



# the epistle

## Will Your Anchor Hold? By Isobel Bond

Will your anchor hold? Yes, if you are a member of St. Paul's United Church. So many things have happened in such a short time. Cathy Dilts had to leave us to help with an ailing parent. Jeff Shaw became ill and Cathy stayed by his side at Princess Margaret Hospital. Sharon Eagle-son had to take time to rest and recuperate after ill health.

Fortunately, people stepped up and filled in the breach. We are so fortunate to have such good people able to keep us functioning as a congregation. Kim Lawrance and Laura Springate have successfully taken over several Sunday services. We are blessed to have Karen Smart appointed by Oshawa Presbytery as Supervising Minister so that we can have Council meetings, Communion and Baptism. Susan Reed volunteered to fill in for Jeff Shaw as our editor of the Epistle. Linda Westendorp and Grace Sheaves helped in the office while Sharon was away. Our Sunday School has continued to run as Alison Siefert and Valerie Mandarich have worked together to teach and lead this very important group in our church. Lois Craig and the choir have worked so many hours and presented us with such beautiful music on Sundays and especially with the Cantata "Night of the Father's Love." Lois gives her best all year and we are delighted that a Junior Choir is with us again. The Men's Fellowship Club is another venture that is strengthening our church. Thanks to Reg Carter and the men, the breakfast they made for the congregation was a great success. We pray that the group will continue to grow.

### ***Will Your Anchor Hold continued***

The Property Committee with Wilma Brown as their chair has been busy cleaning, painting and repairing. We all appreciate what has been done. The UCW has continued to assist with refreshments, repairs and decorating the upstairs kitchen and washroom. The Bazaar they coordinate takes so many hands and they were very pleased with this year's results.

We have so much to be grateful for in the amount of time that Linda Westendorp has put in as chair of the Worship Committee and as Chair of the Council to tie everything together and keep us on track. Sharon Eagleson, since her return, has been such a great help answering the many questions that everyone has had. Our JNAC Committee worked hard to develop their report so that we can have our Search Committee find that special person to become our new minister.

To everyone who has helped (I'm sure I missed a few) thank you so much for your dedication and support. So you see our "Anchor" will not drift but "Firm Remain."

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## **STEWARDSHIP**

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### **FINANCIALLY SPEAKING: JANUARY 2012**

December 2011 was a good month for St. Paul's. Our good fortune is not only due to the generosity of those who attend Sunday services, but the UCW must also be recognized for donations of \$3,000 this month. It is your support for the UCW and its fundraising events that makes their financial support of St. Paul's possible. Please mark their events on your calendars.

Another important event to mark on your calendars is the upcoming annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 05, 2012. We hope that you will make plans to attend. Here at St. Paul's, everyone's opinions count and the congregational meetings are the time and place to register them. Please be a part of the process. Attend the meeting, express your opinions, and vote for the continuing strength of your Church.

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

*Your finance committee*

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## CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

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### We Live in God's World We are not Alone

You get an interesting perspective lying on your back in a hospital room, that is, if the particular ailment you have gives you the luxury of doing so. You see people hurting, physically and psychologically, and needing attention for many different concerns. There are generally no good reasons to go to the hospital but Grace and I are blessed with two of them.

Basically, we tend to take our health care for granted and think of it only when we are in need. We are indeed a fortunate society in that we have the convenience of people to look after us when we need them. I am thankful that people, day in and day out, face the challenge of dealing with hurt people with a smile and a genuine sense of compassion. It is with a societal gratitude that we should be glad that these people have accepted this calling.

"We live in God's world - we are not alone" is expressive in the terms of the whole and not in the strictly literal understanding. We live not just under the sight of God but within the whole body of Christ. None of us, even if we choose to sit alone, in the dark, is away from the light that shines from the warmth which falls from God. Neither are we, no matter how we may try to be, divorced from the reality of our human existence. God has made us a social creature in that we need and associate ourselves with each other. Our dependence on and assistance to one another is limited only to our needs and understanding. This time of year we pray to pursue all the good that humanity gives under the guidance of God and His Son. We can neither take each other nor our Faith for granted, thinking of them only when we need them. Our little community of faith is one small part of a greater sum. We, although few, are a part of God's greater world. We live in God's world.

To St. Paul's and all those who have blessed me with prayers, kind thoughts and phone calls regarding my recent illness, thank you. This has been a very different Christmas for my family and me, but you have made it special. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

God Bless,  
*Bill Sheaves*

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**OUTREACH**

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**MITTEN/GLOVE/HAT TREE**

*Submitted by Sharon Eagleson*

WOW! You outdid yourselves this year, St. Paul's. I am sorry but I was quite busy on December 19th so I did not count the numbers but I can tell you that there were many more donations from all of you this year than last. Every child whose family received a Christmas Family food hamper, Joanne's House (the youth shelter) and

Herizon House were all remembered by us this year. Not only did the mittens, gloves and hats look beautiful on the tree in our Narthex throughout the Christmas Season but there are quite a few children walking around our town with warm hands and heads thanks to your generosity.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY FOOD HAMPERS**

*Submitted by Sharon Eagleson*

Once again we have shown our support for the people in our community. On December 19th, Len and Barb Kisil came to the church bright and early to help me distribute the food hampers you so generously filled with all your donations of food, turkeys and gift cards. We gave out 8 hampers to families in need and then a hamper each for Joanne's House (the youth shelter) and Herizon House. Thank you to the UCW for their donations of shampoo, creams, etc. and of course the mittens, gloves, etc. from our tree.

Thanks goes to Walmart for waiving their two turkey limit and allowing me to purchase all the turkeys I needed (at the sale price!).

THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU WHO GAVE SO MUCH FOR OTHERS.

## HUNGRY AND THIRSTY

*by Janelle Shaw*



**Carleton**  
**UNIVERSITY**

I've written before about the Carleton Chaplaincy as a place where I have come to be more and more at home while I am away from home. I'd like to take a moment now to tell you about something run by the Chaplaincy that I have had the honour of being involved with for the past two years: the Pause Table.

The Pause Table is essentially free food for students during the exam period. It is organized by the Chaplaincy and sponsored by a different local church each day. Each church brings food and volunteers and we spend the day feeding students and helping them find the time to "pause" in their day, even if it's only while their bagel is toasting!

There is no preaching allowed, we don't even bring up religion unless the student does so first, and no money is accepted. It is a labour of love; a labour to show God's love to those people in the university who most need it. December is a hard time for many students. It is a time when funds are tight, stress is high and decisions must be made about the coming year. It is a time when family obligations need to be met and there just isn't enough time to eat or even to stop. We help with that.

Each day we serve between 600 and 1200 students, providing everything from coffee (a must), tea and hot chocolate to bagels, sandwiches, muffins, apples and everything else you could possibly imagine. We also give out free smiles and a listening ear when needed.

When asked why we do it, we say because it is needed, because we love you, and because we want you to know that we care. And although we don't say it to the students, we do it because as Christians we are charged to. Jesus tells us to love our neighbour and to serve the poor. By our own scriptures we are charged to feed the hungry and thirsty, show hospitality to those who are lonely and give a glass of cool water (or in this case, hot coffee) to those who need it as if we are doing it for him, for indeed, we are.

### ***Hungry and Thirsty continued***

So, does it work? Yes! The smiles that we see and the heartfelt thanks that we get from students (after they get over the shock of FREE) are absolutely amazing. And then we get the other conversations, the ones where we're told that it's like Christmas to see all of this food, and the ones where we are told "I'm so happy for you guys, because I was hating my life this morning." That's why we do it. Because in serving these students, walking with them for even a few moments, we are serving and seeing Christ.

In the end, it's not really about the food. That's just the vehicle to get us there. It's about serving as we are called to do, talking with the students for a few moments to let them know that we are there and that we care about them and just basically being the people that God would have us be. It is about seeing Christ in those students and letting God's love shine through us so that those students may see it as well.

In this New Year, I wish you all the hope, health and happiness that a new year brings and I pray that you may see Christ in everyone you meet and that everyone you meet may see Christ in you, for truly that is what we are called to do.

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## **ANGELS WERE MAKING THEIR ROUNDS!**

***Submitted by Karen Strong***



The choir's presentation of "Night of the Father's Love - The Awe and Mystery of God with Us" by Pepper Choplin was magical. Under Lois' direction the choir of 29 raised their voices and our spirits as the true meaning of Christmas was celebrated. The narrators Marie Nesbitt, Winston Pinnock and Linda Westendorp added to the drama of the service. I was lucky enough to enjoy both the service during our regular worship time on December 11 and the second performance at 2:00 pm on December 18.

Thank you again for working so hard to bring us such pleasure.

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**MUSIC**

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**SENIOR CHOIR NEWS**

*Submitted by Lois Craig*



A great big thank you to all those who participated in the Senior Choir's special Christmas presentation of Pepper Choplin's 'Night of the Father's Love. Our 'cast of thousands' included 29 in the choir, several of whom had never sung in a choir before, 3 soloists (all very talented), 3 narrators (very sensitive and gifted in this specialty), 2 soundmen (we couldn't have done it without you), ushers, folders of the bulletins, people who supplied the light refreshments for the second performance, Sharon Eagleson, our church administrator who provided 2 beautiful bulletins and Pam George and family who made the practice CDs that were used by many participants to prepare for our rehearsals. I heard through the grapevine that several people wished they had been a part of the experience. There will be future opportunities. Stay tuned! I am pleased to report that the second concert raised \$204.25 for our local foodbank. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

**SHORT TERM MEMORIES**

*"We Sing the Almighty Power of God was one of my favourite anthems ever! The Senior Choir is singing it again on Feb. 19. If I attend at least 2 of the 3 practices and feel ready, I could sing it with the choir. That would be a lot of fun!"*

Practice dates: Feb. 2, 9, and 16.

*"Well, I've never been in the choir, but singing with a large group appeals to me. When could I sing?"*

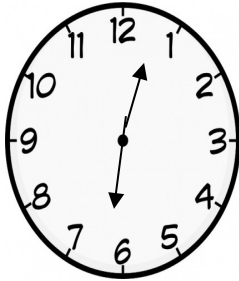
May I suggest you consider singing Sweet Hour of Prayer on Mar. 11. The rehearsals are Feb 23, Mar. 1 and Mar. 8. This golden oldie will be sung in unison, so it is easily learned by all.

If you have any questions about either Short Term Memory songs, give Lois a call at 905-428-1457 or just come to any of the practices listed above.



## NEWS FROM THE JOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Joint Search committee began meeting in November to plan the next steps in getting a new minister for St. Paul's. The Joint Search Committee welcomed the Rev. William Service and Ted Bazeley as our Presbytery reps on the committee. The chair of the committee is Bill Sheaves with Wendy Mason as corresponding secretary and Laura Springate as recording secretary. Other members of the Search Committee are Julia Godfrey, Kim Lawrance, Gord Ottaway, Dorothy Wilkins, Stuart McLean, Sarah Wood and Julie Kubien.



An ad has been prepared that will appear on the United Church of Canada national website beginning in January. A print ad will appear in The Observer beginning in the February and March edition. The vacancy and the JNAC report have been posted on our church website. Check out the new website at <http://www.stpaulsajax.org> The committee continues to meet to develop interview questions and to establish the priorities for our church based on the JNAC report. We wish the committee godspeed on their task.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT

*Submitted by Susan Reed*

The Annual Report is the church's record of the events that have taken place in the past year. All groups that are a part of the church are requested to summarize their activities and financial records for the year.

The deadlines for reports to be submitted is January 15. Reports can be emailed to Susan Reed at [svreed@bell.net](mailto:svreed@bell.net) or left in the cubbies at the church under the letter R.

If your group has received or spent money not included in the general church budget, then a financial report is also necessary. The financial report needs to be accompanied by an examiner's statement. Copies of the form are in the narthex of the church. The deadline for the financial reports is January 22. Reports can be emailed to Susan Reed at [svreed@bell.net](mailto:svreed@bell.net) or left in the cubbies at the church under the letter R.

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## THE CHURCH OFFICE

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After EIGHTEEN YEARS of faithful service BETTIE COONEY is retiring. Bettie has folded bulletins for me and all of you faithfully every Friday morning and neither rain nor sleet has kept her from her duties. I THANK HER MOST GRATEFULLY AND I WILL MISS HER! I am pleased to say WELCOME to Jean Severs and Helen Turner. These lovely ladies have volunteered to help me (AND YOU!).

*Sharon Eagleson*

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### TOGETHER WE CAN

*Submitted by Gladys Snelling*

Together we can honour Jeff Shaw's wishes to encourage people to be a Blood Donor. As previously announced at church, to honour Jeff's wishes and to show our appreciation and love to the Shaw family, a special Blood Donor Clinic is being planned. Jeff would like the donated blood to be given to anyone in need; however, the last information from Cathy Shaw was that Jeff had received 44 units of blood.

Canadian Blood Services needs a minimum of 50 donors to set up a special clinic. As of now, 34 committed donors have signed up; but we need at least 16 more. New donors can be 17 years old and up to the age of 61. If you are between 61 and 71, you may donate with written permission from your doctor.

***So let's get going - make a commitment to donate, approach your friends, your neighbours, your family and provide me with names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Call me at 905-683-3260 as soon as possible.***

Time is important as setting up a clinic requires coordination with the Community Development Coordinator, Canadian Blood Services. Plans are being made now for clinics in March and April of 2012.



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**FOR KIDS ONLY**


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**JUNIOR CHOIR***Submitted by Lois Craig*

Yes, St. Paul's has a junior choir. It is open to boys and girls age 6 years and older. If you want to join, or have a son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild who might be interested, please invite them to come. Our next practice is January 8, 2012 following the 10:30 am service. If you have any questions, call me at 905-428-1457.

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**CAN YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE?**

Solve the cryptogram and find a message from Hebrews 11:1 about faith. Each group of letters is a word. To start you off a

V equals E.

DTHLY HX LYV<sup>e</sup> XKSXLTVOV<sup>e</sup> QD

LYHWMX YQEVG<sup>e</sup> DQN, LYV<sup>e</sup> VCHGVWV<sup>e</sup>OV<sup>e</sup>

QD LYHWMX KW<sup>ee</sup>XVVW.

## WHAT'S ON!

### A SPECIAL NOTICE ABOUT BRIDGE NIGHT

*Submitted by Mabel Spencer*

**Friday,  
January 13,  
7:30 pm**

We are expanding. We now have a new title **Games Night**. We meet the second Friday of the month from September to May at 7:30 pm in the fellowship room. Please remember there is a \$2.00 cost to play. We welcome Euchre, Cribbage, Whist, Court Whist players and of course Bridge players. If you have another game you would like to play bring it along and we will try it. We extend this invitation to all members of the Church and your friends. Hope to see you on the second Friday of every month. Mabel Spencer: 905-683-7992

### MEN'S GROUP

**Saturday,  
January 14  
8:00 am**

Calling all men who want to meet and greet and know other men of the church. The group meets at 8:00 for breakfast and fellowship.

### U.C.W. ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday,  
January 22,  
11:30 am**

The United Church Women will hold their annual meeting following the Sunday morning service. All members are encouraged to attend this informative and important meeting,



## **IN MEMORIAM**

Walter (Wally) Briginshaw, loving husband of Mary Murray, father of Shelley, Sandra (Brad), and Sharon, Poppa of Shannon, Melissa, Jake, Carly, Zoey, Sarah and Meghan, great grand Poppa of Jordy.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**January 8                      Kim Lawrance**

**January 15                    BAPTISM  
Rev. Karen Smart**

**January 22                   Ruth Olley**

**January 29                   Laura Springate**

**February 5                    COMMUNION  
Rev. Karen Smart  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The next Epistle will be issued on February 5, 2012. DEADLINE for articles is January 28, 2012. Please send articles to Susan Reed at [svreed@bell.net](mailto:svreed@bell.net)



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

**"The Church with the Open Arms"**

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