



St. Paul's United Church

The Epistle

April 2019

Volume 51, Issue 4

Palm Sunday Music Special

On April 14, 2019, the Senior Choir is presenting: Come to the Cross and Remember by Pepper Choplin.

This stirring and beautifully written Cantata was originally presented last year. What will make this year's service even better than last year's?

Not only will the symbols that are presented before certain songs be more visible to members of the congregation, they will also be on the screens, making this a truly multi-media presentation.

The 20+ voices of our wonderful Choir will be conducted by Music Director, Lois Craig, and accompanied by a recording of a full orchestra. Soloists include Deborah Faulkner, Cath Miller, Cathy Mullen, Linda Westendorp, Katie Cronin-Wood and Bill Sheaves.

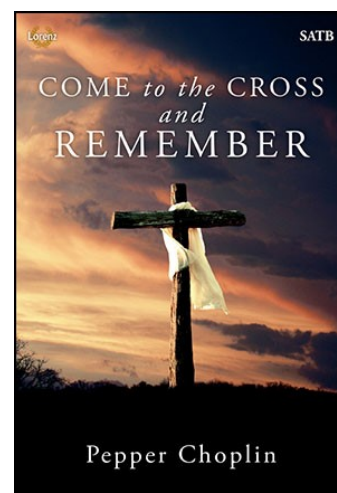
The congregation will also get to participate. On April 7, 2019, one of the Choir's favorite songs in the Cantata will be presented as that day's anthem, so you will experience just how wonderful this Cantata is.

It will make you realize that you want to be at the service on April 14, and that you want to invite all your friends, family and neighbours.

But don't worry, on April 14, 2019 there will be a review of the congregation's part so anyone who is a guest, or who might have missed the previous service, will feel welcome and will be able to participate.

The narrator will be our very own Rev. Cordelia Karpenko.

So mark these dates on your calendar and plan to Come to the Cross and Remember!



MINISTER'S MESSAGE**Holy Week**

By any measure, Holy Week is a marathon of worship. Five worship services in four days, taking you on an emotional roller coaster that leads from the solemnity of Maundy Thursday to the grief and pain of Good Friday to the jubilation of Easter morning.

Many people wonder what the point of attending all of these services is when we already know the story of Holy Week, especially when so many of them make us sad and uncomfortable.

Holy Week, including Easter, is the most important time in the Christian year and the truth is that it should make us uncomfortable. When we go straight from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the jubilation of Easter we miss the profound nature of God's actions during this time and the opportunity to enter into the story ourselves.

The Easter story is one where God turns failure and death into a triumph of life. The journey from the upper room to the cross to the empty tomb reflect our own faith journey, showing us our failings, our betrayal, our pain and that God can bring resurrection out of death and pain. So what are the services during Holy Week and what is each one about?

Maundy Thursday

This service remembers the final meal that Jesus ate with his friends, the institution of the Lord's Supper and Jesus washing the feet of his disciples (we wash hands). It ends with the betrayal by Judas. The sanctuary is stripped of its hanging and accessories and we leave in silence. This service starts at 7 pm at St. Paul's.

Good Friday

This service remembers the arrest, trial and death of Jesus. The service this year includes Scripture, symbols, sounds, readings and poetry. It takes us to the moment when it seems that all is lost and that death has won. This service starts at 11 am at St. Timothy's Presbyterian.

Easter Vigil

This is a newer service for St. Paul's and takes place on Saturday night. In this service we keep vigil at the tomb, waiting for the resurrection. People are invited to come up to a half hour before the service starts to keep vigil in silence in the darkened sanctuary. The service starts in darks, candles are then lit and the first part of the service is done by candle light. As we read the Easter Gospel the lights come on and we proclaim the resurrection. This takes place on Saturday at St. Paul's. The doors are open from 8:30 pm and the service starts at 9 pm.

Easter Sunrise

This service takes place at the lake at sunrise on Easter morning. It happens at this time to remember the women who went to Jesus tomb at sunrise to anoint his body and found the tomb empty. Led by Karen Strong it takes place at 6:15 am at McClarnan Road and Lake Driveway East.

Easter 10:30

A service of celebration, this is the final service of Holy Week. The community gathers to proclaim and celebrate the resurrection with joy. It takes place at St. Paul's at 10:30 am on Easter morning.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financially Speaking : Update, April 2019

Donations From All Sources	February	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$16,135	\$28,887
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	\$18,662	\$32,143
What We Spent	\$19,945	\$51,564
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	\$-1,283	\$-19,422
M&S Givings	\$1,072	\$2,044
Capital Fund Donations	\$1,096	\$1,692

February envelope givings of \$14,933 were \$3,500 above our budget target. Terrific. Total givings were over budget by \$2,527. Very positive as well.

The lift repairs were paid for out of our Capital (Building) Fund which has been depleted it by just over 50%. We addressed this issue at the November Congregational Meeting.

We will have some expenses coming from the Capital Account for the month of March. They were for the flooding issue in the basement which looks to have been repaired. The Nursery Room will have to be repainted at some point and hopefully that expense will be kept to a minimum.

As you know, stewardship is rendered in many forms whether as gifts of time, talents and skills, or treasure. Your gifts are appreciated. Financial donations to further the mission and work of St. Paul's are greatly appreciated. Gifts of your time are also a very valuable to your Church.

You have seen this message before, but it is a very important matter which has yet to be resolved. St. Paul's is desperately in need of volunteers to help keep your Church home in a state of good repair. These are mostly supervisory roles. You need not commit for a lifetime of servitude!! Lol.

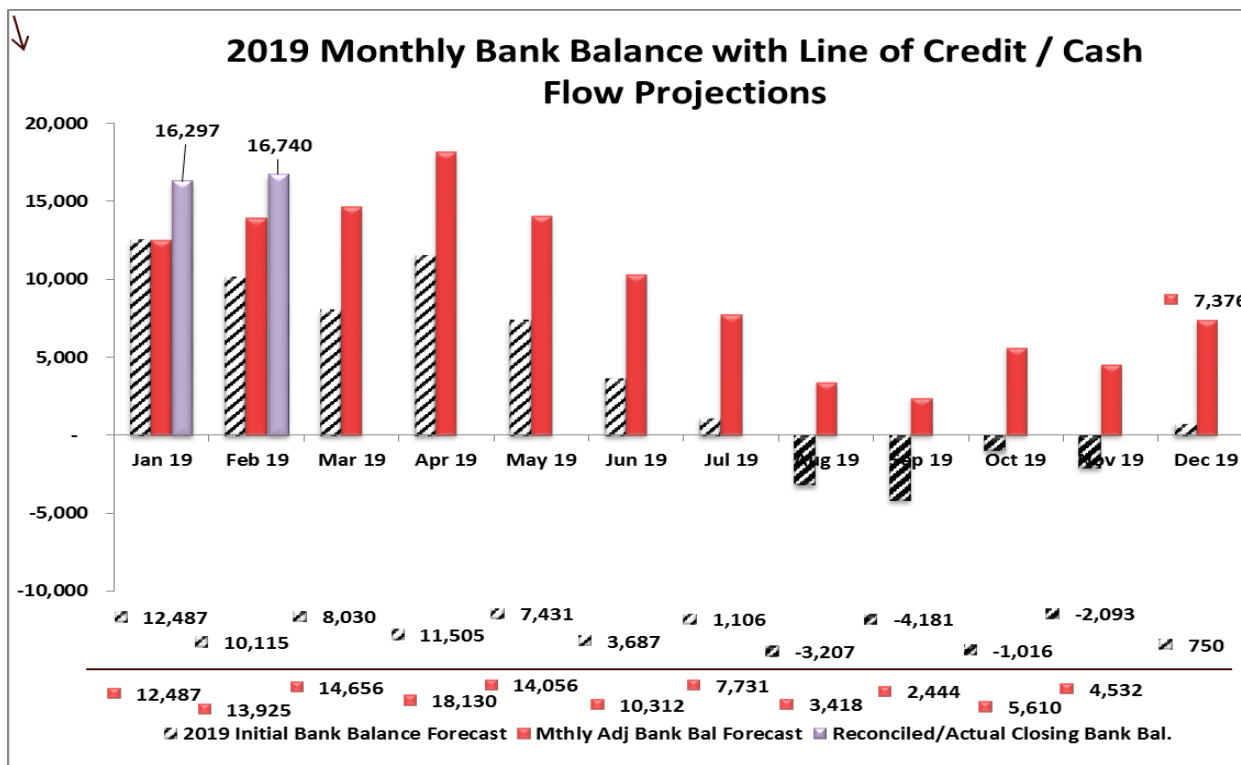
For example, I have changed some lightbulbs. Dave Eagleson has been keeping an eye on the contractors who have solved our basement flooding issue. Peter Tietze has continued to keep an eye on things in general. Gord Ottaway has done a lot of vacuuming up of water that has seeped into our basement areas. Have I forgotten to mention the UCW! These ladies work behind the scenes on fiscal and mental health of St. Paul's. Oh, and what about our gardeners who do a tremendous job maintaining the beauty of our flower beds? Please prayerfully consider lending some of your time and skills, on a one-off basis, to your Church. There are others who have helped out; if I knew who you were, I would "shout you out" too. We desperately need some helpers, short term, to assist us on specific 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, April 2019

Please look at the chart below. It is a prediction of what our 2019 year-end bank balance could be if all of our budget targets are met. It also shows that in the months of August - November, we could potentially have a negative bank balance. This means we will have to borrow money on our Line of Credit (LOC) and pay interest on that money, during those months. We want to avoid that situation with your help. We monitor this chart regularly and share it with you continually so that you can see how we are doing financially. The December 2019 bank balance is a very lofty number. This number can, and will, change monthly.



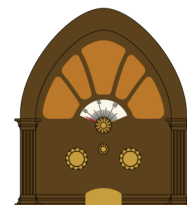
If anyone has any comments or simply just wish to better understand this graph's meaning and how this graph works, please contact Robert Hunt at 416 458 5888. All questions are welcome.

Your Finance Committee

CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

SPUC Radio and Old Time Gospel Hour

SPUC radio is pleased to present the Old Time Radio Gospel Hour as the Sunday morning service on April 28, 2019. Come to church and be part of the studio audience and enjoy the music of the Gospel Singers under the leadership of Lois Craig and listen as the Gospel Players present the latest installment of our favourite Biblical Detectives.



Join Detectives John and Luke as they set out to discover who has removed the body from the tomb in Case 2027: The Empty Tomb – Who took the body?

Stuart McLean, Mike Morrison and June Martin will recreate their roles as our detectives and their boss. Wendy Mason and newcomer Karen Strong will join the cast. But the Gospel Players are looking for an additional three men to complete our cast for the radio broadcast. If you are interested in becoming a Gospel Player, please contact Susan Reed.

Old Time Radio Gospel Hour goes on-air at 10:30 am on April 28, 2019. You won't want to miss this special broadcast.

MISSION AND SERVICE

What is Mission and Service?

The Mission and Service Fund supports God's work in the world. When we give, we make a better world possible and bring hope to people in Canada and in other countries. The M&S Fund supports ministry education by providing a grant to a learning site. It provides programs of healing and reconciliation, as found at River Bend Integrated Community Ministries in Saskatchewan.



It gives children in war-torn countries a chance to be children in places like Palestine Israel, with the help of Defence for Children International. It allows those who are homeless or marginalized to have a sense of belonging, thanks to such groups as Oak Table Community Ministry in Winnipeg.

Your donations to the Mission and Service Fund make this outreach possible. Please continue to give. If you do not give regularly, you can use a pew envelope to make a donation. Please be sure to indicate M&S on the envelope so that the donation goes to the correct account.

Thank you for your support.

Helen Dowse

Chair of the Mission and Service Committee

p.s. Flowers ordered in support of the M&S fundraiser will be ready for pickup Saturday April 13, 2019 from 10:00 am to noon, at the west door of the Church (the door leading to the parking lot).

WORSHIP**Easter Services 2019**

Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 10:30 am - Palm Sunday- Cantata performed by the senior choir

Thursday, April 18 2019 at 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 19 2019 at 11:00 am - Joint Good Friday service at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 20 2019 at 9:00 pm - Easter Vigil service

Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 6:15 am - Sunrise service at the lake

Sunday, April 21, 2019 at 10:30 am - Worship service

**UCW & MEN'S GROUP****UCW Meeting**

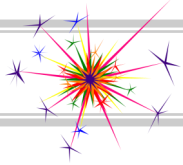
The UCW meeting for April will be on Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 at 1:00 pm. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Room. All ladies are cordially invited to join us for an informative afternoon and to socialize over a cup of tea and a light dessert.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 8:00 am in the Gathering Place. The invitation is open to ALL men. Come for the first time and enjoy a free breakfast.



The Men's Group was pleased to serve the 144 people who attended the Pancake Supper. The free will offering at the supper totaled \$800.00 and was given to the treasurer. We would like to thank everyone who attended to share dinner and great fellowship with us on Shrove Tuesday.


SPARC

Pizza Dinner and Sequence Party

SPARC is hosting a pizza dinner and sequence night on **Saturday, May 4.** The evening begins at 4:30 pm when the doors open. At 5:00 pm, **dinner** will be served - pizza, veggie sticks, pop and homemade squares and cookies for dessert. Following a review of game rules, the evening of sequence will begin. Sequence is a board game played with a partner. Team members work together to use their cards to claim squares on the game board that will make a line (a sequence) of 5 squares – horizontally, vertically or diagonally.



Tickets for the Pizza and Sequence Party are \$20.00. Tickets are on sale now from the church office or after services on Sunday morning and will be on sale until April 28, 2019. Each table will seat six people so that throughout the night you will be able to play with different partners. You might want to come as a single, with a partner or with up to six people to form your own game playing table. Tickets are limited so get yours soon. Any money that is raised through the Sequence and Pizza Party will be used to ‘**Spark**’ up the narthex to make it a more inviting entrance to our church.

Door prizes and a gift card draw will also be part of the evening.

Gift Card Draw

Tickets will be sold for a random draw for gift cards. A \$20.00 draw ticket will give you the opportunity to win a gift card to a variety of services, restaurants or stores valued at a minimum of \$20.00. In order to keep our costs low and maximize the amount of money going directly to our project, we are relying on donated items. Please consider donating a gift card. Gift Cards of any value for restaurants, Tim Horton’s, grocery stores, gas cards, pre-paid credit cards, movies, or to any store would be most welcomed. Gift card donations should be delivered to Karen Strong by April 21, 2019.

How can you Participate in the Pizza and Sequence

- Invite your families and friends to an exciting evening of pizza and sequence
- Form a table of up to 6 people
- Buy your tickets
- Donate a gift card

Come on May 4th and have **FUN**

For more information, call Catharine at the office (905) 683-4740. People with gluten or dairy allergies should let the office know by April 28, 2019.



CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

Save the Date

On May 26, 2019 a group of us are planning to attend Christopher Miller's Voice recital in downtown Toronto. It starts at 6 p.m.

You're invited to join us.

Chris grew up at St. Paul's - he is Cath and Bill Miller's son. Chris has sung solos at St. Paul's including, O Holy Night at the Christmas Eve service.

Details will be shared as soon as they are known. Be sure to mark this date in/on your calendar, and plan to join us.



Movie Event

The Exercise Class invites you to bring a bag lunch and stay for a movie on Sunday, April 28, 2019 in the Fellowship room following the 10:30 am service.

For those who haven't yet attended this event, there are snacks that are **Free**.

We take a 10 minute break in the middle of the film to stretch, chat and choose a snack. There is a **FREEWILL** offering that goes to the Church.

The Movie title will be announced closer to the date of its presentation.



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 *May 2019 Epistle* will be issued on April 29, 2019

DEADLINE for articles is April 20, or 21, 2019

(I know this is rather early but I will be on vacation from April 29 to May 7, 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.

2019 DIRECTORY FOR ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, AJAX

Committee / Group / Position	Chair / Leader / Personnel	Telephone Number
Church Staff		
Minister	Rev. Cordelia Karpenko revcordelia@stpaulsajax.org	905 683 4740
Office Administrator Room Bookings	Catharine Ottaway office@stpaulsajax.org	905 683 4740
Director of Music	Lois Craig, M.M., B. Mus., A.R.C.T.	905 427 3800
Congregation Representatives		
Chair of Congregation	Stuart McLean	905 619 2079
Secretary of Congregation		
Council Representatives		
Chair of Church Council	Katie Cronin-Wood	905 686 8793
Past Chair of Council	Winston Pinnock	
Secretary of Church Council		
Christian Education		
Communications	Jeff Wood, Katie Cronin-Wood	905 686 8793
Finance	Robert Hunt	416 458 5888
Ministry and Personnel	Cathy Mullen	905 683 6255
	Brad Sherwin	905 706 0735
Mission and Service	Helen Dowse	905 619 0647
Men's Group	Michael Morrison	416 819 4948
Presbytery Rep.	Bill Sheaves	905 686 5829
Property		
Treasurer	Wendy Mason	905 427 2817
Trustees	Dave Eagleson	905 428 3404
United Church Women	Grace Sheaves	905 686 5829
Worship and Music	Linda Westendorp	905 683 7670
Supplementary Positions / Group Leaders		
Envelope Steward	Dorothy Wilkins	905 427 9067
Epistle Editor	Wendy Mason	905 427 2817
Church School Coordinator	Jennifer Cree	905 686 4467
Lay Visitors Team	Stuart McLean	905 619 2079
LEAP	Cordelia Karpenko Catharine Ottaway	905 683 4740
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Susan Reed	905 686 1325
Outside Groups		
Brain Tumour Support	Todd Goold	1 800 265 5106 ex. 237
Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA)	Garry McCready	905 904 1264
PROBUS Club of Durham West	Ann Buffett	annbuffett@sympatico.ca
Sunshine Nursery School	Suzanne Vousdon	905 427 6744

Church email address: office@stpaulsajax.org, Website: www.stpaulsajax.org

Fax: 905 683 4812 (Please call before sending a fax.)

Holy Communion is served during the regular worship service the first Sunday of each month.

Baptism takes place on the third Sunday each month.

Preparation meetings are held on the Saturday prior to the Baptism.

The office is open weekdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The answering machine is available for messages at all times.