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2020 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S – 10:30 A.M.

February 23	Worship
March 1	Worship Soup Sunday
March 8	Worship
March 15	Worship Community Cupboard
March 22	Worship
March 29	Worship
April 5	Palm Sunday Communion Soup Sunday
April 12	Easter Sunday
April 19	Worship Community Cupboard
April 26	Worship
May 3	Worship Soup Sunday
May 10	Worship

May 17	Worship Community Cupboard
May 24	Worship
May 31	Worship Front Porch Shenanigans Gospel Sunday
June 7	Worship Communion Soup Sunday
June 14	Worship
June 21	Worship Community Cupboard
June 28	Worship
July 5 – September 6	Worship in Lower Hall

Would you buy a used car from this person?

Let's say you're in the market for a car. Not a brand new one, but a good quality used car. After making the rounds of car dealers, you find one salesperson with a unique pitch. Your conversation:

"I've got just what you need! It's absolutely perfect for you!"

"Great! Show me and I'll take a look."

"Well, I don't actually have it right here. But believe me, it's a great car!"

"How can I know that for sure?"

"Trust me. The boss of my sister-in-law's neighbour has one, and I heard that it drives like a dream. Good on gas, too."

"The boss of your sister-in-law's neighbour?!! Do you mean you don't know anyone who has this car?"

"Well, I wouldn't put it exactly —"

"Have you ever driven the car yourself?"

"Uh, no. But I know it's a good car."

Clearly the salesperson has never even seen the car, and is just going on third- and fourth-hand reports about it. You are not allowed to drive the car or even look at it. You have to take it all on faith. Would you buy a used car from this person? Not on your life!

That's how a lot of people think of Jesus: "Sure, you *say* he rose from the dead on Easter. You *say* he did miracles. You *say* he is the Son of God. But how do you

know? You weren't there. No one you know was there. You're just going on third- and fourth-hand reports. You want me to take it all on faith. I want to see for myself!"

There is a big difference between Jesus and a car. Many people today have experienced Jesus. Wilson Carlile, a member of the Church of England, was speaking about Jesus at an outdoor rally. A heckler called out, "How do you know he's alive?" Carlile answered, "I spoke with him for half an hour this morning."

A public meeting was once held, and the speaker was an atheist who was denouncing Christianity. He concluded by giving his audience this challenge: "If anyone can prove I am wrong, come to the platform." There was an embarrassing period of silence. Finally an elderly man stood up and walked to the stage. "Produce your proof that I am wrong," said the atheist. Without a word, the gentleman took an orange from his pocket, calmly peeled it, and ate it. Impatiently the unbeliever asked "Well, what is your proof?" The old man, a devout Christian, turned to the atheist and asked, "How did it taste?" "How would I know?" came the reply, "I didn't eat it!" "Exactly," replied the believer, "and I just showed you what I found out about Christianity. I tasted it, and it was good."

Tell someone what Jesus means in your life. Your story is more powerful than any sermon.

Steve 😊

I AM THANKFUL

For the wife
who says it's hot dogs tonight,
because she is home with me, and not
out with someone else.

For the husband
who is on the sofa being a couch
potato,
because he is home with me and not
out at the bars.

For the teenager
who is complaining about doing
dishes,
because it means she is at home, not
on the streets.

For the taxes I pay,
because it means I am employed.

For the mess to clean after a party,
because it means I have been
surrounded by friends.

For the clothes that fit a little too snug
because it means I have enough to eat.

For my shadow that watches me work
because it means I am out in the
sunshine.

For a lawn that needs mowing,
windows that need cleaning,
and gutters that need fixing,
because it means I have a home.

For all the complaining I hear about
the government,
because it means we have freedom of
speech.

For the parking spot I find at the far
end of the parking lot,
because it means I am capable of
walking and I have been blessed with
transportation.

For my huge heating bill,
because it means I am warm.

For the lady behind me in church who
sings off key,
because it means I can hear.

For the pile of laundry and ironing,
because it means I have clothes to
wear.

For weariness and aching muscles at
the end of the day,
because it means I have been capable
of working hard.

For the alarm that goes off in the early
morning hours,
because it means I am alive.

I Am a Soldier

I am a soldier in the army of my God.
The Lord Jesus Christ is my Commanding Officer.

The Holy Bible is my code of conduct.
Faith, Prayer, and the Word are my weapons of warfare.

I have been taught by the Holy Spirit,
trained by experience, tried by adversity, and tested by fire.

I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity. I will either retire in this army or die in this army.

But I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or pushed out.

I am faithful, reliable, capable, and dependable.

If God needs, me, I am there.

I am a soldier.

I am not a baby.

I do not need to be pampered, petted, pumped up, picked up, or pepped up.

I am a soldier. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, or lure me.

I am a soldier. I am not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying his orders, praising his name, and building his Kingdom!

No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy, or give me handouts.

I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for, or catered to.

I am committed.

I cannot have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit.

When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing. If I end up with nothing, I will still come out even. I will win.

My God will supply all my needs.

I am more than a conqueror.

I will always triumph.

I can do all things through Christ.

Devils cannot defeat me.

People cannot disillusion me.

Weather cannot weary me.

Sickness cannot stop me.

Battles cannot beat me.

Money cannot buy me.

Governments cannot silence me, and

Hell cannot handle me!

I am a soldier.

Even death cannot destroy me.

For when my Commander calls me from this battlefield,

he will promote me to a captain.

I am a soldier.

I'm marching, claiming victory.

I will not give up.

I will not turn around.

I am a soldier, marching, heaven bound.

Here I stand! Will you stand with me?

"Choose you this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Focus on Families

Do you think Jesus and his disciples ever played together? A game of soccer perhaps, or some game with dice in the evening? The Bible tells us nothing about how they spent their spare time when they were away from the crowds. But I think they did. The Bible tells us that children loved being with Jesus [see Matthew 21:15 and Mark 10:13], and children don't care to be with boring people.

Playing is an important part of building relationships. If someone is serious all the time... well, it's like the proverb: "You will break the bow if you keep it always bent." When

friends play, they can relax and just enjoy the time together.

When children and parents play together, that's absolutely precious. There's no work being accomplished, and the children know you're doing it purely because you enjoy being together. What a boost that is to a child's self-image!

All of us have been there...we know that families are the most important place where children will grow in faith, but how do we do it? Look for ideas here in every newsletter. (If you have a terrific approach that worked for you, please tell Donna or Bruce so we can put it here.)

Chair of Council

T. Wayne Martin, Chair

As I was trying to think of profound (I gave that idea up quickly!!) thoughts for this page, I felt "Change" would be a possible topic. Remembering Bruce's comments a few weeks ago, I turned to a Concordance for possible quotes. After reading several verses, I came across some quotes (not from the Bible) that I felt more closely reflected what I want to say.

- Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.
- Sometimes God closes doors because it's time to MOVE forward. He knows you won't move unless your circumstances force you.
- You can't start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one.

Where am I going with this? Well, we all are sad to know that Bruce is retiring, but now we have to move forward as well. Bruce has given us wonderful guidance and support during his time as Pastor at St. Paul's. Times are changing, and St. Paul's has changed a lot since we arrived in Stirling over 50 years ago.

Our 2019 Financial Report and our 2020 Budget show we have to take new approaches for St. Paul's to survive as a Congregation. I don't know what these will be, but we all have to work very hard, and discuss and maybe adopt radical changes. Remaining the same is not likely an option. Your Church Council asks you for your ideas and prayers as we go forward. As a Council, we have been working on this for sometime, but now is the time for action.

A Search Committee to start the process for a Pastor after Bruce retires is the first step, but at the same time we have to seriously consider the face of St. Paul's in the very near future. In fact, we may have to make some major changes before going too far forward. One of these changes may involve discussions on whether we can continue a full time Pastor. This is a discussion point only at this time. What suggestions do you have? What are you prepared to do to move St. Paul's forward?

Many of our members and organizations contribute greatly to the broader community. Please take time to read the reports in this Annual Report to see what is happening, and yes, Council and all the groups can use extra members and volunteers.

We are also fortunate to have a dedicated, super staff - Bruce, Donna, Bonnie, Arlene and Bill, and Roxanne. Your work is not taken for granted, but we don't always say thank you -

THANK YOU

Worship Life Committee

Joyce Reid, Chair

As we enter the Easter Season, a time of new beginnings, we should remember the song "Count Your Blessings". Think of all the benefits with which God has blessed us. Remember to say "Thanks" to God. Ask the question "How can I be a blessing to our Church and others?"

Flowers for Easter Sunday

The Worship Life Committee welcomes donations which will be used to purchase live plants for our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You may want to contribute in loving memory of a relative or friend. Names of those remembered and donors will be included in a special insert with the Easter Sunday bulletin.

The Committee will receive financial donations, purchase plants and place them in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The plants, with Easter Cards and the Easter Bulletin will be delivered to our people in Long Term care, hospitals and to those in need of a special Easter Blessing.

If you wish to donate in memory of someone, please give names in writing to the organizers Joyce Reid, Deanna Maxwell, Judy Mewett or Donna Carleton, our church secretary. We need to have all donations in by **April 5th** so that flowers can be ordered.

FRONT PORCH SHENANIGANS - GOSPEL SUNDAY SERVICE

Join us Sunday, **May 31st** at 10:30 a.m.. The service will feature artist from Front Porch Shenanigans, Dave Bush and St. Paul's Choir.

The Gospel service will be followed by a tasty lunch. Bring friends and enjoy wonderful gospel music.

The Quinte Society for Chamber Music: MILESTONES
Bonnie Sallans, Music Director

2020 marks the five-year anniversary of the inception of the Quinte Society for Chamber Music (QSCM)! To celebrate we have much in store for all.

May 24 join us as "The All Terrain Tour" touches down at St. Paul's with string quartet in full concert. In honour of his roots in the Hasting's County community Sebastian Sallan's has renamed his string quartet the Madoc Quartet, an ensemble of four highly accomplished string players committed to bringing the best of chamber music to our rural communities. QSCM's **"Meet the Composer", May 24 at 3 p.m.** brings the Madoc Quartet to St. Paul's with music for string quartet by Haydn, Grieg, and a world premiere of a new work by Canadian Composer Jacques Marchand. Refreshments and conversation with Marchand and the Quartet musicians follow the concert. That's **"Meet the Composer" - The Madoc Quartet in Concert, Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets \$20 available at www.qscmusic.com, Stirling Home Hardware (after April 2) and at the door.**

The Madoc Quartet will also be performing outreach events at Hazzards Corners, north of Madoc and the new craft Brewery in Madoc, 7/62. These pocket performances are one hour interactive, conversational performances in which the musicians explain the music as it is being presented, and conversation over refreshments with the audience is encouraged. There will be cookies! Join us for the outreach on May 22 (Hazzards Corners Church, 7 p.m.) and May 23 (7/62 Craft Brewery, Madoc, 4 p.m.), then arrive informed to the concert May 24 to enjoy the whole program.

Fall 2020 marks five years since our first concert. For this celebration we have invited The Canadian Trio, a world class ensemble led by associate concert master of the Toronto Symphony, Mark Skazinetsky to perform, November 1, 3 p.m. at St. Paul's in Stirling. Outreach events associated with this concert will make this festival of string experience a beautiful and enlightening experience for all. Sign on at www.qscmusic.com for our e-newsletter and stay abreast of the planning for these events.

In the fall of 2015, QSCM was born of the love of classical music shared by a small group of dedicated volunteers and supported by the congregation of St. Paul's. Since then QSCM has presented at least two major concert events featuring high profile internationally acclaimed artists each year. QSCM is now a registered Ontario non-profit as well as a registered charity and last year was awarded an Ontario Arts Council grant.

The primary goal for QSCM always has been to provide professional level art music to the rural communities in the Quinte region and at a reasonable ticket

price. This past year, ticket prices ranged from \$10 to \$20, less than the price for parking in Toronto for access to the same quality performances (and often the same performers) available in larger centres. The ability to keep ticket prices low is in large part due to the generosity of local donors and a membership base. An annual \$20 membership also provides discounted prices for concert tickets.

As well as presenting internationally-acclaimed artists, QSCM also supports emerging young Canadian musicians, including pianists, string players, guitarists and composers. Last September, QSCM presented "Made in Canada", with classical guitarists Nathan Bredeson and Michael Ibsen performing an entire concert of works by living Canadian composers. The upcoming concerts this May will be featuring a new work by Quebec composer Jacques Marchand.

QSCM's flagship concerts take place at St. Paul's United Church in Stirling. With the support generated by this community, QSCM has been able to take the show on the road for outreach events including the "All Terrain Tour," in 2018, and coming up this spring. These events are all about bringing the music to the people and have proven highly successful.

As part of our educational outreach program, QSCM also offers master classes in conjunction with many of the concerts. One or more of the concert artists gives individual lessons to local music students that are open to the public to attend. This is an invaluable resource for aspiring young musicians (and their teachers) to learn from professional performing artists. To date, master classes have been offered for piano, voice and string students at various times. www.qscmusic.com is the place to go for more details about all we do, and includes a list of our donors and supporters. If you would like to take part in the work of making classical music accessible to all in our community, contact us at info@qscmusic.com, or talk to Bonnie, Ross or Doug at St. Paul's. QSCM remains thankful to the congregation of St. Paul's for their ongoing support in this endeavor.