

### From the Minister

I am now back from my sabbatical and holiday time. I was able to get away, reenergize, hike, bike, sail, camp and visit with family. I want to thank **all the people who volunteered while I was away**. Thank you to Louise Therrien for overseeing the Administration part of the work. To those of you who preached and assisted in worship, thank you. To Victoria Warwick who oversaw all of the Sunday worship and gave many hours to this, thank you. Thank you to Bruce Wilcox and Murray Lockhart, the Property and Stewardship committees as you continued to arrange for a new furnace and get donations towards it during the summer. To Colleen Gareau who covered all of the pastoral care in my absence, thank you.



It is with sadness that we acknowledge that Colleen Gareau, our wonderful Pastoral Care Coordinator, is moving soon. She has been with us for five years. We are also saddened to report that Colleen continues to be ill, **so we have had to cancel the goodbye celebration of her ministry this coming Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>**. Because there is now no opportunity to speak to Colleen in person, we are asking folk to write in a book on Sunday or send a note or email to the church office asap expressing your appreciation for all that she had done for us as well as any goodbye message you might want to add.

Colleen has made such a difference to our congregation. Her warm personality, deep and abiding faith and compassionate nature has won our hearts. She has reached out to so many people to touch base, share laughter and tear and pastorally assisted people through some hard times. She faithfully coordinated the Pastoral Care Visitor's Team and with them, during the pandemic, oversaw the work that made it possible to distribute the Weekly Update and Sunday Bulletins to over 50 people who are unable to receive them electronically. Prior to being our Pastoral Care Coordinator, Colleen was our Children and Youth Worker. We will miss her terribly. This coming Sunday, we do hope to publicly acknowledge her ministry and offer our gratitude during the worship service. We wish her well in her move.

**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.

### A Goodbye note from Colleen:

It is with varied emotions that I bid farewell to my church family at St. Paul's for the past five years. However, the strongest emotion is GRATITUDE. I am a firm believer that "people come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime", (author unknown) and in the walls of this church, all of those are true.



Our decision to leave our hometown of Brandon, Manitoba in 2017 was kind of a "five-year plan". We would fully immerse ourselves into this community and see if it was our "forever place" or a stop on the journey. In our married life we have moved 14 times - some due to transfers of my husband's company, and some moves within cities as we bought and sold homes. We have lived in Calgary three times, Yorkton, SK, Winnipeg, Brandon and now, Midland. The hope in moving here was that we would have ample opportunity to be in our Toronto kids' lives and to watch our one and only grandchild grow. COVID really put a stop to a lot of that visiting but we did our best with outdoor activities and lots of zooming. Neither one of us had planned to work when we came here as we had "retired" but found the cost of living here a little on the high side, which necessitated us to generate a bit of extra income.

We have strong ties to Manitoba and many family members. Many have suffered tragedy in the time we have been away, which has led us to feel pulled back towards the people who need us. My best friend's daughter died suddenly in Australia of a lung embolism in 2000. Another good church friend has lost two sons - one to cancer and one to suicide. Those were my Sunday School boys. Another good church friend has battled cancer. Our brother-in-law almost lost his life to COVID and will possibly not be able to work again. My favorite uncle in Winnipeg just passed away leaving my auntie alone with dementia and she is going to be needing a lot of support. All our family is there and as you know, family is everything. Our Toronto kids will be able to jump on a plane or us to them and still see one another a few times a year - thus our decision.

I have been involved with the United Church all my life, starting at Knox in Brandon where I went to kindergarten in the church nursery space (back in the days when there was no school division program). I attended Sunday School, Youth Group, CGIT, had dances and put on plays for the congregation in my teen years. And yes, even a "stint" in Junior Choir where the Leader couldn't decide if I was an alto or a soprano or just plain tone deaf (ha). By high school graduation, I had kind of wandered off as none of my friends or boyfriend attended church and several years went by when we married and had our first child. Suddenly it was like I was struck by lightning, "What are we going to do about church?" I searched out the closest United Church in the area, which happened to be Charleswood United in Winnipeg. I remember meeting with the minister and telling him that I couldn't really offer much, financially or in person, as I had a four-month old colicky baby. He said that my time would come and God would lead me where I was meant to be. The first volunteer opportunity I took on was picking up three elderly ladies from a nursing home and driving them to and from church, which we all looked forward to each week. Following a move to Calgary and baby #2, I was drawn to pastoral care and enrolled in my first Caring Ministry course. A few years later and back to our hometown was when I began to work as Sunday School Coordinator and eventually a Staff Associate and never looked back.

What I want you to know is that St. Paul's United is definitely the kindest, friendliest and most welcoming church I have ever been a part of. My husband moved here a few weeks ahead of me to get our new home ready and kept encouraging me to "church shop". There's Trinity in Vasey, there's Ebenezer, there's St. Paul's - you have choices! Well I never made it anywhere but here. I walked in on a hot July summer Sunday and Bev was preaching. I instantly felt at home. The Metzgars invited me to sit with them, as did Jane Graham and her brother. I wasn't going to stay for coffee hour but they basically pushed me down the steps and am I ever glad they did. I met so many people that day and immediately began to feel a little less

homesick. So to you, St. Paul's, keep doing what you're doing. Know that you make a difference in people's lives each and every day. That just an invitation, kind word in the aisle of Valumart or a card saying "thinking of you" brightens up any day.

Here are a few things I've learned and I hope you'll take them to heart. I have learned that there are NO FRIENDS in the world like church friends - the folks you interact with on your faith journey. Over the years, I've had circles of Nursery School friends, Parent Council friends, Hockey friends, Book Club friends, and on and on. Church friends are there for the long haul and in the tough times as well as the good. Hold onto your Church friends and cherish them. For those of you who have adult children and/or grandchildren in the area....INVITE them to church, even one Sunday a month. Tell them how much it would mean to you. ASK if they would help with coffee hour or greeting. REMIND them how they were welcomed and supported through their formative years here at St. Paul's. In the blink of an eye, it can be over. My home church in Brandon was not able to sustain itself during COVID and the congregation were forced to disband and they sold the building to a Muslim congregation. Please do everything possible to make sure that doesn't happen here - in 5 or 10 or 20 years.

Thank you for letting me into your lives. I know I would not have made it here if it weren't for the church. May God continue to bless you. I'll be watching online and likely on the Zoom coffee hours if you don't mind a Manitoba girl joining in! Till we meet again!

## Office hours

**Current office hours** are Thursdays only, until the week of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Louise is in the office Thursday mornings, 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.

## Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will be **this Saturday August 27<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.



## Congregational Life

**Save the date:** Please join the **2022 St. Paul's Car Rally** to be held Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, following worship - 11:15 on the church lawn. We will pass out the bag lunch and the route, then send you off. Our first stop is a lovely place for a picnic lunch, weather permitting - if the weather is inclement, we will deal with that if we must. Please bring a lawn chair and your beverage of choice. The cost is \$20.00 per person, payable to Louise by cheque or e-transfer.

We are still working on getting our **Usher/Greeter teams** in place. 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.



**The UCW is having an indoor garage sale** on September 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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.

## Our Church Family in the News



**Spotlight on Shaya Brown:** This article appeared on [torontolife.com](https://torontolife.com/city/the-new-hollywood-north-shayla-brown/?fbclid=IwAR1jOISRm6-MaeDkncPLpAzfuE0Wd2rrDNKHNB-ch_IH5OpTW-7HtligOOK).  
[https://torontolife.com/city/the-new-hollywood-north-shayla-brown/?fbclid=IwAR1jOISRm6-MaeDkncPLpAzfuE0Wd2rrDNKHNB-ch\\_IH5OpTW-7HtligOOK](https://torontolife.com/city/the-new-hollywood-north-shayla-brown/?fbclid=IwAR1jOISRm6-MaeDkncPLpAzfuE0Wd2rrDNKHNB-ch_IH5OpTW-7HtligOOK)

**Congratulations Shayla, your St. Paul's family is so very proud of you!!**

**'There is palpable excitement': Four Midland-area choirs merge to form Bay Sound, led by our Choir Director, Victoria Warwick.**

<https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/10689655--there-is-palpable-excitement-four-midland-area-choirs-merge-to-form-bay-sound/>

**Congratulations Victoria!**



## This Week's Minute for Mission

**GOD'S MISSION  
OUR GIFTS**

The oldest Methodist building—and one of the oldest churches—in Canada

Since Jesus first walked on this earth, Christians have been spiritually drawn to make pilgrimages to places connected to his birth, life, crucifixion, resurrection, and legacy. Today, pilgrimage hot spots include Oberammergau in Germany, Lourdes and Taizé in

France, and of course the Holy Land.

Here in Canada, thousands of Christian pilgrims make their way to the small town of Napanee, ON, to visit Old Hay Bay Church each year. The last Sunday in August is the highlight of the season, when the church hosts its annual pilgrimage service.

What's the attraction? It's a mix of the history, scenery, spiritual connection, and community.

An unassuming building clad with greyed wood siding and wide doors that open to a plain but sturdy sanctuary, Old Hay Bay Church was originally built on the shoreline of Hay Bay, which connects to the Bay of Quinte, in 1792. It is the oldest Methodist building—and one of the oldest churches—in Canada. Now, it belongs to The United Church of Canada, and your generosity through Mission & Service helps ensure that it will continue to be a place of pilgrimage for years to come.

Elaine Farley, chair of the Board of Trustees and one of the church's custodians, explains that the building, originally referred to as the "meeting house," was the centre of the rapid growth of Methodism and hosted the first camp meeting in 1805. "Methodism grew into the largest Protestant group in Canada and was the largest communion that became the United Church in 1925," she says. "The Founders reflect any United Church congregation today. They came from various countries of origin and had a wide variety of skills and knowledge, but together they made a strong voice, speaking of God, their community, and their future."

Farley warns that she could enthusiastically "go on and on" about why the small church in rural Ontario is so important, but she sums it up with three short sentences: "Old Hay Bay Church has earned its place in the history of Methodism and The United Church of Canada. It is not just a building but also a sacred place of our ancestors, as well as a pilgrimage place for us and our descendants. It has a special place in peoples' hearts."

Thank you for helping to preserve important historical, theological, and pilgrimage sites through your [Mission & Service](#) gifts.

## **Blessings everyone,**

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