

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND  
SUNDAY, February 17, 2013  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # VU#108 *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

One: Lent is a time in which we begin the journey toward the cross.

**All: Lent is a time when we stop to ponder the suffering of Jesus for us and our world.**

One: Lent is a time when we are reminded again to allow God to create a new heart within us.

**All: Lent is a time when we reminded to open our new hearts to God, each other and those in need.**

One: Lent is here. The journey has begun.

**All: Lent is here. Let us worship our God.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ  
is in us and in Our world.

INTROIT: **Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's Grace.  
I can feel the brush of angel's wings  
I see glory on each face,  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

**Gentle spirit, we have come through the growing excitement and light of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Now we turn ourselves inward, now we shine the light we've found in our hearts to see what is there. Bless this time of reflection and guide our steps as we walk the Lenten road that leads through death to life. Amen**

*(Nora Veress, Gathering L/E/P 2008)*

\*HYMN "Who is My Mother" from More Voices

*Who is my mother, who is my brother?  
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:  
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel  
Sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.  
Differently abled, differently labelled,  
Widen the circle round Jesus Christ:  
Crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,  
All come together round Jesus Christ.*

*Love will relate us colour or status  
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:  
family failings, human derailing*

*all are accepted round Jesus Christ.*

*Bound by one vision, met for one mission  
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:  
here is my mother, here is my brother,  
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.*

*(Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1992, Music Ron Klusmeier 2002)*

THEME CONVERSATION: Cathy Metzgar

LORD'S PRAYER

(Children may go up to Sunday school now)

### **We Hear the Wisdom of the Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SAID BY ALL)

**May we hear these ancient scriptures with trusting faith and gentle hope, with creative enthusiasm and honest doubt, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and grounded in your love. May we hear your call in scripture today. Amen**

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 13:1-17

ANTHEM O Great God Bob Kauflin/Dan Forrest

SERMON Mr. Bob Bruer – Out of the Cold

### **We Respond to God's Word**

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

**\*HYMN LET US BUILD A HOUSE (FROM MORE VOICES #1)**

Vs 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.*

Vs 2 *Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,*

*where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.*

*Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;*

*here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,*

*all are welcome in this place.*

Vs 4 *Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Vs 5 *Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

(MARTY HAUGEN, 2006)

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(please remain seated for this hymn)

\*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 – Bob Bruer

### **We Go Forth to Serve**

\*Hymn #112 O God How We Have Wandered

\*COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

**Love generously, care compassionately.**

**Love unselfishly, serve justly.**

**Love faithfully, listen carefully.**

**Pattern your love on Jesus Christ/**

**May the grace of Christ,**

**The love of God,**

**And the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you.**

**Amen**

\* SUNG LENTEN BENEDICTION

**Stay with us through the night.  
Stay with us through the pain.  
Stay with us. Blessed stranger,  
Till the morning breaks again.**

*(Walter Farquharson, Ron Klusmeier – Voices United #182)  
(Reproduced with permission under license #c607447)  
(Please allow the choir to recess before leaving the Sanctuary)*

Postlude

### **NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

A special welcome to all new friends as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our lives. If you are a guest, visitor or newcomer, please make yourself known to us. If you have any questions, our greeters would be delighted to help you. Please put your name, mailing address and email address in our guest book so we may have a record of your visit. **Please join us for coffee after the service in the gym compliments of Worship.**

Ministers:	All the People of God with the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Guest Speaker:	Bob Bruer
Lay Reader:	Helen French
Guest Speaker:	Bob Bruer
Director of Music:	Paul Sloan
Pre-Service Music	Rick Taylor
Administrator	Judy McConnell
Custodian	Mary Ellen Petticrew

**Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> the Circle** will be meeting in the parlour at 7pm. The Circle is a group of ladies in the church that support many functions that go on during our Christian year and also take time to meet and chat and enjoy each other's company. This April, The Circle will be hosting our semi annual talent auction. If you would like more info on The Circle, see any of the ladies in the kitchen on Sunday. We are always looking for new ladies to join us!!!

The next Breakfast for **St. Paul's Men's Group** will be on Saturday, February 23rd at 8:30AM, at MOM'S RESTAURANT, 200 Pillsbury Drive, Midland.

Karen will be on holidays from Thursday Feb 14 and return on Thursday Feb 21, 2012. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Heather Graham at 705-322-1451.

**IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY YOU MAY CALL KAREN AT HOME AT 705-355-0224 OTHERWISE PLEASE CALL CHURCH AT 705-526-6077. KAREN NOW HAS HER OWN EMAIL ADDRESS: [MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM). YOU ARE INVITED TO EMAIL KAREN DIRECTLY AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.**

**Help Wanted** - Some of our church committees are looking for additional members to help share the work-load of St. Paul's. If you are interested in offering some time to support the work of your church please contact Sheila Thompson 705-526-2186 or Louise Leck 705-526-6389. Committees looking for new members are **Faith Formation/ Christian Education, Communication, Stewardship and Ministry and Personnel**. If we have a volunteer who would work well on either Stewardship or M&P we could suggest that they consider those positions? Sheila

**The Georgian Bay General Hospital Volunteer** Association is looking for volunteers. Positions are available in the Emergency Department, at the information desk and in the new Patients-in-Motion program as well as other hospital locations. Experience the joy of giving back to the community in a meaningful way by joining the GBGH volunteer association. Pick up an application form at the hospital or go online on the GBGH website and download one today. **There are also applications in the church office.**

Captain of the Greeters for February – *Bill & Trudy Coveyduck*  
*Wilma Plews & Ewing Rae* will be delivering  
 the DVD's for the month of February.

*Bea Nayduk* will be in the Nursery today.

Captain of the Counters for February – *Ria Gerritsen*  
 Phone 526-6077 Fax 526-4020

Email: [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com), Website: [stpaulsmidland.org](http://stpaulsmidland.org)  
 Office hours Monday thru Friday 9-12, 1-4pm

Today we welcome Bob Bruer, who will speak to use about the "Out of the Cold Program". Welcome Bob!



**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>** in the sanctuary following the morning service. Everyone member and non members are invited to attend this meeting and take part in the future of your church. *Louise Leck, Congregational Chairperson*

**The Annual Reports** Copies are available on the small table at the front of the sanctuary near the doors to the Easy St. Entrance. Please bring your report with you next week when we meet to discuss the business of our church for the coming year!

**Notice:** At our Annual General Meeting a motion will be made regarding the resignation of a member of the Board of Trustees.

**Goals & Actions Report 2013 thru 2015** (replacing the 5 year plans). Copies are available on the small table at the front of the sanctuary near the doors to the Easy St. Entrance.

**CHURCH MEETINGS THIS WEEK FEB 18<sup>TH</sup> THRU FEB 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Monday	Circle	7:00pm	Parlour
Monday	Communication	7:00pm	Chapel
Wednesday	Bible Study	11:30am	Parlour
Thursday	Outreach	2:00pm	Parlour
Thursday	Choir	7:00pm	Chapel

*Don't forget to let the church know if you're meeting day or time changes!*

**World Day of Prayer 2013:** at the River of Life church 170 8<sup>th</sup> St. Midland on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. The service is written by the women of France. See Sharon Foster for more information.

### **Out of the Cold (OOTC) Shelter**

This year, our Outreach project during Lent will be to support a permanent OOTC shelter here in Midland. The following summarizes their current situation:

- OOTC has operated a winter shelter for the homeless for the last 10 years from mid November to early April, seven days a week, 500pm -800am
- OOTC operates in the basement of Knox Presbyterian Church in Midland, typically serves dinner to approx. 15-20 clients daily and has 6-10 clients sleeping overnight
- OOTC clients are primarily males between the ages of 20 and 70 years old, many of whom have mental health issues
- Rosewood Shelter is a year around shelter for women and children, but OOTC is the only current shelter for men in Midland
- OOTC currently receives no government funding, and relies solely on hundreds of volunteers, food donated by local churches and donations from concerned local individuals
- In order to receive government funding, OOTC must be wheel chair accessible, have beds instead of the current mats, have commercial grade kitchen equipment, etc
- OOTC is currently planning to build a permanent co-ed shelter with an elevator, beds, etc. in 2013 on the top floor of the education wing of Knox Church for approximately \$700,000
- Government funding should pay for approx. 50 % of the cost, and OOTC is currently fundraising for the remaining funds

Today, Bob Bruer of OOTC will be giving us an overview of the homeless and OOTC during our service, as well as additional information during coffee hour after church.

If you would like to support this worthy case during Lent, please make your cheques payable to St. Paul's United Church and indicate that your cheque is intended for OOTC. Your donation will be matched 1:1 from the St. Paul's Special Project Account.

We greatly appreciate your concern and support for OOTC.

### **February 17—Farming Can Become a Miracle**

*When people are committed and inspired, they can accomplish just about anything. Listen to this story from MaryBeth Nicks Barbour about how farming in Canada made differences locally and globally.*

In 2008, it became clear that new shingles were needed on the roof of the Brora United Church, a small church in Brora, Saskatchewan, north of Regina. The estimated cost was \$15,000, but how to raise the money?

The Brora church members decided they would grow canola and durum wheat for three years. By the time the planning was done, the

project expanded to include raising money for the Mission and Service Fund and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, as well as for the shingles.

Congregational members donated funds to get the project running. Land was rented. Local agricultural businesses donated most of the inputs, such as seed and fertilizer. Area farmers assumed all the costs associated with farming the land. The weather didn't always cooperate. The first year too much rain made both seeding and harvest times challenging.

Three years on, however, the Brora farm project was a success, raising \$27,550 for mission and service, \$58,000 for the foodgrains bank (eligible to be matched by the Government of Canada), and \$15,000 for the roof.

The farm project of Brora United Church began as a dream by a small group of farm families. Hard work, determination, and generosity of time, donated goods, and money made a miracle come true. Whenever they look at their new church roof, church members are reminded that their gifts are also bearing fruit around the world.

***Every gift to the church's mission and service is used wisely and helps transform lives. Please continue to give generously.***