

# Fall Plantings

*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.*  
I Corinthians 12: 7  
(The Message).



# FOCUS

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

September 2007



## "OFF THE COLLAR"

A memo from our Minister  
Rev. Jack Archibald

Walking through the woods one day, we came across a spot where a farm once thrived. It was obvious that what was now covered with forest had at one time been cleared for orchards, pastures and grain fields, and at the centre of it all there remained evidence of an old farmhouse. The structure was gone completely and the foundation was buried under multiple layers of moss, grass and wild bushes, but some signs of life remained—daffodils bloomed in all their splendour in what would have been the farmhouse's front garden! Though no one had lived there for decades, the old bulbs continued to produce beautiful flowers year after year.

The mind travels back through time to the day when a young couple, newly married, prepared to turn a brand new house into a comfortable home for each other and their family yet to be born. They furnished its rooms, decorated its walls, filled pantries and cupboards, and at the foot of the porch steps the wife lovingly planted her seeds and bulbs, then watered and weeded them so carefully that they produced blossoms not only for her own enjoyment but for the next generation and the generations that followed, until the last family member finally left the old homestead. And the miracle is that still today the rare hiker who happens to pass by this old property is blessed by the beauty and fragrance of those same flowers. The young gardener of so long ago could not have predicted that her labour of love would bring joy to hearts yet today.

It's an amazing fact of nature that flowers planted long ago can still produce vibrant and beautiful results today, but how much more marvelous that the seeds that God planted in the hearts of

His people can also blossom from one generation to the next. Who were the first in your family to believe? Perhaps your roots in the Christian faith date back to grandparents, great-grandparents or even earlier, but as they passed along the faith to their children and their children's children, the seeds God planted in them continued to bear fruit until finally faith has been born in you. Or it could be that you're the first in your family to come to trust Christ. The Lord planted the seed and the Holy Spirit is nurturing it so it continues to grow today.

Whatever the case, our task is to foster that same seed in the next generation. Paul takes two word pictures straight from the garden to remind us of our responsibility. In Galatians 5 he speaks of "the fruit of the Spirit," "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." When these qualities are found in us we not only bless ourselves and live close to God, we also show others the beauty of life in Christ. And in so doing we fulfill the second garden metaphor, found in Second Corinthians 2, "through us God spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ," which Paul fittingly defines as "the fragrance of life."

Are we careful to cultivate the seed of faith in our hearts so the beauty and fragrance of Christ can be seen by others? And are we by our teaching, our prayers and our example encouraging that seed to grow in the hearts of children—and adults—in our church family?

I'm excited about a new season of ministry soon to begin at St. Paul's, and I hope you are too. You will read in the issue of Focus how our staff and our leaders and teachers are doing all we can to encourage seeds of faith, and you can learn of opportunities where you can help the seed to grow in your own heart and assist others to experience the same growth in theirs. May we together make St. Paul's a kind of spiritual garden that blooms in such abundance that it attracts passers-by with the fragrance of Christ and brings glory to the Master Gardener who has lovingly sown His seed in our hearts.

# Fall Plantings

Spiritual gifts are like bulbs planted in the fall. The bulbs show no signs of life, but are full of potential, and with care and encouragement, will produce beautiful flowers. In the same way each of us has potential within, gifts from God. Paul says:

*God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful.*

I Corinthians 12: 4-7 (The Message).

The theme of Focus for September centres around each believer as gifted by God. For these gifts to mature and blossom takes nurturing, encouragement, teaching. Opportunities for the identification and nurturing of spiritual gifts are provided at St. Paul's. Read on and discover how together, we can all develop our gifts to the glory of God.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

<b>September 9</b>	Rally Day!	10:30 a.m.
<b>September 16</b>	Two Worship Services <i>Sunday School Classes begin</i>	9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
<b>September 22</b>	Coffee Break with Brian McConaghy of Ratanak Mission	10:00 a.m.
<b>September 23</b>	Alpha begins	7:00 p.m.
<b>September 29</b>	Congregational Breakfast: St. Petersburg Report	8:30 a.m.
<b>September 30</b>	Single Worship Service (5th Sunday!)	10:30 a.m.
<b>October 7</b>	Communion & Thanksgiving Celebration	9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
<b>October 28</b>	Reformation Rally (Dr. Hans Kouwenberg)	6:30 p.m.

# ST. PAUL'S MISSIONARY FAMILY NEWS

by Muriel Barrington

## Fall Plantings?

What comes to mind?

*Spring beauty, colourful flowers, early signs of new life after the darkness of winter?*

*The tedious planting of seeds or bulbs is rewarded!*

How does this relate to Missions? In my mind there is a connection. St. Paul's helps to support what we call our missionary family—several individuals or families who are serving others on a full time basis here in Ottawa and across the world. These folk are seeing the beauty of colour in new life as some respond to the good news of Jesus Christ and choose to follow Him. They have been planting “seeds” and “bulbs” for years in different ways in their relationships and they experience the rewards. Others were responsible for planting the seeds in their lives and they answered the call of God upon them to serve. Whether they work with students, needy people on our streets, African villagers, Cambodian children, Latin American city folk, Mien believers, or Asian leaders from a base in Singapore, God's word is providing the food in the bulbs and His Spirit is promoting the growth so that new life in Christ is evident in their spheres of influence.

Our part is to provide support financially and to persevere in prayer for each of them. To help with this we pass on updates using the bulletin board, mission board, the prayer calendar and Focus.

Here are a few of the latest news items:



### **RAMIREZ FAMILY** Armenia, Colombia

Bev and Ruben have responded with heartfelt thanks for the special gift of \$1000. sent from St. Paul's to help them get away from their work in Colombia for renewal and refreshment. They plan a family month on holiday in the early fall, as well as short breaks through the summer.



### **INTERSERVE**

Our Interserve partner, who visited St. Paul's in June, continues to travel widely with Business-As-Mission, but managed to combine meetings in Brazil and Cyprus with a family holiday and a reunion with daughter, Andrea.



### **BEATTY FAMILY**, Senegal

Geoff, Esther, and three children have moved from the village of Kaffrine to the city of Dakar, where the family can be together, and they can work with national Christians who have a holistic vision for reaching their area.



### **YETMAN FAMILY**, HCJB Australia

David has begun a two year period of full time study in the area of “Technology Convergence” since radio broadcasting is in decline and personal miniature devices are taking over. He and Anilu want to be better prepared for mission in the future and they ask for prayer as this is quite a change.



### **ANN BURGESS**, Thailand

Ann is in the last stages of preparing the Mien Bible for publishing and expects to come home to Ottawa at the end of October.



### **RICHARD LESSARD**, World Vision

Richard is a newly elected elder at St. Paul's and has agreed to be the new coordinator of the Mission Team, beginning in early fall.



### **KATRINE BARTON-COWARD**, Ottawa

Katrine shares that Sally, who was befriended extensively on the sidewalks by Urban Christian Outreach has been transformed, after years of struggling with alcohol and homelessness. She gives thanks for that and for God's gift of life through prayer and modern medicine in relation to her own family.



### **INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Canadian Interservice hosted the World Assembly of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students July 11 to 19 at Redeemer University College. There were over 600 leaders from 150 countries in attendance and from all reports it was an amazing and uplifting time. Ask Emily Berkman about it as she was able to participate.

*Local Staff Notes:*

**Sheila Williams** lost her father to cancer in June.

**Monique Heintzman and husband Paul** are delighted to share the news that they are expecting a baby in the early fall. Jon has a lot of travel - to Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, Hong Kong, etc, etc. and various conferences to prepare for. Pray that God will provide the person of His choice as a much needed assistant. Marilyn works alongside Jon, cares for the family, and befriends the wives of Bible College students from outside Singapore.

## HAVE YOU MET.....?

*Retirement is often equated with rest and relaxation - a time to put all the pressures of the work-a-day world behind. As one advertiser suggests, "Everyone retires, some just do it better than others". What does retirement look like from a Christian perspective?*



### Emily Berkman

Emily is recognized by many as the one who delivered their children when she worked in private practice as an obstetrician and gynecologist affiliated with the Civic Hospital. But she is also recognized as one of the organizers of All Saints Hospice now known as the Hospice at Maycourt.

Emily grew up in Toronto, the oldest of 6 children. Determined to go to university Emily worked part time in various factories as well as a publishing company to pay her tuition at the University of Toronto where she was accepted as a medical student. The ministry of IVCF during these years greatly influenced her growth in faith. After graduation Emily went to the Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia to complete a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology.

Ottawa was the place where Emily decided to set up her practice. She was the first woman surgeon in the Ottawa area and she continued this tradition by being the first woman appointed to the Canadian Medical Protective Association. In 1958 she married Frank Berkman, a cardiologist at the General Hospital. Their three children, Janet, John and Frances continue to be a source of joy and pride. Emily now has 7 grandchildren and enjoys the tales of their lives and times.

Toward the end of her professional career Emily's husband, Frank, died after a year long struggle with cancer. Realizing from firsthand experience the need for palliative care services Emily retired from private practice and when the opportunity was presented she became involved in the setting up of All Saints Hospice. In order to gain further knowledge about palliative care Emily went to work for 6 months at Elizabeth Bruyere Hospital and traveled to Britain to visit hospices there. As well as being the voluntary medical consultant for the hospice from 1988 to 1998 Emily was involved in planning, interviewing staff and regular committee work. During this time she represented the hospice on the Board of the Ottawa Carleton Regional Palliative Care Association.

Emily has been active at St. Paul's as well as in the larger Christian community. Shortly after retirement she was elected as their first female elder. She served on the Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church. For many years she hosted the monthly IVCF prayer group and she has served on a number of boards such as Scripture Union and the Christian Counselling Centre. Life is full and Emily continues to use her gifts to the glory of God - even in retirement!



### David Stewart

A quiet unassuming gentleman! You might know him as Evelyn's father or perhaps Helga's husband. But who is David Stewart?

David, the youngest of 4 children, was born and grew up in Toronto. His parents were actively involved in Christian ministries and in this environment David made a commitment to Christ at an early age.

Having developed an interest in Modern Languages and Literature David enrolled in an honours programme at the University of Toronto. Being one of two students who were awarded a scholarship to study in Germany David spent a term at Marburg University, the headquarters of the German IVCF, and a second term at the University of Munich. In Munich he met a dedicated group of students who were working to establish a Christian campus ministry. Helga was one of those students!!

David returned to Canada to complete his B.A. at U.of T. and then was awarded a second scholarship to continue his studies in Germany during which time he and Helga were engaged. While completing his M.A. at U. of T. he and Helga were married and they set up house in Hamilton where David began his teaching career at McMaster University. Two years later the Stewarts returned to Germany where David engaged in studies at Munich University for his Ph.D. which was awarded by the University of Toronto.

In 1965 after spending 6 more years at McMaster as a tenured professor, David and his family moved to Peterboro where he established a German Studies programme at Trent University and, together with Helga, mentored the students of the Inter-Varsity group. He also played the violin in the symphony orchestra in Peterboro during those years!!

David took early retirement from Trent in 1990 and sensing God's leading he and Helga moved to New Brunswick where he embarked on yet another teaching career. As a volunteer at St. Stephen's University David taught courses on the history of western culture - art, music, literature - in the context of the church.

In 2000 the Stewarts moved to Ottawa to be near family and friends. In this phase of retirement David once again became involved in teaching and for 7 years he taught a course on art in the context of the Christian Church at Augustine College. In 2002, 2004, and 2006 David travelled with groups of students from St. Stephens to see works of art in Italy, Germany and France.

David Stewart is a scholar but he is also a husband, a father and a grandfather. God has blessed him with many gifts and he continues to use them to the glory of God. God bless you, David!



## *As the Garden Grows*

As I sit outside in my garden with the birds chirping pondering the start of Pioneers again in the fall, I am struck by the similarity between the way God calls us to nurture both our children and our gardens to produce wondrous beauty. Neither fares well on their own. Just as we must tend to the plants to help them grow strong, healthy and bear fruit, so must we also guide and direct our children so that the gifts given to them by God can mature and blossom for His service. We are called to nourish those gifts regardless of who the child is or where they are in their personal walk with the Lord. I have read that the journey to becoming a new person in Jesus begins when one is welcomed first as an unpolished person or child. Our mission as Pioneer leaders is to provide the spiritual leadership and polish, in order to facilitate an understanding of how God's Word can work in their daily lives. Rick Warren wrote that there are no unspiritual abilities; just misused ones. God plants the seeds in our children; ideally Pioneers helps them bloom.

The fruits and rewards of the Pioneers program are innumerable. For example, every year leaders receive many cards and letters of appreciation from the children. Here are two such notes, written by children:

“Thank you for teaching me ... and for putting up with my weird sense of humour.  
Thanks so much!”

“You taught me so many things that changed my life forever ... Your kindness and thoughtfulness will leave me with an indelible memory which I will pass on to other people.”

For numerous years, the Pioneers program at St. Paul's has been engaging the children of our congregation and our community in a weekly program of Bible study, crafts, skills and activities to nurture their understanding of God's Word and His plan for their lives. This past year, approximately 20 children aged 6 through 13 were led by adult and teen volunteers who worked under the guidance and leadership of Eldon Frost.

Dr. Tim Kimmel, a noted author and advocate for the family writes, “Children brought up in homes [or churches] where they are free to be different, vulnerable, candid, and to make mistakes, learn firsthand what the genuine love of God looks like.” If a child leaves our classes with feelings of acceptance and appreciation of their inherent worth given them by God, perhaps they will experience the joy of sharing that grace with others.

May the garden that is Pioneers continue to flourish.

In God's blessed service,

Lynn Arthur-Beirness

# Growing in Faith in St. Petersburg

Meeting in a new venue - the St. Petersburg Christian University - seemed to provide an environment that encouraged openness on the part of the students to explore faith issues. We'd like you to meet two of our students and hear their stories.

Ruth Whitehead & Judy Richardson

**Igor Konnikov** was born in a village near Stalingrad in 1947. When he was a year old his family moved to St. Petersburg. Following 8 years in elementary school Igor attended a technical school. Being an honour student he was accepted at a university and thus avoided military training. He graduated with a Ph.D. in engineering. He spent time studying English in England and then in the USA where his father had gone to live as a political refugee. Igor now teaches at the St Petersburg University of Culture and Art but continues to pursue his interest in science and is currently engaged in scientific research and is writing a second scientific thesis.

Igor was married in 1976 and he and his wife have 2 sons. Five years ago the youngest son was very ill and had to have heart surgery. At this point in his life Igor said that he and his wife didn't know where to turn for help so they went to church and prayed in desperation. Their son survived the surgery and just this year graduated from university. But Igor still has questions about faith. Who is God? Why believe in Jesus? Why not just believe in the Holy Spirit?

Igor avoided if possible our times of singing and sharing. When he was a young Pioneer along with 99% of the other young school boys he was forced to sing ideological songs. The songs we sing today remind him of the brainwashing of those early years and he wants no part of them.

Why has Igor attended the summer programme for the last ten years? His answer is that he sees in the teaching team the best of Canadian society. Pray for Igor. He is on a real faith journey. He even attended a few of Peter's Bible in English groups during the winter.



**Alexandra Abannikova (Sasha)** was the first student who walked into my homeroom class on Monday July 2nd. The young university students and one teacher in the class spent the first half hour introducing themselves to each other and learned that Sasha is a 22-year-old journalist who works as a reporter for two local newspapers. Her love for people and sharing their stories led her to write articles on social issues. Sasha worked for the newspapers while she earned her journalism degree, and has built up a reputation for fine work. She recently started reporting for the local radio station, and is enjoying this new challenge. She even interviewed Ruth Whitehead and me on the English program for a radio piece while Tanya Philpott translated. This interview was aired while we were in St. Petersburg.

When she introduced herself to the class, we learned that Sasha is Christian who talks very openly and enthusiastically about her faith how it has made a positive difference in her life. Her grandmother and mother became Christians in the 1990s, and prayed for Sasha, but her faith journey took her several years and through many hard struggles as she tried to figure things out for herself. Three years ago, she decided to give over all areas of her life to God. She said that God cleaned her heart like the ocean waves washing the sand, and she was amazed when many of problems in her life worked out.

Sasha seeks to strengthen her faith, by attending a young adults' Bible study group run by the Navigators. She also is a member of her mother's church, where she finds the teaching helpful. Sasha is involved in another evangelical church, which has been active for 90 years in St. Petersburg. She prays with other believers there each Friday from midnight until 6:00am, joining with others to pray for the people and government of St. Petersburg and Russia. Once a month, people from all other districts in St. Petersburg join this group for city wide all night prayer.

It was inspiring to meet a young and vibrant Christian like Sasha who lives her Christian faith openly. We look forward to continuing our friendship and encouraging her in her walk of faith. This, too, is an important aspect of our summer mission to St. Petersburg.

# The Welcome Table

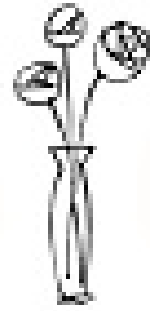
We sing a song "Awesome God" and this what I see when visitors come to the welcome table telling me how they are interested in St. Paul's and want to find out more about our congregation.

The welcome team has been great at looking after the table and welcoming newcomers in Campbell Hall. Its great to see people using their gifts and desires to reach out to people who are new to St. Paul's. This year we enjoyed another wonderful relaxing afternoon at Lac Philipe in the Gatineau Park for the Welcome Picnic.

We welcome John Stevenson as the new leader of the welcome team. From a small idea the seed grows and as it grows it changes, requiring new spiritual food and gifts. We look forward to what John will bring to this ministry.

If you are interested in sharing your gifts in this ministry please let John or myself know. We are always looking for volunteers.

*Ed Smith*  
[edsmith@magma.ca](mailto:edsmith@magma.ca)




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## Heaven's Grocery Store

*I was wandering down life's highway, a time ago or more;  
 One day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store".  
 As I got a little closer the door came open wide,  
 And as I gained my senses I found myself inside.*

*I saw a host of Angels, they were standing everywhere;  
 One handed me a basket and said, "My child please shop with care".  
 Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store,  
 And all you couldn't carry, you'd come back next day for more.*

*First I got some patience, and love was in the selfsame row,  
 Further down was understanding; you need that everywhere you go.  
 I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of faith,  
 I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost that was all over the place.*

*I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run this race,  
 T'was then that I remembered I really needed grace.  
 I didn't forget salvation, for salvation it is free,  
 So I tried to get enough of it to save both you and me.*



*so I just helped myself.*

*I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,  
 For I thought I had enough of everything to do my Master's will.*

*When I said to the angel, "How much do I owe?" He smiled and said to me,  
 "Just take all these wherever you go, they are yours and they are free.*

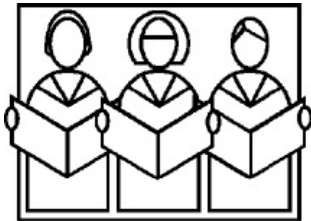
*Again I smiled but firmly said, "How much do I really owe?"  
 He lovingly smiled and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago".*

## St. Paul's Prayer Calendar - *Evonne Isaak*

Prayer is often like the planting of bulbs in the Fall. We pray our prayer and then await His response, but God's delays are not his denials. Our prayer stays there under the earth, in the dark and the cold. Nothing happens and we think that Spring, and an answer to our prayer, will never come. Often the delay means that we are not ready ("I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now" - John 16:12), or that certain circumstances need to be in place.

Then the axis of the earth changes, and the sun becomes stronger. Our prayer, which seems to have lain dormant, or we think that God has forgotten our plea, suddenly emerges from beneath the soil, and our long-awaited answer becomes real. It takes a lot of faith and trust to wait out the long winter, and only a strong relationship with Him, plus repeated prayer, will be our assurance that He is sovereign and has our welfare in mind. He will never leave us or forsake us.

Preparation of the Prayer Calendar each month is much like that described above. One calendar gets finished and another looms. 26 prayers each month has taught me to be more aware of the needs of other Christians, as well as our missionaries, and those who are persecuted for their faith. Please pray for the Prayer Calendar, and your own prayer requests would be much appreciated.



## The Choir - *Lucille Campbell*

**What's in a song?** Believe it or not there is more to the choir that just singing. We enjoy fellowship, support, encouragement and much more.

**What's in an anthem?** When we sing our purpose is to convey God's love in word and music. Anthems are integral to our worship experience in St. Paul's.

**What's in a cantata?** These musical experiences often touch hearts in a way that words alone don't.

Our choir consists of all people who enjoy singing. No special talent is required. Choir participation is a great way to share with others in a worship experience. It's one way to use the gifts God has given us. It is our purpose to grow in our relationship with God as we meet together to sing, to pray, and to enjoy fellowship with one another.

*St. Paul's Choir - is this where you could serve? You would be most welcome.*



- Evelyn Pike

When the apostle Paul is instructing the young pastor Timothy in his teaching work, he reminds him: “From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.” (2 Tim 3:15) Paul recognizes the strong impact that Christian education from an early age has had in shaping Timothy’s character and direction.

As a parent of four children, I have always felt blessed by the many programs at St. Paul’s which are designed to teach and encourage our children in the faith: Pioneer Clubs, Sunday School, Youth group and VBS. I am grateful for the countless hours that are spent by teachers and leaders who use their gifts to help nurture the spiritual life of our young people; often they are investing themselves in a life that will only bear fruit much later on.

We are about to enter another year of Christian Education at St. Paul’s, where we have the holy privilege and task to teach God’s Word. In Sunday school classes, Pioneer clubs and Youth group, our committed and leaders will again teach with imagination and patience. They will use creative materials and tools of all kinds. What we need most of all to follow our mandate is a congregation that will join us in prayer that the Holy Spirit will control each event for the glory of Christ.

## Lord, Won’t You Buy Me a Mercedes Benz?

- Clinton Evans (With apologies to Ron Fischer and Janis Joplin!)

Now I have your attention, I can lose it again immediately with the following statement:

**Come to our prayer meeting.....**

8:00 am on the second and fourth Saturday of each month,  
and support our congregation in prayer.

Join us for breakfast, afterwards, at the Kettleman's Bagel Co.

It sounds about as exciting as an invitation from your dentist for a cleaning followed by a fluoride dessert!

The problem with prayer and prayer meetings is it is hard to convey why we do it and what it is all about. Ron Fischer's sermon illustration, courtesy of Janis Joplin, shows the complexities of asking for “things” -- yet we are told to present our requests to God (Philippians 4:6). We do not know God's will for the people around us yet requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks [should] be offered on behalf of all people (1 Timothy 2:1).

You can repeat this kind of paradox for many aspects of prayer, our personal mission and the mission of our church. However, when you take part in prayer, the complexities don't seem to matter any more. You find you become part of the greater work of God -- and it doesn't get any more exciting than that!



What is prayer? According to the Shorter Catechism “Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies”.

This definition makes us realize that God hears our prayers. His answer is perhaps not what we wish to hear however. We realize that the answer may be yes, no or wait.

What happiness we feel when a loved one or friend is healed from an illness and once more enjoys life and thanks God for his blessings.

If a person is taken away from us we do not understand how God would not answer our prayer for healing. We grieve but our tears turn to joy in the knowledge that as Christians they are home with Christ.

Waiting is perhaps the most difficult time but we acknowledge God’s mercies as we approach Him in prayer through Jesus Christ, knowing He is the great almighty God and answers prayer.

As a group of mature Christians we in the prayer chain receive many requests. There are sixty-four people approaching God through Christ on behalf of the people who need help.

We thank God for this group who in daily prayer pray for others. May they in return receive blessing.



*from Gloria Jean Nagy*

The **West Ottawa Children's Chorus** is looking for youth aged 7 to 17 for the choir which rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 6:15 - 8 :15 in Kanata. The choir is also looking for sponsors-- people to help promote concerts and people that would be willing to provide scholarships to choristers who need financial help to be part of the choir. As there are fewer choral experiences in the schools these days, it is important to provide a fun and entertaining way to learn musical and singing skills. Rehearsals begin on September 4. If you would like to come and watch a rehearsal, or have a child in mind who might be interested in the group, please contact Gloria Jean at [gjnagy@rogers.com](mailto:gjnagy@rogers.com) or 613-829-4402.

The **Kanata Choral Society** is looking for new members in all sections (SATB) from high school age to senior adult!! Rehearsals are on Monday evenings 7:30-10 p.m. beginning September 10. The group Presents three concerts per season. Contact Gloria Jean for more information at [gjnagy@rogers.com](mailto:gjnagy@rogers.com) or 613-829-4402.

**Cantabile** is presenting a concert "Canadian Song Cycles" on October 14, 2007 7:30 p.m. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 971 Woodroffe Ave. the Programme includes Archer: Three Biblical Songs; Fleming: Secrets; Weinzweig: Private Collection and other music by Canadian authors. Cantabile is a Vocal Duo comprised of Gloria Jean Nagy, soprano and Dr. Elaine Keillor, piano.

# FLOWERS

The Flower Committee of St. Paul's is a small group who work quietly to enhance the beauty of the sanctuary and nurture the people with some of God's wonders. We are grateful to all who have supported us from their gardens in memoriam and other special occasions, also with monetary donations. Hopefully those who notice the flowers will be reminded of God's bounty and wonderful nature, in the colors, and variety of flowers.

The members of the committee try to express their talents in picking and arranging the flowers. Some are bought, others come from the gardens, and sometimes we use artificial flowers as the scent of some flowers bothers people with allergies.

Flowers remind us of the different seasons, e.g. Daffodils in spring and Mums in fall, Easter lilies, poinsettias at Christmas and Poppies for Remembrance Day.

We feel that the congregation generally enjoys the beauty of the flowers throughout the church - bright beautiful flowers seem to express love and happiness to one another.

We operate on a limited budget throughout the year and therefore welcome any donations that members would like to make. The fresh flowers we purchase for special occasions are generally taken to the sick and shut-ins by one of our members or by the Pastoral Care Group.

The dedication of flowers to the memory of a loved one is welcomed. In order to facilitate these requests, we would ask that you fill in the appropriate space on the "Flower Chart" located near the back door (east end) of the narthex. You will then be contacted by a member of the Flower Committee.

We look forward to serving the congregation and welcome any new ideas that you may have relating to this committee's focus.

- Norma Stanzel



FOCUS is a newsletter of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
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 or by giving copy to a member of the FOCUS committee

## *Ghislaine's Notes*

*It is nice to be back. We did not have a focus in June this year. How was your summer? The end of July was very hot. People with air conditioning were able to stand it better.*

***We will remember them*** Allan Kennedy Durrell past away March 21<sup>st</sup>----Peter James Philpott on March 28<sup>th</sup> in St. Petersburg, Russia. I have many good memories about Peter. One in particular in the early 90's when I was the greeter for the Sunday school at D Roy Kennedy. Peter was always the last one to wrap up. I was sitting in the hall waiting for him. I could hear him walking towards me. He always had good words to tell me and just like his father a good sense of humor.----Frank Menno Isaak on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Bill and I attended the same Bible study group with him since 1986---Ruth Lapp on June 12<sup>th</sup>---Irene Taylor on June 14<sup>th</sup>---Claude E. Meslage on June 18<sup>th</sup>---Marc McCormick on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Please remember these families in your prayers.*

***Car-wash Fund Raiser & Barbecue*** On June 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Youth Mission trip to Ecuador in 2008. Many people were involved even Elijah and Manny Kim were washing cars their own way .

***Morrison Gardens*** On Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> a short concert of songs and narrative was put on by the children of Morrison Gardens who have been participating in the Friday evening Bible Program. Evelyn Pike was the coordinator of the Morrison Gardens program. Mary and Eldon Frost, Josie and Christina Legros, James Shugart, Dakota Arthur-Beirness and many others were involved in the program every Friday night during the school year.

***Visiting St. Paul's*** Jim Parker from B.C.----Maria Pacuski from Mexico----Ted Hansen----Krista Richardson and her fiancé Neil---Grant and Jane Sauer and the children on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I have a new friend, their son. We did some exercise or dance, call it what you want. I had to stop after a while but he was ready to keep on. He did not look like a boy who had heart surgery when he was a baby---Emily Stevenson from Hamilton----Douglas, Katherine, Iliana and Alexandra Cole from Toronto---Tony Goller from Germany----Pam (Rourke), Steve, Lauren, Jackson and Caroline Hogg from Calgary.

***New members*** Joyce Mason was received by reaffirmation of faith---Heather Robinson by transfer from Gloucester Presbyterian---Charlene Gibault by profession of faith. *Welcome to St. Paul's family.*

***Ordination of elders*** Philip Kim---Richard Lessard---Evelyn Pike ---- John Stevenson.

***Elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada*** Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg, minister of Calvin Presbyterian church Abbotsford B.C. and son of active member Joyce Kouwenberg.

***James the brother of Jesus*** On May 20<sup>th</sup> our guest at St. Paul's was John Wason from Word of Life Theatre Arts, a ministry of Youth with a Mission. John has been involved in creative ministries as full time staff with them since 1992. John attended St. Paul's prior to 1989. I remember serving him lunch at the College and Careers Program. It was a very interesting presentation of "James Faith that Works".

***Youth News*** James Shugart was one of five Woodroffe High School students who lent a helping hand in Guatemala in March. They helped construct two homes, one in Cantel and a second one in Esperanza. The two homes were part of the Habitat for Humanity's Global Village Project. Since last September they raised \$4,000 through donations and sales.

July 8<sup>th</sup> at the service of worship, Anne Hurd danced to music by Mark Schultz entitled "I Am". Liturgical dance is a form of worship.

Thespian, we have one in St. Paul's. Andrew Hurd is working with the Salamander Theatre this summer. All the month of July at different locations he played a role in the Shakespearean production of "Measure for Measure". He was playing the part of Provost, a guard for the Duke of Vienna. He did it with great flair. August 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> they will be at NAC for another production.

Paige Widdis finished her swimming season by qualifying for the Eastern Ontario Swimming Association's Regional meet. They met at the Nepean Sportplex June 8-10. She improved all of her times and placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the 50 metre backstroke for 11-12 year old girls.

*People we Know* Anita Davidson graduated with an MBA from Carleton. Alice Boame successfully completed her certification in financial management. She continues to work in the accounting department at McCarthy and Tetrault law firm. *Congratulations!*

*Starting University this year* Erika Mejia at Taylor University in Indiana ----Andrew Hurd at Brock University----Victoria Mabie at Ottawa U.----Matthew Pike at Queen's----James Shugart at Trent.

Third year at university----Kristen Cucan at Carleton----Anne Hurd at York----David Pike at Queen's----Robin Shugart at Windsor. *Please remember them in your prayers.*

*We will miss them* Melanie Milne is moving in Kincardine. She was a choir member and also sang solos and duos with her mother Gloria Jean. A beautiful singer.----Josie, Stephen and Christina Legrow are going to China where Stephen will be working for Nortel for about 3 years.

*Father's Day Dinner* June 16<sup>th</sup> there was a dinner of lasagna, salad and garlic bread. That delicious bread, (eight big loaves) was baked by Jeremy, "the chef", the same day in the morning in his kitchen which does not have A.C. Try to picture him kneading, baking and sweating. It was very hot but he made the most delicious bread I ever tasted. There was a lot of music and singing by the youth group - very talented young people.

*National Capital Race Weekend* Again this year, the Seekings family including Jonathan, Shula and Stephen from Edmonton, David and Kim from Vancouver and many people from St. Paul's raised \$7,000 for aneurysm and stroke research.

*Congratulations* Arden and Marion Walther celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary July 6<sup>th</sup>----Audrey and Ken Perrins their 60th on July 25th----Isobel and William Johnston their 62<sup>nd</sup> August 18<sup>th</sup>----Lola and Ron Barrie will celebrate their 73<sup>rd</sup> September 15<sup>th</sup>. Lola celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

On Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> Ulrich Noah Senami Kodjo Tchechenigbo, son of Sylvie Atakloand and Avit Tchetchenigbo, was baptized.

*Sandwich every bit of criticism between two layers of praise.*

*God willing I be back in December*  
*Your friend Ghislaine*



## Small GROUP

### Discover Your Design - *Phil Kim*

Imagine that you are walking alone along the shores of a beach at sunset. Your gaze stops on a strange object partially buried in the sand. You pick it up and notice that it has a long wooden handle and a rectangular, metal block on one end perpendicular to the handle. You take this curious object home and although you don't know what it is, you soon realize that if you hold the handle at one end, and make a swinging motion, the metal block makes for a useful tool for smashing things. By now, you realize that I am talking about a hammer.

A hammer possesses a simple design with a useful purpose. Even if a person were to discover a hammer for the first time, it wouldn't take too long to discover its usefulness. People are a little more complicated but not without design and purpose. The Bible wonderfully illustrates how God had a design and purpose for each of us (Psalm 139:16). We can see the expression of God's design in us in the exercise of His spiritual gifts.



In the following year at St Paul's, we will look more closely at what are spiritual gifts through a tool called Network. As our church embarks on this journey, consider how your discovery of spiritual gifts can be aided by being in a small group.

**Discover spiritual gifts in a small group** – A small group is a great place to discuss in detail the spiritual gifts outlined in the Bible. Here is an opportunity to take some time and discuss with others all the spiritual gifts from hospitality to miracles.

**Receive affirmation of your spiritual gifts in a small group** – One thing you will discover in a small group is that you will become better acquainted with other believers and they with you. And over time, you can enjoy one of the great benefits of a small group, honesty. Here is an opportunity where people can simply tell it like it is. And sometimes, you can discover more about yourself through the eyes of another person. If you will engage in the journey of discovering your spiritual gifts, you will find it necessary to seek the evaluation of others. You will need to ask someone, “Am I truly gifted in this area?”

**Develop your spiritual gifts in a small group** – My professor of expository preaching started our first class by saying, “Some of you may consider yourself gifted in preaching. But here is where you learn to be a better preacher.” Many spiritual gifts are skills that require time and practice. Consider spiritual gifts such as, wisdom, knowledge, teaching and leadership. These are the gifts which require time in study and practice. If you have discovered that these are your gifts, consider coming to a small group not only to be a participant but to also learn to be a small group leader. You will not find a safer place than a small group to learn the skills of becoming a better teacher or leader.



## Summer holidays. - *Jeremy Sauvé*

Whoever said that a holiday was a period of rest and relaxation certainly wasn't hanging out with the Youth at St. Paul's.

It has been a very busy, but fulfilling summer, and one can hardly believe it is at an end. Things all got started with a 3-day canoe expedition into Algonquin park. Several youth and a number of brave volunteers headed into the park to complete the Baron Canyon route. A splendid trip with many memories made. If you see the youth walking around why not ask them about the natural water slide, or outdoor jacuzzi or even about the prehistoric creature that visited us twice for some of my homemade Bannock bread! And do not believe a word that Steve Wilson tells you. We definitely did more canoeing than walking!

After that many of us separated for a while, me on holidays and the youth to various camps and jobs throughout Ontario and Quebec. I had the privilege of counseling for a week at Camp Cherith, an amazing but tiring experience! One of the other highlights for many of the youth this summer was our trip to Darien Lake, New York for Kingdom Bound, a massive Christian Music festival held in an amusement park. We teamed up with Arlington Woods Free Methodist church and headed down for an amazing, life changing experience - rides, speakers, concerts, funnel cakes and laser shows. It was definitely the best 5 days of my summer. And I even learned that you should never drink two energy drinks in less than an hour!

So here we are back to the fall and another exciting phase of life here at St. Paul's. I am excited to see where the Lord takes us all on this grand journey called life!



## FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

Plant 3 rows of peas:

1. Peas of mind
2. Peas of heart
3. Peas of soul

Plant 4 rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant 4 rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce us be faithful
2. Lettuce us be kind
3. Lettuce us be patient
4. Lettuce us really love each other

No garden is complete without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND  
CULTIVATE WITH LOVE.  
THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN  
BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

## Autumn - Helga Stewart

Yes, it is upon us again, that magnificent season with bursting colours, baskets overloaded with fruit, asters and phlox in full splendour, corn, heat and pumpkins ripening in the fields.



Year after year our Creator God is inundating us with fresh visions of grandeur and inviting us to discover more of his glory. Two experiences – both quite unrelated – filled us with wonder and adoration lately. One was that as a family we could witness the hatching of a Monarch butterfly. Having entered his cocoon as a clumsy caterpillar months before, this magnificent creature worked itself out of his prison, gently, ever so gently unfolded his wings, used feelers and legs, and finally took off into a lush tree from which we know he began his incredible trip south to the appointed meeting place of his kind down in Mexico.

The other was gaining a new glimpse of God's organization of his creation. Entranced once again by the display of colour in all its dramatic dénouement of our northern forest, we wondered what makes leaves change colour and what makes them fall. This is not the place to digress into a scientific discourse about the answers we got (our own Dr. Doug Alexander is an invaluable reference). Some bare facts, however, are that the foliage of deciduous trees, being the "nutrition factory" of the tree, must leave before it is destroyed by sub-zero temperatures. As the climate turns colder at the end of summer, a bloc of cells congregates at the bottom of the leaf, thus inhibiting the flow of the green nourishment-producing pigment and allowing red, yellow, orange and brown pigments to dominate.



Eventually the leaf withers and is easily separated by the wind from its tree. Stems, twigs and buds are equipped to survive extreme cold (as are evergreens) and will enhance the life of the tree in the coming spring when the saps are flowing again.

All of this wonderfully established from the beginning by him who has promised that "as long as the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." (Gen.8:22).



We all know that we are more than mere spectators while the show is going on. Is our creator performing a great paradigm in order to teach us the truth of our own existence?

Somehow, mingled in with all the delight and glory, there is a twinge of sadness. The butterfly must die after his big journey, the colourful leaf must fall and rot in the ground, every rose will crumple up and disintegrate. Is there not an inescapable awareness that we too are involved in the living and dying? "Thou dost sweep men away; they are like a dream, like grass... In the morning it flourishes and is renewed, in the evening it fades and withers," says the psalmist. (Ps.90:6)



And then our Saviour Jesus Christ appears: He who like none other understood the paradigm and submitted to it to the nth degree, fell into the earth like a grain of wheat . . . and died.

But in the most glorious finale that ever was and is, he "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel." (2nd Tim.1:10).

*Hallelujah!*