



February 25, 2018

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Lent: Practice of Prayer

p 3

What's Inside!



Black Heritage Service

p 2



Prayer Gathering

p 4



Meet Beng

p 5



WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

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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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Black Heritage Service



Today, 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.**



Our New Volunteer Coordinator

As of February 25, we are delighted to announce Jacquie Compayre, our Executive Assistant, will be taking over our Volunteer Coordinator role.

"I'm thrilled to be meeting all of our fantastic volunteers in real life! It's been great corresponding via email, but it will be a nice change to add that personal face-to-face layer moving forward."

If you have any questions, contact Jacquie at jcompayre@stpaulsbloor.org.

Lent: Practice of Prayer

By Sandra Seaborn

Lent is about preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Preparation can take many forms. Traditionally, prayer, fasting and alms-giving were used together to help followers deliberately set aside time and resources, in hopes such practices of devotion would make us more aware of our own desires and deep need of divine grace.

This year, our Lenten focus is on small groups. Such groups provide places to study scriptures, share concerns and care for others. The first small group of Jesus followers is our case study. Week by week, we are learning how we are “better together”, aided in our transformation by walking intentionally with others also following Jesus.

Each of us is personally invited into relationship with God, through Jesus. One way to cultivate this individual relationship, both in and out of Lent, is setting time aside to reflect and pray based in scriptures. We can also grow in our relationship with Jesus by studying and praying together with others.

Here are a few resources that might help you start, strengthen or re-invigorate your personal times with God (three are general, two are Lent specific).



1. **Pray as you Go** – a fifteen minute podcast that includes music, scripture and prayer. pray-as-you-go.org



2. **You Version** – a Bible app with both adult and children’s versions. There are plenty of reading plans on topics, books of the Bible and even based on albums from rap to worship. youversion.com



3. **The Bible Project** – this film-based storytelling resource with wonderful animated videos explains themes and books of the Bible. thebibleproject.com



4. **Meeting Jesus** – a Lenten series focusing on the book of John with videos, journal and even two bishop-facilitated small groups. Check out: meetingjesusinjohn.org.



5. **PWRDF: Living Lent 2018** – a seasonal set of stories and reflections from the Primate World Relief and Development Fund. pwrdf.org/resources/seasonal

Lent - The Practices That Transform Us

For forty days, we prepare for Easter through inner reflection and spiritual practices that encourage humility, generosity, and community.

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 engaging in 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 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.



Prayer Gathering

Join us on **Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** in the Great Hall for a Prayer Gathering with Bishop Stephen Andrews. Coffee and muffins will be offered at 8:45 a.m.

Bishop Andrews will share his perspective and experience of prayer in the contemporary church. There will be time for questions and for prayer. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Shaw at sshaw@stpaulsbloor.org

small groups



Beng's story

In 2012, my wife and I were looking for a church suitable for our pre-teen son when someone mentioned St Paul's Bloor Street as one with a vibrant youth group. When he said, 'It's OK' to our question about how his first meeting went, we took this to be a very good sign, as we also appreciated the 9:30 a.m. Bridge service. After several weeks, we found being at St Paul's quite a lonely experience because it was difficult to get to know

others in the church. Then we heard about a small group meeting on Saturday mornings. It turned out to be an encouraging time meeting interesting folks. Slowly, we began to say 'hello' and talked to a few familiar faces after Sunday services, and we became less lonely.



We've continued to meet with this small group and it has become our extended 'family' here in Toronto. Those in this little yet growing group share joys, laughter, fears, frustrations and concerns of life with one another. Praying for one another has given us encouragement in the different challenges facing each person and our families. Without question, joining a small group is one of the best decisions we made at St Paul's. - Beng Wee

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.

Explore life's biggest questions



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 from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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. All of this is done in a fun environment where anyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend.

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



Watch the Alpha Youth trailer on our website and our Facebook page.

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

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 your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and the passion to seek peace.

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 Edmonton in central Alberta.

In Our Own Church

- We pray for the following members of our St. Paul's community: Peg, Marsha, Susan, James, Jacob, Jennifer, Eileen, Dean, Sheri, Samson and Josephine . 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.



Are you interested in learning more about
Refugee Sponsorship?

You are invited to come **Sunday, March 11, from 12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m.** in Cody Hall to learn more about our refugee sponsorship initiative.

In 2016, St. Paul's sponsored a Syrian family's relocation to Toronto. We worked with AURA and received a family via the Blended Visa Office-Referrred program. Come and learn how this came about from some of our parish members who formed the core team.

For more information, or to RSVP, contact Sandra Seaborn at ext 226 or email sseaborn@stpaulsbloor.org

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, February 25

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

Monday, February 26

GriefShare - 5:30 p.m. | *Library*
ESL Cafe - 7 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, February 27

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 28

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, March 1

CBS Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. | *Music Room*
Choir Practice - 6:30 p.m. | *Music Room*

Friday, March 2

Music for Health - 10 a.m. | *Gym*
GriefShare - 1:30 p.m. | *Library*

Saturday, March 3

Prayer Gathering - 9 a.m. | *Great Hall*

Sunday, March 4

Organ Concert - 3 p.m. | *Sanctuary*

The Flowers Today

The flowers in the Church are in celebration of
Black History Month
given by members of St. Paul's.

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

Matthew 5:1-16

Topic: Learning and
Serving

Stay Connected!



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