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the epistle

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, AJAX
www.stpaulsajax.org

LETTER RECEIVED AT COUNCIL

The following letter was received and read at the Council meeting on May 19th.

Dear Linda,

It is very difficult for me to write this letter; the congregation of St. Paul's United Church means a great deal to me. But after prayerful consideration, and a great deal of soul searching, I am afraid I must request a change in pastoral relationship. Effective September 25, 2011, I have accepted a call to Heritage United Church in Brantford, Ontario.

Many factors have gone into the weighing of this decision; discerning where God is calling me at this point in time and not the least of these is my family.

I will miss St. Paul's United Church, but I leave knowing that God is doing, and will continue to do, new and wonderful things in your midst. You have many strong, capable, and caring lay leaders here and I know that guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul's future will be bright.

It is my hope, and my prayer, that in the four months that remain, we can work together as a Council to tap into and harness some of that wonderful Spirit-energy that indeed is filling this place and the hearts of God's people here. You will ever be in my prayers for this is truly a special place and in my time here at St. Paul's, God has blessed me greatly just in knowing and working with all of you.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Cathy Dilts

FROM THE CHAIR OF CONGREGATION

Submitted by Bill Sheaves

Hello everyone, for those that may not have heard, our minister, Rev. Cathy Dilts has asked for a change of pastoral relations. She will be leaving our congregation September 25th. I wish her God-speed and on your behalf, I would like to thank her for her enthusiastic and inspirational ministry with us. She is on a new life journey but the path we must take, as a congregation, is a different one.

The process in seeking a new minister is a bit of a complicated affair and is one that appears that we will be able to start almost immediately. The request for change has gone to the Pastoral Relations Committee of Oshawa Presbytery and they have agreed to meet us on June12. As the United Church Manual states; all meetings involving changes in pastoral relations must be conducted by Presbytery through the Pastoral Relations Committee. We must then have a Joint Needs Assessment report (JNAC) before we even start our search. After acceptance of the JNAC report, we will form a Joint Search Committee to seek and call our new minister.

The search for a new minister is one of the most involved, but important tasks that a congregation can face. I ask that you think about this next part of our church's life and consider about who you would like (if not yourself) to be on the committees. Change is upsetting and the future, fearful but we are a small but strong, united congregation, walking with Jesus. God Bless Cathy on her journey. God Bless us all.

THANK YOU

Submitted by Madeline, Gary, Graham and Emily Oswald

It was a very sad time when my father passed away recently. The pain was eased by the overwhelming support that my family and I received from St Paul's. The cards, phone calls, e-mails, flowers and especially the hugs that poured in from our church family were so appreciated! It all served to make us feel loved and supported. We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community of faith.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

UNITED FOR PEACE

Submitted by Gail Young

Remember the United for Peace campaign that St. Paul's participated in? The United for Peace campaign of 2008/2009 allowed us time to: learn about the root causes of violence, and about the work of partners in Canada and around the world, act by calling on the Canadian government to promote peace around the world and give to support Canadian and global partners' work for peace with justice for all people. We participated in a petition process, had a special church service, guest speaker and baked some delicious dove cookies. Over 5,000 United Church members participated in the petition which urged our government to promote and practice peacemaking in Canada and globally. Contributions to the United for Peace Fund totaled over $300,000. Of these funds, $143,000 were committed to peace-related projects and programs in Israel and Palestine and $169,000 to other parts of the world including Colombia, Zambia, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Angola and South Korea.

Two Youth for Peace groups of United Church young adults visited Israel and Palestine (2009) and Colombia (2010) to learn from partners about the critical peace and conflict issues of their regions. Participants returned to Canada inspired to continue answering God's call to be peace builders.

United Church work for peace does not end with the formal closure of the two-year campaign. The United Church continues to stand with marginalized and vulnerable peoples of the world as they work for peace and justice in their communities.

In June 2011 the United Church will join with sister churches from around the globe in the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (sponsored by the World Council of Churches) to be held in Kingston, Jamaica. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences of working toward peace and hear from other peace builders about their experiences. The convocation will close with the issuing of an Ecumenical Declaration on Just Peace.

(Information regarding the United for Peace campaign is taken from a recent letter from Omega Bula, Executive Minister of the Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit of the United Church of Canada)

'TIS THE SEASON TO TRAVEL SUSTAINABLY! FAH, LA LA LA, LA, LA, LAH, LA, LAH!

Submitted by Mandy Johnson

With the price of gas reaching an all time record high last month in May, it makes more "cents" than ever to look at sustainable methods of transportation to get to every day places, including St. Paul's. Not only does every trip not taken using your car add to the reduction in green house gases responsible for climate change, it is great for individual health and well-being and it saves you money – more money than ever before!

As summer is on the way, now is the perfect time to think about how you and your family can get to St. Paul's in a more sustainable way. How long would it take you to walk to church? Use google maps to help you figure out a route and how long it would take. Remember it only takes about 15 minutes to walk one kilometer. A nice brisk walk to church is a great way to build in part of your weekly quota of physical activity. You arrive at church feeling alive and invigorated and more appreciative of a hard place to sit down and be still for an hour! How about joining up with other families and make it a social walk as well? Think of the old days when people would head out from their homes in small groups and gather along the way until a community of folks arrived at the church doorsteps! Can we bring that era back to life at St. Paul's?

How about riding your bike to church? You can certainly cover a lot more ground, more quickly this way! Indeed, you can cover 5 km in about 15 minutes which is well within the range of most of St. Paul's attendees. Definitely cycling has some disadvantages. One barrier is the clothing issue. But remember, you don't need to cycle in spandex! Most "church clothes" work well on a short bike trip as long as pant legs are strapped to avoid coming in contact with the chain. Another worry is about arriving hot and sweaty. If you live within a kilometer or two, you don't even have time to work up a sweat! For most of us, we live that close that our cars air conditioning doesn't even have time to kick in before we arrive so we may actually be better off outdoors! Tips: dress lightly (shorts) and pack a quick change – a skirt to pull over or replace bike shorts, or a quick change into slacks for the men.

If ability to walk or bike is an issue, then you can still do your part to reduce gasoline

TRAVEL SUSTAINABILITY *(CONTINUED)*

consumption by car pooling. Everyone can do their part! Unfortunately, our public transit system is not good enough to be a realistic option for coming to worship. Perhaps that will change in the future.

The Outreach and Social Action Committee will resume its survey of transportation options you use over the months of June, July, and August, to see if we can demonstrate progress in using more sustainable transportation options. We will chart how many people use walking, cycling, and car pooling (people from more than one place of residence coming together in one vehicle) to get to church. OSAC challenges St. Paul's to gradually increase the number of people using sustainable transportation over the summer, culminating in having the best results on September 18th. On that day we will be holding our second Farmer's Market and will need to take several parking spaces to accommodate the vendor's stalls.

THIRD FLOOR IMPROVEMENTS

Submitted by Diane Fleming

The **kitchen** on the third floor will take on a new look this summer. Using UCW funds, the countertop, the sink and taps will be replaced. Thanks to Karen Strong for coordinating these much needed improvements.

The **Fellowship and Flo Churchill Rooms** have also been enhanced. Joyce and Bruce Dawson have donated a coffee table, end tables, and two artificial plants for the Fellowship Room and a picture for the Flo Churchill Room. Thanks to Joyce and Bruce for their generous donations.

UCW Life Membership lists have been updated and reframed. Thanks to Marie Schaaf for taking on that huge project.

The **bathroom** has been repainted and ready for its new floor. Thanks to the Property Committee for this much needed improvement**.** And thanks to Deborah McAdam for the lovely mirror.

Did You Know?

The Statue of Liberty's tablet is two feet thick.

INGREDIENTS FOR A WINNING RECIPE

Submitted by Robert Hunt

Last Sunday, many people expressed sadness and surprise. Happiness for Cathy was also heartfelt. The following crossed my desk afterwards. It spoke to me.

INGREDIENTS FOR A WINNING RECIPE
By Jim Lange
Jim is a chapter president with Truth@Work
(www.christianroundtablegroups.com),
a ministry to people in the workplace.

If there is one truism in life - and especially the business and professional world - it is that "stuff happens", things transpire for no apparent reason, things you cannot explain.

- An important sale you were expecting to close after extraordinary effort suddenly falls through.
- You lose a major client, without warning or understandable cause.
- You do not receive the promotion you had been expecting to get - or you *do* get the promotion, but it fails to turn out as you had hoped or anticipated.
- A key staff person suddenly resigns and goes to a competitor, after you had invested much time and money in training that individual.

When things like this take place, we often wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or even, "Why did God have to do this to me?" Sometimes we will never gain a satisfactory explanation. Other times, however, we do receive an answer to our "why" question. The following story provides a wonderful illustration:

A daughter was telling her mother about how everything in her life seemed to be going wrong, that she was failing her math class, her boyfriend had broken up with her, and her best friend was moving away. Her entire world seemed to be crashing down.

As the daughter was expressing her tale of woe, her mother was baking a cake. Pausing from her activity, she interrupted her daughter to ask if she would like a snack. The daughter responded, "Absolutely Mom, you know how much I love your cake!"

INGREDIENTS FOR A WINNING RECIPE *(CONTINUED)*

"All right, here, have some cooking oil," her mother said, reaching the bottle of oil toward her daughter. "Yuck!" said the daughter.

"How would you like a couple raw eggs?" the mother asked, holding them out toward her. "No, Mom - that would be terrible!"

"Would you like to eat some flour then?" the mother inquired. "Or maybe baking soda?"

"Mother, why are you asking me that? All of those would be awful to eat!"

At that point the mother replied: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake. And if you forget to include even one ingredient, the result will not be very good.

"God works the same way," the mother continued. "Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all together, in His perfect, all-knowing order, they always bring about an outcome for our good! We just have to trust Him - and eventually they all will combine to make something wonderful!"

This is why the Bible can give us this promise: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, those that have been called according to his purpose".* (Romans 8:28).

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Submitted by Robert Hunt

There will not be a formal golf tournament at St. Paul's this summer however, we would like to have an informal golf game for fellowship and fun. Date and time to be determined, depending upon the level of interest shown. We would play a game, tell some lies afterwards and have dinner as a group. Friends and family are welcome. Interested? Call Wendy Mason (905-427-2817) or Robert Hunt (416-458-5888) and let us know.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

OSAC NEWS – JUNE 2011

Submitted by Gail Young

Before the wonderful lazy days of summer are upon us and our editor, Jeff Shaw gets a well deserved rest from church newsletter production, it is time for one last update on "things" from your Outreach and Social Action committee members.

Firstly, to those of you who were kind enough to support the Ghana outreach project earlier this year, there will be a presentation on June 14 at St. Martin's Anglican Church in Pickering, by one of the volunteers who journeyed to Africa. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Gail Young, and I will share the Where? When? What? information with you at that time. I have already heard some of the stories, but have not yet seen any of the hundreds of photos which were taken. I am sure it will be a very worthwhile event for any St. Paul's members who might be interested in attending.

Unfortunately, our planned Durham Farm Fresh Car Rally/Rural Church dinner in September has hit a few potholes and has been cancelled for this year. To the disappointed that were looking forward to this event, we hope to attempt organizing a car rally for a date sometime in the future.

The good news is that the mini Farmer's Market is "full steam ahead" for Sunday, September 18 at St. Paul's. Please mark this event on your calendar now and plan to attend. Last year's vendors, featuring Lunar Rhythms vegetables, Snowden beef and Yellowlees lamb will be back, and hopefully the local honey vendor and a baked goods vendor will also be there.

And while you have your calendars out, please add the Down East Kitchen party on November 6th to your list of must not miss events! If you are a pianist, and would like to share this talent, please let a member of OSAC know and we will pencil you in for the evening. This will be a fun night with great food and hidden talent plus a few other "goodies" to be announced. Last year we had a fun evening with some of the best food in town and are looking for a repeat!

I just read an article in the York University alumni magazine today about our United Church moderator, Mardi Tindal---our very "green" moderator, I might add! Please look for a copy of this article on the OSAC bulletin board---I am sure you will find it very interesting!

A happy and safe summer to one and all!

SENIOR CHOIR OPEN HOUSE / 6TH ANNUAL "BRING A FRIEND NIGHT"

Submitted by Lois Craig, Music Director for St. Paul's

On Thursday, October 27th, YOU are invited to come to St. Paul's Senior Choir practice. Some years there are as many as 8 guests. Whether you're an experienced chorister, or have never sung in a Choir, please consider joining us. Practice will be followed by a time of food and fellowship. Of course anyone wanting to sing with the Choir is welcome any Thursday night, beginning September 8th.

Note: Until 7:00 pm, ring the bell on the Parking Lot door. It's marked Choir Room / Piano Lessons. After 7:00 pm, ring the bell at the Side Door near the Minister's Office.

If you have any questions, speak to any Choir member or call me, Lois Craig, at 905-428-1457.

MUSICAL MEMORIES

Submitted by Valerie Wilson

St. Paul's UCW is presenting "MUSICAL MEMORIES". This is a concert of traditional, folk and love songs. Gary Faulkner (Baritone), Lois Craig (Pianist), and Cathy Dilts (Flutist), will be performing once again on "**SUNDAY OCTOBER 16, 2011**". For those of you who had the pleasure of hearing last year's concert, plus refreshments to follow, all for the low price of "$10.00 per ticket", you won't want to miss out. You may purchase your ticket form a UCW member or me, (Valerie Wilson), at vsmw@rogers.com or phone me at 905-683-8798. Also don't forget your family and friends (gifts- birthday, anniversary, etc.). We want to sell all our tickets this year; the Church will receive half of all money raised for this great event. So please lets all of us work together and show Gary, Lois and Cathy how much we appreciate all the hard work they put into preparing for this beautiful "Musical Memories". See You There!

Did You Know?

The white part of your fingernail is called the lunula.

HEALTHY SNACK PROGRAM – BOLTON C. FALBY PS

Submitted by Diane Fleming

Helping God's children in our community!

The students and the staff at Bolton C Falby Public School are very grateful for the dedication and commitment of the many volunteers who contributed to this very important program for the 2010/2011 school year. The program ends, for this term on June 9.

Preparing snacks for 610 students in the early hours of the morning every Tuesday and Thursday– was a real commitment. Many thanks to all!

The Healthy Snack team members from St Paul's include **Isabelle McLaren**, **Isobel Taylor**, **Delmer Coull**, **Debbie McAdam**, **Rolly Grant**, **Cathy Shaw**, **Diane Fleming**

Other team members include:
Donna Frankum from St Timothy's Presbyterian
Pat Stokes from St Bernadette's Catholic Church
Swarn Parmar – a member of the community
Mariah Peel and **Julia Needham** – Ajax High School students

CORNER GAS

Submitted by Cathy Shaw

On May 10th, members of our Gas Roots Movement were invited to a meeting of the Oshawa Presbytery. At this meeting, which was held at Pickering Village United Church, we shared our concerns regarding the declining number of Full Service gas stations in the Durham Region. The members of Presbytery were encouraged to join our movement by taking our literature to their churches, sharing it with everyone they meet and keeping an eye open for any stations that we may have missed on our list. The feedback was very positive and we are continuing to make progress with our awareness campaign. Plans are in the works to contact the companies involved and to put together an information package that can be sent to other churches as a resource, so that they can start their own Gas Roots Movement and help to get the word out.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Submitted by Lois Craig, Music Director for St. Paul's

New this year!!! Registration on Sunday, September 11th, right after service. We'll meet at the organ. If you can't make it that day, please call me, Lois Craig, at 905-428-1457. Practices begin September 18th. Junior Choir is open to boys and girls age 6 and older.

Practices are 30 minutes long, right after Church/Sunday School/GAPP in the Choir Room.

Highlights

- White Gift Service at 10:30 am December 4th – Sing 1 or 2 songs
- Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm December 24th – Help lead the carol sing and sing 1 or 2 songs.
- Sing at a local Senior's Residence.

Why should your children / grandchildren / nieces / nephews join St. Paul's Junior Choir? To learn to sing and HAVE FUN!!

HUNGRY?

Submitted by Rolly Grant

Don't like cooking breakfast? Well come to St. Paul's on Sunday, June 12th at 9:00 am. Our Men's Group will be putting on a breakfast for the entire congregation with lots of choices: eggs, bacon, cereal, toast, pancakes and a large variety of refreshments. All they ask (because this is their gift to all of you) is for you to put your name, telephone #, e-mail address (if you have on) and number of people attending on the sign-up sheet in the Chapel. So COME ON OUT have a great breakfast and then a fun-filled, uplifting worship service lead by our children from GAPP. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sharon at 683-4740 or email at office@stpaulsajax.org.

Did You Know?

Jelly Belly jelly beans were the first jelly beans in outer space when they went up with astronauts in the June 21, 1983 voyage of the space shuttle Challenger.

NEW ALARM CODES

Submitted by Sharon Eagleson

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving either an e-mail or a letter from me regarding the alarm system here at St. Paul's. We will be implementing a new code system for the end of September and the old codes will no longer be valid. If you do not receive a letter or e-mail, please contact me ASAP to avoid any problems after this change over.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

Submitted by Debbie McAdam

I know many of you will be working on different projects in your home during the summer. If you buy something at Canadian Tire, would you please consider bringing your Canadian Tire money to the church? The money will be used at the United Church camp - Camp Quin-Mo-Lac. They use it for many different items and it helps them so much in running their programs. There is an envelope in the narthex to deposit the Canadian Tire money and your donation will be put to good use. Thank you.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Submitted by Wilma Brown

A huge thank you to the 14 people who helped at the Spring Clean up. The property committee is a very small group and we really appreciate your help.

Something to Think About

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian
any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not sure.

PLANNING AHEAD

Submitted by Lois Craig, Music Director for St. Paul's

Making your Fall plans? Trying to decide which activities to do? Why not consider joining the Choir? If you have any questions, speak to any member or call Lois at 905-428-1457.

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY

Submitted by Delmer Coull

I would like to thank one and all for the cards, phone calls, prayers and visits during my stay in hospital and my time recuperating at home. It was greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU

Submitted by Helen Turner

My family and I wish to thank everyone for their love and support during the difficult time of Bob's passing. It is comforting to have a loving church family and your thoughts and wishes were greatly appreciated.

SUMMER REFLECTION

Submitted by Cathy Shaw, Program Co-ordinator

As we gear up for the summer months and for the much needed relaxation that is bound to take place, I would like to ask that you use some of your "down time" to consider how you might be of service to your church once you are fully rejuvenated and renewed.

I know that you probably think that I'm nuts for even thinking that far in advance, or that I have some gall asking you to consider such a thing at the end of a busy church year...but the truth is...you and your gifts are needed in this place!

I would ask that in your quiet time this summer you reflect on those gifts and how you might share them and then come back in the fall with a renewed energy and a renewed passion...and put the gifts that God has given you to good use.

Whatever your passion, there is always a place for you at the "Church with the Open Arms"...a place, by the way, that is open all summer!

VBS-COMING SOON!

Submitted by Cathy Shaw, Program Co-ordinator

We are well underway in the planning of our 2011 Vacation Bible School. This year's VBS will take place from **Monday, August 15th** to **Friday, August 19th**, during the hours of 9:00am and 12:30pm.

If you are interested in helping with this wonderful event, then please speak to me for further details…we'd love to have you join us. I can be reached by phone at 905-571-0356 or by e-mail at cathyshaw@sympatico.ca. Come out and see what all the fun is about!

To register for VBS, please know that the forms are now available on the table at the back of the church.

Please mark your calendar and sign up early in order to guarantee your child's spot for this event. Spaces are limited and we don't want them to miss out on a single moment of the fun!

IN MEMORIAM

Don (Donald) Book,
loving husband of Audrey,
father of Madeline Oswald (Gary),
Steven, Brian (Laura), Owen (Lorraine) and Doreen,
grandfather of Michelle, Charlotte, Carson, Dylan,
Emily, Graham, Corey, Kevin and Grant

James (Jim) Wilson,
loving husband of Audrey,
father of James, David (Pam), and Peter (Jennifer),
grandfather to Charlotte, Ava, Rebecca and Benjamin.

Robert (Bob) Turner,
loving husband of Helen, father of David (Linda) and Mark (Nancy),
grandfather of Adam and Amy

GOLDEN RULE

Blessings
Coat
Commandment
Community
Curses
Disciples
Do Good
Father
Followers
Forgive
Friendship
Golden Rule
Jesus
Kindness
Luke
Mark
Mercy
Money
Most High God
Needy
New Command
Numbers
Others
People

T	P	P	E	R	F	E	C	T	R	I	H	S	F	D
M	E	I	S	P	E	C	K	E	V	I	G	R	O	F
E	O	H	G	S	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	G	L	B
R	P	S	S	O	E	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	P
C	L	D	T	T	L	N	C	R	O	O	P	E	O	R
Y	E	N	P	H	E	D	D	U	S	M	S	T	W	A
O	T	E	L	E	I	M	E	N	R	S	U	U	E	Y
E	S	I	A	R	P	G	O	N	I	S	S	C	R	N
O	G	R	N	S	L	S	H	N	R	K	E	E	S	T
V	N	F	K	U	M	O	G	G	E	U	J	S	R	F
I	I	N	K	U	M	S	N	T	O	Y	L	R	E	A
R	N	E	W	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T
T	R	E	W	A	R	D	O	O	G	O	D	P	N	H
U	A	D	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	R	I	E
E	W	Y	M	A	R	K	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	R

Perfect
Persecute
Plank
Poor
Praise
Pray
Receive
Reward
Shirt
Sinners
Sons of God
Speck
Thankful
Virtue
Warnings

All the words listed are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally.
After you have found all the words,
use the leftover letters to spell the **Mystery Phrase**.

(Answer can be found on page 16)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 5th	10:30 am	UCW Worship - Janelle Shaw
June 12th	10:30 am	Worship GAPP
June 19th	10:30 am	Baptism
June 26th	10:30 pm	Worship - Cathy Shaw

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Now that many people are receiving the Epistle via e-mail, a suggestion has been made regarding the format.

Traditionally the articles within the Epistle are organized into three columns, similar to the way a newspaper article is formatted. It has been brought to my attention that this format requires “scrolling” up and down in order to read the entire article, when reading the Epistle on-line.

A suggestion was made to format the articles into paragraph form, similar to the way I have formatted this article.

Throughout this month’s Epistle, I have incorporated both formats and I am asking for your feedback. Which way do you prefer?

If you have a preference, please send me an email (jeffshaw@sympatico.ca) and let me know. I am requesting responses no later than Wednesday, August 31st.

Once I summarize the results, I will format the September Epistle accordingly.

Thank you for your time and if anyone has any other suggestions, please let me know.

MYSTERY WORD: SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Deadline for the Epistle

Deadline for the September Epistle is Wednesday, August 31st.
Courier pick-up will be Sunday, September 11th.
Submit articles via e-mail to jeffshaw@sympatico.ca