



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
Grande Prairie, Alberta

**ANNUAL  
NARRATIVE REPORT  
2018**



*ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH*

**VISION STATEMENT:**

**Celebrating the gifts of the Spirit,  
we are a loving and supportive congregation  
in service to the Church, the Community, and the World through Faith.**

Adopted: February 28, 2016

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**Through Faith,  
we walk on the path Jesus set for us.  
The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead.**

Adopted: February 28, 2016

## IN LOVING MEMORY

**Lena Donison** - January 21, 2018

**Matilda Macklin- Gorden** – February 26, 2018

**Lavern William Hebner** – June 4, 2018

**William Eric Cook** – June 4, 2018

**Ian Raymond Hassell** – July 15, 2018

**Patricia May Pegg** – October 25, 2018



## BAPTISMS

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**JAXON DOUGLAS THOMPSON**

Parents:

**Jason Thompson and Nora Kendell**



## WEDDINGS

**MALLORY PINNOCK – BRYAN CHAMBERS**

*Married: February 17, 2018*

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**CATHARINE DICKSON – GARY HASSALL**

*Married: July 28, 2018*

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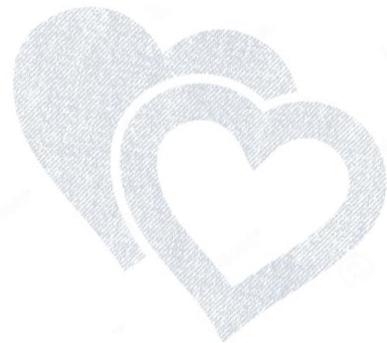
**JODI ROSS – TYLER KRAMER**

*Married: August 25, 2018*

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**MEGAN BELKE – ANDREW GERLITZ**

*Married: December 22, 2018*



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

**CHAIR:** Karen Scott

**PAST CHAIR:** Ken Riley

**TREASURER:** Doug Currie

**SECRETARY:** Sharon Adams

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Paula Anderson – Lead

**PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE:** Judy Barber – Lead

**UCW TEAM:** Eileen McCollum – Lead

**MINISTRY & PERSONEL COMMITTEE:** Susan McKenzie – Lead

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** Linda Wagner – Representative

**PRESBYTERY:** Sadie Macklin – Past Representative

**PROPERTY & MAINENANCE COMMITTEE:** no designated Representative

**CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** no designated Representative

**MEMBER-at-LARGE:** Barbara Feltham-Brentnall

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Barry Edgar**

**Jack Field**

**Gary Kohlsmith**

**Lorne Radbourne**

**Jack Wearmouth**

## MINISTER'S REPORT

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As I sat down to write this year's Annual Report my mind drifted to one of the United Church's faith statements, *A Song of Faith*, and in re-reading it I found these lines:

**We sing of a church  
seeking to continue the story of Jesus  
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.  
We are called together by Christ  
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,  
loving what he loved,  
living what he taught,  
striving to be faithful servants of God  
in our time and place.**

They struck me as a good, if not complete, summary of what it means to be the church. And, as I look back at 2018, I think we have given a good shot at living up to that summary.

As a congregation we have, I believe, made an impact on the life of Grande Prairie. In part we have done that through the use of our building, through making it available to the community. There are times when it would be nice if we could make more money off of that availability, but to be honest I would rather offer space for free to meet a community need than see our space as a money source (*and, in reality it can sometimes be both*). But we have also made a difference by our presence. In December St. Paul's received a grant through the Community Foundation. On a picture posted by the Community Foundation from that presentation someone commented *"St Paul's church is full of wonderful people who have a wonderful spirit. They are champions of our community and I am very glad to see that they will be able to continue to extend that love through this grant."* I think it is safe to say our presence is noticed.



Karen Scott, Rev Gord, Community Foundation Rep

For a more detailed list of what we have done in 2018, I encourage you to read the other submissions in this Report.

Yet, even as I want to celebrate the good things that have happened this year, I also need to raise up a concern. As I look back at the year, I see signs of a growing issue around stewardship, both in terms of people power and money. I have not yet seen the final financial reports, but at the January Council meeting the draft statement showed a deficit of about \$9900, and that is after we had a one-time gift of having our 2018 Presbytery Assessment (about \$7300) refunded. At the same time, we did raise about \$10 000 for the roof fund so we think that may be where some of the operating funds got redirected. Still, this is a worry as we can not continue to operate at that significant a loss. How do we redo our finances? To be honest, there is no possibility of finding \$16 000 in expense cuts, and when the youngest part of the building is starting to show its 32 years some expenses will go up (\$1300 dollars of our deficit can be accounted for in one plumbing bill for a plugged drain in November). So, where might we find new money?

At the same more and more often when an idea (often a fundraising idea) comes up the first question is “who will do it?”. And that is certainly a valid and important question. But I am hearing more and more signals of how tired people are, how they are unsure if we can take up new things. This goes along with the multiple vacancies we have on our nominations slate. Just as we can not operate with a financial deficit, we can not operate without people power.

But still there is hope. As you may remember, we did some visioning work in the Spring. And as we move forward with discussing and implementing the results of that work, we will have a chance to discuss what is important, and how we will make the important stuff happen. That may possibly mean we will let some other things go to make room for something new, or just to focus our energy on something of a higher priority. It may mean we rededicate ourselves to a prized project or task. And it will certainly mean we each get a chance to take ownership of the ministry that we all share together.

One of the questions I have continually tried to hold in my mind, and periodically raise up for the rest of you to hear, is “what is God calling us to do in this place and time?”. I live in hope, faith, and trust that when we seek the answer to that question, we may also find new ways to deal with the accompanying stewardship question “and how will we do that?”.

I opened this with a quote from *A Song of Faith*. I think I will close the same way:

**We sing of God’s good news lived out,  
a church with purpose:  
faith nurtured and hearts comforted,  
gifts shared for the good of all,  
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,  
fierce love in the face of violence,  
human dignity defended,  
members of a community held and inspired by God,  
corrected and comforted,  
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,  
creation’s mending.  
We sing of God’s mission.**

St. Paul’s United does not have a mission, God has a mission and invites us to take part.

How will we sing the song in 2019 and beyond?

What part will be ours in the dance of faith?

*Gord*



*Credit: Joyce Cosby*

## CHAIR'S REFLECTIONS

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Once, again, it has been my privilege to serve during 2019 as Chair of Council. I have appreciated the work done throughout the year by members of Council and each of our Ministry teams. It is only with the efforts of many that St Paul's continues as a Church to grow towards our Mission.

**Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.**  
**The people of St Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead**

And Vision... **Celebrating the gifts of the Spirit, we are a loving and supportive congregation, in service to the Church, the Community and the World through Faith.**

In 2018, we began a process of Visioning, which encouraged St Paul's folks to share what they appreciated about St Paul's, and where there were gaps, or opportunities to enhance our programs and outreach. We presented the feedback in November and will set some new priorities for future goals at our annual meeting on March 3, 2019.

In the meantime, we have continued to focus on our goals to:

**"Building Capacity and Community Internally"** – we hosted events including the St Patrick's Day Supper event, May Garage Sale, November Beef Dinner, and Silent Auctions. Events have been well attended and financially successful. We also shared fellowship at teas, potlucks and hosted luncheons. Our Pastoral Car Team continues to reach out to visit shut-in members and serves communion with members at long term care centres. UCW groups provide important connection time for women, and welcome everyone to participate in bigger projects. Small, but mighty, Christian Developments and worship Teams contribute to a vibrant faith-building Sunday school, Youth and adult learning programs.

Our Property and Maintenance team organized replacement of the sanctuary roofing, ongoing repairs and upkeep needed for our building, and this year also made some improvements to the landscaping surrounding the Church building with the help of a beautification grant.

**"Build Visibility and Community Externally"** – Outreach Team continued to promote and coordinate St Paul's contributions to Local Outreach Several Local agencies, including GPRC's Room of Plenty, Elder's Shelter, Rotary House, St Lawrence Centre, Salvation Army Food Bank, Christmas Basket program and Soup Kitchen, continue to be thankful for contributions made by the people of St Paul's which touch the lives of many. Our Handbell Choirs continue to share their talents at the Carol Festival and with residents at McKenzie Place. Our Junior and senior Choirs support worship service week by week. Thanks to Valerie Jenner and Brenda Stouffer's longstanding commitment, St Paul's United Church continues to sponsor CGIT and Explorer groups which welcome girls from St Paul's and the community for fellowship and fun. The Communications Team coordinated passing out hot chocolate at the Santa Claus Parade, assisted Carla in coordinating the messaging displayed on our LED sign,

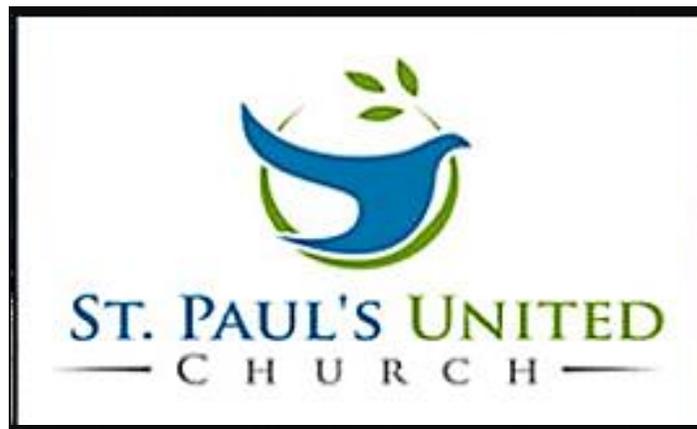
which increases our visibility in the community, and thanks to Newsletter editor, Sharon Adams, shared St Paul's activities via our Newsletter and on our website: [www.stpaulsuc.ca](http://www.stpaulsuc.ca).

St Paul's continues to host groups including: Tai Chi; 12-Step Groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous, which meet 5 times/week; and HIV North's LGBTQ Youth program. We have also welcomed several groups to use our facility for events, workshops and meetings, such as: Grande Prairie Boys Choir; Music Festival; Big Brothers/Big Sisters' Christmas gatherings.

***"Provide an Environment of Support for our Ministry and Staff"*** – continues to be the focus of our Ministry and Personnel team, as well as arranging for pulpit supply when Rev. Gord is away.

I am most thankful for the work that our staff: Rev Gord, Carla \_\_\_\_\_ and Alison White, and all St Paul's volunteers, do throughout the year. It is truly amazing what we continue to achieve through each of us sharing our time, talents and treasure to work towards our vision of making life a little bit more compassionate, and supportive for those within St Paul's and in the community and world beyond. I look forward to working with each of you in 2019, as we renew our vision and priorities for our St Paul's church family.

Respectfully submitted by  
Karen Scott, Chair of St Paul's United Church



## CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

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Membership of this Committee throughout the 2018 year was Rev. Gord Waldie and group representatives – Holly Loughead (*Sunday School*), Janis Schau-Steinke (*Youth Group*), Valerie Jenner (*CGIT*) and Brenda Stouffer (*Explorers*).

The Committee met only twice this past year... March and August. It was determined that during the summer with no Sunday School/Youth Group or mid-week groups, and the fall-to-Christmas programming already established, that the May and November meetings were redundant.

This Committee was responsible for purchasing and presenting an appreciation gift to Sunday School, Youth Group and mid-week groups leaders, in gratitude for their commitment to their groups for the 2017-2018 program year.

The CD Committee gladly supported the Vacation Bible School presented in July. All of our members helped in some capacity during that successful week.

We again took our turn presenting our Committee on the Hall Board. Our turn was in September and we presented the concept of what we DO, rather than who we, individually, ARE. Thank you to B. Stouffer for her creativity and design.

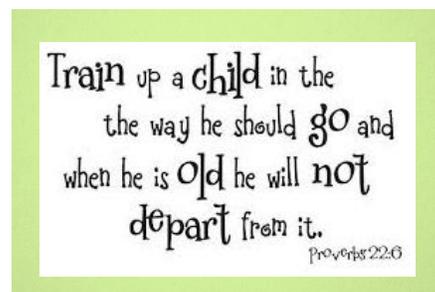
Rev. Gord is responsible for additional Adult Education programs for the congregation. He organized and presented three programs during 2018:

- 1) Spring: Study "*Immersion: Investing in God's World*"
- 2) Fall: Book study delving into David Guilliano's book "*It's Good To Be Here*".
- 3) Advent: Study on book, "*Redemption of Scrooge*" by Matt Rowle

This Committee's Mandate is to support the children, youth and adults of St. Paul's United, in their faith journeys, by providing programs and studies, assisting in leadership recruitment, and providing financial assistance, where necessary.

We are a small committee and welcome others to join us as we look to fulfill the goals of our Mandate.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Jenner, Team Secretary



## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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Well, another year has come and gone, and it was a busy one. We played around with the newsletter – trying to do it every two months – but sometimes there was too much news and so we ended up with 8 issues over the year. We can only include news in the newsletter though if you tell us about it. So please let us know about them beforehand and share some pictures after the fact so those who couldn't make it get a glimpse of the fun they missed.

One of the things that some of you may not yet be aware of is that you can get the newsletter emailed to you or check it out on the website any time. We usually try to keep about three issues posted. This way of receiving the newsletter saves paper and allows you to just click on the frequent links that are provided to further information and articles on the internet

We did our best to let everyone know internally and externally about the many events that happen in our church family in a number of ways: on the website, in the newsletter, bulletin inserts, the LED sign and announcements on Sunday mornings. We also at the end of the year implemented a suggestion that came out of the "Visioning" sessions that were held in the spring. There are mailboxes in the narthex on the first pew as you go in to worship (or on your way out). Perhaps there is something you'd like to share with someone in particular...a 'missing you' card, a prayer offered, an invitation to a party, a thank you note for something they did for you, a birthday card, or a sympathy card. Please feel free to use the mailboxes as often as you like...to inspire, to support, and to acknowledge those we don't always get to see face to face. Leave someone a surprise and brighten their day the next time they check their mailbox.

Since this team was created, we have taken responsibility for the two traditional occasions for us to make a connection with the community right outside our doors. This year however, the downtown roads were under construction, so the Canada Day parade did not go past our building this year. We were however out serving hot chocolate just prior to and during the Santa Claus Parade. We tried to get as many slides as possible on the LED sign sharing what goes on inside our building while we had a stationary crowd just across the street.

We did however add another occasion to be in contact with the community to let them know who we are, where we are, and that everyone is welcome to be a part of our family. A small group of us set up a table at the Pride Family Carnival at Eastlink, Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a great day and there were many who stopped at our table and chatted and learned about us.

Is there more that you feel we can be doing, or do you want to put your creative skills to work making eye catching slides for the sign, for the newsletter or on posters for around town? We'd love to have you join the team and help as you are able.

**Non-profit organizations  
want to advertise here ?  
Contact the office for information.**



**secretary@stpaulsuc.ca  
Phone 780-532-2415**

Are you involved with a non-profit organization that might like to advertise their event or just tell the community they exist? Please have them contact Carla in the office to get information on our LED sign rates and set up the dates they wish to advertise. We also put the slide in our newsletter to give them coverage internally too.

**TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING  
SO WE CAN SPREAD THE NEWS!**

*Sharon Adams, Kathy Horreht, Dave Middleton, and Karen Scott*

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

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The Narrative Budget gives the Ministry and Personnel Committee an opportunity to thank all who supported the ministry of St. Paul's in 2018 – with time, talent or financial resources. We want to recognize, in particular, our paid Ministry personnel; Alison White, Carla Johnson and Rev. Gord Waldie. They are the leaders who support and facilitate the worship, pastoral care and administration of the Church. We would also like to thank Linda Wagner, who continues to facilitate the workings of the church, and Laurie Anderson for his music ministry both on Sunday and in the Continuing Care services. Laurie continues to rekindle our love for organ music much to the delight of the entire congregation. Thank you, Laurie.

During this calendar year we recognized that pulpit supply would be a challenge going forward. We continued to encourage the congregation members to develop their lay leadership skills. With this in mind, Sharon Adams and Rev Gord had a mini workshop on "How to Prepare a Service" and this was attended by a few new people. We also decided to use the "Together We Worship" Series, purchased by Conference. Carla facilitated a practice session in the Church. There was lots of feedback, the product was very easy to use, and we will pilot this resource at least one Sunday this summer.

We continue to review and set goals with our Ministry and Staff:

Rev. Gord attended the Rejuvenation Event at St Andrew's College in Saskatoon. This focused on Racial Reconciliation. Visioning 2018 was a major undertaking for Rev. Gord and this has helped to set direction for himself, Council, and the Ministry teams.

The United Church of Canada reorganization has eliminated Northern Lights Presbytery, its pastoral charges or as they are now called "Communities of Faith". These communities are under the oversight of the new Region of Northern Spirit. This has had, and will continue to have, an impact on St. Paul's United Church. In the old Presbytery area there are four ministers who will have left their posts by the end of June. St. Paul's may be asked to assist those neighbouring congregations with the sacraments and their search committees. This may require pulpit supply as well as an increased workload for Rev. Gord.

Alison White attended a Music workshop in Central Alberta. This group continues to energize her and we are happy to support this initiative. Her worship leadership skills are developing and we enjoy watching her shine in the pulpit.

Carla was on the planning committee for the 2018 Church Office Administrator's Conference in Saskatoon. This event is a great networking opportunity and gives her new ideas for managing her workload. She shared with M & P the new ideas and she was able to share with others what St. Paul's is doing. This is a rare opportunity and we are glad that Carla is making the most of it.

The Ministry Team developed and organized a "Time and Talent" fundraising Event for 2018. This was a great success and we hope that they continue this for next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan McKenzie, for Ministry and Personnel Committee  
Nicki George, Martha Dawson and Dayle Field



## OUTREACH TEAM

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As Paula is preparing to step down from her role as Chair of Outreach and is busy with looking after family on the Island, I am submitting a small report in her absence.

Each month on the first Sunday of the month we, at St Paul's, take a second offering to support our local outreach initiatives. We take that ministry seriously and I'm sure the people of Grande Prairie who have received our help are very appreciative.

In 2018 we gave out \$9285.00 in food/ gas vouchers, up from the \$8315.00 passed out in 2017.

Each year in November Paula calls the agencies we choose to support and asks what they need. This year for our Christmas Angel Drive, we got the following requests:



**Salvation Army:** They requested cash to purchase Teen gift cards/ - before she left for the island, Paula purchased on our behalf \$2500.00 of Prairie Mall gift cards and took them over for them to use in their Christmas hampers.



**Elders Caring Shelter:** This organization, too, was looking for money as they are hoping to build a new shelter. They also use Canadian Tire Money and IGA Food stamps to help meet their needs.



**GPRC Food Bank:** They requested cash to allow them to purchase food they are short of and/or fresh fruits and vegetables.

**St Lawrence Centre:** We have a bin that sits in the narthex all the time to collect men's winter clothing and socks. At one point in the year, there was also a request for some clothes that could be used to go for job interviews.

In December, \$2886.25 was designated for the Outreach Team: \$500.00 was marked for Room of Plenty and \$50.00 was marked for the Teen shelter. Council will make sure that this is distributed.

Thank you for caring about our neighbours. In 2019 we will need someone to step into the role of Chair of the Outreach Team as Paula would like to focus on some other areas for a while. So, please prayerfully consider whether that is ministry you feel called to lead. We need someone with a heart for the community, willing to talk to those needing our help and guide our funds to where they can make a positive impact in the lives of our neighbours and our community.

Respectfully,

Sharon Adams, Council Secretary

for the Outreach Ministry Team: Paula Anderson, Norman Dyck, Rachel Haines, Art Macklin, Tom Mankowski

# PASTORAL CARE

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The Pastoral Care Committee has been trying to reach out to all those in our congregation who are in seniors' lodges or unable to get to church.

We have been able to send or deliver newsletters, make phone calls, make personal visits, and, with Reverend Gord, serve communion to some of the people.

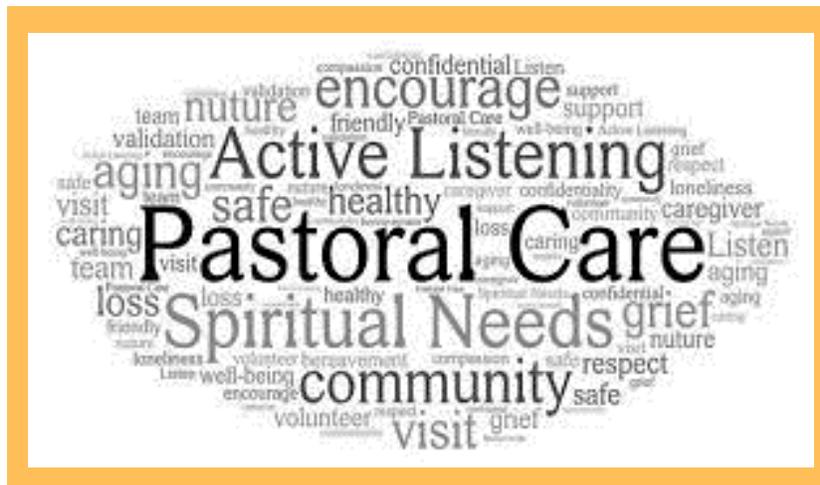
We have appreciated the others in our church who have reached out to visit in seniors' homes. The seniors are so pleased to have a visit and to hear what is going on at church.

The Committee is made up of Judy Barber, Trish Larter, Naomi Wiebe and Reverend Gord.

If you feel connecting with seniors is an area of the church's outreach you would enjoy and would like to join us, our Committee welcomes new members.

Also, please call the church office (532-2415) if you know anyone who would like a visit or is in hospital.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Barber



## PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE

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Members of our Committee are: Neil Alstad, Tim Brown, Norm Dyck, Jack Field, Betty Grunau, Fred Radersma, Bruce Waldie, Jack Wearmouth and Margaret Bowes.

We had eleven breakfast/work meetings at 8:00am, Saturday mornings. The work projects often last until nearly noon.

Each meeting consisted of regular chores of checking and cleaning sumps, plumbing, furnaces, electrical, removal of recycle material, setting mouse traps, and responding to various requests left in the P&M envelope on the upstairs hallway bulletin board.

As well, a lot of extra time was spent with plumbing problems, Lift problems, replacing all the lights high up at the front of the Sanctuary Cross area with LED lights, as well as replacing other lights, cleaning up after damaged ceiling tiles' areas and replacing same, yard maintenance, including installation of wood chips on the east side of church, and building up the south end area, trimming bushes, and raking in spring and fall. There were also arrangements made with Heritage Roofing to replace shingles, All Pro Glass to replace broken window in Gord's office, and Modern Decore to repair floor in Friendship Room.

Additionally, P&M spearheaded pickups for garage sale, and cleanup and removal of garage sale surplus to various places; set up tables/chair, etc. for beef dinner; set up large Christmas tree in Sanctuary and removed same. Our Committee members also helped removed handbell tables and replaced them after the Community Orchestra concert November 16<sup>th</sup>.

There are other ongoing chores, too numerous to mention, but we enjoy our breakfast fellowship followed by work projects.

Margaret Bowes  
For Property & Maintenance Committee



## WORSHIP TEAM

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Have you ever wondered what the Worship Committee does? I sure did when I joined in 2016, and I was surprised by all the little jobs they undertake to make sure each week of worship flows smoothly.

There are the obvious things like preparing for Communion the first Sunday of the month, which includes recruiting servers as well as the purchase and preparation of the elements served. And involvement with Baptism family meetings and celebrations (you know, that yummy cake that's served afterwards). We also ensure we celebrate Confirmations and Membership Transfers.

Yet, it was the quiet "little" things that I was not aware of, like changing the banners at the front of the church and ensuring the mikes are hooked up and the power point is ready to go with someone to run it. We also look after the runner on the communion table and banner at the pulpit – do you notice when they change for each season of the Christian year?

We are budgeted for expenses for Easter palm branches, candles and baptism cakes, the Sermon Podcast membership, and the Sharefaith program for power point graphics, etc. Other expenses such as cleaning the communion table runners and supplies for communion might also be covered by the Committee's budget.

Worship Committee also maintains the "sign up" sheet, and are always looking for volunteers to greet folks on Sunday Mornings and take offering, do candle lighting (often handled by the younger members of our congregation) or read scripture during the service. We also recruit willing folk to ensure we have coffee/tea ready for some fellowship time after the service - a time to catch up with friends and enjoy some visiting. We are blessed with many helping hands in these areas and thank you, volunteers, for your loving support.

Our goal is to make your Worship experience at St. Paul's meaningful and uplifting with food for thought as you move into your week. We are always open to your comments and suggestions.

The Worship team includes: Rev. Gord Waldie, Music Director - Alison White, Brenda Stouffer and Linda Wagner, with communion assistance from Lois Brown and Kathy Horrelt.

We meet 3 or 4 times per year and welcome new members to join us.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Stouffer



Worship Committee

# UCW PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Our UCW meetings are aimed at uniting the women of the Church in having fun while expressing their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service,

In February, Unit 2 hosted the 'Grandmothers to Grandmothers' Tea with the proceeds going to the Steven Lewis Foundation to help the grandmothers in Africa whose families have been affected by AIDS.

Our "Spring Event" was a Sound Bath presented by J.J. Goff and hosted by Unit 4. A different way to get in touch with our inner self. Our "Fall Event" was a presentation by Nancy Rosendale on Muck Diving, hosted by Unit 1. Beautiful pictures of creatures that live at the bottom of the ocean. A delicious assortment of goodies followed.

The Christmas Potluck was well attended with a wonderful assortment of foods. The entertainment by Unit 2 was a hilarious rendition of 'The Night Before Christmas' complete with Santa in his sleigh being pulled by a reindeer. We ended the evening with Christmas carols accompanied by Alison White.

We finished the year by providing a light luncheon following the wedding service of Megan Belke and Andrew Gerlitz. Congratulations to the young couple.

During the year we provided lunch for funerals, visiting choirs, and various groups within the church. We also helped at the garage sale and beef dinner.

Thank you to all who helped with decorating Easter, Thanksgiving, and especially Christmas, setting up, preparing food and clean up at any of the various function we were involved in.

We would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.

**Unit 1** (no longer 1st Tuesday in the evening) now meet the 1st Wednesday in the afternoon

**Unit 2** meets on the 2nd Tuesday in the afternoon.

**Unit 4** meets on the 4th Friday during the evening.

I would like to thank my executive and members for their assistance in keeping our UCW strong and an integral part of St. Paul's.

## **ST. PAUL'S UCW EXECUTIVE:**

**President** – Eileen McCollum

**Past President** – Judy Barber

**Vice President** – Kathy Horrell

**Secretary** – Patricia Larter

**Treasurer** – Margaret Bowes

Respectfully submitted, Eileen McCollum



# UCW FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

## REVENUE

|                            |           |                        |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Units Offering             | \$        | 1,188.50               |
| Fellowship Least Coin      |           | 70.65                  |
| Projects Income            |           | 4,668.44               |
| Stephen Lewis Foundation * |           | 550.00                 |
| Transfer from Funds        |           |                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$</b> | <b><u>6,477.59</u></b> |

## EXPENSES

### **UCW**

|                  |           |                        |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Operations       | \$        | 185.81                 |
| Project Costs    |           | 897.40                 |
| Bursary (Travel) |           |                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>\$</b> | <b><u>1,083.21</u></b> |

### **COMMUNITY & WORLD**

|                                        |           |                        |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| St. Andrews Intern Fund                | \$        | 100.00                 |
| Bissell Centre                         |           | 100.00                 |
| Angola Scholarship Fund                |           | 100.00                 |
| CGIT Square Knot & Wohelo              |           | 125.00                 |
| Odyssey House                          |           | 100.00                 |
| John Howard Society                    |           | 25.00                  |
| World Day of Prayer                    |           | -                      |
| Fellowship Least Coin                  |           | 70.65                  |
| Ethiopian Project (School 1 Year Girl) |           | 300.00                 |
| Pregnant Teens                         |           | 100.00                 |
| Grandmothers to Grandmothers*          |           | 550.00                 |
| Sewing For Kids                        |           | 100.00                 |
| Faith Lift                             |           | 50.00                  |
| Miscellaneous                          |           | -                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>\$</b> | <b><u>1,720.65</u></b> |

### **ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OPERATIONS**

|                                          |           |                        |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Mission and Service Fund                 | \$        | 1,000.00               |
| CGIT and Explorers                       |           | 200.00                 |
| Sunday School                            |           | 200.00                 |
| Congregation Supplies and \$150 Shingles |           | 758.58                 |
| Flowers and Gifts                        |           | 428.27                 |
| Miscellaneous                            |           | -                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                             | <b>\$</b> | <b><u>2,586.85</u></b> |

## TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$ 5,390.71**

\*+\$1130.00 in cheques issued directly to S. Lewis foundation

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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We are so fortunate at St. Paul's to have so many young people in our congregation. On Sunday mornings, we have around 10-12 kids in our group, with around 16 "regulars".

From our oldest (11), to our youngest (4), we all learn together in a group. It is wonderful to see the kids talking together and helping each other. Kindness has been something we discuss and every week, we share how we have been kind to our friends and family.

Along with our kids, the Sunday School happens every week with the help of Gail Schau, Sherry Alstad, Bruce White, Tanya Ayre (and Will!). Alison is our musical leader, and I think we are all very grateful she is in charge!

This year for our Christmas pageant, we spent several Sundays in the fall preparing our Video. With the help of Mallory Chambers, it was a fantastic new way to learn and share the Christmas story from the children's perspective.



The kids just keep growing and getting older, and every year our Sunday School has to say goodbye to our graduates. In the spring, Flora Steinke and Miriam Waldie moved up with the big kids in Youth Group.

As is tradition, we sent them on their way with a cake and a gift from the Youth Group members to welcome them.

As we enter the new year, we look forward to learning new songs, sharing, having fun and enjoying our mornings together.

Holly Loughead

## Vacation Bible School - July



## YOUTH GROUP

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**“Jesus doesn’t care how many Bible verses you have memorized,  
He cares about how you treat people”.**

With this quote in mind, we gather as St. Paul’s Youth (SPY)

As always, the youth gave the congregation a gift of a service which was an hour of storytelling and worship in May - who doesn’t love to sit back and listen? These teens are becoming such great public speakers. We ended our season with the graduation of Danielle Middleton and gained 2 new youth from the Sunday school.

2018 was a big year for six of our teens who committed to the Confirmation process. We did a six-week study that ended with a group confirmation in October. For each of our six weeks we gathered on a Sunday night to share a meal - the kids learned how to ‘potluck’! We had our study time, an activity and of course dessert. Each teen was presented with a nativity scene to help them remember this special time each year as they set it out for display.

Since September we have had 10 youth become “regulars” downstairs. We continue to gather and have fun playing games and working together; learning about each other and how to live as Christians in a modern world. December brought the first time many of our youth not being involved with the pageant, instead they ran a Christmas carnival for the Sunday school, giving the teachers a week off. You couldn’t tell who was having more fun, the Sunday school kids or the youth group. It is so nice to see all ages playing together.

What’s next? We will settle into our Sunday morning routine of learning and activities as usual. We start our lesson with a Bible story because I have found that once Sunday school ends, the stories do too. We read and listen and remember the messages from the Bible. We will once again make our Blessing Bags in the spring and our youth-lead service will be at the end of April. Please feel free to pop downstairs for a visit - just make sure you bring a snack with you as an offering.

Janis Schau-Steinke  
Youth Group Coordinator.



## MUSIC MINISTRY

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**In the music ministry at St. Paul's, All Are Welcome so...  
Come All You People, Come In, Come In and Sit Down, and Sing Praises to God!**



Thursday nights our adult choir gathers at 7:30pm to rehearse and Sing a New Song and Make a Joyful Noise together! We learn a variety of music, songs that make us Shout for Joy and songs that help us Find the Quiet Centre. Jokes and stories abound during rehearsals and often Give To Us Laughter but even still, after Forty Days and Forty Nights of rehearsals and a bit of Amazing Grace, we are ready to sing during worship! If you'd like to Come, you Faithful, raise the strain with us Please don't hesitate to join us at a rehearsal in the choir room!

This year we do not have a junior choir. Instead we are Singing a Happy Hallelujah downstairs with the Sunday School on a weekly basis. Alison chooses songs that help the children learn about Jesus, Friend of Little Children, and often finds herself saying "Come Children, Join to Sing"! Music helps to Tell the Stories of Jesus and reminds children that Jesus Loves them. We try to share these songs in worship when they are ready to Sing, Sing Out!!

Regular attenders may have noticed the absence of the organ lately. This is partly due to a problem with the speakers that needs repair. For Now The Silence is deafening. Nevertheless, we hope you'll Stay With Us and Pass it On that we may need help to Hear Our Prayer that repair is possible. Once we have the issue diagnosed and an estimate, we will make some decisions regarding this.....

Also, seeing as how music is SOUND, the music minister would like to request that we do something about our sound system. We are limping along with one working speaker and our Christmas pageant video was almost impossible to hear. Whether we are asking Lord Speak to Me or Gord Speak to me we need to be able to hear clearly!! During services, especially when the minister is away the Strife is O'er an ailing sound and projection system. It is the Hope of the World and the music minister that we can find a Wellspring of Wisdom and fix this before Day is Done. Otherwise we may become Sheep Fast Asleep during worship as it will be so Still, Still, Still in the sanctuary!!

If you are reading this and wondering What Can I Do? please know that We Will Take What you Offer! If you like to sing in a choir Don't Be Afraid to come try it out! If you want to Ring a Bell you can join beginner or advanced bell ringers! If you are more of a soloist type musician, we would love to hear you share your gift of music!

Alison White, Music Minister



# HANDBELLS

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I would like to thank St. Paul's United Church for all of the amazing support for the Bells of St. Paul's. From the Ministry Team, Council, to the duet musicians, to the bell players, and all of those who donate to our bell program, we say a huge Thank you! Because of this tremendous support, we are able to have 2 strong bell choirs: our Junior bells and our Senior bells.



Highlights of 2018 include contributing to music at a variety of Services throughout our Church year, playing for the Festival of Carols held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, for the Ecumenical service held at St. Paul's United Church, playing for the residents of Mackenzie Place, and playing for a congregational member's wedding. Our purpose is to provide music for Worship services at St. Paul's. We are also committed to provide bell music within the community for events that introduce handbell music to a variety of audiences. It is a form of outreach for St. Paul's United Church for us to play bells in the community. Council purchased beautiful table coverings for our bells to show our connection to St. Paul's.

I was privileged to attend Handbell Discovery Borealis held in Fort McMurray in October. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect to bell players and groups from all across Alberta, and to learn new techniques and pieces. This experience gave me a greater appreciation for the work of our provincial group ALGEHRS (Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers) and its support of bell ringing throughout the province.

Our bell choirs would like to polish our skills and increase our learning and are looking into hosting a hand bell clinician in Grande Prairie. As we delve into more complex music, we are setting goals for next year to help us transition to new techniques, handling more rapid bell changes, and preparing and challenging our choirs to try new things. We also would like to have our handbells serviced for optimum playing (we are celebrating 20 years of our first purchase of bells!)

I am asked regularly how individuals can support our bell program? What projects do we have on the go? Officially, we have no fundraising projects as we would like to concentrate our efforts next year on professional development opportunities held in Grande Prairie for our bell players.

However, we do have wish list items for those who are interested in financially supporting our program:

- **Orchestra lights** - to clip onto our music binders \$50.00 each (x 12 people - total of \$600.00 for all lights, or donation of one light)
- **Bell music** - Approximate cost of 1 piece of music is \$100.00 for 12 of us, including US exchange, brokerage, tax, and shipping fees. To help us build our music collection, we would appreciate help with music purchases.
- **Growing our bell collection** - To balance our sound, we are setting our sights on purchasing 5 bass bells which are approximately \$1,000.00 each. We will inscribe the donor's names in the handles of the bell. Donors can donate any amount toward a bell, however, we can only inscribe up to 4 names, so one suggestion is a quarter of a bell (\$250.00)

Supporting handbells is not only monetary. We are thankful each and every time people come to talk to us about our playing, how the music made you feel, and your enjoyment of our efforts. Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted, Jeannette Borstad, Handbell Director



## CGIT - CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

### CHERISH HEALTH, SEEK TRUTH, KNOW GOD AND SERVE OTHERS:

This is the basis of what CGIT is all about. This is what we try to help the girls experience, enjoy, and learn about. For some, KNOWING GOD is a foreign concept – something not experienced at home; and SERVING OTHERS is a learning experience leaving them with a new understanding of the hard work it takes sometimes and the ‘warm fuzzy’ feeling of reaching out and helping someone you don’t know. Our programming throughout the year encompasses an equal blend of each of the components of our four-fold Purpose.

**2018** started off ringing in the New Year with some fun activities related to goals, resolutions, etc.; then we jumped into programs on **Happiness, Mind your Manners; Genealogy** with hints on how to start their family tree; **Bible Study** on Lent; and our **Sleepover/Bowling Night**. We had a joint **Valentine’s Party** with the Explorers. It’s always fun to have a guest and a past CGIT’er, Danielle Farnsworth-Deeth, joined us with some **Skin Care and Make Up** do’s and don’ts. Our **Mission Study**, with the Explorers, was a joint exploration with a global focus, “*Change for Children*”. Our bottle drive raised over \$500.00 to assist with their efforts to help children and communities. Our programming on **How to be a Good Friend** was met with some ‘stop and think’ moments. Another past CGIT’er, Melanie Jenner, joined us one evening with a fun **Art Project**, clay art on canvas. Then it was **Swap Night** and **Easter Craft**. We took a **Trip to Ireland** with Sherry Alstad. She had Irish treasures to show us and treated us to scones, clotted cream and homemade jam! We joined the Explorers for our **Wind-Up Party**. But, wait, that wasn’t the end of our year... four carloads of girls and leaders were off to **CGIT’s CAMP WOHELO** on Pigeon Lake in May to enjoy a weekend of fun, friends and, of course, food!!

**For our new year, we have 8 girls.** Seven returning from last year and one new girl who moved up from Explorers. The fall itinerary was full and very busy. There was **get acquainted activities; Thanksgiving Night** with new Pictionary game drawn in pumpkin pie filling. Yes, you read that correctly!; **Warm Fuzzy Night; Formal Initiation** of new girl, **White Lanyard Presentation** to three senior girls, and **Installation of Newly Elected Officers ... President – Shay Wyatt... Vice-President – Caitlin Ballantyne... Secretary – Mackenzie Brake;** attended Church during **National CGIT Week; Kidnap Breakfast; Halloween Craft**, hosted Explorers at **‘Neewollah Party’** (that’s right – we do it backwards, therefore no witches, vampires, zombies, or un-dead anything); presented the **Christmas Vesper Service “Christmas Every Day”** with the Explorers joining us in our choir; and a **Christmas party** hosted by the Explorers.



Vice-Caitlin Ballantyne, President-Shay Wyatt, Secretary-Mackenzie Brake

We pack a LOT into our time at CGIT and we, the leaders Valerie Jenner and Rachel Calhoun, enjoy it all. We want to thank the CD Committee, UCW and the congregation for their continued support of our CGIT group by contributing to our Mission Study fund-raisers, attending and helping at our Vesper Service, and for those whose ‘special’ contributions convey your appreciation of CGIT. We are grateful for your financial support and your prayers.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Jenner



# EXPLORERS



## EXPLORER PURPOSE

As an Explorer, it is my purpose to:

**live each day, with God's love to guide me, grow each day, exploring God's world of wonders,  
give of myself each day, for God has given me a life to live and share.**

As Leaders, we strive to find activities each week to help our Explorers follow their purpose, Live, Grow and Give as God would want them to. Our weekly meetings always start with our Purpose, Hymn and Motto and end with a short worship, often planned by the girls as part of their Star Work requirements. The "middle" of our evenings can be anything from serious discussions, creative crafting, silly fun and usually food!

From January to May this year we held our annual Glitz and Glam New Year's celebration and our "un-birthday" sleepover, created Valentines cards for our "Girl's just Wanna have Fun" evening (planned by the girls) and joined with CGIT for a Valentine's party. The girls worked on their Star requirements and we held our Star Ceremony and Talent Night with their families. We did Explorations on: "Fruits of the Spirit", the Easter story and did Easter Crafting at Wild Rose Manor, a bit hit with girls and residents. We learned about the "Change for Children" organization which was our Mission Project and held a bottle drive with CGIT that brought in over \$500 to send to them for their ongoing work with children in need. We had 2 graduates in April, Miriam Waldie and Adyson Krisher and had an amazing time with CGIT at Camp Wohelo on Pigeon Lake for our "Superheroes" Rally, to wrap up the season.



**Graduates: Miriam Waldie, Adyson Krisher**

September brought with it the excitement of new members and our group grew to 13 fun and enthusiastic young ladies. September to December is always jam packed and this year was no exception. We held our "bring a friend night" and did some getting to know you activities, did Star Work and held our Initiation and first Star Ceremony. We studied the parable of the Good Samaritan, did some fall tea light holder crafting with Seniors at Wild Rose Manor and held our Neewollah Costume Party with CGIT. We discussed Peace and being Peacemakers and created a board of Peace Quotes. In December we joined CGIT in the choir for their annual Vesper Service, shared the Christmas Story in the format of a News Report and created cute reindeer and snowmen crafts. Our final windup for 2018 was a Christmas Party with CGIT.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Church for their ongoing support of Explorers with meeting and storage space and the congregation for their generous support of our Mission Project fund raisers. We are blessed to be part of this community.

Respectfully  
Submitted:

Explorer Leaders:

Brenda Stouffer

Pamela Stack



# LABYRINTH

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Part of our Healing Ministry, the Labyrinth at St. Paul's, is based on the Labyrinth in Chartre Cathedral, in Chartre, France, built around 1220 AD.

The St. Paul's Labyrinth in the large basement was designed and created in August 2006. Twelve years later our Sacred Path is in great shape despite the many uses of our large basement –tables and chairs dragged over it, children's games and many dancing feet, Beef Dinners with hundreds of folks, and annual maintenance stripping and cleaning – it has stood up well.

The Labyrinth is an ancient meditation tool. As we walk the single path to the centre (*it's not a maze with choices and tricks!*), we shed our physical, emotional and spiritual worries. Sitting in the centre we meditate in the Candlelight and listen for God's voice. On the Path back out we bring with us the gifts the Labyrinth experience gives us.

We gather monthly on a Sunday evening in Candlelight at 7 PM, September through May, to walk as a group grounding ourselves in God's peace.

You may walk anytime the church is open. Call the Church Office for the available times. Check the Bulletin for monthly schedule.

Please join us for a time of quiet meditation.  
"May all who walk Path find Healing and Peace."

Submitted by Marge Riley

[WORLD LABYRINTH DAY, Saturday, May 4, 2019](#)



The point of a maze is to  
find its centre. The point  
of a labyrinth is to find  
your centre.



UCW Spring Event "SOUND BATH"



St Patrick's Dinner



UCW CHRISTMAS POTLUCK



BEEF DINNER





**THANKSGIVING**



**MORE FACES of ST PAUL'S**

