



St. Paul's United Church

The Epistle

January 2020

Volume 52, Issue 1



Wishing everyone a safe, and healthy New Year!

FROM COUNCIL**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 Congregational/Council Secretary. Council will be seeking nominations in January to present at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020.



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."
Proverbs 16:3

FINANCE COMMITTEE*Financially Speaking: Update, November 2019*

Donations From All Sources	October	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$16,431	\$177,031
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	20,270	167,376
What We Spent	25,886	221,950
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	-5,615	-54,574
M&S Givings	2,364	\$14,527
Capital Fund Donations	576	8,348

November was a negative month only because we had to spend \$7,152 on one-time repairs for water flooding in our basement and related expenses. 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. 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 - \$16,574 which is much better than the -\$21,272 originally projected.

I know that we have had a lot of expenses this year. These expenses have been necessary to keep our building a safe place for everyone who enters it.

Our “Raise the Roof” campaign has been very successful so far. Your generosity has put us ahead of schedule as we have now raised 60% of our target. Thank you all.

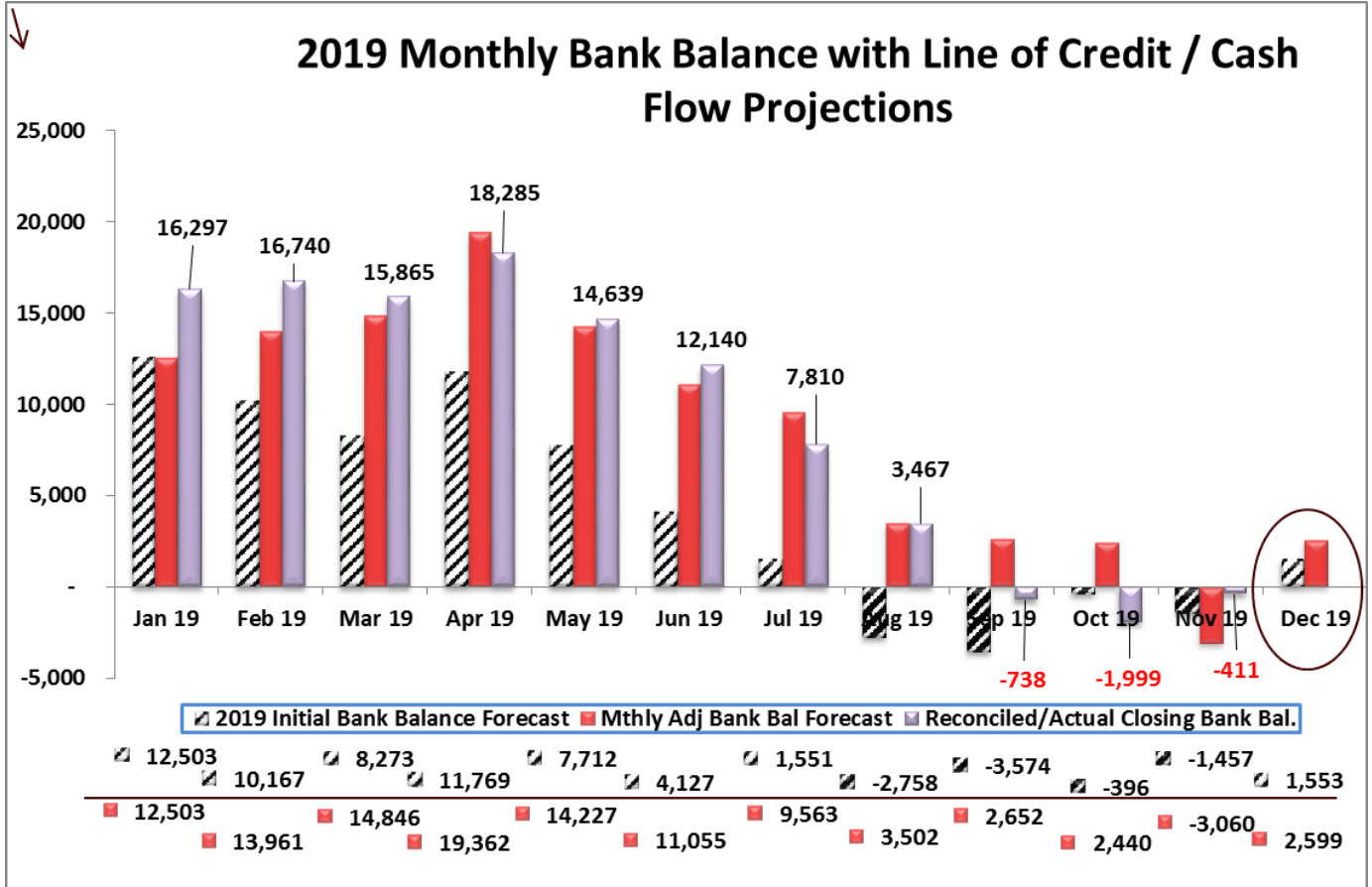
As you know, stewardship is rendered in many forms whether as gifts of time, talents and skills, or treasure. Your gifts are appreciated. As always, your gifts will help St. Paul's to continue to be a place for everyone to reach out to for worship and prayer, for comfort, for social interaction, and for help.

Please look at the chart below. It is a projection of what our 2019 year-end bank balance could be if all our budget targets are met. It also shows that in the months of September – November, we had a negative bank balance. As of the end of November, the forecast suggests that our year-end bank balance could be a 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. The red bars are suggesting that if our budget targets are met for the rest of the year, we might have a small, positive bank balance to begin 2020! Terrific.

A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great

Proverbs 18:16

FINANCE COMMITTEE (con't)



If anyone has any comments or complaints, 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 had a very Merry Christmas filled with good friends and family, great food and an abundance of Joy as we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. We hope that through the Grace of God, you will all have a Healthy and Happy New Year.

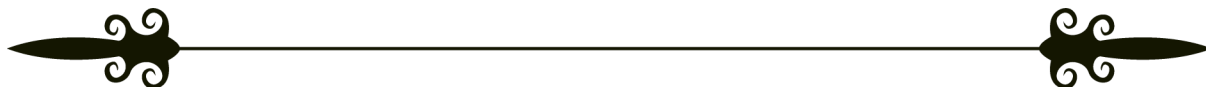
Your Finance Committee

CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

A Caribbean Mass Celebration with Neighbouring Churches

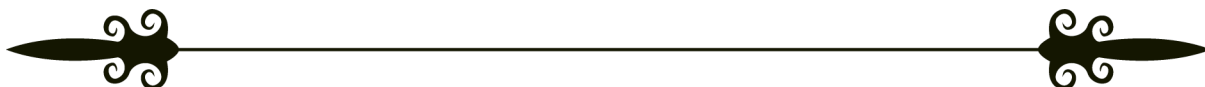


On Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., St. Paul's United Church and the Senior Choir will be holding an Ecumenical Communion service to introduce neighbouring churches - their choirs and music directors - to Donald Patriquin's A Caribbean Mass. This Mass - which had its North American premiere at SPUC on March 1, 2015 - includes the Kyrie, the Great Amen, Sanctus & Benedictus, Agnus Dei, Christ has Died, the Gloria, The New Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Our neighbouring churches will be provided with an advance copy of Thank You for the Love so that they can sing it with the SPUC Senior Choir on the February 9, 2020. Mark your calendars for this special ecumenical choral worship event. You won't want to miss it.



Save the date

On Sunday, January 12, 2020 the Worship and Music committee is hosting our annual event, Soups, Song and Sweets in the Gathering Place at noon. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Donations of soup and sweets are gratefully accepted.



Annual Report

The 2019 St. Paul's United Church Annual Report is a very important document. It provides a record of our activities and accomplishments from the past year and supports us to make decisions that will impact the future of our church. The Annual Report is produced in January and will be distributed at the Annual General Meeting on February 2, 2020.

If you are a coordinator of one of the church's committees or groups, you are asked to complete a written report is Sunday, January 19th. Reports should be sent to Tom and Bernie Rosebush at tom.rosebush@gmail.com 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 also be submitted no later than January 19, 2020.. These may be submitted electronically or left in the cubbies under 'R'.

Thank you for your support in preparing our 2019 Annual Report.

Submitted by
Tom and Bernie Rosebush

WORSHIP & MUSIC**Inviting Others by Sharing our Music**

Every Sunday we are blessed by the wonderful music and the beautiful singing presented by the SPUC Senior Choir and Director of Music, Lois Craig.

Now we can share that experience with our friends and neighbours by pointing them to the worship services posted on the SPUC website. Since December 1, 2019 the recordings have also included the hymns, anthems and other music depending on whether they fall under the provisions of our copyright licenses. You will want to listen yourself and hear again the sermons, the readings and now the music and use the links as a way to invite others to join us at SPUC. Head to <https://stpaulsajax.org/worship/> and click on one of the latest tracks. Send an email to a friend and invite them today.

UCW

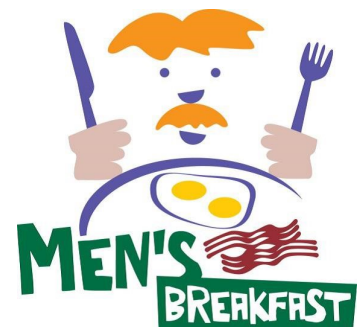
Join us on Tuesday , January 21, 2020, at 1:00 pm, in the Fellowship Room, for the UCW monthly meeting, followed by the Annual Business Meeting.

Hear about all our numerous events which occurred within our church , as well as other outreach contributions locally and worldwide.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 8:00 am in the Gathering Place. The invitation is open to all men.

Attend for the first time and enjoy a free breakfast. May the new year bring happiness and good health to everyone.



REGIONAL COUNCIL**Check out the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) Website**

Did you know that in January 2019 the United Church of Canada established 11 Regional Councils to serve and support the Communities of Faith by providing oversight and support?

SPUC falls under the East Central Ontario Regional Council or ECORC. An Assembly of Elders serves as the Executive and carries out the responsibilities of the Regional Council guided by a Governance Manual that was revised in November 2019. Reverend Cordelia and Bill Sheaves are SPUC's representatives to ECORC and the ECORC website is an excellent resource to learn more about the work of ECORC, our relationship with them as a Community of Faith and the activities underway at other Communities of Faith across our region. To learn more, please visit <https://ecorcuccan.ca/>.

**About the ECORC**

The East Central Ontario Regional Council. What is it and what is its composition?

The East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) came into existence on January 1, 2019. Formerly known as Regional Council 11, ECORC is 1 of 16 Regional Councils of the United Church of Canada. A Regional Council is a decision-making body responsible to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight.

The ECORC is composed of all ministry personnel within its geographic bounds; ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call; and lay members elected by the Communities of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible.

The ECORC also consists of:

- the following Communities of Faith of the former Living Waters Presbytery of the former Toronto Conference: Trinity Pastoral Charge-Uxbridge, Sandford-Zephyr Pastoral Charge, Goodwood Pastoral Charge and Epsom-Utica Pastoral Charge;
- all pastoral charges in the former Presbyteries of the former Bay of Quinte Conference: Four Winds, Hills and Shores, Lakeridge, Kawartha Highlands, Kente, and Shining Waters; and several other entities in a covenantal relationship with the ECORC that gather to explore faith, worship, and service.

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 January 31, 2020

DEADLINE for articles is January 24, 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.