

### **From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam**

This week is National Volunteer Appreciation week. There is a song that says, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is it's people." You and I are the church. We come together for the work and ministry of Christ which calls us to love God, ourselves, and others. It is a community of faith that seeks to make a difference in the world and in our own lives. The church is dependent on the people who are part of this community. It is a vision that Jesus had. It is not a corporation or an institution. It is real people reaching out from a set of values that are based in spiritual ideals of love, compassion, justice and working for peace.

St. Paul's is dependent on the gifts each one brings to contribute to the larger good in the name of our God. Our volunteers give of their time, talents and wisdom serving on various committees, serving coffee, visiting others, hammering nails, shovelling snow, sharing faith with children and youth, writing grant proposals, assisting with worship and congregational life events, gardening. The list goes on and on and on. Some of our volunteers are quite visible, while others are behind the scenes counting our offering, making phone calls, baking cookies, getting estimates and having conversations with contractors.

We truly appreciate every minute and moment that you share of your time. A huge thank you to all of you who make St. Paul's the church that it is. We are the church. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all who have rsvp'd and will joining us for the dinner that we have been advertising for weeks. It is a chance to say thank you and to celebrate the work and ministry of Christ in this place.

### **Worship – Sunday, Apr. 14, 2024**

This coming Sunday we will be welcoming two new members and baptizing two young children. Come join us for this service of celebration and commitment to work the path of faith together.



[https://youtube.com/live/SCN\\_qYXSaHE?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/SCN_qYXSaHE?feature=share)

### **St. Paul's website**

Want to know what's going on St. Paul's? Visit our **website** at <https://www.stpaulsmidland.org/> There is lots of information and worth the look. You can also follow us on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=st.%20paul%27s%20united%20church>

## Condolences

Our condolences to Carolyn Hendry and Linda Fong and their families on the recent death of their nephew from Ottawa. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

## National Volunteer Week – St. Paul’s Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thank you to the over 80 people who have registered to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner next Wed., Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>. week. We are grateful to be able to host this team building/appreciation event for all of us to gather and celebrate the work being done as we put our faith in motion within our church and the greater community. This event is being made possible through the Community Services Recovery Fund grant that we received from the Government of Canada.

## Official Board Meeting

Our next Official Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parlour. All Board members please plan to attend if you are able.

## Connecting Together

Join our group **every Thurs.** from **2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** to connect and enjoy time sharing stories, fun, fellowship and to meet new friends. If anyone can display our flyer around town or at your place of work, it would be very much appreciated. Flyers are located on the desk in the atrium. Thank you to our volunteers headed by Louise Leck who are there to support others and enjoy just connecting.

## Scouts – Venturers Supper

4<sup>th</sup> Midland Venturers are having a **tourtiere dinner** at St. Paul’s on Thurs. Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner will include homemade tourtiere, mashed potatoes, carrots, coffee/tea and homemade apple crisp, all for \$12/dinner. Tourtieres will also be available for purchase at \$16 each.



## In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee will be on **Sunday, Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>**, following worship. Be sure to join us and say your own personal thank you to Shaun McIntosh on his last Sunday as our student minister. He will then transition back to a parishioner and not student minister.

## Congregational Life

**We’re going bowling again!** Our next bowling event will be on **Friday, Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Knight Haven Bowling Lanes in Penetanguishene. All ages are welcome - juniors, seniors, families, singles, doubles. The Congregational Life committee will pay for the bowling and shoes. Snacks can be purchased at the snack bar with cash only. Please attempt to have your teams of up-to-six organized so there will be less confusion when we register. To sign up, please contact Lynne Angus at 705-529-2347.



We have been advised that Lydia Ehmcke had a special birthday this week. Lydia turned 97 on April 8<sup>th</sup>. **Happy birthday Lydia!!**

## **Save the date**

Karen's last Sunday at St. Paul's will be on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please plan to attend the service at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception in the Great Hall.

## **Butter Tart Festival Fundraiser**

Once again, St. Paul's will be holding a 'penny raffle' during this year's Butter Tart Festival **on June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider making a donation to our prize table and/or volunteering for a couple of hours that day. This was a successful fundraiser last year and we hope to do as well in 2024. Please contact Sheila at 705-526-2186 or by e-mail at [rsmst2612@gmail.com](mailto:rsmst2612@gmail.com)) for further info.



## **Lifelong Learning**

We have received many requests for information about caregiving and navigating the health care system. In response, we will be hosting guests from the Ontario Caregivers Association and a system navigator from the Couchiching Ontario Health Team. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Free Books and Binders:**

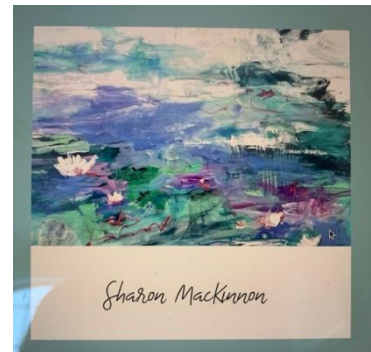
As Karen prepares to leave for retirement, she is giving away as many as 400 books to anyone who is interested. Each week she sets out more books on the counter just outside her study by the parlour. She just added another 100 books and five binders. Please come check them out and help yourself!! Take as many as you want.

## **Grandmother's Helping Hands**

Thank you so very much to the members of St. Paul's United Church for their continued commitment in our efforts to support our Sister African Grandmothers. With the support of St. Paul's and the Midland community, our proceeds of \$2,055 will be sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We are tremendously grateful for your support in our commitment. Thank you.

## **Outside Inside – Sharon MacKinnon's Art Exhibition**

Sharon MacKinnon, a member of St. Paul's, has an upcoming solo exhibition, "**OUTSIDE INSIDE**," a colourful abstract series, inspired by nature. She writes, "During the challenging times of COVID, I found solace and inspiration in creating this series. It kept me motivated and connected to the world around me, even while in hibernation. Each piece is a reflection of the resilience that surrounds us, even in the most unusual of times. I am grateful to Quest Art for the opportunity to share this exhibition with you." There is an opening Gala **this Friday, Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** The exhibition will run from **Apr. 12 to May 26, 2024**, at the Midland Cultural Centre.



## **Office Hours**

The office is open on **Tues., Wed. and Thurs.** mornings from **9:00 a.m. until noon.**

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

The Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES), a Mission and Service partner, is located in an area of Central America that is very vulnerable to climate change. This hot, dry region regularly experiences drought. Mining projects have also negatively affected the environment and the people in the region. ADES and other community organizations decided to act to protect the community's right to a healthy environment.



An example of how ADES has responded is a three-year agroecology project co-funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and The United Church of Canada Foundation, along with Mission and Service. Agroecology benefits the land and water because it recycles nutrients back into the soil. It also reduces production costs, lessening the financial burden on rural farmers.

**In this project, ADES works closely with the community to grow food in a rural region of El Salvador**, promoting sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, maintains the integrity of the land, and upholds rural culture.

At the centre of the project is the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, where rural families, mainly led by women, learn about agroecology. The school provides training, technical expertise, and seeds indigenous to the region. It focuses on preserving the surrounding environment and on upholding gender and human rights as part of its approach to food security.

Your gifts to Mission and Service help support ADES' agroecology project. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Blessings everyone**

**Minister** – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam, **705-433-1224**, [minsucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minsucmidland@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator** – Louise Therrien, (Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 at the church), [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com) **705-526-1640 (home office)**

**Administrative Assistant** – Judy McConnell (**Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00**) [officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com](mailto:officesecretaryspuc@gmail.com) 705-526-6077