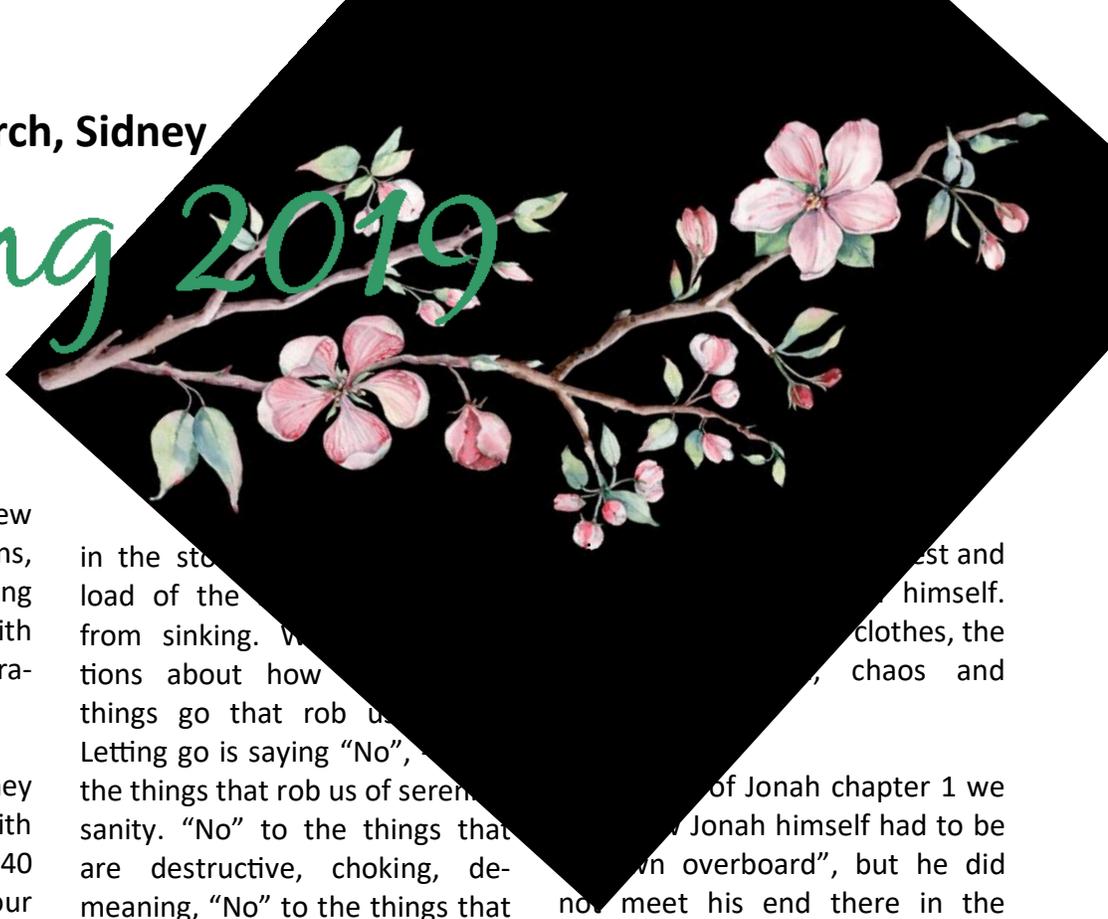


St Paul's United Church, Sidney

Spring 2019

Newsletter



Dear Friends,

Spring! It is hopeful, signs of new life everywhere, warmth returns, colour bursts forth and everything greens. Beautiful! And with Spring, - Easter and the celebration of Resurrection!

We've just made the long journey through Lent which started with our Ash Wednesday service - 40 days ago! This year we made our focus, "Living a Lighter Life". Small bags containing various goodies were offered to folk to help them make a thoughtful journey through Lent. One of the objects in the bags were marbles of sea glass. These reminded us that we have all been on a long journey to get to place that we are. We may feel scuffed on the edges and may have been battered by the waves of life, we may feel broken, but we are translucent, and beautiful and a treasure in God's hands.

One of the resources that we offered was a self-study called, "What is weighing me down and how to let it go". We asked, are we carrying too much baggage, - emotional or even physical? Are we aware of why we are holding on so tightly to the very thing we wish we could let go? We explored the passage in Jonah chapter 1 and saw that the sailors

in the storm were weighed down by the load of the things that were weighing them down from sinking. We explored the things that rob us of our serenity and sanity. "No" to the things that are destructive, choking, demeaning, "No" to the things that make me less than we are. "No" to behaviour, relationships, activities, habits, memories, - whatever is toxic that tears our integrity away. It is mostly not easy letting go of these things or we all would already have done it. But it is possible. And through the self-study as well as the gathered Discussion & Study groups through Lent we examined how we could indeed let go and find the life and joy within ourselves.

On Maundy Thursday we saw that Jesus took off his robe and laid it aside. Even Jesus needed to lay some things down in order to take up other things that would deepen his experience, further his calling. On Good Friday we recalled how he gave up his spirit, and his breath with his final words, "It is finished". On Easter morning we remember how the Risen Christ, once more "let go", gave up some-

of himself. He took off his clothes, the chaos and confusion of the storm, chaos and confusion of the storm. In the story of Jonah chapter 1 we saw how Jonah himself had to be thrown overboard, but he did not meet his end there in the deep chaotic, terrifying water. No, God came to his salvation! A great fish offered him respite while he gathered himself and could finally do God's work. And Jesus overcame the greatest limitation and sad burden of all, - death itself.

The grace, beauty and compassion of Christ be with you in your letting go, in your "laying aside", in your "giving up". And the life and exuberant Spirit of Christ be with you in your "taking up" of everything that will bring you and Creation life!

Blessings to Each One,
Rev. Suzanna Bates



PASTORAL CARE AT ST PAUL'S

The way we do Pastoral Care at St. Paul's is changing! It is Spring and what better time for the metamorphosis of Pastoral Care! The more things stay the same the more uninteresting they get. The Pastoral Care Team was finding that we were not really accomplishing the task of keeping in regular touch with those members of our congregation who are not able to worship with us as regularly as in the past, for a variety of reasons, or those people we feel need a little more pastoral attention. So we are experimenting with a new model of Pastoral Care.

We have formed a "Pastoral Link Team". The members of this team do not need to attend meetings, nor join a committee. They can, however, be the "Link" in the chain of people who make up the membership of St. Paul's as their time and inclination allows, and they can do it from the comfort of their own home. They will be in touch with those folks, by way of visits, phone calls, emails and/or cards sent. The idea is to connect or link up at least twice a year. But, there are no "should". Should the Link Team member find they cannot visit in person, the other options are open to them. They can feel free to connect on special occasions, such as holidays, birthdays and anniversaries, to deliver St. Paul's newsletters or just because they feel moved to be in touch.

We believe that this model will make Pastoral Care much more interesting and have less of the feeling of "duty". So far we have eleven members on our team so we each have a two or three people we will link up with. We all know the saying, "Many hands make light work." If you feel this is something that you would like to be involved with just speak to Hazel Phillips or Rev. Suzanna.

We look forward with great anticipation to making our family members feel they are still remembered and still belong to St. Paul's.

Hazel Phillips



INTRODUCING GINA GILES Administrative Assistant at St Paul's



Born and raised in Victoria, Gina has resided on the Saanich Peninsula for the last 28 years. When she's not working in our office, she could be walking one of the many beautiful beaches nearby, gardening or having visits with her Mom.

Gina enjoys meeting new people so please stop by and introduce yourself at the office.

"Drop-in" COFFEE



Come and join us for
Coffee / Tea and a
friendly catch-up!
Every 3rd Thursday of
the month.
9.30am-12.00pm
Everyone Welcome!

Ministry & Personnel Committee

The M&P Committee has had a very busy time during the latter part of last year and the beginning of this year. Our new Office Administrator, Gina Giles, began work last month. Her smiling face and friendly, helpful manner are most welcome as she has settled well into her work. She is feeling more at ease as she familiarizes herself with the church office routines. Easter will be a busy time for her as she copes with the various bulletins for the many Easter-time services as well as for her first memorial service, all while keeping up with her regular office duties.

Wendy Sangha, our bookkeeper is proving extremely competent and efficient. Wendy joined us last November and is already proving to be a very competent and efficient asset as she streamlines her varied accounting procedures.

Our Custodian/PowerPoint Operator is a whirlwind of efficiency and takes pride in the performance of her many and varied duties. The search for a new Music Minister is still underway and in the meantime the choir is being ably led by several guest

musicians, all of whom bring their own personal touch.

On the Committee end of things, we have had a very pleasant farewell lunch with Jocelyn Carter, who stepped down from M&P after several years on the job. We already miss her and her good advice. We have also said goodbye to Fiona St Clair, who became Chair of Council at the last Annual Congregational Meeting. However, Fiona (a retired lawyer) is still making herself available to offer advice on any legal aspects of our work.

We are delighted to welcome Bhree Young to the Committee. Bhree and Tony Merry, moved to Sidney last year and Bhree is still making fairly regular trips to the mainland but, rest assured, Bhree, we will be having a meeting soon!

*Marjorie Tate (Chair),
Marion Gordon,
Bhree Young*



*A fundraising and awareness event
to support an end to global hunger*

Co-sponsored by the Saanich Peninsula United Churches:
Central Saanich United Church, Saanichton
Cordova Bay United Church, Cordova Bay
St. John's United Church, North Saanich • St. Paul's United Church, Sidney

Sunday, June 9 – 7:00 pm

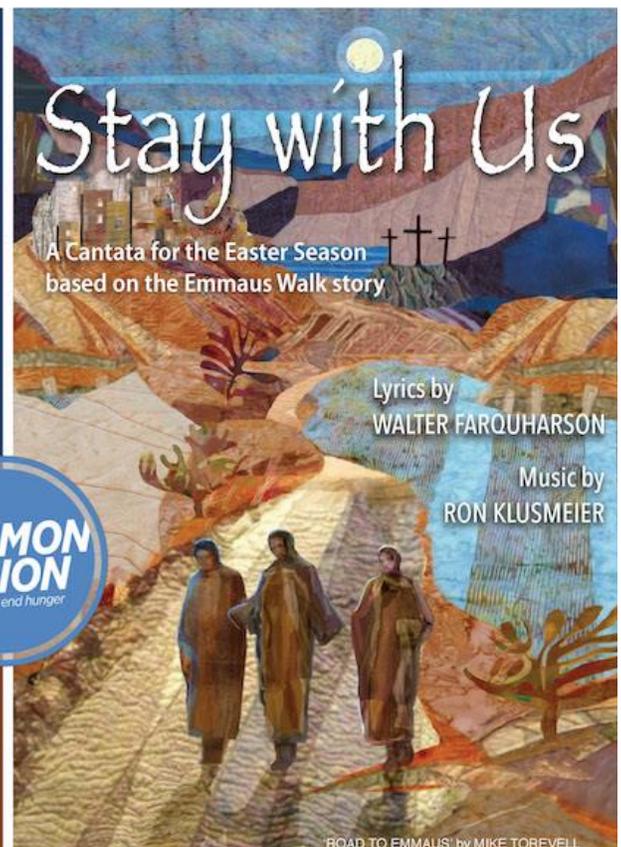
CORDOVA BAY UNITED CHURCH

813 Claremont Ave - Cordova Bay
250-658-5911

There are no tickets for this event, but attendees will be asked to make a generous donation to support ending global hunger. Canadian Foodgrains Bank receives 100% of donations received and issues tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more.

*There will be an opportunity to learn more
about Canadian aid and how you can support
a more generous and compassionate Canada.*

Common Vision is an initiative of Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Musikus



PROPERTY REPORT

What's going on around the place...

Spring has sprung, the grass has ris, and I wonder where the lawn mower is.... Well, along with the loppers and clippers and rakes, the lawn mower has been out of the shed and doing its job, assisted by Don, to keep the lawn trimmed and the yard tidy. Sheryl and Elizabeth attacked the hedges by the side door to the hall and the south-east corner by the gate. The shrubs will look better when they leaf out, I promise! David and Elizabeth, with the help of Davina, loaded a trailer with yard waste for North Saanich Municipal yard. The gardens adjacent the new front doors are being tended to by Angela and the Garden Group, with spectacular results! The efforts expended make the property so much more attractive and inviting.

It is wonderful to be working out there when a neighbour stops to say how nice everything looks. There is a yard waste container behind the shed in the back yard where we can place yard debris during the month. We can put out 3 containers on the 2nd Saturday of the month for pick-up. We are looking to get 2 more containers. Let us know if you have a spare one rolling around at home. Hopefully this will reduce the number of times we have to go to the land fill. Plants and flowers being disposed of from the church should be added to the container. Please knock off excess soil and put plastic pots into the appropriate recycling box.

In other happenings:

- The hot water tank was discovered to be 35 years old, so it has been replaced, before it was discovered to be leaking.
- To conform to civic regulations, back-flow arrestors have been added to all perimeter drains and to the dish washer. (The racks for the dish washer now fit on the shelf above the soap bottles.)
- The outside faucet by the kitchen had been replaced and is now much more accessible. The watering system for the gardens will be attached to this tap.
- Two concerts have been held recently at the church. The second concert, a benefit on our behalf by the Greater Victoria Police Chorus was a huge success. We wish to thank all those from the church who attended and especially those who helped sell tickets!

Thanks also to those who helped move chairs and to the congregation for putting up with Concert Seating for 2 weeks in a row! A little effort from a lot of people produces great results.

Elizabeth
Property committee



Won't You Join The Team?



You have probably all attended a memorial or funeral service at St Paul's and, after the service, gone into the hall for some refreshments. There the tables are set up with attractive tablecloths, the mugs, cups and saucers are set out ready for tea and coffee, and there are yet more tables groaning with food.

We are fortunate to have a very important "team" of men and women in our church who quietly make all this happen. They set up the tables and chairs in the hall, set out cups/saucers, etc, receive the food and set it out, and make and serve the coffee and tea. Afterwards they clear and clean up, wash the dishes and put them away.

Nothing about the job is difficult – you don't even have to bake (as was done in the "good old days" by the UCW).

If you can volunteer an hour or two, perhaps you might consider joining this team. Please contact **Marjorie Tate** who will be happy to add you to her list of worker bees - many hands make light work!

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Your 2019/20 Church Council was voted in at our February Annual Meeting, and has been meeting and working regularly since then. We meet most months on the fourth Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Our secretary, Marjorie Tate, keeps minutes of all our meetings, and those minutes are available for your information and reading pleasure in the church office.

The United Church Manual, 2019, describes the responsibility of a church council as including: *“making decisions about the life of the community of faith, including worship, care, spiritual practice, and learning; local administration, finances, and governance; and local mission, justice, and evangelism.”* It sounds like a lot listed like that, but it’s actually a really good summary of our responsibilities. And because these decisions are indeed about “the life of the community of faith” which is our church, I think it’s important that we keep you informed and also that you communicate regularly with us in order to let us know what’s

important to you and how you see the life of our church evolving. Please feel free to approach me as Council Chair, or any other member of council, if you have any creative thoughts or informed concerns about any aspect of the life of the church over which the council holds responsibility.

Your current council members are: Judy Bicknell (Trustees and Faith Development), Susanne Craig (Worship), Bob Fish (Treasurer), Ray Gordon (Finance), Esther Harrison (member at large), Tony Merry (member at large), Elizabeth Mitchell (Property), Hazel Phillips (Pastoral Care and Membership), Fiona St. Clair (Chair), Marjorie Tate, (Secretary and M & P). And, of course, Rev. Suzanna Bates is an *ex officio* member of council. Ray Gordon is new to the council this year, but this is far from his first time sitting on church council, so it’s great to have his experience and expertise back with us. It’s also been wonderful to have the energy and new perspectives that new members Esther Harrison, Tony Merry and Bob Fish bring to the table. And, of course, we are most grateful for the continued commitment and dedication

of Judy Bicknell, Susanne Craig, Elizabeth Mitchell, Hazel Phillips and Marjorie Tate.

Council’s focuses so far this year have included the appointment of our new administrative assistant, Gina Giles, and the search for a new music minister (formerly known as music director). We’re having our very elderly water tank replaced, and are looking forward to celebrating our Centenary in 2020. We’re participating in ongoing discussions with the other Peninsula United Churches about potentially sharing some new resources and activities in the future. And we are also focusing on defining our shared vision for the future of St. Paul’s. It’s a very interesting mix of items, – from the extremely mundane to the very forward-looking and creative. We look forward to a vital and fulfilling year ahead, with your assistance and support.

Fiona St Clair
Chair, Church Council



MANNA AND MERCY

The study group “Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God’s Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe” resumes on the Friday after Easter, April 26th. We will be looking at the New Testament for 3 weeks. April 26th, May 3rd and May 10th. (10:30am – 12 noon).

This study is based on the book by Daniel Erlander and is a 100 page paraphrase of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation – a graphic novel of sorts, written with imagination, clarity, humour, and cartoons. Built around the twin themes of food sharing and forgiveness, it helps us look at scripture with new eyes and rediscover how it can become a means of life and grace rather than destruction and death.

We welcome any newcomers to the group - Call me for information and to access the materials. Judy at tel: 250- 656-7759 or e-mail bicola@shaw.ca or Sheryl Simpson at saws@shaw.ca.



“Car Boot Sale”



Plan to join in a fun morning on
Saturday, June 8th.

That is the scheduled date for our Annual “Boot Sale”. A former minister new to St. Paul’s was puzzled when a Boot Sale was proposed. He had visions of us gathering to sell our old boots and shoes. For anyone unfamiliar with the idea, a Boot Sale is a form of Garage Sale where we sell the “treasures” that are surplus to our need from the boot (North American “trunk”) of our cars stationed in the Church Parking Lot.

Join us for a friendly morning to meet each other and others from the community, as we enjoy a coffee and muffin or a hot dog with lashings of fried onions!

If you prefer, join the fun by linking up with a friend who has a car or just come and browse and visit. Hopefully the sun will shine and chairs and tables will be set up under the trees.

Hope to see you there!
For more information, please contact Ray Gordon. Bookings taken soon.

*This is a fundraiser for St Paul’s.
All proceeds from the Boot Sale goes
to the fundraiser.*

HELLO PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION!

(With reference to Observer Magazine, January 2019)

Goodbye Conferences and Presbyteries; hello Regions! Volunteers and staff across the denomination have spent years preparing for this month’s transition to the United Church’s new governance model.



As of January 1st, 2019 the United Church moved to a new administrative structure. One of the biggest changes is that Presbyteries and Conferences no longer exist. The new structure is made up instead of three levels with specific ministries and responsibilities: Communities of faith (congregations, pastoral charges), 16 Regional Councils, and a Denominational (General) Council. In addition to this, a national Office of Vocation has taken over the accreditation, oversight and discipline of ministers.

There are also clusters and networks, - groups composed of those who share common interests, mission, and support. Another major change is around funding for the new structure. There is now one assessment model to fund the Regional and Denominational council that is more equitable and transparent. Assessments are set at 4.5% of a community of faith’s total revenue, not including things like funds for M & S, refugees, bequests and property sales. As well, one hundred per cent of money donated to Mission and Service will now go exclusively to mission work and not cover any administrative costs. This means that on the whole, the church should be able to spend more on mission and ministry.

We are no longer part of BC Conference, but “Pacific Mountain” region and the first gathering of our new region is from **30th May - 2 June 2019**. St Paul’s can have TWO voting lay representatives. At present we have one representative, so we ask that you give prayerful consideration about whether you might serve the wider church in this way.

Please see: <https://pacificmountain.ca/gm2019> for more information.



ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH CHOIR AND FRIENDS

Are pleased to present:

THE COLOURS OF SPRING

an afternoon of music
with dessert



SATURDAY, 25TH MAY AT 2.30PM

Ticket, \$20 includes dessert & beverage
available at the Church Office, tel. 250-656-3213, or from choir members

A FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

ST PAUL'S CHURCH CHOIR

We were very sad to see Jannie and Andre leave us in March. Jannie and Andre brought such musical inspiration to the choir and congregation with their individual talents. We acknowledge that their stay with us and the people they brought with them to sing and play during services and the series of concerts gave the musical life of our church a tremendous boost and we wish them every good thing for their future as they recreate their lives and careers out there in the big world.

We are now searching for a new Music Minister to expand on the work done by Jannie and the Search Committee hope to appoint to the post by the beginning of June. The new post will cover choir and other musical ministry such as music with Children, music in different styles of worship and encouraging musical participation by people from the congregation.

Meanwhile the choir sings on and it has been a joy to welcome Mary Lou and Sharon Collins as pianists and Johanna de Leeuw and Peggy as conductors.

Not only are we singing for regular Sunday services but we are putting on the concert at the end of May featuring the choir, local talent and desserts! The concert is called "Colours of Spring" and we look forward to selling you tickets! Please see the poster in this newsletter!

If you would like to join us to sing in the concert on Saturday 25th May at 2:30 and can attend all the rehearsals on Thursdays during May there is still time. We would love to have you!

Peggy Twyman



From the Church Library...

Books on Order:

Silence: the social history of one of the least understood elements of our lives, by Jane Brox, 2019.

"Through her evocative intertwined histories of the penitentiary and the monastery, Jane Brox illuminates the many ways silence is far more complex than any absolute; how it has influenced ideas of the self, soul, and society. Goodreads, Inc.

Holy envy : finding God in the faith of others, by Barbara Brown Taylor, 2019.

"Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey begun in Leaving Church of finding out what the world looks like after taking off her clergy collar. In Holy Envy, she contemplates the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques. - Goodreads, Inc.

Accidental saints : finding God in all the wrong people, by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

"Bolz-Weber invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls 'a religious but not-so-spiritual life.' Tattooed, angry and profane, this former stand-up comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people. Dust jacket flap.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY - MARCH 2019

		Actual	Budget
Revenue		55,194	47,000
Expenses	Salaries	38,494	41,800
	Other	12,636	11,350
	Total	51,130	53,150
Surplus		4,064	-6,150
M&S		5,030	4,700

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: stpauluc@telus.net and ask to be put on the mailing list.

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stpaulsunitedbc

and on our Website:

www.stpaulsunitedbc.com



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"

