



VOLUME 43 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2, 2011

the epistle

OUR JOURNEY THROUGH A.L.L.

Submitted by Jeff and Cathy Shaw

For those of you familiar with a major illness or disease, A.L.L. (Acute Lymphoblast Leukemia) may be similar to something you already know. It has medical jargon, procedures and equipment, various drugs to perform specific tasks and then there are the numbers – good numbers you try to achieve and bad numbers you try to avoid. This article will not discuss any of the subjects above, nor will this article explain the events that have brought us to this place, or the events that have occurred since arriving. Rather, this article is about the people who are sharing this journey with us – the everyday angels.

So what is an “everyday angel”? This is someone who makes us feel good on an emotional or spiritual level, as a result of something that they have said or done.

For us, the list below mentions (in no particular order) just some of the angels who have journeyed with us so far:

The doctors, who compassionately place their hands on our shoulders, look us in the eyes and tell us that we are making good progress.

A patient, further along the journey, who provides encouragement and hope.

The friends, who spend time selecting and sending special cards that will lift our spirits.

The neighbour, who cuts the grass and watches the house, so that we can focus on what's important.

The social worker, who visits to ensure that our mental health is cared for with the same compassion as our physical health.

The nurses, who provide outstanding care and a reassuring hug during a stressful time.

The chaplain, who renews our spirit and reaffirms our faith.

The St. Paul's Family, who continually humble us by their prayers and their love.

Our families, who have dropped everything to be with us and have met the needs that we didn't even know existed.

This journey that we are on, although unexpected and frightening at times, has also been one of reflection, observation, celebration and gratitude. We have had our faith strengthened and renewed like never before. We have felt God's love and God's presence at every turn and in every trial...and in every joyful moment that has come our way.

People sometimes question whether God is really there when the going gets rough...for us the answer is "yes"! We say this with absolute conviction because every day God sends to us the "everyday angels" to make this journey a little less scary and a little easier to handle. We see Christ in the faces of those whom God sends...and we are comforted.

Jesus walks among us...and God is in control. All we have to do is have hope, faith and love and God will take care of the rest. Each day is a blessing, so please don't let your day end without having looked for your everyday angel.



Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good...

Psalm 100:4, 5a

A REFLECTION BY ROBERT HUNT

The Church has survived for over 2,000 years through war, famine and oppression. It has never been dependent on one man or woman. It is only dependent on our belief in God, Jesus Christ, and our capacity to love, believe in and care for one another.

Throughout time, there have been many individuals who have had great influences on the church and the way in which we worship and communicate with God. Some of them had shortened lives because of their beliefs. These individuals often had a profound influence on the people around them. None of those individuals saw themselves as anything other than a servant of God, spreading His Word as far and as effectively as they were able.

We were fortunate to have had such a person in our midst in Reverend Cathy Dilts. Her particular brand and style of ministry found a place in the hearts and minds of the congregation here at St. Paul's. She lived our creed of being 'The Church with the Open Arms'. She loved this congregation and continuously worked hard for us (and on us!). Questioning the status quo, suggesting new initiatives, asking why, forging new paths and constantly delivering enthusiastic messages of zest for life and love of God and family, she urged us to rejoice in Jesus Christ. One of the many things we loved and respected her for was her value system.

It is those values that came to play when she answered another call. Although we will miss her or her work here, her message to us was that we should continue to work hard for others, and to live the Word of God through our belief in Jesus Christ.

While we are searching for a new minister who will show us through his or her own ministry who they are, let us not forget that although we loved Cathy, as God's messenger, she was bringing His Word to us. Let's show Cathy that her work here was successful... that we are a strong congregation, that we are emotionally, spiritually and financially committed to the work of the Lord here in our own church family and in the world beyond St Paul's. During these times of transition, we must continue to work together, maintaining the momentum that she helped us create. In doing so, we will keep St. Paul's a place for everyone to reach out to for prayer, for comfort, for social interaction, and for help.

STEWARDSHIP

A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

It is at this time of year that we start our annual Fall stewardship campaign. The purpose of this month-long event is twofold. At your request, we are able to confirm to you your level of givings so far in 2011 while, at the same time, we are asking you to commit to a personal givings plan for the balance of 2011 and 2012.

One part of this campaign is your commitment card. When we ask you to return your commitment card, it is because we use this data as part of our planning for the annual budget, which we present to you at the annual congregational meeting held on the first Sunday of February each year. Your financial commitment is very important to the St. Paul's congregation both adherent and member alike. You have a say in the direction St. Paul's will take and without your financial commitment, we cannot act on your concerns. Your concerns can influence the decisions that are made on behalf of the entire congregation.

Your financial commitment is very important to St. Paul's. To those of you who have met or exceeded your commitment, St. Paul's owes you a huge vote of thanks for that financial support. Do you remember that our minimum givings goal is \$5 per week per member?

We recognize that the past year has been financially difficult for some individuals and families. Lack of gainful employment and increased and unexpected personal expenses are strains on limited family budgets. God knows that we all give what we can. We ask you to search within yourself and examine your commitment to Jesus Christ and St. Paul's.

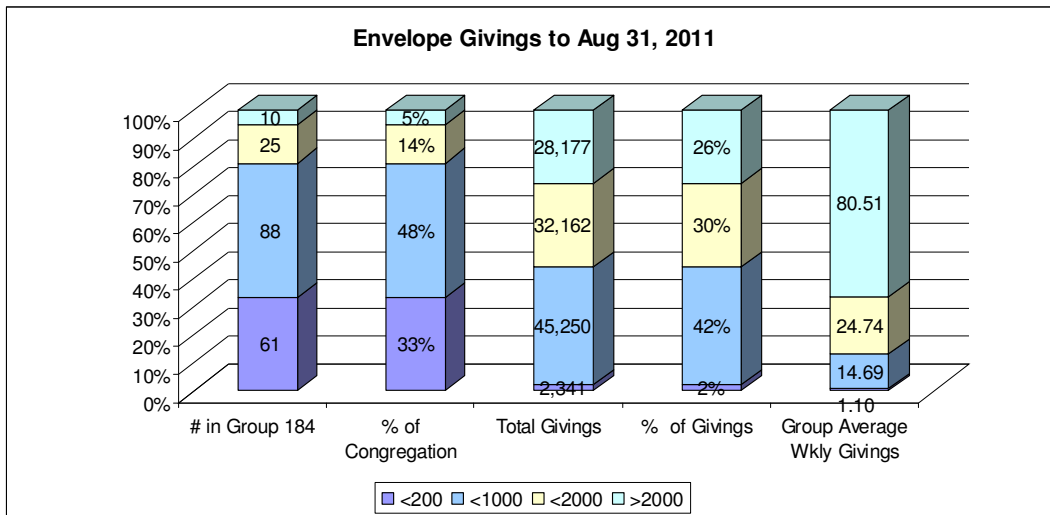
In Matthew 6:31-32 Jesus said, "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'...your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

To paraphrase. Whether you make an investment or an indulgence let your heart choose wisely. Both of these may seem important, but they can disappear. Eternal treasures, as Jesus pointed out, never disappear.

Your givings, no matter how great or small, are appreciated and they help keep St. Paul's a place for you to reach out to for prayer, for comfort, for social interaction, and for help.

In Support of Stewardship for St. Paul's United Church

The graph below summarizes average weekly givings based on the \$5 per week target for the 35 weeks year to date (Aug 31/10). Our hope is that everyone can meet that goal.



Stewardship Month October 2011 Together We Can

Submitted by Dorothy Wilkins, Stewardship Committee

You will be receiving an information package during the first week of October either by email or by Canada Post. Please read it, think about it and savour the progress you have seen over the last 9 months.

We are the lifeblood of God's Kingdom at St Paul's – you knew that, right?

You and I and the person in the pew beside you – we are in this together. We make it possible for St Paul's to “open its arms”, feed the hungry, care for the sick, comfort the grieving, bring peace to the troubled, meet the needs of others wherever they may be and inspire joy and thanksgiving in all whom we touch. United, with our limited but valuable and unique gifts, God is using us to make all this happen.

On October 30th we will be celebrating our vision and mission, please plan to join your friends after the service for this potluck celebration.

At What Cost?

A woman complained to her friend, “Our church costs too much! They're always asking for money!”

“Look at it this way,” her friend replied. “When my son was born, many years ago, he cost us quite a bit of money. He continued to cost us money as he grew older – money for clothes, shoes, food, bicycles, doctors, college and more. But we didn't mind, because he gave us so much joy and more in return. Then in his senior year in college, he died, and since his funeral he hasn't cost us a penny. Which situation do you think I prefer? As long as our church lives,” she concluded, “it will cost us. When it dies from a lack of support it will no longer cost us a thing, but what will we have? I'm going to give and pray with everything I've got to keep it alive and well.”

- from a member of the United Church of Christ

SENIOR CHOIR NEWS ... FROM LOIS CRAIG



Calling one! Calling all! Choir practice resumed Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 pm after a well deserved and refreshing summer break. Now, we've come back together to unite our voices in song. St. Paul's is fortunate to have such a faithful and enthusiastic group. But there is room for more! You are invited to join us as we prepare this year's music. All voice types are needed, both men and women with high and low voices. For those of you who have never sung in parts or harmony, I share a description from the book, The Red Tent, that I think may help entice you to try this, especially if it's a new experience for you.

"their song was unlike anything I'd ever heard ... They sang the words in unison, yet somehow created a web of sound with their voices. It was like hearing a piece of fabric woven with all the colors of the rainbow. I did not know that such beauty could be formed by human mouth. I had never heard harmony before."

You may have heard the Choir sing in harmony for years, but to actually be part of it, that's something else! Please consider joining us this year. Practices are Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For more information, call Lois at 905-428-1457; speak to any Choir Member; or come to any Choir practice.

NOTE: Until 7:00 pm ring the bell at the Northwest Parking Lot door marked Choir Room/ Piano Lessons.

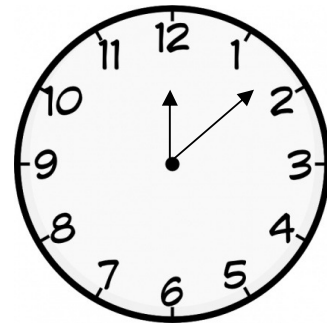
After 7:00 pm ring the bell at the South Side Door near the Minister's office.



"I Come to The Garden Alone" Is this one of your favourite hymns? You can create some **SHORT TERM MEMORIES** for yourself by attending 3 practices on Thursdays, October 27, Nov 3 and Nov 10. Then help contribute to the service on Sunday, November 13 while enjoying singing in the choir. Talk about WIN - WIN. For more info, call Lois at 905-428-1457

NEWS FROM JNAC

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee has launched its congregational survey. Members who attended church on September 25th were asked to complete the survey during the morning service. Attached to this email and to hand-delivered Epistles is a copy of the survey. We are asking that all connected to St. Paul's past and present complete a survey. The information will be used in the JNAC report to define what we want in our new minister and for our church. The surveys are anonymous. Completed surveys can be dropped off at the church, emailed to Susan Reed at svreed@bell.net or picked up from your home by calling Stuart McLean at 905-619-2079. We would like all surveys completed and returned by **Sunday, October 9th**.



Don't forget to watch the Minute for Ministry Clock as we track the progress to calling our new minister.

CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

Today, being September 25th, we have had an amazing service led by the Joint Needs Assessment Committee. The theme and the message were all encompassing about our ministry as a congregation and what we, as members of the congregation, can do with all our gifts. There are two passages in the Bible from St. Paul's letters - *his letter to Roman's 12: 4-10* and *his first letter to Corinthians 12: 4-31* - that exalts to the congregations that they, not he alone, bring gifts unto God. The basis of the Christian church is first and foremost its people. This must be recognized as a major belief of Paul's teachings in that the Church does not only depend on its individual spiritual leaders, but must also rely on its members. We are one body. To this end, I want to thank all those people that have stepped forward to assist during the different absences of our friends. Our staff and our members are the glue that is this congregation. God Bless.

Bill Sheaves
Chair of Congregation

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Submitted by Diane Fleming

Shanti Soloman's humble act of giving her least coin for commitment to prayers was how it began. In 1956, while on a goodwill reconciliation mission to countries in Asia, Shanti was denied entry into Korea because the two countries did not have diplomatic relations with one another. As the divisions among people and nations became her reality, she prayed and sought guidance for healing relationships among women of different cultures and countries. It was then she envisioned women praying for each other around the world, setting aside a coin as a symbol of their sincerity.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is now a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation with supporters in more than 70 countries. The concept is simple: Christian women, individually or in groups, commit to pray for a world free of oppression and full of peace, justice and reconciliation among families and communities. Each time a woman prays, she offers the least coin from her local currency as a sign of solidarity with others.

In Canada, women's groups collect funds once a year at local "ingathering" services and forward them to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC), which, in turn, forwards the offerings to the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC).

With donations collected from all countries, the ICFLC has been able to support projects for women and children around the world, and provide regional grants and funds for emergency relief initiatives.

Here at St. Paul's United, members of the UCW pray and collect least coins at every UCW meeting. There is also a jar available for you in the Narthex. We encourage you to pray for peace and reconciliation and set aside your least coins.



OUTREACH

OSAC REPORT

Submitted by Gail Young

The September 18th Mini Farmers Market in the church laneway, which was organized and sponsored by OSAC, was a great success! Mother Nature cooperated in the weather department with a wonderful sunny summer day and also by allowing our vendors to share such an abundance of different food products to whet the appetite! Thank you to all the members of St. Paul's and the Ajax community folk who supported this event. There were lamb products, bird seed, beef products, organic veggies, honey and beeswax candles, Pat's yummy baked goodies and Catherine's muffuletta sandwiches---all potential items for a feast to be remembered!

Please mark on your calendar the date of our Down East Kitchen Party, Sunday, November 6th at 5 p.m. and plan to attend. This was a fun evening last year with a memorable potluck meal courtesy of all the fine cooks in attendance plus some darn good entertainment. If you want to share your "act" please speak with a member of OSAC and we will pencil you in. Don't be shy---if singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, theatrics, telling jokes is your "Stuck", well come on out and share your talent! All are welcome! As this is also a potluck dinner, please plan to bring your culinary speciality to share with those in attendance. We have a very special entertainment group (cloggers) booked for this evening, so dust off those dancing shoes and join us for another magical "Down East" kitchen party in the room "down under"!

Watch for an updated Corner Gas brochure "coming soon". Remember to support the full service gas stations in your area to ensure that accessible gas is available to everyone in our communities. With an election fast approaching, it is also a good time to remind the politicians that supporting accessible full service gas stations is an important issue!



For I was hungry and you gave Me food,
I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and
you welcomed Me..." - Matthew 25:35

HEALTHY SNACK PROGRAM BOLTON C. FALBY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Helping God's children in our community!

The Healthy Snack Program will be up and running, starting with the first week in October.

We at St Paul's will be participating again this year and will help prepare snacks for 617 students.



Thanks go out to Isobel Taylor, Delmer Coull, Debbie McAdam, and Rolly Grant for their generous commitment of time and service to the community. And thank you Reg Carter for agreeing to be on standby if required

Preparing snacks for 617 students in the early hours of the morning every Tuesday and Thursday is a huge commitment. Many thanks to all!

ALARM SYSTEM UPDATE *Submitted by Sharon Eagleson*

Hello All –

I am sorry but the new codes will not be up and running until October. I have sent out e-mails and/or letters to each person with a code and as of yet have not heard back from everyone. If you received an e-mail or letter (or especially if you did not) IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTACT ME ASAP (or I will assume you do not require a key and code) so that I can make up the new lists and assign new codes. Please remember once the old codes are retired on October 31st, YOU WILL SET OFF THE ALARM USING AN OLD CODE.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

FOR KIDS ONLY

JUNIOR CHOIR

Submitted by Lois Craig

As of this time, there are 4 boys and girls in the group. To make it viable, we need about 4 more members. Please **spread the word that JUNIOR CHOIR ROCKS!!** Open to boys and girls 6 years of age and older. Practice is for a half an hour after GAPP following the conclusion of the 10:30 service. For more information, call Lois at 905-428-1457 or meet us at the organ after the 10:30 service.

LET'S TALK TURKEY

What does a turkey like to eat on Thanksgiving Day?
Nothing, He was already stuffed.

What key has legs and can't open doors? **A turkey!**

Why did the turkey cross the road? **It was the chicken's day off.**

Why did the police arrest the turkey? **They suspected it of fowl play.**

Why did they let the turkey join the band? **Because he had the drumsticks.**

What happened when the turkey got into a fight? **He got the stuffing knocked out of him.**

Why did the turkey bolt down his food? **He was a gobbler.**

Why can't you take a turkey to church? **Because they use such fowl language.**

What's the difference between a chicken and a turkey? **A chicken celebrates Thanksgiving.**



Canadian Thanksgiving Word Search

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

AUTUMN

HOLIDAY

BOUNTIFUL

OCTOBER

CELEBRATE

OVEREATING

CORNUCOPIA

PUMPKIN PIE

DINNER

SECOND MONDAY

FAMILY

STUFFING

FEAST

THANKSGIVING

GATHERING

TURKEY

HARVEST

WEEKEND

HAM

WISHBONE

FELLOWSHIP

GOLF REPORT

The 2011 St. Paul's Golf Social was held under bright sunny skies on Sat September 24th, at Spring Creek Golf Club in Claremont. Twenty nine golfers, wannabe golfers and socializers took to the course at 2pm. By the time the last group came in a great deal of socializing had occurred with the occasional golf shot.

On the putting green three golfers tied with a score of 40. It took 3 putt offs to finally declare a winner of the 50/50 prize of \$82.50 which went to Susan Barker.

Prior to sitting down for a delicious steak dinner prizes were awarded to all. Individual prizes were awarded for Ladies longest drive and went to Michelle Perry. Ladies closest to the pin was Wendy Mason. Men's longest drive and closest to the pin went to Len Kisil who donated those prizes to the two putting runner ups. Lowest score went to the team of Sarah Wellman, Mike Kisil and Len Kisil. The most honest golfers were well you had to be there to know who it was!

It was a great success and we have booked the 2012 tournament again at Spring Creek on Saturday. September 23, 2012. Looking forward to seeing everyone again and more!

Special thanks for this event go out to Tom's No Frill's in Ajax, Geraldine Clarkson, Ann Dobinson for all the AMEX donations and Barb Kisil.

Though this was not set up as a fundraiser we were able to donate net proceeds of \$122.50 to St. Paul's general fund.

A special thank you to Spring Creek, for putting up with me.

Respectfully Submitted by Len Kisil



IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Black,



loving mother of Ronald,
Marion, Bobby and Sharon
(Castellarin)

*In Our Thoughts and
Prayers...*

Jeff Shaw
and the Shaw family

Please keep in touch



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cathydilts@rogers.com

Thanks

Many thanks to everyone for all the cards, emails, visits, calls and prayers during my illness. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful group of people in my cheering section. It was most appreciated.

Sharon Eagleson

P.S. Thanks for all the visits, calls and hugs since I have been back as well.

"Your friend is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving." - Kahlil Gibran

WHAT'S ON!

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 14,
2011
7:30 pm**

GAMES CLUB

Submitted by Mabel Spencer

This is a special notice about the Bridge Club. We are now EX-PAN-DING and will be known by our new title '**GAMES CLUB**'.

The club will meet at 7:30 pm on the second Friday of the month from October until May.

We welcome

- Euchre players
- Cribbage players
- Whist and Court Whist players
- And of course, Bridge players

If you have another game you like to play, please bring it along and we will play it.



We extend this invitation to all members of our church and their families and friends. We hope to see you on Friday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 pm at the church.

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 16,
2011
2:00 PM**

MUSICAL MEMORIES

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 Susanne Farrow (Clarinetist) will be performing once again on **Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 2:00 pm.**

For those who had the pleasure of hearing last year's concert, you won't want to miss this year's. Refreshments will follow the concert. Tickets are \$10.00. You may purchase tickets from any UCW member or contact Valerie Wilson at vsmw@rogers.com or 905-683-8798.

WHAT'S ON!**ANNUAL LIVE AUCTION AND HOMEMADE SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner of homemade spaghetti sauce (with and without meat), pasta, mouth-watering coleslaw, fresh rolls with butter, coffee, tea and a delectable dessert buffet. (Sugar-free desserts and wheat-free pasta are available). Dinner begins at 4:45 pm.

Following the dinner, the annual live auction will begin at 7:00 pm.

TICKETS: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, \$20.00 for family (limit 2 adults/family). There is childcare with movies for the kids.



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 22,
2011
4:45 PM**

BRING A FRIEND TO CHOIR NIGHT

You are invited to the Senior Choir's 6th Annual Open House / "Bring a Friend to Choir Night" Thursday, October 27th, at 7:00 pm
For more information, call Lois at 905-428-1457 or see the back of the October calendar

Practice will end at 8:45 followed by a social time with snacks.

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 27,
2011
7:00 pm**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- Oct. 9 THANKSGIVING INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE**
- Laura Springate
- Oct. 16 Ruth Olley (Remember your food bank donations)**
- Oct.23 BAPTISM**
- Rev. Karen Smart
- Oct. 30 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POT-LUCK LUNCH**
- Kim Lawrence

NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat., November 5, 2011 St. Paul's Bazaar.

Sun., November 20, 2011 Memorial and Celebration Hymn Sing - 7:00 pm

The next Epistle will be issued on November 6, 2011. DEADLINE for articles is Oct. 26, 2011. Please send articles to Susan Reed at svreed@bell.net
In the meantime, we hope that Jeff Shaw returns to the Epistle as soon as he is able. His expertise, his dedication and his organization of the Epistle are greatly missed.



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