



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – June 23, 2022

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### Worship – UCW Sunday

This Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UCW, with a special service prepared for the occasion. Colleen is leading the service and our speaker is Caroline Hendry. Sharon Foster will be leading the music with Victoria at the piano. Judy McConnell, Zena Pendlebury, Victoria Tovell and Lenore Price are candle lighters.

**Worship with us in person** at 10:00 a.m. or on-line, 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. We start live-streaming at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

### Office hours

**Current office hours** are Wednesday and Thursdays only, until the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Colleen is in the office on Wednesday mornings and Louise is there on Thursday mornings, both from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Just a reminder that Louise works from home the balance of the time and can always be reached at her home number at 705-526-1640 or by e-mail at [stpaulsunity@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunity@rogers.com) on Wednesday and Thursdays.

**Please note that due to vacation, there will be no weekly update next Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. The next update will be on July 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**In case of a pastoral emergency** while Karen is on holidays/sabbatical time, please contact our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, **Colleen Gareau at 705-427-9630** or the **Rev. Lois Brown** from Unity United Church in Vasey at **705-816-2570**. Should you need to contact Louise Therrien, our Church Administrator, she can be reached at **705-526-1640 on Wednesdays and Thursdays only** during July and August, or by email at [stpaulsunity@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunity@rogers.com)

**A Celebration of Life** for **Harold Robert Bertram** (July 4, 1943 - May 4, 2021) will take place in St. Paul's Sanctuary on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch in the Great Hall. Harold, along with Velma, were so engaged with our congregation. The Mr. and Mrs. Club, later to be renamed the Fellowship Club, was their passion. Harold was active in the congregation and often stepped in to help out in many of the church activities.

**Our condolences** go out to John and Debbie McGrory on the passing of John's sister Helen this past week. Our thoughts and prayers are with the McGrory family.

### Congregational Life

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our Faith and Fellowship fundraising dinner this week. **We raised \$569.00**, which will go towards church expenses. A special thanks to Sheila and her dedicated team of volunteers (Betty Ann Bell, Lenore Price, Sue Dorion, Gail Wilcox, Gerry Payne, Deb McGrory and Jean Stainton) who made all of this happen.

## Discovery Kids

Discovery Kids are back in person every Sunday. Families are asked to take their children directly upstairs, where Rebecca is looking forward to seeing them.

**Camp Awesome** registration is now open! All children ages 5-12 are invited! You do not need to be a regular St. Paul's Discovery Kids participant to register. Camp dates: August 8-12 from 9:00-11:30am each day at St. Paul's United Church. For more information or to register, please contact Rebecca at 226-339-8218.

## Calling all Campers!



Once again, **Camp Simpresca** is open to campers this summer.

Financial assistance is available from St. Paul's to help with registration fees to send children to the camp. For more information, call Louise at 705-526-1640 or email the church office at [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com).

You can also check out the Camp Simpresca website at <https://simpresca.camp/what-we-do/> to see what's available.

## This Week's Minute for Mission

**GOD'S MISSION  
OUR GIFTS**

Saidath Murorunkwere (middle row, second from the right) is pictured here with classmates.



Each year, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), supported through your Mission & Service gifts, invites 25-30 grassroots rural leaders from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to learn sustainable agriculture techniques at their Rural Leaders Training Centre in Tochigi, Japan. Saidath Murorunkwere is one of ARI's most recent graduates.

Like many other Rwandans, the genocide of 1994 left scars in her life. In just 100 days between April and July, an estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000

Rwandans were killed, the majority of whom were Tutsis.

"Of Saidath's extended family of nearly 200, only two aunts and a few of her siblings survived. When the Rwanda Patriotic Front forces finally stopped the genocide, Saidath, her mother, and her remaining siblings had to start over with absolutely nothing. Everything was either burned or stolen, including their 42 cows and other livestock," ARI reports.

To make ends meet through the following years, her mother sold charcoal and Saidath worked as a bus driver's assistant, opening doors for passengers and collecting fees. Many days they went without eating. Still, Saidath was determined to finish secondary school. She became a secretary and eventually studied at the University of Rwanda, where she graduated with a degree in journalism.

Despite her education, the pay was low, so she began to work as a farmer and a social worker with Defeasance, a non-governmental organization that works to fight HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, and poverty while promoting organic agricultural practices. In that role, Saidath worked with 60 farming families to build kitchen gardens.

Inspired to make an even bigger difference, she applied to ARI. "Nearly 40 percent of the population in my area lives in poverty. Small-scale farming is the major occupation, and I wanted to learn techniques and skills from ARI that I could share."

Whether it be environmental conservation, providing education, initiating microfinance programs, attaining rights for women and children or organizing aid for refugees, each student of ARI graduates with the intention to make a positive difference.

Saidath's goal is to develop more cooperatives in the community where she can pass on the skills she has learned. "With better nutrition, health will improve and children can go to school," she says.

Thank you for **supporting programs** like ARI that inspire extraordinary community leaders like Saidath to make a difference. Your generosity truly does matter.

## **Blessings everyone,**

Louise Therrien, Church Administrator – 705-526-1640 [stpaulsunity@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunity@rogers.com)