game begins at 2:05 as the Generals play the Sudbury Wolves. Tickets are \$16.50. A special section has been reserved for our church. You won’t want to miss the fun. To reserve your ticket, talk to Wendy Mason.

Susan

CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

Lift Keys

Due to the recent problems with the lift, the key switches have all been replaced. This means we now have new keys. Precision Elevator recommended that we do not use duplicated keys as this was a part of the problem. Therefore we will not be handing out keys to individuals.

Keys to the lift are permanently attached at each entrance to the lift and inside the lift. This makes the lift accessible to everyone and removes the necessity for individuals to have their own keys. Please follow the instructions at the lift entrances and inside the lift. Parents please note children are **NOT** to be in the lift unaccompanied.

If you currently have a key it will not work and needs to be returned. There is a basket on the table on the right side of the Narthex where you can leave your key.

The **ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB** invites you to join us on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. The book club meets for about an hour as we discuss what we liked and didn't like about the month's book.

The dates of the meetings and the books we are reading are listed below.

Jan 22 - 'The Very Marrow of Our Bones' by Christine Higdon

Feb 26 - 'The Great Alone' by Kristen Hannah

Mar 26 - 'Perfume Garden' by Kate Lord Brown

Apr 23 - 'Home for Unwanted Girls' by Joanna Goodman

We hope you will consider joining our group.

11 Choir Members and 2 Friends came and sang Christmas Carols with the residents of Ballycliffe on Thursday evening, December 20, 2018 for an hour. The residents sang out and tapped their feet. Cathy Mullen and Helen Dowse sang their duet - One Candle Lights the Way.

The entertainment coordinator from Ballycliffe commented "wasn't that a fun evening!" and "Come back anytime!" This event was open to the entire congregation, so plan to join us next year when we make our annual visit to sing and bring good cheer to the residents of Ballycliffe on a Thursday evening in December. The specific date will be published once it is confirmed.

SOMETHING SPECIAL**Hold the Date**

On Sunday, January 27, 2019 The Ladies Exercise Class invites you to: Tom Rosebush - The Full Story

Some of you have heard bits and pieces of Tom's story, concerning his having been adopted and his recent search to find his family.

Tom has put together an hour long presentation that he has generously offered to share with St. Paul's congregation. So, plan to bring a bag lunch and stay after the morning service to hear the complete story. We have reserved the Fellowship Room, and the sanctuary.

If there is a large group in attendance, we'll use the sanctuary after having eaten our lunch in the Gathering Place. If a smaller group, we'll use the Fellowship Room where we'll eat our lunch.

A freewill offering will be taken and donated to St. Paul's. All are welcome.

**UCW****St. Paul's UCW January's Meeting
Happy New Year**

Our meeting this month will be on Tuesday January 15, 2019 at 1:00 pm., in the Fellowship Room. We will be planning our programs for the 2019. Please bring some suggestions as to speakers, devotion, etc. The more ideas you bring, the better we will be able to plan. We will also be reading all reports, approving the budget, and nominees for 2019.

Don't forget to bring a friend. All are welcome. Anyone needing a ride may phone Valerie Wilson at 905-683-8798 the day before to arrange for pickup

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

the church with the open arms



St. Paul's United Church

65 King's Cres.,

Ajax, ON L1S 2M4

Phone: 905-683-4740

E-mail:

office@stpaulsajax.org

We're on the web!

www.stpaulsajax.org

The next *Epistle* will be issued on January 30, 2019.

DEADLINE for articles is January 25, 2019.

Please send articles to Wendy Mason at goosemason@yahoo.ca

JOIN WITH US TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD.

Sunday Worship - 10:30 am

Wheelchair Accessible - Hearing Assistance

Sunday School and Nursery Care available during Sunday Worship.
Fellowship and coffee time follows every worship service.
Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month.

Baptisms and Weddings may be arranged by calling the Church Office.

Meeting Space is available for booking.

Our office is open weekdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Minister: the Rev. Cordelia Karpenko

Office Administrator: Catharine Ottaway

Music Director: Lois Craig

We come to experience, show and share the difference God's love in Christ makes in our lives. We strive to be a people growing spiritually while reaching out to others in response to Jesus Christ.