



## St. Paul's United Church

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**Our Pastor: Bruce Fraser**

### **2017 Easter-Spring Newsletter Worship at St. Paul's-10:30 a.m.**

<b>April 2</b>	Worship Soup Sunday
<b>April 9</b>	Worship Palm Sunday Communion Special Music with Elizabeth McDonald
<b>Friday, April 14</b>	Good Friday 10:00 a.m. Gathering and Prayers at the Covered Bridge 10:30 a.m. Good Friday Ecumenical Service Hosted by St. John's Anglican Church
<b>April 16</b>	Worship Easter Sunday Community Cupboard Sunday
<b>Tuesday, April 18</b>	The 67 <sup>th</sup> Annual Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise begins
<b>April 23</b>	Worship
<b>April 30</b>	Worship
<b>May 7</b>	Worship Soup Sunday Pulpit Supply Pam Gray
<b>Saturday, May 13</b>	Quinte Society for Chamber Music Concert "Women on the Verge" 7:00p.m.
<b>May 14</b>	Worship Mother's Day Christian Family Day
<b>May 21</b>	Worship Community Cupboard Sunday

**May 28** Gospel Service Worship  
Pulpit Supply Jeff Kohlsmith  
Conference Meeting

**June 4** Worship  
Soup Sunday

**June 11** Worship

**June 18** Worship  
Father's Day  
Community Cupboard

**Saturday, June 24** Concert-Happy Harmony  
7:00 p.m.

**June 25** Worship

**Good News on Good Friday**

**Joint Service on April 14**

**by Stirling churches**

10:00 a.m. Prayers at covered bridge

10:30 a.m. Worship at St. John's  
Anglican Church (73 North Street)



**THE DAY DEATH DIED**

## Fear Is a Good Thing

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

This is just one of many places in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament, where we are told to “fear God.” For the average person, that kind of talk evokes an image of God like a mean and nasty person who wants us to cower in fear, and obey him because we are terrified of the consequences. That’s the very kind of thinking which has turned countless people away from God. I don’t blame them. I wouldn’t want to serve that kind of God, either.

So what does it mean, then, to “fear God”? It is the natural and normal response of a human in the presence of God, who is holy, mighty, wise, eternal, beyond anything we can describe.

Here’s an example. In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus and the disciples are crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat. While Jesus catches up on some badly needed sleep, a fierce storm comes up. Remember that several of the disciples were fishers, and they were used to bad weather. But when the waves started swamping the boat, even they were scared for their lives. They woke Jesus – not expecting him to do anything, but just in sheer panic. To their amazement, Jesus spoke to the storm, “Hush, be still.” And to their astonishment, the storm obeyed him. Before they had been merely scared. Now they were completely terrified, and with eyes bulging out they asked one another, “Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

They weren’t afraid that Jesus was going to hurt them; he had just saved their lives. It was the kind of fear that leads to awe, reverence and worship.

Oswald Chambers said, “The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else.”

Stop for a moment. Think about that. If you fear God, then you don’t need to worry about what others might say about you or do to you. If you fear God, you can laugh at all those phobias – they can’t touch you. If you fear God, then death has no power over you.

There’s an old story of an invading army sacking a village. The residents were fleeing for their lives, while the soldiers looted the homes. To his surprise, one soldier found a monk calmly standing inside his cottage. “Don’t you realize who I am?” demanded the soldier. “I can run you through with my sword and think nothing of it!” The monk replied, “Don’t you realize who I am? I can be run through with your sword and think nothing of it.”

There’s another phrase found even more often throughout the Bible: it’s God telling people, “Fear not.” Because of Jesus’ victory over death, and his promise to those who put their faith in him, we truly have nothing to fear.

Happy Easter to all!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. R. R." followed by a simple smiley face emoji (☺).

## **Focus on Families**

### **Report cards and graduation**

Some people say that competition at school, and in other areas of life, prepares children for the competitiveness of the real world. This may be.

But Christian parents can't let this experience stand alone. Our children have to learn to live in this world; they also need a vision of what it could be like. In God's kingdom, people don't need to compete for love, attention, forgiveness, justice, material goods. These are given and shared generously among God's faithful people.

Our children need to know that education contributes to the well-being of individuals and society for its own sake—not just to careers and getting ahead. I didn't win any scholarships. I never stood at the top of my class. I never had a high-powered and high-paying job. Yet my life has been greatly enriched by my education—and I hope my family and community has been too! Our children would function with less tension and more joy if they understood—from us—what a privilege it is to learn, what a pleasure education can bring to life. Then it wouldn't matter if they were at the bottom of the academic competition—as long as they were learning, as long as they were doing their best, without coming under pressure to excel in the race for power.

We need to help our children develop their academic abilities. But we also need to let

them know that love doesn't have to be earned. It doesn't depend on doing well. Even if they're brilliant, they are no better and no more valued than brothers and sisters and friends who don't have the same ability.

Children will not get this message if parents wait breathlessly for their report cards, or make a big fuss over the child who stands first in the class while criticizing the one who got average marks. Children may feel that they have to do well academically in order to rate in the family.

Better that each child receive positive feedback for hard work, for teachers' comments, for marks where possible. Our children need to know that we love them as God does, no matter what their marks.

- Except from *Christian Parenting*, by Donna Sinclair and Yvonne Stewart  
*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 Karen or Bruce so we can put it here*

## **If I Had My Life to Live Over by Erma Bombeck**

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded. I would have eaten the popcorn in the GOOD living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace. I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed. I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage. I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life. I would

have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I wasn't there for the day. I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime. Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment realizing that the wonderment growing inside me was! The only chance in life to assist God in a miracle. When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's" and more "I'm sorry's" but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute.....look at it and really see it ... live it! And never give it back.

## **Meet People Who Met Jesus**

Starting Easter Sunday, and for the five weeks following, we're going to have special guests at St. Paul's. These are all people who knew Jesus, and whose lives were transformed as a result (well, one exception: Pilate wasn't interested in changing).

People often find these story sermons most interesting: you get a feel for what it was like to be right there with Jesus. This will be a great time to invite a friend to come with you to church: "Our pastor is doing something special the next six weeks. I think you'd like it. Will you come with me?"

### **St. Paul's United Church Council**

T. Wayne Martin, Chair

Whenever it is time for a "Message from Church Council", the questions are "what information do we need to update the Congregation on", and "what might the Congregation like to know". Since I rarely can answer these questions, I think back on what has happened at Council, and what are we planning.

With these thoughts in mind, I will revert back to a theme that has been indicated before, and is still in the forefront. The reason I am using the first person pronoun is that I am expressing Council's thoughts, but they are in my words. Council held a special meeting with the topic dealing with where St. Paul's is, and how we might ensure that St. Paul's is here in the future. No, in one meeting we have not solved the question, but we did make some progress in making a start. Fortunately several members of the Congregation joined us and actively participated in the discussion. This is critical - we need input from as many as possible.

St. Paul's is not unique in trying to determine our Church future. Many churches have and are experiencing declining church membership. There are no simple answers as far as we know, and probably no one answer. We started out by agreeing quickly that it is important that St. Paul's has a place in the future. NOW - how do we accomplish that? We will be holding another meeting on this topic soon. Your input will be important, and the Congregation will be advised.

Probably the St. Paul's of the future will be different from what we are familiar with today. Will our numbers increase? Only if we have something to offer to people that meets their needs and ours. Will we always meet in our present building? Not likely unless our numbers increase, and that is what is desired. Can we worship God in a different manner than what we are familiar with today? Certainly, but we have to decide what is important in expressing our faith, and can we do it differently without compromising what is important. More questions than answers, but I have long observed if you are standing still, in actual fact you are probably going backwards.

STAY TUNED!

### **Finance and Stewardship Committee**

Robert Vandervoort, Chair

Spring is upon us; trees are being tapped, crocuses are peeking through and the sun is becoming warmer. Let us all make the effort to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather and to attend our church services on Sunday mornings.

As we well know, the day to day cost of living continues to increase. St. Paul's is no exception to this reality. Increases in hydro and gas costs, maintenance supplies, insurance and remuneration for our church staff have resulted in the need to match these increases through our givings.

On behalf of St. Paul's United Church, the Finance and Stewardship Committee would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We do, however, need additional financial support this year to meet our 2017 expenses.

In honour of those who preceded us, for ourselves and for future generations, we ask for your continued support in maintaining our church.

As we welcome Spring and count the many gifts which God has granted, let us consider sharing these gifts through your generous support of the St. Paul's Church General Fund.

Committee Members: Sandra Brett, Rod Clarke, Lianne Radocsay, Mike Wells, Roxanne Hearn, Treasurer.

### **Worship Life Committee**

Your Worship Life committee will be organize the Easter Flowers again this year. The committee will receive financial donations, purchase plants and place them in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The plants with Easter Cards and Easter Bulletins will be delivered to our people in Long Term care, hospitals and those in need of a special Easter Blessing.

### **United Church Women Report**

Our January pot luck lunch, due to weather, was postponed until February, and we met again in March. A very successful World Day of Prayer service was held on March 3, 2017 at St. Paul's. David Ward was our guest speaker. David has been on missions to the Philippines, and the Philippines was this year's theme. Seven churches took part in this service.

We continue to visit as we can, and send cards and notes to shut-ins, and deliver or mail up to 31 Bulletins/Meditations each week. These are very much appreciated. Any costs of the distribution are made possible by our U.C.W. and the Outreach Committee. It was decided to cover food expenses for the lunch after the upcoming Gospel Service in May and help with desert if needed. This is the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of U.C.W. Prior to 1961 it was the W.M.S. (Women's Missionary Society), and W.A. (Women's Auxiliary). We plan to honour this anniversary with programs and reminiscing. We confirmed at our last meeting that we may be small, but we are mighty.

Barb Martin  
Nancy Shier

### **The Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise**

The festival committee welcomes you to the 67<sup>th</sup> Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise. The festival runs from April 18-20 and April 23-27. This annual event has a long tradition of fostering faith through music. Continued membership in the Ontario Music Festival Association (OMFA) offers eligible participants an opportunity to compete at the provincial level on the recommendation of adjudicators. There is a small charge for the admission to the festival-\$1.00 per session or \$5.00 for a season's ticket. The Stars of the Festival will be on Friday May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church. The cost of the Stars of the Festival is \$3.00/Adult and .50/Child.

### **Lent/Easter Offering**

Enclosed with the Newsletter is a special Lent/Easter Envelope for additional donations in support of our **Mission and Service Fund.**

### **Front Porch Shenanigans Gospel Sunday Service**

Join us on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for special music by Dave Bush with Artists from the Front Porch Shenanigans and S. Paul's Choir. The Gospel Service will be followed by a "tasty hamburger and hot dog lunch".

*Bring your friends and enjoy wonderful Gospel Music!*

### **GOSPEL SUNDAY CALL FOR SINGERS**

St. Paul's United Church Choir invites anyone interested in singing to join in preparing special anthems for the **Gospel Sunday Service, May 28.** If we have enough voices, we can sing "I'm in this Church" (Hamphill/Kirkland) and "I'm Standing on the Rock" (Lane/Kirkland). We ask that those who wish to join in sign up to commit to attending 4 rehearsals in May, **May 4, 1, 18, 25** at 7:00 pm. so as to be ready to present at service on May 28.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the door of the Harmony Room. Signing up before May 1 is necessary so we can determine if we will have the numbers needed to perform these two pieces as arranged in four parts, and plan our use of rehearsal time accordingly.

## **New for Seniors! "Friday Fun, Food and Friendship Day"**

### **Supplies needed:**

- Reclining lawn chairs with cushions, for napping on. Must be able to fold for storage.
- Games in good condition, e.g. crokinole, cards, board games
- Seasonal decorations e.g. spring, Easter, Christmas, fall, winter etc.
- Colourful posters or large pictures for decoration
- Indoor sports equipment e.g. golf putters with practice cup, safe darts
- A few colourful table cloths
- Magazines on a variety of topics, or books of short stories or jokes etc.
- Art or craft materials and volunteers to demonstrate and assist with art or craft

### **We also need volunteer help.**

Training and support will be provided. You don't have to be an expert at anything!

#### **Volunteer Help:**

- People to pray regularly for the program as a safe, respectful, fun place for participants, and a witness to the community
- People to commit to spending a day or half day every month, or every week or two, to assist with the program
- People to provide ideas and input into the running and the evaluation of the program.
- People to help advertise with posters, especially word-of-mouth, spreading the news that St. Paul's Church is offering a place for seniors in need of assistance, and also seniors who enjoy getting together for fun and recreation

Please call Jane Fraser at [613-490-5100](tel:613-490-5100) to let us know how you can be part of this new outreach to our community.



### **Elizabeth McDonald Sings at St. Paul's**

April 9, soprano Elizabeth MacDonald will be attending service as the special guest of St. Paul's and the Quinte Society for Chamber Music.

She will sing "I know that "My Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's Messiah. Mark it on your calendar and invite your friends. You won't want to miss it!

### **ELIZABETH McDONALD**

Soprano Elizabeth McDonald enjoys a diverse career as a performer and teacher. As a young artist with both the Santa Fe Opera and the Canadian Opera Company, Elizabeth understudied and performed a number of major roles including Elettra in Mozart's Idomeneo, The Woman in Schoenberg's Erwartung, Miss Jessel in Britten's Turn of the Screw, and Jenufa in Janacek's Jenufa. She has appeared with the National Ballet Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, and the Kingston Symphony and is a regular recitalist having been featured at Virginia Polytechnic University, Eastman School of Music and the Universities of Toronto, Lakehead, Lethbridge, Queen's and Carlton, and the Off Centre Music Salon. The 2015-16 season will see Elizabeth present recitals at the Toronto Arts and Letters Club, the University of Toronto, and Bimiji State University. Oratorio work includes the soprano solos in Mendelssohn's Elijah and Poulenc's Gloria.

A voice instructor at the University of Toronto, Elizabeth's students have won major national and international awards including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition, the Canadian Opera Company Centre Stage Competition, and the Eckhardt-Grammatte Competition. They have been accepted at prestigious summer programs including the Ravinia Festival, The Schubert Institute, and COSI; as well as major graduate programs in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Elizabeth was selected as a 2012 National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Intern Teaching Program participant. She has served as an adjudicator for major voice festivals across Canada and works regularly with the Ontario Youth Choir, the Toronto Children's Chorus and lectures at the University of Toronto's annual Choral Symposium. Currently Elizabeth is the president of the Ontario Chapter of NATS and is the co-founder of the website ArtSongFinder.com.

Elizabeth holds a Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Toronto. She lives in Prince Edward County, ON with her husband and two children.

### **WOMEN ON THE VERGE**

Elizabeth returns to St. Paul's with Soprano Emily Martin and pianist Kathryn Tremills on May 13 at 7 p.m. for *Women on the Verge*. This is a voice and piano recital featuring text and poetry telling the stories of women on the verge of monumental change. The program includes Hugo Wolf's *Mignon*, Robert Schumann's, *Frauenliebe und leben* and *Try Me Good King: The Last Words of the Wives of Henry VIII* by Libby Larson. QSCM is thrilled to present Quinte's own operatic soprano Elizabeth MacDonald, American soprano Emily Martin and Toronto Pianist Kathryn Tremills in concert, May 13, 7 p.m. Tickets and details, go to [www.qscmusic.com](http://www.qscmusic.com)

