

### Minister's Ponderings:

As I read the Annual Report for 2021, I realized that even in a pandemic there was a lot of work and ministry happening here at St. Paul's. Thank you so much to all of you who continued to be the church and live your faith. Do take time to go through the report, which is an accountability report to let the congregation know what all has happened over the past year. It is attached to this email and will also be available online. Even better, read it and have it ready when you join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 27, 2022. God is with us and walks with us through all things. Thanks be to God.



### Worship:

This Sunday, join us as we Bless the Prayer Shawls and worship together. We have new music piece sung by a member of St. Paul's choir, Debbie Just. To worship with us, visit our website at [www.stpaulsmidland.org](http://www.stpaulsmidland.org) and use the direct YouTube link at the top of the page, or simply go to YouTube and subscribe to our channel. Just type in "St. Paul's Midland" and you will find us. If you are on Facebook, you can get St. Paul's updates that way as well. Check us out on both our new website and FaceBook.

### St. Paul's Zoom Coffee Hour:

The next ZOOM Coffee Hour is this **Sunday February 13, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** We invite you all to join. You can use the same link as before:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969004401>



### Congregational News/Updates:

It is with sadness that I announce the passing of Arlene Staruck on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was a very long-time member of the congregation and worshipped with us up until the time she went in a long-term care facility. Although she has no remaining immediate family members, please keep her friends and all who mourn her death in your thoughts and prayers.

## Annual Report and Annual General Meeting – February 27, 2022:

On Sunday, **Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**, we will be having our Annual General Meeting **via ZOOM**. The link will be the same one as the Coffee Hour Zoom link. Our shorter Coffee hour will continue following the meeting. Please take note that your **Annual Report** is attached to this email, as mentioned earlier in this update. You will need it for the meeting. For those who **do not have internet service**, the Annual Report, Meeting Agenda and Meeting motions will be sent to you and you will have the ability to vote by mail. More information will be provided next week. Please take the time to read the reports of our various committees, the Nomination report and Financial Statements. Mark your calendar and plan on joining us.

## Transition Steering Team (TST) Update:

The TST met by zoom on Tuesday February 8, 2022 to review Public health Guidance as it pertains to churches, and to develop plans for a gradual re-introduction of groups into our building and into our Sanctuary.

The Team made the following decisions:

- St. Paul's small groups and committees, as well as the Scouts and Pathfinders may resume meeting in the building immediately. The requirements for proof of full vaccination, masking, hand sanitizing and distancing are still in place. Meeting participants are asked to bring indoor footwear and leave their boots in the Atrium; to wipe down the space they use, including their assigned washroom; and to ensure refuse is placed in the appropriate containers.
- Other groups such as Sistema and Vox may begin meeting in the building once they have completed a usage contract and conveyed their plans for keeping participants safe. These groups' participants are asked to bring indoor footwear and leave their boots in the Atrium; to wipe down the space they use, including their assigned washroom; and ensure refuse is placed in the appropriate containers.
- Church services will resume at the call of the Worship Committee, likely sometime in mid March. Proof of vaccination, masking, hand sanitizing and distancing will remain in place until further notice. Please download your QR code if you're able, to simplify our screening process when we return to in-person services. We look forward to some solos, duets or quartets from our choir members, now that they are allowed to do so when church resumes - and they are ready.
- Bruce Wilcox will be organizing some volunteer cleaning help since we are currently without a custodian. If you are willing to help out, please contact Bruce or the Church Administrator, Louise Therrien.

Louise Leck, Chairperson

## Men's Breakfast Gathering:

Our next men's breakfast group via Zoom will be on **Saturday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** The Zoom link is included below. Gather with the guys while having your coffee or breakfast at home. All men are welcome to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89829828219?pwd=WmtONDZKNm91c0svSTNZbzV6aitLUT09>

**Meeting ID: 898 2982 8219**

**Passcode: 995643**

## World Day of Prayer

**World Day of Prayer** will take place Friday March 4th at 2PM in person at Midland Alliance Church, 829 Yonge Street in Midland with COVID protocols in place. It will also be available on-line at <https://machurch.ca>. Guest speaker will be Lois Belsey, a retired Missionary.

## This Week's Minute for Mission:

**GOD'S MISSION**  
**OUR GIFTS**

Thank you for showing love for neighbours at home and around the world.



Love the way God loves. That's arguably what Jesus' whole ministry was about, and it's summarized in his most travelled quote: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)

We want to thank you—our amazing Mission & Service supporters—for showing love for neighbours at home and around the world. Thank you for turning compassion into action.

Since the pandemic struck, you have helped raise over \$500,000 in emergency gifts to support Mission and Service partners. Your generosity helps deliver personal protective equipment, distribute food, install sanitation stations, and support education programs to help prevent and control the spread of the virus.

What's more, through our Gifts with Vision catalogue, we have provided over 8,360 full vaccinations to those who need them most across the globe. Altogether, that's over \$750,000 in COVID relief. Amazing!

Once again this year, your local region (Shining Waters) will receive \$240,000 to support Mission & Service partners near you. From coast to coast, our partners are

helping record numbers of families in need. Your generosity through Mission & Service is providing shelter to Canadians without a home, serving nutritious meals to families struggling to make ends meet, offering critical pastoral care in hospitals and schools, and extending life-changing education and job training opportunities.

Thank you for joining with members across our United Church to show and share love. Thank you for loving your neighbour. Your generosity is a blessing.

## **Blessings everyone,**

Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, Minister, St. Paul's United Church 705-433-1224

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