



Chimes

FALL 2011



*Growing, Learning,
Reaching Out*

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
DIOCESE OF HURON
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA





Fall 2011 - VOLUME 18, ISSUE 5

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The Right Reverend Terry A. Dance

Bishop of Norfolk

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Next edition: November 20, 2011

Chimes is the news magazine of St. Paul's Cathedral in the Diocese of Huron and is published five times annually. We welcome your submissions, though we cannot guarantee that all submissions will be printed. Please send them to the Church Office. We also accept e-mail submissions: st.pauls@stpaulscathedral.on.ca

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REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday	8:00am Holy Eucharist
	10:00am Choral Eucharist with Children's Program
	- Nursery Available at the 10:00am service -
Monday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Wednesday	8:15am Holy Eucharist
	12:15pm Holy Eucharist
Thursday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Friday	8:45am Morning Prayer

A Moment for Learning

BY John Sproule

We are all busy. Calendars fill with the things that must be done, or should be done, and some days it feels like there is little time left for anything else. But whatever the day brings, don't neglect a moment for learning. Consider, how many different ways can you complete the phrase "When we stop learning ..."?

Learning is for life, whether we find it in church, in a school, in developing skills for a trade or craft, or enjoying a picnic lunch with friends. This fall at St. Paul's you'll find opportunities for learning in a variety of workshops and discussion groups, and your participation is heartily encouraged!

In September we start with the new *Dean's Forum*, a series of monthly, one-hour discussions facilitated by Dean Kevin Dixon, which will explore current issues in the Church, Christianity and faith. On **Sunday, September 18 at 11:30am** the discussion will be on the theme "UnChristian: What a new generation really thinks about Christianity ... and why it matters". The Dean's Forum in October will be on Sunday, October 23 at 11:30am.

The *Wednesday "One Offs"* series provides one-time activities and workshops on occasion throughout the year. The first session is "Missional Map-Making" led by Dean Kevin Dixon on **Wednesday, September 21**. The Church today is seeking to become less focused on programs for members and more oriented toward outreach to people who are not already in church. This fundamental shift in what a congregation is and does and thinks is challenging. Using the metaphor of map-making, this workshop addresses this time of radical change over unfamiliar terrain. We will discuss eight key map-making skills required to guide the Church into the future. "Missional Map-Making" will be in the Assembly and Guild Rooms. Dinner is provided at 5:00pm. The program starts at 5:45pm and is done at 7:00pm. Child care is available.

The *Sundays @ 9* series offers focused learning and discussion before each Sunday service. Plan to attend the first of these weekly adult education sessions starting **Sunday, September 25** with "The Bible for the Biblically Challenged" led by Dean Kevin Dixon. The bible is more than just a book. It is part of our heritage as Christians and Anglicans. Our Christian roots can be found

in the Hebrew bible. Anglicans insisted on the right to read the bible in their own language. Many prayers, words, and prayers in The Book of Common Prayer are from the bible. Our attitudes today toward reading the bible are complicated. We are less biblically literate than our forebears. Many Anglicans hesitate to read the bible, worried they "don't know enough about it" or are uncomfortable about belief in biblical authority. In this brief, one-session introduction to the bible "for the biblically challenged" we review the history of the bible, translations, and ways of reading and understanding the text. *Sundays @ 9* sessions are in the Cathedral Board Room, 9:00 – 9:45am. Coffee is provided.

In October, the book *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller guides six sessions that work to reveal the powerful message of Jesus' best known and least understood parable, The Parable of the Prodigal Son. *The Prodigal God Series* begins on **Wednesday, October 5**, starting with dinner in the Assembly Room at 6:30pm followed by the study from 7:15 – 9:00pm.

Watch for information on new events and workshops in the Sunday service bulletin, in Chimes, and on the Cathedral website, www.stpaulscathedral.on.ca. If you have suggestions for future Christian Education events or would like to lead a workshop, please email the Christian Education Committee at education@stpaulscathedral.on.ca or hand a note with your suggestion to one of the wardens following the Sunday service. ❖

John is the Chairperson of the Christian Education Committee

BACK TO WHAT?

BY Deacon Pat Henderson

Church is not what it used to be. Often the assumption behind that sentiment is that in days gone by all churches were full of enthusiastic worshippers led by clergy who eschewed gimmicks, led proper services and were fully engaged with a range of community activities. I wonder how true that is? The church has changed certainly - worship services in the average Parish Church are very different to what would have been experienced 50 years ago, and there are fewer

clergy than was the case then. So, no way will someone returning to church after many years have an identical experience to the ones they remember from former days. Nevertheless in recent years Back to Church Sunday has demonstrated that there are many people who appreciate being eased back into church attendance. Back to Church Sunday this year is on September 25th and most churches in our diocese have indicated that they will be taking part. Plans are being made, and congregations urged to pray for their friends and invite them along. This constitutes a challenge for many. If we are not to risk losing friends we need to be confident that their experience if they accept our invitation will be a good one. That is not just a question of the form of service, the music and the sermon essentially it is a matter of welcome. What people, consciously or unconsciously, are looking for is true fellowship - they want to experience a group of people who exhibit more than the camaraderie to be found in the pub. Jesus' new commandment is, "Love one another as I have loved you." It is the sense of entering a community of love which is the most attractive feature of coming back to church. What will people find if they respond to our invitations this year? A group of religious enthusiasts? A hard, long-faced moralizing company? Or a group of people who are coping with the same issues in life as everyone else but united in their love for Christ and concern to love (but not necessarily like!) one another?

There are lots of reasons why people stop going to church. They move house, have a baby or simply get out of the habit. Some people feel embarrassed about

going back to church after a long absence, but if someone invites them, then they gladly go, and a special occasion makes it even easier.

Back to Church Sunday on September 25, 2011 is just such an opportunity. The idea is to invite friends,

neighbours or anyone who has had a connection with church in the past, to a service to see what they have been missing.

This isn't about putting leaflets through strangers' doors

but rather thinking of who might welcome a heartfelt invitation. This whole idea was first tried in England in 2004. Each year more and more dioceses around the world are giving it a go.

Why? Because the results have been phenomenal! The success of running such an event has been outstanding with churches reporting sustained increases in their congregations of 10 per cent and more. Many churches around the world are preparing to welcome back old faces on September 25th again.

We invite YOU to be a part of it. ❖



THINGS TO REMEMBER

When you or someone you care for is confronted with an illness or crisis, remember to contact one of the clergy team first.

If you have recently moved or changed any of your contact information, be sure to contact Carrie Fieldhouse in the Church Office with the updates.

Have you remembered St. Paul's in your will?

Ministry Spotlight

BY Kerri Mungar

Ubuntu. “A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.” — Desmond Tutu

What a wonderful word to introduce to children within our diocese and within the Anglican Church. I was first introduced to this concept while working for Huron Church Camp in 2010 and believe it embodies in part what we as Anglicans believe in. Through studying Sociology at Wilfred Laurier University I learned the importance of learning others’ stories, at Huron Church Camp I learned about the significance of community, in volunteering with Camp Wendake I learned compassion, and through my faith I have developed and learned to serve others. As part of the Children’s Ministries at St. Paul’s Cathedral, my vision is to teach the youth about the 5 Marks of Mission and what we as Anglicans believe in. In exploring our faith and in building our community, the Children’s Ministry will develop a relationship with the Cristosal Foundation, strive to find ways to protect God’s creation, and reach out into our own local community of London to serve.

I am extremely excited to be working at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Youth Ministry and hope to see many faces, old and new, at Crash the Cathedral!

With love and peace. ❖

Kerri is the new Pastor to Youth at St. Paul’s



How to Use Your Parish Priest

BY Dean Kevin Dixon

Once in a while I come away from a conversation with a parishioner thinking, now there's a person who knows how to make use of his or her parish priest. It's usually after a conversation when the person has talked with real intention. That is, not just talking about whatever comes up, or waiting for me to set the tone of the conversation, but rather, using it as a valuable opportunity not to be wasted. After all, how many people do you know who can help you to reflect on your questions of faith and meaning, who really listen as you disclose hurts and express grief, who can talk with you about God in the context of your experience and Christian theology? That's a priest's job.

I remember an early and important conversation when I was a teenager with Jack Peck, a priest of long-standing acquaintance who later became a bishop. The conversation was outside a mechanic's garage where we were both having our motorcycles serviced. He asked me if I'd ever read *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* and, hearing that I knew the book, proceeded to listen to my ideas. I remember that conversation as a moment when I began to appreciate that my own theological reflections might have meaning to someone other than myself.

I remember another occasion years later when a woman in her late eighties asked me, during a parish visit, if I felt that dreams could have real meaning. She went on to tell me about her recent and unusual dreams. After a few minutes, and with only a little help from me, she was discovering what her dreams were telling her.

One reason for making good use of one's parish priest is that clergy can sometimes point the way toward helpful spiritual resources, like the little book *When the Well Runs Dry*, by Thomas H. Green. When I was in a spiritual dry spell of my own this book was recommended to me by a friend who is a priest. It was her guidance that eased me in the right direction.

There are times when it is a priest's job not to give advice, but just to offer the support that comes from a loving presence. Many people who phone the church at a time of bereavement, and want to make arrangements for a funeral, are looking for this kind of support. Sadly, unless they have developed a depth of relationship with their parish priest, they may not feel comfortable accessing the level of help that is offered.

In spite of what Pierre Berton, in *The Comfortable Pew*, foresaw as the future role of parish priests, we exist to be much more than funeral directors. Not long ago, in a very meaningful conversation, I listened to a bereaved daughter express her convictions about what happens after we die. For a little while, funeral planning came to a halt while we spent some time talking about some other important things. I hadn't met her before, but she was instinctively aware of what a priest is for.

Sometimes when I am making a parish visit in someone's home, the conversation is purely social. And that's fine with me, though I hope people realize that when I am there it is my job to be listening for clues that lead to deeper things. Even in a hospital room patients will often keep the conversation at a surface level. That's fine too, so long as they know that it's at the surface because they are indicating they want it to stay there. It's not my job to push people into talking about things they feel uncomfortable with. It is, however, a priest's job to create opportunities for earnest dialogue.

Unfortunately, and especially when the conversation is with people who are very involved in the life and leadership of their parish, our discussion sometimes revolves around the managing of the parish, what this or that committee is doing. Talking shop. But talking about the life of the church is not the same as talking about spiritual things. In fact it often gets in the way. And candidly, because the program of the church is not far from the thoughts of most priests in active parishes, this kind of conversation is a snare we can easily fall into. This is why intention on the parishioner's part is so important.

We live in an age when some medical practitioners schedule their patients' appointments ten minutes apart, and when therapists charge by the hour. They have a job to do, and they are trained to do it well. Parish priests, however, are also trained to do a particular kind of job. It is to the parishioners' benefit to use this freely offered expertise, with intention, for the sake of their own spiritual health. ❖

SOMETIMES, GOD SENDS YOU A SIGN

BY Barbara Bidner

Nine years ago, I drove past a church and saw a sign that read “Separated or Divorced: DivorceCare can help. I wondered for a brief moment whether I should call the phone number on the sign.

Well, as circumstances would have it, I drove past that church twice more while running errands. A little voice inside of me said “It’s a ‘sign’”.

I called the number a few days later and learned that DivorceCare is a support and seminar group where people going through the pain of separation and divorce come together for 13 weeks to heal and gain hope. Participants can join the group at any point in time during the 13 weeks.

I joined the group and went to all 13 sessions faithfully. The DivorceCare leaders were two wonderful and supportive women who had gone through their own divorce experiences. They showed us that there is healing and hope for those who are separated and divorced. I looked forward each week to attending the group. The sessions provided me with an opportunity to focus on myself and to understand what was required to properly and fully heal from my divorce.

The weekly sessions included a seminar segment where the group watched a video. These videos focused on topics such as anger, loneliness, financial survival, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Afterwards, we were invited to share our thoughts on the video and to talk about how we were doing with our healing process that week.

We offered each other encouragement, understanding and a shoulder to cry on. In addition, we shared some laughs and became friends. We also read scripture passages which provided us with strength knowing that God was walking with us through this journey of separation and divorce.

Going to the DivorceCare program was one of the best decisions I have made. By attending DivorceCare I have not only survived my divorce, I have thrived.

If you know of someone who is going through a separation or divorce, please tell them about our DivorceCare program. It may be the best thing that you can do to help him or her. ❖

Barbara is a past warden of St. Paul’s Cathedral



WARMTH OF RELATIONSHIP

BY Dean Kevin

In his book *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, Kenon Callahan says that warm and caring relationships among church members are essential to the health of a local congregation. One way this is accomplished is through small group experiences. Whether it’s a Bible study, a book club, or a support group, any gathering of people that helps fellow Christians learn and grow together is key to an effective church.

This autumn there will be a number of new opportunities for warmth to be kindled at St. Paul’s. One of these is through DivorceCare, a friendly, caring group of people who walk alongside one another through one of life’s most difficult experiences.

The DivorceCare support group will be co-led this fall by Barbara Bidner and John Sproule. Barbara is the mother of two boys, and balances her responsibilities to them with her career as a lawyer, as well as having served as a past churchwarden at St. Paul’s Cathedral. John Sproule is married to Stacey Clark. He is an engineer at Honeywell and the new chair of the Cathedral’s recently established Christian Education committee. Both Barbara and John have experienced the pain of divorce personally. This

will be the second time Barbara has led the thirteen week DivorceCare program at St. Paul’s. More information is available from Barbara through the Cathedral Office.

Another opportunity for friendship and growth is through the development of an educational initiative to safeguard and promote healthy relationships in families and the church. I established a similar program called *Fire in the Rose* in the mid-1990s in Leamington. This autumn will be an opportunity for Ken Heard, a parishioner at St. Paul’s for eleven years and a member of parish council, to develop this initiative with a view to launching it in the new year. If you would like more information about how you can be involved, please contact Ken through the Cathedral Office.

These three initiatives, led by parishioners, reflect a growing commitment to an outward focus in the life of the Cathedral. Please talk up these autumn programs to those known to you who would benefit them. ❖

Children's Ministries: New & Old

PANDAMANIA: JULY 2011

What happened when a pack of fun-loving panda bears invaded St. Paul's Cathedral during the first week of July? A wild celebration of God's unconditional love, that's what! At this year's PandaMania Vacation Bible School, more than 30 kids discovered that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that each of us has been created by God's own loving hands.

Gladis Funes, Children's Ministries co-ordinator at St. Paul's, assembled a team of ten adult volunteers to supervise four activity groups – games, bible stories, crafts, and singing on the afternoons of Monday to Thursday, July 4-7. Children who participated in the VBS were not just from the Cathedral, it was also an outreach to the wider community attracting a number of kids who do not normally attend any church.

The parents of one four-year old girl reported that at home on the evening after the first day, their little girl was enlisting a neighbourhood friend in a call-and-response litany of "God made me! Thank you God! God made the trees! Thank you God!" According to her mom and dad the round did not end after just three or four expressions of gratitude ... it was an enthusiastic and sustained litany.

"It was a lot of work, but definitely worth it," Gladis said. "We learned a lot that we can apply to next year's VBS."



Be sure to speak to Gladis to get a first-hand report on this very successful project. Thank you to Gladis and her team for making this year's effort, the first VBS at St. Paul's in a number of years, such a great experience for everyone. ❖

SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH MUSIC

St. Paul's Cathedral has long traditions, not just of being a place of worship, but of community outreach and of musical excellence. Recently, the Cathedral started the planning process for a music program

to help under-served and at risk children. The program will provide participants with a safe place in which they will receive free group music lessons after school. Children will also receive snacks and help with their homework when not in a music lesson.

This music program is based on the Venezuelan program called El Sistema which was started in 1975 by Jose Antonio Abreu. Programs or "nucleos" have been and continue to be established all over the world. It is a program that emphasizes community, accessibility, immersion and overcoming poverty through "affluence of the spirit" and creativity. As the founder of El Sistema said in a TED Award acceptance speech in 2009, "From the minute a child is taught how to play an instrument he's no longer poor." In the coming months, a pilot project will begin in preparation for the official opening of the program in the fall of 2012. Please pay attention for coming news about this new project as the Cathedral continues the tradition of reaching out to the London community the best way it knows how! ❖

- Gladis Funes

BACK TO (SUNDAY) SCHOOL

It has been a long and hot summer but hopefully the kids of St. Paul's are ready for a new year in Children's Ministries. This year we have a theme of "Kids Who Make a Difference: Living the 5 Marks of Mission." We are also involving Godly Play in our lessons thanks in part to a donation we received from the ACW to purchase Godly Play materials at the beginning of the year. The children also have more activities with the Youth Ministries children to look forward to both inside and outside of our Sunday Worship time.

In addition to new lessons and activities, Children's Ministries is welcoming our new volunteer teachers who responded to the "Just Say Yes" campaign in June. If you would like to volunteer with us on Sunday mornings do not hesitate to contact me. We would be grateful to have you with us. I would also like to thank all the volunteers involved with the PandaMania VBS. It was a great success! We had many volunteers and many more children who had a fantastic week thanking God for making us. We will definitely try to top it at the VBS next summer! ❖

- Gladis Funes

Gladis is Children's Ministries Co-ordinator at St. Paul's

Sunday Lunches

A New Venture

BY Bette Ferguson

There will be a new opportunity this fall for us to chat with others over a pleasant luncheon following the Sunday morning services – once a month. The dates of the luncheons are September 25, October 16, November 20 and December 18. Tickets (\$10 each) will be purchased in advance and there will be a set menu. You may purchase tickets at the Cathedral the Sunday before the date of the luncheon or from the Cathedral Office.

Since the organizers want to know how many people will be eating and that the correct amount of food will be purchased, only 40 tickets are available. Any profit realized will be donated to the Cristosal Foundation. Our hope is that this will be a successful venture and that the luncheons will continue in the new year.

Cristosal Foundation is a partner organization of the Episcopal Church of El Salvador. It is dedicated to human rights and works for peace, justice and inclusion. It was founded to promote human rights advocacy and education, disaster relief, leadership formation and social, spiritual, economic and infrastructure development.

We are supporting the work of the Cristosal Foundation for this fall venture. We will review this if we continue to offer monthly luncheons.

The organizing committee is Bette Ferguson, Jane Korhonen, Florence Perkes, and Ann Tonkin – listed alphabetically – although we must confess the moving force in the venture is Ann Tonkin. ❖

Bette is a past wardem of St. Paul's Cathedral



DID YOU KNOW ...

Gothic Revival, the St. Paul's e-newsletter, is sent every second Tuesday and *This Week at St. Paul's*, the weekly text-based announcement email is sent on Fridays.

If you don't receive them, visit the website to subscribe or contact Paul Grambo, Communications Director at: webmaster@stpaulscathedral.on.ca

Audio recordings of the sermons, prayers and announcements can be found on the website. Miss a Sunday? The archive holds a year's worth of recordings. Now there's no excuse!

St. Paul's is on Facebook. Click the "Like" button on the website to receive updates.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bible Study

Thursdays @ 2:00pm

Led by Dean Kevin

Sundays @ 9

Weekly adult education program

Led by Dean Kevin

Organ and Organ+ Recital Series

Tuesdays @ 12:15pm

September 20 - Nixon McMillan

September 27 - Stephanie Burgoyne
with William Vandertuin

October 4 - Andrew Keegan Mackriell

October 11 - Joel VanderZee

October 18 - Richard Hansen

October 25 - William Lupton

November 1 - Andrew Keegan Mackriell

November 8 - David Greenslade

November 15 - Wayne Carroll

Parish News

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

This year's Annual Christmas Bazaar will take place Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 9:00am – 1:00pm.

There you'll find home baking, preserves, jewellery, Christmas décor, treasures, silent auction and lunch in the Holly Tea Room. This is a parish event and we need your help. Our wish list includes:

- home baking (especially pies!)
- jams, jellies, pickles & relish (no freezer jam please)
- all kinds of jewellery (phone Jean Farrar at 519-438-0555)
- lots of bottles for the Toonie Table (example: 26oz wine bottles, coke, mustard, pickles, etc.)
- new items of interest for the silent auction

For further information, contact:

Jean Nurse at 519-659-4659,

Esther Moore at 519-451-8117,

Gayle Anderson at 519-471-1851 or

Judy Brown at 519-681-6795

BUILDING REPAIRS

Over the summer months you may have noted the looming crane and the towering scaffold around the Cathedral.



Important repairs were necessitated by water penetration and frost.



The organ chamber, the south west corner of the facade and the tower had brick replaced to maintain and preserve our historic building.

CANADIAN DEACONS @ ST. PAUL'S

Deacons from across Canada met in London from August 11 – 14 for the triennial gathering of the Association of the Anglican Deacons in Canada. While in London, the deacons attended workshops, services and prayers at Huron University College.



On Sunday, August 14, Rev'd Deacon Heather MacEachern from the Church of the Apostles in Halifax, Nova Scotia was the guest preacher at St. Paul's. Visit the St. Paul's website to listen.

What is this thing? If you have a smart phone such as an iPhone or BlackBerry, download a QR code application and find out! How does it work? No one knows ...



Cathedral Calendar

Sunday, September 18

11:00am - Doors Open

11:30am - Dean's Forum

Theme: "UnChristian: What a new generation really thinks about Christianity... and why it matters."

Monday, September 19

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Wednesday, September 21

5:00pm - Wednesday "One Offs"

Missional Map-Making

Friday, September 23

6:30pm - Crash the Cathedral

Saturday, September 24

10:00am - Baptism Preparation

11:30am - Baptism Rehearsal

Sunday, September 25

- Back to Church Sunday -

11:00am - Ministry Madness

11:30am - Cathedral Life Sunday Lunch

7:00pm - Journey of Hope Concert

Monday, September 26

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Sunday, October 2

11:30am - Cathedral Tour

Monday, October 3

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Wednesday, October 5

6:30pm - The Prodigal God

Thursday, October 6

11:00am - Qu'Appelle Group

Sunday, October 9

5:00pm - Lawyers Feeding the Hungry

in the Fellowship Centre

Monday, October 10

1:30pm - ACW Meeting

Tuesday, October 11

7:00pm - Evening Women's Group

Wednesday, October 12

6:30pm - The Prodigal God

Sunday, October 16

11:30am - Cathedral Life Sunday Lunch

Monday, October 17

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Wednesday, October 19

6:30pm - The Prodigal God

Friday, October 21

6:30pm - Crash the Cathedral

Saturday, October 22

10:00 - Book Sale begins

Runs daily until Sunday, October 30

Sunday, October 23

11:30am - Dean's Forum

Monday, October 24

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Wednesday, October 26

6:30pm - The Prodigal God

Wednesday, November 2

6:30pm - The Prodigal God

Thursday, November 3

11:00am - Qu'Appelle Group

Friday, November 4

Cathedral Retreat Weekend begins

Sunday, November 6

11:30am - Cathedral Tour

Monday, November 7

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Tuesday, November 8

7:00pm - Evening Women's Group

Wednesday, November 9

6:30pm - The Prodigal God

Saturday, November 12

10:00am - Baptism Preparation

Sunday, November 13

11:30am - Dean's Forum

5:00pm - Lawyers Feeding the Hungry

in the Fellowship Centre

Monday, November 14

7:00pm - DivorceCare

Wednesday, November 16

5:00pm - Wednesday "One Offs"

Anglican Prayer Bead Workshop

Friday, November 18

7:30pm - Gala Organ and Trumpet Recital

with Dr. Maxine Thévenot & Shawn Spicer

Saturday, November 19

10:00am - Christmas Bazaar

3:00pm - Baptism Preparation

4:30pm - Baptism Rehearsal

Sunday, November 20

11:30am - Cathedral Life Sunday Lunch

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YES! I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT TO ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my donation \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

I would like to pay by Cheque Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Please use my gift:

Where it is needed most

Other _____

I would like information on monthly Pre-Authorized giving

I would like information about leaving a gift to St. Paul's Cathedral in my will

I have already remembered St. Paul's Cathedral in my will

Send your tax-deductible donation to: St. Paul's Cathedral, 472 Richmond Street, London, ON, N6A 3E6



The Prodigal God

Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith

BY John Sproule

In his book, *The Prodigal God*, Timothy Keller begins with a definition.

prod-i-gal:

1. recklessly extravagant
2. having spent everything

And while "prodigal" certainly describes the behaviour of the "lost" younger brother in The Parable of the Prodigal Son, the parable is not about this son alone. There is also the elder brother who feels wronged, that the father's actions are somehow unjust. And there is the father, who recklessly, extravagantly, lavishes love on both sons.

Author, Timothy Keller says "*The Prodigal God* is for both curious outsiders and established insiders of the faith as it is meant to lay out the essentials of the Christian message, the gospel. If the teaching of Jesus is likened to a lake, this famous parable would be one of the clearest spots where we can see all the way down to the bottom."

The six weekly sessions of *The Prodigal God Series* begin on **Wednesday, October 5**, starting with dinner in the Assembly Room at 6:30pm followed by the study from 7:15 – 9:00pm. ❖

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Coming Soon New Series: The Prodigal God

One son kept the rules religiously. One son broke them all. One father loved them both beyond anything they could ever imagine. *The Prodigal God* is a dramatic teaching film, sermon series and group study resource based on Jesus' great parable – The Prodigal Son.

Join us in rediscovering the heart
of the Christian faith.

WWW.STPAULSCATHEDRAL.ON.CA