

St. Paul's Post

EASTER
2019

St. Paul's Anglican Church,
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See, I am making all things new. *Revelation 21:5*

A Message from Rev. Jonathon

Dear Friends,

Spring is one of my favourite times of the year. The greening of the grass, the appearance of new leaves on the trees, the blooming of the flowers, and the songs of the birds all remind us that plants and animals are either being born or are coming back to life all around us. There are signs everywhere that things which seemed completely dead over this particularly long, cold winter are now alive and flourishing.

I believe the process which we witness unfolding in the natural world mirrors a process that is taking place at the same time in the spiritual world. We believe in a God who is constantly creating and re-creating. The very first verse of the Bible tells us that "In the beginning...God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). And the very last book of the Bible, Revelation, tells us that Jesus says "**See, I am making all things new**" (Rev 21:5). God has been creating from the beginning of time and He will continue to create right up until the end of time.

Notice in the verse from Revelation that Jesus does not say "I am making *some* things new" or "I am making *most* things new." He says "I am making *all* things new." This means that nothing can escape His power to create and recreate, including ourselves. We may not always be able to feel this creative power at work in us or perceive the results in our lives immediately, but we can be assured that this creative power is at work in us nonetheless.

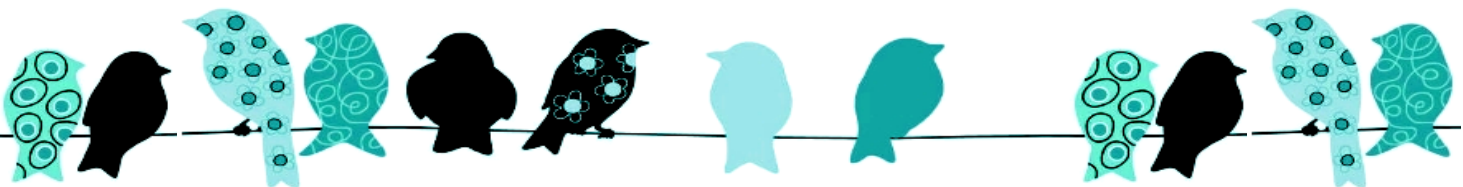
One of the definitions of a sacrament is that it is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." In other words a sacrament has both a visible physical

component and an invisible spiritual component. Although the church has traditionally taught that there are at least two and sometimes seven sacraments, I would like to suggest that if we use this definition of a sacrament, then spring could also be considered a sacrament. The renewing of life which is visible all around us in the physical world corresponds to the renewing of life inside of us in the spiritual world. I do not believe it is a coincidence that Easter and Pentecost occur during the spring. God's Spirit - The Holy Spirit - is creating something new in our spirits just as that same Holy Spirit is creating something new in the natural world.

You may wonder why this spiritual process of creation and recreation is necessary. You may be content with your life the way it is now. But if we stop and think about it, there is always room for new life and new growth in our lives. There are new areas that require creation and growth. There are existing areas that have become dormant and need to be awakened. There are areas that have grown old and need to be renewed. And there are areas that appear so lifeless that they seem dead, and they need to be brought back to life. Isn't it a wonderful thing that God does not leave us as we are, but is constantly creating something new in our lives?

As we prepare to celebrate Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost, let us pay particular attention to those things in our natural world which God is making new. And let us remember that by the power of the Holy Spirit this same process is unfolding in our own spiritual lives. Through prayer and careful attention we can discern that action in our lives. May we rejoice in all that God is making new in and around us!

Jonathon +



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Pysanka Workshop

A fun way to raise funds for our Gardening Committee

Pysanka is an intricately decorated Easter egg of a type traditionally made in Poland and Ukraine, produced by drawing a pattern on an egg with wax and then applying dye (which cannot penetrate the areas covered by wax), then repeating this process with successive layers of wax and colours of dye, so that once all the wax is removed a multicoloured design is revealed. Also (in plural form): the craft of making such eggs.

On Saturday March 23rd 12 women (and a 10 year old girl) met in the church hall to learn the art of Pysanka, under the leadership of Doris Wionzek and her able assistant Sascha, (Doris's daughter)

This was a new adventure for some of the participants, including Lily, Sue Evans' granddaughter.

There was a wonderful atmosphere of fellowship as we all worked, learning how to do this ancient form of decorating eggs. There were also moments when you literally would have 'heard a pin drop' as everyone was so absorbed with their work.

It was a blessing to all of us to see the delight on Lily's face when she showed us her first completed egg (she made 3 in total).

One person has already indicated she wants to come back next year. Once you've done one egg, you are eager to another! Come and join us next year during Lent and discover the joy of creating your own Pysanka egg.

Wendy Shaw



Ecumenical Procession of the Cross

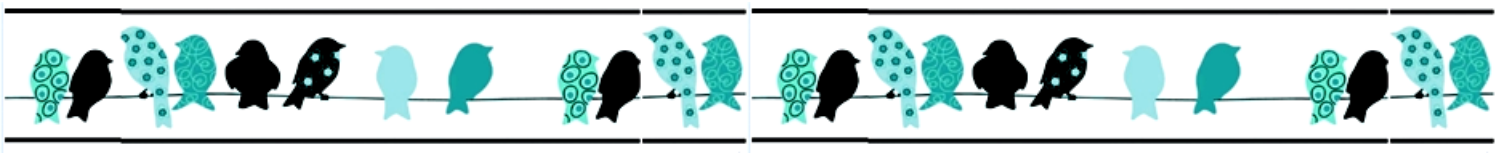
WHEN: GOOD FRIDAY, April 19 at 12 noon

Where: Beginning at the Almonte Baptist Church / Grace Anglican on Reserve St.

The churches of Almonte will join together on Good Friday for the annual Procession of the Cross, this year hosted by St Paul's.

As usual, participants will gather at 12 noon.

We will walk together between the Almonte churches, finishing up at St Paul's (62 Clyde St) at about 1:00 p.m. for a short service followed by refreshments.





A Rectory Renewal and Refurbishment (R3) Group has been established by Parish Council to gathering ideas and build consensus on how our Rectory can

be re-purposed for the longer term as a instrument for ministry. Sandra Cain volunteered to facilitate this year-long process of discernment.

The kick-off meeting took place after church on March 24 with 22 people attending. The group discussed the six steps needed to make re-purposing happen: Imagination, Exploration, Excitement, Discernment, Decision, and finally Action.

This was followed by a brainstorming session during which the group came up with 36 possible uses for the rectory. 36 ideas! Wow! The discussion was fun, fast paced, thoughtful and, yes, someone even thought we should open a Rectory Casino (just joking though)! A vote was then taken and each group member was asked to rate their 5 preferred ideas in order of 1 – 5.

Please join us on Sunday 12 May 2019 for our next meeting where the results of the poll will be revealed and discussed. **YES, this IS Mother’s Day!** I promised all the mothers a rose (LOL). This will be a quick one-hour lunch meeting starting at 12 noon exactly and ending at 1 pm exactly. So, come and eat your bag lunch while we talk and find out about the survey results. All are welcome!

Since this is a year-long process, it’s not essential for everyone to be present at every meeting. We want to get as broad a participation as possible – please always feel welcome whenever you available to attend!

Sandra Cain

Pysanka decorating—Concentration!



Highlights from the Annual Meeting of the Vestry
held Sunday March 10 2019

Minutes of the 2018 Vestry meeting, the Treasurer’s Report for 2018 and the Proposed Budget for 2019 were all passed unanimously.

Rev Jonathon thanked the following people who stepped down from positions: Joan Scott (envelopes secretary for the past 3½ years); Michael Mavis (compiled the service for computer projection every week for the last 10 years); Sara Cardona (counters coordinator for 6 years); Sandra Cain (synod delegate for the past 4 years); Bob Mosher, Melissa Stroud and Sue Evans (members at large who will be replaced in the course of the year as a new Parish Council structure is put in place); Deane Zeeman (recording secretary for Parish Council for the past 3 years).

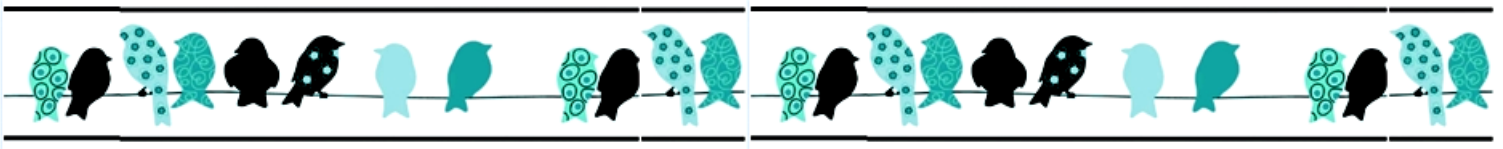
Rev. Jonathon presented his appointments: Rector’s Warden: Wendy Shaw; Parish Council chair: Michael Mavis; Treasurer: Sandra Cain; Envelopes Secretary: Sara Cardona; Lay Worship Leaders: Ellen Hughes, Michael Mavis, David McCreery.

The following people were nominated and acclaimed to their positions: Bob Bassett: People’s Warden; Katrina Ayling: Deputy Warden; Eric Hammond: Deputy Warden. Inez McCreery and Karen Luyendyk were elected Synod delegates and Claire Marson and Deane Zeeman were elected as alternates. A list of all St. Paul’s contacts, including ministry coordinators, is available at the back of the church.

A proposal for restructuring Parish Council was discussed. The purpose of the proposal is to empower Council to change and to facilitate information sharing across parish ministries. Rev. Jonathon pointed out that if the proposal were accepted, it might work or not or something in between could be the final result, there would be tweaks and modifications, and that the proposal was a starting place. A simplified version of the motions forwarded to Vestry from Parish Council was passed by Vestry, acknowledging that Parish Council could accomplish the restructuring without the detailed direction provided in the original motions.

The final motion passed by Vestry was: ... **that Vestry approve Parish Council to move ahead with the creation the new ministry-focused committees as and when they see fit, and, at the appropriate time, to replace the members at large with Committee liaisons.**

Deane Zeeman





A Psalm of New Wineskins

Comfortable and well-worn are my daily paths
whose edges have grown gray
with constant use.

My daily speech is a collection of old words
worn down at the heels
by repeated use.

My language and deeds, addicted to habit,
prefer the taste of old wine,
the feel of weathered skin.

Come and awaken me, Spirit of the new.
Come and refresh me, Creator of green life.

Come and inspire me, Risen Son,
you who make all things new:
I am too young to be dead,
to be stagnant in spirit.

High are the walls that guard the old,
the tried and secure ways of yesterday
that protect me from the dreaded plague,
the feared heresy of change.

For all change is a danger to the trusted order,
the threadbare traditions that are maintained
by the narrow ruts of rituals.

Yet how can an everlastingly new covenant
retain its freshness and vitality
without injections of the new,
the daring, the untried?

Come, O you who are ever-new,
wrap my heart in new skin,
ever flexible to be reformed by your Spirit.

Set my feet to fresh paths this day:
inspire me to speak original and life-giving words
and to creatively give shape to the new.

Come and teach me how to dance with delight
whenever you send a new melody my way.

by Edward Hays.

From *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*

Submitted by Michael Mavis

Book Review

Counterfeit Christianity: the persistence of errors in the church, by Roger Olson. Abingdon, 2015.

I picked this book up because I sometimes wonder whether what I believe is in accordance with what I'm *supposed to* believe as a Christian; whether my beliefs are in line with church teaching; whether they are "orthodox".

And I was also fascinated because it appeared from a cursory look at the contents as though the heresies in the early church which I had learnt about in EfM (Education for Ministry course) are still circulating today!

I think we can all agree that the Gospel message is not about achieving salvation by leading a good moral life, but about we, as sinners, being saved by God's grace through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, whose life is the pattern for us to live by – not for ourselves, but for each other and for our God.

And a **heretic** is someone who, knowing what the accepted teachings of the church are, intentionally promotes a different set of teachings which are not orthodox.

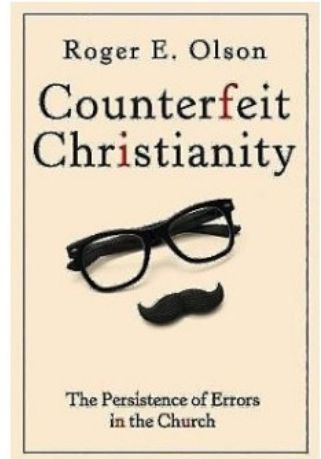
I was relieved to learn that it is not considered heresy to believe something wrong out of ignorance or lack of understanding!

Of the heresies described by the author, there are a couple that are remarkably persistent in our time:

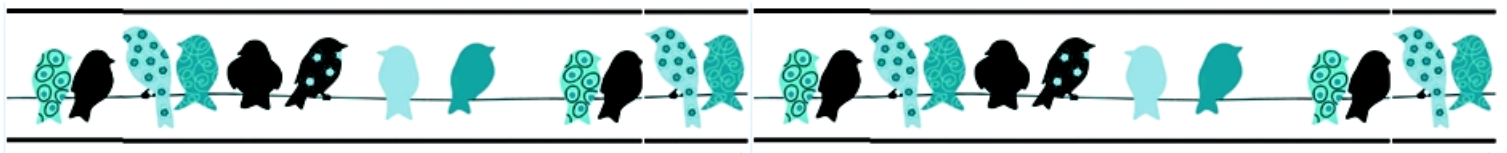
Moralistic Therapeutic Deism: the belief that a god exists that created and ordered the world, but is not involved except when we need something; that God wants us to be nice to each; that the goal of life is to be happy and feel good about oneself; that good people go to heaven; a celebration of individualism—"Me First"!

And the *Gospel of Health and Wealth*, a logical next step: God as a cosmic vendor of health and wealth to all who "claim" his promises., denying God's sovereignty and seemingly turning God into a slave of human desire!

What impressed me most was the way this book has prompted me to really consider what I believe. I highly recommend it!



Deane Zeeman



**Parish Council Notes
December 2018 to February 2019**

- ◆ In December, Parish Council expressed its appreciation to Wendy, Music Director, and everyone who participated in and attended the service of Lessons and Carols. We will likely make this an annual tradition.
- ◆ Council also thanked Claire Marson for valiantly agreeing to organize the Community Christmas Dinner. Clare will be writing a “play book” for future coordinators’ use.
- ◆ In December, our Treasurer, Sandra Cain, gave us an updated breakdown of the use of the funds from the two bequests St. Paul's received in the Spring of 2018. At the conclusion of Sandra's presentation, Council agreed that to deposit \$40,000 of the approximately \$45,000 remaining from the bequests in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund (which we can access as needed for future projects).
- ◆ Council is exploring options to install protective plexiglass-like coverings on the exterior of our stained-glass windows. After researching options, the Property and Finance Committee is recommending we install a clear, sheet grade polycarbonate called "lexan". Council is currently looking for someone who can supply and install these coverings over our stained-glass windows this spring/summer.
- ◆ The company contracted to replace the roof on the Rectory laid off its employees over the winter. It is hoped that this work will be performed in April 2019.
- ◆ In January, Council thanked Sue Evans and Wendy Shaw for cleaning up the kitchen and the former nursery. Also in January there was an extended discussion regarding the date for Vestry. The Canons of the Diocese of Ottawa require Vestry to be held before the end of February. Council affirmed that St. Paul's should adhere to the requirements of the Canons, but since more time is needed to close the books on 2019, have the audit done, and provide proper notice in the Bulletin to prepare Vestry reports, Vestry 2019 will be March 10, 2019. Vestry 2020 will be held on the last Sunday of February.
- ◆ On January 1, 2019, the Centre for Creative Living became a ministry of St. Paul's.
- ◆ At its February meeting, Council was advised that the Centre for Creative Living photography exhibit welcomed about 80 people and raised about \$650 for the school in Senegal.

Michael Mavis, Chair, Parish Council

WHY PRAY?

From What God Wants for Your Life.

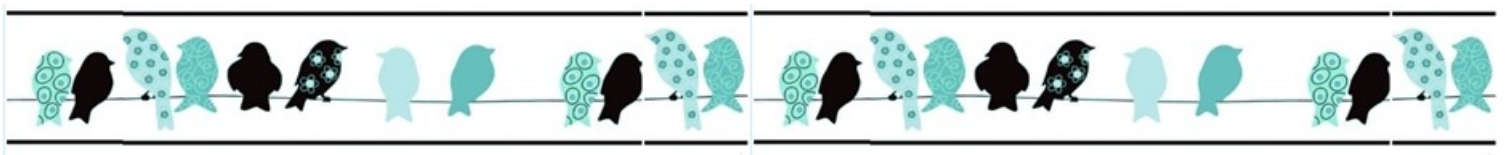
A blog by Frederick Schmidt

“Why do I pray for other people and myself?” It’s a question a lot of us ask ourselves and it prompted me to think back across the shape of my prayers, which I had never really attempted. ...

When we treat prayer like a strategy for fixing things, rather than as a conversation with the living God who comes alongside of us in times that are both good and bad, we have it all wrong.

Our lives are bounded by our mortality. No one lives forever. Not every illness goes away. Not every obstacle in life can be swept away. Some of the most important things you and I will ever do will not be things we do or accomplish because all the hard places have been made easy. And the purpose of prayer is not to provide a way out of those realities, but through them...

I think it is more accurate to say that — come what may — prayer is the act of putting our lives back into the hands of God, no matter what happens to us. And we are invited to do that until the day in which we find ourselves in God’s presence. That last point, though, has become more and more central to my prayer life as time has gone on. I still pray for myself and for friends. I pray for healing. I pray for friends who are unemployed to find jobs. I pray that people will find guidance and joy. But more and more I pray for two things: I pray that I will be available to the purposes of God, and I pray to see the face of God.



giving

our thanks & praise

Or, how I was inspired on a snowy and wet Saturday at the end of March,
by Claire Marson.

When I was invited to participate in the Giving Our Thanks & Praise workshop, I must confess that though I was interested, part of me was also a little reluctant.

It was Saturday. They were calling for freezing rain. I was tired after a long week and really, who likes to be asked for money... so much pressure on those asking and those being asked. Well, wouldn't you know God had a plan...

A group of us from St Paul's decided to go to the workshop in Carleton Place: Eric Hammond, Sarah More, Ron Ayling, me, and, of course, St Paul's own Jane Scanlon, as she was the organiser. Throughout the day spent with teams from other churches around the diocese, I found myself alternately inspired and challenged.

With a liberal sprinkling of humor and meaningful testimonials, we learned how to face some of the obvious and less obvious challenges inherent in giving and planning in the church today. We heard how other congregations had approached different problems. It was also a refreshing and pleasant surprise for me to be told that stewardship was not about fundraising but about discipleship.; about how we view the world and live our lives.

What an important lesson! Giving is not all about money and asking for money. It is about cultivating a spirit of openness and of giving, giving of self, of talents, of time and yes, at times, financially as well.

With practical tools and time for individual

Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can — *Arthur Ashe*

congregational group discussions, we were taught the trifecta of this new way of seeing things. We learned that we needed to start by inspiring others before inviting their participation and then, importantly, thanking them. We seldom take time to truly thank people for their generosity, whether large or small, whether tangible or intangible. So many opportunities are missed through lack of communication and recognition of people's often differing

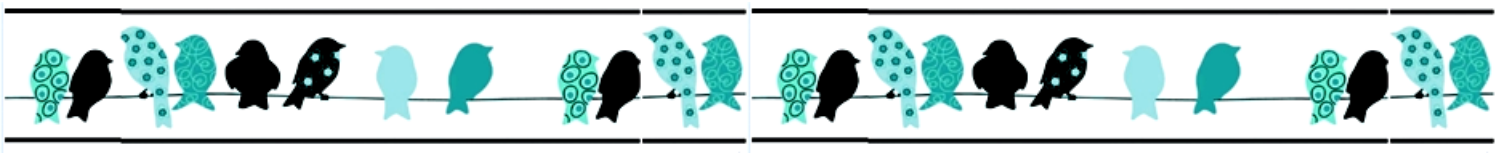
needs. We talked about centralized giving through canadahelps.org and the benefits to both the church and to individuals.

There was also a brief discussion about an app called Mylo, a tool for increasing personal giving. It certainly tweaked my curiosity as the app rounds up your purchases and then you can choose how that money is dealt with, including being donated to your preferred charity. A

“painless” way of giving.

By the end of the day I had heard enough to know that I would not be thinking of stewardship in the same way anymore and I was looking forward to trying some of these principles here at St. Paul's.

We left with a planning workbook, a workbook for generous, faithful and intentional living along with access to many other resources. I was somewhat intimidated at how much farther ahead some churches seemed than us but was also reminded that you can start small and build gradually — a philosophy that applies to so many areas of our lives. I was truly thankful that I ventured out on a cold and wet Saturday.





HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Holy Week is designed to walk us through the foundational story of our faith. It is a pilgrimage from palms and hosannas to the resurrection by way of the cross. We hope you can join us as we journey with our Lord.

On **Palm Sunday**, we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem for Passover.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we celebrate a Maundy Thursday Liturgy that includes foot-washing (in John's gospel, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples on the night before his death). And we recall the institution of the Last Supper as we celebrate the Eucharist. At the end of the Eucharist we strip the altar and remove all the decorative pieces in the church. The church is empty.

On **Good Friday**: we begin by retelling the story of the crucifixion with the Liturgy of the Passion. We go to the cross through readings, prayer and music. Then we join in the ecumenical Procession of the Cross, visiting several local churches. This year the walk begins at the Almonte Baptist Church / Grace Anglican on Reserve St. whose members will lead us off, and ends at St Paul's with a short service and light refreshments.

On **Easter Day** we welcome the new light / fire into the church at a Sunrise Service and celebrate Jesus' resurrection at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm and Passion Sunday – April 14

8:30 a.m. . Holy Communion (spoken, following the *Book of Common Prayer*)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music, following the *Book of Alternative Services*
Including Palm procession and dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel.

Maundy Thursday – April 18

7:00 p.m. ~ Foot-washing, Eucharist, stripping the altar

Good Friday – April 19

10:30 a.m. ~ Celebration of the Passion of our Lord

12 Noon ~ The Procession of the Cross

1:00 p.m. ~ Post-processions service followed by light refreshments

Easter Sunday – April 21

6:15 a.m. ~ Easter Sunrise Service

8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services as usual

ALL ARE WELCOME

~ ALWAYS ~