

St. Paul's SPIRIT





REV. DONALEE WILLIAMS

Dear siblings in Christ:

It is such a joy to be part of the St. Paul's Dundas community. It's hard to believe it's been two months since I arrived at the beginning of August, and I have enjoyed the

beginning of our relationship, in particular, sharing stories.

I enjoy stories so much! I like receiving, and sharing them. You may already have figured out that I am delighted with animals, including animal puppets, cats (I have two at home), and dogs, the backyard rabbits, even mice! I once had a pet mouse called "Henry George Mouse". He wasn't allowed to bear the family name.

However, I have not always enjoyed certain creatures. When I was a child, I was deathly afraid of spiders. Even eensy, weensy ones!

Whenever I saw one, I would shriek. I would go into fight or flight mode: squish, or run away!

My mother would tell me, over and over, "If you want to live and thrive, let the spider stay alive."

I hated when she said that.

My young self could have responded: "If I want to keep my head, let the spider fall down dead."

However, I have had a change of heart over the years, even though I might still yelp if a spider suddenly lands on me.

However, I have come to appreciate the wisdom of the humble spider.

A spider web is an amazement: the bejeweled beauty of a dew-laden web in the morning sun takes my breath away.

And something so delicate in appearance is anything but weak. Even though a web can be easily brushed away, spider silk has the tensile strength five times stronger than steel. It can stretch nearly twice its length before breaking.

However, the most profound wisdom the spider has offered me in recent years is persistence.

If you walk by my red Hyundai in the church parking lot, you may notice spider webs on the side view mirrors. They've been there for a while.



The first time I really noticed was while stopped on a country road because of construction. I had my window down, and noticed a spider crawling out of the sideview mirror. Instead of shrieking (thankfully) I watched the spider making its way along a strand and then, as I begin to move again, saw it clinging to the web for dear life, bobbing up and down as the wind whipped by, and quickly retreating to safety in the back of the mirror!

Most of the web was blown away. However, the next morning, the web was back. No matter how many times the web is torn away, the spider spins again, and again.

Just the other day I was walking toward the driver side of the car. The wise spider noticed me and quickly hid behind the mirror.

And if, as I believe, God is in all things, the spider and its works reflect the ways of our Creator: in a web's breathtaking beauty, in its dance of vulnerability and strength and in its persistence.

The witness of scripture tells us how God comes to us, again and again, no matter how many times we may turn away, how many times we may tear down, or be torn down.

The witness of our own lives, perhaps, proclaims this, persistently.

Throughout the season of Creation Time, we have been singing "A Strand in the Web of Life Let me Be." And I smile at the deep truth of that. Because every strand in the great web is spun with intention, connected to every other strand, all part of the greater whole.

Can we imagine, perceive the Creator of the spider teaching us this, generation upon generation, spinning the wise lessons of beauty, strength in vulnerability, and persistence?

If we want to live and thrive, let the spider stay alive. Although I might still yelp if a spider suddenly lands on me.

Blessings, Rev. Donalee



MUSIC MINISTRY

A Lesson from Stalag 8A by Fredric DeVries

Recently the current American Vice President told an interviewer glibly that he wouldn't mind "bringing on the End Times." To most people

those words might not stand out, but in certain Christian circles this was a loud and clear reference to religious Armageddon and Judgement Day. A rallying cry unlikely to get much attention in the United Church of Canada.

Yet it reminded me of a different story, of someone also familiar with the end of times, a musician.

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992), a precocious child, was born in Avignon, France to very cultured parents. His father was a Shakespearean scholar, and his mother was a poet. The family were devout Catholics.

He was musically inclined, taught himself to play piano in the days of World War I, and at age 9 composed his first piano piece, "The Lady of Shalott," based on Tennyson's poem.

At age 11, he was enrolled in the Paris Conservatory. At age 17 he composed his first piece for organ, "The Celestial Banquet." At age 22 he was appointed organist at the Church of La Sainte Trinite in Paris.

At age 27, he married Claire Delbos, a violinist for whom he wrote several song cycles. So far, so good, right?

Then came World War II and Nazi occupation of France.

As a true patriot, Olivier enlisted in the French army.

In 1940, with the French army defeated, and while trying to escape on a broken bicycle, Olivier was captured by the Nazis and sent to POW labour camp, Stalag 8A located in modern day Poland.

Stalag 8A was built for 15,000 prisoners, but at its peak had 47,000. Throughout the war 120,000 passed through its gates. Estimates are that over 16,000 soldiers died, mostly from the Soviet army.

Among the few possessions Olivier brought into Stalag 8A, were musical scores of the Bach

Brandenburg Concertos, Beethoven, Ravel, Berg, and Stravinsky.

On January 15, 1941, an unusual event took place at Stalag 8A. The Nazis invited those who were musicians to put on a concert for the other inmates. 5,000 haggard men gathered before a makeshift stage.



Onto the stage came a cellist carrying a cello with only 3 strings, a clarinetist, a violinist, and pianist who would be playing a piano, badly out of tune with many keys not even working. It was announced that the pianist, Messiaen himself, was also the composer, and they would perform a piece that had been composed in the camp. "The Quartet for the End of Time."

5,000 prisoners listened in silence. For some of them it may actually have been their end of time, and the last music they would ever hear.

Take a moment to imagine what "the End of Time" might have sounded like. Bach? Beethoven? Ravel? Mozart? Elgar?

I leave you to draw your own conclusions. I have listened to it and to my ears, I hear despair, defiance, emboldened, inner resolve. But not defeat.

To understand Messiaen, it is helpful to know he was Conservatory trained and knew its ways, but he was also a mystic who sought a new musical vocabulary to express his feelings; ideas that went beyond what 18th and 19th century music could convey.

More musical contributions came later, after

Stalag 8A released him two years later. In his music he has a fascination with bird songs, and with Hindu rhythmic patterns. And of course, as a Catholic mystic, he used his music to reflect on the transcendent awe and beauty found in his faith.

Organ was his instrument, and just by looking at the music he wrote for it, you can glimpse his mystic universe. He composed organ suites for the Nativity, the Ascension, Pentecost, and the Vision of the Eternal Church.

He gave some interesting spiritual advice. He urged his students to explore their compositional “Freedom.” And then explained that “Freedom” is not the same as revolt and disorder.

“Freedom” is based on self-control, respect for others, and a sense of wonder at that which is created. That sort of freedom, he said, is the way to Truth. And then Messiaen quoted Jesus, “If you continue in My Word, You will know the Truth and the Truth will set you Free.” John 8: 32.

When Olivier Messiaen died in 1992, the world lost a mystic philosopher musician who left an imprint on 20th century music. And he left us with a “big tent” kind of epitaph. Simple, open ended, and giving you the Freedom to be True to yourself. “I compose because I Love Music, I am a Christian because I believe____.”

You can fill in the blank.



MUSIC NEWS

A new chapter in the history of St. Paul’s, and a new season for the music of St. Paul’s.

The Music Ministry extends a big welcome to Rev. Donalee Williams and is excited to have her participation in the choirs. Donalee brings musical gifts and enthusiasm to all of us. We look forward to working together in the coming year.

This past summer we sent out our Schulmerich handbells for repairs and restoration. They look and sound great, as you will observe when they make their comeback debut this fall.

Chris Eckart, who participated in our summer camps programme, is back again this fall to lead the Holy Ukuleles.

In fact, there are musical opportunities for everyone in our various Music Ministries - Chancel Choir, Joyful Voices, Afternoon Singers, Afternoon Handbells, and Holy Ukuleles. Find a group that fits your interest and share your time and gifts in music at St. Paul’s.

Afternoon Handbells	Tuesdays at	1:30pm
Afternoon Singers	Wednesdays at	1:30pm
Joyful Voices	Thursdays at	1:00pm
Holy Ukuleles	Thursdays at	6:30pm
Chancel Choir	Thursdays at	6:30pm
Contact Fredric for information about joining		

REPORT FROM ST. PAUL'S BOARD by Jenny Blake

What a lot we have to celebrate this fall!

First and most significantly, after nearly three years, we have a Lead Minister, and everywhere you look you can see the impact that Rev. Donalee is having. There is renewed energy and optimism, and a pervasive sense of the joy that she brings as she nourishes our spirits. Our spirits are responding!

The church was alive with the laughter of children all summer long, with numerous children's activities, but most exciting was our own St. Paul's Summer Camp, led by our Coordinator of Youth and Young Families, Porscha Hewitt. We look forward to even more programming for children and families over the coming months.

Rally Sunday was September 20, and in addition to wood-fired pizza, cake and ice cream, and children's entertainment, our committees had tables where people could learn about the many opportunities to become involved. Committees are where so much of St. Paul's work gets done and where we make our impact. There is a committee for almost everyone, and many opportunities to find enjoyable and meaningful work in the company of others.

The Board did not meet over the summer, but we are now back in full motion. Over the coming months, we will be announcing a series of "Fresh Start" workshops. These United Church of Canada workshops were created to help congregations and their new ministers learn about one another and set themselves up for success. We are particularly fortunate that Rev. Kathi Phillips, a member of our congregation, is a UCC Fresh Start facilitator. We will have more to say about these workshops in the coming weeks.

I also want to reinforce the messages that Dr. Dave Davis has been sharing about stewardship. The wise use of our resources, both human and financial, is an essential responsibility of the Board. We are fortunate to have resources that we can invest in, making St. Paul's stronger for its members and for our community, but those resources are finite.

We have a planned operating deficit this year, and in recent years our operating deficits have generally been offset by returns on our investments. Our investments are appropriately conservative and ethically managed, so there is a limit to the deficit we can cover before we begin to draw down our capital. We count on the budgeted revenues to enable us to run an operating deficit without compromising our future.

At the same time, we are working hard to make the most of the resources entrusted to us. We have reduced our use of fossil fuels and have a very active maintenance programme aimed at maximizing the longevity of our beautiful building. Generous grants from the Bertram Foundation have enabled us to make capital improvements, including the major investment in heat pumps to shift away from our very old and inefficient fossil fuel-burning boiler. We have increased income from leases, rentals and grants, and from fundraising activities such as the Valley Town Saturday breakfast, Fiesta, Garage Sale and the Previously Loved Art Sale. These sources of revenue and savings mean that more of your contributions can be directed to ministry, our staff, and our core programmes that make St. Paul's a vibrant church and a compassionate community.

Ultimately, however, we depend on the generosity of our members and friends. Your support allows us to sustain the ministry, church programmes and community outreach that make St. Paul's what it is today, while ensuring that it remains strong for those who will come after us. We hope that together we can close the unexpected gap in givings that occurred earlier this year.

There is much to celebrate, much to look forward to, and much that we can accomplish together.

AFTERNOON SINGERS

"Like the arching of the heavens lift my thoughts above,
turn my dreams to noble action, ministries of love.
Like the birds that soar while singing, give my heart a song;
may the music of thanksgiving echo clear and strong."

*Voices United
God Who Touches Earth with Beauty
verses 4&5*

As I write today, the season of Fall has begun. We return to our church committees, choirs, children's activities and programs with new energy.

The Afternoon Singers will be reuniting in music and song with our Christmas program, preparing to visit the Meadows, Margaret's Place, and the St Joseph's Day and Long Term Care programs.

On September 18th we held our end of summer social at the home of Bruce and Mary Margaret. Rehearsals begin again on October 7. Come join us in this 'Ministry of Love'.

Afternoon Singers Social



**Friday
September 18
2026**



**Thank You Mary Margaret and Bruce
for your wonderful hospitality!**



PASTORAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP

Ministries of Pastoral Care

- **Visits** by the minister to those experiencing a crisis in their lives, such as a death or a serious medical illness or surgery
Visits/Phone Calls to those in LTC and to 'shut in's' not able to get out, as well as visits both by the minister and/or the Pastoral Care team
- **Funeral Reception** coordination
- **Transportation** to worship and appointments
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** - As the fall and winter season approaches there is a need for knitted mitts and hats. These items are distributed to local schools and others as needed. There is also an ongoing need for baby hats, and blankets.
- **Casserole Ministry** - Provides a few cooked meals during times of illness, family death, birth of a baby or any other challenging times
- **Prayer Chain** - Requests to have someone put on the prayer chain can be done by calling the office or speaking to the minister or by filling out the card in the pews. We ask that you get permission, when possible, to have someone placed on the Prayer Chain. Contact Judy Kleven at judykleven@gmail.com
- **Care Notes booklets** - Available in the Narthex, the elevator hallway and the library. Helpful resources for death and grieving, illness and other challenging times, including challenges youth and young families may experience such as bullying, etc.
- **Travel Communion** - Available to shut ins on a Sunday when there is Communion at St. Paul's. A Pastoral Care visitor will visit a person who has requested communion at home. A short devotion, prepared by the minister, is included.
- **Services at LTC homes** - Wentworth Lodge, St. Josephs Villa
- **Poinsettia** will be delivered in December to people in LTC, those living alone, and those not able to attend worship.

We are looking for volunteers to help with any of these ministries. Please contact the persons named, the church office or Pastoral Care Committee - Win Czum - twczum@teksavvy.com
mobile 289 439 7642

Blessings, Win Czum, Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

She's here! Let the bells ring out and the banners fly!

On Sunday, August 9, we welcomed Rev. Donalee Williams as our new lead minister. We had been waiting and searching for just the right person and now she has arrived. We are together sharing and learning and growing into a new kind of church family. The caring and the fun have just begun!

Join us on Sundays for our service of worship at 10:00 a.m. The music will uplift you, the service will fill you, and the welcome, well, just come and experience us. We will be glad to see you.
We are indeed blessed.

Joan Williams, Chair of Worship Committee
905-536-7462 ttjwilliamsburch@hotmail.com



GARDEN NEWS

A special thanks go to Celia and Bob Boose and Bev Gough who took on the arduous task of this year's spring cleanup. Cathy McKnight and her team have passed the garden spade of their long-term dedication and devotion to the **Green Thumb Divas**.

Gardening is a passion for this group and includes Ann Barnett, Karen Pound, Peggy Findlay, Arlene Stopps, Elaine Rabinowitz and Wendy Torresin. They started on June 26 at the start of the summer heat and have kindly given their time and talents to keep our gardens in tiptop shape this season.

The group's fall plans include the addition of compost and aged manure to encourage an abundance of newly planted daffodils, crocuses, tulips, and lupines. They also hope to plant yews to surround the newly installed heat pumps on the south side. Let's keep the outside of St. Paul's Church as lovely and welcoming as the inside!



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The big news for the Communications Committee over the last few weeks has been the arrival of Rev. Donalee and all the wonderful ideas she has brought with her. Her broadcasting background is shining through in her new weekly videos that provide a "Thoughts for Living" message - a "teaser" about her upcoming Sunday sermon. These are posted on Saturday on St. Paul's Instagram and Facebook accounts. She has also recently started a Friday weekly "Reflections" e-blast to the congregation with food for thought and reflection, poems she has written and much more.

Sarah has also started a new social media video campaign highlighting the wonderful, diverse collection of individuals of our congregation through video interviews called "Who are we?" If you would be willing to be featured in one of these videos, please contact Sarah at the office. We want to demonstrate that all people, from all walks of life are welcome here!

All this social media activity, along with all the amazing events happening is helping to get St. Paul's better known in the Dundas community as well as within our congregation. The number of views of our Facebook and Instagram accounts almost doubled from July to August, and total interactions tripled. We now have over 600 Facebook followers and almost 300 on Instagram.

We continue to work with the Stewardship committee on the "Shine Together" campaign, and provide communications support wherever needed by our many committees and programs.

We are always looking for talented individuals to join our committee. If you can write, love social media, do research, have graphics and/or tech capabilities, or just have an interest in communications and being part of an enthusiastic and talented group of people - please contact Sarah in the office.

With gratitude, Sandi Stride, Chair - on behalf of Committee members Fran Aird, Luke Alsop, Barb Carpio, Susanne Crago, Dave Davis, and Sarah French.

**"Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly.
They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar."
— Delia Owens**



FIESTA 50th Anniversary

Craft & Marketplace

Fri., Oct. 23rd and Sat., Oct. 24th
10am to 3pm

- 40 Crafters and Artisans
 - Bake Sale • Jams and Preserves • Book Sale
- Dine in the Harvest Café**

St. Paul's United Church, Dundas
29 Park St. W. (at Cross St.)

www.stpaulsdundas.com

Admission \$2.00 Wheelchair Accessible



FIESTA ONLINE AUCTION

Friday, Oct. 23rd at 10am until Sunday, Nov. 1st at 8pm

32auctions.com/StPaulsFIESTA2026

AFFIRMING COMMITTEE

The Affirming Committee is delighted to be hosting our official Affirming Community of Faith Celebration on Sunday, October 4th. This will be a joyous service of worship and celebration where we will be presented with our Affirming Certificate. We can now begin displaying the official Affirming Ministry logo on our doors, website, and bulletins.

After considerable exploration, education and discernment, St. Paul's congregation voted overwhelmingly in favour of becoming an Affirming Community of Faith. The vote was 96% in favour, with 127 votes cast at our congregational meeting on June 14th. We are excited about moving forward, especially with Rev. Donalee's support.

Our journey as a Committee within Worship is coming to an end. We start anew as a part of the Christian Development Committee. Our becoming an Affirming Community of Faith is not an end, but a beginning. We will continue to seek opportunities to engage with our congregation through our own actions, but also as members of the many committees within St. Paul's.

We thank everyone for their support in our journey. Blessings to all.
The Affirming Committee.



you are
Invited

Please join us at St. Paul's United Church, Dundas on Sunday, October 4th as we receive and celebrate our official designation as an Affirming Community of Faith. This will be a service of celebration, joy, music and worship!

At St. Paul's, we are delighted to welcome all people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, family structure, economic circumstance, and life experience.

Following the service, there will be a time of fellowship and refreshment in our Reception Hall. We hope you'll join us!

Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 10 am



St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH

29 Park Street W.
Dundas, ON L9H 1X3
www.stpaulsdundas.com

Families and Friends of 2SLGBTQIA+ Dundas appeared as the very first Pride entry in the Dundas Cactus Festival Parade on Aug. 20th. A huge thank you goes to Dee Gibbons for spearheading this initiative. Thanks also to Rev. Donalee, Rev. Fran, Ian Alsop, Bruce McKay, and others who supported and participated in the parade. St. Paul's is so proud of you!

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.



Cactus Festival Parade



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

by Dave Davis, Chair, Stewardship Committee

Over the summer months, the Stewardship committee interacted by email, supporting several initiatives under the banner of its campaign, "SHINE TOGETHER", a collaborative effort with the Communications Committee.

The Stewardship committee maintained and updated the Welcome Table located in the Narthex, and developed a sign-up sheet for greeters prior to each service. Stewardship also promoted a monthly update for congregational members and donors, outlining month-to-month givings and a year-to-date summary of operating expense versus income. At one service, Jenny Blake outlined the board's plan for and thinking behind the operating deficit: it reflects St. Paul's strong commitment to the community and congregation, an investment in our future.

Valley Town BREAKFAST AT ST. PAUL'S

After a refreshing summer break, the Valley Town Breakfasts are now in full swing each Saturday morning from 8:30 - 10:30am at St. Paul's.

You may notice a new heating and cooling system with heat pumps in the Reception Hall to enhance everyone's comfort.

What hasn't changed is good food, reasonable prices and friendly faces

welcoming you to this very active social hub. We also welcome any volunteers who would like to join our group of social and friendly people. Please email us, contact the office or mention to Nancy or myself in person of your interest. If you have a group of more than 6 attending the breakfast, please contact me at raymondfamily100@gmail.com and a reservation will be made to assure you of timely seating. We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

by Yvan Raymond, Chair, Property Committee

Although many of us on the Property Team took some time off during the summer, work at St. Paul's continued to enhance our property. The major project was installing heating/air conditioning with heat pumps throughout most of the Sanctuary and Reception Hall for everyone's comfort. We thank the Adult Day Program and Café 55+ for their cooperation which allowed us to complete this necessary work.

We welcome new groups renting our spaces this fall: Dundas Little Theatre Group on Tuesday evenings in the Moss Davidson Hill room, Liberty Junction Theatre Group on Saturdays in the YCC room, Great Big Theatre Company on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings in the Moss Davidson Hill room.

Our working bee continues to meet every Wednesday to maintain the upkeep of our church.

**September 27, 2026 marked 30 years that Fredric DeVries
has been the Minister of Music at St. Paul's.**



He is our Superhero!



As wise as an Owl!

**Funny
and
Entertaining!**



Sometimes very Serious!

**Thank You Fredric -
We are so appreciative
of the gifts
you have given us!**



AND the best Minister of Music!

TECH TEAM UPDATE

We are grateful to Andrew Smart who has assisted us by repairing three of the cameras that we rely on.

St. Paul's Tech team is pleased to report that the number of livestream views has been increasing lately and we look forward to more households joining us as we approach the Christmas season.



We are also pleased to report that we even have a feline viewer, Mango. Not sure if he enjoys the sermon or the music more?

Tech Team

Luke Alsop - Tech Team Coordinator

Fran Aird

Susanne Crago

Brayden Davis

Dave Davis

Cole Ljucovic

Alice Smart

Andrew Smart



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group of dedicated knitters and crocheters who provide the church with prayer shawls, baby blankets, hats, mitts, and scarves (winter projects). These items are given to members of the congregation and friends, babies who are being baptized, hospitals, people who need a helping hand in the cold weather, etc.

We are always happy to have more knitters and crocheters join us. We are beginning to meet on the third Friday of every month in the Parlour. **Join us on October 16th.**



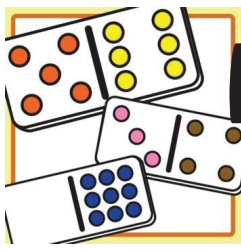
DUNDAS COMMUNITY DINNERS

2nd Monday of Every Month at St. Paul's

Doors open at 5:30 pm Meal is served at 6:00 pm
in the Reception Hall

This is a Free Event and Everyone is Welcome!

Volunteers are needed to help with the YCC program on Sundays from 9:30-11am.
Anyone interested can email Porscha at coordinatorycc.stpauls@gmail.com



HAPPY GANG

Happy Gang continued throughout the summer months at the request of our members. Numbers varied due to holidays but there was still a good turnout in July and August.



Tables included both Dominoes and Rummy Kube, a new game introduced last spring and a bit more of a challenge.

We are pleased to welcome members from St. Augustines and Highland Hills (previously St. Marks) to Happy Gang. We invite our own church members who may be looking for an afternoon of fellowship and fun to come and join us.

Happy Gang meets twice monthly from 2 to 4:30 pm in the Parlour. Contact Win Czum or Cathy Pengelly for more information, or just show up at one of our gatherings. You will be welcomed.

Happy Gang dates for the next three months are:

Wednesdays, October 14 and 28, November 11 and 25, and December 9 (Christmas Luncheon)

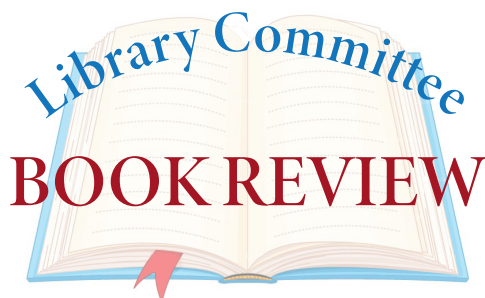
Happy Gang is sponsored by UCW Unit 5

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We hope that everyone has had a happy and relaxing summer and that you will take a bit of time in the coming weeks to visit our Library. If you do, you will find a number of new books under "Theology" added to that collection, with well known authors such as Bart D. Ehrman, Robin R. Meyers, Dan McClellan and others. Our monthly book reviews give an overview of new books added and others we feel are worth reading.

We are open to suggestions of books that you feel should be included on our shelves. Please speak to any member of the committee regarding this. We do ask that you check out any book before taking it. Although there is no time limit on returning them, please return your book as soon as possible in case others are waiting to read it.

Thank You! The Library Committee - Judy Kleven, Mary Unwin, Barbara Carson, Cathy Pengelly

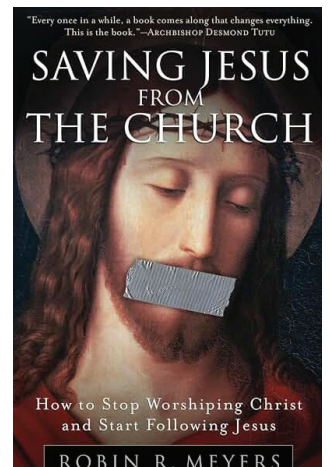


Saving Jesus from the Church

by Robin R. Meyers

In "Saving Jesus from the Church", clergyman Robin Meyers argues convincingly that if we are to survive we need to turn away from requiring people to believe the orthodoxy

demanding by the institutional church and instead call them back to the teachings of the man we claim to follow. A good read for Churches seeking a path forward and a good reminder that Jesus himself called his followers back to the basics of their faith.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Outreach covers a myriad of activities and programs across St. Paul's. Overall we are passionate about fostering compassionate communities-within our congregation, our local Dundas community and the world.

Individuals facing social isolation or food insecurity are welcomed to Café 55+ and Monday night community dinners, as per Dave Davis' article. Participation in the Association of Dundas Churches; support of Wesley through Case for Kids; The United Church Mission & Service program; Refugee support and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank are all important aspects of our work.

A major focus for September and October by the Outreach Committee is "Creation Care." The committee felt that there is an urgent need to focus on climate change and environmental issues through education, promoting advocacy and action. The timing coincides with the United Church of Canada's designation of this time as "Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost." In response, Outreach created a 6-week program in collaboration with Rev. Donalee and the Worship Committee to run from September 13 to October 18 that highlights the need, and our collective responsibility, to take better care of the earth. The program incorporates Sunday service "Minute for Creation" announcements, bulletin inserts, videos and displays during coffee hour covering topics of water stewardship, fossil fuels, plastics and electricity. A highlight is a RideShare tool to help reduce carbon emissions from cars travelling to Sunday service. (Please consider signing up!) On September 27 the focus was on Indigenous teachings to coincide with Orange Shirt Day. A tour has been arranged of the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford for October 5th. (All are welcome!) The series will culminate with a special presentation on October 18th on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. We hope you will take time to visit the displays during coffee hour to learn more about how you can take action to care for creation in your daily life.

As always, we welcome anyone to join us! We are also still searching for a new Outreach Committee Chair to provide leadership to this dedicated group. Please contact Sandi Stride (sdstride@gmail.com) if you would like more details.

Committee members: Dave Davis, Barry Dymont, Linda Evans, Winston Lindsay, Amanda Ljucovic, Sharon McKay, Kelly Pearce, Sandi Stride, Mary Anne Tangney.

WESLEY URBAN MINISTRIES REPORT by Mary Anne Tangney

St. Paul's Dundas raised a total of \$6,945.00 for the Wesley's 35th Annual Case for Kids Walk, Run, Ride held at Bayfront Park on a sunny June 7th, 2026. Thanks to our team of 8 walkers and many contributors for all your support! For the first time, Wesley raised over their goal of \$100,00.00 for Children, Youth and Family Programs!

This has been a momentous year for the Wesley - after years of renting their central site, Wesley finalized the purchase of a former retirement home (thanks to the generosity of an individual supporter). It is now the location of Wesley's Newcomer Services, a Special Care Unit, Central Kitchen and Administrative offices.

This purchase gives long term stability to the organization and will ultimately lead to more resources going directly to frontline programs.

We will further describe, in more detail, the many programs offered by Wesley throughout the city in upcoming St. Paul's Newsletters.



UCW REPORT

At this time St. Paul's UCW Unit 5 is in transition examining our mission statement and areas of concern for 2027 goals. We will pursue our spiritual development and provide Christmas gifts for the Ellen Osler women, provide goodies for the Candlelight Noel service and will help at the Fiesta Baking and Jam tables.

Unit 9 - Will make the famous Harvest soup on the Friday of the Fiesta Craft & Marketplace event. They will contribute several gift certificates for the Fiesta Live Auction. They also provide Christmas gifts for the Ellen Osler women and provide a lovely Candlelight Noel reception, as they have for many years.

Both UCW units have committed to taking care of ushering and coffee hour on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month except July and August. Unit 5 took the lead from Unit 9's initiative of committing to these two very important ministries, ushering and coffee hour in our church.

UCW Unit 9 led by Kelly McCaughey, meets the first Monday of the month in the Parlour and Unit 9 meets every 2nd Tuesday in the Parlor each month. All are welcomed!

Cathy McKnight (Chair of UCW Unit 5 and UCW Board representative) (905 627-8591, please leave a message)

MISSING!

If you or someone you know played the role of Baby Jesus at a past Christmas Pageant at St. Paul's, please contact Fran Aird (airdfi@gmail.com). We are working on a surprise! This tradition began in 1980. We have some info from the Archives but the records are not complete. Please help get this part of our history up-to-date.



PASTORAL CARE MINISTER'S REPORT

Sit-To-Be-Fit Program

The Sit-To-Be-Fit program continued throughout the summer, and we are grateful to the Board for granting us the privilege of holding the program. An average of 10 to 15 people attended during the summer. The program fully resumed in the Moss Davidson Hill Room on Tuesday September 1, 2026, with the regular schedule continuing on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. and on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Attendance at both sessions has increased since the summer, and it has been encouraging to welcome several new faces to the program.

St. Joseph's Villa Program

Worship services at St. Joseph's Villa are held on the first and fifth Fridays of the month. During the summer, services continued as scheduled on July 3 and 31, and August 7, 2026. The fall worship services resumed on September 4, 2026.

I am deeply grateful for the continued support and encouragement of the members of the Pastoral Care Team, as well as Evelyn Hambly, our Music facilitator, for their dedication, commitment, and valuable contributions to these services.

Wentworth Lodge Program

Worship services at Wentworth Lodge are held on the second Tuesday of each month. During the summer services were held on July 14 and August 11, 2026. Attendance continues to grow with an average of approximately 20 participants now attending each service.

During the absence of Mary Margaret and Bruce Fink, who were on vacation, Win Czum and Eleanor Stendzis kindly supported the worship services. Online music was used to enhance and support the services on July 14 and August 11.

Mary Margaret and Bruce Fink returned to join us for the fall worship service on September 8, 2026. We are grateful for their continued dedication and support. Thank you, Mary Margaret and Bruce, for your faithful service and commitment to this ministry. Blessings.

Visitation to Hospitals and Long-Term Care Homes

Members of St. Paul's who are in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and private homes continue to receive pastoral support through personal visits, prayers and telephone calls. We are grateful for the opportunity to remain connected with and support members of our congregation during times when they may need care and encouragement.

St. Joseph's Villa has also extended visitation opportunities to their community based on request, although visitation is currently limited to worship days.

Pastoral Care Team Cares

The Pastoral Care Team continues to use visitation cards to document and support our ongoing ministry of presence, compassion, and consistent care.

Other than the normal visits after telephone calls, home visits are arranged upon request, respecting the privacy and personal space of individuals and families. This approach allows us to provide pastoral care and support while honouring each person's preferences and boundaries.

Sacred Journeys from January 2026

The following members of our community of faith have gone to be with the Lord. We give thanks to God for their lives, their faithful witness, and the many ways in which they enriched our church family. We remember them with gratitude and love, and we continue to hold their families and loved ones in our prayers during this time of loss and remembrance.

• Malcolm Nuzum • Jim Carpenter • Raymond Wilson • Donna Shaw • Arlene Nichols • David Cooke

Appreciation

Finally, we give thanks for our wonderful community of faith and extend our heartfelt appreciation to all members of the congregation, the Board, and the Property Committee for their care, support, and dedication.

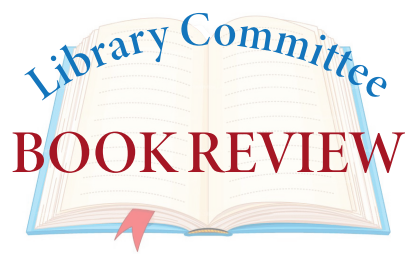


We are especially grateful for the welcoming and comfortable environment you help provide for everyone. The air conditioning has been a great blessing, particularly during the late summer month, allowing us to gather, worship, and enjoy fellowship in comfort.

Thank you for all that you do to care for our church family and make St. Paul's a warm and welcoming place for all. May God continue to bless you and your faithful service.

Sincerely,

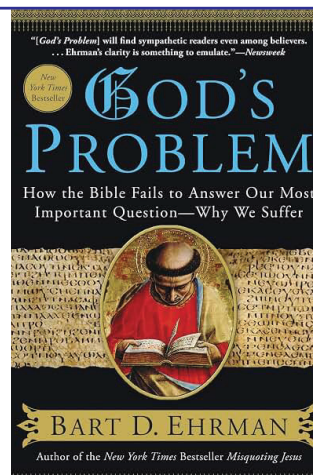
Rev. John Adeyemi, for the Pastoral Care Committee



God's Problem by Bart D. Ehrman (a new addition to our Library)

"God's Problem, according to New Testament scholar, Bart Ehrman is that He does not act against the immeasurable evil and human suffering in the world.

This failure drove Ehrman himself on a journey from Episcopalianism in which he was raised through Campus Christian Conservation, then progressive Christianity and finally to Atheism. In this engaging book, he dismantles every argument for a beneficial deity in lucid and very readable prose. Experts widely regard Ehrman as a credible authority on textual criticism and the historical Jesus.



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT AT ST. PAUL'S

Over the past year Christian Development has presented many different faces to the Dundas Community.

On Sundays during the school year the YCC (Young Christian Community) offers a specialized children's ministry involving young people, from infants through Elementary school ages, in activities, stories, crafts and projects with a Christian theme.

YA (Young Adults) is a time on Friday evenings for young adults of high school age to develop themselves in a spirit filled community. The activities involve sports, films, community service, and other projects.

Monthly drop in programs for families to connect and meet new people. Activities include movie nights, game nights, Halloween Party, Easter Egg hunt, etc. Programs will be advertised on our website and social media pages.

An after school program for children 8 years old and older to enjoy homework help, STEM activities, creative activities, sports and games and more started September 15 from 3 to 5 p.m. and on every second Tuesday after that. (Registration required - coordinatorycc.stpauls@gmail.com)

A Day Camp is planned for October 26th and November 27th on school professional activity days for children from 4 to 10 years old at St. Paul's. Time: 9 am to 4 pm with the possibility of before and after care available. (Registration required - coordinatorycc.stpauls@gmail.com)

Messy Church once a month on a weekday is in the planning stages. (visit <https://messychurch.ca>)



Every month thousands of people of all ages come together to discover Jesus, including those who've never been to church before. In over 30 countries around the world, we eat, play and worship together.

Expect activities, songs and prayers and an entirely new way to express your faith on a day other than Sunday. We need volunteers to help run activities and handle food prep for the meals. It's a once a month commitment and we are hoping to launch in December. Anyone interested can email me at coordinatorycc.stpauls@gmail.com

St. Paul's has an extraordinary library managed by an extraordinary committee. All are welcome. Book Reviews are produced monthly to detail new arrivals on the shelves.

Book Study last year - St. Paul's had two book study opportunities. This year more are in the works. Stay tuned.

Three "Courageous Conversations" were held on topics of interest - End of Life Planning for oneself, End of Life Care for another person and Suicide Prevention. This year we plan to tackle the topic of "How to become a Dementia Friendly Community," and another yet to be chosen.

This year Christian Development is joining with Affirming Committee to examine and improve all aspects of becoming a better inclusive community.

On Christmas Eve afternoon at 4 p.m. the Christmas Story will be told with costumed enactors and a stable full of animals to add atmosphere and authenticity at this special time.

On ten Sunday mornings beginning September 27, between 9am and 9:45am, there will be "Mini Hoops" session, a time for children between the ages of 2.5 and 3.5 years old to get those little athletes moving and having fun with basketballs. Registration contact - coordinatorycc.stpauls@gmail.com

This summer St. Paul's held its first summer camp. Over seven weeks the building was the site for an average of 20 "campers" a week doing many different activities including crafts and games and trips to the park. Camp has been approved for next summer and the maximum number of campers has been increased to take full advantage of the building's YCC room and Gym.



Summer Camp 2026



Café 55+

and friendship, the games and interaction, the hallmarks of our café experience.

On average, 30 people enjoyed the new format, time and location.

In September and into the fall, we'll be back at our old time – Thursdays, 10am-1pm, offering snacks and a lunch. Our first Thursday was a huge hit, attracting 60 or so guests. With the help of Dundas Community Services, an estate sale and donations from our volunteers, we offered a "Pop-Up Shop", offering free clothing, jewelry and small appliances. We filled a dozen tables and several racks with the donated goods, much of which went out the door, readily picked up and used by our guests.

Café 55+, now into its third year as a joint project of the Salvation Army and St. Paul's United Church, spent the summer in the cool basement Reception Hall at the church. It wasn't just our location that shifted, our hours and days moved as well: we ran an 8:30-11:30am drop in on Saturdays, offering a light but all-morning breakfast. The rest of the offering was the same though – the laughter



*Welcome Rev. Donalee Williams
to St. Paul's United Church in Dundas
August 9, 2026*



Please join us for Sunday Service at 10 am. Services are livestreamed and can be viewed on our website (stpaulsdundas.com) or Facebook. We also record the services and upload to our website allowing you to view them at a later date.

Enjoy refreshments in the Dining Hall with friends following Sunday service.

The church office is open Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm but is locked outside of these hours. Access only to those with a key fob or buzz the room you are scheduled to meet in.



29 Park St. W., Dundas, Ontario L9H 1X3
905-628-6396



St. Paul's Ministry Team

Lead Minister: Rev. Donalee Williams revdonalee@stpaulsdundas.com
Minister of Music: Fredric DeVries fredric@stpaulsdundas.com
Pastoral Care Minister: Rev. John Adeyemi jadeyem4@uwo.ca
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Merrill Graham
Office Administrator: Sarah French office@stpaulsdundas.com

St. Paul's Website <https://stpaulsdundas.com> **Twitter or X** <https://twitter.com/StPaulsDundas>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsDundas/>