



Worshipping God ..... Serving People

# St. Paul's United Church

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Advent 2017

## Mission Statement

Our mission as a community of Christ's disciples is to grow in faith, in love of God, all human beings and the world God created.

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## Advent Worship Services

December 2 <b>Greening</b>	3 - 6:30pm	Advent Decorating Carols and Pot Luck Supper
December 3 <b>Advent 1</b>	10:00am	<i>Watch and Hope</i> Communion
	6:30pm	Advent Walk (ADC)
December 10 <b>Advent 2</b>	10:00am	<i>Pilgrimage of Peace</i> White Gift Dedication and Baptism
	7:00pm	Candlelight Noel
December 17 <b>Advent 3</b>	10:00am	<i>Never Ending Joy</i>
December 24 <b>Advent 4</b>	10:00am	<i>Love, the Art of Walking Side by Side</i>
	7:00pm	Christmas Pageant
	10:00pm	Christmas Communion <i>Engaging the World in a Conspiracy of Love</i>
December 31 <b>Christmas 1</b>	10:00am	<i>A New World</i>





## Rev. Helen Prior: Ministry Musings

The Season of Advent is upon us. The nights are growing darker, the days are growing colder, yet our hearts are filled with a sense of heightened anticipation, expectation, and waiting. We get busy with planning, shopping, baking, parties and visiting. Yet, in the midst of our chaos, God calls to us to prepare for the coming of the Christ child, being born anew into our world and into our individual hearts.

Advent reflects our present reality at St. Paul's United Church in many ways. As a community of believers, there is a nervous expectation, wondering what God might be birthing within us. Like all people, we have that human temptation to want to rush ahead, to

forget about the preparation, to just move on to the main event. But birthing new life takes time, for humans it's 40 weeks. Ah – now there's a number we've seen a few times before – 40 days it rained and poured before Noah saw dry land, 40 years Moses and the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, 40 days Jesus was tempted and tested in the wilderness. In each story of "40" an old way of being was being left behind, something new was being formed in the lives of the faithful. New life takes time, even for God.

During this time of preparation, we need to take time to reflect on the hope, peace, joy and love, offered to us through the grace of God. We are constantly reminded that God reverses expectations and flips the world order on its head. God is holy mystery, reminding us that when God is most involved we should expect the un-expected. The people of Israel yearned for a Messiah, a king, a mighty Saviour who would come to rescue the faithful in a world of political and economic domination. The first desire was for a strong warrior who could take on the corrupt powers and principalities of the world with superior brutality and force. But with true wonder and wisdom, our Creator sent, not a mighty warrior, but a vulnerable, fragile baby. God sent someone (not from wealthy monarchy) but from lowly peasant stock - to carry, not a message of conquering might, but one of enduring peace and love.

Christmas for me is always a time of such wondrous grace. God created us to be in relationship with God and each other, and we wandered. God gave the people the law, and they turned away. God sent prophets to call the people back into relationship. With all those attempts, God didn't give up. Instead God knew us well enough to know that we needed to meet a person who so fully embodied God that we couldn't ignore him. God sent us someone we could use all our senses to connect with, to see, hear, touch - someone who carried the mystery, awe and wonder of God, yet could still capture our human hearts. Jesus embodied God's heart and God's message of love, and then started embracing the world with it. To know that God would go to such lengths, that God would persist time and time again, leaves me feeling profoundly loved, and grateful.

As Jesus' followers, may we remember who God calls us to be in this Advent season. As we move through the coming weeks of hope, peace, joy and love, may we prepare our hearts for the new life I believe God intends to birth within us through the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

May God's Blessings be with all of you and your families throughout Advent, Christmas and into the New Year!

Christmas Blessings to you and yours!

*Rev. Helen*





## Rev. Miriam Spies

Watch and pray. While we wait, we watch for the light.

Take a deep breath as we enter into this season of Advent, this season of waiting and watching for God's love to enter into our lives and our world once again. This season can get busy with pageant preparations, decorating, gift-making, and family visiting. And there is much joy to be found here, but God calls us back to deep breaths, waiting and watching for the Light.

What is it that you are waiting and watching for this year? Mary and Joseph were waiting and watching for their first child, for God's child to be born. They likely held the same fears and hopes many parents-to-be hope for. They may have wondered how this tiny babe would live up to God's promise for the people, for the world. They may have held this time together as holy, before the world knew of the good news alive. A time to breathe, to take in the call of God's love to them.

What is it that you are waiting and watching for this year? The wise men and shepherds were waiting and watching for a new leader to come among the people, to bring hope where there was despair. They were waiting and watching for God's promise of everlasting presence and solidarity with all peoples, throughout joys and brokenness of life. While journeying to the manger, there was time to breathe, to take in the call of God's love to them.

What is it that you are waiting and watching for this year? Herod and the leaders of the time were waiting and watching with fear and anxiety of the future, how this "Prince of Peace" would disrupt their roles, their power. They were waiting and watching the peoples' attitudes and tones – with this promise of new hope sustaining and leading them. Their breath was shorter, waiting and watching how God's call of love might dismantle their power.

What is it that you are waiting and watching for this year? The angels were waiting and watching with excitement to see God's gift of Love surprise the peoples of the world. Waiting and watching, with time to breathe, to deliver the call of God's love to the people.

What is it that you are waiting and watching for this year? How are you taking time to breathe, to take in God's call of love to and for you?

As Jesus invited his disciples to watch and pray with him as his death drew near, we are invited to watch and pray with Mary as his life is born anew. Take a deep breath. Wait and watch for the Light of the World entering once again.

### *"Do this in remembrance of me"*

**With these words ringing in our ears we at St. Paul's regularly celebrate communion.**

*Do you feel called to serve communion?*



Holy Communion is one of the two sacraments of the United Church. At the communion table, we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the host and all are guests. The United Church invites all who seek to love Jesus to share in this family meal.

If you would like to assist in the serving of communion, please see Eydie Zuk, contact me at [eydiestpaulsdundas@gmail.com](mailto:eydiestpaulsdundas@gmail.com) or sign your name on the list on the table in the dining hall.



## Fredric DeVries: GOD on the QEW

I saw God on the QEW last August. At least that is what it said on the license plate, G-O-D. So perhaps it was God. And what better place? After all, we could all benefit by a manifestation of God during rush hour on the QEW. At first my skeptical self said, Oh, that's silly! After all, wouldn't G-O-D be one of those personalized license plate options excluded by the Ministry of Transportation? But wait---wouldn't that be evidence that it was indeed GOD, transcending the precepts of man? A beautiful license plate it was, with lots of pictures around the edges. Definitely out-of-province (as if that should surprise me), but I couldn't get close enough to see where from.

On the assumption that this was indeed GOD on the QEW what was it I should do now? I did feel "strangely warmed" being so close to God.

I wasn't about to pull ahead of God; that would be presumptuous.

Get in line behind God? Maybe, but how could I ever be in conversation with God?

So I chose to drive side by side with God, let God know I was there too and see where God would lead me.

But I was going to Stoney Creek --- so what would I do if God exited at Walkers' Line? Let God know I had other plans? Or should I take a leap of faith and exit at Walker's Line too?

It got me thinking. How many times have you, like me, when faced with hard decisions, wished that God would just tell me, like he spoke to the prophets, exactly what I was supposed to do? Yet, what if God did show up in a documentable way and tell us to do something we would prefer not to? On the other hand, perhaps many of you, like me, deeply believe that there have been times that we have definitely felt the leading of God in our lives. If we tried to explain what led us and how we knew it was God, it might not convince the skeptic. But by faith, we know without a doubt that we indeed have felt God in our life, and it has brought us closer in love to God.

The Holy Spirit provides so many ways to give us strength and guidance. The Bible, the Sacraments, worship, a word from friends or strangers, even nature, all confirm your trust that God is leading us along as we try to follow in Jesus' ministry. We can be thankful that GOD rarely drives up alongside us on the QEW with a news flash about what we should do next.

And foremost, God has made one narrative very clear as guidance to you and to me and to all. The story most eloquent of the birth and life and death and resurrection of Jesus, our Model and our Redeemer, to renew us and guide us now and in the coming years.

And, just in case you wondered, when God was driving on the QEW last August, she looked to me to be in her twenties and drove a late model mid-sized Chevrolet.

Christmas Blessings,  
*Fredric*



## Music News

Music at St. Paul's has continued to move forward this fall. The music groups are actively taking part in the music ministry. Community concerts are held in the beauty of our restored Sanctuary.

One new feature in the music ministry this fall is the Handbell Workshop for New Bell Players which meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm. It has been a time of community as we learn bell techniques and enjoy making music. I urge you to give a thought to coming out for a few weeks and enjoy learning about our bells.

And now our focus and energy is working towards Christmas. The Chancel Choir is preparing music for our Candlelight Noel Service of Lessons and Carols which takes place on Sunday December 10. Joining them will be the Handbell Ringers, the Celestial Singers, musical friends, and young readers who will combine to celebrate the story and music of the season.

The Afternoon Singers continue in a special ministry of singing at many area retirement homes and care

facilities. As well, the Sweet Refrain will be visiting St. Joseph's Juravinski Centre in December with their music as well as other venues. The children's choirs will also be caroling at Elm Villa in December. And the Handbells will entertain at the Hamilton Presbyterial UCW Christmas event.

Along with the Candlelight Noel, coming up will be the Advent Walk, December 3, the Pageant on Christmas Eve, and the various Advent and Christmas worship services, filled with music. May they be a blessing to you, one and all.

Coming up in 2018, on Friday, March 2, all the music groups of St. Paul's will present the 2018 St. Paul's Musical Showcase.

Throughout the fall we have welcomed some new members in our musical groups, but there is always a place for more. Perhaps 2018 will be the year that YOU become part of one of our many musical groups. We thank you for your ongoing support.

*Fredric*



**Candlelight Noel**

A Service of Lessons and Carols  
St. Paul's Chancel Choir, Celestial Choir, and Handbell Ringers

**Sunday, December 10th 7:00 pm**

St. Paul's United Church  
(Cross and Park Streets)

Nursery provided • Reception to follow  
Fully Accessible

Everyone is invited

The poster features a red candle shaped like a Christmas tree, a red and white striped ornament, and a red ornament with a white 'e' on it, all set against a background of musical notes and a small Christmas tree.

## Coffee Hour Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to sign up to host Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings.

This important ministry needs you!

Tasks include making coffee, set up, clean up and chatting with people.

Please sign up on the calendar on the counter in the Dining Hall.



## Sunbeams



The Sunbeams began their music ministry on November 12<sup>th</sup> by singing their theme song, "Sunbeam" as well as a piece written by a famous friend of mine. I've called on her many times through the years for many types of reasons all through the seasons. The Sunbeams sang "Let's Sing about God's Love" which tells us that God's love reaches "all creatures, Great and small, all people, one and all, a love that has no end, on this you can depend." In these anxious times we are living in, these words are calming and reassuring. Whether a child or an Adult we need to hear that God's love is never far away, always surrounding us.

This year the Sunbeams will be singing the music composed by Natalie Sleeth. I have been playing her music for many years and my friend was always there when I needed her. Born in 1930 she began studying piano at the age of 4 and has written many choral works, canons, hymns and music especially for children. As it goes with far too many remarkable composers, she died at the age of 61. At 22 she received an Academic Major in music theory and a BA in music theory at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and at 29 received an honorary doctorate from 2 American Colleges in 1959 and 1998. As an organist she wrote over 200 highly successful selections for church and school. Her music lifts the Spirit, heals a broken heart, renews memories and reminds us that God is always near. One of her most well-known hymns appears in Voices United #703, "In the Bulb there is a Flower", also known as "The Hymn of Promise". Her choice of words can be easily understood at any age and brings the music to life. She speaks of cocoons and butterflies, "snow in winter followed by a waiting spring." It is a beautiful hymn that is suitable at any time, whatever the season or the reason. With Advent and Christmas approaching, the Sunbeams are preparing 3 more songs that best proclaim the joy and the wonder of that first Christmas day. "He Comes!", "Light One Candle" and "I Wish I'd Been in Bethlehem". I hope you enjoy meeting Natalie too as I did many years ago. She writes in beautiful metaphors and the child-like simplicity permeates her music allowing it to be effortless to learn.

We have welcomed 12 children this season from the age of 3 to 7 years and there's always room for more. As family schedules become less hectic you can always join us. We are now learning Melodie Bells, such good timing for the Christmas songs. We include a craft night each month to celebrate special occasions and events through the year and we've discovered how the children can still focus on singing even while their hands are busy. The Sunbeams have recently changed their location for practicing to the YCC room which is now cheerful and very accommodating. The sofas and plump chairs are comfortable for the waiting families. Please feel free to come in for a visit some time. I appreciate any suggestions and requests too and delighted when instruments are donated for our youth choirs to play. Thank you Terry and Jill Bolton for your offering and your support of the youth choirs' music ministry.

This Christmas season we wish you dreams to dream, your own songs to sing your own happiness to happen now and during the New Year and always.

Blessings,  
*Mary Margaret*



## Church Board Chair: John Parcher

Advent versus Christmastime.

Each Sunday during Advent we light a candle in the Advent Wreath. Each candle with its own meaning: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The last candle, the 5<sup>th</sup> candle – the Christ Candle – we light at Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We mark the coming of Christ over 25 days.

Christmastime. Interesting that this year I found stores putting out Christmas Lights before Halloween had happened, and way before Remembrance Day. Christmas music abounds in many stores already. Fifty-six days of wind-up.

Four weeks to anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ. Eight weeks of commercial build-up to Christmas. Really!?

Fortunately, we have the many wonders of Advent at St. Paul's to balance the commercial side of the season: The Advent Walk, The Candlelight Noel, The Christmas Pageant, Saturday Breakfasts; opportunities for family, friendship and fellowship.

I encourage all of you to gather for these wonderful moments to be shared and enjoyed. Thank you to all who continue to serve St. Paul's in ways both noticed and in the shadows.

The Best of the Season to all, and Happy New Year.

Blessings to you and your family.

*John Parcher*



## Scripture Readers

To read the Word of God before the people of God is magnificent.

We, the congregation of St. Paul's Dundas, are people who love Scripture. The Apostles did also. In 1 Timothy 4:13 in writing to Timothy, Paul said the following, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." (NIV). In Revelations 1:3 we hear the following words, "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near." (NRSV)

Recently we have heard at St. Paul's, "*where do you fit in?*"

Do you feel a calling to read Scripture?

I am putting together a Scripture Reading Ministry. You will be given guidance to be well equipped if you have not participated in this ministry before. As part of the body of Christ, we are here to bring something important each Sunday through the reading of The Word that brings us together and builds us in faith.

Please sign your name in the week you are available to read on the schedule in the dining hall or speak to Eydie Zuk for more information.

[eydiestpaulsdundas@gmail.com](mailto:eydiestpaulsdundas@gmail.com)



## - OUTREACH ACTIVITIES -

### Wesley Urban Ministries: Christmas and Holiday Store

This unique assistance program allows low income families and individuals of all ages to "shop" and choose their own gifts and food for the Christmas season. St Paul's has been asked to continue our tradition of supporting the store by providing monetary donations for the purchase of gifts, gift cards, and personal care items for youth. Through bulk purchasing power and special agreements with various companies, Wesley staff are able to stretch our donated dollars much further than we would be able to by purchasing these gift items ourselves. Our White Gift offering collected on Dec 3rd and Dec 10th will go to support this important ministry, so please give generously!!

This year we will also be collecting donations of knitted items for all ages (hats, head bands, scarves, mitts etc) and packages of new adult socks which will be taken to the Christmas store after our service on Dec 10th. Please place these items in the collection box located in the Narthex.

The Christmas and Holiday Store will be located at Pioneer Memorial United Church, 1974 King St. E, Hamilton. Shoppers' registration will occur from Dec 5th-Dec 8th and the store will be open from Dec 13th - Dec 22nd.

As always, volunteers are needed to fill many different roles. If you are able to help, please contact the new volunteer coordinator at 905-528-5629 ext 240 or volunteer@wesley.ca or visit their website at [www.wesley.ca/xmas/](http://www.wesley.ca/xmas/)



### Canadian Foodgrains Bank Update

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's "growing project" as part of CFGB's Christian response to fighting global hunger!! This year, St. Paul's again partnered with Bowman and Bethesda United Churches to pay the costs for farmer Ray Butter to plant and harvest 5 acres of corn on the Shaver Homestead Farm owned by Shirley and (the late) Jack Cranston.

Although proceeds from the sale of this year's crop are not yet known, our Thanksgiving offering of \$2,515 and donations of almost \$600 received at the fall fundraising BBQ, should bring our final 2017 CFGB contributions to close to \$3,000. These donations are matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government, which makes this a very significant contribution. Excellent work everyone!!!

For more information about CFGB and their activities, please see their website at [www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca).



**gifts with vision** 

Looking for a way to honour loved ones at Christmas (or other special occasions) and make a difference in the world?

Check out The United Church's "Gifts with Vision" catalogue. You will find a wide variety of ideas to suit every interest and budget. "Gifts" starting at \$10 and up to \$250 support Mission and Service work in Canada and around the world!

Pick up a catalogue outside the church office, in the library or online at [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca)

## - OUTREACH ACTIVITIES -

### Dundas Good Food Box

Did you know . . . members of St Paul's continue to support the Dundas Community Food Bank through their monthly monetary donations to the Dundas Good Food Box (organized by Dundas in Transition)?

These donations are used to purchase boxes of fresh produce (\$15/box) which are then donated to the local food bank to be distributed to their clients. If you are interested in contributing to this program, donations can be made by specifying "The Dundas Good Food Box" via PAR, Sunday offering envelopes, or by contacting the church office.



### Sunday Dinner at Wesley Centre

St Paul's takes on the responsibility of preparing and serving one Sunday dinner per year at the Wesley Centre on Ferguson St in Hamilton.

This year we are scheduled to provide the meal for approximately 200 people on Sunday, January 14, 2018. Thanks to the many volunteers who come forward each year and work together to make this meal happen.

If you are interested in getting involved, please speak to Winston Lindsay or Mary Sealy.



Did you know that Facebook has over 1 billion active users, and that it offers a huge potential customer pool, which makes it an essential marketing tool? Not surprisingly, Facebook already boasts 11 million business pages.

We, at St. Paul's, are one of those which have our own Facebook business page. Are you one of the people who "like" our page?

Since I created our page over 3 years ago, we now have over 250 people from Dundas, Hamilton, other places around Ontario and Canada, the United States, England and Australia who regularly look at our page!

**Come on over and**



**@St.PaulsDundas**

*Many blessings,  
Eydie Zuk, Social Media Coordinator*

## United Church Women: Upcoming events:

### Joy Day

Hosted by Hamilton Presbyterial UCW

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-3:00pm at Waterfront Centre, Hamilton  
Speaker Rev. Lynne Godfrey, executive director of L'Arche, which provides services for those with developmental challenges.

Entertainment by St. Paul's U.C. hand bell choir. Cost \$25.00, includes lunch.



### World Day of Prayer

Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018. Service developed by the Christian Women of Suriname.

Theme: "All God's Creation is Very Good"

Host Church for Dundas TBA.

### St. Paul's Garage Sale

Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2018

For more information about UCW or any of the above events please contact Win Czum at [twczum@teksavvy.com](mailto:twczum@teksavvy.com) or check out the UCW bulletin board in the hallway, off parking lot entrance.

If you would like to join a UCW group, contact Win Czum. Most groups meet monthly for a time of fellowship and reflection.

Blessings,  
Win Czum



## WRAPPED IN LOVE

Members of St. Paul's may have noticed the attractive paper quilt display set on an easel in the dining hall. The display is the outcome of a participatory 'quilt-making' activity led by Reverend Mary Jo Patterson at the third annual Women's Gathering' that took place in the church on May 6, 2017. Reverend Patterson, an ordained minister in the United Church, a Ph.D candidate, a psychotherapist, and an artist provided an inspirational presentation titled, 'Wrapped

in Love'. Over 50 women registered for the event which was supported financially by Christian Development and the United Church Women.

Women responded enthusiastically to the Gathering. Evaluation notes included adjectives such as 'thought provoking, challenging, enjoyable; creative and inspiring; profoundly helpful & moving personally & for our community; excellent combination of speaking, listening & doing, excellent "round up" of ideas; very spiritual; wonderful, loved Mary Jo - her message & her humour! Attendees enthusiastically recommended that the Women's Gathering become an annual St. Paul's event.

Sharon McKay, Barb Carpio, Susanne Crago

## 2017 Advent Spiritual Accompaniment

*"To wait with openness and trust is an enormously radical attitude toward life."*

Henri Nouwen

In his book Finding My Way Home, Henri Nouwen writes a chapter entitled, The Path of Waiting. Many of his wise words are helpful for us as we enter this Advent season of waiting.

He points to the Psalmist's waiting:

*"my soul waits for the Lord . . ." Ps. 130:5, noting this  
"is the theme that reverberates all through the Hebrew scriptures."*

Nouwen then names those in the opening of Luke's gospel who are waiting: Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon and Anna,

*"waiting for something new to appear to them. . . . they are present to the moment.  
That is why they could hear the angel. They were alert and attentive to the voice that spoke  
to them and said, 'Don't be afraid'"*

As we prepare to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus' birth on this earth, let us too listen for the angel voice speaking into our lives. Let us too be open and unafraid, trusting and attentive as we wait and anticipate the birthing of a further gift of God's active and loving presence in our lives.

*"I wait for You, my soul waits,  
and in your Word, I hope;  
My soul awaits the Beloved  
as one awaits the birth of a child,  
or, as one awaits the fulfillment  
of their destiny."*

from Psalm 130 in Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill

If you wish to make an appointment with one who will listen with you and accompany you in your Advent waiting, call 905-628-0209 or email [f.litt@sympatico.ca](mailto:f.litt@sympatico.ca)

Flora Irwin, Spiritual Accompaniment, St. Paul's United Church



## Time Apart in 2018

**Saturday January 20, February 24 and March 24**  
**St. Paul's Sanctuary 9:15am - 12:00**

This is an invitation and opportunity to experience a Saturday morning **Time Apart** to be refreshed in a beautiful and sacred space. We will meditatively attend to God's loving presence through gentle spiritual practices. You may wish to bring your own Bible and journal.

No prior registration necessary. No cost.

For more information contact Flora at 905-628-0209 or [f.litt@sympatico.ca](mailto:f.litt@sympatico.ca)

Leadership: Rev. Seiichi Ariga and Flora Irwin

## Stewardship

The past three months have proven to be very busy for the members of your Stewardship Committee. The 2nd annual St. Paul's golf event was a fun day for all with lots of opportunity to win good prizes and have a happy time over a light meal. However that last Sunday in September turned out to be about 32c and our 9 holes only tournament proved to be a lifesaver. Many thanks to all who participated and to those who helped with the sponsorships. We look forward to next year.

Your committee members also helped with Fiesta. The momentum for Consecration Sunday on November 19th built through October with letters written and pledge forms mailed. Stewardship hosted a Luncheon after church that Sunday to celebrate our parishioners' ongoing support with time, talents and treasure. Thanks to all who prayerfully considered and filled out their pledge forms and helped with the luncheon. It is good to know that resources are available for all the wonderful ministries that happen both inside and outside the sanctuary doors.

Looking to the New Year, we are planning an event on Legacy Giving with the Conference Stewardship co-ordinator. Also an 'Art Sale' may be in the works, details to follow, and our Coffee Challenge will be announced.

Have a blessed Advent Season.

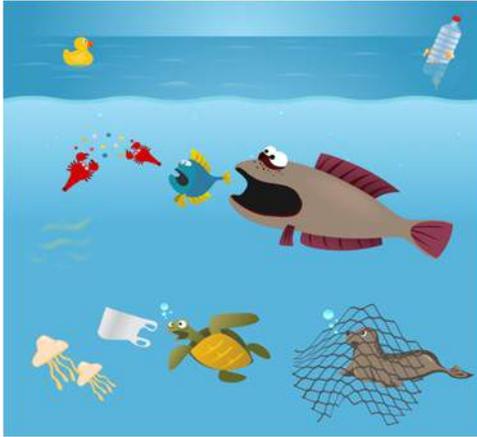
*Bob Boose, chair*



*Some of St. Paul's Golfers  
At Oak Gables Golf Club  
September 24*



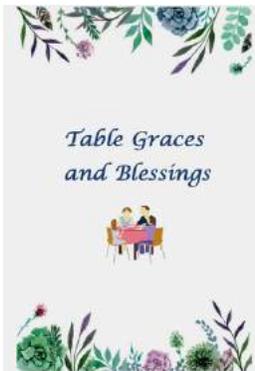
## EcoWHam Oceans Event



Eco Churches of West Hamilton (EcoWHam) held an event featuring our oceans on November 10 at St. Paul's. Ashley Wallis, Water Program Manager at Environmental Defence, made a very sobering presentation and we watched some short videos, focussing on plastics in Earth's oceans. Questions and discussion, and refreshments followed. Plastics can absorb toxic chemicals from the ocean; they are ingested by fish which then end up on our plates. The picture shows some other problems caused by plastic.

**Lesson: Reduce** our use of plastic and **recycle**.  
For more information, see the film *A Plastic Ocean*.

Mary Sealey



## Table Graces and Blessings

Unit 5 of the UCW has produced a booklet with table graces and blessings suitable for both adults and children. Each booklet cost \$2 to produce, so any donations over that amount will be directed to Unit 5 to support specific projects within St. Paul's church and the community.

Please see Cathy Pengelly to obtain a booklet.

## Men's Breakfast Club

We continue to serve the "best breakfast in town" every Saturday morning (from 8 to 10) to about 50 or 60 guests each week.

As you probably know, our net proceeds go toward the many needs and outreach projects at St. Paul's. By coming to the breakfast you therefore not only get a good meal and have an opportunity to meet with friends, you help your church.

Men, if you are interested in joining our group, you need not be available every week. We will find you a task to suit you!



## Sunday, December 3 at 6:30pm

The Association of Dundas Churches invites all to join in the 25th annual Advent Walk as an ecumenical witness to our yearning for Jesus to enter our lives and hearts again this year.

Our Advent Walk is part of our "pilgrimage to peace and justice" - small steps from church to church.

We begin at St. Paul's and end at St. James Anglican Church.

## \*\* Readers Wanted \*\*

At St. Paul's, we are blessed with a beautiful Library area with lots of good books and comfortable chairs nearby. What we really need is people to come and enjoy! Here are some ideas of what is available.

Do you love a good fiction read? Try Richard Manganese's **Medicine Walk**. This a beautifully written story of a 16 year old boy coming to terms with his roots.

How about biography? **Joan Chittister: Her Journey From Certainty to Faith** relates the fascinating story of this Benedictine nun and leading voice for spiritual renewal.

Are you called on to lead a short worship or thought for your group? Help can be found in **Dipping Your Toes** by Rev. Janet Stobie, who outlines full worship ideas that can be adapted to any length. Or perhaps you could look at **And She Said**, in which author Betty Radford Turcott gives voice to the many silent women of the Bible.

Are you looking for understanding of the complex indigenous questions? **Missing Nimama** by Melanie Fiorena is a beautiful children's book which needs to be read by every adult. **The Sharing Circle** is another children's book. It is a collection of seven stories about First Nation's culture and spiritual practices.

**Sorry - Why Our Church Apologized** provides a United Church voice on the apology. **Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry: conversations on creation, land justice, and life together"** edited by Steve Heinrichs offers many different voices and viewpoints. **Wrongs to Rights: How Churches Can Engage the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"** gives serious thought to what practically our role might be.

All these can be found in the New Additions section by the counter where you can sign out books. Check it out!

Marlene Cameron  
On behalf of the Library Committee



## Happy Gang

Come join Happy Gang, for an afternoon of playing the game of Dominos. If you don't know how, we will teach you... no pressure, just fun!!

Although this activity began as a board games afternoon, Dominos very soon became the game of choice. To date approximately 24 people from the congregation and community make Dominos the place to go twice monthly. So come join us — all are welcome! Refreshments are served, so if you rather not play, but wish to socialize you are welcome too.

### Tuesdays at 1:30 in the Parlour — Happy Gang Dates for 2018:

January 2 and 16 and 30  
February 6 and 20  
March 6 and 20

April 3 and 17  
May 1 and 15 and 29  
June 5 and 19



If you wish additional information, please contact Win Czum or Cathy Pengelly.

## Pastoral News

### Baptisms

Alexandra Rosalie Ying An Ng on October 29, 2017  
daughter of Eleanor and Kelvin Ng

### Funerals

Kenneth Lawrence on September 19, 2017  
Harvey Beard on October 24, 2017  
Jean Lennie on November 4, 2017  
Audrey Sneath on November 13, 2017  
Norma Robinson on November 30, 2017



### Marriages

Konrad Hammel and Caroline Boros on November 4, 2017

## Advent Bible Study

Rev. Helen will be leading a Bible Study during the season of Advent on Wednesday mornings from 10am till 12 noon in the parlour. We will study the scriptures from the lectionary, which will then be the focus of the following Sunday's service.



The first gathering will be on Wednesday, November 29. All are welcome.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our crafters have been busy preparing items (hats, scarfs etc.) to contribute to the local charities at Christmas. Also, we continue to knit and crochet prayer shawls. Please keep in mind that you might want one to celebrate a special event in your family.

In January, we will have a session to learn about and create twiddlemuffs. They will then be distributed to individuals with Alzheimer's. Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletins for further information.

We always appreciate contributions of knitting supplies. Please contact Barb Hallam for further information.

## Church Contacts

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### Ministry of Music

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St. Paul's United Church

[newsletter@stpaulsdundas.com](mailto:newsletter@stpaulsdundas.com)



### Receiving the Newsletter via Email

Readers are encouraged to receive this newsletter electronically. Kindly send an email to [newsletter@stpaulsdundas.com](mailto:newsletter@stpaulsdundas.com) to be added to our newsletter email distribution list.

### Submissions to the Newsletter

This newsletter is published three times per year. Submissions may be emailed to [newsletter@stpaulsdundas.com](mailto:newsletter@stpaulsdundas.com), sent to Maryon Egerton-Jones at [egertonjones@gmail.com](mailto:egertonjones@gmail.com) or 289-238-8637, or left with the Church office.

