

From Our Minister – Karen Ptolemy-Stam

This week I want to say a special thank you to Kathy Stewart for organizing such a lovely Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for our St. Paul's volunteers. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by many. We also appreciated our Guest Speaker, Cindy Ball, the Director of Philanthropy at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health.

This coming Sunday marks the transition for Shaun McIntosh from our student minister to a parishioner in the pew again. He is not leaving us but has successfully completed his university course requirements from Emmanuel College, the University of Toronto. Shaun continues on his path toward ordination, discerning his call to be a minister in the United Church of Canada. Please come out and hear about some of the insights of working five hours a week here and how we journeyed together in this. It has been a joy to have had Shaun in this position this past year.

We will also be celebrating Earth Day this Sunday. Click on the link below to join us online or better yet come and join us. There is an in-person Coffee Hour following the service so you can touch base with Shaun there too.

Worship – Sunday, Apr. 21, 2024



<https://youtube.com/live/ec-w5LleDAG?feature=share>

In-Person Coffee Hour

Our next in-person coffee is **this Sunday, Apr. 21st**, 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 no longer student minister.

Barb Carswell's team is hosting social hour this Sunday. Thank you to the hosts, their teams, the 'cookie volunteers' and those that help with social hour in any way. We recognize what a valuable connecting event that this is.

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>

Official Board Meeting

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

Condolences:

Our condolences go to the family of **Grace Parker** who passed away on Sun. Apr. 14th. Grace was very active at St. Paul's years ago and was staff as the Christian Education Co-Ordinator. There will be a graveside service on **Mon. May 13 at 2:00 p.m.** at Lakeview Cemetery. A funeral reception will be held at St. Paul's in the Great Hall afterward. All are invited.

James Belfry's Celebration of Life gathering will be the Quality Inn here in Midland this Saturday, Apr. 20th from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to come and offer Kim and the Belfry family their condolences. James passed away on Dec. 30th. His wife, Kim and young children are part of St. Paul's. Kim was our chair of the Faith Formation Committee.

Gather online on Earth Day, Apr. 22nd for an Earth Day Prayer Circle, Prayer for Mother Earth. As part of [Together for the Love of Creation Earth Week](#), join Indigenous Minister Rev. Tony Snow and others for a time of prayer on United Nations International Mother Earth Day. We invite voices from all faith communities, members of the For the Love Of Creation (FLC) campaign and interfaith community members into our circle to share in this time of reflection and acknowledgement of the climate crisis. Rev. Tony Snow, a member of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, serves as Indigenous Minister for the Chinook Winds Region of The United Church of Canada and is active in many FLC efforts including its ecumenical COP delegations.

Staff thank you

The M&P committee would like to extend thanks to the dedicated staff of our church for their steadfast commitment and service. Thank you to Louise, Judy, Karen, Victoria, Glenn, Rebecca, Kathy, Shaun and Jim. This team's hard work and devotion create a clean, warm, welcoming environment for all who come through our doors. We are truly blessed by their contributions which touch the lives of our community every day. We are thankful for their continued work during this time of transition. Thank you for being such an integral part of our church family.

Congregational Life – Bowling Fri. Apr. 26th RSVP

We're going bowling again! Our next bowling event will be on **Friday, Apr. 26th** 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.



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast gathering is this **Sat. Apr. 27th at 9:00 a.m.** at Mom's Restaurant. Gather with the guys for some food, fellowship and interesting conversations. All men are welcome.

Save the date

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

Red Dresses Needed:



Once again St. Paul's joins with our Indigenous people to mourn and remember the many murdered and missing Indigenous women. The red dresses will be hung in our trees for two weeks and on May 5th, we will acknowledge this tragic part of Canadian reality. If you have a red dress that you are no longer wearing and would be willing to donate it to the church, we would appreciate it. You can bring it in on Sunday or this coming week during office hours.

Thank you in advance.

Butter Tart Festival Fundraiser

Once again, St. Paul's will be holding a 'penny raffle' during this year's Butter Tart Festival **on June 8th**. 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 rmsmt2612@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.

I know that many of you have enjoyed the Lifelong Learning events. As I look to the end of my tenure at St. Paul's, I am wondering if anyone would want to help out on this committee. At present there are three of us who have organized the speaking events and we would love some extra help. We have lots of good ideas for the future! Please e-mail Kathy Stewart at volunteerspucmidland@gmail.com if this is something that is of interest to you.

Guest House Shelter-Volunteer Appreciation

If you are one of the volunteers who help with the meal preparation or helped with the Coldest Night of the Year event, please help yourself to a "thank you" gift from their volunteer coordinator, Darlene. Just slide the glass open on the right side of the big display case in the atrium and help yourself to a key chain.

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

We would like to share a wonderful thank-you letter we received from Bissell Centre, a Mission and Service partner located in Edmonton. We're sharing it with you with deep gratitude and thanks for your generosity.



Thank you to the wonderful people of The United Church of Canada. It's with gifts like yours that we're able to meet people facing poverty and houselessness where they're at. We look forward to collecting and sharing more stories with you, like this one about Jon:

Jon is one of the community members at Bissell Centre and has a passion (and talent) for art. In fact, he's been named Bissell's artist in residence. His work has been commissioned by Bissell to provide an authentic, community-made element to our event advertising, our annual impact reports and several donor thank-you gifts.

His pieces often feature powerful imagery drawn from his Indigenous heritage and always in a spirit of celebration. His art was the focal point of the event poster for Bissell's celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day [in 2022]. Inspired by the love and support he has received, Jon wanted a way to give back.

He designed, organized and now facilitates a weekly art program called "Good Art." In the workshops he guides people to express themselves in a healthy way through art that means something to them. Folks are encouraged to share about the art they make at the end of each workshop as way to build and strengthen community.

Your support provided a space for this to happen, and your gifts are having a palpable impact in the lives of Edmontonians facing poverty and houselessness.

Blessings everyone

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