



ANNUAL
REPORTS
FROM OUR
COMMITTEES

2026

for

St. Paul's United Church
10206 100 Ave
Grande Prairie, AB



ST. PAUL'S UNITED
— CHURCH —



Affirm/Saffirmer
UNITED CHURCH

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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.

We affirm, all are encouraged, inclusive of age, race, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, ability or background, to share fully in the life and work of St Paul's United Church, where the spiritual journey of each person is nurtured and supported.

Adopted October 2, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Adopted March 3, 2019

REAFFIRMATION
of FAITH

Kayla Sims – November 30, 2025

*In Loving
Memory*

Florence Jennie Severson

November 7, 2024 (Service in 2025)

Donald Allen

January 11, 2025

Sharon Adams

January 14, 2025

Leo Shirey Dawson

January 31, 2025

Marjorie Katherine Coogan

May 10, 2025

Fern Hilma Zutter

August 24, 2025

Jean Impey

September 9, 2025

William Lawrence Littleton

September 24, 2025

Annie Olivine Trarback

November 27, 2025

Weddings



Jarvis Dawson & Neele Czaja

Alex Freake & Amanada Miller

September 6, 2025

December 21, 2025





CHURCH COUNCIL

CHAIR: Emily Bamforth

** CHAIR ELECT: **Vacant**

PAST CHAIR: Karen Scott

TREASURER: Doug Currie

SECRETARY: Charles Taws

MINISTER: Rev. Gord Waldie

SOCIAL JUSTICE, AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM:

Susan K. Thomson

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM: Brenda Stouffer

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM: Dèsirée Jenkins Maitland

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL TEAM: Susan McKenzie

PASTORAL CARE TEAM: Judy Barber

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE TEAM: No Designated

Representative REGIONAL COUNCIL REP(S): Martha Dawson

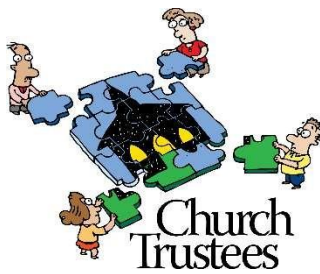
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: Martha Dawson

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM: Brenda Stouffer

UCW: No Designated Representative

MEMBER – AT – LARGE 1: Eileen McCollum

** MEMBER – AT – LARGE 2: **Vacant**



Jack Field
Gary Kohlsmith
Betty Grunau
Lorne Radbourne
Fred Radersma
Rev. Gord Waldie
Jack Wearmouth



MINISTRY TEAMS

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Sunday School:
Susan Thomson and Lori Ellis
Ashley Waldie, Phoibe Hanchar
Patti Stebbing

Youth Group & CGIT: Valerie Jenner
Explorers: Brenda Stouffer
Rev. Gord Waldie

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Dèsirée Jenkins Maitland, Scott Maitland
Kathy Horrelt, Caleb Hussey and Karen
Scott

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL TEAM

Susan McKenzie
Nikki George,
Dayle Field
Martha Dawson

MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

Alison White, Tasha Zboya-Keith
and multitudes of joyful noise makers

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Judy Barber
Rev. God Waldie
Trish Larter

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE TEAM

No Designated Representative

REGIONAL COUNCIL REP(S)

Martha Dawson

SOCIAL JUSTICE, AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

Susan K. Thomson, Oseyi Okobia
Karen Scott, Oseyi Okobia, Charles Taws,
Susan K Thomson and Rev Gord Waldie

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

Finances:
Joyce Steves, Doug Currie

Stewardship: Martha Dawson

Counters: Sherida Rossol, Bruce White
and Carla Johnson

TECH TEAM

Tech Support:
Scott Maitland, Keziah Isito, Charles Taws, Cecil
Alajuronye, Brenda Stouffer and Bruce White

PowerPoint:

Eileen McCollum, Dèsirée Jenkins Maitland,
Keziah Isito, Charles Taws, Linda Wagner, Brenda
Stouffer, and Rev. Gord Waldie

TRUSTEES

Jack Field, Betty Grunau, Gary Kohlsmith
Lorne Radbourne, Fred Radersma
Jack Wearmouth

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

No designated representative

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Brenda Stouffer (chair)
Betty McNaught (secretary)
Linda Wagner, Brenda Rowe, Kathy Horrelt and
Fern King.
Ex-officio are Gord Waldie and Alison White.

MINISTER'S REPORT

*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*

Do you recognize those words? They are from our congregational Vision Statement. I believe that Vision Statements do two things. They describe both who we think we are and who we want to be (or more theologically, who we are called to be). I also believe that Vision and Mission Statements are meaningless if we never look at them, reflect on them, and ask how they intersect with what we are actually doing. So, as you read through this Annual Report I encourage you to ask yourself how you see the words of our Vision and Mission Statements (which you can find printed out at the beginning of this booklet) lived out in these pages.

Everything you see in these reports, everything you see when you come in for Sunday worship, everything you see when taking part in the communal life of St. Paul's is made possible because many people have worked together to make it happen. People have given money. People have dreamed and planned and facilitated events. People have attended and supported. Everything that happens in this community happens because of this community. Thank you all for making this place what it is.

- thank you to Ministry Team members
- thank you to readers and greeters and communion servers
- thank you to those who prepare and serve coffee each Sunday
- thank you to those who deliver newsletters, who connect and check in on community members
- thank you to all who faithfully give via envelopes or e-transfers or PAR
- thank you to those who are intentional about greeting visitors and newcomers
- thank you to those who share their musical gifts
- thank you to those who help other events happen (from Garage Sale to Concerts to Coffee parties)
- thank you for all those other things I have forgotten as I made up this list
-

Together we live out our Vision Statement. Together we make this community the place we love, a place where we feel loved and supported. Thank You Thank You, and in case you missed it – THANK YOU.

The past year has had its ups and its downs. We have said good bye to active and vital members of the community, even as we have celebrated their lives and given thanks for the gifts that they shared. We have carefully watched our local givings even as we celebrate the added income from Card's which has led us to another 5 digit surplus. We have shared dreams about what we could maybe possibly do even as we have been forced to acknowledge that maybe we have less energy and fewer volunteers to do what we dream. I wonder what your highlights and lowlights of the past year have been? Maybe we can find a way to share some of those at the Annual Meeting this year?

One of the purposes of an Annual Report, in my mind at least, is also to look ahead. What do we need to do to continue to grow into the community described in our Vision Statement? How do we move beyond existing into thriving, how do we become a more vibrant voice for God's

Beloved Community in Grande Prairie. As I ask myself those questions I think back a couple of years to the report from the Pathfinders group. That report highlighted the need for intentionally marketing ourselves to the community, making St. Paul's better known. It is an issue that comes up repeatedly in churches. We tend to say "this needs to happen" but are not sure how to do it or are lacking the tools/confidence/know-how to make it happen. Your Council has agreed to have someone come to talk with us about marketing questions. It is my hope that we can find a way to light our light shine more brightly. It is my hope that as we do that we can more boldly invite others to come and check us out, to see if we are a community where they too find a spiritual home.

For the last few years General Council has encouraged us to live into this vision:

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.

In the *Toward 2035* initiative (<https://united-church.ca/toward2035>) launched last year we are encouraged to imagine:

*In The United Church of Canada, **inspired, resilient, and diverse** contextual communities of disciples seek to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world. The church is present and deeply connected coast-to-coast-to-coast in rural and urban settings, and in ecumenical and global relationships. Guided by hope-filled, adaptive and effective ministry leaders, the denomination is increasingly multigenerational, multiracial, and intercultural.*

As a part of that national vision may we be Deep, Bold, and Daring in 2026 and beyond, God being our helper and guide.

--Gord



2025 Narrative Report – Chair of the Board

This past year at SPUC has continued to be a vibrant and inclusive church in the Grande Prairie area. The church has seen in a period of less financial instability, thanks in large part to our arrangement with Cards Café. The Board wishes to thank the Building Transition Group, Pathfinders, Stewardship committee, and other partners for their leadership in ensuring our relationship with Cards remains a positive one. SPUC has also continued to be involved with Grande Prairie's Tri Church Group (which also includes the Anglican and Lutheran churches), as we come together to share in Christian celebration and community through events and get together.

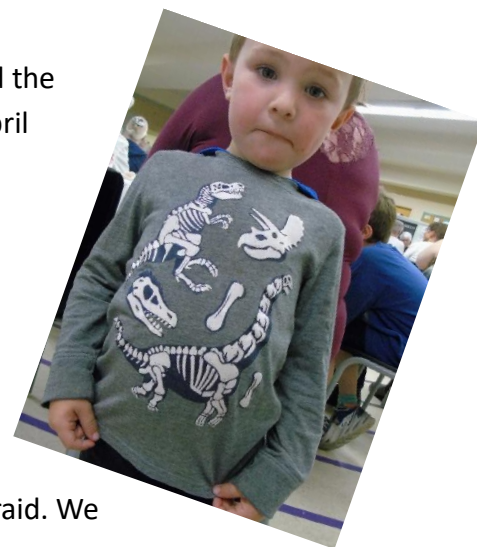
To accommodate our smaller congregation size, and to make the sanctuary space more attractive to user groups, several of the pews from the front of the church were removed in the fall of 2024 and replaced with chairs. We can now move the chairs around to accommodate different worship styles, a practice that has been longstanding in many United Churches in the last decade. In January, we were able to experiment with new seating at the front of the church during services. In 2025, we also had the opportunity to try the new United Church of Canada hymnbook, *Together We Sing*, which Alison White and our choir has been helping us learn and experiment with.

In the everyday life of the church, we had the organ assessed and repaired in 2025. This instrument remains an important part of our worship and musical celebration, and we are grateful to the Worship Committee and Board for arranging for the repairs. We held an outdoor service at Saskatoon Island Park on June 8th to celebrate the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary, which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

SPUC hosted a number of exciting musical events in 2025. These included the University of Alberta Mixed Choral group, who performed on Tuesday, April 29th. The Bells of St. Paul's, our own handbell choir, performed a concert alongside Grande Prairie's Quintessential Winds group on May 21st. We welcome back to Scott Woods Band in November and were treated to another wonderful concert.

As our congregation changes and diversifies, we are constantly reminded that we are in a period of change. Christianity of all forms is undergoing an exciting (and sometimes frightening) reformation, and we are at the heart of it. We should remember that God tells us to not be afraid. We are not alone.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Bamforth



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Membership of the Christian Development Team for 2025 included: Rev. Gord Waldie and group representatives: Sunday School: Susan Thomson and Lori Ellis; Youth Group & CGIT: Valerie Jenner; Explorers: Brenda Stouffer.



During the 2025 year, the Team met twice: January, and July.

The January meeting was an update on Sunday School, Youth Group, CGIT and Explorers with regards to continuing leadership, attendance, and upcoming programming, etc. July covered the restart of programs after summer break and changes to leadership availability.

Kudos go to Susan Thomson for providing the annual Calendar Schedule highlighting school holidays to coordinate with weeks of no Sunday School program. Susan and Lori managed the January to May sessions with some assistance from Phoibe Hanchar and a few parents. Due to Susan need to be away assisting family, Lori continued the September to December schedule with the assistance of Brenda Stouffer, Phoibe Hanchar and Ashley Waldie. The need for more Sunday School leadership support was discussed and advertising for help in the bulletin and newsletter was recommended.

Adult Education: Gord continued with weekly evening Bible Study sessions on ZOOM at 7:00 pm. The scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday are reviewed and discussed by a consistent group of 5-6 attendees. The evening time slot creates more opportunity for people to attend Bible Study after the workday.

Book Study: There was insufficient interest in hosting a Book Study this year.

Church Membership Celebration: November 30, we celebrated Kayla Robertson officially becoming a member of St. Paul's. Thank you to Karen Scott for being her Mentor through the membership process.

Sadly, the Explorers and CGIT programs which have been functioning at St. Paul's for over 100 years, discontinued as of April. Memberships have been declining steadily over the last few years, and leadership were looking at "retirement" so the decision was made early in the year to have a final Graduation in April and Farewell Tea in June to celebrate many years of fun, fellowship and learning through the years.

Although CGIT closed in the spring of 2025, a few Alumnae and friends gathered together to present an Alumnae Vesper Service, "Faces of Joy" on November 30th. Circling the sanctuary of St. Paul's for this traditional candlelight service with young and old alumnae was a gift.

Our CD committee strives to continue to provide resources and opportunities to the children, youth and adults of St. Paul's to support their faith journey's.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Stouffer

SUNDAY SCHOOL NARRATIVE REPORT 2025

January to May 2025

St Paul's Sunday School Program has been active this calendar year beginning January 5, 2025 was offered until June 15th, 2025. We do not meet on long weekends or when there are school breaks.

Sunday School takes place during the regular Church service and presently we have a small number of individuals available to provide instruction. Lori Ellis and Susan K Thomson lead this program and are supported by Tasha Zboya-Keith, Phoibe Hanchar and Patti Stebbing.



Generally, we sing, we read a story and do an activity. We have been using stories and materials to focus on the ongoing celebrations that fall throughout the year, i.e., Family Day, Valentine's Day, Easter activities, Mother's Day, Father's Day.

Painting
Bumble
Bees



Other Sundays we focus on a variety of Bible stories, "Noah and the Ark", "Joseph, the Man of Dreams", "Jesus is Born", "John baptizes of Jesus", to name a few.

We have five regularly attending children; however, we have seen a few families come from time to time bringing our numbers up to as high as 12 children of various ages. Our five dependable members are young (ages 2.5 years to 3 years old and up to a seven year-old), so this means we often do cutting and pasting, and colouring activities. We often end with having the children playing with the activity blocks, train set, etc., so as to have creative playtime together.

After summer break Sunday School resumed on September 7th with an orientation and will continue to be offered until May 3, 2026. We do not meet on long weekends or when there are school breaks.

Presently we have a small number of individuals available to provide instruction. Lori Ellis and Brenda Stouffer lead this program and are supported by Ashley Waldie, Susan Thompson, Phoibe Hanchar and Patti Stebbing.

Generally, we sing, we read a story and do an activity. We have been using stories and materials to focus on the ongoing celebrations that fall throughout the year, i.e. Labour Day, Orange Shirt Day, Halloween, Remembrance Day, the Christmas story.

Other Sundays we focus on a variety of Bible stories from the Early Reader Bible "Jesus and his Happy Family", "Jesus come to Love Us", "Angels sing to the Shepherds", "The Wise Men Give their Best", to name a few.



Our air dry clay
Nativity!
The kids loved
this activity.



We have five regularly attending children; however, we have seen a few families come from time to time bringing our numbers up to as high as 14 children of various ages. Our five dependable members are young (ages 3.5 years to 5 years old and up to an eight year-old), so this means we often do cutting and pasting, and mostly hands-on activities.

We sometimes end with having the children having free time to have creative playtime together.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan, Lori and Brenda

YOUTH GROUP NARRATIVE REPORT 2025

The Youth Group met most Sunday mornings between January 12 and May 11th. Leadership was Valerie Jenner. Unfortunately, attendance was sporadic and often only one youth.



Some of the programs were: *“New Exchange Student”* – questioning what a new student to their school would learn from them about Jesus and Christianity; *“Self Esteem”* – learning God made us Awesome and One-of-a-Kind; *“Revenge or Forgiveness?”*; *F.R.O.G. – Forever Rely On God*; *“The Wrong Side of Pride”*; *“What is Lent?”*; *“Taking Responsibility”*; *“Scruples”*; *“Jesus’s 7 ‘I AM’s”*; *“After Easter – Now What?”*; *“Mean Parents – are they really mean or just want what’s best for us?”*.

Youth Group was slated to continue until June 15, but leadership was not available through most of these later weeks and attendance not likely to ever be more than one.

In the Fall, Valerie advised Council, that she would not be available to continue leadership of the Group. It was also noted at that time that youth attendance was likely to be low, so the Youth Group did not start up again in the fall of 2025.

Valerie will miss her time as Youth Group leader as she truly enjoys teenagers. We thank her for again taking on the group and leading for the past two years.



CGIT
Canadian Girls In Training
2025 NARRATIVE REPORT



This report, unfortunately, only covers our CGIT 2025 year from January to June. In March of 2025, the CGIT and Explorer leaders announced their retirement from leadership and therefore would be retiring the groups at St. Paul's UC, as well. As most of the girls in CGIT were eligible for Graduation, it was felt this was the year for leadership, Valerie Jenner, to retire. Not an easy decision to make as CGIT had been a functioning group at St. Paul's since 1920.

Due to the space restrictions in place with CARDS now occupying the small basement, the Explorer group was meeting in the Youth Group room. CGIT and Explorers often met together for programming, crafts, parties, etc.

In January, we kicked off the year with a joint New Year's Glitz & Glam party. Some of our programming to the end of April included *"Hands in the Bible"*, *Collection night*, *"Strong Women"*, *"What is a Group?"*, *the Story of St Valentine's*, *Swap Night*, and *"What is Mission Study?"*

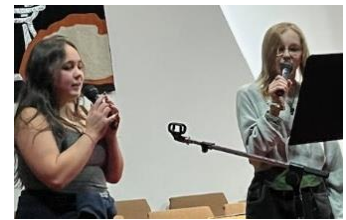


Some extra programming included:

- Sleepover at the Church – girls love this fun night of craziness and little sleep. Highlight was karaoke in the sanctuary. Some of those girls can really sing!!!



Kaydence, Teagan



Zoi,

Sarah

- Evening at Hornbrook Hollow – Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf and some major snacks!!
- "Leaders Night Off", where the girls were in charge of hosting and plan the evening's program. This year the CGIT girls suggested we wear our pyjamas... definite relaxed evening... where we did a painting craft and played games.



- Another evening took us to the Food Bank to tour the facility and learn more about our Mission Study focus. The girls took the food donations the congregation had collected and presented to Captain Peter Kim. A very informative evening for the girls.

- Took the girls to Wildrose Seniors' Manor/Lodge. There they interacted with the seniors who joined us in crafting and creating some truly awesome Easter door hangers.



- Explorers Easter evening with craft – assembled mini candy take-home packets to hand out at Church on Easter Sunday



- Spring Clean-up: outside the Church and down into Muskoseepi Park with garbage bags cleaning up garbage along the way. A wee stop for fun at the playground



Ashley, Teagan, Amy, Zoi, Kaydence, Bella

Graduates

Maurice.

And then... Graduation!!
Always a good night, but this year a bit on the sad side as it was the last CGIT Graduation Ceremony for St. Paul's UC.



Our 6 Graduates were: Kaydence Jenner-Watt, Bella Stack, Zoi Stack, Ashley Waldie, Amy Wyatt and Teagan Wyatt.

Three others recognized, but not yet

were: Maya Blackburn, Sarah Griffin and Alexis



As a final provincial camp in Grande Prairie, and in fact Alberta, the Alberta CGIT Association hosted a weekend camp at Camp Tamarack, on the last weekend in April. The theme was “Super Mario Party”. As this would be the last camp hosted by ABCGIT, registration was open to alumnae and it was fun to see a few of our past girls join us for the weekend.



Our year ended with our Wind-Up Party!! Again, Martha Dawson hosted our party at her indoor pool!! Many thanks to her and her family for letting the girls and leaders celebrate our yearend celebrations at their home for the past few years. The girls always talked about those evenings at the pool!

To commemorate the final days of CGIT and Explorers at St Paul’s UC, we held a Goodbye Tea, Saturday, June 28 at the Church. Lots of advertising was done to get the word out to alumnae that this celebration would be happening. The Tea was well attended and it was heartwarming to see alumnae (girls and past leaders) and hear how far some had come to celebrate with us. Valerie



Jenner, as CGIT leader, was recognized for her 47 years as leader; Brenda Stouffer, as past CGIT leader and current Explorer leader, was recognized for her 48 years in leadership; and Pamela Stack was recognized for her 8 years of Explorer leadership and her 4 years of CGIT leadership several years ago.

It should be also noted that these three women are also still currently on the Alberta CGIT Association Board having served for 45 or more years. Presently, Valerie as President (for 20+ years), Brenda on Contact Team and Pamela on Program Team.



Brenda (McCubbin) Stouffer, Pamela (Campbell) Stack, Valerie Jenner

This, unfortunately, will be the last CGIT Narrative Report submitted to St Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie, AB. I speak on behalf of all the leaders and girls who have passed through CGIT at St Paul's and want to thank all the Ministers (especially Rev. Gord Waldie who has been a major supporter of CGIT over the years), Council Members & Reps, Committee Members, Congregation and Parents for their support of CGIT. They have attended our Vesper Services, luncheons, Mother/Daughter Banquets, Father/Daughter Fun Nights, supported our Mission Study projects and stepped up where and when they could.

We are going to miss the girls and fun and crazy evenings of songs and games. The interaction with the girls has kept us young all these years and may God bless them all.

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Jenner





St. Paul's Explorers Narrative Report 2025



Explorers has been an active part of the St. Paul's United Church for many years. Numerous former leaders were members of this congregation and mothers of the girls. It is with a heavy heart that I write this last Narrative Report as the decision was made this year to close the Explorer and CGIT programs due to low membership and a need for leadership to have opportunity to "retire".

We ran Explorers from January to April this year with 4 girls. Ari Stouffer (Grd 6), Brooke Hanbury (Grd 5), Haylee Winters, and Audrey Belec (Grd 4). Pamela Stack and I enjoyed this energetic and creative group of girls, and the smaller group worked well out of the limited space of the Youth Group Room, sharing "active space" in the Large Basement with CGIT.



We kicked off January with our annual "Glitz and Glam" party along with CGIT. The girls have always enjoyed this fun evening of dress up options and fun photo booth, glitzy crafting and of course - fancy food! Explorers also had an evening of discussing Memories from 2024 and Looking ahead to the possibilities in 2025. Pamela and Valerie joined forces while I was away "snow birding" for Jan/Feb so Explorers and CGIT had a few weeks of shared programming including "Collection night" our favourite things.

There were shared discussions around "Strong Women", "What is a Group?", and the "Story of St. Valentine's" with some Valentines crafting. They held the annual Swap Night, which is always a hit with the girls and an opportunity to "rehome" used items.

There was also a fun sleepover including Karaoke in the sanctuary, which showcased a few lovely voices I understand, I was sorry to miss it! Another fun February activity was an Evening of "Glow-in-the-Dark Mini Golf at Hornbrook Hollow including some great snacks! A fun adventure for all the girls!





March was Mission Study month with one evening of discussion around Food Security and the role of the local Salvation Army, then a tour of the Food Bank with Captain Peter Kim. It was an opportunity to bring the generous donations from the church congregation and the girls, to help stock their shelves.



They were grateful for our offerings, and the girls had a new understanding and appreciation for what the Food Bank has to offer to the residents in need in our city.

“Leader’s Night off” was one March activity night where the girls had to plan the whole evening. We had a fun night with CGIT in our PJ’s with some creative painting and a “CANDY SALAD” snack – that was a FIRST for me, and the girls loved it.



The end of the month was an opportunity to spend an evening with residents at Wild Rose Manor. Explorers have always enjoyed this annual crafting evening and helping folks create something to brighten up their rooms. This year it was door/wall hangings with bright spring colours and fun embellishments. We wrapped up the evening with a few silly action songs which were a hit with the residents. It was nice to share the evening with CGIT – many of whom were former Explorers.

Our last month of Explorers went by in a blink. Early April we had an Exploration on Easter and walked through holy week, including communion. Then the girls finished the evening by making Easter Favours to hand out to the congregation at church on Easter Sunday.



Giving back in small ways has always been part of our mission and April brought the opportunity to do a small spring clean-up through Muskoseepi Park with a little park play time to finish off. This IS God's Wondrous World, and we appreciated the opportunity to e|



Our April 23rd Graduation ceremony was bittersweet, knowing it was the last one at St. Paul's. We celebrated one Explorer Graduate, Arianna Stouffer and recognized the participation of our other three girls. There was laughter and tears, cake and gifts and some fun looking through the photo albums of the past year's activities.



Our final Alberta provincial camp weekend was at Camp Tamarack with the theme **"Mario Party 2025"**.

The registration was open to Alumnae and a few of the girls from past years joined in this fun weekend. Emotions ran high for a few of us as we circled around the last campfire for Sunday morning worship with the knowledge it was our final gathering as Alberta Explorers and CGIT. The Program Team from the ABCGIT Association did a marvelous job of ensuring this last gathering was full of laughter and wonderful memories.



Our last official gathering with Explorers was a “Pool Party” hosted by Martha Dawson. We have been blessed to use the Dawson Family’s indoor pool for our year-end parties for the last few years and it’s been much appreciated and always a hit with the girls.



June 28, 2025 we held a Farewell tea with CGIT under the theme “Share the Memories”. It was one last opportunity for us to celebrate the long history of Explorers and CGIT in St. Paul’s United Church. It was a joy to see so many former leaders, girls and parents who joined us to share the memories, connect with friends and check out the MANY photo albums of years gone by.

It was nice to honour the work and dedication of all involved in this program for so many years.

And was a day of laughter and tears, memories and hugs, a fitting closure of programs that touched many girls who came through St. Paul’s doors. Personally, it was the end of something that started for me as a Messenger in grade one. Between the 12 years as a girl, 14 years leading CGIT and 35



leading Explorers, this organization has been part of my core being my whole life. I’m truly blessed to have had this opportunity to connect with so many amazing young women through the years.

Leading Explorers as a feeder group for CGIT gave us an opportunity to touch the lives of many girls and young women in this community. St. Paul’s Explorers group was the last known group functioning in Canada, CGIT the last in Alberta – something worth celebrating. Teaming up with CGIT Superintendent Valerie Jenner since 1977, and Explorer Co-Leader



Brenda (McCubbin) Stouffer, Pamela (Campbell) Stack, Valerie Jenner

Pamela Stack since 2017 (formerly a CGIT leader for 4 years) led to fun, creative leadership and lifelong friendships.

The consistent support of Ministry (most recently Reverend Gord Waldie who's 4 daughters went through Explorers and CGIT, and who was always available to assist when necessary or just pop in and say hi), Church Council, this Congregation and families of our girls through the years, has certainly been part of our success story. We are forever grateful for the amazing space to meet, the prayers and encouragement, and tremendous support of fundraisers, numerous events, Vesper services and weekly meetings.

To the girls who walked through the door and learned about "Living each day with God's Love to Guide them, Growing each day Exploring God's World of Wonders, and Giving of Themselves each day for God has given them a Live to Live and Share... we'll miss you, thanks for the memories.

**Respectfully Submitted:
Brenda Stouffer**



2025 COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

The Communications Ministry team this year has included: Désirée Jenkins Maitland, Scott Maitland, Kathy Horreht, Caleb Hussey and Karen Scott

In 2025 we continued the focus each issue of “News from & for the Pews” on the “Fruit of the Spirit” which Paul listed in Galatians 5: 22-23. During 2025 we focussed on “Kindness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control”.

Desiree, Scott and Karen have continued as newsletter editors. if you feel called to take on the editor role, please let us know. Our Communications team will be here to support you.

We continue to promote all St Paul’s events in the weekly bulletins, Friday e-blasts and on the St Paul’s Website calendar. When appropriate we share news with other churches, to extend participation. We plan to refresh posts of upcoming events on the outside (northeast) door.

Updating our “StPaulsuc.ca” website is another challenging but important focus for this team. We have updated content from some St Paul’s Ministry Teams, but more updated content is needed. An overhaul of the website is planned for 2026.

Our LED sign provides a wonderful opportunity for connection to the larger Grande Prairie community. Did you know that you can rent the sign to celebrate birthdays and graduations? We also allow non- profit organizations to rent slides for display, as well as advertising St Paul’s events and church sponsored groups.

We maintain the St Paul’s United Church Facebook group which is private and encourages communication and sharing between St Paul’s members, adherents and Rev Gord, Alison and Carla. We also monitor a public Facebook page which allows a wider audience to engage with St Paul’s United Church.

Sunday church services are livestreamed and posted on our YouTube channel, as are memorial services, if requested by the family. There is a separate narrative report from the Tech team, located with the Worship Ministry Team’s report.

I invite you to let us know how we can improve our communication within and beyond St Paul’s United Church. If you would like to help us expand St Paul’s United Church’s impact and communication, we welcome you to join the Communications Ministry team.

Submitted by Karen Scott

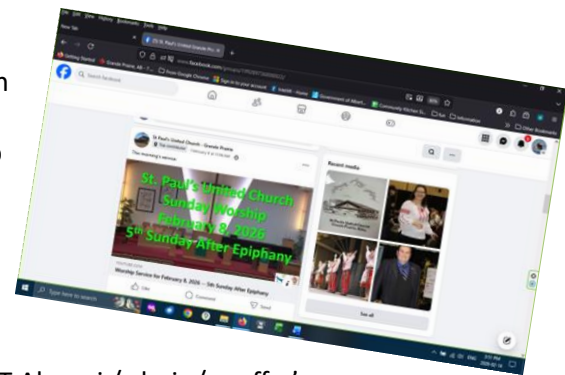
Updated LED Sign rental rates adjusted in 2025:

No cost: St Paul’s United Church sponsored / co-led events. (such as: CGIT Alumni / choir / scoff n’ shuffle / beef dinner / garage sale / World Day of Prayer / Week of Christian Unity / Labyrinth Walks etc).

\$5.00/day, 25.00/week or \$75.00 / month: Non-profit groups with St Paul’s UC affiliation / congregational (vs individual) involvement in the event. (such as: birthday, anniversary and graduation celebration slides/ line dancing / children’s festival / tai chi / AA / WDI etc).

\$10.00/day, 50.00 / week or \$150.00 / month: Non-profit – no St Paul’s involvement / affiliation (such as: Rising Above / GPLT / Boys choir etc).

\$20/day, \$100/wk \$300/mo: Requests for Advertising by for-profit businesses will be evaluated by communications team on a case-by-case basis.



TECH TEAM NARRATIVE REPORT 2025

St. Paul's Tech & PowerPoint Team consists of a small group who are dedicated to ensuring our services are livestreamed and available to all wishing to participate – no matter where they are situated. Folks at home can view the services and follow along with prayers, scripture readings and hymns on St. Paul's YouTube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulsunitedgrandeprairie>



This year we welcomed a few new faces to the team which helps to spread out the workload. Welcome to Charles and Cecil, we appreciate your willingness to share your time and talents. Sadly, Caleb Hussey had to step away from Tech support due to other commitments. We want to thank him for his past assistance.

Tech Support: Bruce White, Scott Maitland, Keziah Isito, Charles Taws, Cecil Alajuronye, Brenda Stouffer

PowerPoint: Eileen McCollum, Dèsirée Jenkins Maitland, Keziah Isito, Charles Taws, Linda Wagner, Brenda Stouffer

Reverend Gord has been essential to our team with his understanding of our equipment and helping to keep us on track. He put together a troubleshooting page of additional information for our tech manual this year that was much appreciated. He has also ensured the YouTube streaming schedules are set up and ready to link to.

St. Paul's goal of inclusivity for all is supported by our mission to provide livestreaming services. We appreciate those dedicated to making it happen and look forward to working with anyone interested in joining the team.

Respectfully Submitted by: Brenda Stouffer



St Paul's United Church Narrative Report 2025

Ministry and Personnel Team Report

This Narrative report gives the Ministry and Personnel team an opportunity to thank all who supported the Ministry of St. Paul's in 2025 with time, talent and financial resources. We want to recognize in particular our paid Ministry Personnel: Rev. Gord and staff, Carla Johnson and Alison White. They are the leaders who support and facilitate the worship, pastoral care and administration of the church. We also want to thank Linda Wagner and Brenda Stouffer who continues to tirelessly facilitate the workings of the church and Laurie Anderson and LeslieAnne McClosky for their music Ministry both on Sunday and in the Continuing Care Services. We also want to acknowledge Leslie Ann McClosky for her support of the music ministry and her duets with Laure Anderson that have added so much to our services.

The Bell Choir both senior and junior choirs under the direction of Tasha Keith. These have added another dimension to our fabulous music ministry. Thank you, Tasha.

We continue to review and set goals for our Ministry Personnel and Staff.

Alison White has this year had an opportunity for continuing Education in 2024. She took the opportunity to spend day with a life coach to enhance her leadership in the church. This was a successful endeavour and she enjoyed this. She has continued to grow new opportunities for our Music Ministry. Many new faces in the choir and delightful solos with Madison and Marlee White. Thank you All

We want to recognize the outreach component of the introductory group music activities for 2–4-year-olds with Alison and Liz McCallum. This is a delightful project and well worth a peek in the children's space on Thursday mornings. Our Music Ministry under Alison White continues to thrive and gives us hope for growing our congregation. Thank you Alison

Carla too took the opportunity to spend a day with a life coach, and this time provided her with some new ways of looking at her role in the church. She has continued to grow her role and responsibility within St Paul's. Carla was a critical piece in organizing all of us. We have offered to increase Carla's hours of work, and she has assured us that she will tell us when it is time. Thank you again Carla for all you do for us.

Rev. Gord continues to participate in the online version the Annual Festival of Homiletics. He also completed an online course in artificial intelligence in Ministry. Gord offers a weekly Bible study that has been described as a "hidden gem" by those that participate. He provides Lodge services and lodge communion services during the year; these are well attended events.

Rev Gord has requested and been approved for a three-month sabbatical in 2026. He will be away from May - September 2026 this includes a month of holiday time.

Gord's leadership skills continue to guide us through difficult times. Thank you, Gord for your calm and thoughtful guidance.

The Ministry and Personnel team held our annual Christmas Thank you tea again this year. We included Laurie Anderson, Linda Wagner and Leslie Ann McClosky this year. There are so many people who have stepped forward to make St. Paul's the new and improved vibrant workspace in 2025.

Submitted by Susan Mckenzie
on behalf Nicki George, Dayle Field and Martha Dawson



Music Ministry 2025

Word on the street is that this is my 20th -ish narrative report as the music director at St. Paul's. Please don't read any back issues – I probably repeat myself after these many years!

Our year started with a bit of a scare as the organ stopped working and we all realized how empty the sanctuary sounds with it not in regular use! Getting it going again took several attempts, a bit of duct tape, a hope and a prayer and some plain old luck! It is on its last legs though, so we need to prepare ourselves for its eventual replacement if that's something we are able and want to do. We have consulted an organ dealer in Calgary and will reach out again when we need to.

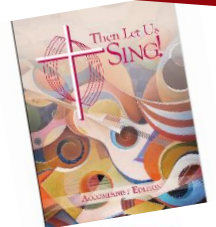
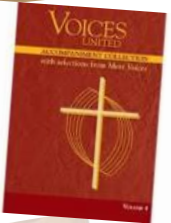
The United Church unveiled a new hymn book this year! It's to be used in addition to the other two – NOT as a replacement. We have bought 15 copies for the choir so far and an accompanist copy. More are on the way, and we look forward to the digital version to follow so that Carla doesn't need to type up all the lyrics from scratch. We enjoyed an "Intro to TLUS" service in October (that's the abbreviation we'll be using in the bulletins) where we sang through a few, listened to a few online and learned the actions to "My Lighthouse". We'll do another of these services in June and try out a few more new ones!

Choir numbers ebb and flow as people move to and from GP over the years or have other commitments that fill their Thursday nights. We've compressed the number of rehearsal weeks to accommodate the need for flexibility in the schedules of our choristers. To fill in other non-anthem Sundays we've enjoyed solo singers and instrumentalists and of course our bell choir! Thanks to all those who add to the "sounds of St. Paul's" during worship! We also continue to appreciate the musical stylings of Leslie-Ann McCloskey and Laurie Anderson who fill in on Sundays I'm away, Sundays I'm there, AND throughout the summer months!

Although not officially under the purview of "music director", our toddler music time on Thursday mornings continues to be well-attended, receiving rave reviews from the local 2-year-olds. The instrument and book collection for this project is stored in the choir room and Liz, and I thank everyone for sharing that space.

Looking forward we anticipate the purchase of a set of "choir-wagons" to match our gowns. These will aid in the efficient schlepping of the ever-growing stack of hymnbooks we use each Sunday. Each wagon will come with a spot to put a water bottle, a cell phone holder, a pocket for bibles as well as a rain stick attachment on the side!! Watch for them arriving imminently...Musically Yours,

Alison White



2025 Narrative Report for Handbells

The Bells of St. Paul's have been practicing since September. We have gained a few new members from the outside public as well as a few returning members. We currently have an 11 person choir that has remained the same for both terms. We have also started a beginner bells option and that has 6 continuing members including one youth and other adults. The Senior bells practice on Sunday evenings from 7-8:30pm in the sanctuary. The beginner bells practice from 9-9:30am on Sunday Mornings. There is the odd Sunday when the senior bells practice right after church. We have a few members who return for Christmas and Easter that are valued subs for our regular players. Lisa Gillis, Karen Scott and Bren Rowe were very willing to give their time to sub for us. Out of the eleven members as of this writing we have five members of the congregation and the rest are public members. We hope this entices people to bring their families to St. Paul's on a more regular basis because their family is performing in the bell choir. We have noticed that non members are bringing their children and family to church on other Sundays even when we are not playing. It is a welcoming environment.

This year, the Bells of St. Paul's participated in playing the prelude and postludes and gift of music during Sunday services including five Sunday's from the start of September. We are appreciative of the extensive music collection that has been built by previous handbell directors. There are a lot of choices for level 2 and level 3. We have purchased a few higher level pieces and the senior bells are enjoying the challenge. We are hoping to purchase a few more higher level pieces this year as well as some for the beginner bells. We are in need of new binders for the handbells. They are falling apart. Since we have so many bell players and a lot of music we are bursting at the seams. We are very blessed to have Betty McNaught and Paula Anderson who have gone through our handbell music and cleaned up, labelled and created a spreadsheet of all the handbell pieces we have available to play. This has been so valuable to me as a director because it makes my job easier when looking for music. We are thankful to have a space to rehearse in and to store the bells so that setting up and taking down for performances and rehearsals is very fast.

We are preparing for a Handbell concert in May as a performance with the handbell choirs and the Quintessential winds. More information will be available closer to the end of March. We appreciate the opportunity to play for the congregation of St. Paul's and hope do it on a more regular basis in this term.

Tasha Zboya-Keith

Handbell Conductor

Our members: Betty McNaught, Paula Anderson, Elaine Smitham, Emily Bamforth, Corrine Graham, Dennis Fedeyko, Andrea Willman, Leanne Oberle, Malika Frost, and Derice Layher, Amy Jefferies



Beginner Bells: Patty Waldie, Ashley Waldie, Lois Brown, Rachel Haines, Jonathan Keith and Sadie Macklin

Pastoral Care Team Report 2025

St. Paul's Pastoral Care Team has been sending out personal notes and delivering the church newsletter to those who are not able to come to church.

We try to keep people updated on church news. Our deliveries have been mainly to long term care homes and lodges for seniors.

If you know of any requests for our newsletter or if someone is hospitalized, please contact the office at 780-532-2415 so someone can follow up.

We have initiated some Communion services in lodges and if you'd like to have communion served in your home, please let the office know.

If you would like to join the team, please speak to any member of the team and they'll be happy to put you to work.

We hope to find new recruits. I find it very rewarding to visit some of the seniors. Hospital visits are also done occasionally. Unfortunately, the new hospital requires lots of walking to get to see people.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Barber on behalf of the rest of the team, Rev. Gor Waldie and Trish Larter

January 30, 2026 for the year 2025.



PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025

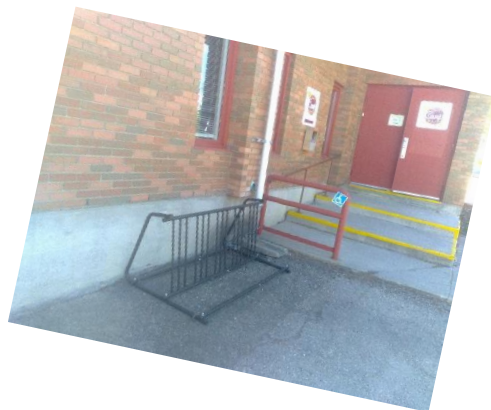
Members of our committee are Tim Brown, Jack Field, Betty Grunau, Johnathan Keith. Fred Radersma, Gordon Taylor, Jack Wearmouth and Margaret Bowes. We had nine meetings during the calendar year 2025, beginning with breakfast at 8:00 followed by the various chores done at each meeting. A lot of extra time was spent on various items - Jack W. spent a great many hours meeting with a representative from the Waste M-gt. people to disengage from the garbage contract which had been so expensive and to hire the local Prairie Disposal company which is much more reasonable. Jack Wand Jack Falso met with management of the building across the alley adjacent to the church to discuss bus parking, alley maintenance etc. It makes a big difference having the buses parking lengthwise. The two continue to discuss any problems with our neighbour.

We have been involved with the garage sale as usual, with Jack W organizing pickups, delivering items from the church to the Armouries, delivering 'leftovers' to the various venues at the end of the sale and returning tables etc. back to the church. We also install the large decorations for Advent and remove at the end of Advent. There are several other routine monthly chores.

We also thank Gordon Taylor who has responded to several requests for painting various areas in the church, who managed to procure five-gallon pails of asphalt to fill parking lot area potholes, has fixed cupboard doors as well as responding to many other requests. Tim Brown and Jack Field spent a lot of hours speaking with the monitoring system and Alexander Security regarding the incompatibility of the church phone and monitoring system resulting in many calls. The problem was solved by moving from the church phone to the internet connection. Tim has responded to several other 'plumbing' calls. Jack F does the regular fire alarm check. We are lucky to have Johnathan responding to any calls from Cards regarding problems with lighting or the sterilizer etc., as well as checking all the sumps and other items.

Fred continues to check the roof condition and the pruning of trees and shrubs and yard maintenance. Betty is our liaison with the caretaker. We thank all the men of P&M who respond to many calls they receive during each month.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Bowes



Northern Spirit Regional Council Annual Meeting in person and by Zoom

May 29,30 and 31 at Riverbend United Church in Edmonton

Theme – “United Church Fan Club.”

Theme Speaker – Rev. Jana Howson, in four sessions led us through thinking of ourselves in the church as a “Fandom”. Jana is an Evangelical Lutheran Church of America pastor with United Church of Canada roots. If you have been watching listening to the fans of the Oilers you will have seen the costumes, the songs, the stories of past games, the passion, the hockey language – shared language, shared values.

So as a faith community how are we a “fandom?” (fan Club?) – it’s something we do together; we are in relationship with one another and Jesus; we have shared stories - Biblical and community; we have shared values; and we have passion!

Plenary Sessions

Dare to Connect – The Community of Faith Support Committee is trying to create a way of visiting congregations in a way that is supportive and helpful in making connections within the region but different from the old Presbytery Oversight Visits

Towards 2035 – the General Secretary of the UCC, Micheal Blair along with Shannon McCarthy Executive Minister of the Regional Council facilitated this discussion. In the first two years of the plan there has been emphasis on supporting the “first third” (children to young adults); and growing Intercultural ministries

Workshops- There were eight from which to choose.

Growth Development with Jordan Cantwell - she talked about strengthening our invitation – “attraction rather than promotion” - share the good news, speak from experience, be open to encountering God in others. It takes practice to talk about our faith! Jordan implied that that is the primary way to attract people.

United Church Cemeteries – there is a problem of cemeteries owned by the UCC but with no local congregation to care for them.

Host Community of Faith -

Riverbend United Church did a fantastic job in hosting – very welcoming; unlimited snacks; evening meals provided by a commercial caterer; lunches by other United Churches the Paise group from Riverbend led morning singing and worship on Saturday morning

Youth and Children at regional meeting – Devion Waldie and Ashley Waldie took leadership with crafts and activities for the few children and youth who were there. They took part in worship.

Memorial Service - is a time to remember persons who have served in the Region both ordered and lay. It was also a time to remember pastoral charges that have closed (about 6 in 2024) A time of

remembrance was also offered on the closure of the last CGIT group in Alberta (St. Paul's in Grande Prairie.

Celebration of Ministry Service.

Received into the order of ministry of the United Church of Canada - Rev. George Mafuleka from the Reformed Church in Zambia now serving in Lloydminster

Rev. Lloyd Nyarota from the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe now serving at St. John's United Anglican Church in Manning.

The reflection was given by the Rev. Dr. Michael Blair. The text was from Isaiah 61:1 to 4 and Luke 4: 16 – 21 "I come to bring good news to the poor "

We are called – each and every one of us to a ministry of hope rooted in the spirit

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Dawson, Lay Representative



St Paul's Social Justice, Affirming and Outreach Ministry Team (SJAM) Annual Report for 2025

Ministry Team Members:

Oseyi Okobia, Karen Scott, Charles Taws, Susan K Thomson and Rev Gord Waldie.

What is an Affirming Faith Community?

An Affirming Faith Community is a community that walks with 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals and communities, works to assist people from all marginalized groups to independence and seeks justice for all.

The Social Justice and Affirming Ministry has continued moving forward since the March 5th, 2023, Annual Meeting Motion passed that allowed St Paul's United Church to become an Affirming Congregation. The next step was to create an Action Plan that would outline how St Paul's might live out this new status within the congregation and the community. The following Action Plan was approved by Council in April 2023.

Action Plan for Social Justice, Affirming and Community Outreach

Please keep in mind this is a living document based on the identified needs of the community at a given time. The Social Justice, Affirming and Outreach Ministry Team will now have a representative on St Paul's Church Council. This individual will give or provide an updated report at each meeting.

Proclaim (This has become a regular part of how St Paul's does business)

- √ We will use the Affirm United logo/symbol on the electronic sign, church bulletins, newsletters, etc. "This symbol is a symbol of a ministry that has been through an educational and discernment time and has made a commitment to being a safer place for all to worship."
- √ We will continue to hang the Pride Flag in the south window of the church.
- √ We will continue to hang the Indigenous flag in the south window of the church.
- √ We will use a Pride candle during our regular service times, when appropriate.
- √ Our Bulletin and Newsletter will frequently have a statement of Affirmation as a header and the welcome statement during Sunday services will be explicit in its inclusivity of sexual orientation and gender expression and identity, as well as race, age, etc.
- √ Our Church service, bulletin and newsletter will regularly include land/territory acknowledgement.
- √ Our electronic sign on the front of the church will continue to share affirming, anti-racism, and inclusive messaging.

Celebrate (This has become a regular part of how St Paul's does business)

- √ Our church service will continue using inclusive language.
- √ We will celebrate P.I.E. Day annually, March 14th, this has been ongoing since 2020.
- √ We will celebrate International Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31st in conjunction with the Grande Prairie 2SLGBTQIA+ community, whenever possible.
- √ We will collaborate and celebrate with GP Pride at their Family Festival in June of each year; this has been ongoing since 2017.
- √ On the fifth Sundays (4 to 5 per year) we will target affirming visibility activities, and messaging, celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ and Indigenous activities when possible.

- √ We will recognize our Affirming Anniversary each year, June 11th. This may be a simple message in the regular service or a community celebration.

√

Learn (This has become a regular part of how St Paul’s does business)

- √ We will continue education/learning opportunities regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ issues:
 - offering sessions open to all – webinars, book study, movies and documentaries
 - offer inclusivity training for new and seasoned youth leaders, Sunday school teachers and pulpit supply leaders to ensure they project the values of this affirming congregation
 - include information about what it means to be an affirming church to persons joining St Paul’s congregation, as members/adherents
 - sharing books and book reviews that encourage personal growth and understanding.
- √ We will encourage participation in community events to learn more about Indigenous issues:
 - “Every Child Matters”
 - “National Indigenous Peoples Day”
 - “Red Dress, National MMIWG2S+ Awareness Day”
 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and target steps forward in establishing right relations as Treaty people
 - encourage congregation members to enroll in and complete the UofA course *Indigenous Canada*. This is an online course offered free of charge.
 - choose at least one TRC target activity each year to increase awareness, knowledge and to foster healing and community growth.
- √ We will partner with GP Museum in learning about Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and support the request to host the *Witness Blanket* installation. When this installation arrives, SPUC will recruit volunteers and advertise/promote it and encourage the community to visit this monumental installation.
- √ We will help support a delegate to attend the Affirm United’s Annual Conference when it is in western Canada (2-year cycle).

Act (The SJAM Ministry Team is working to have this be a regular part of how St Paul’s does business)

- √ We will join in 2SLGBTQIA+ community events and promote allyship at these events, together sharing and celebrating this vibrant community.
- √ We will stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ at events where 2SLGBTQIA+ persons are being targeted, marginalized or scapegoated.
- √ We will join Affirm United and pay annual dues of \$100 - \$500 based on St Paul’s UCC regional assessment figures.
- √ We will continue to purchase an annual membership as a “Friend of GP Pride.”
- √ We will join in Friendship Centre community events and promote allyship at these events, together sharing and celebrating this vibrant indigenous community
- √ We will continue to assist with walks and activities sponsored by the Friendship Centre at their facilities and in the community.
- √ We will continue with an ongoing review of church policy and procedures to ensure inclusive language and wording matches our commitment to be an affirming justice and outreach seeking congregation.
- √ We will continue Local Outreach offerings such as the first Sunday of the month and special drives e.g., Christmas, dignity drive), to support local agencies who also serve people at risk and provide vouchers to individuals needing assistance with immediate needs such as travel, housing, and/or food basics.
- √ We will continue our local partnership with social justice community agencies such as the Salvation Army’s food bank drive, Christmas appeal and hampers, Wapiti House, Odyssey House, St Lawrence Centre, GP Friendship Centre, Sunrise House, Elder’s Caring Shelter, Rising Above, etc.
- √ We will raise awareness and increase acceptance in our community by hosting or co-hosting events that are open to the community such as our Pizza and Games Evening or other social opportunities. Other

brainstormed ideas included events such as Family Movie Nights, GSA friendly date night movies, or family dance, to name a few.

- √ The St Paul's United Church Social Justice, Affirming and Outreach Ministry Team will continue as an ongoing ministry team. We will focus on learning about and acting on social justice issues as they are identified and prioritized.
- √ As a Ministry Team, SJAM plans out a year plan to help stay on task and engaged in community life.

Many of these activities have begun and will continue, when possible, into the future. The events demonstrate to the greater Grande Prairie community that St Paul's congregation is committed to walking this new path of inclusion and social justice for all God's children.

Community Engagement & Visibility (Walk Our Talk) Year Plan

First Sunday of each the month, Local Community Outreach Appeal

SJAM members supported during the 5th week, weekly service by doing greeting, reading scripture, coffee and clean up

February, Black History Month

March 14th, PIE Day (Public, Intentional, Explicit)

May 5th, Red Dress Walk/Run

June 14th, PRIDE Family Carnival

June 21st, Aboriginal Peoples Day Parade

July 1st, Canada Day Parade

September 30th, Every Child Matters

October – December, Advent Appeal (Christmas Angels)

November – December, Salvation Army Kettle Campaign



2025 Community Engagement

March 14th: SJAM hosted a pizza and games evening event.

May 4th: St Paul's took part in the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG, May 5th) event by hanging red dressing in our front yard and in the church to show our solidarity with the Friendship Indigenous community. Our congregation also helped with the MMIW walk by standing at the stations directing runners along the memorial route.

June: was a busy month in the community for outreach and visibility:

- June 3rd, St Paul's members were present and supported the PRIDE sidewalk painting project, and
- June 14th, St Paul's members had a table at the PRIDE Family Carnival.
- June 20th – 21st, SJAM partnered with the Pitone Youth Group of the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre and the Grande Prairie Museum to assist with the Elder Care room for all three days of the Pow Wow. We provided urns and coffee, kept the room neat and welcoming and assisted the youth in preparing their refreshment carts. We also provided Indigenous decorations to the elder care room to make it more inviting.

July: SJAM took part in the Canada Day Parade by organizing Mr. Freeze, 'freezes' to give out in front of the church as the parade went by. The "We Are All Treaty People" banner was displayed during this event.

In **the fall**, SJAM purchased a new set of posters featuring 1st Nations Sacred Teachings. These will be displayed during First Nations celebrations.

September 20th: Many congregation members wore orange shirts to church to show support for the Residential Schools Day of Remembrance (Sept 30th).

November & December: The Christmas Angels Program of 2025 was suspended. The decision was to take this Christmas Season to build the Outreach Funds. Throughout the 2025 year, this fund has had frequent requests leaving the fund low. To continue the community awareness campaign, during the Mission & Service part of our service, guests from Mobile Outreach, Native Counselling and Tammy Oullette, owner of Centre Point, shared the ways their offices support those in need here in Grande Prairie and area and how SPUC supports their work. Several congregation members supported the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign by manning a kettle. Mission and Service work takes place right here in Grande Prairie every day.

As 2026 unfolds, SJAM will continue to broaden St. Paul's Social Justice commitment to Indigenous Truth and Recognition as well as seeking to share in the February Grande Prairie Black History Month activities along with the United Church of Canada Anti-racism initiatives and engage in addressing racism.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K Thomson

Stewardship and Finance Team

2025 Narrative Report to St. Paul's
Introducing the "Team"

General Manager – Joyce Steeves who prepares the budget; completes the Federal tax forms; provides the financial information for the United Church statistical forms; and gives general supervision to the financial record keeping of St. Paul's

Coach – Gord Waldie who takes the meeting minutes and offers advice on stewardship practices and other areas.

Quarter Back – Doug Currie, our treasurer, who carries the ball and knows all the plays.

Wide Receiver – Sherida Rossol who picks up the ball when ever she has the opportunity to be helpful. You see her preparing the Sunday deposit.

Full Back – Bruce White joined the team this year and is ready and able to help where needed. He also is frequently in the office after Sunday service preparing the deposit.

Centre – Martha Dawson whose main focus is stewardship. Look for the weekly giving report in the bulletin.

Safety – Carla Johnson who is our office manager, financial record keeper, and all-round team support.

Thank you to this team and their fans (that's you) for helping make our financial goals for St. Paul's a reality. As a community of faith, we met our 2025 budget and will have a surplus to begin refunding our capital fund. As a community of faith, we have financially supported our programs and mission!

"Acts of Generosity pull us toward dreams of a new relationship with God, to the earth, to our Community, and to all people." (United Church of Canada Stewardship Second)

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Dawson



NOTE FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025

The current members who serve as Trustees are Jack Field, Betty Grunau, Gary Kohlsmith, Lorne Radbourne, Fred Radersma and Jack Wearmouth as well as Rev. Gord Waldie. The required membership of the board of Trustees is between 3 and 15 persons, so we are currently in good shape but always welcome new members to join us.

This year, one of our first orders of business was to terminate the listing agreement entered into in 2024 to try to sell the church as the decision had been made to not sell. The listing therefore was not renewed.

The other item we were involved with in 2024 that flowed into 2025 was the lease with Card's Board Game Café (2533483 Alberta Ltd.). While the lease had been signed in 2024, we worked closely with the Building Transition Task Group, Property & Maintenance and others to get the various renovations, exit signs, security doors and other updates done to be sure all were good for both security and insurance (liability) purposes.

Annually we do work in the areas of insurance and volunteer screening. On the insurance side, we have carried the policy through UCC Protect for the last few years as this helps lower the cost somewhat as it is managed by the United Church of Canada. However, the annual premium has still grown to \$14,749 for the year 2025 which actually did not increase from 2024. Regarding volunteer screening, we work to meet the required standards of both the insurance company and the national church, so we review each volunteer that works in certain areas with vulnerable persons and update each volunteer information annually.

In the fall, trustees began meetings with the owner of the property to our north with the goal of developing a shared use agreement for the parking lot to the north of the church. In early 2026 a report was brought to Church Council and discussed there. This work and meetings with our neighbor are ongoing.

A second committee made up of the Trustees is the Safety Protection Policy Committee that is responsible for ensuring that our church meets the standards of the United Church of Canada in creating a safe and respectful environment. This year there was a major update in this area moving from the old Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy to the new Creating Safe and Respectful Environments Policy. This led to a change in the processes for reporting an incident so new documentation is now on the bulletin board and available in the church office as a guide to anyone wanting to report a possible misconduct incident.

We all enjoy the work we do as Trustees and enjoy the chance to meet and deal with items that are very necessary to the life of the church.

2025 UCW President's Report

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. We meet as one group usually the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm in the Friendship Room for fellowship, refreshments and fun.

Our 2025 started on a sad note with the passing of Sharon Adams who was a pillar in the church, including past president of UCW. We were able to honor her by preparing and serving lunch after her funeral.

We hosted Grandmothers to Grandmothers muffin and coffee morning with the donations going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support the life-saving work of grassroots organizations in 14 countries across Africa.

Several of us attended the World Day of Prayer at Forbes Presbyterian Church with The Cook Islands presentation. Various members also attended and supported Strawberry Teas and Church Suppers held in the area. Lots of fellowship, fun and food at these events.

We took part in decorating our sanctuary and church for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our summer potluck lunch was well attended with a huge variety of food. Kendra Sledding from "The Mustard Seed" gave a wonderful presentation on the work they do. They partner with the City of Grande Prairie to provide vital, supportive and affordable housing to those who are experiencing poverty and homelessness.

Many members worked tirelessly at the Annual Church Garage Sale.

Sandwiches and soup were served after church in September as a "Welcome Back" lunch for the congregation. The angel food cake with strawberries was a huge hit!!

We provided support and lunches for five families of our church community whose loved ones passed away; Leo Dawson, Doreen and Laverne Larson, Jean Impey, Fern Zutter, and Curly Coogan.

The 102 St Stitchers group meet the second Friday of the month at 9:00 am. The Days for Girls initiative was successful. Products for kits were made up as well as over 1200 wash cloths were crocheted by our members and friends to be sent to the Dominican Republic.

After a lot of thought and brainstorming, we decided to hold a craft sale and tea at the church on November 1st. Our busy members provided the most wonderful craft items, baking for the sale, and baking for the tea. With a lot of help, it was a huge success and a most heartfelt Thankyou to each and every one of you. The communities of people who came were amazed and really enjoyed the afternoon.

Thankyou to all who volunteered to greet, sell tickets, bake cookies, and other duties at the Scott Woods Concert.

UCW's Christmas Potluck was a great success, with lots of food, fellowship, fun, singing, playing some games and visiting with old and new friends. The first "party" held in the sanctuary and I think it was a wonderful venue. Thankyou to everyone for all you did to from organizing, setup and cleanup.

Blessings to those who offer the service of goodies and refreshments after church on Sundays. It is great to see so many people staying to enjoy companionship. Welcome 2026!!!

Sherida Rossol, UCW President

Some Events for 2026

General UCW meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 in the friendship room.

102 St Stitchers meet the 2nd Friday of the month from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

February – Grandmother to Grandmothers coffee and muffins to support the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Decorate for Easter.

August – Working at the church garage sale.

September – Welcome back lunch.

Decorate for Thanksgiving.

Decorate for Christmas.

UCW Potluck Christmas Supper.

2024-2025 Executive

President – Sherida Rossol

Past president – Kathy Horrelt

Past President – Sharon Adams

Vice President – Fern King

Secretary – Joan Godbout

Treasurer – Margaret Taylor



UCW 2025 Financial Sources and Uses of Funds Report

REVENUE	2025 ACTUAL
Units Offering	\$ 1,765.75
Local Outreach	\$ 138.08
Project Income	\$ 4,311.25
Mis. Revenue	\$ 605.00
Co-op	-
	\$
Other	-
Balance forward	\$ 2,533.97
TOTAL	<u>\$ 9,354.05</u>
EXPENSES	
UCW operations (includes WUC)	\$ 359.80
Project Costs	\$ 529.19
TOTAL	\$ 888.99
COMMUNITY AND WORLD	
Stephan Lewis	\$ 605.00
B Stouffer wool for days for girls	\$ 90.81
Elders Care Shelter	\$ 100.00
Saint Lawrence Centre	\$ 100.00
Center for young Parents	\$ 100.00
Odyssey House	\$ 100.00
GP Friendship Centre (Babies Best Start)	\$ 100.00
John Howard Society	\$ 25.00
Sunrise House	-
TOTAL	\$ 1,220.81
ST PAUL'S CHURCH OPERATIONS	
Misson and Service	\$ 800.00
Congregation	-
Gifts and Flowers	\$ 350.00
Local Outreach	-
Miscellaneous	-
TOTAL	\$ 1,150.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,259.80
Bank Balance December 21, 2025	\$ 6,094.25
	<u>\$ 9,354.05</u>



WORSHIP TEAM NARRATIVE REPORT – 2025

Lots of activity happens to support our Worship life at St. Paul's. We endeavor to offer a variety of experiences that are inclusive, affirming and welcoming for all. We are grateful for all those that contribute their time and talent.

The Worship Team met four times in 2025, in January, May, September and November. During the meetings we have thoughtful discussion of items pertaining to worship experiences that support the vision and mission of St. Paul's. Team members are Brenda Stouffer (chair), Betty McNaught (secretary), Linda Wagner, Brenda Rowe, Kathy Horrelet and Fern King. Ex-officio are Gord Waldie and Alison White. Rev Gord leads us in meaningful contemplation each Sunday and during Lent/Easter and Christmas seasons. He offers weekly bible study on line to allow maximum participation. We are grateful to Alison White, Doug Currie, Emily Bamforth, Mary Blackburn, Alan Stebbing, Johnathan Keith, Martha Dawson and the SJAM team who ably covered services when Gord was away.

Our music souls are replenished each week through Alison's choir leadership, thoughtful music choices, creative ideas and exceptional playing. We welcome the new hymn book "Then Let Us Sing". We are very fortunate to have Leslie Anne McCloskey and Laurie Anderson to fill in when Ali is away, as well as contribute to special music on a regular basis. Laurie Anderson and Sharon Schellenberg provide music support at our Seniors Lodges services several times a year. Our worship experience is elevated by our two handbell choirs led by Tasha Zboya-Keith. Vocal and instrument solos and accompaniment also greatly enhance our services.

Our dedicated tech team continues to bring our Sunday services on line to those unable to attend or living far away. We placed live stream notices at the entrance of the Sanctuary and pew signs to indicate video free zones for those who prefer not to be on camera.

Linda Wagner ensures our scripture readers, door greeters, communion servers, and coffee time helpers are in place each week. We are always looking for volunteers for these opportunities.

Our Sanctuary, Narthex and Friendship room decorations reflect the church seasons thanks to the efforts of Linda Wagner, Brenda Stouffer and helpers. We appreciate those that come out to help before and after major season events such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas.

Our Worship life is supported by our office manager Carla Johnson and we are grateful for her expertise and assistance.

Our team prepares the elements for communion the first Sunday of each month excepting July and August. We also review requests for baptism, confirmation and weddings. We grieve together when we gather to remember family and friends during celebration of life services.

We continue the practise of having round tables in the front of the sanctuary during the summer months and after Christmas, with attendees having the option of table or pew seating.

We welcome suggestions and feedback on how to make our Worship activities meaningful for all.
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Worship Team,
Betty McNaught

Sound bath & Labyrinth Walks

This past year brought lots of change for the Labyrinth Walks and Sound Baths.

The changes to the availability of the space led to the cancellation of the Labyrinth Walks and a decreased number of Sound Baths for 2025.

The Labyrinth is still open for walking, please contact Carla, and she can let you know when it's available.

At present, I am offering Sound Baths once a month on Sunday afternoons.

Life continues to unfold....

Blessings,

Liz MacCullum



“Let Us Build a House” (MV #1)

“Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place...”

Our gathering hymn of welcome comes from *More Voices*. It was written by Marty Haugen in 1994. Hear the song at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAZC65CwTEA>