



## St. Paul's Weekly Update – July 21, 2022

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### Worship

This Sunday, July 24th, Shaun McIntosh will be leading the service. **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 on Facebook. We start live-streaming at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

### Office hours

**Current office hours** are Wednesday and Thursday 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 [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com) on Wednesday and Thursdays.

**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 [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com)

**Colleen Gareau is on vacation until July 29<sup>th</sup>** therefore the office will not be open on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Weekly updates will still be available for the volunteers to pick up from the church mailbox on Thursdays after 1 p.m. **In case of a pastoral emergency during Colleen's absence**, please call Rev. Lois Brown at Unity United Church at 705-816-2570.

### Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will be on **Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Mom's Restaurant**. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversation. All men are welcome to join.

As announced in last Sunday's Sunday service, it is with sadness that we offer our **condolences to the Truax family** on the passing of Clinton on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Clinton started at St. Paul's shortly after he was born and was active in the congregation for 92 years. He was a committed Christian and his faith was very important to him. He sang in the choir for many years, served in various capacities including the Fellowship Club. Over the years, Clint and Bev hosted the Sunday School picnic and many church garage sales at their home. A memorial service will be held at the church sometime in September. A private family graveside service has already taken place. Please keep the Truax family in your thoughts and prayers.

## **A few messages from UCW**

UCW is responsible for providing loaves of sandwiches for the Soup Kitchen on Tuesdays throughout the month of August. **We still need one loaf of sandwiches for August 30<sup>th</sup>.** If you can help, please call Sharon Foster at 705-526-7181.

UCW will be having an **indoor garage sale** at the end of September. Start cleaning out your closets etc. of unwanted items and be ready for the September 22<sup>nd</sup> drop off date. Set up will be September 23<sup>rd</sup> with the sale on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We'll be looking for lots of volunteers to help as well.

## **Congregational Life**

**Save the Date!** On **Sunday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>** we will be celebrating Colleen Gareau's ministry amongst us as our Pastoral Care Coordinator. Colleen is moving back to Brandon Manitoba and we will miss her very much. The Sunday worship service will acknowledge her ministry, followed by a social gathering at the church to allow people to say goodbye.

If you would like to contribute toward a monetary gift for Colleen, you can do so by e-transfer, by cheque (payable to St Paul's) or you can drop off cash at the church on Thursday mornings when Louise is there between 9 am and noon. This will allow Colleen and Rene to purchase something for their new home when they arrive. We are hoping that you can join us.

**Return of Social Hour in September:** We still need a few more volunteers to help our Social Hour Team Leaders for our after-church coffee hour starting in September. The team leaders are Joan Lavin, Barb and Charlie Carswell, Mike and Sue Sauve, Sheila Thompson and Victoria Tovell. If you would like to work with any of them, please let Sheila know or contact the Team Leaders directly. Team Leaders - you are also encouraged to recruit folks for your team.

We are also looking at recreating our **Usher/Greeter teams**. Over COVID, we have lost several our captains and many volunteers. If this is something you would be interested in or would like more information, please speak to Sheila.

## **A Message from your Stewardship Committee**

**An update on our Income and Expenses as of June 30, 2022**

**Income:** Budget \$127,176 Actual \$121,741

**Expenditures:** Budget \$130,984, Actual \$136,381

**Budget deficit** to June 30, 2022 - \$14,640

## **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.

## This Week's Minute for Mission

### Rising above tragedy to transform lives

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



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 Dufatanye, 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 [stpaulsunitied@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunitied@rogers.com)