



The Epistle

May 2019

Volume 51, Issue 5

For our congregational Lenten practice this year, we spent time reflecting on St. Paul's mission statement during Sunday worship. Each week we reflected on one part of our mission statement and congregants were invited to write down how they lived out that part of our mission on a paper leaf. The leaves are posted on the wall of the sanctuary and will remain up during the season of Easter for people to read. Each set of responses was made into a word cloud, which you can see below. On the first Sunday of Lent we looked at what difference God's love in Christ makes in our lives. On the second Sunday we focused on how we show that difference and on the third Sunday how we share it. On the fourth Sunday of Lent we reflected on how we grow spiritually, and finally on the fifth Sunday, we looked at how we reach out to others.

Our mission statement is: *We gather 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.*



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financially Speaking : Update, May 2019

Donations From All Sources	March	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$ 18,509	\$ 76,227
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	\$ 47,035	\$ 79,178
What We Spent	\$ 30,508	\$ 82,072
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	\$ 16,527	\$ - 2,894
M&S Givings	\$ 2,053	\$ 4,097
Capital Fund Donations	\$ 1,163	\$ 2,855

We received \$28,831 from our Capital account to pay for the repairs to the Nursery Room and our lift, the new dishwasher and its' installation, etc. When you deduct these monies from our total donations, the March total givings were slightly below our budget target by \$-305.

The negative part of the above overview, which you cannot see from the numbers above, is that our envelope givings were \$ -2,312 or 18% below budget. Budgeted envelope givings were \$12,819. The actual envelope donations received were \$10,507 thus the shortfall in givings.

The lift and other repairs mentioned above were paid for out of our Building (Capital) Fund which has now been depleted substantially. As of the end of March, the balance (available to the congregation) stands at \$9,551.

You will all know by now that our new roof has been installed. To pay for this major project, we borrowed \$19,000 from the Church Extension Council. This loan must be completely repaid by the congregation within 2 years to avoid any interest charges. We will have to raise funds to repay this loan. If you have any fund raising ideas for this project, please bring your ideas to any member of council.

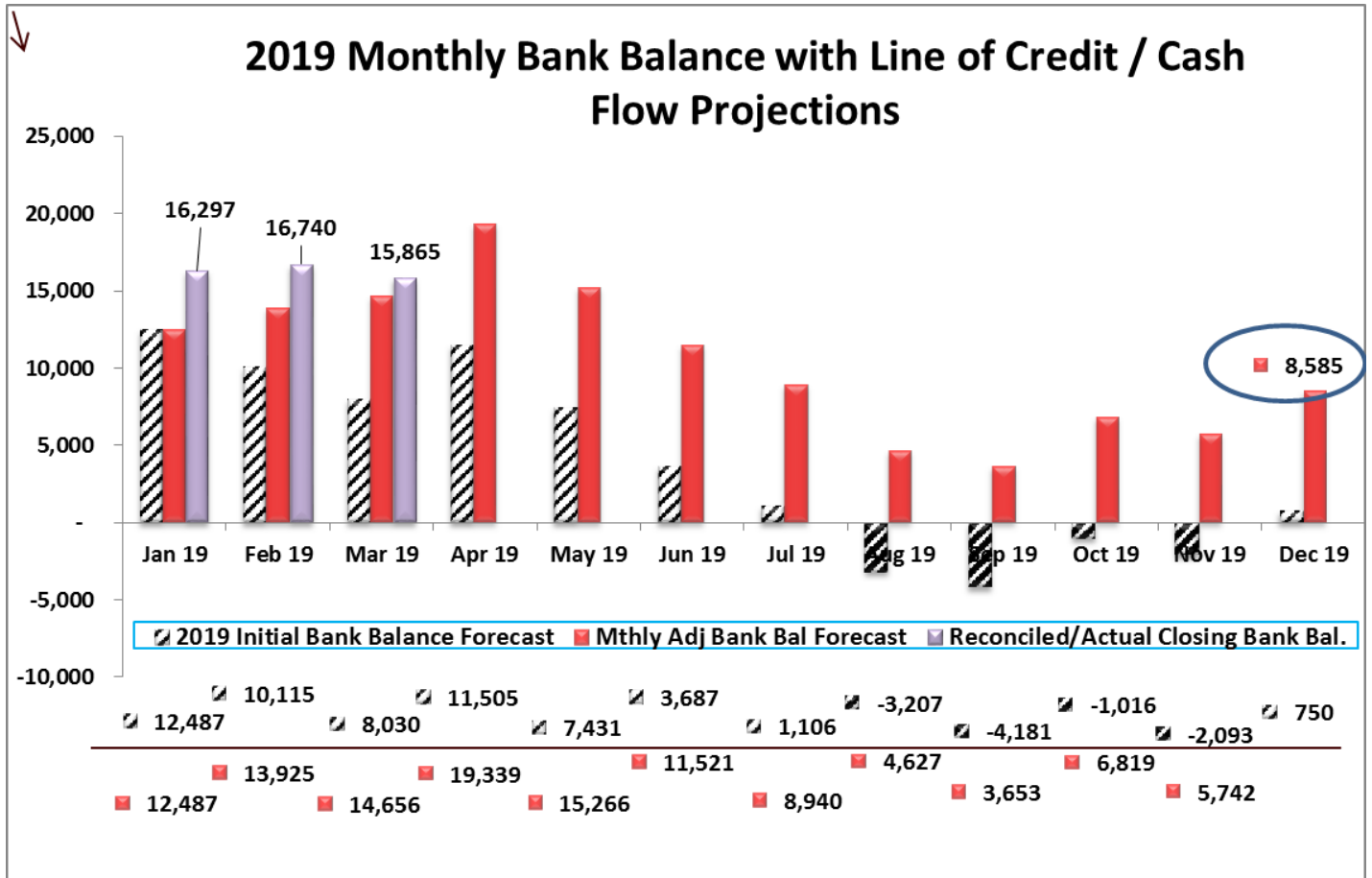
We know that you have seen this message before, but it is a very important matter which has yet to be resolved. St. Paul's is **desperately** in need of volunteers to help keep your Church home in a state of good repair. These are mostly supervisory roles. Take on one project, just one. You need not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

As you know, stewardship is rendered in many forms whether as gifts of time, talents and skills, or treasure. Your gifts are appreciated. 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.

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

FINANCE (con't)

Financially Speaking : Update, May 2019



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.

Your Finance Committee

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be

CHAIR OF THE CONGREGATION

From the Chair of Congregation – Sharing the Many Blessings of Easter

Luke 21:29-36: “And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Spring is upon us. The snow has melted. The grass is turning green. The birds have returned. And the buds are out in full force on the trees, which means their leaves are soon to follow. Spring is a time of renewal. And for us Christians, Easter is a time of renewal. It is the Holy season. And I had the pleasure of attending all 5 Easter services at St. Paul’s again this year.

The Maundy Thursday service takes place in the choir loft, which is the perfect setting for such a caring and loving service. This is when Jesus showed the disciples how to love and serve one another, and of course it culminates with the Last Supper where he explains that he won’t be with them much longer. So with that symbolism in mind, we washed each other’s hands and we shared Communion together.

The Good Friday service shared with St. Timothy’s Presbyterian Church is always incredibly moving and powerful. It shares the message of the trial and the crucifixion, which admittedly is a tough and somber message. But we have the advantage of knowing how the story ends.

The Easter Vigil Service that takes place on Saturday night puts you in the room with the disciples as they grapple with the reality of the death of Jesus. They haven’t fully understood his message at this point, so you can just imagine how confused and upset they must have been. But we have the advantage of knowing how the story ends. And we shared Communion together.

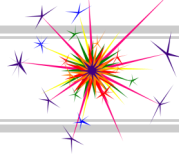
The Sunrise Service at Lake Ontario has become a favourite of mine. We have the advantage of knowing how the story ends, and the Sunrise Service starts to change the tone of events. We greeted the day in a lovely park setting, with the lake at our backs and the sun coming up over the horizon. We also shared the good news of the resurrection, and we shared an agape meal together. And because this service takes place outside, the weather plays a critical role. Thankfully, this year the weather was perfect.

And finally, everything culminates in the Easter Sunday Worship Service, where we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus and the new covenant that was promised. And of course, we also got to raise our voices in joy as we shouted together, “Hallelujah, he has risen indeed”!

I challenge anyone to attend all 5 of these Easter services, and not feel the presence of God in their lives. It truly is a moving experience, and I feel incredibly blessed to belong to St. Paul’s United Church, because I had the opportunity to do just that again this year!

Blessings everyone, and Hallelujah, he has risen indeed!!

Respectfully submitted by
Stuart McLean
Chair of Congregation


SPARC

Pizza Dinner and Sequence Party

The SPARC pizza dinner and sequence night is on **Saturday, May 4, 2019**. Doors open at 4:30 and dinner will be served at 5:00. Dinner includes 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. You must have a ticket to attend the evening. If you haven't purchased your ticket and still want to be part of the evening, call the church office. 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 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. For more information, call Catharine at the office (905) 683-4740.



Million Dollar Quartet

(From the Broadway PLAYBILL) "On a Tuesday night, shortly before Christmas 1956, four legends, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley gathered at the Sun Record recording studio in Memphis, Tennessee, where they'd launched their careers. Word soon leaked out of an impromptu jam session. A newspaperman who was there wrote, 'This quartet could sell a million.' Soon, they were dubbed the Million Dollar Quartet. This was their only performance, a cultural flashpoint that caught rock 'n' roll at the moment of creation." Musical numbers include: Blue Suede Shoes; Who Do You Love?; Folsom Prison Blues; Memories Are Made of This; That's All Right; Brown Eyed Handsome Man; Down by The Riverside; Sixteen Tons/My Babe; Long Tall Sally; Peace in The Valley; I Walk the Line; I Hear You Knockin'; Great Balls of Fire; Hound Dog; Ghost Riders; See You Later, Alligator; Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On.

Your SPARC committee is planning an outing on August 17, 2019 for a matinee performance of "Million Dollar Quartet" at the Capital Theatre in Port Hope, Ontario. Curtain time is 2:00 pm. There are 27 tickets available, centre stage, rows G and H. Ticket price is \$34.50 (a small savings off the regular price as we are registered as a group). We need to sell at least 20 tickets to retain the \$34.50 price. The play runs 100 minutes without an intermission. I know quite a few people who have seen this performance who all thought it was wonderful. Please plan to join us for this walk down memory lane to hear the beginnings of Rock 'n Roll. I don't think you will be disappointed.



Port Hope is a lovely town about 41 km east of Ajax. There are numerous shops to browse in, or buy something if you wish. You could plan to have lunch, stroll along the river, and then sit down to hear some truly remarkable "oldies but goodies".

Please contact Wendy Mason at 905.427.2817 or goosemason@yahoo.ca for tickets or more information

CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

“Raise the Roof” Campaign

Help is needed! As you are all aware, we are in need of a new roof for our building. The loan has been approved, the work on the roof has been completed, now we just have to pay for it. Our Capital Account has taken a real hit this year so far, with unexpected repairs needed in the basement. Here is a proposal for you. We are challenging everyone to support our one-time-only “**Raise the Roof**” campaign. Please consider sponsoring a shingle by donating **\$60.00** to the Capital Account through your givings envelope or the pew envelopes. By working together, we can put this debt behind us, and plan for new projects in the future.

SPARC Group

Concert – Support One of St. Paul’s Own

On Sunday, May 26, 2019, a group of us are planning to attend Christopher Miller’s Voice recital downtown at the Royal Conservatory of Music. It starts at 6 pm.

The Concert is FREE. The only expense is the bus which will take us from St. Paul’s to the door and back to St. Paul’s. The Bus is \$20 for Seniors; \$25 for Adults; children are FREE. Of course a child must be accompanied by an Adult or Senior.

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.

Lois Craig, St. Paul’s Music Director is accepting payments for the BUS as of now. Help us make this event a success for Chris and St. Paul’s. Any money raised beyond the cost of the bus will be donated to St. Paul’s. Put this in/on your calendar, and plan to join us!

Thank you from the Cree Family

We would like to thank the congregation for all their prayers, cards and delicious food that was provided for us over the last 8 weeks. It was a fantastic help to us. Rick is making good progress on his recovery. He has had the wires and braces removed from his mouth, so now he needs to work on his jaw. This will take time and patience. The two fractures in his spine are healing and the brace he wears on his neck should be off by the end of May.

Jenn

Heartfelt thanks for all the care and concern when I broke my wrists.
Blessings,

Jean Severs



UCW & MEN'S GROUP

UCW Meeting

The UCW meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. All ladies are cordially invited to join us for an informative afternoon and enjoy each others friendship over a cup of tea and a light snack. If one needs a ride, please call Valerie at 905-683-8798.



Bazaar

Just a reminder that the BAZAAR is on Saturday November 2, 2019. Make sure to put it on your calendar.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, May 11, 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.



MORE CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

Alister Gyles (Al) Harrison passed away on March 5, 2019 at the Lakeridge Health Hospital, Oshawa. Friends are welcome to join the family for memorial visitation on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 1:30 pm at MOUNT LAWN FUNERAL HOME & CEMETERY, 21 Garrard Road (north of Dundas Street), Whitby. A memorial service will follow in the chapel at 2:00 pm. Interment at Mount Lawn Cemetery.



Movie Event

The Exercise Class invites you to bring a bag lunch and stay for a Movie on Sunday, May 19, 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 usually goes to the Church.

On this particular date, if the hoped for documentary is secured, the donation will be sent to a suggested recipient. The title will be announced closer to the date of its presentation.



UPDATE ON....

I received the following from Cathy Shaw a few month's ago, and I had good intentions of including it in the Epistle. Alas, my memory isn't what it used to be, but "better late than never".

Engagement News!

The Shaw Family are delighted to announce that Jordan Elizabeth Shaw said *YES* to Manas Saksena when he popped the question on January 19 2019.

Congratulations and Blessings to the happy couple!

"After eight years together, Manas actually managed to surprise her. On the winter storm day of January 19, 2019 he took Jordan to a Niagara greenhouse and proposed amongst the flowers. He'd been planning it since September when he went to India, where he had her ring designed and made especially for her. To say that Jordan was overwhelmed and surprised would be an understatement. They are so very happy! I'm so happy for them as well, but it's a bit bittersweet without Jeff here. Oh well, life does go on. They are hoping to be married next June (2020) in a joint Hindu-Christian ceremony, with Janelle being one of the officiants. Lots of planning to do and lots of blending of cultures are needed, should be a very interesting and beautiful wedding".



On a personal note from someone who watched Jordan grow into a beautiful, young woman, and on behalf of the Congregation of St. Paul's, congratulations Jordan and Manas. Blessings on you both now and forever!

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

the church with the open arms



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We're on the web!

www.stpaulsajax.org

The next *Epistle* will be issued on or about May 30, 2019

DEADLINE for articles is May 24, 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

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