

September
2018



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

Under the Dome

Page

Ministers' Message	1
Church Council	2
Sunday School	3
Music Ministry	3
Community Kitchen	4
Messy Church	4
Whist Card Party	5
A.O.T.S.	6
U.C.W.	6
Bible Study	6

Message from Rev. Karlene -

Greetings St Paul's Family,
Our publication "Under the Dome" is back and we plan to keep it going!
Please share it with others!

It's official! One-year since we came to Canada! So much has happened since! How quickly time passes when you do what you love around people who are willing to take some risk and launch out!

God has been gracious and we are thankful for how He has kept us! We will continue to do and be the best that we can do and be!

We are continually assured by Isaiah 43:2-4

"Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You're mine. When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end— Because I am GOD, your personal God," - The Message Bible

September holds significance for me. After spending sixteen years in the classroom and serving in a church where it was the beginning of the church year; there is always the feelings of new beginnings! A chance to turn over a new leaf and seek to do even better!

We are doing good things St Paul's but there is still much work to be done! Lives to be touched and blessings to be received. Let us be ready and available to be used as the song writer says:

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when,
and where until your blessed face I see.*

Shalom

Upcoming Events....

Messy Church ~ Saturday, September 15 from 10-12 noon

AOTS Men's Club Chicken BBQ ~ Sunday, September 16 5-6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Card Party ~ Saturday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Hooked on Music ~ Andrew Martin Concert, Sunday, September 23 at 2:30 p.m.

P.A. Day Program ~ Friday, September 28 from 8:30—4:00 p.m.

Hooked on Music ~ Roy LeBlanc as Elvis, Sunday, October 2 at 2:30 p.m.

U.C.W. Frosty Fair ~ Saturday, November 17 from 9 to 12 noon

88 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg

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From the Church Council -

Summer has passed. Though retired for 20 years it always seems hard to believe that September denotes the beginning of the last quarter of the year. Reminiscing.... Summer of 2017 ... excited and filled with anticipation; renting living accommodation, collecting furniture, assembling all kinds of materials needed for an apartment and travelling off to the Toronto airport in mid August to meet "our new minister".



Rev Karlene and Desmond arrived and what an exciting year it has been! Rev Karlene's enthusiasm has been very infectious. New programmes, new members, new volunteers, and many new projects started all under Rev. Karlene's leadership and her desire to increase our family and share our good news throughout the town, Oxford Presbytery and the wider church.

With Floyd's retirement, Desmond joined the team to assist Ron. He survived snow shovelling, the ice storms and now is busy with outdoor work. Ron continues faithfully, our building sparkles. We supported Desmond's as his father's health failed and his subsequent death. They returned to Jamaica to be with family but they came back and stated "This is home now!". That is wonderful news to our ears. Thank you to both of you for becoming part of the family at St. Paul's.

Much has happened this year.

- Messy Church became a reality and the attendance of children and their families is outstanding. Thanks to Norma, Karlene and all volunteers.
- After a congregation information meeting; Council acted on the recommendation from the Trustees to sell the Manse. The process has begun. Presbytery has approved the sale. The process has far to go but we are moving ahead.
- In, June, Property brought a quote for air condition in the sanctuary to Council. We felt it was only possible through either a fundraising campaign or donations. **Miracles really do happen!!!** After one conversation then a few more, by Council Executive meeting on July 30 we had over \$15,000.00 committed for the project. We proceeded and completed by late August. **That truly shows the generosity of the families of St. Paul's and that God does work in mysterious ways.** Thank you to all those who contributed in any way to another very successful project.

Now it's September and we "gear up" for the fall work.

- All regular activities will resume.
- Council will begin its monthly meetings on September 18 to carry on the business of St. Paul's.

As we move into the fall, thank you sincerely to all for your support during the summer. Just a little reminder that our finances are beginning to fall behind and need everyone's attention. Any assistance you can give would be greatly appreciated.



If you have comments/ concerns/ questions please feel free to contact me at any time by email at m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca or phone at 519-421-3241. I will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours.

As we begin September "let us open ourselves, our body, our mind, and our spirit and let God's Spirit in".

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Silverthorn
Chairperson - St. Paul's Council

From the Sunday School Committee -

We have had a fun year as we studied the book of Genesis and learned about all the interesting people in there. There were a variety of crafts that I hoped would bring the lessons home to the children.

Our P.A. Day program saw an average of 15 children and our VBS held in Spring Break was approximately the same number.



This summer has been spent getting ready for the fall with new curriculum for each of our age groups and we have had some new volunteers step up this year.

We will be running 4 separate classes: *Toddlers* - basic bible stories and crafts, *Children* - will be a look through the Bible - both the Old and New Testaments as well as assigned crafts and *Tweens* - they will be doing a study based on Who God is and building on that. There will be extra scripture verses and a small craft for them as well and our *Youth group* - will be “grappling” with every day situations that concern them - from Finding Hope in a Hopeless World and How to make smart decisions.

Our P.A. Days are ready to commence again at the end of September and this year our theme is F.R.O.G. which stands for Fully Rely On God.

It always feels like there aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done but - God does provide. Somehow He makes each hour stretch to provide time needed to accomplish these tasks. I am so blessed to have help from Brenda Marshall this past year as she stepped up to help with crafts for the P.A. Days and other tasks as needed. I'm so glad she retired!

Proverbs 22:6 - *Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.*

In Christian love,
Karen Hodges, Sunday School Co-ordinator

Music Ministry -

After summer vacation we will be all set to start rehearsals THURSDAY SEPT. 6 at 7:00 pm.



We have purchased seven new pieces and a new Cantata. Something fresh and exciting. As you may have noticed the choir is getting smaller. I really need your HELP! You do not have to have a trained voice, only a love for singing and a BASIC understanding of music. We are in dire need of Altos, Tenors and Bases. Some may think that they have to commit for the whole year but if you would like to come out for the Cantata or for a month or two here and there, it would be very much appreciated. The church will benefit from your voice. Give it a try for a few weeks and see if it would be something for you. If not, I will understand. Any questions please send me an email to vermeer@xplornet.com

Hope to hear from you!

Shelley
Music Director

***Love God with all our heart—
through music, we each have our opportunity to show how much.***



From the Community Kitchen -

We volunteers of the Community Kitchen at St. Paul's are so looking forward to the start of our NINTH season – it is amazing to me how time has passed so quickly.



In this length of time, we have developed relationships and friendships with each other as volunteers and as guests. I would think that part of the reason our diners like to come here is that we know a lot of them by name, and the social aspect is special, now. Of course, the meals we provide are also special and delicious (I hope!), and that doesn't hurt, either.

We will start this year on Saturday, October 13th and continue until April 27th, 2019.

If this service is something you think you might be interested in helping with, please contact me and discuss your preferences.

Laurie Drew

Coordinator, Community Kitchen at St. Paul's
519-842-8786

Messy Church -

Messy Church offers an alternative church experience for those for whom Sunday church worship is not viable. The Messy Church "Order of Service" follows the same format at each gathering. There is staggered entrance and snacks, then 8 to 10 theme related craft centers, followed by a sing-along and story-time, after this everyone sits down and eats a meal together.



Our first Messy Church was in February 2018. We meet 3rd Saturdays of each month, time: 10am to 12 noon. Our team is made up of 15 persons: 7 from St. Paul's and the others from the community at large. We also have "guest" crafters who offer their talent on a one-off basis.

We average 28 to 34 in attendance each time, with infants and toddlers through to teenagers participating. Themes are varied and exciting including: - July "Whatever Floats Your Boat" (the story of Noah), August "Campfires and Fireflies" and September 15 "All Creatures Great and Small" Our special guests in September will be Laurel Beechey and her educational baby skunk - Shimmering Hope.

Thanks to the Oxford Presbytery "Possibilities Fund", St. Paul's United: board, UCW, Worship Committee, AOTS and private individuals for donations of money, food and materials. Special thanks to the Community Kitchen teams who graciously included us in their Saturday lunch events.

Norma Collis
Coordinator

Tillsonburg Court Whist Card Party at St. Paul's -

Resuming in September!

For the past several years we have enjoyed the fun and fellowship of our monthly St. Paul's "card parties". We will be resuming in September and will play on the fourth Saturday evening of every month September through to June (*except for Dec. 22, when we will set back one week to Dec. 29*).



More about Whist

The game we play is called "Court Whist", which is a non-gambling variation of the centuries-old game of whist. 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. The most common element every session is LAUGHTER.

Now, the really good stuff...

At the end of the evening, the team with the most points is declared 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 with the fewest points is awarded "Smarties", reputed to have restorative power for brain function!

There is a planned break half-way through the evening where players can socialize and enjoy refreshments. After 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 schedule for the 2018-19 season is as follows:

You don't have to make up your own team, or even find your own partner. Just show up and we will ensure that you get to play. Nobody gets left out! Visitors and Guests are Welcome. This event is open to the public and is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from within our own community and elsewhere.

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

Registration: To register for any session contact Jed Drew at (519) 842-8786 or email Jed.Drew@gmail.com.

We would prefer pre-registration however we will accommodate players that show up.

We Look Forward to Your Participation – Come Out and Have Fun!

Sponsored by St. Paul's Membership, Fellowship and Care Committee

Jed Drew

A.O.T.S. Men's Club



Chicken BBQ Supper

on Sunday, September 16th from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults: \$16.00 ~ Children: \$5.00 Age 6-12 and (under 5) Free



Tickets are now available from AOTS members, Coward Pharmacy and the church office.

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Anyone who wishes to join us for Breakfast in the Banquet Hall on Sunday, October 14th at 8:00 a.m. would be most welcome.



United Church Women...



Frosty Fair Bazaar

Saturday, November 17

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

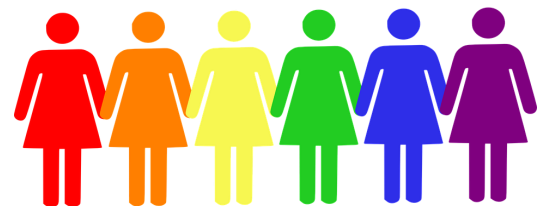


Baking, Delhi, Jams, Jellies & Pickles
Knitting, Vendors Market & Tea Room

1. The Friendship Room Kitchen is going to be renovated to make it more efficient.
2. The Vesey Bulb Campaign will end on September 16 so get your orders in as soon as possible.
3. Bazaar will be on Saturday, November 17 from 9 am to noon.
4. We are hosting the dinner for Presbytery on November 14.
5. Watch the bulletin for meeting dates for our Knitting group.

Unit One meets the Fourth Monday afternoon of each month and Unit Six the Fourth Wednesday evening of each month.

All women of the congregation
are welcome to attend!



Bible Study -

All are welcome to come to 11 Peach St. on Friday, October 12 at 9.45 a.m. to join our Bible Study group. We are working our way through the Gospel of Matthew. As we consider the teachings of Jesus, we try to apply them to our daily lives. It is a warm and welcoming group. For more info, please contact Ruth Francis 519 688-7724.

