



St. Paul's Weekly Update – Oct. 27, 2022

From the Minister

Great news! I am so relieved to be able to tell you that our Afghani family have arrived safely in Canada. They came on Wed. Oct. 26th and are living with family members for now here in Midland. There are two sisters who have arrived. One of the sisters is single and her name is Maryam Nabizada. The other sister is Mali Rahimi who is married Asaf Hidari and they have three children. The youngest is Mostafa Hidari. Their daughter is the middle child and her name is Fatmah Hidari. The oldest is a son called Mohammad Raza Hidari. This family of six have lived in fear, not only in Afghanistan, but also in Tajikistan, where they fled and sought refugee status. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they adjust to a new country. The refugee committee is meeting with them on Oct. 27th to welcome them. May God continue to guide us as we seek to support refugees who have lost everything and hope only to be safe and begin a new life.

Worship

Worship with us in person at 10:00 a.m. or on-line. Visit our website at 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.

Our annual **Foodgrains Campaign** will continue until Nov. 30th. Once again, we will match all donations from our Trust Funds, up to a maximum of \$2,675.00. Please consider making a donation. You can donate by cash, cheque (made payable to St. Paul's United Church) or by e-transfer. For every dollar that you give the Canadian government matches it 4 to 1.



Men's Breakfast Gathering

Our next men's breakfast gathering will be on **Saturday October 29th 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.

St. Paul's Coffee Hour

There will be no Coffee Hour this week. Please join us next **Sunday November 6th** in the Great Hall after Worship. All are welcome. Please note that there is no coffee hour on Sun. Oct. 30th as it is the 5th Sunday of the month.



Office Hours

The office is now open again on **Tuesday and Thursday mornings** between **9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon.**

Thank you from the Music Director

I wish to thank everyone involved in the fundraising concert that took place Saturday night Oct. 22nd. Thank you to St. Paul's choir for hosting the event and for performing so beautifully. Thank you to all who were involved in many capacities, from sound and tech to taking up offering and beyond. I also wish to thank the other groups performing – it was a wonderful collaboration, not to be missed!

Thank you, finally, to all who attended and gave so generously. We raised just over \$4,000 toward our new boiler! Well done and thank you so much.

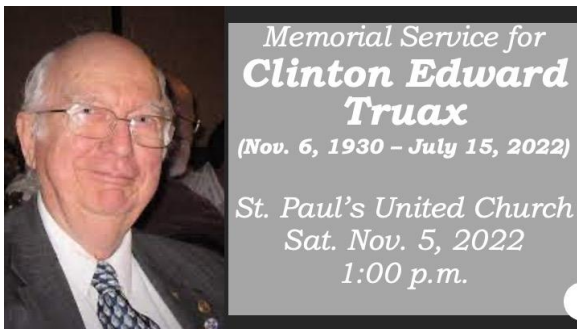
Victoria

Congregational Life

A big thank you to the great gardeners who helped winterize our gardens (Gail Wilcox, Gerry Payne, Jim Sinclair and Bruce Wilcox). All is now good until Spring.

Also thank you to everyone who purchased meals in support of our Faith and Fellowship fundraising dinner this week. We raised \$747, which will go towards church expenses. A special thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers, Sheila Thompson, Sue Dorion, Gail Wilcox, Donna Earl, Lenore and Ivan Price and Gerry Payne, who made all of this happen.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CLINTON TRUAX:



Please join us on Sat. Nov 5th at 1:00 p.m. at the church for Clint's service. For those who are unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed and then available on our St. Paul's Midland YouTube channel.

PASTORAL CARE:

If you know of anyone who is in hospital or in need of pastoral care please contact me, Karen at 705-433-1224.

UCW

The UCW meets on **Tuesday, November 8th** at **1:30pm** in the Parlour. Doreen Gunson will be the guest speaker. All women are welcome!

Faith Formation

Discovery Kids are invited back into the Sanctuary for the Theme Conversation and Christ Candle lighting at the beginning of each service. Children will go up to DK as a group for lessons after that.

Furnace update:

Our furnace is now fully operational and Murphy has left the building! **To date, we have raised \$54,465 of the \$85,000.** We are grateful for all donations already received. In order to meet our target of paying for new furnace equipment we need to continue our campaign. If you are able to assist it would be greatly appreciated.

Outreach

Interested in social justice? Working with the marginalized? Feeding the hungry? The Outreach committee is starting back up with regular meetings in November and would like to invite you to consider joining them as part of St. Paul's outreach to our community and global community. Please contact the office if you are interested.

This Week's Minute for Mission

**GOD'S MISSION
OUR GIFTS**



An awakening. That's how Sarah Arthurs describes what she experienced just before she came up with the idea for "Green Exodus"—gatherings of people who find themselves falling deeply in love with Earth and want to help it flourish.

"Back in 2008, partly due to the influence of former Moderator the Very Reverend Bill Phipps, my family and I moved into Prairie Sky Cohousing Cooperative to maintain a smaller footprint on the earth," explains Arthurs. She figured that with that, she had done her part.

"With the move, it was as if I said to the Earth, 'Don't call me—I'll call you,'" she says. Then, in 2019, she read articles in The Tyee magazine by William Rees, originator of the carbon footprint model. "He described how technology was not going to save us from the destruction of climate change, and it was as if the Earth came calling! I was left with new awareness and big questions," she says.

Those questions evolved into the idea for Green Exodus gatherings.

With help from an Embracing the Spirit grant supported through your Mission & Service gifts, the support of EDGE Network and an advisory team Green Exodus, meetings were born.

Throughout the pandemic, the group met online to explore the spiritual questions raised by climate change and the theologies and spiritual practices that were emerging as a result.

"We used various practices to realign our relationship with Earth. Things like meditation, poetry, contemplative photography, deep time walk, community conversations and hospitality," she says, adding, "Tony Snow guided us in attention to land acknowledgment and the four elements (Fire, Air, Water, and Earth) as a way to ground ourselves in the Earth."

Some of the practices used are highlighted on the website GreenExodus.ca. A key probing question runs through all of them: How can we be good soil for the love of Earth?

“You can only see as sacred what you love. You can only save what you love. We need to practise falling in love with Earth again,” says Arthurs.

Your gifts through Mission & Service support unique, transformative ministries like Green Exodus. Thank you for your generosity.

Blessings everyone,

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e-mail stpaulsunity@rogers.com
Louise works at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursdays only.