

### From the Minister – Growing Together

As it began to appear that we were struggling financially, the Stewardship Committee quickly met with the Official Board and relayed to the congregation that we needed to work together to grow our congregation, our givings and our faith.



It takes faith to trust that God is with us and to know that we will get things turned around. I have marvelled at the way people have stepped forward, offering not just some financial assistance if they are able but also to volunteer to work together to put in place some plans to enable us to move forward. This includes those who have and continue to give us their time and others who have taken the time to give us their ideas, while others have been praying that we will find a way forward. It has created a new sense of purpose that we have an important ministry here at St. Paul's. It has also reminded us all that "many hands make light work" and that together with God, we can grow and find our way in these unprecedented times. So, I ask you to ponder, to pray, to volunteer, to give what you can and join the team as we work together.

I would appreciate it if you would be willing to email me with your stories of how St. Paul's has made a difference in your life.

### Worship

I want to thank Victoria Warwick and the Bay Sounds Children's and Vivo choirs for joining us for worship last Sunday. What a joy to have them back with us sharing their gift of music. If you missed that service, it is still on YouTube for viewing. Come join us each week. We love having you join us whether in person or online. For those worshipping online, if you would like to make a donation, there is a donation button on our website at the bottom of the following page:

<https://www.stpaulsmidland.org/give>



<https://youtube.com/live/9ZZGUdHn1QE?feature=share>

**Worship with us in person** on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. or online. Click the link above to go directly to the service or visit our website at [www.stpaulsmidland.org](http://www.stpaulsmidland.org)

### Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place **this Saturday April 29<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.

## In-Person Coffee Hour

Join us on **Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>** after the worship service for our next in-person coffee hour. We will continue to gather in-person on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month.



## No Zoom Coffee Hour on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>

There will be **no ZOOM coffee hour** on **Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>**. The participants who often join us have suggested that because it is Mother's Day, we should not have the zoom coffee hour that day.

## Take-Out/Eat-In Dinner

We would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for our dinner on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and to everyone who worked hard to prepare the delicious meal. We hope it was thoroughly enjoyed. All together, we raised \$942 for the church. Stay tuned for details as to when our next dinner will be.

## Congregational News

We want to express our condolences to Carol MacDonald and her family on the death of Carol's husband Graham, who passed away on Wed. April 26<sup>th</sup>. Carol is an active member of our congregation. Carol, along with Christina Strong, oversee the work of creating and maintaining our beautiful gardens. Please keep the MacDonald family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Memorial Service for George Leck.** The Memorial/Celebration of Life service for George Leck is on Fri. Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. You are invited to join the family in person or online. Below is the link that will take you to his service either on that day or at a later date.



<https://youtube.com/live/daMrVjD5x30?feature=share>

**Family, Fun and Games Night:** This all-ages event will take place on **Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Paul's in the Great Hall. Please bring your favourite card and board games and enjoy an evening playing with your friends. Pizza will be provided!

**Vox Community Choir** presents "The Gift of Music – Music for Mom in May" on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Johnstone's Music Land, from VOX Choir members and will also be available at the door.

**Volunteers Wanted:** We are also looking for volunteers who would be willing to work with Karen and the Worship Team to record some outdoor Acknowledgements of the Land. Please contact Karen if you are interested. We also need one or two artists to assist in a project that will be used for Pentecost Sunday.

**Gerry Payne is the Captain of the Greeters** for the month of April. Thanks to Gerry and to all our greeters and ushers.

**A Candlelight Vigil** will be held at the Midland Cenotaph on Wednesday, **May 10th**, at 7:00 p.m. The St. Paul's Choir, Bay Sound Choir and VIVO Choir will be singing at this event.

## **This Week's Minute for Mission**



### **Being at camp solidified Bill Darnell's strong connection with the natural world.**

None of us can go a single day without having an impact on someone's life. We can't always predict how what we do to help change someone's life might wind up changing ours, too.

**GOD'S MISSION  
OUR GIFTS**

Take Bill Darnell, for instance. Bill's love affair with nature started from his time at camp, but it didn't end there. His childhood experience of camp wound up inspiring one of the world's most influential environmental movements.

"Camping had a big effect on me. I grew up in suburbia and didn't have much access to the natural world. Camping was an opportunity to go out and be in nature. It was amazing. Being at camp solidified my strong connection with the natural world," he says.

Bill's early camp experience instilled such a love of nature that when he became an adult, he became an environmental activist. "When I was 25 years old, not far removed from my years in camp, I saw that they were testing nuclear weapons. That was so obviously wrong that I felt I had to do something to stop it," he says.

So, Bill and a small group of friends anxiously climbed on board an 85-foot fishing boat later dubbed Greenpeace. Together, they set sail for Alaska to stop the testing of a nuclear bomb. As a result, Greenpeace as a movement was born. Bill's story proves that camping experiences in childhood can lead to a lifelong commitment to care for God's creation.

As scientists and activists sound the alarm around climate change and experts report that not spending enough time outside is having an impact on our children's health and well-being, outdoor ministry has never been more crucial. It's just one of the many reasons why Mission & Service really matters.

Your Mission & Service gifts support over two dozen United Church-run camps across the country. Every year, your generosity gives thousands of children an opportunity to go to camp. There, they learn life skills, meet other campers, explore faith, and spend time outside.

Like Bill, some young people may leave camp so impressed by the natural environment that they are motivated to get on board a movement to take care of it. "Camping made an incredible difference in my life. I know it will make an incredible difference to young people across Canada. I give thanks to those who support it," Bill says.

### **Blessings everyone,**

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**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, (Tues. Wed. Thurs.) **705-526-1640**  
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Louise works at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays only.

**Office Secretary** – Jane Quigley (Tues. Thurs.) mornings 9:00 a.m. - 12 at the church.  
**705-526-6077.**