

From the Chair of the Official Board – Sue Dorion

On behalf of the Official Board of St. Paul's, I want to inform you that I received Karen Ptolemy-Stam's letter stating she will retire May 31st, 2024, which also marks 40 years of ordination! She is doing so at this time to allow us eight months to establish a committee to search for a new minister, as it can be quite a lengthy process. So...she's not going anywhere just yet! It is certainly with mixed feelings that I received this letter on your behalf, addressed to both myself and Carolyn Hendry, our Chair of M&P, but of course I'm sure you will join me in wishing her well as she embarks on this next chapter of her life.

From the Minister

As you just read, I will be retiring at the end of May, 2024. At that time, I will have served St. Paul's just a few months shy of thirteen years. May 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of my ordination. I think it is time for me to move on to another chapter of my life. It has been an honour and a privilege to be your minister all these years. I love being part of the work and ministry of St. Paul's in this wonderful congregation. Walking the path of Christ with you is life giving. There is a spirit here that I value greatly. I am not leaving right away. I look forward to continuing here until the end of May.

Worship

This coming Sunday is World Communion Sunday. It is always a special service as we are reminded that on this Sunday, we join with Christian congregations around the world to celebrate and remember that we are all one in Christ. Please join us.



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



This year, Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known: that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children. On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations. We are

invited by the United Church of Canada to wear our orange shirts on Friday, Sept. 29th and Sat. Sept. 30th to stand in solidarity and with compassionate hearts as we listen to these painful stories that are so traumatizing.

Dairy Farm Tour – This Sunday – October 01

Please join us for our **Dairy Farm Tour this Sunday, October 1st** at 2:00 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. at the church if you wish to carpool. This tour is at Shady Glen Farms located at 1489 Ron Jones Road in Tay Township and will take approximately one hour. This is an all-ages event and there is no cost. This is a modern dairy farm operation including milking machines and with lots of jersey cows. If you're interested, a short drive will take you to Autumn Harvest Farm at 1470 Old Fort Road, where there are gourds and pumpkins for sale. Bring your cameras. Contact Sheila at 705-526-2186 or rmsmt2612@gmail.com for further details.



Welcome Back Discovery Kids!

Welcome back from the summer to all our Discovery Kids (DK) families! You may have noticed that there is a rotation of teacher volunteers who are helping Rebecca to teach the Sunday DK lessons. Each teacher has been carefully selected by the Faith Formation Committee and is prepared to teach our St. Paul's DK curriculum. Each teacher produces a Vulnerable Sector Check. Rebecca continues to be our Children and Youth Coordinator. Any questions and ideas can be directed to her by email, text or call rebeccaamadei@gmail.com (226) 339-8218.

Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will take place this **Saturday, Sept. 30^h** 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

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday**, October 1st, following worship.



Office Hours

The office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until noon.

Christmas Youth Musical Auditions

DUDE, YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Christmas time is filled with sound! Sometimes so much sound and noise that we can hardly hear the real message of Christmas.

In the hustle and bustle at a crowded “Mondo-Mart” filled with shoppers, shy Taylor and the rest of her youth group have stopped for some last-minute snacks on their way to a fun Christmas camp. Taylor – not much for talking, but a great hide & seek player – has found the perfect hiding place. So perfect, in fact, that she doesn’t notice when the rest of the group boards the bus and the store is closed for the night! Hard to tell who is more surprised – Taylor, when she emerges from her hiding place, or the fun-loving store mannequins who break their silence assuming that once again, the store is theirs for the night.

Taylor quickly discovers that everything store mannequins know about Christmas is what they’ve heard over the PA system during the Christmas season, and boy are they misinformed! And the not-so-high-tech night watchmen listening in from outside the store are nearly as confused as the mannequins.

“Dude, You Hear What I Hear?” is a rollicking adventure for kids that ensures that nobody will miss out on hearing the REAL Christmas story! The hippest music you’ll hear in a kids’ musical this season, a fun story and a Biblical message that you’ve got to experience!

If you know of a young person who would like to be involved in this production, please email me at Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com. Auditions will be held this Saturday, September 30 at noon at St Paul’s, and regular rehearsals will be on Saturdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. with the performance Sunday morning, December 10 as part of our Worship service.

Bible Study – Deepening our Spiritual Lives

Are you interested in diving deeper into the scripture readings that we hear each Sunday? If so, we are happy to announce that there will be a St. Paul’s Bible Study group meeting each Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. beginning on October 5. The group will meet in the upstairs Room of Requirement and will be facilitated by Shaun McIntosh, our student minister. All are welcome and those who are interested or have questions can reach out to Shaun at spuc.studentminister@gmail.com.

U.C.W. Gathering

The **United Church Women** (UCW) will meet on Tuesday October 10th at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlour. All ladies of the congregation are welcome! This month's speaker is Charlie Carswell, who will be talking to us about the amazing organ we have at St. Paul's!

Congregational Life

We would like to thank everyone who purchased meals for our **take-out dinner** on September 27th and to our dedicated team of volunteers who worked to prepare the hearty meal. We hope it was thoroughly enjoyed. We will update you next week on how much we raised for the work of the church.

Volunteers Making the Difference

Prioritizing our Faith Commitment to Outreach Renewal

Thank you for all the support and enthusiasm that was shared on Sunday at our “Survey Results-Living Our Faith” luncheon. Special thanks to the UCW for the lovely lunch and the crew that set up.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of you who have helped in the past and continue to help with St. Paul's Outreach. I know that there is quiet work being done every day that supports our faith followers and the greater community. THANK-YOU!

After reviewing the results of the survey, seven top priorities were identified. The St. Paul's community gathered for lunch and were engaged in the process to decide outreach projects that will receive the greatest use of our resources and energies. The priorities are as follows:

Family Initiatives, Visiting at home faithfuls/loneliness/pastoral care, Compassionate Community Team, Lifelong learning-speaker series, Connections/Grief Groups, Refugee/Newcomer.

The complete survey results are attached as a separate document. We will still need some help, so please share our ideas with your friends and neighbours. If someone wants more information about how they might help, please connect Kathy Stewart at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com OR call the church at 705-526-6077 and leave a message and she will certainly get back to you.

This Week's Minute for Mission

GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS



When we think of education, many of us envision a classroom with books and chalkboards. But education extends far beyond that: Through education, we can also learn how the world works and how we work in the world.

The Women and Family Services division at the Church of Christ in Congo provides children with the education and training they need to take charge of their own lives when they leave school. With a combination of traditional education and life skills, they provide each child with the skillset they need to thrive after graduation.

Through funding, livestock and seeds are purchased to teach children sustainable agriculture. Older children have the opportunity to assist with livestock after their classes. They learn to care for chickens and take part in odd jobs in the fields.

Your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) helps fund programs that inspire learning and skills for life. Thank you.

Blessings everyone,

Minister – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, St. Paul's United Church **705-433-1224**,
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Church Administrator – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church),
stpaulsunited@rogers.com **705-526-1640 (home office)**

Office Secretary – Judy McConnell (Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00)
officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com 705-526-6077

Music Director - Victoria Warwick – Warwick.victoria130@gmail.com

Children and Youth Co-ordinator – Rebecca Amadei rebeccaamadei@gmail.com

Volunteer Co-Ordinator – Kathy Stewart – volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com

Student Minister - Shaun McIntosh spuc.studentminister@gmail.com

Technical Services Co-ordinator - Glenn Erwin glerwin@live.ca

Custodian – Jim Lamers – contact church office