

St Paul's United Church, Sidney

Summer 2018

Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Summer! Just the word is enough to make us want to fling off our shoes! I was reading an article recently about the positive effects that can be had on our bodies and minds if we take our shoes off and walk with bare feet on the grass or on the beach. Even a few minutes a day, it is said, can reduce pain and inflammation and reduce anxiety and stress. Even a light stroll makes us feel happier and can make us more "grounded", literally.

For as long as there have been humans we have been going on pilgrimages to meaningful and spiritual places. Nowadays we can drive there, but folk will tell you that the best experience of pilgrimages are when they are walked. I have a dream to one day walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain. I'd better get practising.

Walking is the most natural thing on earth to do. The littlest babies are encouraged to put their feet on the ground and wobbly legs carry uncertain bodies into the welcome arms of a loved one.

Our feet are amazing! They carry us all our lives. How many thousands of miles have we already walked? I now have a "Fitbit" to count my steps

and the daily recommendation is to walk at least 10,000 steps a day! When walking becomes hard and mobility decreases we find courage to walk even a few steps with some help. Our momentum always pushes us forward, onwards.

Recently in church we explored a concept which holds Navajo belief and spirituality. It is called the "way of beauty". It basically says: walk in beauty and this beauty is the same in essence as shalom which is deep peace, wholeness and harmony.

Living in beauty invites us to make things beautiful so that whatever we touch may become beautiful; whatever words come out of our mouth, that they be beautiful, constructive and encouraging. Whatever energy we have let it be used for making things beautiful, turning all our potential for destruction into

The United Church of Canada
St. Paul's United Church



2410 Malaview Avenue,
Sidney, BC, V8L 2G4

**e-mail: stpauluc@telus.net
tel: 250-656-3213**

Mission Statement:

***"Celebrating God's love,
St. Paul's welcomes all
and seeks to grow in faith
and service to others."***

tools for building, and helping, and kindness, - into beauty. The whole creation is waiting, longing, groaning for restoration. We, as followers of God's way work together with the Creator to restore that creation and enable the beauty to flourish.

There's a passage in Isaiah 52 that says: "How lovely on the mountain are the feet of those who bring good news". Have you got lovely feet? It might not be our first comment about our feet, but in our following of Christ we are invited to step with courage and faith into a way of living that will be demanding and exacting. But in our following of Christ's way, we will bring beauty to the earth and to all our relationships.

Have a blessed, refreshing Summer, and remember, take off your shoes once in a while.

Blessings,
Rev. Suzanna Bates



FINANCIAL UPDATE to 30 April, 2018

Submitted by Pam Turner, St Paul's Treasurer

REVENUE

Jan - April 2018

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Envelopes & PAR	\$48,550.00	\$56,667.00
Other revenue**	\$11,226.00	\$12,956.00
Total	\$59,776.00	\$69,623.00

EXPENSES

Jan - April 2018

\$68,628.00	\$69,623.00
-------------	-------------

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

-\$8,852.00	\$0.00
--------------------	---------------

** other revenue budget
includes revenue from
special donations not
received until November

SUMMER PRODUCE Church Fundraiser

Are you harvesting more than you need from your garden? During the summer months St Paul's will have a table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning where you can donate any extra fruit, vegetables, flowers, baking, preserves, etc.

Don't forget a little cash in case you want to make a purchase!



Bridge and Scrabble Group

The Bridge and Scrabble group meet every Friday afternoon from 2:30 to 5.00 pm. All levels of experience are warmly welcomed! Often members go out for dinner together. This is a community outreach group not limited to church members, so encourage your friends to join us. It is a wonderful way to meet new friends.



Why I won't be in Church on 8th July

Soon after we arrived in Canada in 2011 and almost a year before Suzanna began working as a United Church of Canada Minister we went to Augustine United Church in Winnipeg, (augustineunitedchurch.org) and I wept from the beginning to the end of the service. I'm a big girl and "Big girls don't cry" so why was I so moved?

I wept because for the first time in 61 years I was sitting in a church service holding hands with my wife and in that place, even though I didn't know anyone, I felt safe. Even if I had known these people all my life I would not be judged or condemned or treated as "other". In this place, in this church, for the first time ever, I could just be and that feeling overwhelmed me for the hour of that service.

Perhaps you know what it's like to live with something that "normal people" and our "society" or "culture" find "difficult": perhaps a family secret; a hurting relationship; abuse of some sort; memories you wish would disappear; failed marriages; feelings you don't think you should have; disability; mental illness; guilt; fear of death; overwhelming fear of, or anxiety about, all sorts of things; being different; or any one of those other hundred taboos we find so difficult to talk about.

Being a Lesbian Christian has been one those taboos for me, but not any longer. I will not be in church on July 8th because I will be in Victoria with others from United Churches all over the Island participating in the Victoria Pride Parade.

There will be hundreds, if not thousands of other people, either participating in, or cheering on, the parade. There will be a huge outpouring of exuberance, joy and celebration and people will put themselves out there for a moment of recognition of the tremendous diversity of humanity which refuses to be channeled into little labelled boxes.



Many will also remember those who have travelled

much harder roads to enable us to be here. Many have died in the struggle. Many more have been and are being persecuted, thrown to the metaphorical lions, imprisoned, thrown off buildings, raped, murdered or executed for being “different” in many parts of the world. There is no room for complacency. Being able to participate in Victoria Pride and walk with other Christians is a privilege I cannot take for granted. I hope you will join me.

Peggy Twyman



An “AFFIRMING CHURCH” Conversation

I wonder, if St Paul’s congregation would consider exploring with me becoming an Affirming Congregation?

What does it mean to be an Affirming Congregation?

An “Affirming Congregation” in the United Church of Canada is one that has intentionally reflected upon what it means to be inclusive; one that has evaluated its openness to the ongoing work about how it welcomes and includes others within the life and work of the church. Moreover, the Affirming Congregation has “*publicly declared their commitment to inclusion and justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Although Affirming Ministries make an explicit statement about issues of sexuality and gender, their commitment to justice is far broader. They continually grow and change as they seek to live more fully into God’s way of welcome, love, and justice for all creation*”. Please see affirmunited.ause.ca

What might an Affirming Process look like?

The process of becoming an Affirming Ministry takes time, and includes many opportunities for learning, conversation, dialogue and reflection. Congregations have had some studies for all ages, invited guest speakers and created some fun events.

Aren’t we already Affirming?

We might wonder: we’re already welcoming, aren’t we? Why do we need to become Affirming? While it is true that our faith community strives to be inclusive, and already has many signs of this, there is value in making a public statement of welcome. Many people continue to hear voices of condemna-

tion, exclusion and hatred within the church and in society. By making a public statement about who we are and what we believe, an Affirming Ministry would commit us to being intentional about the ongoing work of including others within our life and work.

All I’m asking at this stage is, please think about it. If there are folk who want further discussion, please do contact me. If St Paul’s does embark on this journey together then we might look at next year (2019) to make some beginnings.

Blessings, Rev. Suzanna Bates

Children’s Ministry Co-Ordinator

We are very excited to announce that the Church Council has approved the creating of a new lay staff position at St Paul’s! We wish to find a person who will be our Children’s Ministry Co-Ordinator to build and develop a weekly children’s programme at St Paul’s for children 0-12 years. In addition, the person will organise a Messy Church event once a month for children and their families.

The position will be 25 hours a month for 10 months a year and will be funded by the Memorial Fund of St Paul’s. The position will be advertised in August and it is hoped that our new Children’s Ministry Co-ordinator will begin to work with us when the children return to school in September.



CHOIR NOTES

The choir is currently on vocal rest during the summer months, but fear not: we will still be appearing in smaller groups and solos as the summer progresses! We are very much looking forward for the Fall as we are planning a monthly Classical Vespers and our big choir event for next year will be an Easter Cantata. If you'd like to contribute your musical gifts one Sunday, be it through voice or playing an instrument, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you are interested in joining us for the Fall in the choir or even just trying it out, please also let me know. Jannie Burdeti



ST PAUL'S BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Update on use of the sanctuary: the sanctuary has been used for two concerts and a town hall meeting during the months of April, May, and June.

The Front Entrance - Progress

Work started on the front doors on April 25 and has been proceeding very well. The new entrance is all framed and tar paper has been placed on the roof to prevent rain from coming into the structure. There have been no surprises to date and there was no rot found in the main wall of the sanctuary.

Two meetings were held with the contractor on May 31 and June 1 to discuss colours for the doors, windows frames, roof, and flooring, and the number of electrical outlets required. It was decided to have an electrical outlet in each of the four corners of the new entrance. This way any electrical requirement for decorating will not need extension cords. There will also be an outside outlet located near the eave on the west side to facilitate Christmas lighting.

The metal roof has arrived and the framing is continuing for the front sidewalks and stairs. They began pouring the concrete on Friday June 15 and will continue with the pathways soon. The first invoice for the work done in April and May has arrived and has been approved by the property committee. The costs so far are within budget.

GOOD NEWS:

The completion date for the new front entrance is August 4, 2018!

Sidney Preschool

On July 11, 2018 the Sidney Preschool will be working on playground projects and their equipment. Volunteers from Home Depot and parents from the play school will be doing the work.

Here is a list of some of the projects they will be working on:



- replace slide with a new one
- repaint the shed and the small web climber
- stain the swing frame area
- add a couple of new raised garden beds for gardening projects
- add a small play house
- new kids picnic table
- repair the sandbox edging

St Paul's has a great premises to offer the community, - let's continue to offer friendship and hospitality to the children, parents and teachers of Sidney preschool! Please do look at Sidney Preschool's website: www.sidneypreschool.com. There's some inspiring information there.



A Berry Good Afternoon

Afternoon Tea with Entertainment



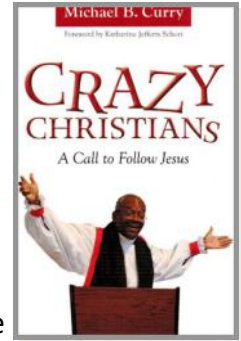
**Saturday, 28 July
at 3.00pm in St Paul's
Fellowship Hall**

**Tickets will be on
sale soon: \$15
This is a church
fundraiser.**

ST PAUL'S CHURCH LIBRARY

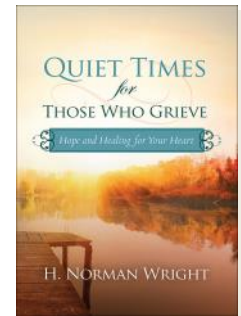
Did you watch Prince Harry & Meghan's Royal Wedding on May 19, 2018? Bishop Michael Curry, leader of the Episcopal Church, gave a sermon during the wedding in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England. The church library has a copy of that sermon if you wish to see it.

In 2013 Bishop Curry wrote: *Crazy Christians, A Call to Follow Jesus*, also available in the church library. Talk to a library representative if you are interested.



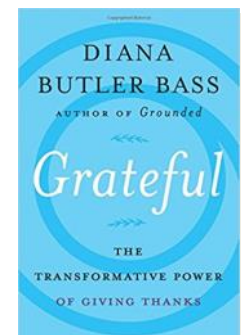
Titles Added Since Spring 2018 Newsletter

- *Quiet Times for Those Who Grieve: Hope for the Hurting* by H. Norman Wright
- *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton
- *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey* by Margriet Ruurs
- *131 Christians Everyone Should Know* by Christian History Magazine editors
- *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass
- *Boundless Compassion: Creating A Way of Life* by Joyce Rupp
- *Divine Appointments: How God Used One Woman to Affect Many* - an autobiography of Edna Adam-Simpson



Items on Order

- *Time or Too Late: Chasing the Dream of a Progressive Christian Faith* by Gretta Vosper
- *Paul, Apostle of Christ* - DVD
- *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur. Both the DVD and workbook are available in the library (this DVD was recently used by the Friday Morning Discussion Group)



Your church library committee consists of Edda Ross, Sheryl Simpson, Lynn McArthur, Anne Thompson and our newest committee member Dale MacEwan. Welcome and thanks Dale for volunteering! If any others are interested in volunteering in the library please let us know.



Sidney Preschool left a bouquet of flowers for the congregation at their close of term as well as this sweet card of thanks.

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

Pam, David and Terrisa met with Pacific Audio Works to obtain advice on speakers for the choir loft. They advised us that our sound system needs to be upgraded. They also made some suggestions regarding hearing assistance for the sanctuary.

Further discussion will take place when the cost estimates have been received. David Hempsall has obtained a \$2,000 grant from Thrifty's for this project (money to be raised using Smile Cards). We really do want to improve the overall sound in the church, and look forward to beginning this project.

PASTORAL CARE

St Paul's Pastoral Care Committee is planning two special events for the fall:

Rev. Suzanna would like to hold a special memorial service to remember folks who have passed away and have not been formally remembered at St. Paul's. Often these people have played a significant role in the life of our congregation that has sometimes not been acknowledged. A Memorial Service can also be a time for us to remember friends and family members who have passed and give thanks for the special part they played in our lives. We are looking to October 14th for this Memorial Service. It would be a Sunday afternoon and will be followed by a light tea. If you think friends and family outside of St. Paul's congregation would be interested in attending, please help us spread the word.

We are planning to hold another membership Sunday and are looking to Sunday, November 18th. This would be an opportunity for people who are new to St. Paul's, as well as those not so new, to formalize their membership. Rev. Suzanna will offer a time for instruction and conversation on membership. The "Welcome into Membership Service" would be followed by a luncheon at which time we would introduce all our new friends, whether or not they choose to formalize their membership, to the congregation.

The Pastoral Care Committee sponsors a group of ladies who

knit or crochet prayer shawls to be given to anyone who needs a little comfort in their lives. The shawls are also offered in times of celebration. If you wish to share your talents in this way or if you know of an opportunity to offer a shawl to friends or family, please speak to Rev. Suzanna or Hazel Phillips, or call the church office.

CARING & SHARING

If you would like a St. Paul's "Thinking of You" card sent to an

individual or family, please notify Carol White at 250-656-5149. These cards are sent to say that the church is thinking about someone in a difficult time, or remembering them in a celebration. It's a great way for us to stay connected with each other through our caring.



*Hazel Philips,
Pastoral Care*

OUTREACH AT ST PAUL'S



The Outreach Committee at St Paul's has done a brilliant job of helping to focus our congregation on the needs of the community at large. Its work is helping the church to care and to spread energy for outreach in our local community and further afield. Through education and fundraising the Outreach Committee seeks to raise awareness of need around us and how we might respond individually or as a church.

There is much that St Paul's does to engage with the wider community, for example, "Our Place" and the Food Bank is very well supported by St Paul's. Other events like Soup Suppers at UVIC and Eagle Heights Africa are also supported by our folk. Outreach remains committed to bring information on their activities to you on a regular basis. They continue to provide Minute for Mission updates twice a month during worship. St Paul's raised an incredible \$21,560 for Mission and Service in 2017! Well done St Paul's!

What lies ahead for us for the Outreach at St Paul's? We would love to expand our Outreach work as well as our Outreach Committee. The question to ask is, where is our heart? Where is God calling us? A creative, heart-led approach is for this group to discern what this church cares about from year by year and participate in raising awareness and the money.

We are grateful for our Outreach Committee, for the work and dedication of Bill German and Carol White and look forward to the support of our congregations to help carry out the work of Outreach in our local community and further afield.

"Car Boot" Sale FUNDRAISER



The fall "Car Boot Sale" is coming (probably in September - date to be announced). *If you would like to participate, please set aside items for the sale.* If you don't have a car we can pick up your items nearer the date. More details coming later in the summer!

St. Paul's String Ensemble



St. Paul's String Ensemble (4 ukuleles and a guitar) is now meeting weekly to practice a few pieces that we find playable (very simple chords).

We are pleased to have Marion Vroom joining us with her fiddle and David Craig with his electric auto harp. We hope that the congregation will put up with our enthusiasm, which far outweighs our skill, and will allow us to play a few pieces during service through the summer. If anyone would like to join us, please contact Elizabeth Mitchell. Minimum skill only required. Tea, coffee, and cookies are provided.



CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK FUNDRAISER CONCERT



Nine members of St. Paul's choir joined with choir members from Nanaimo, Parksville, and United churches on the Saanich peninsula, to sing with Ron Klusmeier at Central Saanich United church at Central Saanich United (at Shady Creek) on June 10th. We rehearsed at 5 pm then enjoyed a delicious supper and the concert took place at 7 pm. Many of the hymns we sang were familiar, as several are in our Voices United hymn book. The words were mostly by Walter

Farquharson, a previous Moderator of the United church, school principal, and Minister at Saltcoates, Saskatchewan.

We enjoyed the uplifting experience of singing with a larger group, to participate in a common vision - singing to end hunger (this was a fundraising project for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank). Concerts have been held across Canada during recent years, and over one million dollars has been raised. Some of us sang in a similar concert, last year, and we hope to do so again - maybe next year! *Susanne Craig*

THRIFTY'S SMILE CARD FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

St Paul's has been participating in this fundraising program for three years now. Here's how it works....

1. Obtain a Thrifty's Smile Card from Sheryl Williams - if she's not in the Fellowship Hall after church, her phone number is below.

2. Load the card - you can do this at the store by using cash, cheque or credit card.
3. Shop and pay with your pre-loaded Smile Card!

It's as simple as that. We all have to shop for groceries anyway, so why not make your purchases at Thrifty Foods. And every time you shop there and use your Smile Card, you are helping raise funds for St Paul's

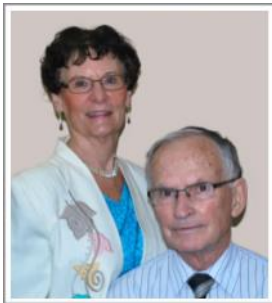
because, for every \$100 that is spent, we receive back 5% (or \$5). The grant funds add up quickly and with minimal effort.

For a Smile Card and all the details, please talk to Sheryl Williams at 250-656-3603.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Here's an extract from a newspaper report on a wonderful wedding. How exciting! July 1st is recognised as Canada Day but did you know that Earl and Carolle Hagen were married 60 years ago on that day? How wonderful to have a Canada-wide celebration on their anniversary! So, on Sunday, July 1st, 2018 join with them as they celebrate 60 years of marriage. After church at coffee-time, share their joy with "old fashioned" wedding cake. Earl and Carolle thank their St Paul's family for love and caring in their happy occasion.



Wedding Bells

HAGEN—STUCKERT

A very pretty wedding was solemnized in the Carrot River United Church Tuesday, July 1, at 2 p.m., when Carolle Yvonne Stuckert, third eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stuckert of Carrot River became the bride of Earl Lorne Hagen of Conquest, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hagen of Sacramento, California, U.S.A. Rev. D. W. Potter performed the double ring ceremony.

The bride, entering the church on the arm of her father, was charming in the traditional white wedding gown with full length



COFFEE MORNING

3rd Thursday of the Month

Please join us in the Lounge on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Meet with others from the congregation, make new friends, exchange news and views, share experiences, joys and concerns, enjoy fellowship and friendship.

Drop in, - bring a friend.

Everyone is welcome!



PASTORAL NOTES

Please be in touch with the minister if you would like a pastoral visit or call. If you'd like Communion at home, we will gladly come and share with you.

If you are going to hospital and would like a visit please let us know or if you know that someone from St Paul's is in hospital we'd be grateful to hear from you.

Rev. Suzanna Bates
Tel: 250-466-5993
rev.suzanna@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletins

Each Friday we send out our weekly bulletins by e-mail to many of our members and friends. If you do not receive a bulletin by email, please contact the church office: stpaulsuc@telus.net and ask to be put on the mailing list.

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/stpaulsunitdbc
and on our Website:
www.stpaulsunitdbc.com

A Summer Prayer

May you breathe in the beauty of summer with its power of transformation.

May you seek and find spaces of rest during these summer months.

May you be open to times of celebration and recreation that are part of this season.

May your eyes see the wonder and beauty of summer's colours.

May your inner self be refreshed, restored, and renewed. May you savour the fresh produce that comes to your table and enjoy the fruits of summer's bounty.

May you enjoy the unexpected and find surprises of beauty and happiness as you travel the roads on summer vacation.

Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr:
"The Circle of Life"

