



St. Paul's United Church

The Epistle

February 2020

Volume 52, Issue 2

Your Attendance is Important - Annual General Meeting Sunday, February 2, 2020

Please plan to join us on Sunday, February 2, 2020 as SPUC holds its Annual General Meeting. Once again we will be celebrating our accomplishments from the past year and preparing ourselves for the coming year. Important topics to be discussed and decided at this meeting include:

SPUC's new Governance Structure - In June a DRAFT Governance Structure was shared with the congregation. Based on feedback from the Assembly of Elders it will be presented to the congregation.

SPUC's 2020 Budget - A number of financial challenges await us in the new year. Your feedback and suggestions on how to increase our revenue and/or decrease our expenses are welcome in the lead up to the congregation's approval of the budget on February 2nd. Please contact the Finance Committee c/o Robert Hunt.

SPUC's 70th Anniversary - In March we will mark 70 years of worshipping together as St. Paul's United Church. Please consider how we can celebrate this outstanding achievement.

SPUC's evolving response to water challenges in the basement . We are continuing to engage with legal and engineering experts as we learn more about the impact of the housing development construction on the property adjoining ours and how it may have affected the flow of water away from our building. Updates will be provided on February 2, 2020.

SPUC's Committees - A number of leadership positions are or will be vacant as of February 2, 2020. Please prayerfully consider if you have the time to volunteer for the roles that are listed on the back of the weekly bulletin including Chair of Council and Congregational Secretary. Council will be seeking nominations in January to present at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020.



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

[Proverbs 16:3](#)

This is reprinted from the January 2020 Epistle.

Continental Breakfast

Courtesy of the Men's Group, they will be supplying a free continental breakfast for St. Paul's congregation on Sunday, February 2, 2020.

Come at 9:30 am - mingle and enjoy fresh coffee, tea, juice, and pastries before the Church service.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE**Narrative Budget – 2020**

It's a fairly common challenge for people to have difficulty imagining the impact that the numbers in a budget have on the ground. For example, you might know that the money in the worship and music line in the budget supports worship, but not realize all of the little things that money funds. One way that churches are addressing this is by creating narrative or ministry-based budgets. This is where a community of faith takes each line of the budget and assigns it to a ministry category. Those numbers are then totaled so that folks can see how much of the budget is given to each category of ministry. Each category usually also has a list of examples that illustrate what that ministry looks like.

You'll find below a narrative budget for our life at St. Paul's as well as a breakdown of how my time is spent and the kinds of things I do in the course of my ministry.

The percentages are approximate as time didn't permit a detailed analysis, but I hope it will give you some sense of how your gifts of treasures supports our mission as St. Paul's United Church.

Blessings

Rev. Cordelia

Worship 23%

- Accompaniment for hymns
- Bulletins
- Prayers
- Scripture lessons
- Sermons
- Candles
- Anthems
- Leadership for the choir
- Preludes, postludes and offertory
- Communion
- Baptism
- Funerals
- Weddings

Congregational Life 21%

- Soup, Song & Sweets
- Book Club
- Ladies Exercise Class
- Coffee Time
- Men's Breakfast
- Pancake Supper
- Fall Fundraiser
- UCW
- Bazaar

MINISTER'S MESSAGE (con't)**Evangelism & Outreach 21%**

Space for outside groups ex. AA, Sunshine Nursery, B'nai Shalom V'tikvah, Probus, Brain Tumour Support etc.
Newspaper Adds
Website
Epistle
Participation in wider church
Open cupboard
Support for Joanne's House, Herizon House, Food Bank
Christmas Families
UCW
Funerals
Weddings

Christian Education – 18%

Sunday School
Bible Discussion
Book Discussion
Sunday Worship
Baptism Prep
Membership Classes

Pastoral Care 17 %

Hospital Visits
Home Visits
Pastoral Counselling
Lay Visitor's Team
Prayer Shawl
Post Bereavement Support

Minister's Time Breakdown**Worship – 35%**

Sermon preparation and preaching
Sunday Liturgy creation and worship leadership
Bulletin creation
Meeting With Worship Committee
Meeting With Music Director
Creation of Power Point
Special Services (ex. Christmas Eve, Holy Week) creation and Leadership
Funerals, Baptism, Weddings Preparation and Leadership

Education and Nurture – 15%

Weekly Bible Discussion and Preparation
Weekly Book Study and Preparation
Baptism Preparation Classes
Marriage Preparation Sessions
Council and other committee meetings

MINISTER'S MESSAGE (con't)**Minister's Time Breakdown**

Pastoral Care – 20%

- Pastoral Care
- Counselling
- Hospital Visits
- Home Visits
- Visits with Bereaved
- Post Funeral Care

Outreach, Evangelism and Hospitality – 20%

- Ballycliffe Worship Services
- Old Harwood Place Worship Services
- Outreach to homeless, under employed in need
- Participation in Ajax Community Events
- Royal Canadian Legion Chaplaincy
- Participation in East Central Ontario Regional Council
- Participation in Local United Church Cluster
- Meeting and Coordinating with other Faith Groups and Leaders locally and internationally

Fellowship – 5%

- Sunday Coffee Time
- Church Fundraisers and Fellowship Events
- Attendance at church groups (ex. Prayer Shawl)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financially Speaking: Update, December 2019

Donations From All Sources	December	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$20,521	\$185,651
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	21,067	188,442
What We Spent	15,603	237,554
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	5,564	-49,141
M&S Givings	tba	tba
Capital Fund Donations	510	8,858

December was a positive month. Total donations of \$20,521 were \$545 above budget. Thank you for your generosity. Virtually all of our committees were below budget and as a result, December expenses of \$15,603 were below budget by \$1,868. Terrific.

On the surface our year-to-date numbers look discouraging but, keep in mind that we have spent over \$38,000 in Capital repairs to our building. We know that we have had a lot of expenses in 2019. These expenses have been necessary to keep our building a safe place for everyone who enters it. These expenses were not anticipated and thus not budgeted for. If you take into consideration those Capital expenses, our year-to-date financial position is only -\$11,371 which is slightly better than the -\$14,579 originally projected. In our opinion, these are very good results considering our Capital repair costs.

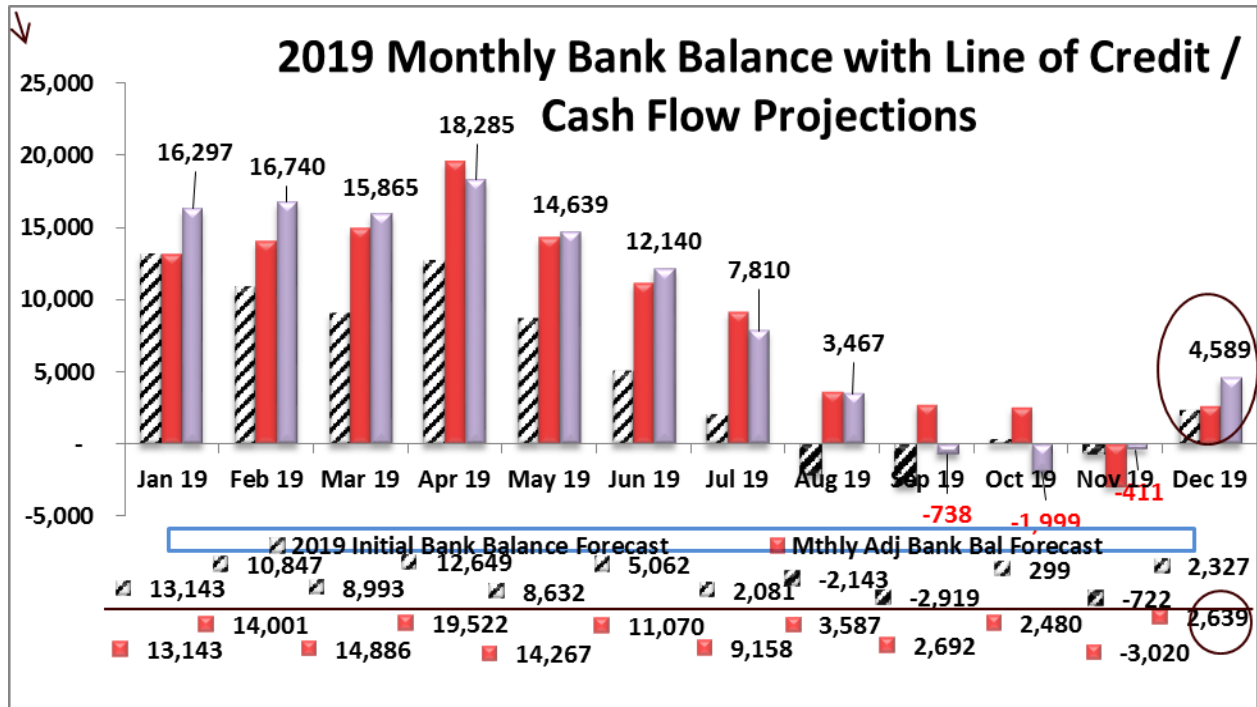
Our “Raise the Roof” campaign has been very successful so far. Your generosity has put us ahead of schedule as we have now raised 63% of our target. Thank you all.

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 looked like compared to our initial 2019 forecast. We expected a positive bank balance of \$2,639. As of the end of November, the forecast suggested that our year-end bank balance could be a positive number. We actually ended the year with a better than expected bank balance of \$4,589. Again, thanks to all of you who gave so generously in support of St. Paul’s.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (con't)

Financially Speaking : Update, December 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

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death
Proverbs 11:4

MUSIC**Problems, Problems, Problems!**

In the past, you have wanted to invite your neighbours to attend the Caribbean Mass at St. Paul's, but their Church service is at the same time. Or the person you want to invite sleeps in on Sunday mornings.

Well, that's why this service is at 3 pm on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Take a moment to think who you could invite. For every ten people we invite, one comes.

Let's fill St. Paul's on February 9, 2020

**You Know You Want To**

Join the Choir! You've heard them sing the Caribbean Mass and it looked like so much fun. You hear them every week, singing Praise to God and you want to be a part of it.

The best time to join the Choir is while there are experienced members to help you learn. We have room for women and men with high and low voices.

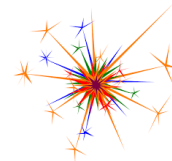
For more info speak to any Choir member, or call Lois, the Music Director at 905-427-3800, email her at lcraigbflat@gmail.com, or speak to her after any service.

All enquiries welcome.



SPARC Update

SPARC is gearing up for an exciting year of new activities and opportunities. Mark your calendar for these up-coming SPARC events during the next three months! You won't want to miss them.



GUIDED MEDITATION AND CHAIR YOGA

Do you feel stressed? Are you tired of winter? Are you looking for relaxation? Do your muscles just not work the way they used to?

Then join the SPARCs for guided meditation and seated yoga. The SPARCs will be offering a weekly session on Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 pm or four weeks beginning February 20, 2020 and ending March 12, 2020. Led by Lisa Kavanagh, the one-hour session will focus on relaxation techniques, easy stretches and guided meditation. All activities take place while seated in a chair. The cost for the 4 sessions will be \$20.00. To pre-register for the 4 sessions contact Susan Reed (svreed@bell.net) or the church office at 905-683-4740.

MARCH 29 – ST. PAUL'S CHOCOLATE COOKIE CHALLENGE

SPARC is hosting the St. Paul's Chocolate Cookie Challenge on Sunday, March 29, 2020 after the morning service. Everyone is invited to enter your chocolate cookies in the contest. YOU could be declared the champion St. Paul's Chocolate Cookie Baker.

Do you love chocolate cookies and want to be a judge? Let Susan Reed know at svreed@bell.net

RULES:

Cookies must be homemade.

Entrants bring 2 dozen cookies on a covered platter to the kitchen before the morning service on March 29, 2020.

Members from SPARC will meet the entrants before the service and assign a number to each contestant and record the entrant's name so the judges will not know whose cookies they are judging

Four cookies will be removed from each batch for the judges. The rest of the cookies will be served at coffee-time

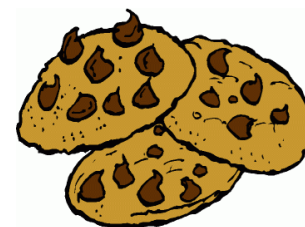
Judging will take place during coffee time and the winner will be crowned as champion at the end of coffee time.

Cookies should not contain nuts.

Congregation members can enjoy samples of the cookies during coffee time and cheer for your favorite cook.

Any leftover cookies will be sold at the end of coffee time.

Plans are also in the works for a May Sequence Night, a brunch at the South Lake Grill, a Strawberry Social as well as the annual Mini-Golf Night and Pub Night. Stay tuned to the Epistle to find out about these events in the Spring. In the meantime, perfect your chocolate cookie recipe and take the challenge on March 29, 2020.



OPEN CUPBOARD**Open Cupboard Initiative**

Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the cases of poverty in downtown Ajax.

Some are working for low wages and wondering which bill to pay and which they can delay. Some have lost their jobs and can't find new ones. Some are on social assistance or pensions and find it difficult to pay for everything they need. Some don't even have that and are just surviving.

Members of St Paul's decided that we could try to help. There is an apparent need for personal hygiene items, such as razors, soap and diapers. Socks are always in demand, especially among the homeless. Thank you to all who have donated items or made cash donations so we can purchase items. Currently our needs include: deodorant, combs, razors (for men and women), Kleenex, toilet paper, lip balm, band-aids, Polysporin, wool socks (no tube socks), tampons and pads.

The Open Cupboard will stock a variety of items that are needed regularly but aren't usually found at a food bank. We are getting ready to offer this service to people in need in our community.

We have purchased the cupboard and are stocking up on the various items. Volunteers will spend two hours every couple of months helping those who come to the back door for supplies.

The cupboard will be open on the second Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Our target opening date is Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

If you would like to get involved, please speak to a member of the planning committee:

Susan Reed, Linda Westendorp, Karen Strong, Catharine Ottaway, Jennifer Cree, Eudora Nisbett, Jeff Wood, Cordelia Karpenko and Helen Dowse.

Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health

UCW**UCW**

On Sunday, February , 9, 2020, the UCW will be holding its annual **Love is in the Air** after service, in the Gathering Place.

Purchase "Soup", "Sweets", and some "Love"ly treats to take home or you can always enjoy a goodie with a cup of coffee during the fellowship hour.



On Tuesday, February 18th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room, the UCW meeting will involve the Dutch Auction and Bake Sale.

Guaranteed lots of laughs because guess WHO is trying to sell or buy at the lowest price or should it be said the highest price.

Join us for fellowship and food. If you require a ride, please call Valerie at 905-683-8798.

Upcoming GARAGE SALE

Mark your calendar - Saturday April 25, 2020 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Start Spring Cleaning Early and De-cluttering. The date is set for our yearly Garage Sale. You will be able to drop off your items on Friday, April 24, 2020 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm or early Saturday morning.

If you are unable to drop off items to the church or you wish to help out on the day , please contact Jennifer Cree at 905-686-4467.

**MEN'S GROUP**

The Men's Group will meet on Saturday, February 8th, at 8:00 am in the Gathering Place. The spokesman invites all men of the Church, and men of good cheer, to come and join them for breakfast and fellowship. There is always a place for another man who enjoys a hearty breakfast and great conversation.

Pancake Supper

The Men's Group will host the yearly **Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 and will start serving Supper at 5:00 pm. Just come, no reservations needed, and bring a friend for fluffy pancakes, sausages, dessert, and coffee.

There will be a free will offering.

Editor's Note: Does anyone besides me see a recurring 'theme' pertaining to the Men's Group activities?

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 or about February 28, 2020

DEADLINE for articles is February 21, 2020

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.