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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

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Toronto, ON M4W 1C8
416-961-8116
mail@stpaulsbloor.org

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sanctuary Hours

Sundays: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Parking

Parking is free on Sunday mornings at the Manulife building located on the north side of Bloor Street at the top of Ted Rogers Way. To gain access to Manulife's parking, press the intercom button and inform the security attendant you are attending a service at St. Paul's.

Charitable Number
119194942RR0001

stpaulsbloor.org

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Thanksgiving at St. Paul's



Welcome to our Thanksgiving Sunday celebration. Thanksgiving at St. Paul's is a time to express our deep gratitude and give praise to God for all he has provided to us throughout the year.

Today we thank the Chancel Guild for the lovely decorations and Omari Alonzo for providing delicious pumpkin tarts for all to enjoy after the services.

GriefShare Starts This Month



If you have lost a loved one, this 6-week series offers support and fellowship through the grieving process.

The series is a biblical approach to the deep hurt from the finality of death. Join us starting

Monday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information or to register visit stpaulsbloor.org/griefshare or contact Nancy Truscott, Parish Nurse, at parishnurse@stpaulsbloor.org or ext. 228 .

Times Have Changed

By Barry Parker,
Rector (Sr. Minister)

*"Toto, I've a feeling we're not
in Kansas anymore."*

(Dorothy, *The Wizard of Oz*, 1939)

The Christian Church is shifting and changing throughout the world. One of the momentous changes we are experiencing is the shift out of **Christendom**.

Since the fourth century, Christianity as the established religion. It is used as synonymous with

the Western world, the 'official' religion if you will. This had practical application. Christianity was the singular, dominant religion, meaning "everyone" either attended a local church or would consider themselves attached to one. For example, the Anglican church growth strategy in the 1940's, after WWII, was simply to build churches, open the doors and they would be full.

Times have changed.

We now live in what is called post-Christendom. **Post-Christendom** is the loss of the primacy of the Christian worldview in the culture, especially in the Global North where Christianity had previously flourished, in favor of many alternative worldviews. When we speak of post-Christendom, we are making the point that the church no longer occupies this central place of social and cultural domination. Western civilization no longer considers itself to be formally or officially Christian.

We have one of two choices. We can be depressed at the demise of cultural Christianity, evidenced by the decline of so many churches in numbers and influence. Or, we can see this as a God-given opportunity to share the good news of Jesus in new, fresh and creative ways.

At St. Paul's Bloor Street, we believe God is still Sovereign and Jesus is still the Head of His Church. We believe the world still needs the hope, meaning and purpose that is found in Jesus Christ. To that end, there is a sense of deep optimism and hope



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which infuses St. Paul's. Sure, we have challenges and issues to engage. But we also believe God intends his Church to grow in health and spiritual depth. We long to invite as many as possible on this journey of faith.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to engage others in a faith journey here at St. Paul's is a personal invitation. Yes, a simple invitation is the most effective way of introducing others to this great life-adventure of following Jesus, especially on a Sunday morning.

Think about your many relationships—family, friends, or work colleagues. Think of someone in particular. If you like, take the invitation card we are providing that simply welcomes others to participate on Sunday, October 15th. All you have to do is ask. God will take care of the rest. No matter the response, it is between the person you invite and God. It is that easy.

Just as we were invited by someone, perhaps many years ago, it will be exciting to see what God is up to when we intentionally invite others on this journey.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

We are doing a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Daily Bread Food Bank. Help us make a difference.

The top items needed are peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce but all donations are appreciated.

Bring your nonperishable food items and place them in the bin in the Atrium.

Annual General Meeting



The 175th Annual General (Vestry) Meeting of St. Paul's Bloor Street will be held on **Sunday, October 22 at 12:15 p.m.** The parish roll is available at St. Paul's Central or at the office during the week. Please check to ensure you are on the list. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend.

Materials for the Vestry Meeting are now available for pick up at St. Paul's Central. Ask for your copy of the Annual Ministry Reports.

Financial Town Halls will take place on Sunday, October 15 after each service.

To submit a motion for consideration at the Vestry meeting, a written copy must be provided to the Wardens by noon on Tuesday, October 17. Motions can be dropped off at the office or emailed to mail@stpaulsbloor.org.

Looking for a Communion Service during the week? Come to Tuesday Communion

Join us every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m. for a short Holy Communion service.

Cornerstone Dinner



By Sandra Seaborn, Associate Priest

St Paul's finds itself on the edge of a number of communities where financial insecurity leads to food insecurity. Nearby us St. James Town and Regent Park residents experience higher than average poverty and hunger. Church in the City, a church located in Regent Park, offers a free Saturday dinner to about 400 people weekly called Cornerstone. This meal is offered in partnership with the support of other churches, St. Paul's Bloor Street being one of them. Our youth group started our relationship with Cornerstone several years ago. This partnership has now expanded to include the whole church as cooks, drivers, waiters and dishwashers. When it is our turn, we prep and cook the food in our kitchen. The food is then transported from our church, by our volunteers, in their cars. (We have learned the importance of flat back seats to avoid spilling.) Once the food arrives, the salad is assembled, cutlery is wrapped, and food is plated. Before the guests are served, we pray asking to be conduits of peace and hope and then we serve them. After everyone is served, we help clean up - plates are washed, pots scrubbed, and the floor mopped. Church in the City then hosts a Saturday evening worship service for those who wish to stay. By 7 p.m. we head home with tired feet and expanded hearts.

Although it can be physically exhausting, the experience of sharing with others is a huge blessing. If you are willing and able, you are welcome to help with food prep (12 noon – 3 p.m.), driving (3 – 4 p.m.) or serving (4 – 7 p.m.). Children, usually ages 9 and up, who can follow directions and move about independently, are also invited to serve along with their guardians. Our next meal slot is **Saturday, October 14**. If you are interested in learning more or helping, please contact Sandra Seaborn at sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org or ext. 226.

Baby Steps in Serving Families

By Janet Earle, Children's Minister



I recently had the opportunity to attend 'KidMin 2017', a large Children's Ministry conference in the US. I have to admit it was pretty amazing to be with almost 2,000 people who were passionate about supporting children and their families in growing in their Christian faith.

Canadians are often proud of the cultural differences between ourselves and our American neighbours. But at the conference, I sometimes felt like that awkward cousin who isn't cool, and just doesn't have things figured out. There was a passion and

clarity about ministry to children and families in the air, that made me a bit envious.

Family Ministry was one focus of the conference. Church leaders know that we might be given just one skinny hour each week to try to help shape children in their faith. Families on the other hand have perhaps 50 hours a week with their children. This time is filled with a wide variety of activities that will help form them for their lives. But do any of these activities help them grow as followers of Jesus?

Serving families in a large multi-cultural city is tricky. They are busy, bombarded by social media, and raising their children in complex and rapidly changing times. How can the church help? Send more emails and texts? Schedule events? Provide tools and materials for faith conversations at home? There are no simple answers.

I once read of some advice from a parent regarding the 'take-home' papers that are sent from church with the children each week. They suggested that recycling bins should be provided close to the door! Clearly some of the things that well-meaning church leaders are doing, are not helpful to families.

As God prepared to establish a covenant with His people, He began by calling one man. God said to Abram (before he was given his more distinguished name): "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you." (Genesis 12:12) The problem was that Abram wasn't given any map or GPS. He had no idea where he was going. He went in obedience, trusting in God's promise. The truth is, that we don't always know where we are going, even when we are serving God. We seek to travel in the direction that God sends us.

At the conference we were told, 'Don't go home and do nothing. Take a baby step.' This is my baby step! I am looking for new ways to build relationships with our families. I don't believe there is a one-size fits all method for Family Ministry at St. Paul's. I do believe that I have been told 'to go' and find new ways to support and connect with our families, as we seek to make disciples of Jesus together.

This week we are praying for...

World and National Issues

- Victims and their families of the Las Vegas shootings and the victims of all forms of violence, for the healing of their bodies, minds, and spirits.
- Divided nations and peoples. May God give them a vision for reconciliation and the wisdom to repair the brokenness in their communities.
- Leaders to set aside selfish ambition and seek to govern for the welfare of all people with grace and mercy.
- The health of women, children, and families around the world, especially for an end to maternal and child mortality, so healthy families will be built.
- All those who have fled their homes in search of food and better living conditions.

The Global Church

- All of us as a church to be knit together in and through the Trinity, knowing we are in Christ.
- The preaching of God's Word would be biblically centred and Holy Spirit inspired.
- Everyone gather today to worship in the Anglican Diocese (district) of Rupert's Land in southeastern Manitoba & northwestern Ontario.

In Our Own Church

We pray for the following members of our community: Marva, Marian, Anton, Lauren, Erik, Benjamin, Tanya, Isabella, Avery, Enio, Rita, praying for your love, grace and mercy to sustain them.

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Father in Heaven, look upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks. Thank you for all the graces and blessings you have given us in Canada: our faith, religious freedom, the bounty of the land, our food and shelter, our health, our family and friends. Most of all we thank you for your unconditional love. For these, and all your blessings, we give you thanks. Amen.

Ways to Give

For more information visit
stpaulsbloor.org/give



In Person



Pre-Authorized
Giving



Through
our App



Online

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, October 8 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Join us for Pumpkin Tarts after each service

Monday, October 9 - Thanksgiving

Facility Closed

Tuesday, October 10

Winchester Group - 10 a.m. | *Library*

Holy Communion - 12:10 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*

DivorceCare - 7 p.m. | *Library*

Money Course - 7 p.m. | *Dalton Room*

Wednesday, October 11

Little Sunbeams - 9:45 a.m. | *Nursery*

Lunchtime Alpha - 12 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Alpha Prayer Time - 6 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Alpha - 6:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

Wednesday Night Youth - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*

Thursday, October 12

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9 a.m. | *Music Room*

Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*

Friday, October 13

Music for Health Clinic - 10 a.m. | *Gym*

Sunday, October 15 - Invitation Sunday

Financial Town Halls 9 a.m. | *Library*

10:30 a.m. & 12 p.m. | *Cody Hall*

Sunday Small Group - 12:15 p.m. | *Room 106*

No Sunday Lunch Today

Get your pumpkin tart in the Great Hall

Happy Thanksgiving!

The facility will be closed on Monday, October 9 to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Every Sunday

Worship Services

8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*

11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

Prayer Ministry

9 a.m., 10:20 a.m. & 12 p.m.

St. Paul's Chapel

Nursery

beginning at 9:15 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

Children's Ministry

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *2nd Floor*

Youth Group

9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | *Youth Room*

Prayer Groups

10:20 a.m. | *Room 7*

10:50 a.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Community Lunch

12:15 p.m. | *Great Hall*

\$8 per person

We Welcome all the Youth to the Services Today!

Youth group is on a break this weekend but will resume next Sunday October 15.

Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

James 3:13-17

Topic: Wisdom