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MISSION STATEMENT

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH TILLSONBURG, ONTARIO

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community minded Christian congregation, called to serve God by serving others.

VISION STATEMENT

We are a church making a difference through positive and engaged members, living their faith.

VALUES STATEMENT

In all we do, we will be guided by the following principles:

- We will be sensitive to the needs of individuals and groups within our Congregation and the world around us;
- We will provide services and studies that are innovative, intergenerational, at all times celebrative, reverent and proclaiming of God's love;
- We will build an environment of individual trust and respect, enabling all to be cared for, to be nurtured, to feel a sense of belonging and to grow in their faith journeys; and
- We will be good stewards of God's creation; seeking justice for all, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Rev. Mark's Email: revmark@execulink.com
Church Email: stpaulsunity@execulink.com
Website: stpaulsunitychurch.info
Telephone: (519) 688-0011

Each year, we come to another milepost in our covenant relationship as minister and pastoral charge of The United Church of Canada. In a recent email, someone noted that anniversaries like birthdays are good things—the more you have, the longer you live! Looking through an annual report is one way to reflect on the life and ministry we have shared in 2015 with all of its challenges and accomplishments in covenant with the God whom we know in Jesus the Christ.

It is also a reminder that above all, we are called to be people of faith, seeking to follow the way of Christ in all that we are and do—not simply here within the walls of buildings called churches, but in our relationships as people of faith and in the service we offer as our thankful response to Christ's presence in our lives.

Looking back over 2015, there have been the inevitable changes in St. Paul's. We have mourned for beloved family members and dear friends who died this past year. We have celebrated the birth of children and weddings. A new Birthday Sunday, Anniversaries, Coffee and conversation, shared meals have gathered us in at table to get to know one another and have those vital conversations that build relationships.

The ladies have laughed at the Petrolia Play House at another production about a UCW like group. We have worked together through the Community Kitchen to cook a good meal on Saturdays through the fall and winter to extend a helpful and welcoming ministry for all who need a good meal to stretch the budget. We have generously supported the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada with over \$31,000 in donations. Building refurbishment on the manse and maintenance have been done. A new tenant has rented the manse building and we look forward to having a good, long relationship to our mutual benefit.

We also face challenges as our core group of leaders needs to grow in numbers and to share in leadership of our congregations in partnership with our church staff. What do we need to preserve and take forward and what can we leave behind? Are there new initiatives we might try out?

For me, ministry is a solitary and a communal activity. There are the times of quiet conversation and pastoral care, personal reflection and prayer, as well as the projects and planning and carrying out of things. It is at times being out front in visible leadership and at others, in the background supporting others who are giving their best.

There has been opportunity to exercise leadership within Oxford Presbytery and London Conference in this time of transition in our denomination; and, there will be opportunities in 2016 to make decisions around the kind of change we are willing to support through our responses to remits.

I offered leadership last spring in the local Ministerial's Lenten series as a preacher and host, and at the recent Ostrander Funeral Home's Memorial Service just before Christmas.

It has been good to share this with fellow staff members: Shelley, Floyd, Ron, Karen, Helen and Maurice. After a full year on the job, I have found Helen to be a great support and capable in many things in the Office. Shelley has given us beautiful music and led our choir well. Ron and Floyd keep our buildings in good order in partnership with our Property Committee. Karen has come through her health challenges and has given a renewed commitment to plan and lead our children on Sunday mornings and at special day camps on school Professional Activity days. And Maurice, who decided to really retire and embrace the freedom that gives—I have truly appreciated his care of our elders and shut-ins and his partnership in ministry over these last nearly 3 years.

So I come to this milepost marked 2015 with gratitude, and with an eye to the good things we need to work on together in the coming year, to add good to the good that we have received, from God, the source of our being and strength and song.

FROM OUR PART-TIME MINISTER ~ Rev. Maurice Francis

As most readers know I will have retired from my part time appointment with St. Paul's at the end of the year 2015. That means I no longer receive a 4 hour a week stipend as was the case over the past 3-4 years. However one wishes to be clear that this does not mean we are leaving Tillsonburg or St. Paul's. Unless we get asked to leave and that has not happened to date and we trust may never happen in our life time.

Otherwise the year 2015 has not been unlike most previous years. I have visited home bound folk in their private homes as well as in places of Assisted Living, like Maple Manor, Woodingford Lodge in Tillsonburg, Caressent Care in Courtland and Woodstock. Our last resident in Terrace Lodge Aylmer, finished her journey there this past Summer.

We have met occasionally with folk at the Retirement Centre but most of our members requiring assistance are resident at the new Harvest facility on the East Side of town. Nine was the count. This is different from the time when we would visit folk in as many as 20 places and towns outside of T'burg. Thus the main reason for reducing our efforts in visiting.

Ruth and I have lead worship at Maple Manor, Woodingford and more recently at Harvest for more than 12 years. But serving communion 2-3 times a year has been our main contact with people in these situations.

It is our hope that we will continue to share these opportunities with Rev. Mark Ferrier, Full Time Minister and Rev. Pat Cook where time and need are indicated. Rev. Pat and I are now Officially Volunteer Associate Ministers.

It has been a privilege and sense of fulfillment to help out at St Paul's over the years. I wish once more to say my sincere gratitude to the Council and Congregation for the kind and generous testimony and gift extended to Ruth and

I on December 13, and for the many cards and gifts at Christmas. We will still try to follow the directive of Psalm 100:2. "Serve the Lord with gladness".
Merci beaucoup.

CHURCH COUNCIL ~ Submitted by Brian Clark, Chair

As always, 2015 brought it's share of challenges and successes.

We held a number of musical concerts, the Choir gave us Cantatas to lift our spirits, the Sunday School Christmas program delighted us and our Worship Services brought us closer to God through Communion, inspiring messages from the pulpit and uplifting music from our Choir.

We have lived our Christian ministry through a variety of Outreach programs to the community including our Community Kitchen, our PD Day programs and the use of St. Paul's facilities for a number of programs from the community. We assisted our sister church at St. John's Anglican Church by sharing our building and facilities while they conducted a major renovation to their own building.

We enjoyed social fellowship through the Card Parties that Jed Drew has continued after Glenn and Cheryl Buchner coordinated them for a number of years.

Late in the year, we were all reminded of how blessed we have been to live in Canada as we watched the first refugees from the war in Syria arrive in Canada to begin a new life here. As this story continues to unfold, St. Paul's may be able to play a supporting role as Oxford Presbytery has plans to sponsor a family in Woodstock.

The Congregation showed courage and confidence by approving a program of repairs to the exterior of the vacant Manse property. The full details are included in the Trustees Report but the costs were significant at a time when we had no revenue from the property and ongoing expenses. Jed Drew led this project with support from the Trustees and the Council. When the project was completed we had a building that had been restored on the exterior, cleaned up inside and was now appealing to prospective tenants. Jerry Koza acted as the Real Estate agent and located a suitable tenant. In December, we successfully signed a 5 year lease with the owner of the Cup and Cake Restaurant.

As you will read in the Finance Committee report, our financial condition at the end of the year was sound and with the lease for the Manse becoming effective on January 1, 2016, we will no longer need to carry the expenses of the vacant property and will begin to receive rental income from it.

In December, Rev. Francis officially retired from our Staff but will continue to serve as a Voluntary Associate Minister. Over many years, Rev. Maurice Francis and his wife, Ruth have enriched St. Paul's through their joint ministry of calm and

effective service. We have benefited greatly and we wish them continued joy and good health for many years.

I want to thank all of the members of St. Paul's and the Council for your support for the Church this past year and for me as your Chair. Working together as a team, we have accomplished much this year.

In closing, let me remind you that we cannot know for certain what lies ahead in 2016. I expect that the New Year will bring it's own share of challenges for St. Paul's Congregation. But we can be confident that God is leading us into a future that is already filled with His Goodness.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Clark, Chair

**ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016
AGENDA**

1. Lighting the Christ candle and opening of Annual meeting with scripture reading and prayer
2. Call to Order – Brian Clark, Council Chair
3. Appointment of Recording Secretary
 - ♦ Motion to elect Recording Secretary for February 21 Annual Meeting.
4. Motion pursuant to Section 3.7 of the United Church of Canada Manual to extend voting privileges to adherents for temporal matters only
5. Motion to approve 2016 Agenda
6. Motion to approve Minutes of February 8, 2015 Annual Meeting
7. Chair's Report – Brian Clark
8. Minister's Report - Reverend Mark Ferrier
9. Transitions of 2015 – Reverend Mark Ferrier
 - ♦ Baptism, Marriage, Funerals/Memorial Services/Committals
10. Committee Reports
 - ♦ Motion to approve 2015 Committee reports as printed
11. Manse Report – Jed Drew
12. Nominating committee report – Brian Clark
 - ♦ Motion to approve 2016-2017 Church Council
Motion to Confirm the Trustees for 2016-2017
13. Appointment of Lay Presbytery Representatives
 - ♦ Motion to elect 2016-2017 Presbytery Representatives
14. Treasurer's report
 - ♦ 2015 Financial Report
 - ♦ 2016 Budget Proposal
15. Appointment of auditor for 2016 financial records
 - ♦ Motion to approve financial auditor for 2016 records
16. New Business
17. Next Annual Meeting Date – February 12, 2017
18. Covenanting with new Committee Chairpersons and members.
19. *Adjournment, Blessing and Sending Forth

* Please stand as you are able

MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's United Church was held in the Banquet Hall on Sunday, February 8, 2015.

1. Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening of the Annual Meeting with Scripture and Prayer

2. Call to Order

Glenn Buchner, Council Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm

3. Appointment of Recording Secretary

Motion C14-01 Moved by: Laurie Drew Seconded by: Deb Wycherley

Resolved that Debbie Beres be appointed Recording Secretary for the February 8, 2015 Congregational Meeting

Carried

4. Extension of Voting Privileges to Adherents

Motion C14-02 Moved by: Dave Morris Seconded by: Rita VanLamoen

Resolved that pursuant to Section 3.7 of the United Church of Canada Manual to extend voting privileges to Adherents for Temporal matters only.

Carried

5. Approval of 2015 Agenda

Motion C14-03 Moved by: Mary Anne Silverthorn Seconded by: Dag Morris

Resolved that the agenda for the 2015 Congregational Meeting be approved as printed and amended

Carried

6. Approval of Minutes of February 9th, 2014 Congregational Meeting

Motion C14-04 Moved by: Doreen Smith Seconded by: Jed Drew

Resolved that the minutes of the February 9, 2014 Congregational meeting be approved as printed.

Carried

7. Chair's Report

Glenn Buchner expanded on his report printed on page 3 of the Annual Report. Glenn thanked committees and staff for their help during his term as Chair of Council.

8. Minister's Report

Reverend Mark Ferrier highlighted areas of his official report and thanked those who stepped forward to help during his illness and the many transitions at St. Paul's.

9. Part-time Minister's Report

Reverend Maurice Francis highlighted areas of his report as printed on page 3.

Motion C14-05 Moved by: Dag Morris Seconded by: Rick Aubrey

Resolved that the Reports of the Chair of Council, Minister and Part-time Minister be accepted as printed.

Carried

10. Transition 2014: Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals /Memorial/Services Committals/In Memoriam – Reverend Mark

11. Committee Reports – presented

12. Motion to approve Committee Reports

Motion C14-06 Moved by: Dave Ramer Seconded by: Laurie Drew

Resolved that Committee Reports be approved with additions and as printed and amended

Carried

13. Nominating Committee Report – Brian Clark

Motion C14-07 Moved by: Brian Clark Seconded by: Dag Morris

Resolved that 2015 Nominating Committee's Report be approved as printed and amended.

Carried

14. Appointment of Lay Presbytery Delegates

Motion C14-08 Moved by: Cheryl Buchner Seconded by: Laura Mahoney

Resolved that the appointment of Mary Anne Silverthorn and Doreen Smith as Lay Presbytery Delegates be approved.

Carried

15. Treasurer's Report – Laurie Drew

2014 Financial Report

Motion C14-09 Moved by: Laurie Drew Seconded by: Mary Anne Silverthorn

Resolved that the 2014 Financial Report be approved as presented.

Carried

2015 Budget – Laurie Drew

Motion C14-10 Moved by: Laurie Drew Seconded by: Doreen Smith
Resolved that the 2015 Budget be approved as printed and amended.
Carried

16. Appointment of Auditor for 2015

Motion C14-11 Moved by: Laurie Drew Seconded by: Deb Wycherley
Resolved that Paul Hanson be appointed as St. Paul's Auditor for 2015
Carried

17. New Business

- ◆ Dave Beres re: propose a change of Sunday service hours to 10 - 11:00 am
 - Rev. Mark talked on the impact of committees and staff regarding a time change and advised they should have input. A time change such as requested should be done in the summer or September to minimize confusion.
 - Dave Ramer discussed holding a second service on an alternative day of the week

Motion C14-12 Moved by: Dave Beres Seconded by: Rick Aubrey
Resolved to direct council to investigate, through its committees, to changing the start time of Sunday Service hours from 10:30 am to 10:00 am
Carried

- ◆ Rev Mark mentioned that he is in discussion with St. Johns Church regarding sharing of space during their renovations.

18. Next Annual Meeting Date

- Discussion regarding the date of next Annual meeting. It would normally be on February 14th, 2016. This conflicts with Valentine's Day and Family Day weekend.

Motion C14-13 Moved by: Doreen Smith Seconded by: Deb Wycherley
Resolved to change the date of the 2016 Annual Congregational meeting to February 21, 2016 to accommodate Valentine's Day and Family Day long weekend.
Carried

19. Adjournment, Blessing and Sending Forth – Rev Mark & Rev Maurice

Motion C14-14 Moved by: Dave Ramer
Resolved to adjourn the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's United Church at 1:40 p.m.
Carried

IN MEMORIAM

Yvonne Cooper
Margaret Nowell
Lorene Leaman
Robert Anderson
Constance Johnson
Kathaleen Hendricks
Gladys Brown
Margaret Blakely
Muriel Albright
Ruth Prouse
Kathleen Thompson
Grant McDonald

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

BY WAY OF BAPTISM

| | |
|----------------|---|
| June 14, 2015 | Ella Marie Curtis daughter of Shane Curtis and Laura Biro |
| Sept. 27, 2015 | Robert Cameron Perry son of Andrew Perry and Ashley Cartright |

MEMBERS REMOVED

By transfer of Membership

Gail Wilson
Laura Francis
Elizabeth Butler
Vincent and Lorraine Mountford

Removed by Action of Council: 2

MARRIAGES

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| June 6, 2015 | Jordan Gregory Bruckler | Kerilyn Doris Elizabeth Hayward |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|

WORSHIP COMMITTEE ~ Margot Leachman, Chair

Members: Chair, Margot Leachman, Rev. Mark Ferrier, Rev. Maurice Francis, Shelley Vermeersch, Organist/choir director, Anne Galeckas, Laura Mahoney, Sheila Payne, Doreen Smith, Marilyn Smith, Mary Beard.

The Worship Committee is responsible for the spiritual interests of the congregation. One of the main areas of oversight pertains to the Sunday worship service. On a weekly basis, Doreen Smith arranges for ushers, Sam Helsdon for greeters, and Mary Beard for readers.

Shelley Vermeersch, organist and choir director arranges for choir music and soloist as well as special presentations. This year the St. Paul's Community Choir presented the Christmas Cantata *Beautiful Star*.

The committee members organize the servers for our Communion service which take place the First Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, the First Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, World Wide Communion in October and in the summer. The elements are prepared with the help of John Somerville, Janet and Bob Jenney.

Bulletins are prepared by our Administrative Assistant, Helen Loehndorf and her helpers. Helen also prepares the slides for the Multi Media system which is operated by Dave Morris and his crew. Bill Welsh, and his helpers, run the Sound system, while Floyd Marshall video tapes the service. Bill Welsh and Dave Morris have also been available for special events, including funerals and weddings.

The Flower Committee arranges for weekly floral arrangements on the communion table and ensure these are taken to the shut-ins and others as part of St. Paul's Outreach and Pastoral Care Programs. This year they prepared the special Thanksgiving display, possible through the generosity of the Van Hoeve family, and the Poinsettia display, possible through the generosity of Anne Foster and Susan Cluett. These flowers were also taken to the shut-ins and recently bereaved.

Thank you to John Sol for faithfully updating the outside sign weekly with our upcoming Worship information.

Our custodians, Floyd Marshall and Ron Stafford work hard to keep our worship space clean and tidy.

Since the 12th century churches have used a variety of colour schemes for vestments and decorations to mark the liturgical seasons and holy days. Our choir uses the white, red, purple/blue or green collars to visually illustrate the seasons of the church year. New this year are the Antependium (hangings) for the Pulpit and Lectern designed and created by our fabric artists, Mary Johnson, Maureen Laplante, Laura Mahoney and Laurie Drew. Mary Johnson also designed and created the new blue Christmas banner.

Also new this year is the candle stand for the new Christ candle. This stand was designed and crafted by Henry Atkinson. The Christ candle is used on the Advent candle stand during the Advent season. These candles, as well as the two new white ones for the communion table are fuel-filled and presented in memory of Douglas Gilbert and Gayle Leachman.

The Worship Committee is responsible for the use of the sanctuary. In cooperation with other groups and committees we facilitate special events and services including the Lenten service, the Sunday School Christmas service, and the special music for the Christmas Fest turkey dinner. The UCW arranged a musical evening featuring The Gentlemen of Harmony and the Community Kitchen hosted a concert by Michael Toby. Victoria Gydo presented a Thanksgiving concert and the Norwich Community Concert Band, along with guests and the St. Paul's Community Choir, played in December. Robert and Lorraine Poole shared their musical talents as well.

This past summer, Cheryl Buchner and Lynne Dunlop led worship while our Minister was on vacation. Alicia Ramsey, Ruth Francis, and Carol Ferguson provided the music while our organist was on holidays.

The Worship Committee would like to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to all those who gave so freely, willingly, and faithfully of their time and talents in making this year's worship special.

We would like to thank all our staff for all they do on behalf of St. Paul's congregation.

Very sincere and special thanks go to Rev. Maurice Francis for all his work in leading special worship services, filling in when our minister is away, and his work in Pastoral Care and Outreach on behalf of our church community. We wish him all the best in his well deserved retirement.

We especially thank Rev. Mark Ferrier for leading Sunday Worship and his leadership and guidance on our faith journey and all aspects of our church life.

ST. PAUL'S CHOIR ~ Terry Pond, President

For The Choir, 2015 was a year of joy, sadness, fellowship and above all the opportunity to ensure that music is a part of our ministry here at St Paul's.

Shelley Vermeersch continues to challenge us with new and uplifting anthems. Her patience and smile brings out the best in us. Thank-you Shelley for your time, patience and encouragement.

Throughout the year, St Paul's presents a number of musical events as part of which our choir members participate...

- March 22nd - "A Musical Afternoon"; Rick Aubrey and Terry Pond as part of The Gentlemen of Harmony, Mary Johnson MC, Thelma Hadwen Organizer

- April 12th – Easter Cantata “O What A Saviour”; St Paul’s Community Choir
- November 28th – Down Home Country Christmas; Carol Crocker, Heather Dunsmore
- December 8th – “Welcome Christmas”; St Paul’s Community Choir
- December 13th – Christmas Cantata “Beautiful Star”; St Paul’s Community Choir

Thank-you to Mary & Cliff Johnson their team of volunteers for hosting our annual Choir Barbeque. Another great evening of good food and fellowship with our St Paul’s Community Choir friends.

Sadly this year we said good-bye to five current and former members of our choir – Yvonne (Prouse) Cooper, Jim Matthews, Margaret Blakley, Muriel Albright and Grant McDonald who sadly died we miss you.

If you like to sing, please join us and add your voice to the Glory of God. We rehearse Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Sanctuary.....you will be welcomed!

FLOWER COMMITTEE ~ Carol Morling

Thanks to the generous donations of many families, we have been able to place flowers in the Sanctuary for most of the Sunday services. The ill, shut-ins and recently bereaved are the recipients of these flowers.

At Christmas 40 poinsettias were arranged in the Sanctuary due to the generous donation of Ann Foster and Susan Cluett. These flowers are delivered by church members to members and adherents as an expression of our outreach ministry.

Thanks to Peg de Jongh for her years of service on the committee. Anne Beard, Peg Hogarth, Jean Mills and Carol Morling welcome the two new members of the committee, Wilma Jeffery and Nancy Fitzpatrick. We appreciate the help of the members of the congregation for putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations as well as organizing the distribution of poinsettias done by Marlen Gilbert and staff.

OXFORD PRESBYTERY REPORT for 2015 ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn

Oxford Presbytery is a gathering of Ministry Personnel and Lay Representatives from each Pastoral Charge around the county. Presbytery is one of the 4 courts of the United Church. The other Courts are General Council, Conference, Presbytery and the local governing body of the Pastoral Charge.

Presbytery Meetings are held at churches throughout the County. Also included at the meetings are representatives from Camp Tanner and the UCW Presbyterial. The Presbytery meets monthly (second Wednesday) throughout most of the year.

Meetings are not held in July and August. The Presbytery Executive is made up of the chairs of teams and meets monthly on the last week of the month. Teams meet at the call of the Chair.

Rev. Jane Van Patter from St. David's United Church in Woodstock completed her term as Chair of Presbytery for 2014-2015 in September. The present Chair is **Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) Lemon** who is retired. Her term ends in June of 2016. The Chair - elect is Rev. Maya Landell - of Innerkip-Eastwood Pastoral Charge.

Each meeting is centered on a **theme**. Beginning with **dinner** (served by the members of the host church) there is always lots of **singing**, a **meditation**, **table conversation** and **group discussion**. Some of the discussions this year have centered on decisions made at General Council (GC 42) held in August 2014 in Newfoundland. *(Personally I was an **elected commissioner** = delegate from London Conference for that meeting. It was very moving to be a part of this large decision making body - a body that voted for many changes in the structure of the United Church. Many of these proposed changes will come to each Pastoral Charge as remits requiring a vote at each Pastoral Charge. Stay tuned for more details during the 2016 year).* During each **business** portion of the Presbytery meeting, Committee Chairs present items requiring **decisions** by the Court. Each meeting concludes with a **reflection** given by a member of Presbytery, a **closing hymn** and the **benediction**. As 2015 drew to a close many of our Presbytery discussions centered on the Syrian refugee programme and plans for Oxford's participation.

Lay reps are designated by the number of members at a Pastoral Charge (as outlined in the United Church Manual). St. Paul's is eligible for 3 lay reps. This year there have been two reps- namely: Doreen Smith and Mary Anne Silverthorn. Our clergy Rev Mark Ferrier, Rev. Maurice Francis and Rev Pat Cook also attend. Clergy attend Presbytery whether they are serving full time, part time or retired. Reports from Presbytery meetings are given at our Council meetings. If you are interested in serving as a Presbytery Lay Rep or just want further information about items you hear or read about -feel free to ask any of your reps at any time. It is always good to keep current and up-to-date. Thank you for the personal opportunity to represent St. Paul's at the Presbytery level.

Report submitted by

Mary Anne Silverthorn - St. Paul's Presbytery Lay Rep / Chair of Presbytery Pastoral Relations Team

Other Presbytery Reps from St. Paul's

Doreen Smith -- St. Paul's Presbytery Lay Rep / Member of Finance and Administration team

Rev. Mark --- Clergy / Chair of Mission and Service Presbytery Team

Rev. Maurice --- Clergy / Member of Education and Students Team

Rev. Pat --- Clergy / Member of Finance and Administration Team

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ~ John Somerville, Deputy Chair

Manse issues dominated the time and thoughts of Trustees again this year. However the outcome this year is very positive. I will first discuss minor items and then return to the manse.

The maturing 2015 GIC from the Pressey estate was reinvested for a 5 year term at 2.08%. This is in keeping with our 5 year laddering plan. The plan ensures the church always receives the top GIC rate and one fifth of the money comes due each year.

\$5,054.54 interest was generated and deposited to the general account for use of property as her will stipulates.

Insurance was \$8061 with a rebate tax of \$328 versus \$8080 in 2014. Rebates applied due to manse vacancy. Insurance also reflects a built in inflation factor of 4% approximately.

On the recommendation of Trustees, Council approved the upgrades and refurbishment of manse as detailed in last year's report. The Business Improvement Association (BIA) contracted to provide \$10,000 in grant money.

Work commenced in April and finished the end of May. Dean Masson Construction did the work. Council approved \$33,781.89 and the final bill was \$34,224.47, a minor \$442.61 over budget. Jed Drew, on behalf of Trustees and Council, spent countless hours on the project. He researched contractors, received tenders, negotiated with BIA (with Dave Morris) and oversaw the day to day work of the contractor. Jed also obtained several upgrades from Dean Masson at no charge. Thank you Jed. Your thoroughness and dedication to detail resulted in a manse we can be proud of and a job done on budget!!!!

Since Trustees have been so involved with the manse over the last few years the Property committee has relinquished control to Trustees. Communication will be maintained between the committees. A Manse Maintenance Manual has been prepared detailing all work and possible future work to manse building. Thanks again to Jed who will assume the role of Property Manager.

The Manse continued to be listed for commercial lease with RE Wood Realty. Several parties looked at the property through 2015. In November Joanna Brooks of Cup and Cake expressed serious interest. A lease was negotiated and signed for January 1, 2016 as the start date with the following terms:

5 year lease at \$1,000.00 per month.

First and Last month's rental due immediately.

First 3 months rental waived to allow time for tenant to renovate, upgrade and relocate. Upgrades include new kitchen floor, triple sink and changes to garage for storage.

Tenant is responsible for taxes, utilities and insurance (\$2,000,000 property liability and property damage).

The last item is very significant. In 2015 St. Paul's paid \$8,330.33 in taxes and \$1,305.34 in utilities (not including December). As well as receiving an income St. Paul's will save approximately \$10,000 in manse expenses for 2016. Trustees are confident Ms. Brooks will prove a reliable tenant as she currently operates an established business. The previous 2 tenants began as startups.

The receipt of \$10,000.00 grant money has been somewhat problematic. Many layers of committees and bureaucracy. The Beautification and Cemeteries Committee has given approval that the restoration work was in keeping with the historical nature of the building. The grant comes with conditions. As such the loan agreement must be registered against the title. The deed is still registered to the Methodist church. Apparently Trustees did not make the necessary changes in 1925 when the property changed to St. Paul's United. Trustees are diligently working with the lawyer to bring the legal title up to date, so the BIA grant may be released. We were hopeful all would be solved by year end, but are confident grant money will be received early 2016. St. Paul's has recoverable HST of \$2697 to help offset the cost of manse renovations.

Enclosed is a current listing of St. Paul's investments.

Thank you to all committee members for dedicating their time and talents for the betterment of St. Paul's. I am extremely pleased to present a positive report.

John Somerville, Deputy Chair
Board of Trustees for 2015:

Brian Clark, Jed Drew, Rev. Mark Ferrier, Harley Jackson, Sheila McKibbin, Dave Morris, John Somerville, Dale Springer, Deb Wycherley.

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
TILLSONBURG, ON
INVESTMENT FUNDS SUMMARY
STATEMENT**

SCOTIA McLEOD ACCT: 467-01115

Authorizations: (Any two of): John Somerville, Brian Clark, Jed Drew, Deb Wycherley

| Issuer | Settlement Date | Maturity | Amount | Interest | Investment Type | Source of Funds |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| HSBC Bk. | | 02/08/16 | \$34,000.00 | 2.40% | GIC | F. Pressey |
| HSBC Bk. | | 02/08/17 | \$34,698.00 | 2.70% | GIC | F. Pressey |
| Home Equity Bank | | 02/12/18 | \$34,000.00 | 2.45% | GIC | F. Pressey |
| Concentra | 02/12/14 | 02/10/19 | \$63,200.00 | 2.70% | GIC | F. Pressey |
| Concentra | 02/10/15 | 02/10/20 | \$34,000.00 | 2.08% | GIC | F. Pressey |
| Total Invested | | | \$199,898.00 | Interest paid annually. Electronic Funds Transfer to St. Paul's Operating Account at Royal Bank | | |

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA ACCT: 573-01756

Authorizations: (Any two of): John Somerville, Brian Clark, Jed Drew, Deb Wycherley

| Issuer | Settlement Date | Maturity | Amount | Interest | Investment Type | Source of Funds |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| BNS | 01/20/16 | 01/20/18 | \$50,883.96 | 1.69% | GIC | Dr. Alexander |
| Total Invested | | | \$50,883.96 | Interest paid annually by cheque. | | |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Grand Total Invested (sum of all accounts) | \$250,781.96 | All investments are CDIC Insured |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|

CONDITIONS:

F. Pressey - Interest only may be spent on property until December 17, 2020. No restrictions on use of principal or interest after Dec. 17, 2020.

Dr. Alexander - Original \$50,000 principal cannot be touched. No restriction on use of interest.

Dates shown are: Month/Day/Year

Updated as of: 1/28/16

Excerpts from Strategic Options Review – Manse

Executive Summary – Jed Drew

This report has been prepared in order to clearly delineate and assess the long-term strategic options available to the congregation of St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg, with respect to the future retention and use of its Victorian-era manse.

The manse has been an issue of concern for some time, and the level of concern was certainly heightened during 2015 when the building was vacant throughout the year, as the result of the business failure on the part of the last tenant.

During this period there was no income received from the property, while the congregation was responsible for paying the insurance, taxes and utilities. Consequently, not including money spent for restoration of the exterior, partially funded under the auspices of the Town of Tillsonburg / Business Improvement Association, there was a total operating funds cash drain of \$10,622 for the year 2015 to cover taxes, utilities and insurance.

Prior to the last tenant's business demise, approval was given to restore the exterior of the building, utilizing the congregation's funds and a forgivable grant of \$10,000 from the Town/BIA. The total expenditure in 2015 for the exterior renovations to protect the building and make it more marketable was \$21,527, after accounting for the BIA grant and the rebate claimed on the HST.

It should be noted that at the time of writing this report we are still awaiting the grant money from the Town. The Town is prepared to pay, but a delay has occurred as we straighten out a residual issue regarding the proper designation of the name of the owner on the registered title to the property. This issue, which is currently in the process of resolution, stems from the fact that after the Methodist Church joined in union to form the United Church in 1925, Trustees at the time did not register the deed in the name of the United Church of Canada. We have filed the necessary documents to register the change and, when they are finalized, we will receive the grant money from the Town. As the funding will come in due time, for the purposes of this report we are assuming it is in place.

Clearly, with respect to the manse, the congregation has a major asset that requires a comprehensive future plan. This planning was broken down into two stages. First, there needed to be an assessment of the current condition of the building, with an eye to identifying future maintenance requirements. This first stage of the planning process was completed in September with the adoption of the "Manse Maintenance Manual". The second stage, this report, addresses the future strategic options available with respect to the manse.

In order to clearly identify the issues, there has been considerable discussion at both the Board of Trustees and the Church Council level and the following three options were identified as those which were to be reviewed.

- Commercial Lease of the Manse
- Sale of the Manse
- Demolition of the Manse

Needless to say, we were not in a position where we could simply sit back and develop this plan at a leisurely pace without any funds coming in. Accordingly, concurrent with the development of the long-term options the church's trustees were actively marketing the building as a leasing option in order to stem the cash outflow that occurs when the building is not actually producing revenue. This course was followed in recognition of the fact that either of the other two options would involve lengthy and onerous detailed work before they could ever become realities, even if they did prove to be the best options, and that protecting cash flow was an economic imperative.

The results of this analysis show the preferred option to be to continue with the commercial lease of the manse. This option shows an average annual positive cash flow of approximately \$9,200, while still preserving a major capital asset that has the capacity to sustain a favorable cash flow for many years in the future.

The second preferred option, although a distant second choice, is to sever the property and sell the manse. The estimated cash flow for such an option ranges from \$137,000 to \$197,000, depending upon the actual selling price and the associated costs for severing the property, and the marketing costs involved. While this amount may seem to be a potential cash windfall, it is not an option that will provide a sustainable annual income. Furthermore, selling the property has the potential of devaluing the remaining property by as much as \$100,000 as it will result in an unusual L-shaped lot for the remaining portion.

The demolition option is clearly not worth pursuing as it generates no revenue – indeed, it has a potential cost of approximately \$80,000. It would be very time-consuming and has the potential to cause considerable ill-will within the congregation and the community as it would mean that St. Pauls' would be the instigator of an action to demolish a designated heritage site.

Recommendation

Trustees recommend that St. Paul's stay the course with the commercial lease option. As we currently have a lease in place there is no implementation plan involved but the congregation needs to be cognizant of the need for us to keep up with the on-going inspection and maintenance of the manse so that we can sustain the cash flow stream into the future.

Jed Drew

MEMBERSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND CARE COMMITTEE ~ Cheryl Buchner, Chair

Following a couple of very busy years with the major projects of updating the membership roll, producing the photo directory and organizing the initial orders of magnetic name tags, 2015 was a slower pace for this committee.

After the MFC Committee organized very successful card parties in the 2015 spring season, Council decided to assume responsibility for this fun and fund raising event in the fall. Other committee activities throughout the year included ordering more magnetic name tags, organizing the Coffee Hour schedule, a work bee preparing greeting cards and the annual review of the membership roll.

Special thanks are certainly due to each of the committee members including Maida Chanyi, Dag Morris, Edith Saunders and Rev. Maurice Francis for all their help.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL ~ Mary Anne Silverthorn/Karen Helsdon Co-chairs

The work of the Ministry and Personnel (M and P) Committee is described in the Manual and the Bylaws of the United Church as well as the Constitution of St. Paul's United Church. The M and P shall:

- 1) provide a consultative and supportive agency for the staff of the Pastoral Charge and for the members and adherents of the Congregation
- 2) review working conditions and remuneration for the staff of the Pastoral Charge and make appropriate recommendations to the Church Council
- 3) oversee the relationship of the staff of the Pastoral charge to members of the congregation and others
- 4) review regularly the responsibilities of all staff of the Pastoral Charge and revise position descriptions when required or requested
- 5) review and evaluate annually the effectiveness of the staff of the Pastoral Charge as these persons and positions relate to the mission of the Pastoral Charge as defined by the Church Council
- 6) review with Ministry personnel and staff their salaries, allowances and honoraria and the working conditions of the pastoral change and to make appropriate recommendations to the Council / budget committee prior to the beginning of the regular budgeting process.
- 7) conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of all ministry personnel and staff referring to the goals and objectives established by the Church council
- 8) work to resolve conflict at the earliest possible stage
- 9) liaise with the Presbytery Pastoral Relations team as needed.

In 2015, St. Paul's had a staff of 7 people. They were namely:

Rev. Mark Ferrier - Full time ordained clergy
Rev. Maurice Francis - part time retired clergy
Karen Hodges - Sunday School Co-ordinator
Helen Loehndorf - Administrative Assistant
Floyd Marshall and Ron Stafford - Custodians
Shelley Vermeersch - Director of Music and Organist

Rev Mark continues to provide spiritual leadership in his role as full time ordained clergy. Thank you for your commitment to the people of St. Paul's.

Rev Maurice continued to provide pulpit supply when available but a major portion of his time has been assisting Rev Mark with the pastoral care to those shut in, living in retirement homes or long term care facilities. In addition Rev. Maurice provided communion for those individuals also. Rev Maurice will be retiring from this position effective December 31, 2015. He will be greatly missed. Thank you Maurice.

Karen Hodges has experienced some health issues this year. However regardless of her health complications she has continued to carry on with her programs for the Sunday School and PA day programming. Karen's commitment to the Children's Christmas program made it a great success. Keep enjoying your return to good health - the kids were missing you. Thank you for your work with the youngest folk of St. Paul's.

Helen Loehndorf has worked diligently to learn the many tasks of being our new Administrative Assistant. The committee met with her on several occasions during the year to discuss her work load and the many facets of her work as she completed her 1st year at St. Paul's. Well done Helen.

Floyd Marshall and Ron Stafford work as a team to share the tasks of the Custodian. Both are dedicated workers who try to keep our facility sparkling. Many thanks to both of you.

Shelley Vermeersch our Director of Music and Organist continues to provide excellent leadership in the Ministry of Music weekly. Her work with the Choir is witnessed in the weekly anthems. The highlight of the year is always the Christmas cantata. Shelley and the St. Paul's Community Choir received many accolades as members of the congregation expressed their sincere appreciation for the amazing music. It is a testament to Shelley's leadership as many from the community joined to share their voices for the Christmas cantata expressing their desire to be a part of this group. Outstanding work Shelley and many thanks for your dedication to your position.

The committee thanks each one of our staff for their dedication to and commitment to the people of St. Paul's. We say many thanks to all of the staff who provide caring services to the congregation in their respective roles. Personally Karen and I thank the members of this Committee for the support they give to the staff. We also thank them sincerely for giving of their time and talents to the M and P Committee.

Mary Anne Silverthorn / Karen Helsdon Co-chairs

The Christian Development and Sunday School had another busy and fun filled year under the excellent leadership of Karen Hodges as our Sunday School Coordinator bringing Christian Education to all ages at St Paul's.

We continued to hold our PA days program through-out 2015. We averaged 7-10 registrants per day. All the children have a great day and look forward to returning for the next one.

We were unable to hold our Vacation Bible School this year due to illness, but look forward another one in the future if the funding is available.

Sunday School

This year the Sunday school children continued to study the books of the Bible and their stories and how it relates from Jesus time to today. This year we have started the New Testament. We have two classes, our 5-9 age group taught by Karen Hodges and Brenda Marshall and our Youth class taught by Karen Helsden and Wayne Beard. We have our Toddlers class who share a Bible Story and craft before going to our play based class room with music and play, taught by Janet VanHoeve, Karen Kaufman and Brenda Marshall. The nursery for under two year olds is still available.

We hosted St John's Anglican Church Sunday School for September and October while their church was under renovations.

We continue to upgrade our Kids Town adding a Tim Hortons and Post Office. The kids are always excited with the changes.

Activities

We had another busy year starting with hosting the Pancake Dinner then a well attended Hot Dog Sunday. We cancelled our annual Sunday School picnic due to illness but hope to resume in 2016. Our Sunday School held their Christmas program December 20th in the evening and it was very well attended. Thank you to all of our actors. Our Sunday School made tree decorations and several crafts for the Frosty Fair Bazaar.

Future

We are continuing with PA Days and planning another VBS in March. The CD Committee is looking into the prospects of starting a Messy Church. It is just in the gathering of information stages, a possibility joining other Churches in the area. We have lots of other activities in the works as well, maybe another movie night, maybe a supper night, and we are hoping to hold more Hot Dog Sundays.

Starting this year we are having a short Bible story with the 2-4 year olds in the Sunday School Library before their craft and play time. This means more volunteers will be necessary. As every year there is still a shortage of volunteers, even just to read a story, help with a craft or to talk to the children about your hobbies. The children are like sponges and absorb and appreciate the lessons and

socializing with others. We are asking anyone interested or just curious about what happens in Sunday School to come down and observe the joy and fun the children and youth have learning the same stories you learned as a child. Feel free to speak to Karen Hodges or any of our current volunteers to learn more about our program.

Bible Study Group with Ruth Francis

We met 13 times during the course of 2015 with an average attendance of 7 participants. Most of our time has been focusing on the truths of the Beatitudes as found in the gospel of Matthew. Along with our study and prayer time we enjoy a warm accepting fellowship.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN ~ Laurie Drew, Coordinator

We continue to serve the hungry people in Tillsonburg. Interestingly enough, there are fewer people on average this year coming to eat and visit with their friends and us. This may be a result of new “geared-to-income” housing opening in Woodstock.

We wish to thank all those who continue to support us. Without you, we would not be able to deliver this Outreach programme at St. Paul’s.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ~ Harley Jackson, Chair

Property had a fairly normal year with repairs, replacement items and addressing issues. There were several issues as to who was responsible for closing the building after an event. All events (Church use) need to go through The Church office and the person responsible for closing is so noted—Please - Please follow this procedure.

We had several issues over the composting from the kitchen, we just recently established the following policy, anyone in the Church producing composting material (see list near dish washer) must put in garbage bag (preferred) and before leaving the Church take to a box outside near shed. We thank Greg Loehndorf for removing the compost from the outside box.

Property held 2 training sessions with approximately 24 persons attending. The training was on the using of fire extinguishers that included instruction on the equipment in the kitchen used for fire protection. Property is asking that any group or person using the kitchen be instructed on the using of fire protection equipment. Pulling the wrong lever can cost us hundreds of dollars. You will also note that every fire extinguisher now has a red arrow near or above it. We owe our thanks to Barry Jackson and Mike Verboom of Tillsonburg Fire and Safety Equipment for leading us in this training.

Property thanks and appreciates Dave Ramer stepping up and filling in two times this year when the chair was absent. We all owe thanks to Bonnie, Maurice, Sam H,

Karen K and any other person/s who worked to keep our grounds and flower beds looking very good this past year.

Other items:

- the timer on main fridge that controls the temperature was not showing the correct readings - out of sync and needed a service call to reset at \$200.00
- approximately 12 persons assisted property in Church grounds clean-up in April-thank you to all including Finn and Bella.
- 6 sets of new taps were installed in the ladies washrooms \$225.00
- The Church entrance oak doors were cleaned up and varnished \$800.00
- Vandal/s broke a lower outside window on Fox Alley side \$400.00
- we replaced the fire alarm panel and the annunciator panel \$3000.00
- the shed was cleaned out and rearranged to hold gardening tools for yard, thanks to Maurice and Ron.
- The hinges on Fox Alley door were repaired \$350.00
- the downstairs water fountain was replaced and our thanks go to the Mannel family, Brian Clark and UCW for their kind donations.

Property needs to inform the congregation that the upper Church metal fascia is badly in need of cleaning and painting, an estimate to repair is \$22,500.00 plus taxes.

Many thanks to Helen who is always cheery and friendly when she is asked for any assistance.

Thanks to all the committee members - Rev. Mark, Margaret Meerveld, Ron Stafford, Bob Jenney, Chris Gowman, Barb Aurbey, Reg Butcher and Coleen Martin.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ SHEILA MCKIBBIN, Chair

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

(Matthew 25:40)

Stewardship is what we do with all that God has given us, all the time. The generous spirit of St Paul's continues to support the church's ministry at home, across our country and globally.

St Paul's makes an annual commitment to support the work of the national United Church through its Mission and Service Fund. This year our total to this fund was \$31,913.50 which included \$5000.00 from the UCW. In addition to the regular

gifts there were supra gifts to Nepal Earthquake Relief \$1425.00, and to Syrian Relief \$1550.00. Our Spare Change for World Change jar totalled \$308.00.

The specially designated offerings supported the following projects:

Camp Tanner, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Community Kitchen, Fresh Start (Rehoboth, St Thomas), Tillsonburg Helping Hands Food Bank, Sakura House, Salvation Army, and United Church World Development. The amounts for each are in the financial statement.

We participated in the Salvation Army Backpacks for Kids project with more than 15 backpacks, lunch bags and a number of school supplies. As well there was \$300.00 in cash and gift certificates of \$40.00.

St. Paul's is generous in offering space to many community groups: Mother Goose, Interdenominational Services, Guiding groups, Salvation Army kitchen projects, Heart and Stroke Association and Community Kitchen.

A variety of non-monetary collections are encouraged. Canadian Tire money helps Camp Tanner purchase articles for the camp. Used stamps are collected for the Leprosy of Canada. Campbell soup labels are collected by the UCW for the World Mission to the Deaf. Sobeys' stamps help to replace the knives in our kitchen. Pop can tabs are also saved for the Sea Scouts project. St Paul's supports our local Food Bank with donations of food on the last Sunday of each month. This year the grand total in pounds surpassed 722!

Thank you for all the gifts from those who care and for the enthusiasm of all who reach out quietly giving their gifts of time and talent.

Committee members: Fran Bell, Laurie Drew, Sheila McKibbin

ST. PAUL'S ARCHIVES ~ Marion Hevenor, Archivist

Minutes of past years of all the organizations of the church are kept in the archives cupboard or the church safe. Special events are also kept on the computer for your convenience. Church services are also videoed weekly including special events. In the archives room there are always two or three archive books on display for your perusal, and are changed frequently.

This year we celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. At that time pictures and material of the beginning of the church were on display for several weeks.

Pictures of those ninety years or older that attended the service on June 14 as well as one of the baptismal services have been included - the oldest to the youngest, in the archive book.

ST. PAUL'S SOUND SYSTEM ~ Bill Welsh

We thank Bill Epple, Harvey Jones and Bill Welsh. We are always looking for new people to step forward to help bring the sound to all people in the congregation and we will train you.

We have hearing ear pieces that can be borrowed from the sound operator if you require them.

A.O.T.S. (As One That Serves) MEN'S CLUB ~ Rev. Maurice Francis

In 2015 St. Paul's AOTS Men's club followed a little different pathway. Starting with leadership shared between Dave Morris, Harley Jackson, Maurice Francis with ongoing support from Sam Lamb and other members of the "on going" sometimes referred to as the "Permanent" Executive.

In any event we managed the year with fairly good results. There were 5 Sunday Breakfast meetings. In January there was a presentation by staff from Sakura (Hospice) House.

In March, Aurilla Ripley told us about collecting pop can tabs to buy wheelchairs for needy kids. In May we visited the Gay Lea Dairy Museum South of Aylmer, with lunch at the Pinecroft Tea Room and a visit to Quai de Vin Winery. In June we held our annual Golf day with BBQ at Dave and Dag Morris's. In September at our Breakfast we heard from Chris and Liz Arrow telling us about life in Australia. In October we attended and provided an honor Guard at the celebration for the life of long-time member, Grant McDonald. In October we toured the Christian Gleaners project at Cambridge where they collect excess vegetables, clean them, chop them, dry them and package them for nutritious Soup mixes to be used in places of famine around the world. Lunch after at the NAPA Grille and Bar.

November 1 we were blessed to have Pastor Peter Black as our guest preacher at our annual Church service. Peter and his wife Mae supplied splendid music and the Children's story time. We sponsored the Spaghetti dinner in January and Chicken BBQ in September also helped out with the annual Council sponsored Turkey Christmas Fest dinner.

Some of the projects we sponsored or assisted with:

Minor Baseball, Upper deck, Camp Tanner, Sea Scouts, Sakura House, Christian Gleaners, St. Paul's Church.

A.O.T.S. Men's Club 2015 Financial Report

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Opening Balance | | \$ 2,088.23 |
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Chicken BBQ | 1,396.65 | |
| Spaghetti Dinner | 851.00 | |
| Breakfast Meetings | 282.00 | |
| Membership Dues | 300.00 | |
| | | 2,829.65 |
| <u>Expense</u> | | |
| Bank Charges | 30.00 | |
| Sakura House | 200.00 | |
| Tabs 4 Kids | 100.00 | |
| T'burg Minor Ball | 300.00 | |
| Camp Tanner | 300.00 | |
| Upper Deck - YFC | 300.00 | |
| T'burg Sea Scouts | 300.00 | |
| St. Paul's Church | <u>1,500.00</u> | |
| Donations | 3,000.00 | |
| AOTS Sunday | 315.49 | |
| AOTS Canada | 225.00 | |
| Video Camera | 246.34 | |
| Round-up | 189.00 | |
| Breakfast | 175.70 | |
| UCW/Kitchen Supplies | <u>150.00</u> | |
| | | 4,331.53 |
| Closing Balance | | \$ <u>586.35</u> |



THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN ~ Esther Sol

In 2015 the United Church Women continue to fulfill their purpose of witness, study, fellowship and service. We lost a number of valuable members during this year and they will be sorely missed.

We continue with 2 units Unit 1 lead by Thelma Hadwen and Unit 6 led by Pat Cook with Jean Mills as alternate. Unit 1 meets monthly on the 4th Monday of the month @ 2p.m. and Unit 6 still has their meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month @ 7p.m. No meetings are scheduled for July or August.

The Monthly Executive meeting meets on the 1st Monday of the month @ 1p.m. to plan and conduct the ongoing business of the U.C.W.

The instillation of executive was conducted by Rev Mark Ferrier on February 2, 2015. We celebrated U.C.W. Sunday June 7th with Pat Cook as our Leader. This was a great opportunity to hear a message especially prepared for U.C.W. by Pat. Lunch was prepared and served to the congregation following the service.

Besides our regular monthly meetings there were two general meetings during the year (details in the program committee report) these were well done and enjoyed by all. Thank you to our program committee.

We again participated in local outreach by providing funeral lunches, catering for special occasions, supplying food for Lenten lunch and assisting with Heart and Stroke Soup Kitchen. In the summer we cooked a meal for campers at Camp Tanner.

In November of this year we hosted the Oxford Presbyterial U.C.W. Fall Pot Luck. There were approximately 60 attendees and the Speaker was Rev. Oakey. His message was based on his sabbatical in Israel. This was a good event, thank you to all who participated.

Several important fund raisers were held this year. They began with the Musical Concert in March; The Geranium Coffee Break and Bake sale in May and finally The Frosty Fair Bazaar in November. Each of these undertakings requires planning and organization by a number of people. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the leaders of the events and express how much we appreciate their time and effort to make these successful. Along with the special events we also bake chicken, beef and fruit pies. Cabbage rolls are a big fund raiser for the bazaar and then there are all those special ladies who bake, craft and work for these projects. Again our thanks.

The ongoing fund raiser of stamps for leprosy and Campbell soup labels rounds out some of our other activities.

On behalf of the U.C.W. I would like to thank our Administrative Assistant Helen for her kind helpfulness all year, our custodians Floyd and Ron, and Shelley for her help and assistance whenever asked.

I would be terribly remiss if I didn't say a huge thank you to my executive who have given me consistent help and guidance thru this very challenging year. (One more to go ladies).

I would like to conclude with a very heartfelt thank you to all the members of St Paul's for their assistance, participation and attendance at all our events. We couldn't do it without you.

To all the ladies of the church please accept our open invitation to all of you to join us or just attend a meeting when you can We look forward to another busy but rewarding year.

CHURCH IN COMMUNITY ~ Lynda Atkinson and Karon Harris

St. Paul's U.C.W. participated in the usual outreach services – World Day of Prayer, packing cookies at Christmas time and entertaining at Maple Maple. We provided lunch for families following several funerals and memorial services in 2015.

2015 PROGRAMME REPORT~ Fran Bell, Shirley Godfree and Sheila McKibbin

The Programme Committee arranged the following events:

The April 27th meeting at 2:00 p.m. was attended by 29 people. The theme was entitled The Gift of Today and included the guest speaker, Nancy Clark who is the co-ordinator of Hospice and Volunteers at VON Sakura House. Lunch followed.

At noon on December 9th, 37 people enjoyed a turkey dinner catered by Dave Beres. The programme, Gifts, featured Donna Acre and Amanda Mueller from the Salvation Army who shared the process involved in providing the Christmas hampers from the Christmas Kettle collections to the distribution.

In addition, the committee assisted with the Oxford Presbyterial Meeting in the fall, held at St. Paul's.

LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT ~ Doreen Smith & Carol Morling

In 2015 several members of St. Paul's United Church Women attended Oxford Presbyterial and London Conference meetings where they enjoyed the fellowship of other United Church women and at the same time heard uplifting and informative programs.

The following programs were held this year:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| January 20, 2015 | - Oxford Presbyterial 53 rd Annual Meeting Knox United Church, Embro Theme Speaker: Barb Dawson Theme: "We Have an Anchor" |
|------------------|--|

- March 30 2015 - 6 p.m. - Spring Event at Innerkip United Church
A dessert Meeting
- April 19 & 20 - London Conference U.C.W. Annual Gathering
St Andrews United Church, Sault Ste. Marie
Theme Speaker: Rev.Eun-Joo Park
Theme: "We Have an Anchor"
- May 1, 2,3 - Westminster Weekend at the Stoneridge Inn, London
- June 8 - Oxford Presbyterial Day of Retreat
Ingersoll Seniors Centre, Ingersoll
Speaker: Carol Weicker
- July 18 - Summer Event at Siloam United Church, London
Speaker: Rev. Kate Crawford
- November 9 -11 am - UCW Fall Event-Pot luck
St Paul's United Church Tillsonburg
Speaker: Rev. Lloyd Oakey

All women are invited to attend these events

2016 EVENTS

Oxford Presbyterial - 54th Annual Meeting on January 20th, 2016
St. David's United Church Woodstock
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

U.C.W. ARCHIVES ~ Marion Hevenor, Archivist

This year's archives book of the U.C.W. has an abundance of pictures, taken at the time of their many activities adhering to their purpose – Christian Witness, Study Fellowship and Service.

Past minute books are kept in the archives cupboard, as are the archive books, of which, some copies are on display on the table in the archives area.

U.C.W. UNIT 1 ~ Thelma Hadwen

Unit 1 St. Paul's United Church Women began 2015 with 12 paid members and 6 associate members. Over the year our members decreased with the death of Margaret Blakely whom we very much miss.

In January we had a very interesting program of 'Doctors Without Borders' – their mandate is being involved in areas that need emergency relief where there is no medical infrastructure in place.

Our February meeting was on the Stephen Lewis foundation which we help support through our participation in the Grandmothers for Grandmothers Program – the focus on helping Grandmothers raising their grandchildren. A sweetheart sing song was enjoyed by all.

In March we focused on brotherhood – Members speaking about their racial background – on how all of us are were descendants of immigrants and the need to accept and encourage new Canadians. We compared Tolerance and Prejudice.

Unit 1 and Unit 6 joined for our April meeting which featured a speaker from Sakura House – the Palliative Care Centre in Woodstock.

In May we took a journey down memory lane with discussion on living before 1950. Due to the age of our members there was much to reminisce about e.g. Church, women's groups, clothing, food, living conditions, working women etc.

In June we gathered at Thelma Hadwen's house for a picnic, and what was listed as fun and games ended up being a discussion on Old Tillsonburg with much laughter and reminiscing!

July and August – there were no meetings.

September took us on an armchair travel to New Zealand's North Island. Shirley Godfree kindly showed a film with comments by Bette Clarke. Our 'What we did on our Vacations' theme was held over for another time as our time ran out. We enjoyed Tim Tams a favourite Australian/New Zealand biscuit along with other refreshments.

Our October meeting featured the favourite hymn 'In the Garden' which was followed by discussion and suggestions on Wills, Power of Attorney for Finances and Health Care; as well as Funeral Planning and Arrangements. All of which require legal documents or lists of wishes.

We then heard a list of 'Things to do Now for Home Safety' - medical aids to prevents slips and falls, decluttering space; use of night lights; flashlight available for power outages; call alert systems should we need help due to illness or falls; keeping doors locked even when you are home; not allowing strangers into your house; not being the victim of telemarketing and computer scams. The discussion was lengthy but necessary!

In November we held our Advent Service singing carols and hearing the meaning and observances of the Advent Season. Held at Thelma's house – followed by Christmas goodies.

At every meeting a worship service was presented appropriate to the program and business of the U.C.W. was discussed followed by a time for socializing and refreshments were held. This is the time to talk and laugh with fellow members and is most enjoyed!!

Our election of officers for 2016 was held at the November meeting with no changes from 2015. General Meetings were attended by some of our members, we are small in numbers but have a high attendance rate. We are carrying on and welcome New Members!

U.C.W. UNIT 6 ~ Pat Cook, Unit Leader

It was a busy time for Unit Six, with a variety of activities presented by the committee groups, over the nine months we met in the year. At four different meetings, throughout the year, the ladies enjoyed a tasty meal and shared in a time of fellowship.

The January committee presented a reading on the "Gift of Friendship."

February's focus was three Gifts of the Spirit – Love, Joy, and Peace. One of the committee members read a poem by author Helen Steiner Rice. In 2013/15 the theme for United Church Women was "Will Your Anchor Hold."

The March committee chose to follow the theme and shared information on the hymn: "Will Your Anchor Hold."

In April Sharon Noad informed us about her experiences in Cambodia. She travelled with the Veteran Affairs Tabitha Foundation, who worked together to help build homes for families in Cambodia. Fund raising is still on going for the building of a Women's Hospital in Cambodia.

The theme for our May meeting was quilting. We listened to the stories of several quilt patterns and had the pleasure of hearing Pastor Starr Ferris, from the Salvation Army, share her knowledge on quilts.

The program for June was a slide presentation by Shirley Godfree and Ida Traxler – on their trip to Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos.

We took a summer break during July and August.

The unit returned in September to a devotion based on three Gifts of the Spirit – Patience, Kindness, and Faithfulness.

At the October meeting we welcomed Dorothy Arnold, the President of Oxford Presbyterial. She shared her wisdom on the United Church Women's Purpose.

November meeting is the last time we gather before the year end. The Christmas Story was the topic for this evening and we had the pleasure of listening to stories and background information on various symbols of Christmas.

It has been an informative year where new friendships were formed and a good time has been enjoyed by all. We look forward to 2016 as we share in a time of

fellowship with one another and hear new incites on the different topics presented this year.

All church ladies are welcome to attend.

ST. PAUL'S U.C.W. 2016 EXECUTIVE

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President | Esther Sol | 519-842-7102 |
| Past President | Doreen Smith | 519-842-3190 |
| Vice President | Margot Leachman | 519-842-5804 |
| Second Vice President | | |
| Recording Secretary | Nancy Fitzpatrick | 519-842-8154 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Jean Mills | 519-842-8543 |
| Treasurer | Irene Gillespie | 519-842-3858 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Mary Hessler | 519-409-0716 |
| Program Committee | Sheila McKibbin | 519-842-3258 |
| | Shirley Godfree | 519-842-8580 |
| | Fran Bell | 519-688-0016 |
| Presbyterial Representative | Doreen Smith | 519-842-3190 |
| Church in Society (funerals) | Lynda Atkinson | 519-842-2118 |
| Church in Society | Karon Harris | 519-842-8596 |
| World Outreach | Karon Harris | 519-842-8596 |
| Archives | Marion Hevenor | 519-842-2469 |
| Auditor | Doreen Smith | 519-842-3190 |

UNIT LEADERS:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Unit 1 leader: | Thelma Hadwen | 519-688-0359 |
| Assistant: | Peg Simmons | 519-688-2383 |
| Unit 6 leader: | Pat Cook | 519-842-4087 |
| Assistant: | Jean Mills | 519-842-8543 |

UNIT MEETINGS:

| | | | |
|---------|--|-----------|-----------------|
| Unit 1: | 4 th Monday of the month | 2:00 p.m. | Friendship Room |
| Unit 6: | 4 th Wednesday of the month | 7:00 p.m. | Friendship Room |

U.C.W. PURPOSE:

To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ through Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

U.C.W. BENEDICTION:

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon all our work done in his name, may He give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us now and forever more. Amen.

U.C.W. 2016 BUDGET

Receipts

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Bazaar | 7,000.00 |
| Funeral Donations | 3,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous Donations | 500.00 |
| Stephen Lewis Foundation (Grandmother to Grandmother) | 400.00 |
| Unit Offerings | 3,000.00 |
| U.C.W. Projects | <u>6,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 19,900.00 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Transfer from Reserves | <u>4,175.00</u> |
| TOTAL BUDGET RECEIPTS | <u>\$24,075.00</u> |

Expenditures

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Bank Charges | 125.00 |
| Bazaar | 2,500.00 |
| Bibles & Literature | 100.00 |
| Conference Expenses & Education | 200.00 |

Donations

| | |
|---|----------|
| Camp Tanner | 700.00 |
| Community Kitchen (+discretionary funds) | 200.00 |
| Daso (Women's Emergency Centre) | 400.00 |
| Fairfield Museum | 100.00 |
| Five Oaks Centre | 200.00 |
| Fresh Start Maternity Support | 200.00 |
| Helping Hand Food Bank | 300.00 |
| Medical Electives | 100.00 |
| Oxford Child & Youth Centre (Mother Goose) | 100.00 |
| Sakura House | 200.00 |
| Salvation Army | 400.00 |
| Stephen Lewis Foundation (Grandmother to Grandmother) | 500.00 |
| S.W. Ont. Youth for Christ (Upper Deck Ministry) | 250.00 |
| World Relief | 500.00 |
| Mission and Service | 5,000.00 |
| Presbyterial Membership Fees | 300.00 |

OTHER EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Flowers | 200.00 |
| Funerals | 2,000.00 |
| Kitchen Supplies/Repairs | 1,000.00 |
| U.C.W. Projects | 2,000.00 |
| Speakers & Gifts | 700.00 |
| Stationery | 50.00 |
| St. Paul's Emergency Fund | 500.00 |
| St. Paul's Office Supplies | 250.00 |
| St. Paul's Refurbishment | <u>5,000.00</u> |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | <u>\$24,075.00</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|

Approved Dec.7, 2015

U.C.W. FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as at December 31, 2015

Balance at December 31, 2014

\$34,412.19

Year-to-Date

Receipts:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bank Interest (Re-invested in G.I.C) | 295.57 |
| Bazaar | 7,846.55 |
| Funeral Donations | 3,010.00 |
| Stephen Lewis G to G | 430.00 |
| Miscellaneous Donations | 200.00 |
| Special Project | 300.00 |
| U.C.W. Membership | 276.00 |
| U.C.W. Offering | 3,059.00 |
| U.C.W. Projects | <u>10,330.75</u> |
| | \$ 25,747.87 |

Expenses:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bank charges | 103.52 |
| Bazaar | 1,393.56 |
| Bibles & Literature | 67.24 |
| Conference Expenses & Education | - |
| Charity Donations | 3,600.00 |
| Flowers | - |
| Funeral Supplies | 1,758.99 |
| Kitchen Supplies | 1,013.69 |
| Membership Presbyterian | 366.00 |
| Mission & Service | 5,000.00 |
| Speakers & Gifts | 725.00 |
| Special Project | 2,300.00 |
| Stationery | 21.27 |
| St. Paul's – Other | 750.00 |
| St. Paul's – Refurbishment | 5,000.00 |
| U.C.W. Projects | 5,125.07 |
| Miscellaneous (World Relief Fund) | <u>500.00</u> |
| | \$ 27,724.34 |

Balance on Hand – December 31, 2015

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Current Account | 25,140.15 |
| G.I.C. | <u>7,295.57</u> |
| Total | \$ <u>32,435.72</u> |

Note: A total of \$1,326.23 for the Memorial Fund is in the Current Account.