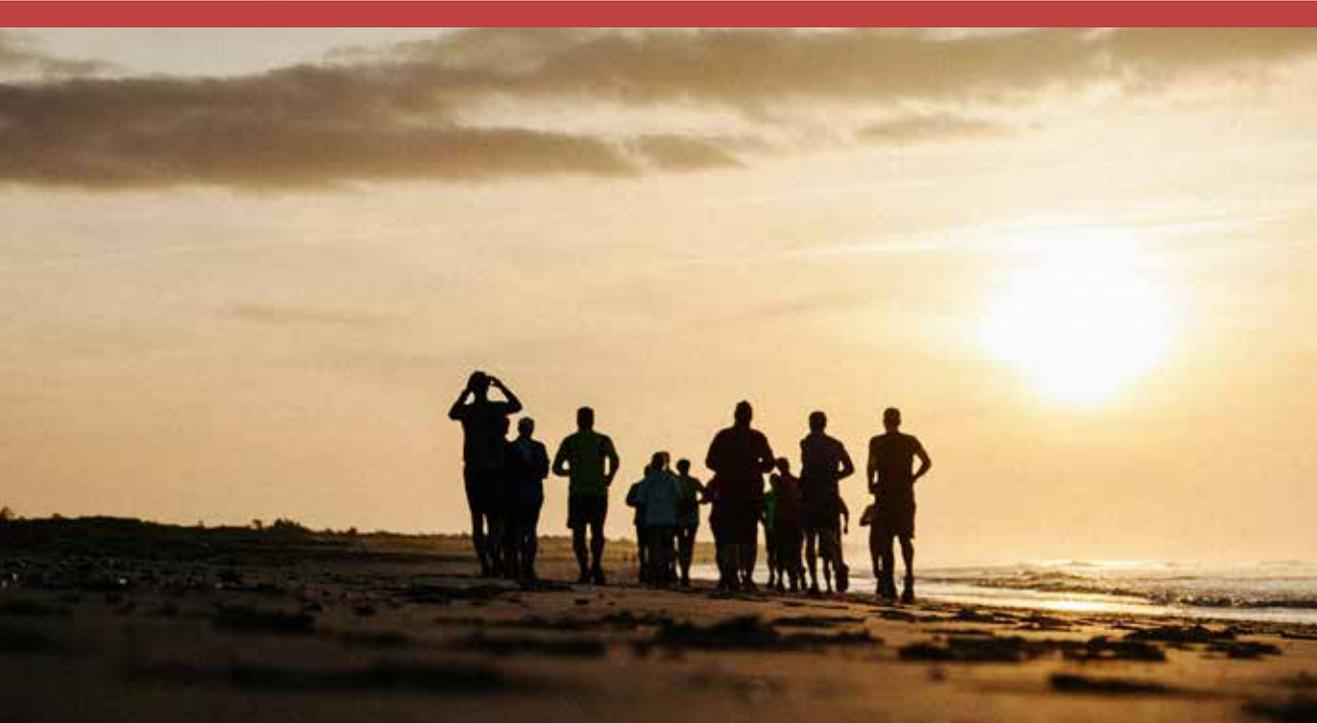


February 18, 2018

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

227 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 1C8

Phone: 416-961-8116

Email: mail@stpaulsbloor.org

Office Hours

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

Sanctuary Hours

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

Parking

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

Charitable Number
119194942RR0001

www.stpaulsbloor.org

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Register for Coldest Night of the Year Walk!

On **February 24 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

St. Paul's is gathering a team for the Coldest Night of the Year outreach. Together, we will be learning about and supporting Yonge Street Mission, a nearby organization that serves the hungry, homeless, and hurting. By walking at dusk during a cold winter's night you'll feel a hint of the challenge faced by those experiencing homelessness during winter. All ages are welcome to this walk, with downtown routes that are 2 km, 5 km, and 10 km long.

There is a minimum \$25 participation fee for walkers age 11 and over. Early bird registration is \$25 until February 19. After February 19, the participation fee is \$40. However, if cost is a barrier to participating, we can provide subsidy to offset the participation fee.

To register, visit stpaulsbloor.org/coldest-night-walk. If you have any questions, contact Sandra Seaborn at sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org



Black Heritage Service

On **February 25**, all are welcome to join us for the 23rd Annual Celebration Service of Black Heritage. Join us for an evening of drumming, dancing, steelpan, poetry, choir and more. We will celebrate the gifts, talents and contributions of the Laity who serve in various ministries in our church. Music starts at 4 p.m. and the **service starts at 4:30 p.m.**

Better Together...the first small group



By Mark Regis

Many of us have been taught to think of Jesus as a bit of a solo act, and this is understandable – the Bible draws our attention to his teaching to crowds, his miracles, and ultimately his sacrificial death and resurrection. These are naturally the highlights of his three-year ministry on earth. However, where he spent most of his time and focus was not in the highlights, but in closer community with a few new friends. These twelve disciples came from very different walks of life, with different attitudes and perspectives, yet Jesus poured himself into their formation as agents of transformation and citizens of God's gracious reign on earth.

These disciples didn't get it all right, but with one exception they had a few things in common: 1) they were committed to Jesus, 2) grew to truly care for one another, and 3) had an openness to be challenged and transformed.

This first small group followed Jesus everywhere, learning from him through his teachings and the Scriptures, community with one another, prayer, and through service. By the time his three-year ministry had ended, these disciples were not aware how prepared they had become for a new life and a new purpose.

Since then, millions of Christians throughout the world have experienced the life-changing power of joining a small group. In these groups, we do what the first small group did: learning from Jesus by engaging the Bible, forming friendships who pray for one another, and joining in acts of service. The visionary church leader John Wesley once said, "There is no such thing as a solitary Christian." Simply put, we are **Better Together**.

Over the season of Lent, we will journey alongside Jesus and his first small group, learning more about what shaped this incredible unlikely group of friends into the world-changing force they became. We will see why Small Group Ministry is so important to us at St. Paul's, and we will be encouraged to be a part of it.



small groups

Growing together, rooted in Jesus

One of the best ways to make a big church feel more like home? Get connected to a small group.

Small groups set aside time from busy schedules to enter into welcoming community, where you learn about faith through engaging the Bible together and praying with one another. It's a place where you develop real friendships while you grow deeper in relationship with Jesus.

Understanding the Bible is not a prerequisite, and you are welcome no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. You can ask questions, share your thoughts, and serve together.

Joining a small group is simple - connect with us and we'll help you find a group that fits you best. All you have to do is come as you are, ready to join in. To learn more and to join, visit stpaulsbloor.org/small-groups or contact Mark Regis at mregis@stpaulsbloors.org.

Meet Sheila

"Being a member of a small group helps me to live out my faith. It helps me to remember that ours is a faith in a living God who calls his people into community to be a blessing, one to another. In our small group, we come together as a group of disciples seeking to know God through learning from the Bible, through prayer, and through one another. We have grown to know each other as we have grown in our faith in the Lord. We support, encourage and are accountable to one another." - Sheila Kurian



Youth and Young Adults



Young Adults Gathering: Procrastination and Motivation

February 22 at 7 p.m.

Young adults are invited for a get-together on February 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. downstairs in the Youth Room. It's a time to get to know other people in our church community, to enjoy some snacks and good discussion.

The theme for the night will be "Procrastination and Motivation."

Many of us struggle with procrastination, be it in school or work, or when trying to improve our physical, mental, and spiritual health. We know what we should do, but we find it hard to get started (until, perhaps, a crisis hits!). So, we're going to take a look at a video offering some honest advice on how to overcome a natural inclination to delay important work. If procrastination isn't a problem for you, you may find some people eager for your own advice on how to stay motivated!



Alpha Youth

Starting March 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Are you, or do you know, a person in Grade 6 to 12, who has questions about life, faith, meaning, and God?

Encourage them to sign up for Alpha Youth - starting March 21 at 6:30 p.m in Cody Hall. Dinner is provided and there will be activities in the Gym and Youth Room, following each session.

In each interactive Alpha session, you eat, watch a talk, and discuss questions in small groups. Discussion breaks give everyone a chance to share thoughts and ideas in small groups without fear of being corrected or judged.

Alpha Youth involves a weekend retreat at Ontario Pioneer Camp from April 27th to April 29th. The cost is \$150 and bursaries are available. To register online, visit stpaulsbloor.org/alpha-for-youth

For more information about the Young Adults Gathering or Alpha Youth, contact Ian Koiter, Youth and Young Adult Pastor, at ikoiter@stpaulsbloor.org

Lent - The Practices That Transform Us

The season of 'Lent' comes from the word 'spring' or 'slowly' – it's a gradual, reflective building to the highlight of the church year: Easter.

For forty days we prepare for Easter through inner reflection and spiritual practices that encourage humility, generosity, and community. These disciplines help us grow spiritually in our attitudes and actions, moving us towards a more thankful and joyful life.

This year we are encouraging our entire community to engage our St. Paul's Discipleship Covenant in a refreshed way. The Covenant models for us what Christian life is all about. This Lent, engage in as many of these five effective principles as possible:



1) **Worship** – Commit to engage a service each week of Lent, and our services during Holy Week.



2) **Prayer & Study** – Join a Small Group for community, Bible learning, and prayer.



3) **Active Involvement** – Connect with an outreach initiative (such as Coldest Night Walk) or serve on a Sunday morning.



4) **Financial Contribution** – increase your financial commitment to the ministry of St. Paul's.



5) **Evangelism** – Bring a friend to church.

This week we are praying for...

World and National Issues

- We pray for the courage to give up that which draws us away from you, a willingness to share our lives with each other, and the will to give ourselves to Jesus.
- Give us the audacity to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, workplaces and neighbourhoods.

The Global Church

- Give your Church the daring to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world.
- Everyone gathered today to worship in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

In Our Own Church

- We pray for the following members of our St. Paul's community: Dean, Rosemary, Terri, Lydia, Elspeth, Brian, Doris, Jean, Varlo, Allyson. We pray for your love, grace and mercy to sustain them.
- Give us perseverance to build St. Paul's as a community of learning and trust through our small group ministries.

The Flowers Today

The flowers in the Church are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:

At the High Table:

In loving memory of Florence Gillespie given by Fred & Drew Gillespie and Patricia Kendall.

In the Chapels:

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Lambert Sr. & Jr. and Dr. & Mrs. James Houston given by Kim Lambert, Kate Lambert Prichard, Kelly Lambert Craik and Anna Lambert Jones

World Day of Prayer 2018

The World Day of Prayer connects people in authentic, meaningful ways across social, geographic and political barriers by amplifying the voice of women who focus our prayers by sharing their concerns and their context. On World Prayer Day, thousands will gather to learn about, pray, and celebrate environmental issues in solidarity with the women of Suriname.

This year, the theme of World Day of Prayer is Suriname: "All God's Creation Is Very Good." You can join with others from St. Paul's and around Toronto for the World Day of Prayer on **March 2 at 11 a.m.** at St. Andrew's United Church (117 Bloor Street East) in Toronto.

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, February 18

Pilgrim: The Eucharist - 12: 15 p.m. | *Room 106*

Monday, February 19 Family Day (Facility Closed)

Tuesday, February 20

Winchester Group - 10 a.m. | *Library*
Holy Communion - 12:10 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*
Christian Meditation - 1 p.m. | *Room 206*
DivorceCare - 7 p.m. | *Library*

Wednesday, February 21

Little Sunbeams Parents and Tots - 9:30 a.m. | *Nursery*
Wednesdays With God - 12 p.m. | *Dalton Room*
Lunchtime Alpha - 12 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*
Bridge Music Rehearsal - 6 p.m. | *Sanctuary*
Prayer Time for Alpha - 6 p.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*
Alpha - 6:30 p.m. | *Cody Hall*
Youth Group - 7 p.m. | *Youth Room*
Marriage Course - 7 p.m. | *Great Hall*

Thursday, February 22

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. | *Music Room*
Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*
Procrastination and Motivation for Young Adults -
7 p.m. | *Youth Room*

Friday, February 23

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

Saturday, February 24

Coldest Night of the Year Walk - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 25

Black Heritage Service -
4:30 p.m. (music starts at 4 p.m.) | *Sanctuary*

Coming up in March:

GriefShare - starting March 2 | 1:30 p.m.
Organ Concert - March 4 | 3 p.m.
Alpha Youth - starting March 21 | 6:30 p.m.

Every Sunday

Worship Services

8:15 a.m. | *Chapel of the Good Shepherd*
9:30 a.m. **the bridge** | *Sanctuary*
11 a.m. | *Sanctuary*

Prayer Ministry

10:20 a.m. & 12 p.m.
St. Paul's Chapel

Nursery

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

Children's Ministry

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

Youth Group

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

Prayer Groups

10:20 a.m. | *Room 7*
10:50 a.m. | *St. Paul's Chapel*

Community Lunch

12:15 p.m. | *Great Hall*
\$8 per person

Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Mark 1:16-22, 2:13-17

**Topic: Accepted as
We Are**

Stay Connected!



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