



Under the Dome

April 2017

St. Paul's United Church
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“I know that my Redeemer lives.”
Job 19:25 NIV



Dear Friends,

As each day passes, the daylight hours get a little longer and are a gentle reminder that we are nearing another change of season. Even though snow still swirls in the air, we know the warm gentle breezes and sound of spring birds will soon return. And sprouting flowers will begin to bloom so we can enjoy the rich vibrant array of colour which symbolizes new life and growth for another season.

Our church year is full of many seasons. The colour for the season of Lent is **PURPLE**. It is a period of quiet reflection, a time of preparation, a seeking of forgiveness as we proceed toward Easter weekend. Each week during Lent we extinguish a candle, marking another week passed while traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem; a journey that draws Christ nearer to the Cross.

While following Christ's ministry, it makes us aware of the talents we have to offer. Using our talents, we can assist people in our community and the universal world at large. I have a power band that serves as a witnessing tool and is a reminder of the Call we are to follow and the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

The band is a narrow strip of leather with a knot on either end. The bracelet is held together with a clear bead. Approximately four inches along the strip of leather there is another knot. This **KNOT** represents when we were born. It is followed by six coloured beads then a knot. The **BLACK** bead represents the darkness or sin in the world. We are confronted with darkness each day and trust in Christ's light to guide us through.

The **RED** bead is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed for the sins of the world.

The **WHITE** bead is the brightest colour of all. It symbolizes forgiveness to those who trust in Jesus and the gift of eternal life.

The **BLUE** bead signifies baptism and is a reminder of the vows and commitment we make to follow the Way of Jesus.

The **GREEN** bead implies spiritual growth which occurs when we pray, worship, read the Bible and gain a better understanding of the stories of Jesus.

The **YELLOW** bead represents heaven and glory with Christ.

The **LAST KNOT** stands for the end of our life.

The **CLEAR** bead which holds the band together is Christ's Call to us to put our faith in Him.

These are the colours of Easter and a reminder for us to share the Good News with all whom we meet. So, this Easter, inspired by the new hope we are given of eternal life through Christ's resurrection, let us shout together, **“ALLELUIA! JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN INDEED.”**

I look forward to seeing you on Good Friday April 14th, Easter Sunday April 16th, and regular worship throughout the year. All services are at our regular worship time of 10:30 A.M. May God's Blessing be with you and your family this Easter season.

Yours in Christ
Rev. Pat Cook



Message from the Chair of Council

*“What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it:*

*Words and music by Kurt Kaiser - words and music used
by permission of Budjohn Songs*

These words from the second verse of “It Only Takes a Spark” summarize my personal feeling about this time of year – spring leading into the Easter season. What a glorious scene to watch the growth, the colours become vibrant and emerging from all things dormant --- new life. Look around and watch the beauty unfold. So it is with Easter – we celebrate the Risen Christ who gave His life for all and rose again!!! We certainly desire to sing and pass on the good news.

You want to sing, it’s fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

At the Annual Meeting the congregation elected 14 people who form the Council of our church. In addition there are many others serving on committees. Still others work silently behind the scenes doing “whatever is necessary” whenever it is necessary. Still others contribute time, talents and financial support. All of these “volunteers” combined with our Staff make St. Paul’s a very vibrant church community. Council meets monthly to hear reports and make decisions as necessary.



The following are some highlights from the last two months:

The **Restoration** team have “signed off” on the construction meaning that Service Master has completed their work. There are still outstanding insurance claims to be reimbursed and some replacement items to be obtained.

Council approved a motion to ask the Settlement Committee of London Conference to **reappoint** Rev. Pat Cook effective July 1, 2017-- Dec.31, 2017. This is a process that will take a few months to complete.

The **Trustees** continue their ongoing tasks including managing the investments, renewing the insurance and completing cleanup of the property (removing the fence from between the Manse and the Church).

The **Property Committee** with the help of the custodian has completed a great cleanup of many items that were left over from the flood such as old items that needed to be removed from hallways and storage areas. Our building is almost back to “normal” – neat and tidy and welcoming to all.

The **Finance Committee** is continuing to monitor our monthly finances. We had to purchase a new hot water heater costing \$6902.79. It is unexpected expenditures that cause concern but are necessary. We are all well aware that our congregation has two **major financial projects** for this year –the organ restoration and painting the dome for a total of about \$65,000.00 - \$70,000.00. Your ongoing support to these projects would be appreciated by all. How soon can we raise the necessary dollars to support these commitments? Thank you to all for working to meet these goals.

Did you know? With the flood damage both the office of the minister and the CD Coordinator received new furniture. Needing an upgrade the office of the Admin Assistant now has new furniture. What a great improvement. Thanks to all who helped make this change take place. That office is now a very professional looking and welcoming space.

On Sunday March 31, we held a **very successful brunch** to say welcome back to everyone now that things have returned to normal. We also wanted to say a big thank you to Avondale and St. John’s for providing us with space for events and great spiritual support. About 155 enjoyed a very tasty brunch prepared and served by Beres’ Catering. Our donation basket collected over \$400.00. It was a very special event with good food and an amazing time for fellowship. Many thanks to all!!!!

Thank you for your continuing support. If you have any comments/concerns and /or questions let us know. Keep the lines of communication open --- that is extremely important to all!

Mary Anne Silverthorn
519-421-3241
m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca



Who Wants to Peel 2.2 Tonnes of Potatoes?

Nobody – but that is the approximate weight of potatoes that we have served at the Community Kitchen in the last seven years. At the end of April this year we will have completed seven years of serving hot meals through our Community Kitchen at St. Paul's outreach program. Every Saturday at 11:30 a.m., from Thanksgiving through to the end of April, we host a free meal for those in need in our community. The meal usually consists of juice and salad, a meat course, vegetables, potatoes, gravy (depending upon meat course), bread, pickles and dessert. On average, our four teams of volunteers serve about 60 meals per week. By the time we finish this season we will have served approximately 11,340 meals since the inception of this program in 2010!

How on earth do you shop for a program like this? What would the shopping list look like?

If we added all of our meals together in one large shopping list it would look something like this:

Seven Year Shopping List – Community Kitchen

Item	Imperial Quantity	Metric Quantity	Comments
Beef (usually ground)	1,870 lb	850 kg	
Chicken/Turkey	1,700 lb	770 kg	
Pork/Ham/Other	560 lb	255 kg	
Gravy	80 gal	360 l	
Vegetables	2,080 lb	945 kg	
Potatoes	4,725 lb	2,150 kg	
Bread	750 loaves	750 loaves	Donated from Sobey's
Salad and garnishes	945 lb	430 kg	
Pickles - assorted	165 gal	750 l	
Pies	710	710	slices per pie (8)
Cakes	225	225	equiv 9" x 13" cake pan
Ice Cream	100 gal	455 l	
Puddings/Other deserts	2,260	2,260	servings
Juice	330 gal	1,500 l	
Coffee	680 gal	2,580 l	
Tea	60 gal	270 l	
Milk/Cream	660 qt	750 l	
Sugar/Sweetener packets	10,000	10,000	

P.S. – Don't forget spices, condiments and general cooking supplies, as well as table coverings, placemats, napkins, takeout containers and cleaning supplies!

And let's also not forget about the dishes. I don't know how high the stack of pots, pans and dirty dishes from preparing and serving 11,000+ meals might be (I shudder to think about it) – but every Saturday they are all washed and put away for another use. Our volunteers are terrific.

Community Kitchen at St. Paul's is an ecumenical effort, hosted at St. Paul's but supported throughout our community. The majority of funding comes from the individual donations of members of St. Paul's. In addition, St. John's Anglican Church has been a staunch supporter, both financially and in physical effort since inception. This year, with the disruption at St. Paul's during the prolonged post-flood renovations, St. John's hosted dinners from October through to early March. We offer a tremendous thank you to our friends at St. John's!

As we plan for our eighth year, we look forward to the same terrific support we have had in the past. We anticipate having a reasonable fund to allow us to start the year without any problems. Your continued support as we progress through next year is greatly appreciated and put to very good use serving those in need in our community.

If you would like to contribute, either financially or by joining one of our four volunteer teams please contact Laurie Drew at (519) 842-8786 or the Church Office at (519) 688-0011.

By the way – about peeling that 2.2 tonnes of potatoes, we learned that we could save considerable workload and expense by buying our potatoes in commercial-sized semi-processed form. No more peeling!

Laurie Drew
Program Coordinator
Community Kitchen at St. Paul's

Hooked on Music

Mark your calendars for the **2017 Hooked On Music** series. Performances are Sunday afternoons beginning at 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the **Woodstock Choralaires**. First up on **April 23rd** is the instrumental quartet **Blazing Fiddles** followed by the cappella male quartet **Cadence Unplugged** on **May 28th**. Juno award winner classical guitarist and vocalist **Robert Michaels** entertains on **Sept. 24th** and the season wraps up with the locally acclaimed **Woodstock Choralaires** on **Oct. 22nd**. Series tickets for this stellar line-up are just \$80 with tickets for individual concerts at \$25. Contact the church office at 688-0011, or Dianne Parnell at 688-3280.



Maundy Thursday Supper April 13



You are invited to come to dinner Thursday April 13th to remember Jesus' last supper by sharing the Passover meal. Dinner is planned for 6:00 p.m. with Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. The menu includes roast lamb and chicken which is provided. We would like diners to bring the remaining dishes as it is a planned potluck. Needed are potatoes, peas and carrots, tossed salad, hard boiled eggs, fruit salad, and grape juice. Each dish should serve 10 people. We need to know in advance if you intend to attend and what you will bring. Please contact Margo Leachman at 842-5804 to express your intentions. She can advise you about which items may be required, Hope you can join and share with us.

Newsletter for Spring (Easter)

As I write this – its very cold outside with a smattering of snow on the ground – but --- spring is in the air. I see the robins around and I see some early flowers trying to poke their heads out of the ground.

Spring will come with all its new growth and promises for the warmth and sun. Winter with its cold and starkness will fade from our memories. As I reflect on this – I think of Christ – the starkness of the cross and the cruel death that He was subjected to but --- then I think of His resurrection – and His promise of eternal life for all of us – in Heaven with Him. What a beautiful day that will be for each of us.

Our PA day program has been going well. We have been averaging between 17-19 children each session. We can always use more help. The children have been learning about being firefighters, always being prepared with the right equipment, proper training, etc and how – we – as firefighters for Christ must be prepared as well. We are prepared with our bibles and our prayers, telling others about Jesus Christ and preparing to step in and help , where needed – whether it be a meal or a kind word – whatever the need.

It has been a blessing to welcome some new helpers in the Sunday school – namely Esther Sol and Norma Collis as well as Sybil Sharpe and Holly Hansen. Not only that but we have added to our numbers thanks to Wayne Beard and Emily May – who pick up and bring several children to Sunday school every week.

Our children in Sunday school have been learning about the life of Jesus this year- including his ministry and how Jesus loved everyone – the sick, the hungry, the poor, the despised. They also learned that Jesus cared about the animals as well.

They donated monies to Helping Paws Rescue to help out. The children are learning to love Jesus and to lean on Him. We had major excitement with the children on March 12 as they returned to their Sunday school rooms. What a blessing to see their excitement as they entered their classrooms for the first time since last July.

We are excited to have a few events coming up that we hope to see you at.

May 27 – rummage sale – see bulletin for details

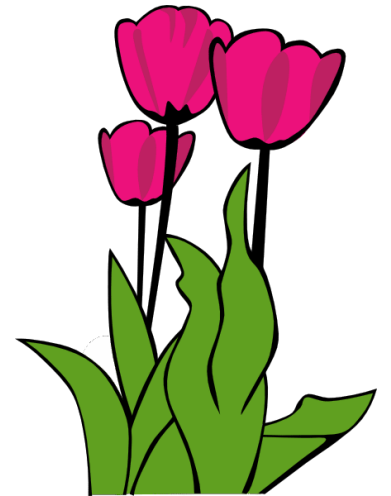
June 11 – Grand Finale of PA Day and hot dog lunch.

June 25 – Graduation Ceremony for Sunday School kids and Sunday School picnic

Starting the first part of April – volunteers from Glendale High School will be painting Kids Town and we hope to have the unveiling of the new room on June 11.

I leave with you Hebrews 13:15,16 “Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are sacrifices that please God.”

Karen Hodges, Sunday School Coordinator



Card Parties - Court Whist

If you have seen the notices about St. Paul’s “card parties” and wonder what is going on – read on. The game we play is called “Court Whist”, which is a non-gambling variation of the centuries-old game of whist.

First, the mechanics...

Court Whist is played by teams of four who play against all the other teams, one round (one hand) at a time, in a round-robin format. Two members of the team will play as partners at the “home” table, while the other two will play at another team’s table. During the course of an evening, everyone will play 20 hands, and after every round each player will play with a different partner at the next table in the rotation. This may sound complicated but it is very easy to follow – you will have a guide card to tell you where to play on every round.

Normally, in the course of an evening every player gets to play against each of the players on the other teams. So, if you don’t know all of your opponents before the game starts, you will certainly have the opportunity to meet them during the game.

The game is a simple trick-taking game. Sometime you want to take the most tricks, and sometimes you don’t. The rules are easy to learn and understand. If you haven’t played before, we will quickly teach you.

A word about card play...

We don’t get serious and we don’t worry about whether we or our partners have made a mistake – our main objective is to have fun! In this game luck will frequently overcome good or bad play, anyway. We just play to have fun and everyone is a winner. What is most important is having a good time. The most common element every session is LAUGHTER.

Now, the really good stuff...

At the end of the evening, the players on the team that has accumulated the most points are declared the winners. It is not likely that the Tim Horton’s gift card awarded to the winners is going to change anyone’s lifestyle. As well, the team that accumulates the fewest points doesn’t go away empty-handed – they are awarded “Smarties”, presumably because of their reputed restorative power for brain function!

Yes, it is all in good fun. The whole idea is to promote a relaxed evening of fun and fellowship. In addition to the card play, there is a planned break half-way through the evening where players can socialize and partake of the refreshments. Following the play, while the coordinator determines the winners, everyone enjoys tea, coffee or juice, cake and ice cream.

Come on out and join us! Our final evening for this season is April 22 at 7:00 p.m.

You can enter as a team of four, with a partner, or even as a single. We will ensure that you get to play.

Pre-registration is preferred, but not essential. Just show up and play. Nobody gets left out!

Admission is \$10 per player. All proceeds go to the church’s general funds.

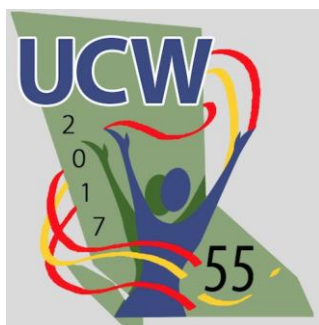
Don’t worry if you don’t think you have the skill to play cards – this game is mostly about luck and entirely about having fun! If you haven’t played before, we can teach you the rules and basic strategies of the game in just a few minutes. We do assume that you already know how to laugh and have a good time.

To register for April 22 contact Jed Drew at (519) 842-8786 or email Jed.Drew@gmail.com.

Sponsored by the Membership, Fellowship and Care Committee

UCW News

Poverty Doll update: the National UCW is now in its 4th year of a 5 year initiative to End Child Poverty in Canada. Our UCW made many dolls which went to politicians here at the Town Hall, to the Ontario Legislature and to Ottawa. In February, the government launched the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy, a process involving online discussion forums, surveys and sharing a story link. The United Church encourages all to Participate in the federal government's Public Consultations on Poverty Reduction.



The UCW will be celebrating its 55th anniversary this year. **Celebrating Spirit** will be held in Vancouver July 10-14, 2017. The logo shows the women of BC conference raise their hands and with open arms welcome the women from across Canada and Bermuda to come to BC to celebrate together, to strengthen the fellowship that has kept us joined in spirit and in service for the past 55 years.

Unit 1 meets every fourth Monday at 1:00pm and Unit 6 meets every fourth Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. All women of the church are welcome to join us as we share worship and fellowship together. UCW General Meeting will be held Monday April 10, at 1:30pm. Marion Hevenor will tell us about the St. Paul's archives. Cake and ice cream will be served. Ladies please join us.

Announcements for You

The Ingersoll Choral Society will dedicate their Good Friday concert to Rev. Mark Ferrier's memory. This will take place Good Friday at 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ingersoll.



The **Mission and Service Fund** is used wisely as it helps to transform lives and to provide healing and hope to people and Canada and around the world. Thank you for your continued support of the work of the Mission and Service of our church.

The Lenten Special Offering will be divided equally between the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank and the United Church World Development Fund.

The Easter Special Offering will be divided equally between Camp Tanner and The Tillsonburg Salvation Army.

Could you receive future newsletters by email?

If it is possible for you to receive future newsletters by email, please let Helen in the office know. It would save many hours of printing, addressing and stamping and it would, of course, save us money.

Help Needed!

We really need ushers. Could you help? In addition, someone to organize and set up schedules is required. Doreen Smith has looked after this task for a very long time and needs a break. If this is something you could help with please contact Shirley Godfree, worship chair at 842-8580 or by email at sgodfree@oxford.net.

A special thank you to Doreen for her many hours of work. We appreciate her so much. Thank you Doreen!