

the epistle

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



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

*"Show me your faith
apart from your works,
and I by my works will
show you my faith."
(James 2:18)*

On February 6th, our annual congregational meeting was held as part of Sunday morning worship. Before the meeting we enjoyed fellowship and breakfast in the basement; many thanks to all who provided the wonderful goodies. We then made our way to the sanctuary where together as a family of faith we praised God and deliberated the work of the church.

This format, started last year, serves as reminder

that in the life of faith, worship and work are one. Worship in its truest sense is made manifest in love for God poured out for others. As I sat and listened to all the wonderful works of ministry that are happening in this place involving all of us; from the smallest to our more senior members, and also to calls encouraging us to "think outside the box" it was clear that the Holy Spirit is moving here at St. Paul's.

But as I look around I also see something else. We have volunteers, lay-leaders who are working hard and who are weary.

Please pray for them. They work hard on behalf of us all.

The work of the church can only begin when God is at the center of who we are and all that we are about. All that each and every one of you who come here do for St. Paul's is very much appreciated. But what is most important, yes even more important than committees and meetings, is the time you have with God, for God alone feeds the life within us and inspires us to serve.

As we make our way this month in to the Lenten season of reflection,

MINISTER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

I urge you to give up more than chocolate (my weakness) and to give up something in your life that is pulling you away from sacred time with God. This Lenten season, make worship the priority. Read scripture. Pray daily. Spend time with those you love. Listen for God.

PALM SUNDAY

Submitted by Lois Craig, Music Director

You're invited to sing with the Choir this Palm Sunday!!! Too busy to attend all Choir Practices? Then come to those you have time to attend. To help yourself prepare, there are copies of a legally reproducible CD that highlight your notes with which you can practice at home. For those who don't like to come out to night time practices, there are two Sunday afternoons. You are invited to all rehearsals, but the most important are those bolded in the schedule below. After the service on April 17th, the Choir will be going out to eat at a restaurant. You are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call Lois at 905-428-1457.

Palm Sunday Music Rehearsal Schedule

Thursday, February 24	8:10 – 9:00 pm
Sunday, February 27	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Thursday, March 3	8:10 – 9:00 pm
Thursday, March 10	8:10 – 9:00 pm
Thursday, March 17	7:55 – 8:45 pm - Snacks following rehearsal
Thursday, March 24	8:10 – 9:00 pm
Sunday, March 27	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Thursday, March 31	8:10 – 9:00 pm
Thursday, April 7	8:10 – 9:00 pm
Thursday, April 14	7:00 – 9:00 pm - Run with Readers
Sunday, April 17	9:50 am

When a coffee seed is planted,
it takes five years to yield its first consumable fruit.

FREE INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR

Submitted by Michelle Fisico

You are invited to attend a free informational seminar entitled **PLANNING AHEAD** for ALL the Right Reasons, presented by Jerrett Funeral Homes, your local Dignity Memorial providers.

Planning ahead for funeral arrangements is a subject we all think about from time to time, but few of us actually do anything about it. The death of a spouse or family member is considered one of life's most stressful events that each of us will one day face. On a regular basis, we plan for other stresses and concerns

in life, like sickness, accidents or loss of job or property, yet we do little to prepare for the inevitable things, like the death of a spouse or family member.

The Dignity Memorial providers of Jerrett Funeral Homes recognize how difficult funeral planning can be, and through these seminars, will explain, what planning ahead is, the wrong way to do it and the right way – in 4 easy steps. We believe that no one should be uninformed and unprepared on the day that they experience the death of a loved one.

You will receive valuable information and answers to all of your questions. A light luncheon will be provided.

So please join us on Sunday April 3, 2011. We will start with a light luncheon from 11:45 am to 12:15 pm, followed by a presentation and question and answer period to finish around 1:30 pm. Space for the seminar is limited, so please call ahead to the church office (905) 683-4740 to reserve your place, or add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the chapel on the communications board.

DINNER AND A MOVIE: SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH

Submitted by Rev. Cathy Dilts

Join your St. Paul's family for an evening of fun and fellowship as we have dinner together and watch a movie. The film will be suitable for all ages, and the meal is not potluck, but will be

provided and the cost is only \$2 per person. Popcorn will also be provided. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and the movie at 7:00 pm. Please sign up on the registration form posted

in the chapel to let us know you are coming. For more information please speak to **Cathy Dilts** or **Sharon Eagleson**. **FUN FOR ALL AGES!**



TALENT AUCTION VACATION PACKAGE

Submitted by Robert Hunt

Well folks (I'm watching a Roy Rogers oater), the bidding closed on Saturday, February 26th, at noon and we have a winner. The winner is...Wait a minute, let's thank Bruce Hopewell for his generous donation and also thank all the bidders for their participation in the auction. The winner is**Madeline Oswald**. Congratulations Madeline. Contact me for booking details.

There is more. I have a modest cottage on a $\frac{3}{4}$

acre lot. It is on a private road outside Brighton and I offer it to any bidders interested, on the same terms as Bruce's offer. It is on Pres'quile Bay facing west overlooking Pres'quile Provincial Park. There is Satellite TV, Fridge, Stove, Microwave, BBQ, blankets and pillows, and all cookware including dishes. You bring your own food and linen. There is a small 3 piece bath, with three bedrooms. It sleeps 7. The water is warm, and shallow. Recreational

activities include swimming, golf, fishing, and a nearby boat launch (you supply your own boat). It is not an auction and goes to the first party that confirms interest. I will take some digital pictures and put them on the internet in the next week or two. My offer will stay open until the end of March. If interested, contact e-mail me at roberthunt@money matters.ca or call me at 416-458-5888, ext 2224, and leave a message if there is no answer.

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Submitted by Brian Sheppard

The men's group will be preparing an Easter morning breakfast for the **WHOLE** congregation. April 24th at 8:30am. Please mark this on your

calendars.

Did we mention that there is **NO COST**.

After the breakfast children can participate

in the annual egg hunt.

Any questions please contact **Brian Sheppard, Rolly Grant** or **Bill Sheaves**.

The two longest one-syllable words in the English language are "screeched" and "strengths."

DEFICIT BUDGET - COULD BE A THING OF THE PAST!

Submitted by Wendy Mason, Finance Committee

Sound too good to be true, but it's not. For the past couple of years, approximately ten families have been taking part in a program called Shop & Support. This fund raiser is really quite simple. You pick retailers from a list; pay for the shopping cards you want; they are ordered and then delivered directly to you.

The funds raised for our church is the difference in what you pay for the cards and what the church pays for the cards. Really quite simple. There is a potential of raising close to a thousand dollars a month, which would mean twelve thousand dollars a year!! This would more than cover the deficit budget

that was approved in February. Imagine being able to attend the Pancake Supper, or the talent auction, or any other fundraiser, just for the fellowship and not because we need to raise funds to offset our expenses. Sounds wonderful. For more information please call me at 905-427-2817.

NEW WINE

Submitted by Rev. Cathy Dilts

Next meeting of the St. Paul's Social Planning Committee

(aka New Wine) will be on **Tuesday, March 8th** at 7:00 pm after the

pancake supper.

LESSONS FROM NOAH'S ARK

1. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
2. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.
3. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
4. Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
5. If you can't fight or flee -- float!
6. Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.
7. Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
8. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals.
9. Don't miss the boat.
10. No matter how bleak it looks, there's always a rainbow on the other side.



NEW MEMBERS' CELEBRATION SUNDAY: MAY 1ST

Submitted by Rev. Cathy Dilts

If you are interested in joining St. Paul's United Church formally we are hoping to have a New Members' Celebration Sunday on May 1st.

There are a variety of ways to join the United Church – Baptism, by Profession of Faith, or by Transfer. For more information on any of

these or to learn about what is involved please speak to Cathy Dilts or call the church office.



AN INVITATION

Submitted by Wendy Mason

An invitation was issued at the annual meeting of the congregation to attend the Finance

Meeting on March 9th, 2011 at 8:00 pm, to generate general ideas/suggestions on how to

overcome our deficit budget. All our welcome.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Submitted by Brian Sheppard

June 4th - Men's BBQ
 September 18th - OSAC Mini Farmers Market
 September 24th - OSAC Car Rally
 November 6th - OSAC Kitchen Party



IN MEMORIAM



Dorothy Richmond,
 loving mother of Rick

Margaret Misner,
 beloved sister of Joan Mashinter, sister-in-law of Howard

Sheilagh Galloway,
 loving mother of JoAnne, Teddi, Steve and Jill



30 BOOKS

If you have a good memory, or if you have been hoarding Epistles, this was included in the Epistle 5 years ago. If your memory is like mine, you will need to do it the hard way, again.

Can you find thirty (30) books of the Bible in this paragraph? Actually, there are 31 if you can find the variant of one Old Testament prophet's name. Answers can be found in next month's Epistle.

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 4th	1:30 pm	World Day or Prayer
March 6th	10:30 am	Anniversary Sunday and Communion
March 13th	10:30 am 11:30 am	Lent I Worship Prayer Ministry
March 20th	10:30 am	Lent II Worship
March 27th	10:30 am	Lent III Worship



UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

Join us Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Room. Everyone is welcome.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY:

The third Sunday of the month is "FOOD BANK SUNDAY". Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item with you that day.

PANCAKE SUPPER - TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH:

Tickets for this event will be available at the door. There are two sittings (5:00 pm or 6:00 pm). Come for the great food, fair prices and awesome fellowship. Don't miss out.

EXPLORATIONS IN FAITH:

Sessions occur on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, February to April, from 12 - 1 pm. Bring your questions and let's listen together for God. Please speak to Sarah Wood or Cathy Dilts for more information. All ages are welcome.

OUTSIDE EVENTS:

For information on events taking place at other churches, please check the bulletin board in the Chapel.

Deadline for the Epistle

Deadline for the April Epistle is Wednesday, March 23rd.

Courier pick-up will be Sunday, April 3rd.

Submit articles via e-mail to jeffshaw@sympatico.ca