



## **St. Paul's United Church**

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**Our Pastor: Bruce Fraser**

### **2015 Summer Newsletter**

#### **Worship at St. Paul's-10:30 a.m.**

<b>June 21</b>	Worship-Father's Day Community Cupboard
<b>June 28</b>	Worship Bruce on Study Leave
<b>July 5</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>July 12</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>July 19</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>July 26</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>August 2</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>August 9</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>August 16</b>	Worship in Lower Hall
<b>August 23</b>	Worship in Lower Hall Bruce on Holidays
<b>August 30</b>	Worship in Lower Hall Bruce on Holidays
<b>September 6</b>	Worship Labour Day Weekend
<b>September 13</b>	Worship Junior Church Registration St. Paul's 162 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Sunday Guest Speaker Ed Bentley

**September 20**      Worship  
Junior Church Classes Begin  
Community Cupboard Sunday

**September 27**      Worship  
Harvest Supper

## **Love God, Love Others**

When Rene McPherson took over as the new CEO at Dana Corporation, he inherited a company that was smothered by its rules. So he called together the top brass of the company. On the table next to him was a stack of company policy manuals two feet high. No one could possibly read, understand and remember all that. With a sweep of his arm, he knocked them all to the floor. He then held up a single sheet of paper with his new principles. A person could read the page in a couple of minutes. Every employee could understand it, and it was easy to apply the principles to their jobs. Dana thrived as a business after that.

Some people think that Christianity is hard to understand. Certainly clergy and theologians make it seem that way, by using words like “hermeneutics” and “soteriology.” I don’t recall Jesus ever talking like that. He told stories about mixing yeast into bread, and robbers on a dangerous road. People could relate to that. When someone asked him what are the most important things in life, he answered: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ ” [Matthew 22:37-39]

In other words, love God and love others. It doesn’t get much simpler than that. Everyone can understand that, and follow it. Simple, and yet incredibly powerful.

Worship is all about expressing love for God. But understand: “worship” is more than just singing songs and praying prayers. It’s giving our whole lives to God: all that we do and all that we are.

As for “Love others.” Imagine what the world would be like if everyone obeyed that simple command. Of course, it’s easy to talk about “everyone.” What if *I* lived that way; what if *you* lived that way? What if churches were known as places where everyone is welcomed and valued, no matter what kind of history they have? Alcoholics Anonymous works like that; it’s known as a safe refuge where you won’t be judged. St. Paul’s Church is like Sinners Anonymous: it’s for people whose lives are messy (i.e. everyone), who yearn for forgiveness and new hope.

## **Focus on Families**

Speaking of forgiveness and new hope (see above), families are one of the best places to experience this. After all, talking about God's forgiveness can seem like a theory or a philosophy; you can't touch it.

Compare that to this: Fred was washing the dishes after supper, and daughter Lisa was drying them and putting them away. The phone rang, and Lisa spun around to see who it was, and the glass she was holding banged into the stove. Lisa had already been in trouble earlier that day, and Dad boiled over: "Can't you do anything right? Be careful!" He saw the hurt look in her eyes, followed by the pursed lips and the steely look on her face that indicated she was retreating behind her "wall" where nothing could touch her.

A month ago, Fred would have left it at that. She only got what she deserved. But recently at church Fred had heard the story of Jesus forgiving Peter for deserting and denying him in his hour of need. Fred had prayed, asking forgiveness for some of the rotten things he had done. He remembered how wonderful it felt to have that shame lifted from his shoulders. And now he was dumping that shame onto Lisa.

Fred regretted his harsh words. Dropping the dish cloth in the sink, he walked over to Lisa and held her hand. "Lisa, what I said just now was bad. I wish I could erase those words, but I can't. Yes, what you did was wrong; but what I did was much worse. You broke a glass; I broke your heart. I'm deeply sorry. Will you please forgive me?"

Lisa's face softened into a smile, and her eyes glistened with a tear. "Of course, Dad. Thank-you for apologizing. I forgive you. I love you." Fred said, "I love you, too, dear."

This is a powerful moment for both Fred and Lisa. They are learning about forgiveness and love. They are learning what God's love is like, and how wonderful it is.

### **You can still give your offering while you're at the cottage**

Or while you're down south for the winter. Or wherever. Actually, there are multiple ways to do this:

- Write post-dated cheques and leave them with Karen in the office
- Go to the St. Paul's website – [www.StirlingUnitedChurch.ca](http://www.StirlingUnitedChurch.ca). Click on the "Giving" tab and follow the instructions.
- Sign up with PAR: Pre-Authorized Remittance. Use this to automate your giving every month all year round. See Karen in the office for more information.

### **Summer worship in the Lower Hall**

For July and August, we'll be worshipping in the Lower Hall where it's nice and cool. People enjoyed the casual atmosphere we had last year around the tables, and we'll do that again.

## Message from the Chair

T. Wayne Martin, Chair

A couple of weeks ago, Barb was invited to speak to the Senior's Centre Group at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Orillia. Our initial contact was through friends from our Sudbury days – oh my, how long ago that was! Barb was asked to provide an overview of Huntington Disease, which she was most pleased to do.

What impressed us was that at St. Andrew's Senior's Centre they meet **every** Thursday "To provide an outlet for social, physical and spiritual fellowship for all Seniors (50+) in the Orillia area and beyond." The people attending are from all denominations, and no Church connection.

The Director of the Senior's Centre is Major Brenda Holnbeck, a retired Major with the Salvation Army – Brenda is anything but retired!

I have included a schedule of their weekly activities. Approximately 50 – 70 attend each week. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our groups and churches in the Stirling-Rawdon area were able to support even a modified program such as this on a regular basis. Could it be combined with existing activities such as Diner's Club, and other activities now occurring?

### Seniors' Monthly Schedule:

- 10:00 am - Coffee and a snack
- 10:15 to 10:45 am - Your choice of Physical Exercise or Seniors' Choir
- 11 am to 11:45 am - Your choice of two Discussion Groups (Current Affairs or Bible Study)
- 12 noon - Lunch
- 12:30 pm to 1 pm - Entertainment or a Speaker
- 1 pm to 3 pm - Follow your interests..
- 2:30 pm to 3 pm - Seniors' Yoga
- 3 pm - Coffee or tea

### The Following Interest Choices Are Available Each Month:

- Art Room - creating beautiful crafts, painting, etc.
- Woodworking Room - making practical gifts benches, bird feeders, etc.
- Games Room - playing cards, board games, Wii Sports, cribbage, etc.
- Needle Room - sharing projects in knitting, sewing, embroidery, quilting, etc.
- Baking Room - baking bread from scratch, etc.
- Puzzle Room - solving Sudoku, crossword puzzles, jigsaw, etc.

## **Finance and Stewardship Committee**

Robert Vandervoort, Chair

Members: Sandra Brett, Rod Clarke, Lianne Radocsay, Mike Wells, Robert Vandervoort and Roxanne Hearn, Treasurer.

Summer is quickly approaching; longer days, warm sunshine, thoughts of vacation time and lounging at the beach or pool.

The costs associated with keeping our church alive and vibrant however, do not take vacation during the summer months and we find ourselves financially challenged in meeting the day-to-day costs of maintenance, utilities, repairs etc.

It is so important to have the valued support of you, the congregation, which enables Pastor Bruce, his staff and Church Council to make a difference in your lives. Therefore, as you look forward to the end of the school year and those lazy hazy days of summer, please do not overlook the need for your continued financial support to St. Paul's during this time.

If you're away this summer...

Here's an idea: write out post-dated cheques for your offering for the time you'll be away, and give them now. It's a lot easier that way, than trying to "catch up" when you get back. Of course, if you are on PAR (pre-authorized remittance), you need not worry at all.

## **Worship Life Committee**

Joyce Reid, Chair

Barbara Brown Taylor writes; "Worship is the ongoing practice of faith, and not only the practice but the actual experience of it."

God calls us, no matter how good or bad our voices are, to sing joyful praise to God. It is one of the most powerful acts we can do in worship. When we are singing and praying during worship we affirm the Psalmist's words that God is awesome in God's sanctuary.

The Worship Life Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed money in memory of loved ones on Easter Sunday. A special thank you to Deanna Maxwell, Judy Mewett and Karen Cooney for organizing our Easter Flowers. There were 37 beautiful plants and Easter cards delivered.

The Worship Life Committee strives to make your worship service warm, welcoming, inclusive and inspiring.

If you would be interested in helping out with the worship service, please let anyone on the Worship Committee know.

Committee members: Pastor Bruce Fraser, Music Director Bonnie Sallans, Deanna Maxwell, Judy Mewett, Janet Anne Palmer, Joyce Reid, Marlene Richardson.

## **Mission and Service**

Paul Lackey, Chair

In 2014, our gifts to the Mission and Service of The United Church of Canada totalled \$25,448. When added to all the other United Church congregations across Canada equalled \$26,604,710. The United Church of Canada is able to provide assistance to those in need in our country and many countries throughout the world. More information at:

<http://unitedchurch.ca/funding/msfund>

Coffee Hour volunteers are always welcomed, please contact Barb Martin, if you can help out a few Sunday mornings during the year.

The Gifts with Vision, Mandate, and Observer magazines are available on the book racks at the back of the church. Pick up a copy, take it home and have a good read.

Thank you for your signatures on the petition to our government supporting the Canadian Health Coalition, and for your financial support of the people of Nepal, after the devastating earthquakes.

## **Nepal Earthquake**

The United Church initially contributed \$15,000 from its Emergency Response Fund to ACT Alliance to provide emergency aid in Kathmandu and surrounding areas. United Church Members have already donated over \$165,000.

Your donation to Nepal Earthquake Relief will be applied directly to support relief, rehabilitation, and restoration efforts in the country. Here's how you can donate:

- Online go to [united-church.ca](http://united-church.ca), then click on Nepal Earthquake, Donate Now via our [secure donation page](#)
- Phone 416-231-5931 ext. 3050 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 3050 and use your Visa or MasterCard.
- Send a cheque, money order, or Visa or MasterCard information with donation amount to:
  - The United Church of Canada
  - Philanthropy Unit—Emergency Response
  - 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 300
  - Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4
  - Please be sure to note “Emergency Response—Nepal Earthquake Relief” on the face of your cheque.

## **Presbytery**

The full presbytery met on June 2/15 at Alderville First Nation. Since the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the federal government reported on this same day, it was a very important meeting. A group of elders from the First Nation made a presentation to us about native rights, affairs on the reserve and other items of interest about native culture. The presentation was quite informative. We then shared a lovely meal prepared by some of the women of the reserve.

After supper, we held our meeting and a moving worship service. Pastoral Relations Commission, of which I am a member, made its report to the presbytery. It should be noted that Rev. Norm Long of Frankford pastoral charge will be seeking a change in pastoral relations next April (2016). Rev. David King is seeking to qualify as a new interim minister.

The members of St. Paul's might wish to spend further time in the next few months getting to know the people of Alderville and have them inform us further about Native Rights and history. As Canadians, we should all be well informed about these things. If any group in this church would like to have such an encounter, please speak to me and I will try to arrange something. It may be of particular interest to the young people in our congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Pam Gray

## **Children and Youth**

Kim Sharpe, Chair

Over the past few months, the children and youth of St. Paul's have been very active. Some of the children have enjoyed participation in a variety of classes with the annual Festival of Sacred Praise, bringing the church to life with their music and scripture. A thank you to Junior Choir leader Julie Pohlman-Brogee for leading our young choir once again this year. Each Sunday has brought a small group of children together to enjoy songs, crafts, puzzles and stories. Once again our bake sale was an exciting event for the children and a tasty one for all who made donations to "Sleeping Children Around the World". Residents of Edward Street Manor appreciated the reaching out the children did through their letters and pictures.

Many of our youth have also been participating regularly in our weekly AIM (Adolescents in Motion) meetings on Sunday evenings. It is nice to see our teens interact so well with each other and enjoy a variety of activities from word games to baseball. As an extra outing, the group took part in a curling experience at our local curling club, learning how to throw a draw and "hurry hard!"

The children, youth leaders and their families are planning to have another fun-filled evening of bowling later in June and AIM will join together for one last event - a bbq and bon fire

evening at the Sharpe/Caron's. All the families of Junior Church would like to wish their friends Hailey and Jocelyn Hickman best wishes as they move to their new home in British Columbia at the end of the month. The Hickman family has been a wonderful part of our Junior Church group and they will be greatly missed.

June 21st will mark the end of this year's Junior Church gatherings, however we look forward to seeing all the youth back again in September after a restful summer. Please keep in mind that the Junior Church and AIM youth group continue to need the support of volunteers and if you are able, consider helping out as a leader in the fall. A thank you to the many helping hands that have led to another fun, successful year in our journey of faith!

### **AVGEN**

Karen Cooney & Wayne Martin

Yes, I'm back trying to encourage more use of the AVGEN program. St. Paul's takes orders, and collects payment for over 60 gift cards ranging from all the major grocery chains to Bass Pro Shops, and now even Walmart cards are available. What's in it for you and St. Paul's?

Well, let's say you buy a \$100 Foodland gift card, or \$100 Home Hardware – you get a \$100 gift card to shop with, and St. Paul's receives \$3.50. Not too bad a deal, except maybe for the retailer.

In May, 2015, we had orders totalling \$4,735, and St. Paul's received \$183.13. There are profits ranging from 1.5% (Pioneer Petroleum for example) to 15% (Roots, Roots Kids), etc.

Pick up an Order Form at the top of the ramp, speak to Karen in the Office, or see Wayne after Church most Sundays. If we could double our orders or more, we could look at approximately \$4,300 per year for the General Account, and that would make Robert smile!

Oh, don't forget Tim Horton's at a 4.0% rebate. There are even \$5 and \$10 Tim Horton's cards for the gifts for teachers, school bus drivers, etc.

Orders taken the first Sunday of every month.

### **Coffee Hour**

Barb Martin

Coffee hour is an important part in the life of our Church Family. The group who look after this are dedicated and conscientious. However, we need one more pair of volunteers as we are losing Shirley and Bob Hickman – you will be missed, and we wish you well in Comox.

For many reasons I will be no longer organizing Coffee Hour after 2015. Please give this some serious thought. A new volunteer co-ordinator will be needed to start January, 2015

**“Save the Hall”**

Barbara Mayhew

Bid Euchre-every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. River Valley Hall on Frankford Road. For more information contact Grace Bush 613-395-5190.

**Trip to New York City Fundraiser**

Judy Sarles

There is a bus trip to New York City booked October 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Flyers are available on front bulletin board. Please pass the word of this trip to family, friends and neighbours. This fundraiser is important to St. Paul's, \$75.00 will go to the church from each person who goes and they get a tax receipt. The bus holds 50 people, so getting the word out there and getting people registered is important.

