

Easter/Spring Newsletter



St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, ON

MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE

Happy Easter St Paul's,

We are once again celebrating our Lord's Crucifixion and Resurrection.

I recently read an interesting church sign. It said, "Only Jesus Could Take Two Pieces of Wood and Make A Bridge from Earth to Heaven." As I reflected, I thought, "This is the Summary of the Easter story! The story of God's immense love for and his desire to reconcile the brokenness of his creation by sacrificing his Son Jesus on Calvary's cross."

When his disciples ran to the tomb, they heard the message: "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said." The powerful message speaks to us afresh today and just as loudly:

Do not be afraid; Jesus' death took all our sins away.

Do not be afraid; Jesus' resurrection gives us the promise eternal life.

We love Easter but we must always be reminded it is much more than Easter egg hunts, candy and chocolate. It's also about sharing messages of hope. its about new life, new beginnings, clearing our dark spaces and flooding our lives with his light.

My prayer is that you will once again hear the words his disciples heard, "Peace be to you". And as you do you will encounter a fresh outpouring of the spirit of the Risen Christ. May He strengthen and energize you. Have a blessed Easter.

Shalom
Rev. Karlene



MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church welcomed a "record breaking" 70 participants to their March 16th "All things Irish" programme. April 20th event is titled "April Showers and Easter too." May 18 - May Flowers June 15-Fun at the Carnival July 20 -Campfires and Critters

Please note.. There will not be a Messy Church in August, which will give our 15 volunteers a bit of a break.

We resume the program on Sept. 21 with our event titled. "One fish,two fish", A big thank-you to the St.Paul's Church family for your continued interest and support in this programme. As of February 16th, 2019 the Messy Church program at our church is one year old.

Respectfully, Norma and David Collis - Messy Church team



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- UCW Geranium Tea May 4 at 9 to 11:30 a.m.
- Antler Watershed Conference – May 25
- Gentlemen of Harmony Concert May 26 at 2:30 p.m.
- UCW Sunday June 2
- Sunday School Picnic June 9 in the Park

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| MESSAGE FROM REV. KARLENE | 1 |
| MESSY CHURCH | 1 |
| COUNCIL NEWS | 2-3 |
| WORSHIP NEWS | 4 |
| STEWARDSHIP | 4 |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | 4 |
| AOTS NEWS | 5 |
| UCW UPDATE | 5 |
| MFC NEWS | 6 |
| CALENDAR EVENTS | 7 |





CHAIR'S REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEETING of April 16, 2019

Because of the timing of Council and this Newsletter, I have chosen to make the Council Report my Newsletter article. **Please read carefully as several decisions/discussions took place that you as part of the family of St. Paul's should find informative and interesting. There also some announcements of upcoming "happenings" that need to be inserted in your calendar.**

1. **Rev Karlene** reported that visitations continue to be ongoing. She has received requests for 2 baptisms of children and 1 for membership. In addition, she has a request for a transfer of membership to St Paul's which will take a while to complete the paper work. Our family continues to grow ---which is wonderful.

She has completed all the requirements for full admission --all courses are completed and next is **the Celebration of Ministry service which is on May 25 in Port Elgin. If you would like to attend please register with Ruth Francis 519-688-7724. We are organizing a bus at a cost of \$85 leaving at 10:30 a.m. returning late evening.**



Karlene is presently working on the process of renewing her work permit and visa.

2. Jed reported for the **Trustees** indicating that re the Manse --- the land severance was approved by the County Committee they --- are just waiting for the written report which will include the conditions. This is all part of the process and right on schedule as we hoped.
3. Dave reported for **Property** indicating that there is damage to the Dome from several different storms. As a result, an insurance claim has been filed in 2 sections -- roof damage and water damage. Property is investigating the dome repair. Several options were presented. The decision will be finalized in May after we receive more info re the insurance claim. Depending on the Claim and the decision re replacement of shingles ---the cost could range from \$20,000.00 - \$50,000.00. **This would require a fund-raising campaign.** Stay tuned.
There is also some paint damage in the sanctuary from the water leaks. This will be a summer project since it will require removal of seats and scaffolding.
4. Brenda reported for Christian Development indicating that the last PA day had 12 attendees. The next PA day programme is June 7 with the Church Picnic (potluck) June 9 at Memorial Park.
5. Dag reported for Worship. Council approved 2 baptisms and 1 adult baptism to be held in the future. Norma who volunteers wants to say a **big thank you** to the people of St. Paul's. The donations for craft items etc. that just keep appearing over and over. **Many thanks to the mystery givers.**

Following a presentation by Shelley there was a discussion about an electronic (digital) piano for the sanctuary. Some are the concerned---does this mean the organ will be used less? NO! Others are concerned about the cost.

The **decision** was that Council announce that **we will receive donations towards the purchase of the digital piano. Purchase will take place when the cost is covered. As of March 31, \$5200.00 has been received. The total cost of the e-piano and the bench/chair is approximately \$11,000.00.**

6. The UCW and AOTS dates are on the Calendar of Events on last page.
7. The Council approved participation in the Tillsonburg Turtle Fest on June 14,15,16. This will be an opportunity to increase our visibility in the community and to introduce Rev. Karlene and Desmond to those who do not know them. Watch for further details.

8. Financial Report as of March 31, 2019

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|--|---------------------|
| Beginning Balance -- January 1, ----- | \$ 36,258.35 |
| 2019 Income to date ----- | 71,877.46 |
| Sub-total | \$108,145.81 |
| 2019 Expenses to date | 73,806.98 |
| Balance in General Fund March 31, 2019 | \$34,338.83 |
| Just a reminder from Council that year to date -- | |
| Income has been | --\$71,877.46 |
| Expenses have been | --\$73,806.98 |
| Deficit to date-- | \$1929.52 |



Hopefully April will bring a positive year to date balance.

9. **IT'S TIME FOR A CELEBRATION!!!!!!**

On Sunday June 23, stay for coffee and cake after church as we celebrate with Rev. Karlene her many accomplishments in her time at St. Paul's but mainly having completed all requirements for becoming a full admission to the United Church of Canada.

Bring your hugs and smiles to congratulate her. All are welcome!!!! See you there.

In conclusion if you have comments/concerns/ or questions please contact me for any clarification. My email is m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca or home at 519-421-3241 or my cell -519-788-3705.

Report respectfully submitted by
Mary Anne Silverthorn
Chair St. Paul's UC Council
Antler River Watershed Regional Council Rep
Antler River Watershed Regional Liaison



Worship News - Important Dates for our Church family

St. Paul's is booming with activity. These are our events as planned for the next few months.

--Maundy Service at 7:00 p.m.

--Good Friday Service at 10:30 a.m.

--**Sunday, April 21** at 7:30 am is the Sunrise Service in the Friendship Room. A light breakfast will follow the service. 10:30 am is the Easter Service in the Sanctuary.

--**April 28** is Camping Sunday.

--**May 12** is Mother's Day. There will be two baptisms, Kerilyn and Jordan Bruckler's two year old son Kashious and Julie and Mark Loponen's two year old son Markus.

Messy Church is a wonderful success. March 16th Messy Church saw 70 participants. These included a number of new people plus the "regulars".

Karen Hodges, Sunday School Coordinator



This number far exceeded the average number of 36 participants and did make an unexpected demand on materials and volunteer staff.

Thanks to Norma and her many volunteers, everyone managed extremely well and there was a very productive atmosphere in the room. Lunch is always served by the Community Kitchen team and this month Dave Morris and his team dealt very competently with the unexpected number of diners.

Once Community Kitchen has ended in April, Messy Church volunteers led by Rev. Karlene will be catering the food for the following Messy Church events.

We are extremely fortunate to have Norma Collis as the team leader of Messy Church. Thank you Norma for you dedication.



NEWS FROM KIDSTOWN



During the summer months the children will be learning the story of Noah and building an Ark!

June 9 is the Sunday School Picnic in Memorial Park.

We had an average of 12 kids at the P.A. Days.



June 7 Laurel Beechey is coming to our final P.A. Day this season with Shimmer the Skunk to talk about Frogs.



UCW News



The UCW is having a Geranium Coffee Break on Saturday May 4th from 9 a.m – 11:30 a.m. Admission includes refreshments and a geranium. Tickets are available from any UCW member or after church outside the Friendship Room.

UCW Sunday will be June 2nd, 2019. Rev. Deb Hinksman will be the Guest speaker.

Unit One meets the Fourth Monday afternoon of each month and Unit 6 meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend.

AOTS NEWS

St Paul's AOTS (As One That Serves) Men's club extends to one and all, special Easter Blessings and a reminder of upcoming events. April 26-28 Spring Round Up at Jackson's Point Lake Simcoe. May 8 trip to London to RCR Museum and Museum of Archaeology plus lunch at the Mandarin. Golf outing and BBQ June 22. Chicken BBQ September 15 and Annual Church Service (and most likely Brunch) November 24. For more details see Maurice 688-7724 or Dave 842-4188.



Rev. Maurice Francis

Hooked on Music

On Sunday, May 26 at 2:30 p.m. the popular Gentlemen of Harmony will perform at St. Paul's. Tickets are available from Dianne Parnell or the Church Office at \$25 per person.

Come and join us for an afternoon of good music!

Stewardship

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

1. **The Easter Special Offering** will be divided between **Camp Tanner** and **Tillsonburg Salvation Army**.
2. Thank you to the generous members who volunteer their time and talents to St Paul's work in the community. New volunteers are always welcomed.
3. When you give to **Mission and Service** you offer the world a tangible example of God's love in the world. Each day you are saving lives.



Membership, Fellowship and Care Committee

St. Patrick's Day Potluck Lunch

On March 17 MFC hosted a St. Patrick's Day potluck lunch following our regular service. With over 100 attendees, the event was a huge success. With a tremendous assortment of dishes there was more than enough food for all, as well as music, singing and dancing. The pictures below, taken during the entertainment portion of the event, are evidence of the fun times enjoyed.



Upcoming Events

Our next planned event is another potluck lunch, to be held October 27, in conjunction with our Anniversary Service – watch for details.

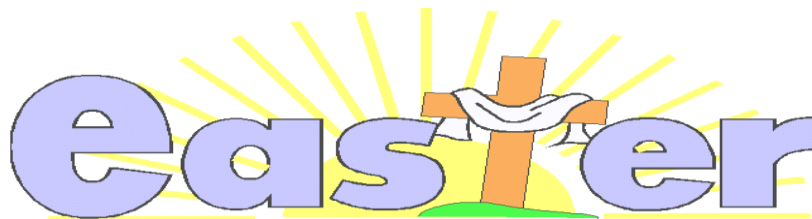
Name Tags

In the interests of promoting friendliness and inclusiveness, everyone is encouraged to wear a name tag. If you would like to order a tag, please contact Jed Drew at (519) 842-8786.

Rides

If you, or someone you know, needs a ride to attend any church event, or any other critical event such as a medical appointment, please let one of the members of the MFC Committee know and we will do our utmost to assist.

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|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| MFC members: | Jed Drew | (519) 842-8786 | Mary Hessler | (519) 409-0716 |
| | Karon Harris | (519) 842-8596 | Dianne Parnell | (519) 688-3280 |





St. Paul's Calendar April – September 2019



Date

Events

April

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Fri 26- 28 | AOTS Spring Round-Up Trip |
| Sun. 28 | Camping Sunday |

May

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|---------|---|
| Fri. 3 | AOTS Trip to London |
| Sat. 4 | UCW Geranium Coffee Break |
| Sun. 12 | Mothers' Day/Family Day |
| Sat. 18 | Messy Church |
| Sat. 25 | Antler River Watershed Region 7 Conference Service (Hamilton) |
| Sun. 26 | Gentlemen of Harmony Concert |

June

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|---------|------------------------------------|
| Sun. 2 | UCW Sunday |
| Fri. 7 | PA Day |
| Sun 9 | Pentecost/Union Sunday |
| Sun. 9 | Sunday School Picnic Memorial Park |
| Sat. 15 | Messy Church |
| Sat. 15 | Turtle Fest |
| Sun. 16 | Fathers' Day |
| Sat. 22 | AOTS Golf Outing/BBQ |
| Sun. 23 | Aboriginal Sunday |
| Sun. 30 | Canada Day Service |

July

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|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Canada Day |
| 14 | Environment Sunday (Laurel Beechey) |
| Sat. 20 | Messy Church |

August

September

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Sun. 8 | Welcome Back Service/Brunch |
| Sun. 15 | AOTS Chicken BBQ |
| Sat. 21 | Messy Church |

