

ST. PAUL'S, ESSEX FALL NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

A note from the Rector

Dear Siblings;

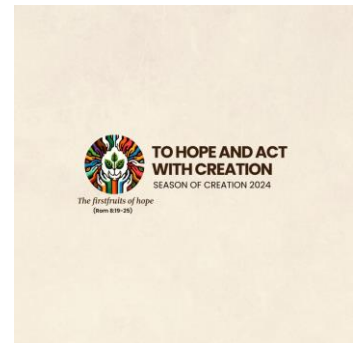
We may be a small congregation (for now) but we have a big heart. This big heart invites us to engage with the community and the world in diverse ways. As you will see in this newsletter, we are busy. There is a lot to celebrate this season. There are also a lot of opportunities to invite, following from the commitments made at this year's vestry. Invitation is the number one reason people come to Church. It makes a big difference when we know someone, and they are passionate enough about the experience to invite us along. May we each be that someone for family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and others this season as we seek to strengthen our small congregation with a big heart.

Blessings this fall,

Chris.

SEASON OF CREATION 2024 – TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

To refer to Creation as Mother Earth is to remind ourselves that the earth is living and breathing. The use of capital "C" for Creation in this year's theme for the Season of Creation is likewise intended to remind us that Creation is something to be honoured and respected. Creation is a gift that we should value and treasure. Creation is more than something to be possessed and manipulated. Indeed, we are called to safeguard the integrity of God's Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth (Marks of Mission #5).



When we look with such respect and reverence at God's Creation, how does this help to reorient our priorities and perspectives? To what extent does viewing the Earth as living and breathing impact how we choose to engage in relationships with the world around us? Can we treasure wild animals in ways that parallel how we treasure those animals we bring into our homes? Can we desire to protect and respect other aspects of Creation in the ways we protect and respect our families? Can we cherish God's gifts in Creation to the point that we can give voice to the hope and the actions needed to safeguard, sustain, and renew the world?

Let us explore the possibilities together as we walk through the Season of Creation this year beginning Sept. 1st and culminating in our celebration of Harvest Thanksgiving, Oct. 13th. May we pray, sing, reflect, and engage in ways that serve to hope and act with Creation this year!

Back to Church Celebration, Wonky Worship style! Sept. 15th, 11am

Continuing our invitational work, we are having a 'Back to Church Celebration – Wonky Worship Style' on Sept. 15th at 11am. Back to Church Sunday is a longstanding tradition in many communities which encourages people to return to worship following the summer season of travel and vacations. It is a reminder that worship offers a different kind of nourishment and care that provides support and possibilities throughout the year.



For this pivotal Sunday we will engage wonky worship style as a playful, gentle way to include those who are just finding their way back to Church or may have had little experience in worship. Wonky worship is specially designed to be inclusive, engaging, prayerful, and fun. Invitation cards are available to spread the word. We hope this makes it easier to invite someone!

May we celebrate together, wonky worship style.

Continuing our Year of Invitation with new possibilities

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, OCT. 6, 1:30PM



This is our opportunity to give thanks for all the beloved animals in our lives. These gifts from God are treasured members of our families. This simple service, celebrated outside, weather permitting, reminds us of why we love these animal friends and provides opportunities to know God's blessing on these family members.

All are encouraged to share this opportunity with family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and anyone else who has a heart for animals. Invitation cards are available to spread the word.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING, OCT. 13, 11AM

Come and give thanks to the Giver of all Good Gifts in our annual Harvest Thanksgiving celebration. This is a time when we sing hymns of praise and acknowledge God's generosity. We give thanks in worship, music, reflection, and prayer, and then receive God's gifts in bread and wine. This is another wonderful opportunity to bring someone you cherish as we give thanks. Cards are available to support invitation.



PICK A HYMN SUNDAY, OCT. 20, 11AM



Since we had so much fun at the last one, we thought we would do it again! Sunday, Oct. 20th we will have a Morning Prayer service that will feature a time for folks to share their favourite hymns. We will sing a verse or two of as many as we are able. If you would like to sing a hymn not found in Common Praise (the blue hymnbook), please let Rev. Chris know ahead of time and we will try to get lyrics into the PowerPoint.

Bring a friend as we sing our praise to God with our favourite hymns! Invitation cards are available to help spread the word.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SUNDAY (A.K.A. ORANGE SHIRT DAY) – SEPT. 29, 11AM



The land on which we gather and in which we serve is not really our land. We exist on land that has been inhabited by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. There is much we can learn from these ancestors about how to walk in this world. There is ongoing value in humbly attending to the ways Indigenous peoples hope and act with Creation.

Remembering our broken relationships with Indigenous peoples and with the Land, we will reflect, pray, and create spaces for openness and transformation as we gather for worship Sept. 29th. All are encouraged to wear orange and/or some signs of our commitment to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

LEGACY OF HEROES 2024

Our annual tradition of honouring local heroes continues! This year we are celebrating a resource used by many in our congregation – the Essex Retirees Centre. This space provides inexpensive meals with delivery for those who need it. There are games, activities, help with taxes and applications for government programs, and exercise opportunities. The staff and volunteers at the Essex Senior's Centre provide valued resources for the seniors in our region. For many seniors in the Essex region, these individuals are heroes.



To celebrate, we will have a Legacy of Heroes online auction. We are grateful to individuals and local businesses who provide donations in support of this endeavour. Watch for the auction to take place this fall and share the information with friends, neighbours, family, and colleagues. A donation will be made to the Essex Senior Centre from the proceeds of this auction during the Heroes presentation. Stay tuned for date and time. We are looking forward to another wonderful celebration of local heroes.

NEW THIS FALL – ST. PAUL'S PUZZLE RACE, SEPT. 20, 6:30PM



Looking for a night out with family and/or friends? This fall, we are offering a "Puzzle Race" event. This night will feature snacks and the challenge of putting together a 500-piece puzzle in teams of up to 4 adults (ages 13 and up). Family puzzles will be available for those with school-aged children. There will be prizes!

As a fundraiser to support the many ministries at St. Paul's, the cost for this event will be \$15 per person or \$50 per family and/or team of 4. Mark your calendars. Invite family, friends, neighbours, and coworkers for a fun night of fellowship and puzzle making.

Season of Creation Forest Therapy Walk, Sept. 28, 1:30-4pm

Open your senses to the wonder of Creation through this powerful, guided experience. The walk will use accessible paths at Maidstone Conservation Area. The pace will be slow allowing us to pay attention to the world around us. Signing up is required. Cost is dependent on the number signed up. Contact the office or Rev. Chris for more information.



OUR COMMUNITY IS MORE THAN THOSE IN THE PEWS

This summer, we were reminded that our community extends beyond those in the pews, and those on the parish list. Our community includes those who have found a home in our space. WECAP is such a wonderful addition and includes energetic and expressive young people in their programming. Their summer camp focused on The Lion King. Watch for this season's productions of Matilda Jr., and Mary Poppins!

We are thankful to the vendors who have participated in our markets. Thank you to Sandra Lypps who coordinates and promotes the markets. For Donna and the kitchen team who do the Church Lady Lunches and for Doug and Theresa Lypps and all the bakers who provide baked goods. These are important and wonderful events!

Thank you to the Essex Community Concert Band who offered a delightful concert on the lawn as a fundraiser for St. Paul's this summer. It is wonderful to gather outside and hear the amazing music of this group. We are honoured by your ongoing presence.

Thank you to all who supported and participated in our annual Pride Flag Raising at Town Hall, and BBQ and games at St. Paul's. This year's event also included a raffle to support advocacy for a Pride Mural in the town and featured music by WECAP. It is wonderful to see so many faces from the Rainbow community engaging with us as we celebrate Pride in the county.

Thank you to clothing cupboard volunteers who had a small hiatus this summer to allow our friends at the Essex Food Bank to relocate. During this time, the cupboard got new flooring thanks to donations. Thank you to all who continue to support this important ministry.

St. Paul's is far more than those of us who gather regularly in the pews. We are a family of faith whose acts of service ripple outwards and touch hearts and minds. In this we can trust that God, working in us, does infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Season of Creation, Sept. 1st through Oct. 13th (Thanksgiving)
- Pasta Dinner, Sept. 6th, 5-6:30pm
- Back to Church Sunday, Wonky Worship Style, Sept. 15th, 11am
- Puzzle Race, Sept. 20, 6:30pm
- Forest Walk, Maidstone Conservation Area, Sept. 28th, 1:30-4pm. Pre-registration is required. Cost based on registration.
- Truth and Reconciliation Sunday, Oct. 29th, 11am
- Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 6th, 1:30pm
- Pasta Dinner, Oct. 4th, 5-6:30pm
- Harvest Thanksgiving, Oct. 13th, 11am
- Pick a Hymn Sunday, Oct. 20, 11am
- Watch for information about a fall market and Legacy of Heroes auction

St. Paul's Anglican Church, 92 St. Paul St., Essex

Website: stpaulsessex.ca

Email: stpaulsessex@diohuron.org

Phone: 519-776-7711