

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
308 KING ST
MIDLAND, ON L4R 3M6
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
JOY
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2013



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**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Sunday December 15, 2013
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

With the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Director of Music: Paul Sloan

*When you see this sign, please stand as you are able.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE - What Child is This! Bell A'Peal Handbell Choir

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: We Thank You God for Advent Now (tune #518)

We thank you God for Advent now, a season to recall
that Jesus came Emmanuel in such a humble stall.

We thank you God for **hope** anew, that **peace** shall come some day:

Then all our thoughts of hate and war will surely pass away.

We thank you God for children who sit upon our knee,
and teach us older people **Joy** a fresher way to see.

We thank you God for little ones with laughter in their eyes:
They strip away the scales of doubt and teach us to be wise.

We thank you God for eyes that see that you are with us now,
In hands that hold the wounded ones and touch the furrowed brow.

We thank you God for **love** above as well as here beneath:
In us may **love** go round the world a human Advent wreath.

(Walter Murray wrote the words, while he was a minister at Applewood United Oakville, Walter is now retired and living in Bobcageon, Ont)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY (read by child)

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,
your gift of joy to world.

Help us to work with him to bring joy to places where people are living in sadness or pain.

Let this candle remind us that the light of Christ is shining in our hearts and can spread from us to others when we live in joy. Amen

(Sue Browning, Grace U.C., Sarnia, Ont).

RESPONSE VU#6 – A CANDLE IS BURNING – VS. 3

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,

a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow

As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Advent God, we come before you with hearts ready for your Love. We are waiting in hope to receive your Beloved into our lives,
once again. Be with us in our waiting and help us to prepare ourselves to receive all that you offer to us in his life and his living.**

Written by Heather McClure, Wesley U.C., Montreal Que.
Gathering, A/C/E2011-2012 page 29 Used with permission.

*HYMN: # 7 Hope Is a Star

THEME CONVERSATION

PRAYERS WITH CHILDREN/LORD'S PRAYER

(children may go up to Sunday school now)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Advent God, as we wait for your coming, we seek your forgiveness for the ways in which we want to rush ahead, for the ways in which we cut corners, for the ways in which we have lost hope. Forgive our hastiness and unfaithfulness. Fill us with the patience and care to prepare for Emmanuel; the way may truly know God with us. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We Hear the Wisdom of the Word

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (said by all)

In this Advent season, O God, may we open our hearts and minds to engage the scriptures as we wait for the arrival of God-Incarnate-Jesus Christ. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 2: 46-52

SPECIAL MUSIC 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

SERMON

We Respond to God's Word

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

SPECIAL MUSIC Songs of the Angels Bell A'Peal - Handbell choir

*DOXOLOGY: #VU 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Go Forth to Serve

COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

* RECEPTIONAL HYMN: #44 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

(please allow the choir to recess fully before leaving the sanctuary)

Welcome! Are you new to St. Paul's?

Whether you're just visiting or looking to stay, it is great to have you with us. Please make yourself known to our greeters, and pick up a welcome package. Please join us after the service for refreshments in our Great Hall, and find out more info about St. Paul's and get connected into the community. **What to expect** - The only thing we ask you to do is to relax. You are with people just like you. Whether you have been here many times or never been to Church before, you can anticipate an encouraging and enlightening experience. **Coffee will be served in the Great Hall compliments of the UCW.**

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stpaulsmidland.org

Karen's Email: minsucmidland@gmail.com

Website: stpaulsmidland.org *Like us on facebook!*

Minister – All of the Congregation

Lay Reader
Pre-Service Music
Administrator
Custodian

Marg Heeley
Rick Taylor
Judy McConnell
Mary Ellen Petticrew

Captain of the Greeters for December is Joan Lavin

Joan Lavin will be delivering DVD's.

Captain of the Counters for December is Heather Wilson

Angie Leis will be in the Nursery today!

****Congregational Meeting:** Is today immediately following the worship service, there will be a Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on a proposal being recommended by the Official Board regarding short term staffing needs. All members and adherents are encouraged to stay for this brief meeting.

Doug & Sheila Mosley, members of St. Paul's are moving to Listowel on January 4th. We wish them well with their move and new home!

We welcome the **Bell A'Peal handbell choir** to our service. This choir is under the direction of a member of St. Paul's, Victoria Warwick. Thank you to Victoria and the members of the bell choir for their ministry of music today.

Next Sunday Dec 22nd will be our Christmas Choral Service. Our choir has been hard at work preparing the music. This is a wonderful service that should not be missed!!

Your Benevolent Funds at work – our Outreach committee is looking for volunteers to help sort and pack food for the Christian Island Christmas hampers on Thursday Dec 19th at 1pm in the gym. We are looking for 6-8 volunteers. If you are available please call the church office at 705-526-6077 or see Jim Sinclair at coffee time. St. Paul's will be helping out 41 families on Christian island this Christmas. **We have been doing this for many years and wish to thank our Outreach Committee for all their hard work in this wonderful outpouring of Christmas spirit.** On Christmas Eve our collection goes to the Christmas Hampers for Christian island along with other benevolent requests through the year.

Christmas Eve luncheon December 24
who may not have a Christmas meal.



at 1pm – Once again this year at St. Paul's we are offering a Christmas dinner for people
Thank you to everyone who donated their time and the food we needed!



Christmas Season Food Drive thank you to everyone for their generous donations of food to the Salvation Army Foodbank.

Salvation Army - Angel Cards thank you to everyone who donated a gift to this program, the donations have gone to the Salvation Army for distribution to the children.

The UCW have a limited number of **2014 Church calendars** at \$5.00 each. Please call Helen French at 705-526-8293 if you would like a calendar.



The beautiful Poinsettia's have been placed in the church in memory of the following people.

In loving memory of **Marian Wilcox** placed by Gail, Bruce, Linda & family.

In memory of loved ones from Jean Stainton.

In loving memory of **Nick Rachey and Donna Lee** from Louise.

In loving memory of **Cora & Len Wiles & husband Bun** from Marjorie Hornsby.

In loving memory of parents from Anne & Joe Faragher & family and Lenore & Ivan Price & family.

In loving memory of **Ken and Bessie Cowan** from daughters Carol Jamieson & Liz Rogers & families.

In loving memory of **Greg & Tom Rogers**, from parents Ron and Liz Rogers.

In memory of loved ones from Echo & Dick Godsmark.

In loving memory of **Charlie Walton** from June & family.

In loving memory of **Walter McMann** from Kay & Bob & family.

In loving memory of **Bert & Fran Megaw** from Kay, Bob & family.

In loving memory of **Ron Bertling** from Marilyn Pennington and Kathy & Neal Foot.

In loving memory of loved ones from Lori & Gerry Payne.

In loving memory of **Edwin & Isabel Walker** from David & Susan.

In memory of loved ones from Christel Edwards-Bilbao & Don & Joy Edwards.

In memory of loved ones from Joyce & Norm Ellis.

In memory of **Ron White** from Joyce & family.

In loving memory of **Rev. George Leck & Ginger** from the Leck family.

In loving memory of **Ralph & Eva Gowan** from the Leck family.

In loving memory of **George & Marjorie Burton** from Sharon & Don Penrose.

In loving memory of **Mark Belfry** much loved son and devoted brother.

In loving memory of **Bryson McQuirter** from Lois & family.

In loving memory of **Wayne Ashton & Alan Craig** from Jean & Don Craig.

In memory of loved ones from Ken & Doreen Gunson.

In loving memory of **Marilyn James** from Allan James.

You may take your Poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service.

St. Paul's United Church – Givings till the end of November/2013

Monthly Contributions	Actual	2013/Budget	Over/(short)
General Funds	\$171,900	\$ 191,881	\$ (19,981)
Loose Offerings	\$ 3221	\$ 4196	\$ (975)
Total Contributions	\$ 175,122	\$ 196,077	\$ (20,956)
Mission & Service-Givings			
M&S World Dev.	\$ 600	\$ 1,375	\$ (775)
Mission & Service Cong	\$ 25,930	\$ 23,612	\$ 2,318
Total M&S Givings	\$ 26,530	\$ 24,987	\$ 1,543

A few weeks ago we advised you that St. Paul's United was facing a deficit of approximately \$22,000, expenses over income. A small number of you responded to our request raising approximately \$8,500 towards deficit reduction. We are grateful for your help. We also asked for people to consider using the PAR system for contributions if you were not already on this excellent system. Ten people responded to this request. Finally we cautioned all church committees to refrain from any unnecessary expenditures and they complied.

Despite all of these initiatives we have had a further loss due to our ongoing costs of operating the church. The current shortfall is \$26,764 at the end of November. If you can see your way to contribute to the financial health of the church before the end of the year we will be most grateful.

Envelopes for your special gifts are in the bulletins today.

Copies of Northern Waters Presbytery newsletters are in the library in the hall outside the parlour.

Sunday Dec 15th 2PM

Vox Choir at St.. Paul's – A Family Christmas Sing Along with the Georgian Bay Brass, freewill offering will be taken.

Sunday Dec 15th - Serenata Choir “Carols by Candlelight” at 7:30pm at **St. Mark's Anglican Church**, with the Georgian Bay Brass. Freewill offering, all proceeds to the “Guesthouse”.

Pledge Cards - work on our 2014 budget starts next week, please get you pledge cards into the church office as soon as possible! Thank You!

Advent Services



**SERVICES FOR THE
CHRISTMAS SEASON 2013**

December 22nd – 10am
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Choir Sunday
Cantata by our choir

December 24TH – 7PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE