



St Paul's United Church Sidney

Fall 2018

Newsletter

Dear Friends,

These are the golden days of the year when the light is dreamy and glowing, when the little nip in the air tells you things are about to turn. The leaves are beginning to show off their best colour and flowers shout their last hurrah to the sun. Produce is still bursting from the garden and Earth opens her giant generous heart to all who need to eat.

It is dreamy. This season invites longer walks because we know the rain will come and keep us indoors. The sun still invites us outside to bask in nature's wonder and yet we sigh. We sigh because we know. The bees and other creatures are frantically at work, preparing for what lies ahead. Because they know. And we know, and so we sigh. We know it's changing, fast, - summer is over and with one hand we're clinging to it and with the other we're wishing with everyone else for the relief that the heavens will bring us. The rains will come.

And we sigh, with longing and relief and perhaps a measure of melancholy because this is the season of change.

This is not a season that leaves us empty. The seed packets that held such promise in February have upheld their end of the bargain and they have delivered bounty beyond words. And we sigh as we give thanks for the joy of it, for the fullness of it, for the sheer abundance of it. And we cup our hands under apple trees, stuff our pails with blackberries, carefully choose the perfect pumpkin and wander off home, happily sighing as we imagine the pies and the puddings and the tables of pleasure. And then we sigh as we remember there is more than we could ever eat. There is more than we could ever need, ever want. And we remember those whose hands hold empty cups and bowls and who look longingly at pictures of when things were better. And we sigh for our-

selves as we think of the ones who are hungry and we don't know how to share our bread with them. We sigh as we feel so small and helpless in the face of it all. How do we share our abundance, Earth's generosity? The season of change not only stirs Earth to transform into glorious gold and orange, but beckons us to alter our course and remember those whose sighs are bigger than ours.

Romans 8:26 tells us that Spirit prays with us in sighs that are too deep for words. This is the season for singing praise and thanks but may it also be the season for silence and sighing as we remember our part in the sharing, our part in the generosity of Earth, our part in the giving and receiving, our part in the praying, and longing and sighing till all creation can sing.

God bless you in this most beautiful season.

Rev. Suzanna Bates





Once again, during this golden season we bring into focus our beautiful Earth, the work of the Creator and the part we are called to play in its care as co-creators. This year we will be asking the question, ***“What is Earth saying to us?”***

Over the Sundays of the Season of Creation we will be considering some of the principles of “One Planet Saanich”. This is a project that invites organisations and communities to consider how we are making our spaces better places to live through our care of the environment and each other. Do take a peek at their website which has some interesting stories and good inspiration. www.oneplanetsaanich.org

Marked by the symbolic colour orange, the colour of harvest, warmth and generosity this season invites our response to a very good question, ***“What is Earth saying to us?”***. Here’s how we will look at some of the answers to that important question:

Creation I - 2nd September
“Speak for me”

Creation II - 9th September
“Listen to me”

Creation III - 23rd September
“Walk lightly upon me”

Creation IV - 30th September
“Love me”

Creation V - 7th October
“Bless me”



OPENING THE DOORS

We are delighted to announce that we will have the grand opening and blessing of the front entrance to the sanctuary on **Sunday, October 14th at our 10:30 am service.**

We do hope you can join us in that celebratory service!

“Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to God.”

Psalm 118:19

STEWARDSHIP 2018 to begin on 28th October

In Exodus 4:2 we hear God ask Moses a question: ***“What have you got in your hand?”***

The question we will explore together during our Stewardship programme this year is: What has God put in your hand? Do you wonder how God might work with you?

God gives to us and then asks us what we have to offer. So what’s in your hand?

- who we are – personality
- our gifts
- our possessions
- our passions

- even our questions, our failures & our darkness

Will the church survive without you? Probably. Will it outlast you? Definitely. But what would it look like if you were not here? Who would this community be? What beauty would there not be? What flavour will be missed? What gift will be mourned?



So what if you opened your heart and your hands a little more? What if there was still something God wanted you to do here? Even if you think “been there, done that”?

We are excited to be offering a “home grown” Stewardship programme this year as we explore the life, work and calling of St Paul’s in detail. Stewardship is about money, but it is way more than that too.

We’ll begin on Sunday, 28th October and end with a Celebration Dinner on Saturday, 17th November. More information will be coming soon as well as your invitation to the dinner.

“What have you got in your hand?”

FINANCIAL UPDATE TO JULY 31, 2018		
REVENUE	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Envelopes and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR):	\$85,838	\$99,167
Other revenue *	\$18,190	\$22,674
Total:	\$104,028	\$121,841
EXPENSES	\$119,296	\$121,841
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-\$15,268	\$0
* Budget year to date includes revenue from a special donation not received until November (\$2,800)		

OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISING - JANUARY TO JULY, 2018		
MISSION AND SERVICE (GOAL FOR YEAR: \$25,000)		\$11,258
FOOD BANK		\$786
OUR PLACE		\$100
CAMP PRINGLE		\$450
BUILDING (includes 2017 balance and net of expenses y.t.d.)		\$11,446
FRONT DOOR (includes 2017 balance and net of expenses y.t.d.)		\$94,007
TECHNOLOGY FUND *		\$587
* revenue from Thrifty's Smile Card Program (May & June, 2018)		

GENERAL FUNDRAISING PROJECTS - JANUARY TO JULY, 2018		
Choir Concert Revenue - February		\$612
Concert Band - May		\$255
Summer Produce Table - June & July		\$229



Darren Proulx, CPA has completed a Review of our 2017 financial statements and submitted our Registered Charity Return as required by Revenue Canada. If you wish to see a copy of the Review and if you have any questions regarding the content or any of the St Paul’s finances, please see Pam Turner, Treasurer.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Would you enjoy taking part in a lively and thought-provoking discussion & study group on Friday mornings? The group meets in the Lounge over coffee and snacks from 10:30 am to noon. Keep an eye open for our starting date!

Our Sunday morning discussion group begins on Sunday 9th September at 9.00am with a cup of coffee! This group talks about recent articles in the Observer, articles from the Times-Colonist and the Globe and Mail, as well as topics suggested by participants.

Discussions for September include:

- Observer article on the Swedish tradition of “death cleaning”, - sorting and purging our homes of accumulations of a lifetime instead of leaving it all for our loved ones to do.
- G.&M. article on the recent announcement by the Vatican that the Catholic church’s justification for approval of the death penalty in the past is “a distorting tradition”.

**The group meets in the Lounge from 9.00 to 10.00 am.
*All are welcome!***

+ BIBLE STUDY +

The Gospel according to

John

Facilitator:

Rev. John Romeril

You are invited to share in a
Bible Study on
Wednesday mornings
starting
**on September 26th from
10:30**

We meet in the Lounge at
St Paul’s.

All are welcome!

VACANCY

Children’s Ministry Co-ordinator St Paul’s United Church

25 hours per month; 10 months a year (September - June); flexible hours. To begin October 1st, 2018. \$20 / hour, reviewable.

Work: Build, develop and provide leadership for weekly Children’s Spiritual Growth programme at St. Paul’s for children from 0 to 12 years old on a Sunday. Organise and lead a Messy Church event once a month.

Qualifications & Experience: Christian Development training and/or experience related to children, youth program development.

Familiarity and comfort with United Church of Canada theology and setting; excellent interpersonal and organizational skills. Requires attendance at St. Paul’s on most Sunday mornings & occasional evening and weekend hours for children’s activities and planning.

Reporting Relationship: Work with minister as part of ministry team. Send your résumé and covering letter to Judy Bicknell at bicola@shaw.ca.

Please contact Judy for a more detailed job description, also on the church website, www.stpaulsunitedbc.com.

**ST. PAUL'S
"CAR BOOT" SALE**
Saturday, September 22nd
9.00 am - 1.00 pm



If you would like to participate please sign up on the sheet provided on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please email the church office.

We will provide tables to go in front of the trunk of your car in the parking lot. Refreshments will be served.

***This is a fundraiser
for St. Paul's.***

ST PAUL'S BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee is always kept pretty busy with all kinds of jobs. Here's what we've been doing during the summer months:

- the outside windows of the minister's office were sanded and given two coats of paint.
- The bell tower was washed and all debris removed from the roof and around the roof drains.
- A new contract was signed with the Sidney preschool starting September 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Volunteers from Home Depot and the preschool arrived on Aug 15 and 16 to replace the slide, fix the sand box area and paint the shed. The event was very successful.

The Front Door Entrance Progress

By the time you read this newsletter you may have entered the church through the new doors! Can you believe it, on 24th September last year we had a meeting of the congregation to vote on the proposed new entrance, and now it is almost complete!

Work on the new front entrance has been proceeding very well throughout the month of August. Doors arrived around the Week of August 13. The doors and windows are now in and the drywall has been installed. Painting has been completed and the new floor was laid last week. During the week of September 4 the inside doors will be installed and the entrance will be available to be used by September 9.

NEW ENTRANCE REVENUE & EXPENSES TO AUGUST 19, 2018

Revenue received to the end of June 2018: \$ 179,138

Expenses incurred to August 19, 2018:

Architecture Fees	\$ 8,046	
Structural fees	\$ 2,649	
Contractor fees	\$ 100,844	*
Town of Sidney Variance Application	\$ 250	
Title Search	\$ 14	
AREC Environmental	\$ 333	
Additional Church Insurance	\$ 331	
Building Permit	\$ 2,357	**
Total Expenses	\$ 114,824	\$ 114,824
Remaining Funds:	\$64,314	

* Includes \$1,473 additional cost for footings entry slab sides.

** \$1,000 will be reimbursed by the town when the job is completed.

The second invoice for the work done in June and July has been received and has been approved by the property committee. We are happy to report that all tasks that have been completed to date are on budget. The official opening of the beautiful new church entrance will take place on Sunday, October 14th, 2018.

David Hempsall, *Property Committee*



ST PAUL'S CHOIR

We welcome back returning and new choir members this September as we embark on another season of learning, worship, and prayer. To me, music is the synthesis of prayer and meditation because we speak to God through our expression in the music and we listen to the inspiration that can pour through us when we remain open and aware.

This Fall, our first music workshop will be on Friday, October 26 at noon, where we will review and strengthen our Music Fundamentals. Our big event for next year will be an Easter concert. We are always looking for and welcoming new voices to join. The only requirement is an open heart and an eagerness to learn and to sing; a musical background is not a prerequisite. We meet Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm and Sunday mornings at 10am.

Jannie Burdeti, *Music Director*

ST PAUL'S LIBRARY

NEW ITEMS IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY:

- 241.4 Bas *Grateful : the transformative power of giving thanks*
by Diana Butler Bass
- 241.4 Rup *Boundless compassion : creating a way of life*
by Joyce Rupp
- 248 Eva *Inspired : slaying giants, walking on water, and loving the Bible again*, by Rachel Held Evans.
- 270.8 Vos *Time or too late : chasing the dream of a progressive Christian faith*, by Gretta Vosper.
- 306.768 Tra *The trans generation : how trans kids (and their parents) are creating a gender revolution*,
by Ann Travers.
- F Mer **Golfing with God** : a novel, by Roland Merullo
- B Pau *Paul, Apostle of Christ*, DVD screenplay
by Andrew Hyatt.

DONATIONS TO YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY:

- 225.92 Twe **Twelve ordinary men ...**
- 226.5 Far *An audacious invitation : a compelling reflection on the Gospel according to John*, Walter Farquharson
& Jeff Cook.
- 649.7 Pop *The family virtues guide : simple ways to bring out the best in our children and ourselves*,
by Linda Kavelin Popov.
- B Ada *Divine appointments : how God used one woman to affect many* : an autobiography of Edna Adam-Simpson.

ON ORDER:

The next person you meet in heaven : the sequel to "The five people you meet in heaven", Mitch Albom.

Come and use your library any time! The Library door is never locked.

To borrow a book:

1. Remove the circulation card from the front of the book.
2. Write the day's date, your name and phone number on the card.
3. Drop the card into the metal box on top of the cabinet.

To return a book:

Simply drop it into the wooden box on top of the cabinet.



ST PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

The Church Council met on August 29th after the summer break.

Under "New Business" we discussed the results of a Sound System upgrade review conducted by Pacific Audio Works over the summer months. This was done in response to requests for improved sound to the choir loft, and for hearing assistance options for Sunday services. The review was completed at no cost to St. Paul's and included current and future needs related to audio/visual equipment.

The Church Council agreed to assess all priorities for church expenditures before proceeding with any or all of the recommended upgrades at this time.

In the short term we have asked for technical assistance to hook up our mobile speaker system to improve reception for the choir area. (We will still be able to use this in the fellowship hall for meetings). Minimal cost is involved.

Regarding hearing assistance, - there are options available and Pacific Audio Works will loan equipment for a trial period, however we need to establish the needs of the congregation first:

- how many have hearing aids with t-coils built in for wireless "loop" connectivity
- and how many folk need listening devices like headphones or ear speakers.



We would be so grateful if you would help us in this research by indicating which of these would be of interest to you. There is a sign up sheet at the entrance of the church for this purpose.

Other news from the Church Council is that we are busy with the significant task of reviewing and updating the church's "Terms of Reference". This pertains to our organisation, structure and procedure and identifies how we do our mission. It may sound like a laborious piece of work but it is a vital document for our church community that explores the various groups at St Paul's and how we all work together under the same mission statement.

Our church, like any other, depends on the love, time and work of our volunteers. We would love to develop a great way of inviting folk to join in the work of the church by helping or serving on one of our committees or in another way. There will be a couple of vacancies opening up on our Church Council soon and we also want to develop our Outreach Committee. Later, this year, in our Stewardship programme, we will be showing you in detail, what your church does and how folk give their time and service. You will, undoubtedly find something that will be of interest to you and we hope you may respond to the invitation to serve, alongside many others in our ministry here.

Please do be prayerful about the life and work of St Paul's that we may respond, with grace to God's call to be the church in this place.



It's a Matter of Life and Death

Join **Margaret Harper, Loss & Grief Facilitator**, as together we explore, ponder, contemplate and imagine a way of approaching death that opens a space for peace, well-being and untold possibilities. Come to one or all of these sessions, and bring your questions, concerns, stories and insights. Open to any who believe that sooner or later, that bell is gonna' toll for me and you!

CARING FOR SELF/CARING FOR OTHERS **Wednesday October 3rd 2018 (10am-11:30am)**

Learning to set boundaries and negotiate time for self in the midst of all the other worthwhile aspects of daily life can seem impossible. What might it mean to pay attention to the needs of our souls as we age? Come explore how caring for self and caring for others are two pieces of a beautiful whole!

BEFRIENDING THE LESSONS OF GRIEF AND LOSS **Wednesday October 10th 2018 (10am -11:30am)**

Is there a way to envision *Grief and Loss* as a wise teacher, perhaps even a friend who longs to sit down with us and talk about the stuff of life that truly matters? Sounds strange, and yet, in times of major transitions, life lessons emerge which have been honed from times of challenge and hardship. Come discover the strength and wisdom that can fuel you in all times and seasons.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING: THE BASICS 101 **Wednesday October 17th 2018 (10am-11:30am)**

This session, offered by Dying with Dignity, Victoria Chapter will bring you up-to-date with assisted dying on southern Vancouver Island including: what MAID means, some basic statistics, who would qualify, how one would go about applying (Patient Request), getting approval, what to do after being approved, the peace one feels, setting the date, what happens on the day, what arrangements need to be made and other considerations.

PLANNING FOR A GOOD DEATH **Wednesday October 24th 2018 (10am-11:30am)**

Come explore your hopes, dreams, fears and concerns around death and dying. Mary Oliver, the poet, asks the question: What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? Is there a way to contemplate death as something that is also wild and precious? Rather than something to be feared, could death instead invite us to pay attention, to harvest that which we have given, as well as to share the lessons we have learned with others?

All sessions at:
Central Saanich United Church
7180 East Saanich Road
Saanichton
Tel: 250-652-713
www.shadycreekuc.ca



Pastoral Notes...

Please be in touch with me if you would like a pastoral visit or call. If you'd like Communion at home, I 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: 250-4665993
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/stpaulsunitiedbc



and on our Website:

www.stpaulsunitiedbc.com

The United Church of Canada
St Paul's United Church



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Mission Statement:

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

BURSARY FUNDS

The **Doris Williamson Bursary Fund** was established in about 1989 by a member, who was also a trustee, Doris Williamson. A principle amount of \$10,000 was held in the bursary fund for post-secondary education. The interest was to be used to award bursaries to people of St. Paul's United Church or their family members.

Many bursaries have been awarded over the years since then. The maximum amount of \$500 per successful applicant is granted and applications are processed through the Board of Trustees.

This summer 2 bursaries were awarded to grandchildren of members of congregation, – both starting first year at Camosun College. There will be money available next fall to award at least one more bursary.



(an extract from)

An Autumn Blessing

Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr

*Blessed are you, autumn, your harvesting time has come.
as we gather your riches into our barns,
reveal to us our own inner riches waiting to be harvested.*

*Blessed are you, autumn, season of surrender,
you teach us the wisdom of letting go
as you draw us into new ways of living.*

*Blessed are you, autumn, season of unpredictability.
You inspire us to be flexible
to learn from our shifting moods.*

*Blessed are you, autumn, feast of thanksgiving.
You change our hearts into fountains of gratitude
as we receive your gracious gifts.*