



St. Paul's United Church

The Epistle

March 2020

Volume 52, Issue 3

St. Pauls United Church



Sunday, March 1st, 2020

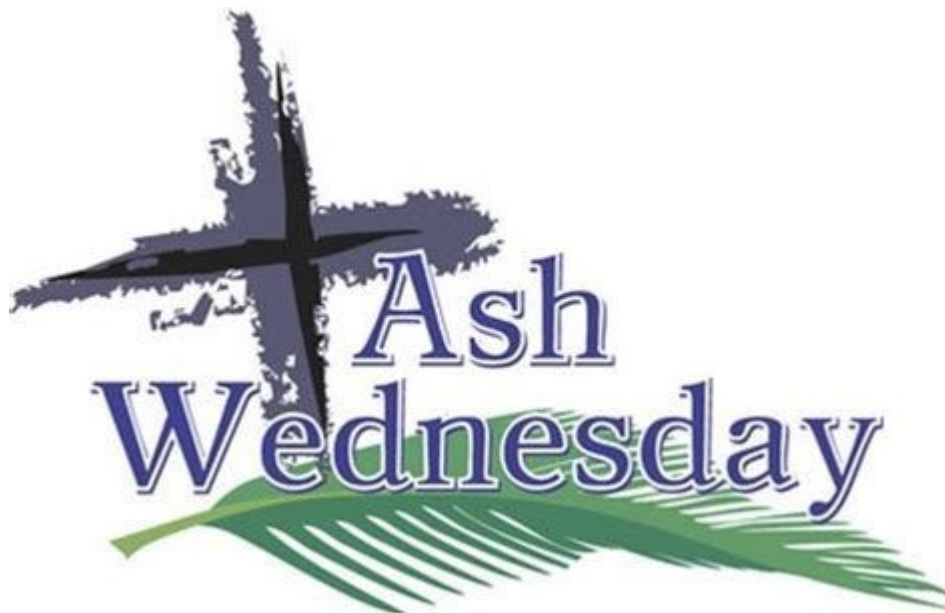
MINISTER'S MESSAGE

We've come again to the beginning of Lent. It begins, as it always does, with Ash Wednesday. This service sets the tone for the rest of the season. It is a solemn service of confession and repentance. Ashes are imposed to remind us that we are the created not the Creator.

None of these ideas are popular right now. We prefer to think that we can accomplish whatever we set our mind to. We want to believe that we can shape our environment to our will. We tell ourselves that we are fine. The problem with this kind of self-sufficiency is that it doesn't allow space for our inevitable failure and weakness. It doesn't give us anywhere to go when we don't live up to our own or other's expectations.

The Lenten call to repentance and confession isn't meant to make us feel guilty or feel like failures. Rather, it gives us a place to take the regret, the shame and the helplessness we already feel. It allows us to lay those things at God's feet and go away assured of God's love and forgiveness. It allows us to go away assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

I hope that you will take time this Lent to bring your burdens to God and that you will come to Easter with a light load and a feeling that you've grown closer to God through the journey.



FINANCE

Financially Speaking: Update, January 2020

Donations From All Sources	January	YTD
What We Needed (from all sources)	\$13,653	\$13,653
Total We Received (including from the Building Fund)	13,264	13,264
What We Spent	15,745	15,745
Surplus / Shortfall (Total Received less What We Spent)	-2,481	-2,481
M&S Givings	1,002	1,002
Capital Fund Donations	891	891

Our report for January is short this month. Total donations in January were less than budget by -\$2,481. Fortunately, our committees were able to keep expenses to a minimum of \$15,745 which was \$847 below budget. These combined factors mean that we had a positive bank balance (\$1,686) at the end of January. Terrific.

Our “Raise the Roof” campaign has been very successful so far. We are hoping for your continued generosity in purchasing bundles of shingles. You have raised a total of \$12,120 (as at January, 31, 2020) thus far which is 63% of our target of \$19,000. Thank you all for this support.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

We want to make you aware of a new telephone scam that seems to be targeting members of St. Paul’s. Here is how one member experienced it.

You get a telephone call from 905 683 4047 – St. Paul’s telephone number. You are meant to believe that this is a call from St. Paul’s. A recorded voice says that your credit card information is incorrect. You are given another telephone number to call and then give them your correct credit card number.

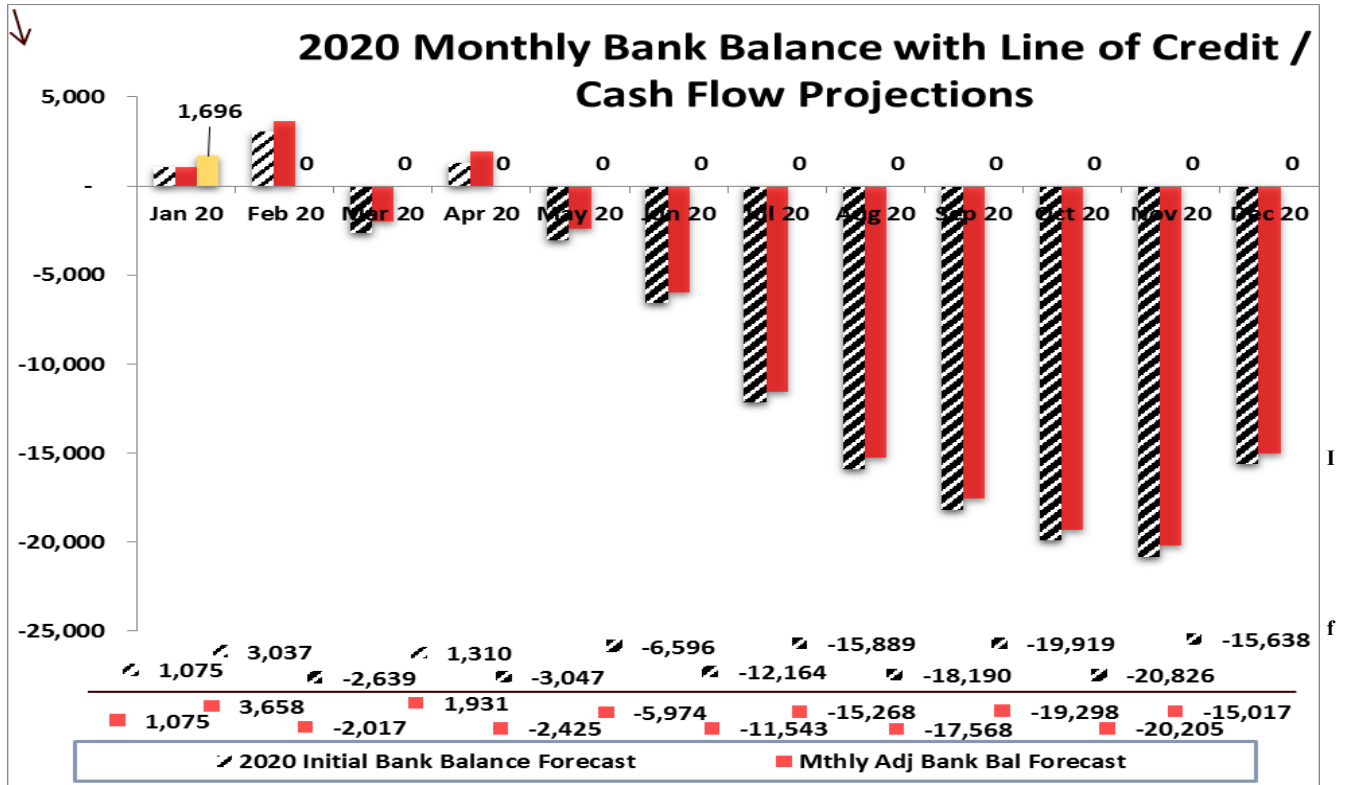
DO NOT CALL THEM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. SIMPLY HANG UP THE TELEPHONE.

St. Paul’s is not making these calls. This is an attempt by criminals to trick you into giving them your real credit card numbers.

The police have been notified of this scam. There is also more information available in our new Resource Centre beside the Sanctuary.

FINANCE (con't)

Financially Speaking: Update, January 2020



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

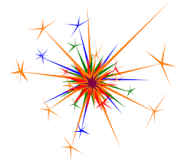
MARCH 29, 2020 – ST. PAUL’S CHOCOLATE COOKIE CHALLENGE

Are your chocolate chip cookies described as rich and chewy, filled with chips and the absolute best?

Do you have a special double chocolate cookie recipe that you make just for your best friends?

Are your chocolate ginger snaps a family tradition passed down from generation to generation?

Do you consider your chocolate cookies to be the best around?



Then it’s time to enter the St. Paul’s Chocolate Cookie Challenge on Sunday, March 29, 2020 and put your recipe to the test. Be crowned the best chocolate cookie baker at St. Paul’s and win a prize.

SPARC is hosting the contest after the morning service. Everyone is invited to enter a batch of chocolate cookies in the contest. Any chocolate cookie recipe is acceptable – chocolate chip, chocolate crinkles, chocolate macaroons, etc. – as long as the cookie contains chocolate in some form.

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 winners will be crowned as champions 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 cookie.

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

So grease your pans, stir your batter and bake your delicious Chocolate Cookies. YOU could be declared the champion St. Paul’s Chocolate Cookie Baker.

WANTED: CHOCOLATE COOKIE JUDGES

QUALIFICATIONS: Must love chocolate cookies.

To apply for this job, please reply to Susan Reed know at svreed@bell.net

UCW & MEN'S GROUP

UCW

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 1:00 pm the UCW will meet in the Fellowship Room for the monthly meeting. The program is entitled 'Helping the Environment' by eliminating plastic - one bag at a time. Everyone is cordially invited.



If anyone needs a ride, please call Valerie at 905-683-8798.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020
8:00 am to 12:30 pm**

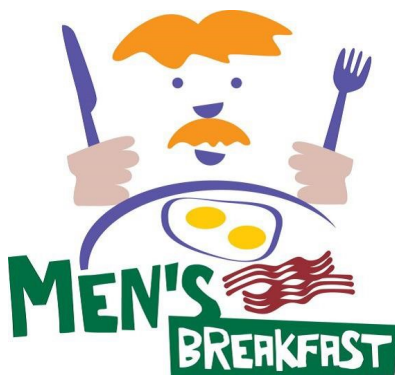


Start Spring Cleaning Early and De-cluttering. The date is set for our yearly Garage Sale. You will be able to drop off your items on Friday April 24, 2020 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm or early Saturday morning.

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

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, March 17, 2020 at 8:00 am in the Gathering Place. The invitation is open to all men for fun and fellowship. Come for the first time and enjoy a free breakfast.



CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

St. Paul's has an active prayer shawl ministry. Each year the group of knitters and crocheters make over 25 prayer shawls and lap robes. The shawls are blessed and are available to be given to someone in need. The shawls and lap robes can be given to someone in times of illness or grief, to someone who is celebrating a graduation, a wedding or the birth of a child or someone who needs to be cheered up. The shawls and lab robes are a gift that says you are loved, you are remembered and you are supported by the prayers of many. If you would like more information or know of someone who you think would find comfort in receiving a shawl, contact Susan Reed or Catharine Ottaway. Giving a shawl is not limited to someone in our church family or community. Our ministry is to support all who need comfort and a reminder of God's love.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

We are currently looking for people who can fill in for Catharine when she is on vacation. We would like to have a list of people who could be called upon for the duration of Catharine's vacation which could be up to three weeks. Interested volunteers will receive training, prior to starting the position, on how to create the church's bulletin on the computer as well as a review on the office procedures. There are also detailed written instructions. If we had a few people available, they could work out a schedule to cover the time Catharine is away.

Please give this matter your prayerful consideration. If you are able to help, contact Catharine in the office.

Submitted by

June Martin

THE OPEN CUPBOARD OPENS IT'S DOORS

After much planning and preparation, the Open Cupboard is ready and the volunteers are in place. The purpose is to provide those in need with personal hygiene items that would not be found at a food bank.

The schedule is the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and the 4th Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Our first day open is February 26, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours every couple of months to this endeavor, please contact Linda Westendorp or the church office for more information.

THANK YOU

Grace and Bill Sheaves and family would like to thank our St. Paul's church family for your support of sympathy by way of cards, kind words, and hugs after the recent loss of Grace's mom. Your comfort was so appreciated.



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 March 25, 2020

DEADLINE for articles is Saturday, March 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.